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From: Annie Gillis [REDACTED]
Sent: March 7, 2024 10:43 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 407

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To all MLA's of Nova Scotia and the Law Amendments Committee Members

I am writing to express my disappointment in the special legislation that is before the Law Amendments Committee.

I would like to be clear ... I am not for or against the principle of consolidation.

My objection is with the lack of key, relevant information provided to the residents of Antigonish Town and County despite many requests for this information. The information provided in public information sessions did not provide pertinent, essential information. We deserve the opportunity to understand all the information available, including pros and cons, financial ramifications and exactly how this will change our community.

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... that is NOT democratic.

We live in a democracy! Many men and women have fought in wars to protect our democracy and all it stands for including a right to vote.

There a rush to push this special legislation thru, despite the concerns of the majority of residents as seen in both polls conducted.

Almost 78% of Antigonish Town and County residents want a vote on this matter (plebiscite). The governments of Antigonish and the Province clearly are ignoring the very people who elected them.

The councils were never elected to amalgamate the town and county. The dissolution of the Town and consolidation were never on any council members' campaign.

Please defeat this legislation or withdraw it. If you allow this bill to go through you are ignoring the facts: the issue is still in front of the courts. At least wait for the court decision before proceeding. Add that a study and plebiscite be included in Bill 407.

Thank You

Annie Gillis

Antigonish County, Nova Scotia

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