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December 9, 2020

Hon. Zach Churchill
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
P.O. Box 578
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Dear Minister Churchill:

I do hope you and your family are healthy and safe during this pandemic.

I am contacting you today regarding the education of several students living in my constituency of Cumberland North.

As you are aware, Cumberland North is a border community with New Brunswick. Several students in NB attend High School in Amherst and several students in NS attend High School at Tantramar High in Sackville, NB.

Since NB pulled out of the Atlantic Bubble there has been a lot of stress as the border restrictions cause much duress to many of my constituents.

Last week, after some work, NB government granted an exemption to students attending post-secondary school that were required to cross the NB/NS Border. Unfortunately, NB government did not grant the same exemption to students attending high school.

This decision is very disappointing to the families affected. As you are aware, students attend schools outside of their normal catchment area for various reasons including history of bullying and access to athletic teams such as football.

It is my understanding that there is a historical formal agreement between our two provinces which supports students receiving an education in neighbouring provinces. I have attempted to locate this document in hopes that it may be foundational piece in supporting our students to be allowed access to their education. I have not been successful in finding this document.

Can you offer any advice?

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

CC: Tim Hallman, Official Opposition Critic for Education