

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North**



**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
Députée Cumberland North**

Nova Scotia Legislature

January 21, 2022

Hon. Tory Rushton
Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
3rd Floor, Founders Square
1701 Hollis Street
P.O. Box 698
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T9

Dear Minister Rushton,

Greetings from Cumberland North. 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 Natural Resources and Renewables.

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 has much potential to assist in supplying the province with renewable energy by 2030. Several landowners in the Fort Lawrence area are interested in renting land for wind turbines. It would be a wonderful opportunity for your department to discuss this further with these residents.
- I am requesting your department work directly with the Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee. This committee formed after the closure of Northern Pulp. Cumberland has a long history of having a vibrant forestry sector. Within Nova Scotia, Cumberland County accounts for the largest amount of wood harvested annually yet none of the provincial transitional funding was allocated to Cumberland County forestry projects. The government will have better outcomes if they work with the landowners and people

that actually work in the forestry industry. I want to ensure that Cumberland receives the respect the women and men here deserve.

- The pedestrian walking bridge in Tidnish is owned by the provincial government and falls under your department. The bridge has needed repairs for several years. The taxpayers of the area have made numerous requests for it to be repaired. A study has already been done and request repairs to be completed by Spring 2022.

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 our educational institutions will strengthen our ability to adapt post pandemic.

I formally request a meeting with you to discuss these, and other issues important to our beautiful area of Cumberland. I believe we can work well together as we both understand the unique challenges and opportunities here. 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