

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin  
MLA Cumberland North**



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Députée Cumberland North**

**Nova Scotia Legislature**

January 11, 2022

Hon. Pat Dunn  
African Nova Scotian Affairs  
1741 Brunswick St., 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 2691  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2R5

Dear Minister Dunn:

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 Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs, Minister responsible for the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives and Minister responsible for the Voluntary Sector.

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:

- Cumberland County is home to many African Nova Scotian's. Empowering African Nova Scotian's is a priority. You had indicated your willingness for you and your staff to visit Cumberland North and meet to discuss strategies that can be undertaken to achieve greater equity and support anti-racism initiatives. We have several natural leaders in the African Nova Scotian community, and they are welcoming you to our area.
- Cumberland North is home to a rich heritage and culture that traces back to the early 1600's. The Indigenous, the French and the British battled over the land known as Beaubassin and Fort Lawrence. This

area is home to the Acadian people before their expulsion. Beaubassin is a perfect location for tourism development and currently Cumberland North is one of the only areas of the province that does not have a provincial museum. We are requesting the province to work with the people of our area to create a provincial museum at Beaubassin. This is adjacent to the already existing Visitor Information Centre located at the entrance to NS.

- Cumberland County is home to many people with rich Yorkshire heritage. This coming summer (2022), there is interest in commemorating the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the first group of Yorkshire Emigrants to Cumberland County. Residents are hoping to hold a weekend celebration. Funding support is needed for planning and implementation.
- The Pugwash Estuary is located along the Pugwash River. There is a large group of committed community members that would like to further develop this area into trails for nature walks, birding, canoeing and other outdoor activities.
- The Pugwash Yacht Club is a vibrant organization, eagerly seeking to develop the Pugwash area to attract boaters from the Maritime region. Meetings have been held in the past with Develop NS and the local folks would love to work with the provincial government to reach the potential in this naturally beautiful harbour and estuary.
- Community members in the Malagash area would like to develop Blue Sea Beach. They had applied for a "placemaking" fund in the past but have not been able to secure any support. This entire area of Malagash is ripe for tourism development and the community members have several ideas to improve upon the beach to draw more visitors. I would like to connect you with the community group to discuss funding opportunities. '
- Cumberland County has a diverse set of trails for Off-Highway Vehicles which were developed by volunteers and trail committees. We are missing maps and marketing that could bring millions of dollars of tourism revenue to Nova Scotia through Cumberland County. We are requesting support to develop maps and a marketing plan to attract these OHV enthusiasts.
- There is a large voluntary base here in Cumberland. We are looking to have a database created to connect available volunteers interested in providing extra help to organizations/causes in need of extra hands. Though we have a current model that works locally, expansion of this would be of great benefit provincewide.
- The Municipal governments in Cumberland County have identified a need for a Wellness Centre to provide physical space for recreational activities. This is a strategic priority, and I am requesting the provincial government to work with our town and county to build a wellness centre like ones we see in other communities such as Liverpool, Port Hawkesbury and Truro.

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. Nova Scotia will become less reliant on federal transfers.

As we discussed during the fall sitting, you had agreed to come to Cumberland North to tour some important areas and discuss some of the issues mentioned above. I trust you still intend to follow through with this and I greatly look forward to meeting with you before the provincial budget is tabled.

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