



DR. STEPHEN ELLIS

MP | CUMBERLAND—COLCHESTER

***Working for You
in Cumberland-Colchester
and on Parliament Hill***

Newsletter August 2023

Cost of living creates an alarming crisis

The Bank of Canada has increased its benchmark interest rate to five per cent. The recent interest rate hike is yet another blow to Cumberland-Colchester residents, making life even more unaffordable. Mortgage rates have doubled, and rents continue to skyrocket. The fine line between paying for a place to live or buying food is proof!

A Conservative government will put an immediate end to eight years of Liberal fiscal mismanagement, by axing the crippling carbon tax on gasoline and heating oil, thus reducing the cost of living, putting more money in the pockets of hardworking folks in Cumberland-Colchester.

There is a cure for the cost of living crisis – elect a Conservative government!

Newsletter signup

Sign up for the Monthly MP Digital Newsletter. Send an email to Stephen.Ellis@parl.gc.ca or by calling our constituency office(s) 902-895-2863 or 902-667-8679



Mon message en français

Je voudrais s'assurer toutes les résidents de Cumberland Colchester que cette une priorité d'être bilingue.

Je prends des leçons français deux fois chaque semaine. J'ai pris le français à l'école et aussi à l'université mais c'est beaucoup plus longtemps!



DR. STEPHEN ELLIS



The importance of Blue Seal initiative

The Spring session of Parliament was an exceptionally important one for Cumberland-Colchester, as it relates to the Canadian healthcare system.

As your Member of Parliament and Conservative Party Shadow Minister of Health, I have moved our Blue Seal initiative into the national conversation, and I intend to speak more about it as I travel through our constituency during the summer.

Blue Seal details:

Nearly 24,000 people in our constituency do not have the services of a family doctor – and the situation is getting worse. During the spring session of Parliament, as Shadow Minister of Health, I moved the Conservative Party's Blue Seal initiative to the front burner.

Announced in March, it is an innovative program that will create a direct pathway, enabling internationally trained doctors and nurses to receive more rapid recognition of their qualifications. This will ensure an increase in the number of Cumberland-Colchester residents that would obtain regular face-to-face primary I can understand the heartache that is felt by thousands of international medical school graduates that could more easily be licensed in Canada, but can't be due to the unwarranted degree of government red tape.

The Conservative Blue Seal program presents an opportunity to create a national standard of licensing that eliminates the patchwork of qualifications existing in the provinces across Canada today.

Off to medical school



It was a pleasure to meet Jaya Paridy, who has been accepted to medical school!

You can read about her journey here:

<https://www.saltwire.com/.../amhersts-first-mikmaw.../>



A panoramic view of Cumberland's Fundy Shore, taken from Canada House in Parrsboro. We are so fortunate to live where we do, in Cumberland-Colchester and in this great country, Canada.



My friends Chief Bob Gloade and Chief Sid Peters of Millbrook and Glooscap First Nation, respectively. A wonderful experience at the opening of the 2023 North American Indigenous Games!

Indigenous Games: Grand sporting event

It was a great to represent our constituency at the North American Indigenous Games grand opening in Halifax.

NAIG featured athletes competing in 16 different sports with three traditional Indigenous sports including canoe/kayak, lacrosse, and 3D archery. The Indigenous games were the largest sporting event ever held in Nova Scotia, and I congratulate organizers for this tremendous achievement!

Cumberland-Colchester Community Casework

Did you know?

Our offices in Truro and Amherst have the ability to assist constituents with a variety of issues, including federal legislative programs.

Our team is highly skilled and they work with federal departments to find answers to your questions.

Not every case is a solvable one. My guarantee is that the team will work hard on every problem.













Dr. Stephen Ellis
Member of Parliament



Constituency Assistants Holly Miller and Amy Menzies

CASE BREAKDOWN

(open & closed combined)

	Immigration	270		Phoenix Pay System	20		Finance/ Federal Grants	65
	Service Canada	226		Veterans Affairs	33		Federal Complaints	146
	CRA	119		CBSA	7		All Other (Misc)	210
	Passports	62		Health Canada/ Covid-19	116		Total since November 2021	1,274

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stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca · www.drstephenellismp.com

Truro Office
902-895-2863

Amherst Office
902-667-8679



MP Stephen Ellis and CBC reporter Mary-Catherine McIntosh walking to the Isthmus of Chignecto in Cumberland County.



Flood assistance available through N.S. government relief program



Nova Scotians can apply for disaster financial assistance related to damage from the severe flooding on the weekend.

The province's Disaster Financial Assistance Program is designed to help Nova Scotians, municipalities, small businesses and not-for-profit organizations get back on their feet after a major storm or natural disaster.

