



CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OFFICE *of the* MAYOR

September 9, 2016

Ms. Alaina Lockhart, MP  
Fundy Royal  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
alaina.lockharta2@parl.gc.ca

Dear MP Lockhart:

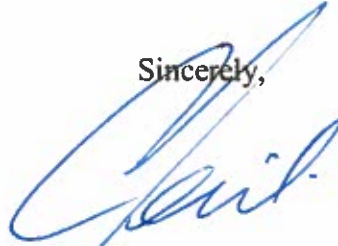
As Mayor of the second largest municipality in Nova Scotia, I am in full support of the Parliament of Canada focusing on the decline and aging of our population and finding what the root cause is to the situation and subsequently finding appropriate solutions to address this reality. I, therefore, as Mayor of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, am in support of your Private Members Motion, M-39 – Immigration as a Means of Growth in Atlantic Canada.

I applaud your efforts to recognize that the issue of loss of population is one that is not isolated but is occurring in many parts of the country and especially in Atlantic Canada. For many years, before and after Confederation, Atlantic Canada was the prosperous and welcoming Gateway to immigrants into our country and we were supportive of nation building through our embrace of the industrial development of Canada. The Atlantic Provinces is where many immigrants made a new and positive start to their lives in Canada. However, the past half century has not been as kind to our part of Canada as we have seen growth, prosperity and infrastructure improve in other regions within Canada and thus our residents and immigrants alike moved to those areas that experienced this growth in prosperity.

The CBRM has been proactive and supportive of being part of the solution of addressing our population decline by participating with government, social and academic institutions in building a support network in regard to attracting and welcoming immigrants to our municipality. My conversation with the Immigration Minister, the Honourable John McCallum, echoed this working collaboration with my City's cooperation in aid of the Syrian refugee response. We see this initiative as an important next step as you indicated in your letter and we will be supportive of your pursuit to address this matter.

My office will continue to work with our region's two Members of Parliament with any follow-up required.

Sincerely,



Cecil P. Clarke

CPC/tfd

c: MP Rodger Cuzner, Cape Breton-Canso  
MP Mark Eyking, Sydney-Victoria  
CBRM Council  
Mr. Michael Merritt, CAO, CBRM  
Mr. John Phalen, Manager of Econ. Dev. & Major Projects, CBRM