

---

**From:** Joanie Macdonald [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 3, 2024 8:49 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Consolidation

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

Exercice caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Law Amendments Committee  
Reference Bill No. 407: Antigonish Consolidation Act

As I am unable to attend in person, I am submitting my concerns with the process of consolidation in Antigonish for review and consideration.

First, I would like to say, I am neither for nor against amalgamation/Consolidation in Antigonish, but I'm very much against the process to push consolidation through without a plebiscite.

As the leader of the opposition and the MLA for Pictou, The Premier spoke against consolidation in his riding, arguing very strongly "Change to our governance structure should start with the people, what the people want". We the people in Antigonish would appreciate the same respect. The Premier stated in his speech at the Town hall meeting February 29th 2024 that Pictou was a different situation, that the counsellors didn't vote to consolidate, but in Antigonish, the town and county voted to move ahead with the process. The town voted 4 to 3 and the county 5 to 4 in favour of consolidation. We had two counsellors that couldn't vote because of a conflict. These two counsellors represent many people of Antigonish yet could not vote, therefore losing the vote by one in the town, and one in the county. In 2020 the counsellors did not run a campaign for consolidation.

In February 2024, 22% of poll voters said they got enough information on consolidation and only 19.2% will vote Tory in the next election and 12.5% saying they don't need a vote. The people wanting a vote increased to 75.8%, an increase of over 5% from March 2023 done by a professional poll.

If Consolidation is so great, why the rush to move this motion forward when 75% of people want a plebiscite? Let us wait until the election in October 2024 and let the people vote.

I am asking you today to reconsider and let Antigonish hold a plebiscite . I will not support a government that does not allow the democratic process of giving everyone a vote on such an important matter. Keep democracy in our town.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely  
Joanie Macdonald  
Antigonish county