



Office of the Warden

February 27, 2018

Honorable Stephen McNeil  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
PO Box 726  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2T3

Dear Honorable Premier,

At the February 21, 2018 meeting of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG), Council passed a motion expressing our concern with the proposed "Special Charter" for Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM).

Municipalities throughout Nova Scotia have significant challenges in terms of fulfilling their responsibility to deliver services for their residents. In recent years many rural Municipalities have been forced to turn in their charter. Many others are facing difficult choices regarding their future.

The MODG has already absorbed the Town of Canso within our operations. As you are aware, the Town of Mulgrave also faces significant challenges and uncertainty in terms of their ability to continue to provide local governance for its residents. There are many other Municipalities in Nova Scotia on the precipice of insolvency.

While we fully appreciate CBRM's desire to have more flexibility in terms of playing a greater role in determining the future of the area that they represent, we have significant concerns regarding the impact a "Special Charter" might have on the competitive balance of Municipalities in Nova Scotia.

The current Municipal Governance Act provides strict guidelines in terms of the role Municipalities play in attracting investment to Nova Scotia. These rules are meant to prevent Nova Scotia Municipalities from competing with each other for development. The focus should be on attracting investment to Nova Scotia, not creating a situation whereby investors play-off one Municipality against another within Nova Scotia.

As you are aware, the MODG has worked with multiple investors for large-scale investments that have tremendous potential for Nova Scotia. The MODG has purchased and sold land for "market-value". It would be inherently unfair if changes in the MGA now provide an opportunity for another Municipality to offer incentives to sell land or buildings for less than market value.

Any proposed changes to the MGA must recognize the inherent danger of creating an un-level playing field among the member Municipalities. We ask that you ensure that any changes in the MGA for a single Municipality fully consider the impact on other Municipalities and is applied equally to all Municipalities.

Sincerely,

Warden Vernon Pitts

c. UNSM President, Geoff Stewart