

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



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**Députée Cumberland North**

**Nova Scotia Legislature**

January 30, 2025

The Honourable Trevor Boudreau, M.L.A.  
Minister of Energy  
Department of Energy and Mines  
1690 Hollis Street  
P.O. Box 2664  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3P7

Dear Minister Beaudreau,

Thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Nova Scotia as Minister of Energy. Your extensive experience and dedication to public service position you well to address the critical fiscal and municipal challenges facing our province. Cumberland County stands ready to collaborate with you to foster reliable and affordable energy for the people and businesses of this province. 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 Energy, your leadership will be pivotal in driving Nova Scotia's transition to a sustainable and renewable energy future. Your work will be critical in advancing energy security, promoting renewable energy projects, and ensuring affordability for all Nova Scotians. Specifically, I ask that you prioritize:

1. Accelerating the development and implementation of renewable energy projects, including **geothermal**, wind, solar, and tidal energy, to meet provincial energy goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Ensuring **energy affordability for households and businesses**, particularly in rural areas like Cumberland County, by promoting energy-efficient practices and programs and working with

Nova Scotia Power to **ensure electricity rates do not continue to increase beyond national averages.**

3. Collaborating with regional and federal partners to modernize the energy grid, improving resilience and integrating renewable energy sources. It is imperative that energy is reliable and infrastructure is improved. **The businesses and residential households in Cumberland North have had too many years of power outages due to aging infrastructure. Although I have addressed these concerns with Nova Scotia Power, improvements are still needed.**

4. Expanding Nova Scotia's energy export capabilities to strengthen economic growth and establish the province as a leader in renewable energy innovation.

5. Supporting research and development in clean energy technologies to drive innovation and create new opportunities in the energy sector. It is important to the people of Cumberland and many Nova Scotians that **clean energy that is created in Nova Scotia is used in Nova Scotia.**

6. **Developing geothermal energy projects in Cumberland County, leveraging its unique geological potential to position Nova Scotia as a leader in geothermal energy, as highlighted in international energy research initiatives.**

7. Affordability measures should be taken to assist more Nova Scotians to get Heat Pumps installed. A similar program as what PEI has should be considered as seen in this Bill 449. [Free Heat-pump Program Act](#) This would provide for households within an income under \$100,000 to be eligible for a free heat pump

[https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th\\_1st/1st\\_read/b449.htm](https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th_1st/1st_read/b449.htm)

I would like 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 delivering 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 create a stronger, more vibrant Cumberland County. Together, we will seize the opportunities before us and create lasting positive change for future generations.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin  
MLA for Cumberland North