



**Municipal Affairs  
Office of the Minister**

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April 15, 2021

Yvon LeBlanc  
Deputy Warden  
Municipality of Clare  
1185 Highway 1  
Little Brook NS B0W 1Z0

Dear Deputy Warden LeBlanc,

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2021, regarding Bill 47: An Act Respecting Accessibility which amends the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*.

In the summer of 2020, municipalities were consulted on Bill 47 by way of survey, a consultation booklet, 5 virtual sessions, and the ability for our stakeholders to write into the department to communicate their positions. Based on the responses to these consultations the department felt that they could proceed with the Bill as presented.

The intent of the Bill is to enable municipalities, if they so choose, to provide funding incentives to private business for the purposes of accessibility initiatives. The Bill is not a measure to download provincial responsibility to municipalities.

I appreciate that the Municipality of Clare is in favour of accessibility and improving the quality of life for people with disabilities and mobility complications. As you are aware, municipalities are expected to have their Accessibility Plans completed by April 2022. Bill 47 will ensure that as we move forward with those plans, municipalities are empowered to make unencumbered decisions regarding accessibility initiatives.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Sincerely,

Brendan Maguire  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

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