



April 1, 2021

The Honourable Randy Delorey  
Chair, Standing Committee on Law Amendments  
C/O Office of the Legislative Counsel  
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Halifax, NS  
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Dear Chair Delorey,

Re: Bill 47

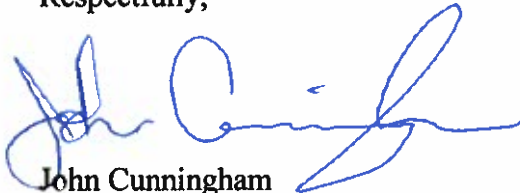
In June 2020 the NS Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing conducted a consultation with municipalities on a number of issues. Inside those conversations were questions focused on supporting and successfully achieving the mandate of the *Accessibility Act*.

Municipal Council supports the Province's goal of having an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. In addition, the Municipality recognizes accessibility has a human right and is moving forward at the highest level through Council's strategic plan to go beyond the minimum requirements for prescribed public bodies and include accessibility into the delivery of all services. In the 2020 consultations, the District of Yarmouth, in its response to Minister Porter, specifically stated it was against powers to make direct financial assistance to businesses to address accessibility issues.

Bill 47 grants powers, not only to HRM who requested a legislative change, but to all municipalities to make grants to the private sector for the purpose of addressing accessibility barriers. In its response, the District specifically made a correlation between the Provincial Act and accompanying revenue streams for municipalities should this specific power be granted – the Province is silent on this matter while advancing its legislative agenda. In addition to the financial resources required for municipalities to address accessibility in its own built environment, Bill 47 adds additional public pressure to aid the private, for profit sector, to do the same. It is unreasonable for the Province to place municipal government in this position with the private sector without a correlating revenue stream.

Council respectfully requests direct consultation with all municipalities on this matter before proceeding with the passing of Bill 47.

Respectfully,



John Cunningham  
Warden

Cc: The Honourable Brendan McGuire, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Honourable Zach Churchill, MLA for Yarmouth  
Mayor Amanda McDougall, Acting President, NSFM  
Nova Scotia Municipalities and Towns