

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North



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Députée Cumberland North

Nova Scotia Legislature

January 30, 2025

The Honourable Leah Martin, M.L.A.
Minister of Communications Nova Scotia
Minister of Status of Women
Communications Nova Scotia
5th Floor, Provincial Building
1723 Hollis Street
P.O. Box 1504
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2Y3

Dear Minister Martin,

Thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Nova Scotia as Minister of Communications Nova Scotia and Minister of Status of Women. It is both a privilege and responsibility to contribute to building a stronger, more resilient Cumberland County, a region with untapped potential and boundless opportunities.

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 Communications Nova Scotia and Minister of Status of Women, your leadership will be pivotal in advancing the initiatives that matter most to the people of Cumberland County. I expect you to work closely with your colleagues and community partners to deliver tangible results. Your department's work will reflect our shared

vision of a prosperous, inclusive, and thriving Nova Scotia.

Specifically, I ask that you prioritize:

1. Ensuring that the people in Cumberland North who do not have access to the internet are able to remain informed. This includes making sure the Premier and cabinet continue to be available to the media and that all MLAs are able to speak to media without political interference or threats to limit access.
2. As Minister of Status of Women, I urge you to work with the Attorney General to address the misuse of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in cases of sexual assault. Unfortunately I have known too many women that were sexually violated and silenced by their perpetrators. It is unfathomable that this is legal in Canada and Nova Scotia. In the Premier's words, once we know better, we should do better. Please advocate for changes needed. Never underestimate the power of your voice at the Cabinet Table.
3. Additionally, I ask that you champion advocacy to address gender-based violence. Please advocate for your government to pass Keira's Law here in Nova Scotia.
4. Youth are our future. I welcome you to come to Cumberland County and meet some of our youth and some of the community partners that are working to make life better for the next generation.

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

CC: Deputy Minister of Communications Nova Scotia and Deputy Minister of Status of Women