

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin**  
**MLA Cumberland North**



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**Députée Cumberland North**

## **Nova Scotia Legislature**

January 24, 2022

Hon. Greg Morrow  
Department of Agriculture  
6th floor (Suite 605), WTCC  
1800 Argyle Street P.O. Box 2223  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3C4

Dear Minister Morrow:

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 for the Department of Agriculture.

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. We had spoken in the fall session about a meeting to discuss issues under your department, and I am once again following up on that commitment. I would like 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 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 am looking for your assistance to advance priorities related to your department including:

- The dikes and aboiteaux along the Chignecto Isthmus are in urgent need of repair. This is a problem that has needed to be addressed for several years and is considered by the UN to be one of the three greatest risks due to climate change.

<https://research.fit.edu/media/site-specific/researchfitedu/coast-climate-adaptation-library/canada-amp-arctic/canada---atlantic/Webster-et-al.--2012.--An-Evaluation-of-Flood-Risk-to-Infrastructure-Across-the-Chignecto-Isthmus.pdf>

- Cumberland County has rich soil and many productive farms. However, over the last 20 years there has been a decline in farming productivity and revenue for many reasons, one significant reason was BSE. The

farmers in Cumberland County want to increase productivity getting all unused farmland back into use. Farmers also need access to funds for infrastructure such as barns and equipment. We would like a plan for Cumberland County and have the Department work with us to implement.

- Cumberland County has 30% of the arable farmland in the province yet has no Department of Agriculture staff based in our county. We believe your department has a valuable staff that could assist our farmers to reach their business goals. Please consider having a department office in Cumberland with staff working directly to increase productivity of food.
- The Maritime Beef Strategy is important to the farmers of Cumberland. The Nappan Experimental Farm is also integral to the future of the Beef Industry. We invite you to come and have a tour of the Nappan Experimental Farm and meet with leaders for the Maritime Beef Strategy. Increasing production of the Beef Industry is important to Cumberland.
- Greenhouses can aid in the improvement of food security for Nova Scotia. The development of a greenhouse industry could help to provide fruit and vegetables to the people here 12 months of the year. Cumberland County has plenty of land for greenhouses along with wood chips and/or geothermal for efficient energy production for greenhouses.

Agriculture 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. Cooperation amongst our educational institutions will strengthen our ability to adapt post pandemic.

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