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From: Danielle Enros [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2024 11:53 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Law Amendment - bill 407

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This is addressed to all MLA's of Nova Scotia and the Law Amendments Committee Members;

I am writing to express my disappointment and frustration in the special legislation that is before the Law Amendments Committee regarding the dissolution of the town and county of Antigonish.

I would like to be clear ... I am not for or against the principle of consolidation, I am however, for accurate information willingly shared with those this will affect. Something that is not happening within the current process being led by the mayor and warden.

The people of Antigonish town and county have requested this information and answers to various questions however it seems it's been falling on deaf ears. The information provided in public information sessions did not provide pertinent, essential information or answers to the questions citizens living here had. We deserve the opportunity to understand all the information available, including pros and cons, financial ramifications and exactly how this will change our community, and impact us, its population.

Why is special legislation (Bill 407) needed when the Municipal Governance Act clearly outlines the process for consolidation in two separate processes. Why is there a need to circumvent the existing Act... unless there is a fear of how the residents will vote, as the Pictou county example has been cited numerous times to the effect that "they lost when they let the people vote"; that is NOT democratic, and do we not live in a democracy? My family, as well as many others fought to preserve and protect our democratic rights, such as the right to vote.

I speak for myself, however I'm sure the opinion is shared that it feels there is a rush to push this special legislation through, despite the concerns of the majority of residents as seen in both polls conducted. We are not feeling heard by the people we elected. The people WE put in those offices. Almost 78% of Antigonish Town and County residents want a vote on this matter (plebiscite), so how is it that somehow 9 people are able to speak and make a choice forever changing our home, and ignoring the 78% of their constituents asking for a fair vote? These 9 people saying they were elected to make decisions for us. Decisions like roundabouts and road work, sure....but we did not elect these individuals to change the governance of where we live. The councils were never elected with the notion to amalgamate the town and county. The dissolution of the Town and consolidation were never on any council members' campaign.

The governments of Antigonish and the Province clearly are ignoring the very people who elected them.

Please defeat this legislation or withdraw it.

I'm requesting this be held until after the fall municipal election. Let people run with a platform regarding consolidation. Let them present facts and persuade their constituents with facts, not treat us like children and tell us this is just how it's going to be because it's what they want. They have made it apparent they do not care about what we, the people, want. At least wait for the court decision before proceeding. Add that a study outlining the pros and cons of such a

monumental decision take place, as well as a plebiscite be included in Bill 407 so that the people this will affect, can be heard.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Danielle Pritchard

Antigonish County, Nova Scotia

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