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Media Release – UARB Evidence Filed by Springhill and Municipality of Cumberland County

For Immediate Release:

The Town of Springhill and the Municipality of Cumberland County filed information with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on Thursday, August 28th, as required under the UARB review process for the Town's application for dissolution. The information includes reports prepared by municipal staff and external consultants with assistance of the Springhill/Cumberland Transition Committee and Transition Coordinator John Leefe. The UARB review process provides for questions and comments on the evidence from those organizations who have registered with the Review Board, leading to a formal hearing process in December. There are also opportunities for the public to provide comments and appear at the hearing. The Transition Committee, with representatives from both the Town of Springhill and Cumberland County, will be organizing additional public information events this fall to discuss the evidence presented.

Mayor Max Snow is pleased with the work done by staff and consultants over a very short time frame in order to meet the UARB deadline. "There has been a lot of hard work done by many people to understand the situation being faced by the town and to document this for an independent review by the Review Board. Council is pleased to see that the reports provided to the UARB confirm our hope that a merger with Cumberland County will support the community's future growth and reduce tax rates, while still protecting the staff and organizations that make this a good place to live and work."

For the residents of Cumberland County, the evidence presented to the UARB confirms that Council's decision earlier this year to work with the Town of Springhill to support the dissolution process was a good one. Warden Keith Hunter believes this is the start of a process which will result in improved government for all of Cumberland County. "We are still going through the consultant reports on finance and infrastructure ourselves, and there is a lot to take in. The evidence filed on August 28th indicates the municipality can be a good neighbour to the town in this process of dissolution, and provide a better joint government as a result. We have all been challenged by the Ivany Report and our residents to do things better and more cost effectively, and this looks like a good first step in that process."

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For Further Information:

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