

Kusie Update

November 2022



Foggy Morning in Fish Creek

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MESSAGE FROM STEPHANIE



Dear Constituents,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Calgary Midnapore! Festive lights and decorations are going up across the riding, holiday parties are being planned, gifts are being wrapped, and kids are counting down the days till Santa comes. After two tough years, it is my sincere hope that this Christmas is twice as joyful for you and your family.

My other Christmas wish is for our Grinch of a Prime Minister to cancel his plans to increase taxes on gas, groceries, and home heating. Canadians from coast to coast are struggling through this cost-of-living crisis that has been exacerbated by the Liberal government's out of control spending. Here are a few relevant

statistics: Food Banks Canada recorded 1.5 million visits to food banks in just one month (a 35% increase compared to last year); one in five Canadians are skipping meals; mothers are putting water in their children's milk because they cannot afford 10% yearly food inflation; seniors can't afford to heat their homes; and, on top of all of this, the Bank of Canada has raised interest rates again, leaving many Canadians wondering how they will afford their next mortgage payment. *These are real world consequences of Justin Trudeau's reckless decisions.* The good news is that the Conservatives have a plan. As government:

- ✓ Instead of creating more cash, we will create more of what cash buys. More homes. More gas. More food and more resources here at home;
- ✓ We'll remove government gatekeepers and get more homes built and make Canada the quickest place in the world to get a building permit;
- ✓ We will make energy more affordable. We will repeal anti-energy laws and get Canadian energy out to market;
- ✓ We'll cut corporate welfare;
- ✓ We'll axe the carbon tax; and
- ✓ We will tackle climate change by making alternative energy cheaper not by making Canadian energy more expensive.

Our new Leader, Pierre Poilievre, and our new, rejuvenated Shadow Cabinet have been relentless in our efforts to expose this government's innumerable failures and broken promises -- and you can expect this to continue.

Parliament is scheduled to recess on December 16th, and I am looking forward to returning home to celebrate Christmas with my family, friends, and my constituents! I hope you'll be able to join me at my [Christmas Meet & Greet event](#) on December 18th – read on for more details.

I hope this Christmas is peaceful, joyful, and that you have the opportunity to make happy memories with those dear to you.

All my best,

Stephanie

PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

Fall Economic Statement (FES)

Four days before Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, tabled her government's [plan](#) to “continue to help Canadians with the cost of living and building a Canada where nobody gets left behind”, the Leader of the Official Opposition wrote to her, urging her to:

1. **Stop the taxes** (including cancelling all planned tax hikes on payrolls, groceries, home heating, and the tripling of the carbon tax); and
2. **Stop the spending** (Any new spending by ministers must be matched by an equivalent saving).



Neither of these demands were met and thus, Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues did not vote in support of the FES.

Unsurprisingly, the government's proposals do little to actually solve the cost-of-living crisis. Their proposals on dental and housing are bureaucratic and costly without real results for everyday people. The temporary GST Rebate will provide welcome relief that Conservatives

support but will not address the real problem: inflationary deficits and taxes are driving up costs at the fastest rate in nearly 40 years. Conservatives implore the Liberals to scour government expenditures to find savings to pay for these proposals instead of adding to the deficit. Some obvious options include axing the \$54 million ArriveCan App, scrapping the \$35 billion Infrastructure Bank, and cancelling corporate welfare programs.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues see right through this inflationary scheme and will continue to stand up for Canadians, their paycheques, their homes and their savings.

Call in the Auditors – Auditor General Reports Released

In mid-November several damning reports were released from the Auditor General (AG) which highlighted more of this Liberal government's failures.



The AG report on [Chronic Homelessness](#) revealed that both Infrastructure Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) “*did not know*” whether their efforts at reducing and preventing chronic homelessness were actually achieving the intended results. The report also found “*minimal federal accountability*” for this government's \$70 billion dollar plan.

The AG report on [Arctic Waters Surveillance](#) found that multiple federal departments – Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, Environment and Climate Change Canada, National Defense, and Transport Canada - had yet to take the required action to “respond to safety and security risks associated with increasing vessel traffic in Arctic waters.” And that, in the few cases where these departments actually acted, the response was largely lacklustre and riddled with delays.

