

Kusie Update

January 2023



St. Paul's Anglican Church at Christmas (Midnapore)

Photo credit: John Oliver

Send your favourite photo of the riding to stephanie.kusie.c1@parl.gc.ca for the chance to see it featured on the cover of the next Kusie Update!

MESSAGE FROM STEPHANIE



Dear constituents of Calgary Midnapore,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you enjoyed some downtime with your loved ones. It was a pleasure to celebrate the season with constituents at my Christmas Meet & Greet event in Walden, and to host a productive roundtable discussion on Bill C-21. I am grateful for the time I got to spend with *my* family before heading back to Ottawa for the new Parliamentary session, which is already proving to be action-packed with debates and votes on Bills such as:

- [C-11](#) (Online Streaming Act)
- [C-21](#) (An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms))
- [C-35](#) (An Act respecting early learning and childcare in Canada)

My Conservative colleagues and I will remain focused on making life more affordable and working to fix the government systems that the Trudeau Liberals have broken. As the Leader of the Official Opposition stated in his [speech to our Caucus](#) before Parliament resumed: *“We will remember that a dollar in the hands of the person who earned it is always better spent than in the hands of the politician or bureaucrat who taxed it.”*

Certainly, I will be working hard for you at the Committee level, where you will see me digging for answers as to why the government awarded over \$100 million worth of sole-source contracts to McKinsey and Company, a consulting firm that recently employed Liberal insider, Dominic Barton, as its Global Managing Director. You can watch me in Committee [here](#).

In case you missed it, I recently launched a new video series called “By the Numbers”. In each episode, I dig into government spending. So far, I’ve explored the failed [ArriveCAN app](#) and the latest [Auditor General Report](#). You can watch By the Numbers series [here](#). Please consider sharing it with your friends and family across Canada, so more Canadians become aware of how their tax dollars are being (mis)spent.

Thank you for putting your trust in me as your representative in Ottawa. Please continue to share your thoughts with me and let me know when/if there is upcoming legislation that affects you.

Stay warm!

Sincerely,

Stephanie

PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

Holiday Travel Chaos



PHOTO - PAOLA CHIOMANTE/REUTERS

Passport delays. Cancelled flights. Lost and delayed luggage. Exhausted travelers sleeping on airport floors and hotel lobbies. Travellers stuck on trains or stranded in other countries... you'd think based on this description there must have been some kind of natural disaster responsible or for such a terrible scene. But no – it's simply another example of the government's inability to deliver the services Canadians rely on.

As if the summer travel nightmare wasn't bad enough, Christmas plans were ruined for thousands of Canadians, too...many of whom are constituents of Calgary Midnapore. It was in fact so terrible, that Members of the Transport Committee (TRAN) called for an [Emergency Meeting](#) on January 9th, 2023, to figure out what exactly happened, who was responsible, and how the air travel industry can better prepare for similar situations in the future.

TRAN heard testimony from airline and airport officials, Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) officials, and various representatives from the Department of Transport. The Committee also called Minister Omar Alghabra to explain how this all happened on his watch.

Witnesses explained that bad weather conditions, pilot shortages, and lapses in communication were among the key reasons for the delays. Conservatives on the Committee questioned why passengers' rights aren't better protected and why the Minister was so slow to respond to such a serious situation:

“Canadians expect airlines and airports to be held accountable for their performance over the chaotic holiday travel season, however accountability requires political leadership, and this Liberal government has been missing in action.” – Mark Strahl (Shadow Minister for Transport)

Currently, Canadian airlines are obligated to meet Canada's Air Passenger Protection Regulations *despite any weather delays or other disruptions*. If an airline does not meet these regulations (eg: doesn't provide passengers with a reason for delayed or canceled flights/doesn't respond to compensation complaints within 30 days, it can be fined by the CTA. An important question raised at Committee was whether the fines are high enough that they deter airlines from disobeying the regulations (cancelling flights without a reason). Another

concern is that the backlog of cases has ballooned to over 30,000 cases, with decisions taking as long as 18 months.

Minister Alghabra stated Canadians can expect changes to be made to the Air Passenger Protection Regulations soon. Conservatives will be watching to ensure proper consultation is conducted, and that key issues will be addressed by any changes.

[TRAN](#) continues to hear from witnesses as Parliament resumes sitting, and Conservatives will be pushing for answers. Not one but *two* peak travel seasons (post-pandemic) have been bungled. Canadians deserve much better than what this Liberal government has delivered.

