

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North**



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Députée Cumberland North**

Nova Scotia Legislature

January 24, 2022

Hon. Colton LeLanc
Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services
Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
7th Floor South
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K5

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

Greetings from Cumberland County. I hope you had a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season. Thank you for your service to the people of Nova Scotia, especially your leadership as Minister of the Departments of the Public Service Commission, Service Nova Scotia & Internal Services, and Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Cumberland North, I am always looking for ways to improve the lives of the people I represent. I am requesting a meeting with you to discuss the needs and priorities identified below.

The Capital Plan has not yet been released and budget consultations are underway for all departments and agencies. I see this as an opportune time to both communicate some of the needs of Cumberland North. It is a critical time in our province, and it is very important to acknowledge the difference in needs in each community.

I think your department has a unique opportunity to lead the way in creating cooperation and collaboration between our maritime neighbours and advancing our region for our mutual betterment. I believe a more strategic approach and more regional planning will benefit all and will make us more competitive as a strong region in Canada.

I am looking for your assistance to advance priorities related to your department:

- virtual care is needed for thousands of residents of Cumberland County that are without a family physician. any work you can do to expedite the availability of this service will be beneficial
- One Patient One Record has been a goal for the last two decades and it is disappointing that Nova Scotia has still not achieved this. Please let me know if we can assist with this in anyway as a pilot site

- As Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, I am requesting that access is improved to French Immersion in our schools. There is a demand for improved access here in Cumberland County
- Beaubassin was an Acadian Village in Cumberland County. There has long been a desire to build a representative community that would honour the history from the artifacts here. This area is rich in Acadian heritage, and we would like assistance to develop this to attract people to visit this former Acadian Village.
- The Residential Tenancy Act needs to be amended. There are many aspects of the RTA that do not work for landlords (business owners) and tenants. I am requesting the department work with both landlords and tenants to ensure effective changes are made.

All of your Ministerial responsibilities will play an integral part in advancing Nova Scotia and our Maritime Region to become competitive internationally and achieve economic independence in our own country by becoming less reliant on federal transfers.

I formally request a meeting with you to discuss the issues mentioned above and to share ideas and the experiences of Cumberland North so we can find solutions through collaboration.

Thank you for your leadership as Minister and I look forward to working with you in these important areas.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

Cc: Dr. Stephen Ellis, MP Cumberland Colchester; Mayor Murray Scott, Cumberland County; Mayor David Kogon, Town of Amherst