

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PICTOU TOWN COUNCIL VOTES NOT TO WITHDRAW FROM AMALGAMATION APPLICATION**

PICTOU, N.S., June 20, 2016

The Council for the Town of Pictou in special session on June 20, 2016 voted not to withdraw from the joint application to amalgamate filed by the Municipality of the County of Pictou and the Towns of New Glasgow, Pictou and Stellarton on August 28, 2015 with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Mayor Hawes noted that... *“there was clearly two parts to the voluntary application, an evidence and fact-based filing to the Utility and Review Board, and, the outcome of public consultation including a plebiscite. The first part was in effect developing and presenting evidence to a court. The court accepted our evidence and determined it was in the best interests of the residents to amalgamate. The outcome of the second part of the process was based more on emotion – a fear of increased taxes and loss of community identity.”*

In reaching its decision, Pictou Town Council noted they felt it was important to place on public record their majority view that structural change to municipal government in Pictou County is still vitally required.

*“The status quo doesn’t address the unhealthy competition for infrastructure funding, our county being less attractive to employers who are so critical to sustaining and growing our population that supports our healthcare and education systems; our community being increasingly fractured and incapable of collaborating on important regional initiatives; and our region being void of a coordinated approach towards economic attraction and retention”... stated Mayor Hawes.*

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For more information:  
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