December 22, 2017

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: MAE/114/2017]

On November 27, 2017, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment received your request for access to the following records/information:

"Records (including but not limited to briefing notes and emails) of the Minister of Municipal Affairs related to the process of incorporation of the town of George's Brook-Milton."

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment to provide access to some of the requested information.

However, some of the information contained within the records has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 (the Act):

"29. (1)(a): The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;

40. (1): The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy;

34. (1)(a)(ii): The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct by the government of the province of relations between that government and the council of a local government body"

As required by 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is unable to be disclosed and have provided you with as much information as possible.

In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.
Please note that the following pages of the responsive package have been fully redacted in accordance with Section 40(1) of the Act:

- Pages 9-22
- Page 31
- Page 33
- Pages 54-55
- Pages 57-62
- Pages 64-67

Please be advised that you may appeal this decision and ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision to provide partial access to the requested information, as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the request and why you are submitting the appeal.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner  
2 Canada Drive  
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A  
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309  
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309  
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72-hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at 709-729-7183 or by e-mail at lisas@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

LISA SULLIVAN  
ATIPP Coordinator  
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosures
Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52(1) or 53(1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.
Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner's refusal under subsection 45(2).
January 7, 2015

Hon. Eddie Joyce  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
4th Floor (West Block)  
Confederation Building  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the largest Local Service District in the province, George’s Brook-Milton, I write to you today requesting access to money, $40,000.00, that has been approved by your predecessor {COR/2015/05219-01} for our LSD, for a permanent connection to the water supply of Clareenville.

The community of Milton has struggled with its water source, Lily Pond, for years. For the past two years we lost our supply, but in 2015 the pond did not replenish itself leaving over 350 residents without water for an extended period of time. We have a plan in place to address this situation but it will take a year or two to complete. In the interim, we made a permanent connection with the Town of Clareenville to access water with funding provided by your predecessor, then Minister Hutchings, “to utilize funding previously approved under project number 17-MCW-16-00045” to make it happen. We lost the use of Lily Pond in Sept. 2015 and sincerely had the hope that the pond would recovery within two months as it did in the past year. The cost of accessing Clareenville water is $10,000.00 per month, with $40,000.00 expended up to and including December, 2015. We request that we be granted permission to access an additional amount of $40,000.00 from the aforementioned previously approved funding, allowing us to avoid a significant deficit in 2015.

We are in the process of sending out invoices to our residents with a $180.00 increase per household, but will still have a significant deficit and, since we are a local service district as opposed to a municipality, we have with very little strength in regulation to collect, nor the infrastructure to shut-off water to property owners. It is worthy to note that, many of the seniors in our communities who developed and implemented the current water system attribute the blasting that was permitted to occur within our community as a possible reason for losing the
source. As an LSD, we had no communication, nor involvement in the decision to permit such blasting within our boundaries. Also, the connection with Clarenville has led to greater pressure on our system leading to more leaks within our water infrastructure, resulting in a significant increase in the cost of repairs. Overall, it has been an extremely expensive Fall-Winter on our financial coffers. Accessing an additional $40,000.00 from the already approved project will allow us to start 2016 with an increase in fees to our residents and balance our budget as we have for the past number of decades.

We thank-you for consideration of this request and it is also worthy to note that we have made a request to form a municipality since Oct. 2014, entitling us to operating monies and regulations entrenched through the Municipalities Act to better allow us to serve and meet the demands of a growing community. If we had been granted permission in 2015 to become a municipality, this current situation we find ourselves in would have been far more manageable. Your assistance in both these regards would be of great significance to the people we both serve. We have been striving through continuous communication with your department to better serve the residents of our communities, through the formation of a municipality for 14 months. We remain optimistic!

Sincerely,
Craig Pardy
Chair George’s Brook-Milton LSD

s. 40(1)

Sincerely,
Craig Pardy
Chair George’s Brook-Milton LSD

craigpardy5@gmail.com
Dear Minister Joyce!

Please find attached a letter from the George's Brook - Milton LSD regarding two very time sensitive issues we wish to bring to your attention: Water Access and 'Becoming a Municipality'. Our community of 800 people is seeking your department's feedback and assistance in these matters.

Thanking you in advance!!

Sincerely,

Craig Pardy
Chair
George's Brook - Milton LSD
craigpardy5@gmail.com

s. 40(1)
Feb. 15th, 2016

Hon. Eddie Joyce
Minister of Municipal Affairs
4th Floor (West Block)
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister,

Further to our previous written request on January 7th, 2016, our LSD Committee representing George’s Brook-Milton wishes to make a formal request to you allowing the residents of our growing community to become a municipality, if they decide, through their democratic vote, as soon as possible.

As previously mentioned in the January 7th, 2016 communication, we made an enquiry to your department in Oct. 2014 ‘seeking information’ on becoming a municipality and have finally met with a representative on Feb. 11th, 2016. With 15 months elapsed, we have been officially apprised of the ‘Comparison of Local Government Options’ and will deliver information to our residents through a mailbox flyer on Tuesday, Feb. 16th as well as a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. which will be attended by a representative from your department. The concerning part for our committee, is the information that it could take another 15 months if our residents desired to become a municipality, as a result of conducting a ‘feasibility study.’

WE were officially informed by the representative from your department on Feb. 11th, 2016 that the operating money for municipal governance entitled to our population would be approximately $90,000.00 per year. Having waited thus far 15 months, it totals approximately $112,500.00 of operating money for our growing population. To wait another 12-15 months for a ‘feasibility study’, with an obvious outcome, forfeiting the same amount
again, is unfathomable. Milton has grown in population from the 2006 census to the 2011 census by 28.6%, from 346 to 445 respectively. Economic impact multipliers are usually applied based on person years of employment and gross wages earned. If the total wages for the LSD are 16.2 million (minimum would be $54,000/household \times 300 households - \textit{2011 census}) we would hazard a guess that the Gross Domestic Product from the LSD is $25 million and that total economic output would be $43 million. Further, the tax impacts of the $16 million (federal and provincial income; excise taxes such as HST; fuel taxes plus municipal taxes; etc.) would be in the range of 30% or $5 million annually. \textbf{We are significant contributors and sincerely ask that we substitute the 15 month, $30,000.00 ‘feasibility study’ with an expedited conjoint Municipal Affairs / George’s Brook-Milton LSD ‘study’}. 

We have lost our Milton water supply and currently paying the Town of Clarenville $10,000.00 / month for water, to supply our residents with this basic need, accosting $600.00/ home per year. Further, to maintain the integrity of our water mains, tributaries throughout, and chlorination our residents pay an additional $200.00 / year. Finally, an additional $180.00 / year is added to offset our 10% contribution for application for Capital Works Water Improvements in 2016. In total, the cost to our residents for water is $980.00 / year and we would venture to guess that this is certainly the highest amount paid by any population in the province, including municipalities! Furthermore, the Town of Clarenville unequivocally states that it will shut-off the water to Milton on April 30th, leaving the community without this basic need.

We sincerely ask, on behalf of the residents we are entrusted to serve, that together with the efficiency of members of your MIGA Eastern Office and our LSD, we conduct our own study to arrive at the obvious outcome of where we are better served, which is clearly as a municipality and initiation with the Town of Clarenville as soon as possible to continue the supply of water beyond April 30th, 2016.
Sincerely,

Craig Pardy
Chair: George’s Brook – Milton LSD
Craiggardy5@gmail.com
A PETITION
OF THE HOUSEHOLDERS OF
George's Brook-Milton
TO ESTABLISH
A TOWN
TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS:

The attached petition has been circulated among the householders of George’s Brook-Milton for the purpose of determining whether it is desirable to establish a Town.

I, Craig Pardy, being a householder ordinarily resident of George’s Brook-Milton and Chair of the Local Service District of George’s Brook-Milton in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, make oath and say as follows:

1. That the persons who signed the within Petition were fully aware of the purpose for which they signed the Petition.

2. That the people whose names are subscribed to this Petition are householders as defined by The Local Service District Regulations, CNLR 747/96, and are ordinarily residents of George’s Brook-Milton.

3. That the people whose names are subscribed to this Petition desire that the community of George’s Brook-Milton be established as a Town.

