

Honourable members of the Law Amendments Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns about splitting Shelburne County.

My name is John Shaar, owner/operator of Barrington Place Jewellers in Barrington Passage, Shelburne County.

I've been living in this area for the past 19 years. I'll get straight to the issue with no political digs at any one party.

1st: In the terms of reference given to the Nova Scotia Electoral Boundaries Commission, constituencies should be within the 25% of the average numbers of electors, Shelburne county stands at 82% of that average, which should by itself have excluded us from being split.

2nd: In the short life of the NS Electoral Boundaries Commission (Since Dec 2011) it has come up with three different recommendations for the same problem. Where is the credibility? And what kind of methodology did they follow?

You might agree with me that the inner workings of the commission were flawed from the start, or shortly after the first interim report. In the business world, such an item (or entity) is called a lemon. No one likes to deal with a lemon, you might tolerate for awhile, but in the end you'll be glad to get rid of it.

In my opinion, This report has a strong lemony smell and it should be scrapped.

In these times of economic hardships and skilled worker exodus from our county this proposal comes to add more gloom to our area.

Shelburne County is a healthy community, the different parts and organizations of this community seem to be working well together. This flawed report (if implemented) will cause a well functioning county to be split in two.

This in turn will greatly hurt our prospects in trying to attract new businesses to our area.

Let me finish by saying that despite the present economic troubles, Shelburne County is poised to grow due to;

- The expansion plans of the aquaculture industry.

- The contracts granted to the Irving Ship Yard

- The oil and gas industry prospects off our county's shores and last but not least,

- The lobster industry (the backbone of our economy), which has huge potential once the present kinks are worked out.

Shelburne county, will grow in economic output and population, and soon we will be a net importer of skilled workers.

In conclusion, I say in all due respect "Leave our county intact. If it isn't broken, don't fix it."