

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin**  
**MLA Cumberland North**



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**Députée Cumberland North**

**Nova Scotia Legislature**

January 30, 2025

The Honourable Colton LeBlanc, M.L.A.  
Minister of Growth and Development  
Department of Economic Development  
World Trade and Convention Centre  
1800 Argyle Street  
P.O. Box 2311  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3C8

Dear Minister Leblanc,

Thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Nova Scotia as Minister of Growth and Development.

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 Growth and Development, your leadership will be pivotal in driving Nova Scotia's economic growth, fostering innovation, and supporting local businesses. Your department's work will play a critical role in expanding opportunities, particularly in regions like Cumberland County, which have immense potential for growth.

Specifically, I ask that you prioritize:

1. **Reducing interprovincial trade barriers** to enable easier movement of goods and services across provincial borders, fostering economic integration and growth. Please consider passing legislation as found in Bill 462. This Bill is a Private Member's Bill that mandates a "Border Community Impact Assessment" to evaluate the effects of new provincial programs on border regions like Cumberland County. It ensures transparency through progress reports and aims to address disparities in healthcare, infrastructure, and economic development.

[https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th\\_1st/1st\\_read/b462.htm](https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th_1st/1st_read/b462.htm)

2. Promoting regional economic development initiatives that leverage Cumberland County's unique strengths, including its geographic location and skilled workforce.

3. Supporting the expansion of small and medium-sized businesses through targeted grants and programs that support **new entrepreneurs**.

Work could be explored with the RENS, in our area it is the Cumberland Business Connector.

4. Establishing partnerships with international markets, particularly in Europe and other untapped regions, to create new export opportunities for Nova Scotia businesses. In particular there is opportunity to grow the **oyster farming industry as currently supply cannot meet the demand**. Malagash Bay has untapped potential and I have shared this with the Minister of Fisheries.

5. Meet with the Atlantic Premier's Council and the Governors of the New England States to establish an **Atlantic Trade Partnership Agreement** removing all trade barriers between Atlantic Canada and the New England States.

6. **Infrastructure investments in Cumberland County are needed after years of neglect, such as improved transportation links and broadband access, to attract new industries and retain talent.**

7. Pass the [Maritime Coalition Act](#) is a Private Member's Bill with the purpose to mandate the creation of a coalition with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to enhance regional strength, boost economic activity, collaborate on healthcare, align transportation laws, remove trade barriers, address environmental issues, and plan energy development collectively.

8. Cumberland has many opportunities for economic growth. Some include the expansion of the Industrial Park in Amherst/Cumberland County, development of the Marina in Pugwash and more especially in the area of Agriculture. Please visit us to learn more.

9. We have rich Acadian History. You are likely well-schooled on the history of Beaubassin and the expulsion of the Acadians. We now have an Acadian Society which is developing several events and promoting our important history in this area. We would like to partner with others in your department and look for more opportunities to make sure our area is part of a province-wide celebration of our Acadian culture and heritage.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin  
MLA for Cumberland North