

Consolidation or Amalgamation?

What is the difference?

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ANTIGONISH
Our Community

The Town and County are looking into “Consolidation” of their two organizations. The following outlines the differences between Consolidation and Amalgamation.



So you’ve been hearing a lot about “Consolidation” but what is it and how does it differ from “Amalgamation”?

Consolidation is a newer approach to municipal mergers that is more collaborative for the municipal partners. Amalgamation generally happens when a municipality is forced to merge with another partner. The key difference is that Consolidation is voluntary and municipal partners have much more control over the process.

With Consolidation, the Province would create special legislation to empower a “Joint Transition Committee” that represents both municipal units. The Joint Transition Committee has the authority to determine what the new Regional Municipality would look like.

	Consolidation	Amalgamation
Examples	Windsor West Hants	Halifax Regional Municipality Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Overview	Municipal Leadership “Bottom Up” Process	Provincial Leadership “Top Down” Process
Legislation	Special Legislation for each merger Joint Councils make the merger decision, Councils request special legislation	Municipal Government Act, Part XVII UARB Reviews Municipal proposals, Cabinet issues merger order
Structure	Joint Transition Committee Joint Committee recommends Coordinator Joint Committee develops organization Staffed with municipal staff, consultants Joint Committee hires first CAO Boundaries reviewed by UARB Joint Committee organizes first election	Independent Coordinator Cabinet Chooses Coordinator Coordinator develops organization Staffed by experts, consultants Coordinator hires first CAO Boundaries reviewed by NSUARB Coordinator organizes first election

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