



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

*Newsletter September 2023*

## **Connecting with PEI's Minister of Health and Wellness**

In my capacity as Conservative Party Shadow Minister of Health, I have made a commitment to meet with every health minister in all provinces of Canada.

I am certain the federal and provincial governments can find common ground on the many high-level challenges of delivering superior healthcare for Canadians.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Hon. Mark McLane, PEI's Minister of Health and Wellness in Charlottetown. We immediately agreed on the necessity of a unified approach to Canada's healthcare challenges of attracting and retaining healthcare professionals.



**The Hon. Mark McLane and myself at the Health Minister's Charlottetown office.**

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*902-895-2863 (Truro) or 902-667-8679 (Amherst)*

# Axe the Tax!

## On tour with Leader Pierre Poilievre

I was invited by Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre to accompany him to Prince Edward Island in connection with his cross-Canada Axe The Tax Tour, drawing attention to the Liberal government carbon tax increase that has been inflicted upon Canadians.

The Atlantic Provinces have been particularly affected by this July 1 tax on gasoline and heating oil that amounts to at least 16 cents per litre. Once outside of Halifax we are, geographically, a rural province and don't have mass public transit. Cumberland-Colchester residents are forced to use private vehicles in order to get around.

In addition, agriculture industry's costs of production have soared, and that means prices are up substantially at the farm gate. It's more costly for retailers to, for example, keep meat, milk, cheese, and vegetables chilled.

Guess who pays?

Trudeau's Carbon Tax has placed Cumberland-Colchester residents in a deeper financial hole.

A Conservative Government would repeal this destructive and useless burden on consumers, that is quickly stifling our economy.

Axe The Tax!



### Details of the tour

What's a trip to PEI without a tour of a potato farm?

I accompanied Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre to the Skye View Farms to view firsthand the challenges facing Island growers. Hosted by Alex and Valerie Docherty, I learned that Trudeau government policy makes it impossible to export seed potatoes outside of PEI.

Leader Poilievre promises to end the ban.

I also accompanied him on a tour of Action Aero, Charlottetown, that specializes in the overhaul and repair of fuel, oil and air-related engine accessories, to international customers.

Finally, it was my honour to have been asked to deliver the closing remarks, following the Leader's amazing Axe The Tax rally in Hunter River, to several hundred people who came from across Prince Edward Island.



# Cumberland-Colchester

## September Casework Update

### *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	276		Phoenix Pay System	20		Finance/ Federal Grants	66
	Service Canada	242		Veterans Affairs	34		Federal Complaints	146
	CRA	126		CBSA	7		All Other (Misc)	215
	Passports	62		Health Canada/ Covid-19	116		Total since November 2021	1,310

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# Blue Seal Background



## Conservatives' red tape-cutting program works

The Blue Seal program will help break the chain that makes it difficult for Canadian doctors to practice medicine in all provinces, without restriction. Blue Seal also cuts red tape facing immigrant healthcare professionals that prohibits them from gaining employment in all upper healthcare sectors. It is an innovative program that will create a direct pathway, enabling internationally trained doctors and nurses to receive more rapid recognition of qualifications, thus ensuring an increase in the number of Cumberland-Colchester residents that could obtain regular face-to-face primary medical care.

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

These are clearly unfair restrictions that are directly tied to the broken healthcare system. This creates healthcare professional shortages that will worsen now and in the future.

## Your opinion counts!

In our May publication the 'HAVE YOUR SAY' opinion poll was published.

The question was: "Do you believe the Blue Seal Initiative is a positive program to attract healthcare professionals to Cumberland-Colchester and all of Canada?"

There were 113 responses to the Blue Seal mailout; The results are:

90 yes – 78%

10 no – 10%

13 unsure – 12%

## Survey respondents samples

*Donald F. The sooner the better. Our health care system is broken.*

*Alexander L. Good luck getting the individual provinces, College of Physicians and surgeons on board. But great idea!*

*Ryan C. We need to remove red tape. I am a professional with NS Health and can vouch for the investment made here and what needs fixing.*

*Debbie and Don H. Blue Seal Initiative appears to be a logical solution to one of the cracks in our system, an issue all Canadians do (Or should) care about!*

*Norma M. Many international doctors and nurses are very experienced and willing to come. Make it easier for them!*

# Amherst Food Assistance Network facing monetary, supply challenges



Charlotte Ross and Pat Howell discuss challenges facing the Amherst Food Assistance Network with Cumberland-Colchester Member of Parliament Stephen Ellis.

