

[REDACTED]

From: Anne Marie MacKenzie [REDACTED] >
Sent: March 5, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: Owen McCarron; mayor@townofantigonish.ca
Subject: RE: Letter of Submission regarding Proposed Consolidation in Antigonish
Attachments: Letter_To_NS Law Amendments_March.5.2024.pdf

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Good Morning

Please accept the attached letter of submission.

Thank you

Anne Marie

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Hon. Brad Johns
Chair, Standing Committee on Law Amendments
Government of Nova Scotia

March 5, 2024

Good Morning,

As the sun rises on another day and individuals provide thoughts on the proposed legislation of consolidation between the Town of Antigonish and Municipality of the County of Antigonish. I reflect on the headlines and media in recent days on the death of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Phrases include “Brian took risks on issues that mattered, wanted and focused on making Canada a better place, provided bold ideas that mattered”.

The Councils of the Town of Antigonish and Municipality of the County of Antigonish are to be commended on their bold idea to agree to consolidation. These Councils have found a way and agreed to it a decade after amalgamation was lost. A decade lost in my opinion.

A single municipal government for Antigonish makes the most sense based on population and geographical size. Fulfilling the requirements of policies and seizing the opportunities at the levels of provincial and federal governments. A single municipal government that will look thru a lens of the whole as compared to two when it comes to land use development, energy and climate policy, attraction and retention of people and business, etc.

In my past roles as Executive Director, Antigonish Chamber of Commerce and Development Officer, Antigonish Regional Development Authority I continuously witnessed the ineffective and inefficient workings of the existing two municipalities in almost every matter. So many opportunities lost as there was no capacity to see the mutual benefit only the desire to ensure that either the Town or County advanced not both.

The transformation of governance structure brings change and unknown – it’s a risk but a risk I believe focused on making a better Antigonish.

Regards



Anne Marie MacKenzie

cc//: Owen McCarron, Warden Municipality of the County of Antigonish and Laurie Boucher, Mayor, Town of Antigonish