

[REDACTED]

From: Andrew Hakin [REDACTED]
Sent: March 5, 2024 7:55 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Letter of Support for Antigonish Consolidation
Attachments: Antigonish Consolidation Support Letter.pdf

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

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To Whom it May Concern,

Please find attached a personal letter of support for the proposed consolidation of the Town and County Municipal Councils of Antigonish.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew W. Hakin

March 3, 2024

Dr. Andrew W. Hakin
18, Nicholson Court
Antigonish, Nova Scotia
B2G 2V4

To Whom it May Concern,

I write as a citizen of the Town of Antigonish to express my strong support for the proposed consolidation of Town and County Municipal Councils. I am a supporter of consolidation having already witnessed the incredible collaborative approach of the two municipal councils; they work well together, and I believe the residents of our community – both the Town and County – will be well served by the formalization of the current relationship through the process of consolidation.

I arrived in Antigonish in July of 2020 to assume the role of President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Francis Xavier University and have worked closely with the Town and County Municipal Councils ever since, in particular, in strong partnership and collaboration with Mayor Laurie Boucher and the Warden of the County Owen McCarron. At a minimum, once a month the Town, County and the University hold a one-hour meeting to share news and the latest developments from our respective areas, including pressing community matters. I have witnessed how Mayor Boucher and Warden McCarron work hand in hand, representing their respective residents to ensure very strong communication and seamless cooperation between the two municipal bodies. From a personal perspective, I believe representing the interests of the University to one body will provide a substantial increase in governance efficiency and very importantly, a reduction in red tape.

Change is not an easy vehicle to navigate within communities, but my thoughts are that consolidation will yield ongoing positive benefits for all residents in terms of operational efficiencies driven by service duplication reductions. By reallocating efforts that contribute to duplication, we, as a community, will get more accomplished. In addition, bringing together and focusing our resources will only lead to the outcome of a stronger region. I believe our community is ready for this next step in its evolution and I thank the two Councils for having the strength to lay out a bold future for our region that I consider to be in the best interests of all residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. W. Hakin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Andy W. Hakin