

St. Philip Neri Church
8 Park Rd., - P.O. Box 325
Musquodoboit Harbour, N.S. - B0J 2L0

October 23, 2017

Province of Nova Scotia Private and local Bills Committee
Nova Scotia Legislature

Via Fax: 902-424-0547

Attention Mr. Brendan Maguire, chair

Dear Mr. Maguire:

I am writing this letter in response to the legal notice which was published recently concerning the proposed passage of a Bill introduced to the Current Session of the Nova Scotia Legislature which, if passed, would re-organize the civil structure of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. In accord with the proposed act the Archbishop will have the power to establish a parish as a separate corporation.

Since this notice was brought to our attention through publication in our church bulletin just two days ago, Sunday, Oct. 22nd, I have spoken to several members of our congregation and they all, without exception, have expressed the opinion that we, the lay members of our church community, including the members of our Church Council, have not been adequately informed of the implications and consequences of this change in the legal status of our parishes. Prior to the aforementioned notice no information regarding this proposed change has been given to the ordinary members of our church, nor to the Church Council. Nor could our Pastor answer any of our questions regarding this change.

We respectfully oppose the passage of this act on the following grounds;

- That we, the members of our church community, have not been given a fair and open hearing in which to seek our approval or disapproval of this change to our legal status.
- That we, the lay members of our church, have not been given an opportunity to examine and consider the burden which these changes will place on our human resources and on our administrative and financial resources.
- Such things as the issuing of receipts for donations for income tax purposes under Charitable Status of our church community, which at present rests with the Archdiocese, would have to be revised to give our local church a Charitable Status for tax purposes.
- As these changes to our legal status may have a severe impact on our financial viability as a community, we should be given the opportunity to consider the many, many ways that the day-to-day operation of our affairs will be impacted and be given the opportunity to decide on the various possibilities open to us
- Therefore we respectfully request that the passage of this Bill be delayed until proper consultation with those most affected by the legislation, we, the general and ordinary membership of our church, has taken place.
- Please note that these are just a few of the many, many questions which come to mind when considering the proposed change to our status. We could fill many pages but hope that we have given you sufficient to express the depth of our concerns.

All of the above having been said, I might add that I have been in consultation with Mr. Edgar Wadden, chair of St. Genevieve Parish Council (our parent parish) and he informs me that their Parish Council is in complete agreement with our position. Because of the time constraints involved on such short notice they were unable to put together their own submission but wish us to convey their complete agreement with the opinions we have expressed in this letter.

We thank you for taking the time to consider our submission and look forward to your favourable response.

Sincerely

Hughena McIntyre,

Chair, St. Philip Neri Church Council


(signed) Adrien Blanchette (for Hughena McIntyre)