Not all disasters are covered by private insurance, and this program helps those whose losses are not insurable.

Types of losses can include flood damage and damage to uninsurable items like household appliances, such as washers, dryers and furnaces. The program covers up to \$200,000 in uninsurable losses per household, small business and not-for-profit organization.

Applications are available at:

-- online: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/disaster-financial-assistance...>

-- Access Nova Scotia centres

-- MLA offices

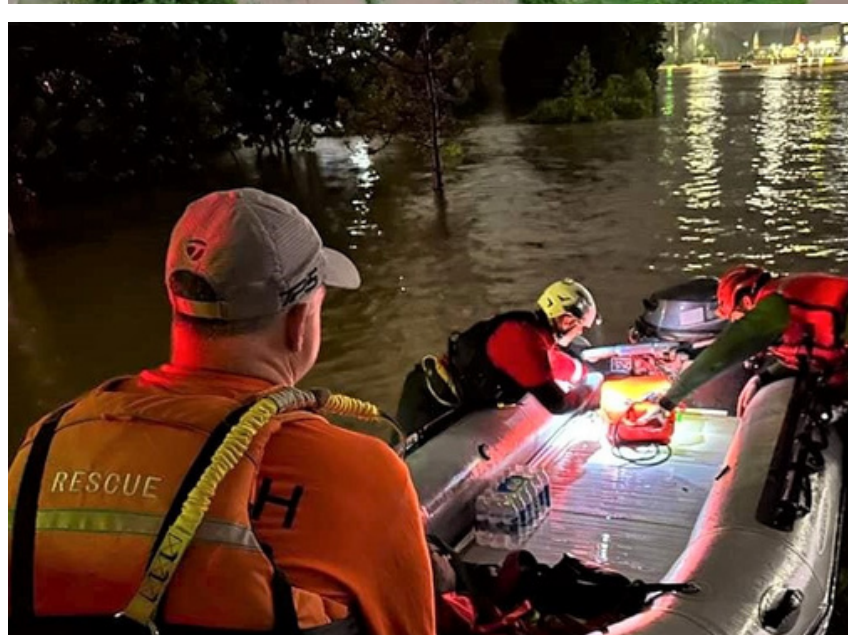
Residents are asked to continue to assess damage, keep all receipts, take pictures and video and work with their insurance companies.

The government continues to post updates on the flood recovery effort at: <https://novascotia.ca/alerts/>

Quick Facts:

-- disaster financial assistance does not replace private insurance and only uninsurable damage is eligible

-- people who are not sure if their insurance covers the damage should contact their insurance broker or company, or the Insurance Bureau of Canada at 1-844-227-5422





The devastating late July rainstorm affecting Colchester and Cumberland counties, clearly illustrates how quickly Nova Scotia could become an island. This Shaun Lowe Photographic image depicts remains of the CN mainline in Millbrook, near Truro. All rail transportation to-and-from the Port of Halifax was suspended until massive work was completed to reconnect the line. A similar nightmare would occur should the Isthmus of Chignecto dikes be breached, as water levels continue to rise due to global warming.

July mega rainstorm proves action needed at Isthmus of Chignecto dike system

Since coming to office, the rising of waters at the Isthmus of Chignecto in Cumberland County have been a daily concern for me.

I have met with Dominic LeBlanc, the federal minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, who is also my neighbouring MP for Beauséjour NB.

LeBlanc steadfastly stuck to Ottawa's offer of 50-per cent federal financing and 25/25 from each for the two provinces.

To achieve a more realistic funding agreement is paramount today, considering the massive flooding and subsequent infrastructure destruction of a large portion of Nova Scotia major brought on by two major rainstorms.

A proposal to raise or replace the dykes is being discussed, which carries a price tag estimated to be \$650M, over a 10-year timeline.

Premier Tim Houston wants Ottawa to pay the entire cost of protecting the Chignecto Isthmus, which is more vulnerable to storms and flooding due to climate change.

The Trudeau-Liberal government continues to battle with the premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, while waters continue to rise closer to the tops of the dikes.

To my Cumberland-Colchester constituents: The federal government is responsible for the dikes infrastructure and that it is their responsibility to protect them.

An ounce of prevention.

-- MP Stephen Ellis



The Isthmus of Chignecto during a tidal bore.



Isthmus of Chignecto, featuring MP Ellis, MP Melissa Lantsman, MP Scott Aitchison, MP Rick Perkins, and MLA for Cumberland North, Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin.



Heart's Haven Memorial Park

A celebration for the community to honour Kristen Beaton, Baby Beaton & Heather O'Brien, reflecting what they meant to so many. Beautiful trails to explore, amazing play areas, gorgeous gardens, and peaceful benches to stop and reflect.



