
From: Tony VanDenHeuvel [REDACTED]
Sent: March 3, 2024 10:33 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Antigonish Bill

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Good Evening

I'm writing tonight as a concerned citizen of Antigonish.

I, along with many other are very concerned about the proposed legislation before the committee regarding the forced consolidation of the town and the county.

This has been an issue that the two municipal governments tried to sneak through during covid.

I was the person who started the Facebook group that has turned into what is now "Let Antigonish Decide"

I did so because I wanted more information on the consolidation and I felt like residents deserved a vote on the matter.

As our Premier said when he was in opposition when his adopted home of Pictou County was going through a their consolidation process.

"Any change in government should come from the will of the people"

Well, 74 percent of people surveyed in the town and county of Antigonish have spoken, and 74 percent of the people want a vote on the matter.

In my many emails I sent to both councils one of the things I constantly said was

"A vote no now doesn't mean a vote no forever"

The Facebook group was created almost two years ago, had the councils stopped forcing this upon us then and decided to educate the people on the issue we could have made a informed choice during the November 2024 municipal election with a plebiscite.

But they forged ahead and tried to force this on us.

You have a choice in the law amendments, you can pull the bill back or you can stop it altogether.

If you want to give people any hope or belief that a government truly listens to its people you will stop this right now. You are the last hurdle.

If you continue with the bill, you may as well forgo any further elections. Municipal or Provincial and hold auctions for the governance of the people.

That is how we people who want a vote feel.

Private wealthy people and interest groups who have the ear and pocket of council members are running the show and the elected people are just puppets on a string who do their bidding for them.

Thankfully in Antigonish we have some very strong people with strong character that still remember who they represent and who elected them that are fighting diligently for us.
But it's hard to compete with wealthy donors who infiltrated the councils and MLA offices.

My ask is simple.

Pull the bill, postpone the consolidation until we get a chance to vote on a new council in November and then let them bring forward a Plebisite and once and for all

Let Antigonish Decide

You're our last hope at democracy.

I hope you take your oath to uphold it very serious and you let us do what a younger Tim Houston wanted for his constituents in Pictou County.

"Any change in governance must come from the will of the people"

Thank you for your time

Tony VanDenHeuvel

Sent from my iPhone