

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North**



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Députée Cumberland North**

Nova Scotia Legislature

January 21, 2022

Hon. Tim Halman
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Barrington Tower
1894 Barrington Street, Suite 1800
P.O. Box 442
Halifax, NS
B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Tim Halman:

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 Environment and Climate Change.

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:

- Climate Change impacts on the Chignecto Isthmus. Sea level rise of 1 to 5m is predicted for the Chignecto Isthmus by 2100. Another known consequence is the reality we face as more intense storms begin to hit this area causing additional damage and unforeseen infrastructure problems. Presently, a system of agricultural dikes, aboiteaux, and the Canadian National Railway hold back the sea and protect such vital passages as the Trans-Canada Highway, secondary roads and the residents of Amherst and Sackville, NB. Work is needed now to mitigate the impact. I am requesting the department work with the province of NB and the Federal government to act now to prevent millions of dollars' worth of damage and ensure

Nova Scotia does not become an island. Here is a link to an Evaluation of Flood Risk to Infrastructure Across the Chignecto Isthmus

<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>

- Prior to your appointment as Cabinet Minister, the local Mayors of Amherst and Cumberland, along with myself, had meetings with your department's deputy minister to share safety concerns on the Trans Canada Highway at the entrance to Nova Scotia. I do not support the Province's decision to place border guards on the TCH. This is a safety risk and a hazard on a highway that has a posted speed limit of 110km/hr. The pandemic has been ongoing nearly 2 years now. Nova Scotia is one of only two provinces in the country of Canada that has border guards. I invite you to visit the three entrances to our Province. I strongly believe seeing firsthand the set-up on the TCH, you will find it is a waste of taxpayer dollars. Our neighbours in NB have moved to an on-line form and removed the border guards at the provincial borders. I would recommend NS doing the same.

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.

During the fall session of the legislature, you had committed to visiting Cumberland North to tour the isthmus and discuss other issues relating to climate change prevention and mitigation. I trust you are still planning to honour this, and I look forward to meeting in advance of the release of the 2022-2023 Provincial budget.

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