

Halifax

PC Caucus 1003-1660 Hollis St Halifax, NS B3J 1V7 Tel: 902-424-2731 Fax: 902-424-7484

Constituency

5 Ratchford St Amherst, NS B4H 1X2 Tel: 902-661-2288 Fax: 902-661-0114



Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin MLA Cumberland North

Halifax

1600, rue Hollis, suite 1003 Halifax, NS B3J 1V7 Tel: 902-424-2731 Fax: 902-4247484

Circonscription

5 rue, Ratchford, Amherst, NS B4H 1X2 Tel: 902-661-2288 Fax: 902-661-0114

mla@esmithmccrossinmla.com http://esmithmccrossinmla.com

April 22, 2021

Hon. Zach Churchill Department of Health and Wellness Barrington Tower 1894 Barrington Street P.O. Box 488 Halifax, NS B3J 2R8

Dear Zach:

Due provincial border restriction residents in both Cumberland County, Nova Scotia and Westmoreland County, New Brunswick are currently experiencing serious non-covid health care problems. I am calling for an urgent meeting to come up with solutions.

Please join me virtually for a Round Table Meeting on Wednesday April 28th, 2021 at 8am-9am to find Solutions to ensure interprovincial health care services are delivered in a safe and timely manner during the pandemic.

Our border communities have shared health care services for decades. Pre-covid we have shared strong professional services that focused on ensuring our people received safe and timely health care.

Since each province of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have placed their own border restrictions, we have seen patients suffer from lack of access to care. Both Horizon Health and Nova Scotia Health have cancelled specialists' appointments, postponed surgeries resulting in lack of access to care simply because of a person's civic address.

The Canada Health Act is Federal legislation that is supposed to ensure that all Canadians have access to health care in any province of this country.

The physical and mental health of our residents is being impacted negatively. I believe with a spirit of cooperation focused on ensuring the best outcomes for the patient, we can work on finding solutions that both provinces can agree too.

I look forward to working with you for the betterment of our border community residents.

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Sincerely, Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin, MLA Cumberland North

CC: Hon. Keith Irving; Hon. Hugh John Alexander (Ted) Flemming, Megan Mitton, MLA; Dr. Robert Strang; Dr. Jennifer Russell