4. That:

   i. the total number of householders in the community is: 509
   ii. the total number of householders signing the petition in favour of establishing a town is 377; and;
   iii. the percentage of total householders in favour of establishing a town is: 74.1%.

SWORN TO BEFORE ME AT George’s Brook-Milton, in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, this 7th day of June, 2016.

Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Oaths

ROSE STACEY
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for the Province of Newfoundland.
My Commission expires on December 31, 2016

Craig Pardy
Crownatter

s. 40(1)
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dept of Municipal Affairs

Eastern Regional Office

Attn: Minister Eddie Joyce

June 20, 2016

To whom it may concern,

We the undersigned, wish to withdraw a petition we recently submitted regarding a municipality for the communities of Georges Brook and Milton. We now fully support the Local Service District of George's Brook and Milton becoming a town, hoping it will happen sooner than later.

Sincerely,
Today a member of your Local Service District Committee dropped by to discuss the benefits of becoming a municipality and to request your signature on the petition.

If you have specific questions, if you wish to discuss the petition process or if you wish to sign the petition, please contact the undersigned LSD Committee member.

Glenn F. Ploughman
LSD Committee Member

WHY BECOME A MUNICIPALITY?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>LSD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receive a Municipal Operating Grant?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES (approx $30K/yr)</td>
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<td>Share of Federal Gas Tax?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES (approx $20K/yr)</td>
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<td>Share of Provincial Gas Tax?</td>
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<td>YES (approx $40K/yr)</td>
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<td>Tax from Utility companies?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES (approx $27.5K/yr)</td>
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Total Revenue estimate per year: Approx $117,500

Additional Benefits:

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<td>Control over development?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Works funding at 90%/10%</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES (No Change)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authority for town vision and planning</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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If the TOWN of GB-M were to take over clearing and maintenance of side roads, these roads would be brought up to proper municipal standard before any turn-over from Highways. Any roads repair as a TOWN would continue to receive capital works funding at 90%/10% rate.
Today a member of your Local Service District Committee dropped by to discuss the benefits of becoming a municipality and to request your signature on the petition asking for a feasibility study to be conducted by the provincial government.

If you have specific questions, if you wish to discuss the petition process or if you wish to sign the petition, please contact the undersigned LSD Committee member.

Glenn F. Ploughman
LSD Committee Member

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Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Attention: Mr. Eddie Joyce, Minister

Please find with this letter a Petition that has been circulated through the Community of Georges Brook. This Petition was circulated in response to one that was previously circulated by the Local Service District of Milton and Georges Brook.

The LSD Petition seemed vague to most people and they did not understand actually what they were signing.

The petition contained with this letter should give Your Department a clear understanding of the wishes of the householders of Georges Brook.

Please note that at this point the householders of Milton have not been contacted regarding the petition. This will have to be done at a later date, preferably by someone from that community.

Regards:

______________________________

s. 40(1)

______________________________

s. 40(1)
PETITION TO THE DEPT. OF MUNICIPAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TO: Mr Eddie Joyce, Minister
c.c. Lori Evoy,
c.c. Craig Pardy, Chair of Georges Brook/Milton LSD

We, the concerned undersigned, oppose a petition most recently circulated by the LSD of Georges Brook/Milton Concerning for these two communities to become a municipality.

This petition appears to be not very clear for our people to read. We have senior citizens and residents that do not understand the meaning of this petition whereby there is no heading for people to read.

We feel that we are being ambushed by the LSD because the community of Milton is being stressed with their water situation. We support the community of Milton one hundred per cent to bring water from the community of Georges Brook.
PETITION TO THE DEPT. OF MUNICIPAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TO: Mr Eddie Joyce, Minister
c.c. Lori Evoy,
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s. 40(1)
On behalf of the residents of Georges Brook, we oppose a feasibility study to be done on behalf of the LSD of Georges Brook/Milton. We feel that this is a complete waste of taxpayers money at this time and a lack of respect for our residents especially the senior citizens and low-income families.

We feel that the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs should say no to this feasibility study at this time and not cause anymore undue stress on our residents.

Some of our residents signed for a feasibility study thinking it was for the water for the community of Milton and not realizing that it was for a municipality. We, however fully support Milton residents in obtaining a solution to its water needs and any funding would be greatly appreciated by our residents.

Attached please find a Petition with names of some of our residents who are opposed to this feasibility study.
PETITION TO THE DEPT. OF MUNICIPAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

TO: Mr Eddie Joyce, Minister
c.c. Lori Evoy,
c.c. Craig Pardy, Chair of Georges Brook/Milton LSD

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Direction Note
Department of Municipal Affairs

Title: Feasibility Report for the Local Service Districts of George’s Brook – Milton and Smith Sound

Direction Required:
- Whether to engage a consultant to undertake the preparation of a feasibility report for the Local Service Districts of George’s Brook – Milton and Smith Sound to become a town(s).
- It is recommended that: the Department of Municipal Affairs (MA); (1) Issue a Notice of Intent to prepare a feasibility report; (s. 29(1)(a)

Background and Current Status:
- On June 7, 2016, MA received a petition from the residents of the Local Service District (LSD) of George’s Brook – Milton (GBM) to establish a town. The percentage of total householders in favour of establishing a town is 74.1 per cent.
- In July, 2016, MA was contacted by the Chair of the LSD of Smith Sound who stated that they were also interested in possibly becoming a town. The Chair also indicated that they may be interested in amalgamating with GBM to create a larger town. Both GBM and Smith Sound are located in the District of Bonavista.
- In order to establish a town or undertake an amalgamation, a feasibility report must be prepared as per sections 3 and 9 of the Municipalities Act, 1999.
- Section 9 of the Municipalities Act, 1999, also requires the minister to issue an order for the preparation of a feasibility report and to appoint a committee (comprised of at least one, but not more than three persons) to prepare it.
- Before ordering the preparation of a feasibility report under section 9, section 10 of the Municipalities Act, 1999, requires the Minister of Municipal Affairs to publish a Notice of Intent to make that order.

Analysis:
- GBM’s Committee believes that GBM has growth potential and notes that the LSD is larger than many municipalities in the province. The Chair further advises that amalgamating with or being annexed to neighbouring Clarenville is currently not an option for GBM due to The Chair has, however, previously expressed a willingness to amalgamate with neighbouring Smith Sound.
- MA officials have met with the GBM LSD committee as well as the LSD’s residents, the majority of whom have expressed interest in becoming a town. MA notes that amalgamation was not discussed during these meetings.
The report may be prepared internally or externally. In the past five years, seven feasibility reports have been prepared by external consultants with costs ranging from $15,000 to $45,000 per report. The cost of the feasibility report can be covered through existing departmental budget appropriations.

The preparation of feasibility reports by external consultants ensures independence and impartiality. It also does not put further demand on limited departmental resources.

Subsection 9(7) of the Municipalities Act, 1999, states that where a feasibility report is prepared as a result of a community request, the cost of preparing the feasibility report shall be a cost of the requesting community. MA notes, however, that LSDs do not have the necessary legislative authority to recover feasibility report costs from its residents. As a result, the cost of a feasibility report must be borne by MA.
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Department of Municipal Affairs

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Hi Val,
Just making sure this was trimmed and wonder if we sent a reply.

s

From: Craig Pardy [mailto:craigpardy5@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 9:16 PM
To: Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn
Cc: King, Neil; Penney, Brad; Hounsell, Sandy; Rehman, Inayat; Duffett, Ian; Mercer, Cluney; Tizzard, Heather; Morgans, Andy; Wright, Andrew; Blanche Wiseman; Derek Elliott; Geoff Adams; Glenn F. Ploughman; Local Service District GBM; Morgan Ellis; Glenn Baker
Subject: Hi Sherrie! Could you please pass along attached to Minister Joyce? Thank-you.

Hi Sherrie!

Could you please pass along the attached to Minister Joyce for his perusal and input. The residents of George's Brook-Milton are looking to tap into the expertise at MA to brainstorm and create an action plan on maintaining water into the homes of the residents of Milton. Also, we are eagerly awaiting direction and word on the next step in the process of becoming a Town. The residents of George's Brook-Milton are nearly unanimous in their desire for this to occur as soon as legislatively possible!

Once again, thanking you for your participation in these important issues for our residents.

