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MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**RE: Amendment to the Municipal Government Act Concerning Sale & Taxation of Industrial Property**

**Date: 26 March 2018**

On March 8, 2018, the Minister of Municipal Affairs introduced a bill to amend the Municipal Government Act (MGA). This bill would permit the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to sell or lease land at the Port of Sydney at less than market value and tax that land at less than the proscribed commercial rate.

The powers and authority of municipalities across Nova Scotia are provided by the MGA – one set of rules for all municipalities creates a level playing field. These proposed amendments introduce a predictable and negative shift in approach to economic development in our province. Either the province limits these advantages to CBRM, creating an artificial advantage over its municipal partners, or it provides these same powers to all municipalities initiating a race to the bottom. Our Municipality opposes both scenarios.

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish stands with its municipal, commercial and economic development partners in the Strait region and across the province in opposing these amendments. Municipalities are struggling to stabilize and expand their tax base & revenue streams. If industry plays less then residents will pay more. We can plainly see where this dated and destructive practice will lead; a practice that run counter to the tone set by the Ivany Commission.

Bill 85 was introduced without consultation with municipalities. Meanwhile, municipalities have been working with the government in good faith to develop new, modern economic development tools that serve to attract and expand investment in Nova Scotia, rather than pitting one municipality against another. We respectfully request that the Government to suspend consideration of Bill 85 and consult with all municipalities on this crucial topic.

**For more information please contact:  
Municipality of the County of Antigonish at (902) 863-1117**