

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North



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Nova Scotia Legislature

January 30, 2025

The Honourable Tory Rushton, M.L.A.
Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables
Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
3rd Floor, Founders Square
1701 Hollis Street
P.O. Box 698
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T9

Dear Minister Rushton,

Thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Nova Scotia as Minister of Natural Resources. Governing is about people. On November 26th, 2024, Nova Scotians entrusted us with a mandate to shape a brighter future. We share a belief in the strength of our communities, the ingenuity of our industries, and the rich heritage that defines Cumberland County. Together, we will harness this potential to foster economic growth, improve healthcare, and elevate the quality of life for all residents.

Cumberland County stands on the precipice of tremendous opportunity. By investing in our people, supporting innovation, and ensuring sustainable development, we can unlock prosperity and lead Nova Scotia into a new era of progress. Our collective success hinges on collaboration, bold action, and a steadfast commitment to addressing the unique needs of our communities. As Minister of Natural Resources, your leadership will be pivotal in ensuring the sustainable management and development of Nova Scotia's natural resources. Your department's work will play a critical role in balancing environmental stewardship with economic opportunities, particularly in resource-rich regions like Cumberland County.

Specifically, I ask that you prioritize:

1. Advancing sustainable forestry practices and working with industry to find new markets for forestry products.
2. Supporting the sustainable development of the mining and natural gas sectors while ensuring environmental safeguards and community engagement.

3. **Increase infrastructure funding for Heather Beach Provincial Park.** A new society has formed that is looking to improve the general area and work with the government to address some long standing issues. Our provincial parks are something we are very proud of in our area. We appreciate your staff of the parks as well.

4. Pass the Bill 491 [Bow Hunters Access Act](https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1/bill-491) which proposes amendments to allow bow hunters to access protected wilderness areas to retrieve game, granting them greater flexibility when tracking and recovering animals. Currently, only members of ATVANS are permitted to drive in designated areas, but hunters often need to go off-trail in regions such as Kelly River. The bill responds to requests from the hunting community for equitable access to these areas, promoting a balanced approach to both conservation and hunting rights.

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1/bill-491>

5. Veterans should be honoured by our Nova Scotia government by amending the [Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act and the Wildlife Act](#) as is seen in Bill 347.

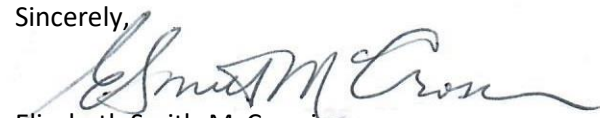
https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th_1st/1st_read/b347.htm

[This Bill](#) amends the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act and the Wildlife Act to allow veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces to hunt in the Province and angle and fish recreationally in Provincial waters without needing to obtain a licence or pay a fee.

I would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these important priorities and how we can work together to address the unique challenges and opportunities in Cumberland County. Collaboration is key to ensuring that we deliver meaningful results for our communities, and I look forward to engaging with you to advance these goals.

I look forward to working with you to build a stronger, more vibrant Cumberland County. Together, we will seize the opportunities before us and create lasting positive change for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA for Cumberland North