



Dr. Stephen Ellis
Member of Parliament – Cumberland Colchester
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada
K1A 0A6

stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

October 8, 2021

Re: Government department delays holding back economy

Dear Stephen Ellis,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the members of the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce (the second largest chamber in the province outside HRM), and the Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce, collectively serving more 650 members that represent a diverse cross section of the local economy.

Congratulations on your recent election as the Member of Parliament for Cumberland - Colchester. Our organizations look forward to working with you to improve the lives of our local citizens and to strengthen our business community.

We are also writing to share our concern that the summer election has had a negative impact on our business community and community as a whole. Not only did it cost taxpayers collectively \$600 M to host the election, but since the writ was dropped, many government departments have been in “caretaker” mode. Effectively rendering departments incapable of carrying on normal operations until cabinet is in place and the House resumes its work.

For example, applications submitted to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency’s programs, designed to provide assistance to business and organizations in dire need of critical help, are on hold and cannot be processed. This has stalled efforts to assist communities and businesses in rebounding and recovering from the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Additionally, programs specifically designed to support hard hit sectors, such as wage and rent subsidies, are also set to expire with no further federal supports confirmed as we move forward.

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As you settle into your new role as our representative in the House, we ask that you do everything within your purview to encourage swift action by government to ensure funding and programs to assist business is accessible as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sherry Martell'.

Sherry Martell
Executive Director
Truro & Colchester Chamber
of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron Furlong'.

Ron Furlong
Executive Director
Amherst and Area Chamber
of Commerce