Sincerely,

Craig Pardy
Chair
George's Brook-Milton LSD

s. 40(1)
craigpardy5@gmail.com
June 21st, 2016

Hon. Eddie Joyce
Minister of Municipal Affairs
4th Floor (West Block)
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister,

Thank-you for your department’s recent approval of the Early Design Initiative for the interconnection of George’s Brook - Milton and Source Supply Upgrades in George’s Brook. We kindly ask for your department’s expertise in finding manageable ways to maintain water for the residents of Milton until the interconnection is complete. Lily Pond will not sustain us for the summer, dropping an inch a day. We now acknowledge the fact that the Town of Clarenville will not be supplying us. We have considered a tanker truck parked upon the highest elevation in Milton being supplied by water from George’s Brook; an artisan well (or wells) to supplement our current source at Lily Pond, etc. It is here that your department has the expertise to inform and direct our volunteer committee in attempting to avoid a potential state of emergency in the near future. Our goal is to maintain Lily Pond’s supply for as long as possible and we ask assistance from your department’s expertise to provide direction ‘before’ we exhaust our supply.

In addition, the desire to become a Town is practically unanimous amongst residents. We would love to further engage on this process to make it a reality in a ‘timely manner’. We have lots to look forward to and sincerely believe we can become a model municipality in serving our residents, one that Government can be proud of and model for those in the future. We are eager to begin our community building with the regulatory strength of growing one of the fastest growing towns in the province! After all, Milton grew by 28.6% from 2006 to 2011 according to our census data. Timing in becoming a municipality is certainly important as we will grow even more when we attain a secure and sustainable water supply.
Once again, we thank you and your officials for considering this request and we look forward to a good working relationship now, and when incorporated as the Town of George’s Brook-Milton.

Sincerely,

Craig Pardy
Chair: George’s Brook – Milton LSD
Craigraphy5@gmail.com

Cc: Mr. Neil King, MHA District of Bonavista
Mr. Brad Penney, CET, Design Approvals Tech. II, DMA
Mr. Sandy Housell, Regional Director
Mr. Inayat Rehman, P. Eng.
Mr. Ian Duffett, P. Eng.
Mr. Cluney Mercer, P. Eng.
Ms. Heather Tizzard, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mr. Andy Morgans, Director, Local Governance
Mr. Andrew Wright, Manager, Community Liaison
Sullivan, Lisa

From: Joyce, Eddie
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 4:10 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie
Cc: Chippett, Jamie; Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn
Subject: FW: Hi Neil! Raising a fear we have in George's Brook Milton (GBM) ....

Please review and take appropriate action. Thank you, Eddie

From: King, Neil
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Joyce, Eddie <ejoyce@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn <SherrilleynnDogurga@gov.nl.ca>; Craig Pardy (craigpardy5@gmail.com)<craigpardy5@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: Hi Neil! Raising a fear we have in George's Brook Milton (GBM) ....

Good Morning Minister Joyce,

Please see the email below from the LSD Committee from George's Brook - Milton. The have some concern with the letter attached. As discussed in the meeting we had with them this summer, they want to move this process along in the fastest possible timeframe, however they do have some concerns found in the email below.

It's my understanding that the feasibility study has been completed. However, and email I sent to Andrew Wright on the matter has not been answered.

Regards,

Neil

Neil King, CD
MHA - District of Bonavista
(709) 468-2132
1-800-600-4875
Fax: (709) 468-2134

From: Craig Pardy [mailto:craigpardy5@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:18 PM
To: King, Neil
Cc: Morgan Ellis
Subject: Hi Neil! Raising a fear we have in George's Brook Milton (GBM) ....

Hi Neil!

Trust all is well. Just heard on the NTV news Minister Joyce discussing the capital works dollars, earmarked by the Federal Government for improvements in infrastructure in our province. That is indeed great news as we are very much the beneficiaries of this capital works funding in GBM and hope that in 2018 we can avail of more funding to further expand our Water Infrastructure. Minister
Joyce stated that it was what MNL asked for, the enhanced funding, and "they got what they wished for". Great stuff!

As you are well aware of, we are more than enthusiastic and more than eager to become a municipality, with no more expectation than any other comparably populated community that gets the benefits bestowing it as a Town in our province. We wish to be a member of MNL and be able to efficiently operate our community with regulatory ability that serves our residents. We would also wish to avail of accessing the monetary gas rebates, operating monies and Utility Taxes to further enhance our community. It is the amount of time taken for this 'municipal governance' to materialize that we wish to engage you in as our MHA.

Some time lines are as follows:
- First made inquiry to MA to explore becoming a Municipality in Oct. 2014
- Hundreds of emails to MA over the years, letters to you and our minister. Minister Joyce responds to our request {Mar. 3rd, 2016 - attached} stating "Department Officials will work with the LSD to ensure that this study is completed in a timely manner"
- June 7th, 2016 a petition was presented to Government representing 74.1% of our resident's desiring to become a Town. A process step requested by MA.
- July 26th, 2016 I met with Andy Morgans and Emily Thompson, at Tim Hortons on Portugal Road, to discuss our road. Unfortunately, I was informed, to my dismay, that it conceivably could be another 6 months before this materializes. Our committee was concerned and deemed this 'length of time' as unfair. I am sure that Mr. Morgans and Ms. Thompson will recall my displeasure at that meeting with this timeline.
- August 9th, our committee met with you and Minister Joyce at the Cultural House. Minister Joyce stated he was briefed that our 'municipal status' was 3 months away from materializing.
- Dec. 2016 consultants were selected and contact was made with us to begin the feasibility process and the report has now been submitted to MA.
- March 14th, 2017 a scheduled public meeting to brief our population on consultant's findings was postponed to Tuesday March 21st, 2017 due to consultants request. Announcements have been made.
- Today, (March 15th) the consultants stated in an email, "Will be meeting with them {MA} tomorrow or Friday, and it looks like we will not be able to make the meeting that is tentatively scheduled for next Tuesday {March 21st Public Meeting}. Will provide an update as soon as we meet with them."

Our fear is that becoming a Town is certainly not as much of a priority with MA (Local Governance Division) as it is an urgency for our LSD, and the residents we serve. As we stated before, another construction season is upon us and we still have NO REGULATORY teeth to control development. In addition, expecting only our rightful share of the municipal funding, we have been unable to utilize over $10,000.00 each month, for the betterment of our residents. We have worked super hard for 29 months trying to secure municipal status, and have certainly surpassed expected time frames for such as stated by Mr. Morgans and Minister Joyce.

We kindly ask that we work together to make municipal status a reality, sooner than later. We believe we have been more than patient! Again, we are asking for no more than what any other Town in NL. has bestowed upon them with their municipal status, and we are tired of being handicapped without legislation to assist us in building our community. Unless we are missing an element that is slowing down or impeding the process, the efficiency of the 'Local Governance'
Division of MA, fits with Lorraine Micheal's proclamation outside the House of Assembly today, as captured by NTV news.

WE have established a great working relationship with you Neil and sincerely ask for your involvement here. Together we can make it happen to better serve those residents we are representing. If there is a stumbling block here behind the scenes, maybe if informed we could understand the delay.

THANK-YOU for listening and look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to circulate this to whomever, as it would be hoped that efficiency going forth in becoming a Town would be justified. 29 months and counting!

Craig
Mr. Craig Pardy, Chairperson
George's Brook-Milton Local Service District
P.O. Box 5234
Clarenville, NL A5A 3A2

Dear Mr. Pardy:

Re: Request Feasibility Report and Local Service District (LSD) Water Supply

I am writing in response to your correspondence dated February 15, 2016, in which you express concerns regarding the requirement of a feasibility report and the water situation in the Local Service District of George's Brook - Milton.

I understand that officials from the Department have been working with committee members with regards to the Local Service District becoming a municipality and that a meeting recently took place on February 23, 2016, to inform residents of the community.

With respect to the feasibility report, please be advised that such a report is a requirement as per section 3 and section 9 of the Municipalities Act, 1999. Therefore, it is a necessary part of the process if the LSD is to become a Town. Department officials will work with the LSD to ensure that this study is completed in a timely manner.

With respect to your water issues, regional staff are reviewing this matter and will meet with the LSD in the near future to explore both short and long term options for the community. If you have any further concerns or questions, please contact the Eastern Regional Office at 729-0259.