Hearts Haven Memorial Park

In loving memory of Kristen and Baby Beaton

Welcome • Pjila'si • Bienvenue

This beautiful park embodies love and hope. We invite families to have fun adventures at the playground, be creative in the sand kitchen, and enjoy a picnic. Explore the woodland walking paths which feature several benches and a bridge over Galloping Brook. From here you can follow the trail to the south section of the park which includes colourful gardens, a gazebo, hammocks, and picnic shelters. This park is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

For the safety and enjoyment of all park visitors:

- Stay on the trail.
- No smoking or vaping. (Colchester Smoke-free Recreational Outdoor Spaces Policy; NS Smoke Free Places Act)
- Dogs must be on leash. Pick up after your dog. (Colchester By-law 35)
- No motorized vehicles on trails or in the park.
- Help keep the park clean. Use the waste containers provided.

Trail Information
 Total Length: 900 m
 Width: 1.5 m
 Rating: Easy
 Surface: compacted crushed rock
 Grade: Loops are generally flat; 8%-14% slope approaching brook

Thank you ❤️
 A sincere and heartfelt thank you to the many individuals, businesses and organizations and to the Municipality of Colchester and the Province of Nova Scotia for supporting the creation of this park.

1680 Plains Road, Debert, Colchester County, NS
 In Emergency Call **9-1-1**
 Urgence Composez **9-1-1**

Colchester colchester.ca

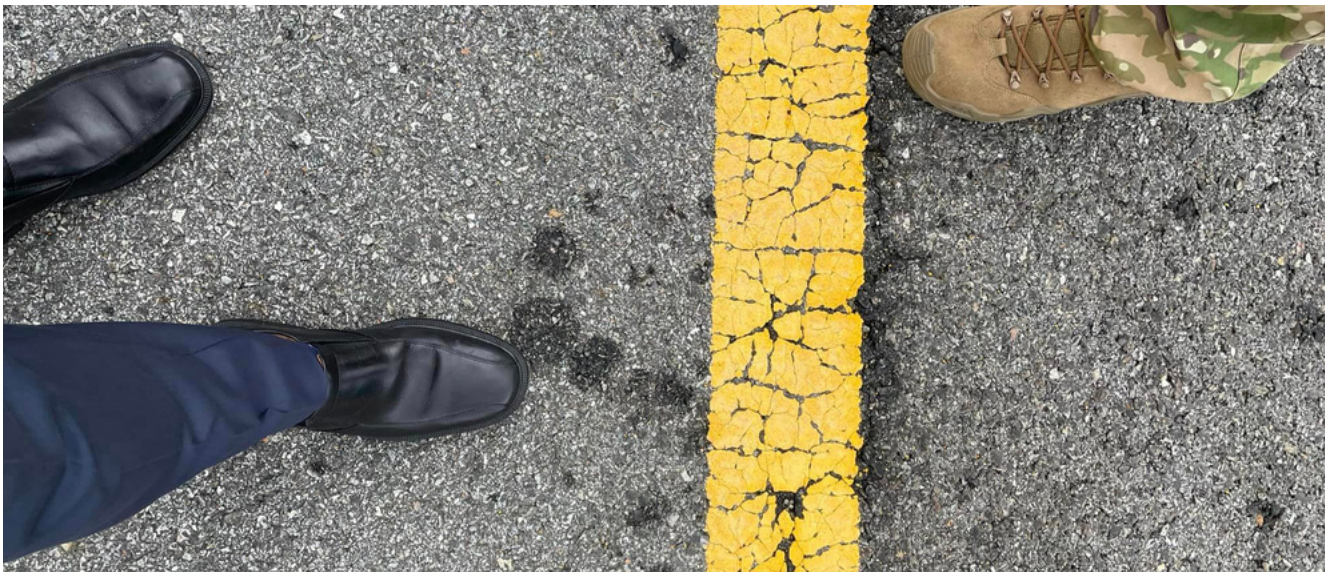


South Korean assignment



We attended the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNMKC) I was honoured to provide remarks. We also found graves and remembered, many from our area of Cumberland-Colchester, who were killed in action.

Lest we forget.



I had the the honour to visit this Far East Canadian ally that included standing at the yellow line marking the demilitarized zone between South and North Korea. It's commonly known as the DMZ. It was a strange sensation to be in a still-contested area that represents a national border between two countries that have agreed to stop fighting.

I also met with British veterans, one of whom was a prisoner of war.

We paid our respects at Kapyong, where the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) fought, and saw 10 graves of those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

Lest we forget.