Also released was the AG report on the [Cybersecurity of Personal Information in the Cloud](#) which concluded that while the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Shared Services Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada, and Communications Security Establishment Canada, all had the necessary “controls at their disposal to prevent, detect, and respond to cybersecurity events”, they “did not” implement or establish the roles and responsibilities for stopping the increasing attacks on Canadian cybersecurity.

Conservatives unfortunately were not surprised to read the AG’s recent reports as Stephanie and her colleagues have seen this government’s failures for the past seven years.

Stephanie will continue to push for action and accountability of the government.

What’s happening with Nexus Cards?

Constituents who have been unable to apply for a Nexus card since COVID-19 caused widespread shutdowns have contacted Stephanie, asking what’s going on.

The Liberals provided some clarification a few weeks ago after being questioned by Conservatives about the unreturned service. Here is an excerpt from the response from Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety:

“I would like to talk a bit about NEXUS, which is what the hon. member had asked in his question of the Minister of Health.

We know NEXUS is extremely important for travellers. We also know that Canadians are travelling again. That is why we are working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to restore NEXUS enrolment services in Canada. I hear from my own constituents about concerns with being able to get a NEXUS appointment.

It is a joint program managed by both Canada and the United States. When our American counterparts are ready to deploy officers to Canada again, we will be ready to immediately facilitate it. Canada and the U.S. are in discussions right now about the timing of the reopening of Canadian enrolment centres. However, until that time, enrolment centres in Canada will continue to be closed.

Canadians can now travel to the U.S. to complete their interviews and applications. We are also allowing existing NEXUS members who renew their memberships before the expiry date of their card to retain their membership privileges for an additional 24 months from the date of expiry.”

You may wish to read the following article as it delves into a bit more detail about the issue being discussed.

[Canada-U.S. dispute over Nexus sparks backlog of applications](#)



Shortage of Children's Medication - Update

After months of Conservative pressure, the Liberal government has *finally* taken action to address the shortage of children's pain relief medication on shelves across Calgary Midnapore and Canada. In mid-November, Health Canada announced it had reached a short-term solution and secured a supply of foreign children's acetaminophen.

Just days before the government finally reversed their policy of inaction, Stephanie's fellow Conservative colleague from Alberta, MP Laila Goodridge, released a scathing video demanding that the Liberals take action. Her video shows empty pharmacy shelves from PEI, the GTA, and right here in Calgary Midnapore. You can watch her video [here](#).

Although the government's delayed action is welcomed by families across the country, Canadians and Conservatives still want answers. Why did it take six months of Conservative advocacy and pressure for Justin Trudeau to realize there was a problem? Why did some parents have to travel to the nearest border town in order to obtain medicine that their child urgently needed? And what is this government's plan to make sure Canadian parents and their children are never left in this horrible situation again?

Stephanie, alongside her Conservative colleagues, will continue to get the answers Canadians want and pressure the government to take long term action on this very important issue.



IN THE RIDING

Remembrance Day Wreaths for Seniors

Prior to Remembrance Day, the Constituency team visited four seniors' homes across Calgary Midnapore to gift their facility with a special Government of Canada Remembrance Day Wreath. These wreaths were given to honour those who have served and sacrificed their lives for Canada and the rights and freedoms we all cherish today. We hope these enhanced Remembrance Day ceremonies, and that all constituents across Calgary Midnapore took the time to remember our veterans on November 11th. Lest We Forget.



Virtual Town Hall

On November 14, Stephanie hosted a Virtual Town Hall with Special Guest Speaker, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Melissa Lantsman (pictured at left).

Constituents posed many excellent questions on topics including Bill C-11, the carbon tax, the environment and youth involvement in politics. Stephanie was pleased to see so many constituents join in and looks forward to hosting another Virtual Town Hall in the New Year.

