



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

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April 8, 2026

Derek Amalfa
Mayor, Town of Lockeport
Chair, Eastern Shelburne Amalgamation Steering Committee
Via Email: derekamalfalockeport@gmail.com

Dear Derek Amalfa and Eastern Shelburne Amalgamation Steering Committee Members:

Thank you for your letter of March 5, 2026, regarding your work and goals relating to municipal amalgamation.

I appreciate the collaborative approach being taken by the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, the Town of Shelburne, and the Town of Lockeport, along with your willingness to work together toward a common goal in considering which governance structure would best serve your communities over the long term.

Decisions about municipal consolidation are significant for residents, taxpayers, and the delivery of local services. The effort your Councils and Committee are investing to carefully assess the potential opportunities and implications of amalgamation reflects a strong commitment to responsible local leadership and the future sustainability of your region.

It is also important to note that under the *Municipal Government Act*, the authority to approve amalgamation, annexation, or changes to municipal boundaries ultimately rests with the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board. Any proposal for amalgamation would therefore need to proceed through the Board's regulatory process, where the Board considers evidence and submissions before deciding.

I would also like to acknowledge the request for provincial support to fund the studies and technical work required to evaluate a potential amalgamation. We will assess your request in a similar manner as previous requests that have been put forward to the Department from other municipalities. It is important to note, however, that the fiscal context facing the Province today is considerably different from that in previous years, and this will necessarily shape how we approach new funding requests.

Given the complexity of municipal restructuring processes and the range of studies that may be required, it will be important for the Province to better understand the specific scope of work being contemplated and the needs of the municipalities involved. To support this, I have asked Departmental staff who have significant experience working with municipalities on governance and restructuring matters to connect with your region. Their role will be to help review the potential requirements, provide guidance on the process, and support the municipalities as the path ahead is considered. I will have staff reach out to you to set up a date and time for preliminary discussions.

The Department's role in this process is to provide information, technical guidance, and support as requested; it does not have a preferred outcome regarding whether amalgamation proceeds.

I appreciate the invitation to meet and would welcome the opportunity for further discussion once our officials have had an opportunity to engage with the Amalgamation Steering Committee to better understand the details of the proposal.

Thank you again for your leadership and the collaborative spirit in which this work is being undertaken. I look forward to continued dialogue as the three communities consider these important decisions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. MacDonald". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

PNS-65615/rm