



NOVA SCOTIA

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

PO BOX 726
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec J8X 0B3

March 8, 2024

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

We are writing you today, as Minister responsible for Parks Canada, to bring to your attention a request shared with our government by the Acadian and francophone community regarding the Beaubassin National Historic Site located in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia.

Beaubassin was an important Acadian settlement founded between 1671 and 1672 on the Isthmus of Chignecto, which played a significant role in the 17th and 18th century territorial disputes between the British and the French.

The Acadian village, where residents farmed, raised livestock and were involved in shipbuilding, was at the heart of a vast trading network encompassing Île Royale, Nova Scotia and New England. Although modern agricultural buildings and homes have impacted archaeological resources, much of the land is still agricultural. The fields of the former Beaubassin village contain important archaeological evidence of Acadian settlements.

We are seeking your department's assistance in supporting measures to better highlight the historical and archeological significance of this site and providing greater awareness of the substantial contributions of early Acadian settlers on this land.

The local Acadian and francophone community is both requesting and leading efforts for enhanced tourism promotion, a walking trail and interpretive signage on the site. These initiatives will improve the site's visibility and increase our collective understanding of the past for future generations. It will also help develop a deeper understanding of the history and culture of Acadians.

Improvements and upgrades at the site would be timely as Nova Scotia hosts the *Congrès mondial acadien* in August 2024. This event, which takes place every five years, will bring together an anticipated 30,000 first-time visitors to Nova Scotia from Canada and around the world to discover the rich history and to celebrate the cultural vitality of Acadians.

We would appreciate your prompt consideration to making improvements and upgrades to this heritage site to help commemorate, celebrate and preserve its unique Acadian story - and its vital contribution to the greater historical narrative of early settlers in Canada.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Tim Houston

Premier of Nova Scotia



Hon. Colton LeBlanc

Minister of Acadian Affairs and
Francophonie