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SHADOW MINISTRY UPDATE

It has been a busy month for Stephanie in her new role of Shadow Minister for Treasury Board. She has participated in numerous debates in the House of Commons and has been working hard as a new member of the Standing Committee for Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO).



One of the major issues that OGGO has been studying is the ArriveCan app and why it has cost Canadian taxpayers \$54 million. The Committee is looking at the contracts to ensure that funds have been used appropriately and that they're not adding to government waste.

Stephanie will be releasing a video on her concerns involving the ArriveCan app

shortly so keep an eye out for it on her social media channels.

Stephanie also had the opportunity to question the President of the Treasury Board about government waste at OGGO and you can view the clip [here](#).

Outside of Committee, Stephanie spoke in the House of Commons on whistleblower protection legislation Bill C-290 and participated at the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to ask the Auditor General of Canada about Canada's failures in cybersecurity for the public service. You can view the report by the Auditor General on Cybersecurity of Personal Information in the Cloud [here](#).

Stephanie will continue to stand up for public servants and hold the government accountable for their out-of-control spending.

CASEWORK CORNER

The majority of current casework enquiries continue to pertain to Immigration (IRCC) issues, specifically visitor visas.

Regarding visitor visas:

- It's important to check [the online tool](#) for processing times and remember that it is only an *estimate*. Processing times change frequently, and they apply to the *current* times -- not when you applied.
- Do not make any travel plans or book travel until you have an approval. Unfortunately, other applications are also experiencing delays.

IRCC has set up a new system for MP offices to contact them. Previously, we would call on your behalf and wait on hold for an agent at MP-only phone line. Now, IRCC schedules appointments via an online booking tool and they now call *us*. In some ways that has proven to be more efficient, however we are limited in the number of cases we can discuss per call.

We will continue to prioritize urgent situations that are life and death -- but other applications are done on a first-come-first-serve basis. The system is backlogged, and it can take us up to two weeks to get an appointment. Please understand that this does not mean your enquiry is not important. It means we are waiting to hear from an IRCC Agent. We request your patience as our volumes are very high and we are doing our best to serve you.

Should you require Stephanie's assistance with any government program (Immigration, EI, CPP, OAS, GIS, etc.), please email our Case Manager, Sarah Watson: stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca and be sure to include your postal code and day time phone number.

STEPHANIE'S LATEST VIDEOS

- [What do the Liberals think of Albertans?](#) (Question Period)
- [Kusie speaks on Bill C-32: "The Liberals just don't get it!"](#) (Speech)
- [Stephanie Kusie: The Liberals are mismanaging the public purse](#) (OGGO Committee)
- [Member's Statement: November 21, 2022](#)

- [Kusie: Only Conservatives will make life more affordable for Canadians](#) (Opposition Day Motion Speech)
- [When will the costly coalition commit to no inflationary spending?](#) (Question Period)
- [Stephanie Kusie: "The world needs more energy, and Canadian industry is ready to provide it."](#) (Speech)
- ["There is no strategic Human Resources plan for the Government of Canada"](#) (OGGO Committee)
- [What are the Liberals hiding, where's the money, and who got rich on the back of Canadian taxpayers?](#) (Question Period)
- [The smug Liberals seem to think a AAA credit rating erases the pain of thousands of Canadians.](#) (Question Period)
- [Time to get to the bottom of the failed #ArriveCan app](#)
- [Stephanie Kusie speaks on C-290, An Act to amend the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act](#) (Speech)

MONTHLY SURVEY



[Stephanie's website](#) has a new look and a few new features, including a monthly survey which we invite you to participate in.

The question this month is: ***Are you reducing your Christmas spending in order to cope with the rising prices of food, gas, and utilities?*** [Answer the survey here!](#)

We will share survey results in the next edition of the Kusie Update at the end of January.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stephanie is excited to invite constituents of Calgary Midnapore to a Christmas Meet & Greet event at [Windsor Rose](#) on **Sunday, December 18th, from noon till 2 PM.**

Refreshments will be provided. All ages are welcome!

Please consider bringing an item to donate to the Veterans Food Bank.

[Register here!](#)

