

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North



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Députée Cumberland North

Nova Scotia Legislature

January 30, 2025

The Honourable Twila Grosse, M.L.A.
Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs
Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission
Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs
1741 Brunswick Street
P.O. Box 456
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2R5

Dear Minister Grosse,

Thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Nova Scotia as Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs and Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission. I would also like to thank you for attending the event in Amherst this fall. Your engagement with the community is greatly appreciated, and I hope you will continue to engage with and support the people of Cumberland County.

Governing is about people. On November 26th, 2024, Nova Scotians entrusted us with a mandate to shape a brighter future. We share a belief in the strength of our communities, the ingenuity of our industries, and the rich heritage that defines Cumberland County. Together, we will harness this potential to foster economic growth, improve healthcare, and elevate the quality of life for all residents.

Cumberland County stands on the precipice of tremendous opportunity. By investing in our people, supporting innovation, and ensuring sustainable development, we can unlock prosperity and lead Nova Scotia into a new era of progress. Our collective success hinges on collaboration, bold action, and a steadfast commitment to addressing the unique needs of our communities. As Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs and Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission, your leadership will be pivotal in advancing the initiatives that matter most to the people of Cumberland County. I expect you to work closely with your colleagues and community partners to deliver tangible results. Your department's work will reflect our shared vision of a prosperous, inclusive, and thriving Nova Scotia.

Specifically, I ask that you prioritize:

1. Assist local constituents to identify unmarked graves of slaves that worked in Cumberland County.
2. Continuing to foster strong relationships with African Nova Scotian communities in Cumberland County and across the province to ensure their voices are reflected in government policies and programs.
3. Working to address equity and inclusion within the public service, ensuring diverse representation and creating pathways for leadership and career advancement.
4. Supporting initiatives that enhance opportunities for African Nova Scotians in Cumberland County, including education, employment, and cultural preservation programs.
5. Collaborating with the Public Service Commission to improve recruitment and retention efforts aimed at underrepresented communities, ensuring the public service reflects the diverse population it serves.

I would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can collaborate on these priorities. A stronger Cumberland North will lead to a stronger Nova Scotia, and together, we can lay the foundation for lasting success.

Your mandate will be shaped by the voices and needs of our citizens. I expect you to engage regularly with the people of Cumberland County, ensuring that our policies and programs reflect their aspirations and address their concerns.

I look forward to working with you to build a stronger, more vibrant Cumberland County. Together, we will seize the opportunities before us and create lasting positive change for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin', with a stylized, flowing script.

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA for Cumberland North