Sincerely,

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Mr. Neil King, M.H.A., Bonavista
cc: Mr. Dan Michielsen, Director, Eastern Regional Office
cc: Mr. Andy Morgans, Director of Local Governance
From: [blurred name]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:09 PM
To: Info, MA
Subject: ATTENTION: MR ANDREW WRIGHT
Attachments: Document one.jpeg; Document two.jpeg; To The Honorable Minister of Municipal Affairs.docx
To The Honorable Minister of Municipal Affairs

Attention: Mr. Andrew Wright

We would like for the Dept. Of Municipal Affairs to investigate the process for a Feasibility Study that was done prior to the 7th day of June, 2016 to make Milton/Georges Brook a town.

We have reason to believe that the document that was circulated at the households of Milton/Georges Brook is not what was sent to St. John’s for us to become a town. The copy is enclosed.

The chairperson of the LSD swore to an affidavit on the 7th day of June, 2016 that 74.1 % of total householders signed to become a town. We believe that most of the people that signed this petition signed for a Feasibility Study on becoming a town.

We want these documents to be included in the process before the final decision is made and we would also like to see a public vote with respect to this matter.

Signed,

s. 40(1)
TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS:

The attached petition has been circulated among the householders of George’s Brook-Milton for the purpose of determining whether it is desirable to establish a Town.

1. Craig Pardy, being a householder ordinarily resident of George’s Brook-Milton and Chair of the Local Service District of George’s Brook-Milton in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, make oath and say as follows:

1. That the persons who signed the within Petition were fully aware of the purpose for which they signed the Petition.

2. That the people whose names are subscribed to this Petition are householders as defined by The Local Service District Regulations, CNLR 747/96, and are ordinarily residents of George’s Brook-Milton.

3. That the people whose names are subscribed to this Petition desire that the community of George’s Brook-Milton be established as a Town.

4. That:

   i. the total number of householders in the community is: 509
   ii. the total number of householders signing the petition in favour of establishing a town is 377; and;
   iii. the percentage of total householders in favour of establishing a town is: 74.1%.

SWORN TO BEFORE ME AT

George’s Brook-Milton, in the Province

of Newfoundland and Labrador,

this 7th day of June, 2016.

Justice of the Peace or
Commissioner for Oaths

ROSE STACEY
A Commissioner for Oaths
in and for the Province of Newfoundland
My Commission expires on December 31, 2016.

Craig Pardy
Canvasser

s. 40(1)
Today a member of your Local Service District Committee dropped by to discuss the benefits of becoming a municipality and to request your signature on the petition asking for a feasibility study to be conducted by the provincial government.

If you have specific questions, if you wish to discuss the petition process or if you wish to sign the petition, please contact the undersigned LSD Committee member.

Glenn F. Ploughman
LSD Committee Member

### WHY BECOME A MUNICIPALITY?

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<tr>
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<th>LSD</th>
<th>Town</th>
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<tr>
<td>Receive a Municipal Operating Grant?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>Share of Federal Gas Tax?</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>(approx $20K/yr)</td>
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<td>Share of Provincial Gas Tax?</td>
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<td>YES</td>
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<td>(approx $40K/yr)</td>
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<td>Tax from Utility companies?</td>
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<td>(approx $27.5K/yr)</td>
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**Total Revenue estimate per year**

**Approx $177,500**

**Additional Benefits:**

- Control over development?  NO  YES
- Capital Works funding at 90%/10%  YES  YES (No Change)
- Authority for town vision and planning  NO  YES

*If the TOWN of GB-M were to take over clearing and maintenance of side roads, these roads would first be brought up to proper municipal standard before any turn-over from Highways. Any roads repair as a TOWN would continue to receive capital works funding at 90%/10% rate.*
04/17/2017

Dept. of Municipal Affairs
St. John’s, NL.
Hon. Mr. Eddie Joyce (Minister)

Dear Mr. Joyce,

You will find attached to this letter a petition that has been circulated among the householders of the town of George’s Brook. The purpose of this petition was to garner support from the citizens of George’s Brook for an independent vote to be taken regarding the process of the formation and the uniting of the two communities of Milton and George’s Brook under a municipal government. The community was canvassed by three individuals, [redacted]. These gentlemen are ordinary householders of the community of Georges brook. It should also be stated that the persons signing this petition were made fully aware of the purpose of this petition.

The Minister should also be aware that during the circulation of this petition our Local Service District has announced that a vote, conducted by an independent party, would be held on May 23 which also happens to be the same day as the Local Service District annual business meeting. However, the citizens of George’s Brook find this process unacceptable and instead request that the vote be conducted completely independent of the Local Service District and any other affiliate that could possibly influence the outcome of the vote. We request that, if possible, the vote be conducted by the department of municipal affairs and following guidelines established by the Newfoundland Elections act.

We believe that this process was flawed from the beginning and this belief has become more apparent when the petition included with this letter is compared with the petition circulated by the Local Service District. The petition included with this letter is showing that 160 of the 235 individuals eligible to vote in the community of Georges Brook have clearly indicated their desire for the process to be done differently. In fact, due to the level of anger and mistrust that we have seen at the doors, we would strongly recommend that the process be delayed indefinitely.
Also, at this time, we are requesting that a meeting be held with the Minister, Mr. Joyce, Our member in the house of assembly, Mr. Nell King and a member of the concerned citizens of Georges Brook, to discuss this very serious situation facing our town.

Sincerely Yours

Witness: 

HOLLY SHEPPARD
Commissioner for Oaths
in and for Newfoundland

Expiry Date Dec. 31st, 2017
A Petition

OF THE HOUSEHOLDERS OF

GEORGES BROOK

This petition is being presented to the citizens of Georges Brook for the purpose of determining whether we should separate from the town of Milton and form our own stand-alone Local Service District in the event that a public vote is not forthcoming on the purposed plan to establish a municipal government.

We feel that it is a violation of our democratic rights to allow the decision of a few people to dictate the future of all our citizens without them having a say in the process.

Sworn before me at St. Rose, N.L.
this 09 day of April, 2017.

Signed in the presence of:

AUDREY HOLLOWAY
A Petition
OF THE HOUSEHOLDERS OF
GEORGES BROOK

This petition is being presented to the citizens of Georges Brook for the purpose of determining whether we should separate from the town of Milton and form our own stand-alone Local Service District in the event that a public vote is not forthcoming on the purposed plan to establish a municipal government.

We feel that it is a violation of our democratic rights to allow the decision of a few people to dictate the future of all our citizens without them having a say in the process.

Sworn before me at Harbourville NL this 09 day of April 2017.

Signed in the presence of:

AUDREY HOLLOWAY
A Petition
OF THE HOUSEHOLDERS OF
GEORGES BROOK

This petition is being presented to the citizens of Georges Brook for the purpose of determining whether we should separate from the town of Milton and form our own stand-alone Local Service District in the event that a public vote is not forthcoming on the purposed plan to establish a municipal government.

We feel that it is a violation of our democratic rights to allow the decision of a few people to dictate the future of all our citizens without them having a say in the process.

Sworn before me at St. Anns, NL
this 09 day of April, 2017.

Signed in the presence of:

AUDREY HOLLOWAY
A Commissioner for oaths in and for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. My commission expires on Dec 31, 2017
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Minster Joyce,

Please find attached a letter requesting incorporation for the LSD of George's Brook - Milton and a meeting regarding the same. With 70% of the eligible voters in George's Brook-Milton participating in the voting process last night, 66.1% voted in favour of becoming our province's newest municipality. We are eager to begin the journey into better governance for our growing community.

Thanking you in advance,

Craig Pardy
Chair
George's Brook-Milton LSD

s. 40(1)
May 24th, 2017

Hon. Eddie Joyce  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
4th Floor (West Block)  
Confederation Building  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister,

Please consider this an official request of the Local Service District of George’s Brook – Milton to become ‘incorporated’ as a Municipality. We have followed the incorporation process of your department since our initial application in October 2014, and would welcome at your earliest convenience a meeting to discuss same.

