

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

Subject: FW: Lawrence House Museum

From: Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage <MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca>

Sent: June 15, 2026 2:52 PM

To: Alana Tapper <atapper@easthants.ca>

Subject: RE: Lawrence House Museum

Dear Alana and Eleanor:

Thank you for your letter. Museums play a key role in preserving and sharing our heritage. To protect that work for future generations, we're taking steps to modernize the Nova Scotia Museum system.

With 28 museums, the Nova Scotia Museum is largest provincial museum of its kind in Canada. It was established in 1868 and expanded primarily in the 1960s and 1970s - without the benefit of strategic planning. It now encompasses over 240 buildings, vessels, and living history sites, along with a collection exceeding one million artifacts.

We considered several factors in deciding which sites to close, including attendance and changing visitor expectations. At these locations, attendance has remained low, with some drawing only 1,000 visitors a year. The 12 sites account for just 3 per cent of total attendance across the Nova Scotia Museum system.

These closures will allow us to prioritize museums and programs that reach more people. These are difficult decisions, and we recognize the impact on employees and their families. We're grateful for their service and the care they've shown in sharing the stories that reflect our province.

Please know that this is not a decision that was taken lightly. But it is a necessary response to the challenges we are facing. Protecting Nova Scotia's heritage remains our priority. We will continue to work on making our provincial museum system a strong resource for future generations.

Over the coming months, we will complete the administrative process of closing the sites. We will then engage with local communities to explore options for future use of the buildings that continue to benefit the community.

Sincerely,

Hon. Dave Ritcey
Minister
Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage