

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North**



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Députée Cumberland North**

Nova Scotia Legislature

January 24, 2022

Hon. Susan Corkum-Greek
Department of Economic Development
CIBC Building
1809 Barrington Street, Suite M103
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K8

Dear Minister Corkum-Greek:

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 Economic Development.

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:

- Expansion of the Amherst Industrial Park to the west side of the Trans-Canada Highway. Over the past two decades, we have witnessed significant growth in Moncton. As a result, many of the distribution centers were interested in Amherst due to the proximity to the TCH and rail line; however, larger lots are needed with infrastructure in place of water and sewer. Because much of this area is wooded, I request your department support expansion of business opportunities here by providing funding for infrastructure needs, including infrastructure to support water and sewer services. Preparing these lots will bring in a great deal of activity for our economy.
- Economic development is being thwarted due to a lack of adequate internet access and cell phone coverage along the Northumberland Strait; the area I hear the most concern from stretches from Tidnish to Malagash. Many people have moved along the shore to "work from home" and are having great

difficulty due to lack of internet. It would be in this government's best interest to uphold their platform promises and immediately act to bring internet coverage to fruition

- Greenhouse development, both domestic and Industrial, can aid in economic development and improve food security. Several provinces across Canada have subsidies for greenhouse development and this would be a positive step for us here in NS. I truly believe we can bring our stakeholders together and come up with something economical and reliable.
- NSCC has the potential to facilitate strong economic growth in Cumberland. Students in trades could be operating alongside the work force to aid in building housing and our economy. Numerous tradespeople have told me that hands-on learning would benefit both the students and the industry as they are facing challenges recruiting workers and training new graduates.
- I would like to advocate that the NSCC campus to be built in downtown Amherst. The influx of students in the downtown will be a significant boost to the economy.
- 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 bridge or tunnel would also be used to allow accessibility to the Regional Hospital which has no safe walking access.
- Under the former Liberal government, economic supports by the Province were mostly removed. This inhibited growth to both small, medium, and large enterprises. I hope that under your leadership the government will offer a suite of initiatives that will aid entrepreneurs.

Economic Development will play an integral role in advancing Nova Scotia and our Maritime Region to become competitive internationally and achieve economic independence in our own country by having less reliance on federal transfers.

I look forward to discussing these important issues with you further. I formally request a meeting so we can approach solutions together. Thank you for your continued 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