

## Tory Rushton Answers Questions



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(South Cumberland News asked all candidates to complete a series of questions, the following is the response from Tory Rushton, NSPC in the June 19<sup>th</sup> by-election)

**What do you consider is the major causes of slower economic development in Cumberland South electoral area?**

The people in Cumberland South are dealing with the strain of high taxes, gas prices, and other obstacles that have caused very slow, if nonexistent economic development. Young people, possible entrepreneurs, are leaving to pursue more opportunities in Halifax and other urban centres.

**How will you help implement an Economic Development plan for the constituency?**

Foremost in any economic development plan is reliable, quality infrastructure. Working to take care of our infrastructure (roads, inter-

net, etc.) is my primary concern. With better infrastructure, local businesses are in a better position to get their goods to market, tourists are more likely to visit our area and residents have an easier time engaging in our communities. With solid infrastructure in place we can begin to look at reducing impediments to business and promoting some of the advantages of both the Fundy Coast and the Halifax-Moncton Corridor. Improving our internet access and quality would support new business, and provide incentives for our young people to create small businesses here at home.

**Fibre speed internet service is important to the area. How do you propose to solve the problem to increase competitiveness of businesses and provide residents with the service they are demanding?**

The Province has created a trust fund for rural internet. This program, if properly executed, should provide reliable service for Cumberland South. The key will be holding the government to account as the initiative is implemented and making sure that Cumberland South gets the service it needs and deserves.

**The population of rural communities is decreasing. What programs will you help develop to reverse the trend?**

Our population is decreasing and those still here are getting older. We need to address the economy and the unemployment rate. Young people will stay if there are good, stable jobs for them or the tools to support young entrepreneurs. We must encourage and foster local businesses to stay and grow here in Cumberland South. We also need to address the basic needs of our community through our schools, roads and access to healthcare. Only then will we add the necessary appeal to retain and reverse the population decline.

**Volunteers are important to all communities. With an aging population and younger people not as eager to volunteer, what is needed to support volunteerism to make communities more vibrant?**

I was a volunteer firefighter in Oxford for 20 years and it was an incredible experience. I am often told by young people entering the workforce is that volunteering is considered an asset when applying for jobs. I want our school-aged students to understand the value of volunteering and how it helps drive their own personal growth as a result. Volunteers are the backbone of our communities and without them, many important projects and events would not happen. It's important to engage young volunteers and provide them with

opportunities to take ownership over projects and tasks. We also have great mentors in our experienced volunteers, so we need to be sure to appreciate and value their work and help them teach the new generation of volunteers.

**How can you assist to develop a program encouraging people to relocate to the area either as residents or start a home-based business?**

The best way for us to showcase all the great things that Cumberland South has to offer is to utilize our greatest asset - the people. I will engage with local entrepreneurs and community-minded people to highlight the reasons they chose to stay in Cumberland South and why they are happy living and owning a business here. I believe that getting our fair share of support to improve internet access will be important in creating sustainable businesses, based here.

**The entire network of roads and bridges in Cumberland South are in deplorable condition. How would you propose to develop a re-construction and improvement program be implemented?**

Any plan that effects the people of Cumberland South should have the input of the people first. We need to engage with the public on these kinds of issues to ensure that the plan we develop is one with the community in mind. In fighting for Cumberland South, we need to be united in our priorities.

**Cumberland County is a large area with most government services provided from Amherst locations. What ways do you propose to change service delivery so residents do not have to travel long distances from their home community?**

Yes, I believe it's important to provide services to people in their communities and would like to see more of that happen. Some services could possibly be offered on a mobile basis and with improved internet service, more options may become available online. As MLA, I would work with people to identify services that will be highest need

and look for solutions for Cumberland South residents.

**Toll Highways: Should tolls on the Cobequid Pass continue with the profits / cash surplus used for highway maintenance on non-100 series highways in Cumberland & Colchester Counties?**

Once the province has fully discharged its obligations under the Highway 104 Western Alignment Act and the agreement, the tolls should be removed for all traffic on the Cobequid Pass, as was the original promise to Cumberland County residents. Further, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal should conduct a safety survey of Trunk 4 and raise the speed limits to the highest safe speed.

**If tolls are maintained on 100 series highways and toll sections are implemented for "new" highway twinning projects should tolls continue after the debt is repaid providing profits are guaranteed to be used for highway maintenance in rural areas?**

Except for the Cobequid Pass, Nova Scotians pay for road construction and maintenance through the Motive Fuel tax and vehicle registrations. It's a double standard. As long as this practice continues, the PC Party does not support tolling.

**Frequent closures of daytime and overnight medical service centers is prevalent in the area. What can residents do to promote a "very welcome environment" to encourage medical professionals to relocate to the area?**

Access to healthcare is a big issue in our community. One of the reasons I love this area is because of our tight-knit communities. We all know each other and we all lend a hand when we need it. As a community, we need to make sure every new face is just a friend we haven't met yet. Our newcomers should feel the warmth and hospitality that

made me decide to stay here and raise a family. We must do everything we can to offer new medical professionals a work-life balance that allows them to enjoy all the great things about our communities and showcase the many benefits of living here. If that means working outside the Liberal government's recruiting process, that's what we should do.

**How would you work with community groups undertaking such an initiative and what results will you deliver?**

I would discuss with local community groups the kind of programs they have regarding newcomers, if any. Some Nova Scotia communities have found success in recruiting doctors by fundraising and providing a medical office. I would work with groups to see what other communities have done and build on those successes. I would support efforts by these groups to become on the ground ambassadors for possible new doctors. No one knows what is available and what supports are in place better than a local group.

**How would you explain your capabilities and why residents should elect you as the next MLA for Cumberland South?**

First and foremost, I care deeply about this community and raising my family here. I believe my experience working as the Production Manager at Oxford Frozen Foods, and as the Fire chief at the Oxford Fire Department has given me very strong interpersonal and leadership skills. I've spent many years as a hockey coach, where I learned to mentor young people and help them grow as individuals and teammates. I believe in approaching people with compassion and respect and will always put Cumberland South first. I know these skills and experiences will prove valuable as the next MLA for Cumberland South.



Mother enjoys the luscious new spring grasses, while her colt is all eyes and ears checking out the scenery in Amherst. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Mother is busy eating, so it's time to check out my legs and see how fast I can run away. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

## Two Islands Brewing Main Street Bakery

### Head Baker Position

Location: Parrsboro  
Full Time starting approx. July 15/2018.  
Salary negotiable based on experience.

Parrsboro's new Bakery and Craft Brewery is seeking a qualified Baker.

### Duties:

Mixing, preparing and baking breads, sweets and pastries.  
Proper maintenance of baking equipment.  
Providing excellent customer service.

### Skills Required:

Experience as a baker or pastry chef.  
Strong communication skills.  
Ability to operate point of sale system.  
Knowledge of sanitation procedures and adherence to health and safety standards.  
Highly self-motivated

Interested individuals can forward their resume to:

wendellgallagher8@gmail.com