

*House of Assembly  
Nova Scotia*

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December 15th, 2020

Dr. Robert Strang,  
Chief Medical officer of Health  
PO Box 488  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2R8

Dear Dr Strang

The Nova Scotia Border measures that have been in place since the State of Emergency was declared on March 22nd, 2020 affect many residents and businesses that I represent in Cumberland North.

I was told yesterday that the decisions made at the Nova Scotia Border rests with you.

I am requesting a meeting with you and your staff responsible for the NS Border decisions immediately. I have asked Mayor Murray Scott, Mayor David Kogan, a rep from the Business Chamber of Commerce and the Councillor for District 1 to also join the meeting.

I am very worried someone is going to be killed or seriously injured at the NS Border. Snow is forecasted for this Thursday and I believe the new physical layout at the border is putting the travelling public in danger.

These concerns over traffic safety were explained very clearly in two separate meetings in the last month with officials with the Department of Transportation and Department of Environment. The meetings included both the Mayor of Cumberland, Mayor of Amherst, Councillor for District 1 and a rep from the local Chamber of Commerce. Unfortunately, the concerns were not taken into consideration.

Those us of living here locally recommended an alternate plan to open EXIT 1A and do the border checks on LaPlanche Street. There is plenty of space as the county owns a piece of land where there is currently a picnic rest area and it would be completely adequate for a safe area for a checkpoint.

Since the border measures were put in place the border officials have no power to turn anyone away from the province, regardless of Covid symptoms or where they are travelling from. The border officials gather information from vehicles entering NS from outside of Atlantic Canada however that information is not shared with public health on a consistent daily basis.

In the last two days the number of vehicles being identified as from outside of the Atlantic Bubble dropped by a multiple of 9. The new set up at the NS Border is not working for the benefit of public health contact tracing and I believe is a safety risk.

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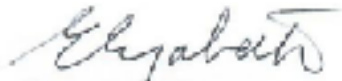
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In addition to the serious safety risks, the continued closure of Exit 1A and the move of the border measures onto the TCH has removed the ability for locals and business customers to use a service road to access LaPlanche Street and Downtown Amherst. The financial losses due to the continued closure of EXIT 1A and the service road to LaPlanche St. and downtown Amherst are devastating to the economy of our area.

I have requested in previous communications for our province of Nova Scotia to collaborate with New Brunswick and place border measures at the entry point into the Atlantic Bubble. I continue to stand by this recommendation.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely



Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

cc. Mayor David Kogan, Town of Amherst, Mayor Murray Scott,  
Municipality of Cumberland, Bill Dowe, Amherst and Area Chamber of  
Commerce