

From: Andrew Murray [REDACTED]
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To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: CONSOLIDATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE COUNTY AND TOWN OF ANTIGONISH

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Every person alive ,at some point, has had to make an important consequential decision. Sometimes these decisions are split second, spur of the moment out of necessity but sometimes we have the luxury of time to deeply consider the options before us.

During a decision-making process it is often beneficial to get sound advice and to research as fully as possible. In this past year exploring consolidation I was fortunate enough to be surrounded with 242 years of combined municipal experience in the Warden, Mayor and my fellow town and county councillors.

With this knowledge I felt reassured that we all benefit from coming together as one municipal unit and as a community. With seeking experience, research and wisdom I also reached out to someone close to me who experienced the dissolution of the Town of Hantsport into Windsor /West Hants on July 1st, 2015.

Having resided in Hantsport for 66 years and being a Councillor herself for three consecutive terms I wanted to ask her what changes she had seen in the last eight years in her town:

" No changes. But I mean that in a good way. Hantsport is still Hantsport, we are the same community, nothing has changed but if we want to walk somewhere we have new sidewalks and we drive on freshly paved roads. People were nervous starting out but never a better decision. Hantsport also has a new fire hall."

Hantsport has a smaller population than Antigonish and consolidated for different reasons. That being said ,it's a fair assessment in my opinion of how consolidation should work.

I believe consolidation will work in our Town and County .I attended all but two community consolidation meetings ,all online information sessions and spent hours reading and listening to discover the pros and cons to make this difficult decision and at the end of the day I found there were more pros than cons to consolidation. This is forward thinking ,logical and I honestly feel this is in the best interest of both the Town and County. We, as elected officials have a responsibility to follow what we believe is in the best interests of our constituents and our Town.

Our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second when asked during the platinum jubilee about her experiences with hundreds of world leaders over seventy years she replied:

" It has sometimes been observed that what leaders do for the people of today is government and politics .What they do for the people of tomorrow is statesmanship."

Let us cultivate statesmanship for our future generations in the Municipality of Antigonish.

Sincerely,
Councillor Andrew Murray,
Town of Antigonish

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