

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin  
MLA Cumberland North**



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Députée Cumberland North**

**Nova Scotia Legislature**

January 21, 2022

Hon. Kim Masland  
Department of Public Works  
2nd Floor, Johnston Building  
1672 Granville Street  
P.O. Box 186  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2N2

Dear Minister Kim Masland:

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 Public Works.

Thank you for removing the tolls on the Cobequid Pass for the people of Nova Scotia. The people living north of the Cobequid Pass have felt separated from the rest of Nova Scotia since the 90's and this is a good first step to change this division that has existed in our province.

As 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.

My first request is that department work be done with an emphasis on Atlantic regional cooperation to advance our Atlantic Region. 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 including:

- Climate Change impacts on the Chignecto Isthmus. Sea level rise of 1 to 5m is predicted for the Chignecto Isthmus by 2100 as well as more intense storms are another likely consequence of climate change. Presently, a system of agricultural dikes and the Canadian National Railway hold back the sea and protect the Trans-Canada Highway, many secondary roads and residents of Amherst, NS and Sackville, NB. Work is needed now to mitigate the risks. 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. It is important that information be shared with the people that will be immediately impacted by the rising sea levels and flood risks. I am asking that the feasibility study be shared with the elected leaders of Cumberland, the Town of Amherst, our federal representative as well as myself.

- 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>
- There are several differences in highway policies between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. They cause barriers that inhibit economic growth. Could your department review policy with NB to identify and remove unnecessary differences? The Cumberland Trucker's Association would be a good organization to work with.
- Infrastructure projects have been delayed funding in Cumberland North the past two years. I am most concerned about bridge structures that have been in the plan to have work done and have been postponed. Howard Bridge, Livingstone Bridge and most recently identified the Tidnish Bridge on Route 366.
- About ten years ago a portion of Cumberland North was placed under the management of Colchester garage. This area of Wallace and Malagash have seen neglect by the department in grading and gravel on gravel roads, lack of paving, lack of ditch management and bush cutting. This is a beautiful area of the province with significant tourism potential. I had requested the former Minister of your department to place Malagash and Wallace back under the management of Cumberland and I am hoping that will happen soon.
- Storm drains need to be replaced in the Village of Pugwash
- Storm drains need to replace in the community of Wallace
- A list of roads and their priority was discussed at a meeting with officials from your department in December and also discussed with both area managers Chris Verge (Colchester) and Adam Cameron (Cumberland).
- A Progressive Conservative government built a new regional hospital in Nappan, Cumberland County in 2001. While the area welcomed this new facility, there were concerns expressed at the time that the hospital was being built outside of the Town of Amherst with no walking access. The Trans-Canada Highway is between the Town and the Regional facility. At the time of planning, residents were told a sidewalk or walking access of a bridge or tunnel would be built. This has never been done despite the need. I requested this from the previous government and continue to advocate for accessibility for the people I represent. There is also a need to create trail connectivity for OHV. A bridge over the TCH would serve to provide accessibility to the hospital as well as a trail for OHV.
- Off-Highway Vehicles have huge potential to boost economic activity in Cumberland and throughout all Nova Scotia and the Maritime Region. Currently the only piece missing is a connection across or under the Trans-Canada Highway near or on Exit 4 outside of Amherst. We are requesting a bridge or a tunnel in this location that could allow trail connectivity in Cumberland so that maps of legal trails could be made, and marketing of OHV trails could be done. This could be used for both OHV and person accessing the CCRHCC.

Your department 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 all elected officials in all three levels of government will strengthen our ability to adapt post pandemic.

Would you be willing to meet to discuss these priorities identified in this letter? This can be arranged by contacting my office 902-661-2288/

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin".

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

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