## A volunteer effort

The Amherst Food Assistance Network has been in operation for more than 35 years, helping those in need.

The food bank serves approximately 750 people monthly, relying on a dedicated group of 45 volunteers.

Charlotte Ross, the association's chair, says the assistance network has seen a significant reduction in both monetary and product donations, The food bank has been forced to use a portion of its budget to purchase food required to help so many people.

The network has been at its present location at 5 King Street since 2001



## Warm water and the dive of their lives

From nature trails to swimming in the warm waters of the Northumberland Strait, I am really impressed with the opportunity young people in Cumberland-Colchester have, to enjoy a week of activities and fun-learning at Camp Pagweak, just outside of Pugwash.

I received a tour of the 20-acre Baptist Church compound with camp director David Throop, who outlined the extensive – and ever-expanding – activities program, that can accommodate up to 50 young campers a week throughout the summer; 35 to 40 young people is ideal.

I strongly believe that as many young people as possible ought to have an opportunity to attend a summer camp, and enjoy the carefree experience of meeting new friends, participating in groups and, yes, get the chance to swim in our beautiful Northumberland Strait that is part of Cumberland-Colchester.



It was an honour to present Ben Donkin and Ella Legere with certificates of bravery. Their heroic acts on 06 August 2023 turned tragedy into triumph. The Great Village and District Volunteer Fire Brigade is a stalwart local resource. We thank them for their service and dedication. I'm sporting one of their new t-shirts. New equipment is expensive-show your support if you are able.

# MP Stephen Ellis honours Donkin, Legere for bravery

The saying that "It Takes a Village" could never have rung truer than on a recent emergency call to the Great Village and District Volunteer Fire Brigade.

When Benjamin Donkin and Ella Legere heard screams for help on August 6, they ran to the water's edge, close to where they live in Little Dyke, and saw a family on the mudflats near the water's edge. With the tide coming in quickly, Benjamin and Ella saved the children and waited for first responders.

There were still other people mired in the mud, unable to free themselves.

It was a community effort, with further assistance from the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade. A Cormorant helicopter was dispatched from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.

The selfless and quick action of Ben and Ella changed the outcome of what could have been a serious event. MP Stephen Ellis thanked the pair.



# MP Stephen Ellis covers Colchester



I visited the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre - CSAC and the Truro Pride Society. It was great to hear about the fantastic work these organizations are doing for our community and meet their Canada Summer Job student employees!



It was a great pleasure to meet with Dr. Ernest Korankye and Dr. Raj Lada of VerFa Agrifood Innovations Inc. Their vision is to become a leader in sustainable indoor plant agriculture and agrifood innovation using all-inclusive approaches and research data-driven technologies to produce healthier food and build better communities. I look forward to watching their business continue to do great things for our community and the world.



I met with Mike Devine, president of Colchester-East Hants branch of the National Association of Federal Retirees. Mike was inspired to meet Dr. Ellis after hearing James Wheelhouse and Michelle Langille speak about their MP meeting on Parliament Hill, during the advocacy training session at the Annual Meeting of Members (AMM). Interested in meeting your MP on Parliament Hill or in their constituency? email [stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca) to reach our team.

## 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!**



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

# Our MP is also all over Cumberland



Some of the great news from the constituency this year is that the Cumberland County Exhibition is up and running again! I spent an informative time on the grounds with Ex Director Kristeen Thomson and summer staff member Kate MacDonald.



Did you know that Oxford in Cumberland County, is known as the Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada? I had a great chat with Emily Woodworth, a student working this summer at the Oxford Berry Farm Market, and customer Richard Dittani.



## “Meet Me In Minudie”

Acadian Day in Minudie has come and gone, and what a celebration it was! The Acadian spirit was evident. Church pews were filled. Everyone was presented with an Acadian flag. The band “No Regrets” performed several beautiful French songs, ending with the audience standing and waving Acadian flags. What a beautiful sight! Congratulations to Patti Wolfe, winner of the 50/50 in the amount of \$190.



I enjoyed being part of the celebrations honouring professional hockey player Carly Jackson, winner of the Isobel Cup, the highest championship level in women’s hockey. Carly is well spoken, an excellent role model and a Hometown Hero!



It is always a pleasure to speak with the Rotary Club of Amherst. I talked about the cost of living, the housing crisis, the unnecessary carbon tax, important projects like tidal power, the necessary repairs needed to the Isthmus of Chignecto, and the Conservative Party’s Blue Seal Initiative. Thank you to Amherst Rotary Club for the invite, as well as and your thoughtful questions!