Alghabra [tweeted](#) on Dec. 31 that his ministry had “accomplished great things in 2022”. Ironically, less than two weeks later he was being grilled at Committee for his failures as Minister of Transport.

Bill C-11 is government censorship at its worst

The internet -- a magical space where Canadians have enjoyed infinite opportunity. We can create content, share ideas, and access a plethora of information online without government interference, but when Liberal Bill C-11 becomes legislation, all of this will change.

Stephanie is sad to report that Bill C-11 passed through the Senate last week, albeit with some amendments. (All CPC Senators voted nay). Now the Bill will return to the House of Commons for MPs to vote on as amended by the Senate.



ABOUT BILL C-11: Throughout the legislative process, the government has claimed that this bill is about “supporting Canadian culture” and “leveling the playing field.” But what it *actually* does is remove freedom and choice from Canadians and puts more power and control in the hands of government. In effect, Bill C-11 will put in place an “Internet Czar”—the CRTC—which will govern how easily creators—those who post—are able to make their content

accessible online, and how easily viewers can find it.

Bill C-11 will regulate audio-visual content on the internet through an arm of the government called the Canadian Radio-Television Commission (CRTC), which has traditionally been responsible for regulating radio and television. This bill will put the CRTC in charge of creating and implementing regulations for the internet for the very first time. **In short, through the CRTC, the government will control what Canadians can see, say, and hear online.**

Bill C-11 is a direct threat to the hundreds of thousands of Canadians who have been shut out by Canada's traditional media gatekeepers and who have found tremendous success on platforms like TikTok, Spotify, and YouTube.

In effect, the CRTC will pick winners and losers by deciding which content gets moved to the top of the search menu and which content gets pushed to page 53, where it will never be discovered. It will do this by pressing social media providers like YouTube and TikTok to tweak their algorithms and disrupt users' digital experience to comply with government regulation.



During this process, we heard testimony from digital content creators and industry experts who confirmed it would inhibit creators' ability to succeed and bridle the innovative nature of the internet. Despite these significant concerns, **the Liberals rushed the bill through the House of Commons by forcing Members of Parliament to vote on amendments without debate or discussion and steamrolled dissenting voices.**

Instead of being open and transparent, the Liberal government chose to stifle debate and gas-light the concerns of content creators. However, Canadians have continued to speak out against this legislation.

Thousands have written to their Senators and Members of Parliament to share their concerns regarding this bill. After hearing testimony from more than 130 digital experts, Canadian YouTubers, Indigenous creators, and TikTokers, the Senate introduced a small amendment that would make sure some user-generated content would be excluded, but unfortunately, this

amendment is not guaranteed to pass the House of Commons when the bill returns for further debate. The Liberal Heritage Minister has already hinted that this amendment will be struck down.

Ultimately, with or without this amendment, under Bill C-11, the CRTC will still be able to compel platforms to promote CRTC-approved "Canadian" content.

To have a government agency regulate the dissemination of information online puts Canada in step with countries like North Korea, China, Iran, and Russia.

The fight to defend freedom of expression and choice online is not over.

A final vote will take place this month. You can stay up to date on the bill's progress at <https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/44-1/c-11>

If you are concerned about increased government regulation of *your* social media, please take a moment to **write to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Pablo Rodriguez, at hon.pablo.rodriguez@pch.gc.ca** and tell him to kill Bill C-11!

Rogers - Shaw Merger

Stephanie has received a large volume of emails recently, expressing opposition to the Rogers-Shaw merger. Unfortunately, they are being sent through a third party and contain neither a mailing address nor the individual sender's email address, so she is unable to reply directly.

The issue is that Rogers Communications Inc. signed a deal to buy Shaw Communications Inc. in a deal valued at **\$26 billion**, including debt. The transaction, which would combine Canada's two largest cable companies as well as their wireless networks, requires a variety of approvals from federal agencies, including the Competition Bureau which recommended the deal be blocked.

However, late last year the Competition Tribunal dismissed an application from the Bureau to block the deal. The watchdog then appealed that decision to the Federal Court of Appeal, which upheld the Tribunal's original verdict, effectively clearing a path for the deal to go ahead, although it still requires final approval from the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

As you may be aware the Leader of the Official Opposition, Pierre Poilievre, stated in a news conference on December 30th, 2022 that that he had "serious concerns" about more consolidation in the telecommunications sector and that "we need more competition" for lower prices and better services for consumers.



*Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry Francois-Philippe Champagne -
PHOTO BY BLAIR GABLE /Reuters*

On January 25th, the day after the Court of Appeal's decision, members of the Standing Committee on Industry called key players to answer further questions about the effects of the pending deal on Canadian customers. (A previous study of the issue resulted in the Committee recommending the deal be scuttled.) In addition to concerns about the potential for reduced competition to result in higher costs, the issue of job losses was also raised. You can access the discussions [here](#).

Certainly, Conservatives agree that more competition in mobility services is the only way to reduce fees for consumers. The Liberals have failed to live up to their 2015 promise to reduce cell phone rates by 25% and this deal will not provide that rate reduction either.

It will now be up to Minister Champagne to decide whether to block the deal or allow it to go forward. If you want to share your concerns with the Liberal government, you can email ministerofisi-ministredeisi@ised-isde.gc.ca or francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca.

Public Order Emergency Commission Update

As required by law in Section 63(1) of the Emergencies Act, a Public Order Emergency Commission (POEC) was sanctioned in April of last year. This commission, led by Justice Paul Rouleau, is mandated to:



“Examine and assess the basis for the government’s decision to declare a public order emergency, the circumstances that led to the declaration, and the appropriateness and effectiveness of the measures selected by the government to deal with the then-existing situation.”

The ‘heart’ of the inquiry was the witness phase which took place over the course of seven weeks in late 2022. During this process the commission heard from 76 witnesses. Witnesses included – City of Ottawa Officials/representatives, Ottawa residents, convoy organizers, the Prime Minister and several Members of Cabinet, the RCMP Commissioner, and more – these witnesses were often on the stand for more than six hours taking questions from all represented parties’ legal representation.

The POEC began the policy phase of its work in late November 2022 and must table its final report in both the House of Commons and Senate of Canada, with findings and recommendations, by February 20th, 2023 – a little over a year after Justin Trudeau invoked the Emergencies Act.

This report is expected to answer the question of whether or not the invocation of the Act was ‘necessary’ and will include the Commissioners’ recommendations on how to modernize the Emergencies Act legislation.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues await the findings of the Commission and will continue to do what they can to protect the right for Canadians to engage in lawful protests.

Liberals' Escalator Tax on Alcohol

As April 1st approaches once again, constituents have made it clear they are fed up with increased taxes exacerbating the rising cost of living, including the automatic “escalator” tax on alcohol the Liberals established in their 2017 federal budget.



This hidden tax resulted in a two-per cent tax hike on liquor starting in 2018 and an automatic, invisible increase every year thereafter, including 2023. In fact, after this year's tax hike, the federal government's alcohol excise taxes will have **increased 18.4%** in just five years.

Justin Trudeau originally claimed the change was needed because excise taxes had not increased since the 1980s, and hence represented “a smaller and smaller proportion of the total price of alcohol products, reducing their effectiveness.” But with this change what they did is implement a regular tax hike **which is hidden from future taxpayers**. They don't want to have to justify it in subsequent budgets because they know it's yet one more tax grab on Canadians who are already paying too much.

Justin Trudeau originally claimed the change was needed because excise taxes had not increased since the 1980s, and hence represented “a smaller and smaller proportion of the total price of alcohol

As a recent *Toronto Sun* [article](#) points out, “Taxes already account for about half of the price of beer, 65% of the price of wine and more than three-quarters of the price of spirits.”

Stephanie and her Official Opposition colleagues asked Justin Trudeau to at least consider postponing these tax hikes (including on CPP payroll taxes, the increased carbon tax and alcohol), given how many Canadians continue to struggle as a result of the pandemic, but he refused. Some of those interventions can be found at the links below.

- <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/house/sitting-44/hansard#Int-11067516>
- <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/house/sitting-50/hansard#Int-11601019>
- <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/house/sitting-41/hansard#Int-11560132>

Conservatives inherently believe in lowering taxes. Our Party policies are based on sound fiscal strategies. We will continue to fight for hardworking Canadians, while Justin Trudeau continues to raise taxes on the middle class to pay for his billion-dollar deficits. In comparison, our Conservative Government *cut or eliminated* taxes more than 180 times from 2006 to 2015.

If you are concerned about this type of automatic increase, I would encourage you to also contact the Prime Minister and his Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland to ensure they are aware of your opposition to these continued tax grabs. Should you wish to do so, their contact information is:

justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca and chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

IN THE RIDING

Christmas Meet & Greet at Windsor Rose Pub

After two challenging years, it was a joy to celebrate the holidays with constituents in person. Thank you to all who braved the brutal cold in mid-December to visit with Stephanie and her Calgary office team at her annual Christmas Meet & Greet event!