The Feasibility Study Findings, conducted by LW Consulting, recommends a standalone municipality and the results of the public vote on May 23rd, 2017 saw 70% of eligible voters participating, resulting in 66.1% voting in favor of becoming a Town. The residents of George’s Brook-Milton are eager to become a part of the family of NL. Municipalities, leading to better governance for our growing community.

Once again, we thank you and your officials for your prompt anticipation of this request and we applaud you and your government for guiding us through the process. Together we can celebrate the occasion of the **Town of George’s Brook-Milton** becoming the newest municipality to our province in over three decades.
Sincerely,

Craig Pardy
Chair: George's Brook - Milton LSD
Craigmardy@gmail.com

Cc: Mr. Neil King, MHA District of Bonavista
    Mr. Sandy Housell, Director of Municipal Supprrt
    Ms. Heather Tizzard, Assistant Deputy Minister
    Mr. Andrew Wright, Manager, Community Liaison
    Ms. Lori Evoy, Manager Eastern Regional Director
To: Right Honorable Eddie Joyce

Re: George's Brook-Milton Incorporation

Date: July 3, 2017

Good day sir. My name is [REDACTED] Since October 2014, our town has been working to become incorporated and control our own destiny. Recently, a vote was held where the results gave us the support to become incorporated. All our town needs now is your signature declaring us incorporated.

The longer we remain a Local Service District our tax dollars will continue to go elsewhere and not back into our community. Also, we fear continued development that cannot be controlled. I see it as being disadvantaged and unable to plan for the future of our community for generations to come. Our town desires to make a plan which includes development, recreation, and culture.

I personally feel that we can better serve our community if we were incorporated. More specifically, many more regulations could be enforced when it comes to fire protection.

Your support and attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please do whatever you can in helping expedite the process of incorporation so that we can "control our own destiny" and plan for the future in our new town of George's Brook-Milton.

Sincerely

=======================================
Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended for the sole use of the intended recipient(s), and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not an intended recipient, any review, retransmission, conversion to hard copy, copying, circulation or other use of this message and any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete the message and attachments immediately and notify the sender by return email. Thank you!

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Please review and take appropriate action. Thank you, Eddie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Dear Mr. King:

I hope this message finds you well during this lovely time of year. I am writing to you today to ask for clarification and information on the status of my communities democratic application for municipal government.

As you are aware the community has spent the better part of forty years (give or take a year) debating, conniving, and working towards the goal of becoming a proper municipal government. On May 23rd, 2017 LW Consulting conducted a professionally managed and scrutinized election that had seventy percent voter turn out with sixty sixty percent in favor of becoming a town (Municipal Government). Facts found here.

I assume an application was made to the minister on or around election day, but I have not heard any news on the application. I am not writing to you on a ‘point of order’ or asking for information on the bureaucratic process: I am deeply concerned for my communities well being.

Firstly, developers in my community can ‘do as they please’ till some sort of announcement regarding our application is made. Secondly, this uncontrolled development presents very real and serious problems for our town development process, and also compromises the democratic wishes of the community (see our election results). Lastly, our tax dollars are going to other areas instead of helping us to contribute to our clean water and community development partnerships with the province.

Essentially, Mr. King, we are powerless to control, stop, or regulate any growth, development, or community evolution till the Minister acts on our application. I feel my community has established, through the rule of law, the necessary requirements to establish the provincial requirement of consent (election) and means (municipal benefits + resident base) for development of a town. I hope to hear from you and Minister Joyce as soon as you possibly can.

Regards,
George's Brook-Milton votes yes to becoming stand-alone town

Next steps will be setting up meeting with provincial officials, says Craig Pardy

By Stephanie Tobin, CBC News  Posted: May 24, 2017 8:10 AM NT Last Updated: May 24, 2017 8:10 AM NT

Residents have voted in favour of making George’s Brook-Milton Newfoundland and Labrador's newest municipality.

The secret ballot vote, held Tuesday night, showed a 66.1 vote in favour of the move, with 70 per cent of eligible voters participating.

Craig Pardy, chair of the local service district, said Wednesday the next move is setting up a meeting with provincial government officials to move forward.

"The next step, and where we go, we've already made application now to the government and to the minister to look at becoming incorporated, and hopefully meeting with their officials to see what the steps are," said Pardy.

Earlier this year, the province's commissioned feasibility study, conducted by LW Consulting, recommended that the district become a stand-alone municipality.

The right move

Pardy said some people in the community were apprehensive about that, but he hopes time will prove it was the right move.

- Newfoundland and Labrador's newest town? George’s Brook-Milton to vote next month

"There were a lot of fears coming forward and I think when change was difficult and didn't know where they see the community going. Like what if we ran out of money or what if it became a bigger challenge?" he told CBC's Central Morning Show.

But he said those fears should hopefully be assuaged.

"What we look forward to be able to show that in the following months and years is that those fears would be certainly diminished and put aside, so time will certainly show all that this has been or will be a great move for our community."

With files from the Central Morning Show

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Radio Arts Books Contests
News Kids Parents Site Map
Sports Local Indigenous
Keith, Debi L

From: Joyce, Eddie
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2017 12:20 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie
Cc: Chippett, Jamie; Dogurga, Sherrie-Lynn
Subject: Fw: LETTER OF CONCERN.
Attachments: Letter to Andrew Wright.docx

Please review and take appropriate action. Thank you, Eddie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: [Redacted] s. 40(1)
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2017 5:21 PM
To: Wright, Andrew; Joyce, Eddie; King, Neil
Subject: LETTER OF CONCERN.

Dear Mr. Wright

I am re-attaching the letter that I have been working on for a month or more now and submitted yesterday. The program I discovered afterward had not saved the spell and grammar checks. Hopefully it has now. This letter addresses my concerns on the situation under review of the LSD of George's Brook-Milton becoming the province's newest municipality.

This has come about as a result of my observation of the process and the relative unease I have with it. I hope you will take this information and incorporate it into your decision making process in this matter. I wanted to make myself heard as I felt that many of us were not in the "two" sessions held here in the community. Also our feedback was not even solicited once the report was completed, with the content of the report was submitted as it stood without our residents comments or input.

I will be sending this to yourself in registered format as well.

Respectfully Submitted

--
"some art reaches the retina and stops there, some reaches beyond into the mind"
Marcel Duchamp
July 1st, 2017

Department of Municipal Affairs
P.O. Box 8700,
Confederation Building, East Block
St John’s, NL
A1B 4J6

Attention: Andrew Wright

Dear Mr. Wright:

I am writing at this time as a very concerned resident of the LSD communities of George’s Brook-Milton. As you know we are currently in the midst of a decision making process that will determine the long term future of our two communities. As I am sure you are aware, there are a body of people within our communities that do not think that this move is in the best interest of our collective whole or that it was, in fact, carried out in an honourable and up-front fashion.

There are a number of items that I would like to draw your attention to in this recent process that I truly feel needs examination and dissemination as to the way in which it was conducted and presented to the public. I will present these to you now in point form to enable a more ordered response.

1. First of all, in a time when our province is examining the aspect of regionalization (which is long overdue) why are we even exploring the potential creation of any more Municipalities or Local Service Districts. Our province is presently in an economic crisis. Towns are continuously struggling to make ends meet. And struggling even further to attract people to sit on council (as per MNL). [REDACTED] and we were always in a battle to find people to sit on the committee. How will this change when the status of “town” is applied? I think we have to look further down the road - not just the day that it takes effect - to make a well informed decision on this matter.

Why are we going down this road if Regionalization is in fact in the offering? Is this not a needless waste of spending where monies can be better directed elsewhere? As well, if this means that other municipalities will be getting less -
in scenarios where current municipalities are struggling as it is - is this not going to create more problems with current and any proposed municipalities?

2. Does a community the size of George's Brook-Milton really need a complex structure such as municipal council to achieve the goals that it needs or wishes? I don't think so. The major item for a successful community is that of water (as referenced in Doug Griffiths – 13 Ways To Kill A Community). The others are fire protection, development and waste management. Waste has already been taken out of our hands, our fire department is at a point of unprecedented functionality and our water supply is gradually being upgraded to a place that it needs to be on a project by project basis. This is being accomplished in the 90/10 arrangement that has existed for years and has served us very well. We have always lived within our means and becoming a town may change that - where projects are carried out outside of the needs and wishes of our residents.

