

Andrew Whidden

Resident & Business Owner in the Town of Antigonish
[REDACTED]

04-Mar-2024

Office of the Legislative Counsel for Nova Scotia

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To the Legislative Counsel of Nova Scotia,

I am writing to express my support for a consolidated Town and County of Antigonish. I am strongly in favour of consolidation as I believe it offers the best path forward to a stronger future for all residents. My opinion is motivated by a desire to see Antigonish thrive and grow, and to see more services to be made available to more residents and with greater efficiency.

Antigonish Town operates as the downtown core for its surrounding communities. The county relies heavily on the town for access to essential services and the businesses in the town are dependent on the customers and staff who travel in from the county. Likewise, many local businesses in town are owned and operated by county residents and vice versa. This symbiotic interdependence has resulted in a very fluid border between county and town and a shared identity as "Antigonisher" by residents on either side of that border.

A united Antigonish would be able to more strategically plan its growth. Services would be rolled out by need and not hindered by these imaginary lines. Municipal snow plow operators and garbage collectors would no longer stop part way down a road simply because the remaining 15 feet are not in their municipality. Programs, such as those designed to promote Antigonish to tourists or doctors, won't be burdened by the redundancy of two administrations. A combined government is more focused and more lean.

For Antigonish Town and County, the decision to move forward with consolidation is one which will have a profound impact on our future. United, the broader Antigonish community can better harness its potential and plant the seeds for a prosperous future. In short - Antigonish Town and County are stronger together.

Sincerely,



Andrew Whidden