Stephanie enjoyed catching up with residents from across the riding and discussing current federal issues.

Stephanie was pleased to see so many attendees dining together and getting to know one another!



But perhaps best of all, was being able to hand over a dozen heavy boxes of non-perishable food items collected at the Meet & Greet to the Veterans Food Bank of Calgary! It is heartbreaking that this service is needed at all, so to all who donated, thank you so much for your generosity.

Bill C-21 Roundtable Discussion

Dozens of constituents have contacted Stephanie regarding the recent amendments that Liberals added to [Bill C-21](#) (*An act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*).

To hear more about their concerns and to get their individual perspectives, Stephanie invited those who have expressed interest on this topic to attend a roundtable discussion at the Shooting Edge in late December. Stephanie shared her view that C-21 is yet another Bill which shows the Liberal government talking a big game about gun crime but doing nothing where it counts – keeping our streets safe.

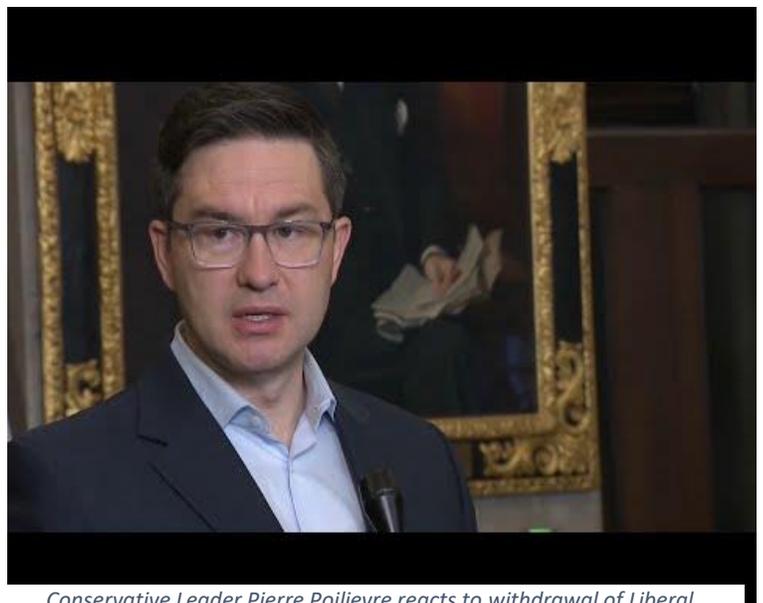


For readers who are unaware of the amendments made to this legislation: Liberal MPs introduced a last-minute motion at the [Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security \(SECU\)](#) which would seek to ban millions of hunting rifles with a new prohibition of any “rifle or shotgun, that is capable of discharging centre-fire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner and that is designed to accept a detachable cartridge magazine with a capacity

greater than five cartridges.” This has been a direct attack on legal, responsible gun owners and is the largest assault on hunters in Canadian history.

Fortunately, Conservatives were not the only ones who noticed this drastic, back door attempt to dismantle the way of life for millions of Indigenous Canadians, farmers, and hunters. Montreal Canadians goatender Carey Price called out this government’s overreach stating, ‘What Justin Trudeau is trying to do is unjust.’ It has gotten to the point where even the Liberals’ coalition partner - the NDP - expressed concern.

The good news: On February 3, 2023, the Liberals finally buckled to the pressure from the Opposition and the public and decided to [pause their attack on Canadian hunters and farmers](#). This is welcome news but there is no doubt that Trudeau will move to ban hunting rifles if ever given the opportunity to do so. He has already said that this *is* his goal. In an interview to CTV in December he said, *“our focus now is on saying okay, yes, that we’re going to have to take away from people who were using them to hunt.”*



Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre reacts to withdrawal of Liberal amendments to firearms bill - CPAC

Stephanie supports common-sense firearms policies that keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals.

Conservatives will stand up for the millions of Canadian hunters affected by the Liberal government’s ineffective bans and advocate for real, tough-on-crime policies to clean up our streets and keep Canadians safe. Stephanie will keep you updated on this file.