3. There is the repeated aspect of uncontrolled development (item 3 point #2) - but are there not ways around this issue? Denial of water hook up to large-scale development? A rational discussion with the provincial building entity of Service NL with the interest of the residents of our community at it's core? Isn't the creation of a municipality a bit of overkill on that front? As well, on the "vision" front, how much do we want our communities to develop and resemble an overcrowded urban sub-division, destroying and detracting from our idyllic scenario that characterizes our tiny communities at present?

4. The feasibility report by LW Consulting I felt was insufficient in answering a myriad of questions. I have written reports like these as a [REDACTED] and know to the depth of detail that these reports should delve to. I found it to be incomplete and lacking in detail. I found the information cursory and budgets lacking fine-tuning. It failed to explore the pros/cons of each option satisfactorily as presented at the outset of the report. There were no projections made in this feasibility report for a 10, 20 or 30 year vision down the road. I found some of the information included in the report to be inaccurate and misleading - one item being that the former UC Church (now Community Cultural House) and the Rec Centre were being presented as "town buildings" yet they are not the property of the LSD (nor can they be). They are in the possession of other organizations and being debated as to their long term future - with many in the community siding with keeping it as a community (not a municipal) venue. Yet the methodology being employed by the LSD is having a feel of the subversive around it all in my humble opinion. Also, the conducting of the "vote" by the consultants was a bit off-base as well. A little too in-house maybe?
5. The basis of the research as well has puzzled me. The consultants opted to speak to the nearby municipality of Clarenville and their various organizations rather than speaking to those in our own community. Why? What does the Chamber of Commerce and the 50plus group in Clarenville have to do with us becoming a town here in George’s Brook – Milton, (with none of its’s members being residents here) AND especially when we have our own local organizations within our own boarders. The Community Legacy Foundation, The George’s Brook Recreation Committee, The New Curtain Theatre Company and The Community Cemetery Committee. Do our own groups not count in this decision making process? I find that very odd indeed. Our future being commented on and determined by outside forces? There is also the methodology of having people contact the consultants rather than the consultants reaching out to the residents and making themselves available locally rather than doing the work from “the other side of the overpass” or over the internet (not all have that access). This is ludicrous - especially when paying so much for this report. Again this is something I did in my report as an architect when I worked on the feasibility study for the art space facility for the city of St John’s. The research was exhaustive.

6. There is as well the aspect of money always being dangled like carrots as opposed to a concrete vision. I question the general knowledge of the pro camp as to what is involved in the aspects of running a town from a financial point of view. Is there a clear sense of what is required? I have heard comments made to the effect of things like “a town plan can be done by the council and the clerk”. As a trained architect I know that is ridiculous and simply not the case. Another case of things being inaccurately portrayed. When a number of $130 00 to $150 000 is being put out there I cannot see that as being enough to run a town especially being told our fees, that we are currently paying, will remain as is. A town clerk is going to eat up 1/3 of that income (MOG, Gas Tax, Utilities Tax, etc.) as it is. Where is the remaining operational money coming from? Especially with the aspects of insurances, liability, operations and maintenance to name a few.

7. Perhaps more perplexing was the way in which our LSD presented this plan. It was rather suspect in my opinion. on presenting the “petition” to the residents. I did so on the basis of an agreement to explore the feasibility to become a town rather than the choice of actually becoming a town. That is a big difference in my book. Yet there is apparently an affidavit, attached to the petition, which many were unaware of. This only came to my attention after yet was apparently submitted with the petition while . This affidavit apparently states that the petition was a choice to become a town. Not the agenda which
8. In terms of the voting process that took place over two days in May, the provincial 50% + 1 is not the way to go here in the decision making process. I know it is not part of the official process, but resettlement has such a high percentile of agreement then why is not a process like this. Also there is the issue of who was allowed to vote. Apparently the provincial voting standard was what was stated as the method but in LSD's (which is what we are at present) that structure only allows householders the right to vote. The Householder vs Non-householder voting process. There are reports of people who don't even live here voting including students and children of householders. Is this fair – NO! Especially when people who own land parcels and vacation homes here were not able to vote. It just doesn't seem right? And as well there is the issue of committee members who are not even residing here still sitting on the LSD. [s. 40(1)] Has this regulation in fact changed?

9. This has also been a movement driven by committee and not by community. The community was let know/discovered that this was happening well along in the process. Why was this process let go so far along its path without its residents being invited to participate and give their input at the very beginning. Instead they find out after the fact. Moves like this should be initiated out of a vision not the dangling of a monetary carrot. The concept of a “town building charrettes” was put forward within the LSD committee but was shut down and passed over and never saw its exploration and presentation to the community at large. Instead the cart was put before the horse. This process has thus ended up in a division within the community rather than being a community building exercise.

10. Manipulation of scenarios in our communities is also suspect. One being a movement for over a year now to lay claim to our Community Cultural House by the LSD. A building given back to the community in 2010, built by many of our ancestors, to be a community facility not a municipal one. There is a difference. (Yet the LSD have insured this building – which they do not own! – which is not legal) Situations appear to be manipulated, misleading information posed and incamera sessions held with certain Legacy Committee members with no dissemination of information afterwards. (Rumors of this happening with other residents in the community have been circulating as well). This building is the property of the community and it future requires ratification by our residents as a whole and not by a hand full of people (three from the same family). Secondly is the "Taxes vs Fees" situation is being touted as the options available while some are informing us that property taxes are required – we can’t seem to get a
straight answer. Thirdly is the concept that we will be able to upgrade our communities' social infrastructure (parks/walking trails/ sports and culture) yet at the same time saying that the primary reason to become a town is to give us a better water supply throughout the two communities. Promises being made that can't be kept.

What are the "real" benefits and reasons for making this move? Are they justified? Are they qualitatively & quantitatively beneficial in the long run? I was in favour of this movement in the beginning, or at least its concept, but after I started doing my research I began to see things differently. Our little communities are not ready for this. We do not need it. Not at all. There are just way too many unanswered questions. And the way it has been implemented is not resting easy with me either. Or others. When answers were sought and asked we were talked down to by the consultants with no satisfactory answers given – or told to direct them to the LSD. Sessions were incomplete at best with LSD members politically canvassing the pros to win people over. Hardly a discussion of what was in the best interest of its residents and the towns as a whole.

So in summation, there are a lot of us here in the town that are not being heard. We do not have a voice as the LSD does. We have not had a chance to speak our minds and have our voices heard. We are continuously being told “what is best for us” by people who are trying to rule with an iron fist. People who have publicly stated that there are “x” number of degrees on their committee which by default is intended to imply that they know best? I by no means would assume that I know what is best for anyone outside of myself.

The whole process that was implemented has been suspect from the start and dishonourable in my eyes. Hardly a method of community building that some espouse. I am not sure what the outcome is going to be but I for one do not feel that this is a move that is advantageous to either us as individuals or as a community or the province as a whole. It should be examined I feel as to who is going to benefit from this move in the long run. Is it going to be the residents? I don’t think so. Maybe some but not to our community as a whole. With the percentage sharing formula changing, the economy in the state that it is and the increased fees anticipated in hydro alone these are deterrents to making the move to become a municipality. Why complicate things needlessly?

So I hope that the Department of Municipal makes the right decision in this situation and do what is best for the citizens of George’s Brook-Milton and that being for us to remain as is. Or look at the concept of regionalization down the road.

Respectfully submitted.
Please review and take appropriate action. Thank you, Eddie

Dear Minister Joyce,

Six weeks ago the Local Service District of George’s Brook-Milton held a public meet. Approximately 66% of the voters voted in favor of becoming a town.

As our community has been pursuing this process for a number of years and the fact that municipal elections are to be held this September, we would really hope/expect that our community would also be electing a council at this time. Therefore, we are enquiring as to the status of our community becoming incorporated as a municipality.

We look forward to your quick response,
My name is [redacted] and I am a resident of Milton and have been for [redacted] years. I would like to know how long it is going to take for the minister to approve our application for a town? The longer it takes for this to go through the more monies we are losing out on. We voted for in order to satisfy the people who doubted there was enough support for this. It is now up to the minister to sign off on this so we can move forward. The residents have spoken so let's get the ball rolling, municipal elections are coming fast and we need to be all set up to go!
Keith, Debi L

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2017 9:25 PM
To: Info, MAE
Subject: George's Brook- Milton Incorporation

Dear Minister Joyce:

My name is [Redacted] and I am writing to you today regarding the seemingly prolonged process of incorporating George's Brook- Milton as a municipality.

Over the years, our home has grown, welcoming change along with new friends and faces.

Since October, 2014, our community has worked diligently to achieve this next step. We have lobbied relentlessly to exercise our right as citizens of this province to act in the best interest of our community. Incorporation would allow greater autonomy in decision making and allow more effective distribution of our hard earned tax dollars to the causes that matter the most.

Nearly three years later, our future remains uncertain. Ultimately, the decision rests in the hands of our elected officials. With this in mind, I write to you today seeking your support and signature to help secure the future of our beloved town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,
Good day all,

My name is [Redacted] and I am a resident of Milton-George's Brook. I am sure you are well aware that since October 2014 we, the citizens of Milton-George's Brook, have been lobbying to become a town. Several months ago a vote was held and the majority voted in favor of this move forward. Since then, there has been very little information available as to where this process currently sits.

As far as I know, this process requires government approval to proceed forward. As concerned citizens, we feel these delays will stunt the growth of our fine community.

As our MHA, we urge you to please help move this process along in any way you can.

This is a great community to live in. With your help, we can make it even greater!

Regards,

Milton-George's Brook

Sent from my iPad
Re: George's Brook-Milton

Thank you for your letter dated July 1, 2017 regarding the Local Service District of George's Brook-Milton's request to become a town.

I appreciate the concerns that you have addressed and I want to advise you that the Feasibility Report prepared by LW Consulting and its recommendations remain under review.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Andrew Wright, Manager - Community Liaison at 729-7143 or andrewwright@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Re: George’s Brook-Milton

Thank you for your email dated July 3, 2017 regarding the Local Service District of George’s Brook-Milton’s request to become a town.

I appreciate the benefits to the community you have outlined if George’s Brook –Milton were to become a town. I want to advise you that the Feasibility Report prepared by LW Consulting and its recommendations remain under review.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Andrew Wright, Manager - Community Liaison at 729-7143 or andrewwright@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Re: George’s Brook-Milton

Thank you for your email dated July 3, 2017 regarding the Local Service District of George’s Brook-Milton’s request to become a town.

I appreciate the benefits to the community you have outlined if George’s Brook –Milton were to become a town. I want to advise you that the Feasibility Report prepared by LW Consulting and its recommendations remain under review.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Andrew Wright, Manager - Community Liaison at 729-7143 or andrewwright@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Decision Note
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Title: The Local Service District of George's Brook-Milton's Request to Become a Town

Decision Required:
- Whether to [redacted] for the incorporation of the LSD of George's Brook-Milton as a town.

s. 29(1)(a)

Background and Current Status:
- On June 7, 2016, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment (MAE) received a petition from the residents of the Local Service District (LSD) of George's Brook-Milton (GBM) to establish a town. The percentage of total householders in favour of establishing a town was 74.1 per cent.
- In order to establish a town, a feasibility report must be prepared as per sections 3 and 9 of the Municipalities Act, 1999.
- On December 15, 2016 LW Consulting (LWC) was appointed to prepare the feasibility report, and on April 13, 2017 they submitted their final report, which is attached as Annex A.
- During the feasibility study process, LWC considered the following local governance options with respect to GBM:
  - Regional Government;
  - Annexation to Clarenville;
  - Sharing of Services;
  - Status Quo; and
  - A Stand-alone Municipality.
- Throughout the analytical process, LWC held meetings with pertinent stakeholders to review the options, which are highlighted below. Substantially more detail and rationale is found within the report.

Analysis:

*Synopsis of LWC's analysis*
- Regional Government – It is LWC’s opinion that the timing is not right for such a governance structure to be established while government is consulting on regional government. They indicate that to recommend any form of regional governance system would be premature and may cause unnecessary confusion and a public outcry that could jeopardize government’s work.
- Annexation to Clarenville - The annexation to Clarenville is not recommended as there is virtually no support within GBM. The Town of Clarenville is also opposed to any annexation and is not prepared to supply water to GBM. (GBM has been plagued with water distribution problems for years. The problems have become larger due to the incapacity of Lilly Pond in Milton, to continue as a reliable water supply. The George's Brook supply is better quality but has been subjected to boil orders.) LWC acknowledges that the most cost effective way to provide reliable and high quality water to GBM is through a connection to Clarenville, but due to the foregoing circumstances, LWC recommends there be no annexation. MAE
advices that government has maintained the position of no forced amalgamations or annexations.

- **Status Quo** – LWC indicates that the status quo of remaining a LSD is not an option if the community is to improve its water system and provide the necessary services the residents are requesting. The LSD is restricted to fees for services and cannot impose property tax and other forms of revenue generation afforded to municipalities. A municipality is able to access sources of funding not available to a LSD. It is estimated that an additional $152,626 would be available to the “Town of GBM” from Business Tax, Utilities Tax, Municipal Operating Grants, and Federal and Provincial Gas Tax.

- **Other Sharing of Services** - This option was deemed to not be appropriate given the circumstances. The climate and public support is not present to achieve any form of regional governance system, nor is there a willingness to co-operate in the sharing of basic core services.

- **Stand-alone Municipality** - LWC recommends this option. A detailed assessment of the taxation levels and the required expenditures was completed and there is no difficulty in the stand-alone municipality being able to establish and provide for an effective administration, and operational structure. The results indicate that GBM could be a viable stand-alone municipality. As a town, GBM will have the political and administrative structure to manage its affairs in an efficient and effective manner to service the needs of a growing community.

- LWC indicates that based on all of the feedback received during the feasibility process, there appears to be overwhelming support for a stand-alone municipality, provided there is no increase in levels of taxation and that the residents are given an opportunity to vote.

  - Throughout the feasibility process there has been regular and vocal opposition from a GBM resident, [redacted]. On April 18, 2017, [redacted] submitted a petition to the Minister signed by 160 residents asking for an independent public vote on the matter. LWC recommended that a public vote be undertaken and the vote, overseen by LWC, was subsequently held on May 23. The result was 66.1% in favour of incorporation.

- LWC made 12 recommendations in their final report to the Minister. The recommendations are attached as Annex B. Their primary recommendation is to disestablish GBM and incorporate a new town in accordance with Section 3 and Section 12 of the Municipalities Act, 1999. As per the Municipalities Act, 1999, The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, by order, on the recommendation of the Minister and subject to a feasibility study being prepared under section 9, incorporate a Town.

**Departmental analysis**

- There are numerous factors to consider in developing the Department’s position on whether the incorporation of GBM as a town should proceed.

- During the fall 2016 Premier’s Forum on Local Government, there was strong support for Government to lead a regional approach to local government. At the time, the Premier was clear in his position that regional governance and sharing of services needed to be supported by communities – Government would not force such an initiative upon communities in the province.

- There are currently 271 municipalities, five Inuit Community Governments, 174 LSDs, and approximately 180 unincorporated areas in the province.

- Public consultations on the principles and main components of a potential regional government are planned for fall 2017. However, it is not expected that a final decision on Government’s preferred approach will be made until 2018 with pilots in 2019 as per THE
significant media coverage in recent years over the reluctance of Clarenville to provide water to GBM and the charges Clarenville has levied to the LSD to receive this service. However, recent media reports suggest that Clarenville is providing water to the LSD at this time.

Financial analysis

- The incorporation as a municipality would expose Government to covering the cost of the first municipal election (estimated at $4000) as per the Municipal Elections Act.

As identified by LWC in their final report, the cheapest solution to GBM’s water problems is a connection to Clarenville’s Water system at an estimated cost of $12,334,414. The next least costly option is the George’s Brook Intake Upgrade Project with Storage in South Milton, which will cost an estimated $14,650,261. This option would be a significant cost to Government and GBM. A Municipal Capital Works application from Clarenville to connect to the GBM water system would qualify for the 10 percent cost share reduction given the regional benefits of the project. GBM was funded for a $1.8M project from the Clean Water and Wastewater fund for Phase 1 of a water project in summer 2016 to connect Milton to the George’s brook water supply. The project is 70% complete.

- In their final report, LWC has recommended that GBM apply to MAE for the following items which could increase Government’s financial commitment: a multi-year phased approach to complete the entire water and sewer system estimated at $14,650,261 and $6,588,430, respectively; preparation of the first town plan and development regulations estimated at $40,000; renovations to the Cultural House to accommodate the town office and Council chambers estimated at $105,000; and a $10,000 transitional grant. These requests, if submitted, would be reviewed and ranked per the normal municipal funding programs and consideration would still be given to pursuing a solution involving Clarenville. The Department would not be seeking any increased funds for these requests.

- MAE has financial allocations for MOGs, currently $22M annually, and for provincial gas tax sharing, $7.1M annually.
Public environment

- GBM has been vocal about the amount of time this decision is taking. Minister Joyce has publicly noted that there are numerous considerations involved in such a request and that the Department is doing its due diligence. The head of the LSD has advised that it is supportive of a regional solution with Clarenville particularly from a service-sharing perspective (i.e. drinking water), but notes that this would not be an option in the shorter term.

Alternatives:

Prepared/Approved by: A. Wright / D. Spurrell / T. Kelly / H. Tizzard / J. Chippett
Ministerial Approval:
August 21, 2017

[Signature]
Annex B
LW Consulting's Recommendations

1. The status of LSD of GB-M be disestablished and a new town be incorporated and constituted in accordance with Section 3 and Section 12 of the Municipalities Act, 1999.
2. The name of the new town be the Town of George's Brook-Milton subject to agreement by the existing LSD.
3. A town clerk/manager be hired to head the administration branch of Council.
4. The town boundary is recommended to follow the boundaries of Clarenville on the western side of Route 231 to the shore line, thence to follow the double pole line north to the Bonavista highway, thence to follow the Bonavista Highway for 100 metres east of Route 230A, thence back to the RC Brett Bridge, Route 232, thence to the coast line.

It should be noted that there is an apparent conflict in the boundary between Clarenville and Milton. The house west of the double pole line is numbered as 291, indicating its location in Clarenville, whereas the house on the east side of the double pole line is numbered 3, indicating its location in Milton. The current boundary for Clarenville takes in some of the houses in this area of Milton as well as their water supply of Lilly Pond. This will need to be addressed in delineating the boundary for the new Town of GBM.

5. The Town of GBM should apply under the Provincial Municipal cost shared funding program:
   a. A multi-year phased approach to complete the entire water and sewer system, with the sewer system being installed at the same time as the water system, to avoid duplication of cost in the future;
   b. The preparation of the first town plan and development regulations at an estimated cost of $40,000; and
   c. Renovations to the Cultural House to accommodate the town office and Council chambers at an estimated cost of $105,000.00. Such applications will be considered by MAE in accordance with terms, conditions, and other priority ranking of such funding programs with those of other municipalities.

6. The Provincial Government covers the cost of the first municipal election as outlined in Section 66 of the Municipal Elections Act. The estimated cost is $4,000.
7. The Town of GBM should apply to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment for a transitional grant in the amount of $10,000, to ensure that the newly created town will commence on the right approach and ensure its viability.
8. The council to consist of seven members. The members to be elected at large and the Mayor to be elected by the Council at its first meeting following the election.
9. Council to establish, as a minimum, the following committees at its first meeting and develop Terms of reference for them: Finance and Administration Committee; Public Works Committee.
10. The Cultural House to be transferred to the Town of GBM in accordance with an agreement with the GBM Community Legacy Foundation at first opportunity.
11. The George's Brook Recreation Centre be transferred to the Town of GBM at the first opportunity.
12. Residents of the LSD of GBM be given the opportunity to vote on becoming a town at the upcoming public Annual General Meeting of the LSD.
Sullivan, Lisa

From: Hounsell, Sandy
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Kelly, Tara
Cc: Glynn, Valerie
Subject: FW: Good Morning - quietly looking for an update re: Status of George's Brook - Milton Incorp. Request

From: Craig Pardy [mailto:craiggardy5@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 11:17 PM
To: Info, MAE
Cc: Craig Pardy; Derek Elliott; Glenn F. Ploughman; Green - Bray Heather and Jeff; Morgan Ellis; Sarah Whalen; Wiseman Blanche; David Newell; Squibb, Mark; King, Neil; Hounsell, Sandy
Subject: Re: Good Morning - quietly looking for an update re: Status of George's Brook - Milton Incorp. Request

Sept. 4th, 2017 @ 11:15 p.m.

Minister Joyce,

As a follow-up to our email on August 28th, 2017 which went un-responded, we respectfully request an update on Incorporation of George's Brook-Milton. Your department had the Feasibility Study Report in May 2017, collaborating with the authors who concluded the following:

"Having looked at the various options and during the analytical process, it became quite evident that, at the present time and under the existing circumstances, that the choice of a governance option for the LSD of GB-M is to be incorporated as a standalone municipality. Control of current and future development in the LSD needs addressing through a proper planning approach. Its major water issue cannot be addressed under the present governance regime nor can it be addressed under the other options considered for the reasons outlined in this Report. The revenue potential to meet its expenditure obligations can only be achieved if the LSD of GB-M is established as a Town." {P. 68}

The consultants referenced George's Brook-Milton remaining an LSD:

"The current structure of a Local Service District is not a viable option to address the immediate needs of the residents. The major reason that the residents of the LSD of GB-M petitioned the Department of Municipal Affairs, to be established as a Town, was to take advantage of the opportunities provided to a town, to resolve the serious water quality and quantity problem being experienced in the LSD of GB-M. The LSD of GB-M does not have the ability to raise sufficient revenues to meet its current obligations, and, in addition, to raise the funds necessary to install an adequate water system. By becoming an established municipality, access to other funding opportunities including Government funding, such as Municipal Operating Grants, Federal Gas Tax, and Provincial Gas Tax will be provided, as well as potential additional funding opportunities under the cost shared capital works programs. This amount of funding is substantial, as outlined in the budget for the Municipality of George's Brook-Milton, and illustrated in Table XVI ($152,626.00) {P. 63}

Municipal Elections are in three weeks and our residents do expect to be participating. George's Brook-Milton has been hindered in our inability to regulate development in our community and deprived of rightful funding bestowing other NL. municipalities. As the interview with Minister Joyce (link below) on the CBC
Central Morning Show at 7:09 a.m. on August 15th, 2017, stated that the decision will be coming in the 'very near future' and sympathized with the LSD Committee of George's Brook-Milton stating that he too would be frustrated in the delay in getting a decision. "I promise to have a decision in the very near future". "We are working with the Committee {George's Brook-Milton LSD}".

Here is the link of Minister Joyce's CBC Central Morning Show Interview on August 15th, 2017:

http://www.cbc.ca/radio/popup/audio/listen.html?autoPlay=true&clipIds=&mediaIds=1028971075746&U=%5Bobject%20Object%5D&contentarea=news&subsection1=regions&subsection2=nl&subsection3=centralmorn
mg&contenttype=audio

As stated, our committee and residents have been waiting for incorporation since our Oct. 2014 initial request. It would be totally unjust to have our residents MISS SEPTEMBER 2017 ELECTIONS. As the Feasibility Study Consultants concluded on P. 67, "It would be advantageous if the election for a new Council for George's Brook-Milton coincides with the regular election for all municipalities scheduled for the last Tuesday of September of this year. Every effort should be made to have the LSD of GB-M become a Town at the earliest opportunity."

Respectfully and Patiently Waiting,

Craig Pardy
Chair
George's Brook-Milton LSD

PS. Copied to George's Brook-Milton LSD Committee who have been actively engaged since, and prior to, our inaugural e-mail to Municipal Affairs requesting incorporation in Oct. 2014; our MHA, Neil King; David Newell, Producer of CBC Central Morning Show, and Mark Squibb of The Clarenville Packet.

On Mon, Aug 28, 2017 at 9:59 AM, Craig Pardy <craigpardy5@gmail.com> wrote:
Good morning!!

Talked with the Minister on a couple of occasions in past weeks re: Incorporation status for George's Brook-Milton. With the impending deadline for candidates to offer themselves for the upcoming municipal elections, I was looking for an update in the process of our request.

Thanking you in advance as the community awaits patiently,

Craig
Chair
George's Brook-Milton LSD