

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North



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Nova Scotia Legislature

January 30, 2025

The Honourable Dave Ritcey, M.L.A.
Minister of Communities, Culture, and Heritage
Department of Communities, Culture, and Heritage
1741 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 456
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R5

Dear Minister Ritcey,

Thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Nova Scotia as Minister of Communities, Culture, and Heritage. Your role is crucial in preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Nova Scotia while fostering vibrant communities across the province. Cumberland County stands ready to collaborate with you in ensuring our cultural institutions, heritage sites, and tourism initiatives receive the necessary support.

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 public spaces, and elevate the quality of life for all residents.

Cumberland County holds significant cultural and historical value, and by investing in community projects, we can unlock new opportunities for economic development and tourism while ensuring that our history and traditions remain preserved for future generations.

Specifically, I ask that you prioritize:

1. Supporting the establishment of a Provincial Museum in Cumberland County to preserve and showcase the rich history and heritage of the region. From the expulsion of the Acadians at Beaubassin to the beginning of Confederation from Sir Charles Tupper of Cumberland, we have vast history and national significance.
2. Addressing the improvement of provincial parks such as Heather Beach. A group of residents has formed an association and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss their efforts and the necessary upgrades to enhance the area. They are working with the

Department of Natural Resources and we are aware there may be opportunities through your department as well.

3. Expanding community development initiatives that preserve and celebrate the cultural heritage of Cumberland North, fostering local arts, tourism, and heritage projects to strengthen community bonds and drive economic growth. There is a new Cultural Chignecto Arts Council that is seeking supports.

4. Investing in public libraries, community centers, and local cultural initiatives to ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to programs and services that enhance social well-being and economic participation. The Town Council of Amherst are seeking provincial support for a Multi-Use Sportsplex. We are all confident this will serve Northern Nova Scotia now and for generations to come.

5. The Pugwash Yacht Club and Bill Mundle Marina are growing and expanding rapidly. Conversations with your department have occurred in the past and we look forward to more in the future as this project develops.

I would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can collaborate on these priorities. A stronger Cumberland North will lead to a stronger Nova Scotia, and together, we can lay the foundation for lasting success.

Your mandate will be shaped by the voices and needs of our citizens. I expect you to engage regularly with the people of Cumberland County, ensuring that our policies and programs reflect their aspirations and address their concerns.

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