



**Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister**

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January 24, 2024

Laurie Boucher, Mayor
Town of Antigonish
274 Main Street
Antigonish, NS B2G 2C4
Via email: mayor@townofantigonish.ca

Owen McCarron, Warden
County of Antigonish
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4
Via email: omccarron@antigonishcounty.ns.ca

Dear Mayor Boucher and Warden McCarron:

I am writing to you further to the October 20, 2022, resolution of both Town and County Councils that stated:

“Municipal Council requests the Provincial Government to consolidate the Municipality of the County of Antigonish and the Town of Antigonish into one municipal unit through special legislation.”

With more than a year having passed since this Resolution and now having the clarity of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court decision affirming the right of municipal units to make a request of the Provincial Government to introduce special legislation amalgamating your communities, I felt it prudent to follow up.

The Province is seeking confirmation from the Town of Antigonish and the County of Antigonish that your position remains that you wish to consolidate your municipal units. Given the decision and clarity from the Court, the considerable discourse and public engagement on this subject, and the time that has passed since the initial Resolution, we would ask you to conduct an updated vote of Council and provide us with an updated request.

I would ask that you provide the Department with the results no later than February 23, 2024.

I understand some councillors may have concerns about potential conflicts in participating in a vote of this nature. If a councillor is concerned about a conflict and requires an opinion, the Department is able to provide one to ensure comfort and assurance in advance of participating.

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If the position of the Town and County remains that you are requesting a consolidation of your units, the Province is prepared to introduce special legislation during the next session of the legislature, commencing on February 27.

Please let us know as soon as practicable of your position and the outcome of any votes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Lohr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Lohr".

Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing