

**Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North**



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Députée Cumberland North**

Nova Scotia Legislature

January 21, 2022

Hon. Steve Craig
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
6th floor (Suite 607), WTCC
1800 Argyle Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R5

Dear Minister Craig:

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 Fisheries and Aquaculture.

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 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:

- Oyster Farming is currently being done in the Malagash Bay. Discussion with locals indicate there is untapped potential with unused licenses for oyster farming. The Oyster industry in PEI does not have the supply to meet the global demand. I am requesting the department to investigate if there is opportunity to grow our economy through Oyster Farming to help meet the demands for this unique quality product.
- Fisheries is an incredibly valuable resource in Cumberland North. Lobster is fished off the wharves of Malagash, Wallace and Pugwash. I was disappointed in the Federal government when they divested the wharf in Northport in recent years. This Federal decision will have a direct negative impact on the economic future of the community of Northport. Historically, fishing was a main economic driver for this community. Additionally, a decision was made to cease investments in dredging, which made it difficult for large fishing boats to use the harbour. The best way to maintain a viable fishery along the Northumberland Strait is to maintain the remaining infrastructure. As Minister, I trust I can tell the people

of Cumberland North that you will advocate for the future federal investment into fisheries infrastructure and ensure no other wharves are divested.

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

I formally request a meeting with you to address some of the issues mentioned in my letter and to show you some areas where the fishing industry is vital to communities and the successes and challenges faced.

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