

[REDACTED]

From: Cynthia Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: March 6, 2024 4:56 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 407

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Good Afternoon,

Further to my previous email, I want to clarify that I feel the residents of Antigonish Town and County want a say in the consolidation process. A professional poll shows that 75% of the residents want a say.

There has not been meaningful consultation with the residents outlining the pros and cons of consolidation. The meetings that were held, during the Covid pandemic, sponsored by the Town and County have been best described as marketing. (Dr. T Urbaniak).

The issue of legality of the County's request for special legislation is still before the Court of Appeal.

I respectfully request that Bill 407 be:

Delayed until after the Court process plays out or delayed until after the October 2024 Municipal elections.

That the Municipalities of the Town and County be required to follow the amalgamation process outlined in the MGA, including a study by the UARB, or show why they need to circumvent the existing legislation. We have a Municipal Government Act. Why is it being ignored?

Failing the above, that the Transition Committee be changed to have a majority of members outside of the Warden, Deputy Warden, Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Suggestions would include personnel from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the UARB, or personnel trained in development and planning.

This is our future. It needs to be done correctly as we will live with the results of this change in our governance structure.

As I wrote previously, the residents of Antigonish Town and County want a vote, a say in this process. If not during this process, we will have a vote in the upcoming Municipal and Provincial elections. You will hear from us, eventually.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Henderson