



March 29, 2021

The Honourable Brendan Maguire  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
14th Floor North, Maritime Centre  
1505 Barrington Street  
P.O. Box 216  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2M4

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Council for the Municipality of the District of Clare, I am writing to you regarding the Provincial Government's passing of the second reading of Bill 47 on March 25, which amends the Municipal Government Act and the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter to allow municipalities to provide direct financial assistance to businesses for the purpose of improving accessibility for people with disabilities. My colleagues and I are very troubled by the contents of the Bill, what this will entail for municipal units across the province, as well as the process with which the Bill was passed.

While the Municipality of Clare is unquestionably in favour of accessibility with the intention of improving the quality of life for people with disabilities and mobility complications, Bill 47 will without a doubt impose an insupportable financial and administrative burden on municipal units. Should the province go ahead with offloading this responsibility onto municipal units, we are greatly concerned that this will not only add significant and unsustainable financial pressures to municipalities but will also generate unfair and unrealistic expectations towards municipalities from the private sector and from people with disabilities.

Furthermore, Council for the Municipality of Clare has serious concerns regarding the fact that Bill 47 was formulated in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) with little to no consultation by the Federation with its member municipal units. While NSFM's mandate is to advocate for and to defend the rights of its member municipal units, this action does the opposite. Given the potential implications of such a Bill, the lack of consultation is alarming and raises serious concerns as to NSFM's governance and internal processes.

Council for the Municipality of the District of Clare therefore respectfully requests that the Department of Municipal Affairs consult with the province's municipal units, including the Municipality of Clare, before proceeding with the implementation of Bill 47 in order to get a clear perspective of the Bill's possible implications for all parties involved.

Thank you for considering our request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yvon LeBlanc', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Yvon LeBlanc  
Deputy Warden  
Municipality of Clare

CC: Gordon Wilson – MLA for Clare-Digby  
Emily Lutz – President, NSFMM