

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North**



**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
Députée Cumberland North**

Nova Scotia Legislature

January 30, 2025

The Honourable Kim Masland, M.L.A.
Minister of Regional Emergency Management Operations (REMO)
Maritime Centre
3rd Floor, 1505 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 186
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2N2

Dear Minister Masland,

Thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Nova Scotia as Minister of Regional Emergency Management Operations (REMO).

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 Regional Emergency Management Operations (REMO), your leadership will be pivotal in ensuring the safety and preparedness of our communities in the face of natural disasters and other emergencies. Your department's work will play a vital role in enhancing disaster resilience and response capabilities across Nova Scotia.

Specifically, I ask that you prioritize:

1. Enhancing emergency preparedness and response frameworks in rural areas like Cumberland County, ensuring that resources and plans are in place to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.
2. Ensuring 911 calls are responded to efficiently and ensure that emergency calls to 911 from within Nova Scotia go directly to an answering point within Nova Scotia. Currently calls along the

Northumberland Shore sometimes connect with cell towers in PEI and NB, delaying contact with Nova Scotia's emergency system.

3. Expanding support for local emergency management organizations, including funding and training to improve community resilience.

4. Developing a comprehensive communication strategy to keep residents informed and engaged during emergencies, leveraging both traditional and digital platforms while engaging with our neighbouring province New Brunswick. When winter storms occur traffic is often slowed or stopped on the Tantramar Marsh. **It is imperative that NS and NB have similar rules on TCH closures and currently they do not.**

5. Strengthening partnerships with municipalities and first responders to ensure coordinated responses to emergencies and efficient resource allocation.

6. Advocating for federal funding to support large-scale disaster mitigation projects, such as the Chignecto Isthmus protection plan, which is critical for safeguarding our region's infrastructure and economy.

7. **Create a Medically at-Risk Registry** for the purpose of ensuring that, in the event of a power outage, medically at-risk persons are prioritized in re-establishing electricity connection. Any medically at-risk person, or a family member or substitute decision-maker on the person's behalf, may apply to the Minister to have the person and the person's residence entered into the Registry.

8. The Emergency Management Office should be responsible for ensuring that emergency alerts are issued in appropriate cases by the appropriate authorities; and provides for the issuance of emergency alerts to Nova Scotians for emergencies in another province near the Nova Scotia border.

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