Stephanie gives opening remarks at Emergency OGGO Meeting on Jan. 18, 2023

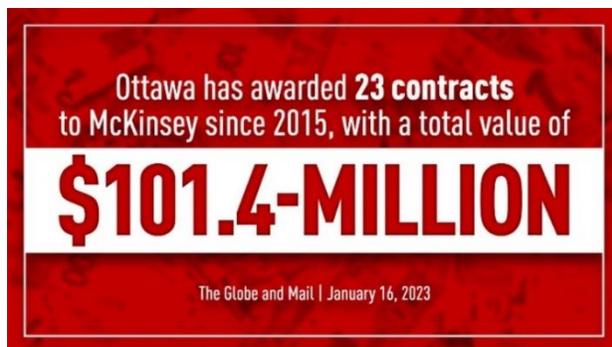
SHADOW MINISTRY UPDATE

During the House of Commons recess, Stephanie was hard at work in her role of Shadow Minister for Treasury Board.

January media reports by the CBC and the *Globe and Mail* showed a massive increase in government contracts with international consulting firm McKinsey & Company since

Justin Trudeau was elected. During their time in power, the Liberal government has given McKinsey & Company \$101.4 million in contracts -- almost fifty times more than what was awarded to the company under the previous Conservative government. As a result, Stephanie and her Opposition colleagues on the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO) called for an Emergency Meeting. At that meeting, Stephanie led the charge to pass a motion for documents and witnesses. Canadians deserve answers and this was a crucial first step. You can view the meeting [here](#).

What has been detailed so far is that much of the work McKinsey & Company has done for this government has shown zero outcomes. Millions in contracts from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada were awarded to reform and modernize the department, but they still have a backlog of over two million applications, with over a million of those waiting beyond the acceptable legal timeframe.



Unfortunately, McKinsey & Company also has a reputation around the world for flouting ethical and moral lines. They are currently under investigation in France over campaign financing, they have ties to authoritarian regimes, and they've paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements in the United States over their role in the opioid epidemic.

As this study continues over the coming weeks, Stephanie will be working to get the answers Canadians deserve, including where this money is going and influence this company has on our government.

STEPHANIE'S LATEST VIDEOS

[Who's actually running the show in Canada?](#)

[Interview with Stephanie Kusie: Let's Discuss Politics, Episode 33](#)

[The Blueprint: Millions extra in the McKinsey scandal](#)

[MP Stephanie Kusie on CTV's Power Play, discussing McKinsey contracts](#)

[Kusie: "Why did the Liberals spend so much? Whose idea was this, and who's pulling the strings?"](#)

[Another Liberal department is in shambles.](#)

[By The Numbers: ArriveCAN](#)

[Canada's Grinch strikes again!](#)

[Is Canada's Grinch stealing your Christmas?](#)

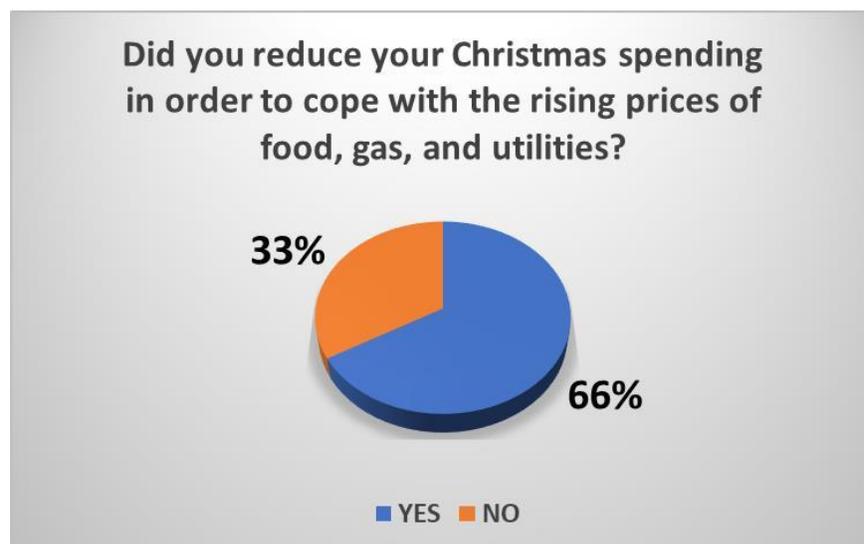
[The Trudeau Liberals have broken Canada](#)



Featured video: *By the Numbers*

WEBSITE SURVEY

In December, we surveyed constituents: ***Are you reducing your Christmas spending in order to cope with the rising prices of food, gas, and utilities?*** Here are the results:



The survey question for February 2023 is: ***Do you believe the Liberal government should do more to address the rising cost of living?*** Participate in the survey [here](#).

In a recent Householder, we asked constituents about their financial situation now versus two years ago. Here are the results of that survey:

