

# Kusie Update

February 2023



*Yorkville -- Photo credit: Evelyn Keele*

**Stephanie would love to feature your photos of the riding on the cover of the next Kusie Update!**

Please submit your photo(s) to: [stephanie.kusie.c1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephanie.kusie.c1@parl.gc.ca)

## MESSAGE FROM STEPHANIE

Dear Constituents of Calgary  
Midnapore,

Despite the recent deep freeze across Canada, Conservatives have kept the heat on this government.

In the House of Commons, we have applied pressure regarding the government's cozy relationship with McKinsey and company as well as Trudeau's failed catch-and-release bail policies. We launched yet another campaign to axe the punitive carbon tax, pushed hard against Trudeau's internet censorship [Bill C-11](#), and we are now working to get Canadians answers on how the Communist Party in Beijing [interfered with our last two federal elections](#). When Parliament resumes on March 6th, you can expect the focus to be on these issues and more as we head towards the next federal budget.

Every day, my colleagues and I hear from our constituents who tell us they are struggling to pay for their rent, their mortgages, and their gas and groceries. We are also hearing many heartbreaking stories about families who wonder when/if they will see their loved ones again -- as they wait daily for an update as to where their case is in the 2-million-person [backlog](#) at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. This Liberal government is failing Canadians at every turn and my team and I have been working extremely hard to advocate for our community and every family within it.

All constituents of Calgary Midnapore will soon receive a mailer which outlines some of the tax benefits you may be eligible for. Please have a look through it to ensure you get the most out of your 2022 tax return. There is also a section in this newsletter on the new Underused Housing Tax. It could have implications for you if you own, or share title on, more than one property.

I hope you will take a moment to review some of my recent videos (available on pages 10-11 of this newsletter), especially the [latest episode](#) of my new video series, *By the Numbers*. If you find it informative, please share it with your friends and family across Canada – I want as many citizens as possible to know how their tax dollars are really being spent.

Thank you for reading my newsletter and know that I will continue to keep you updated on all the work I am doing on your behalf.

Soon, we will say goodbye to snow and be able to welcome Spring. I hope it will be a season of renewal for all.

Sincerely,

**Stephanie**



## PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

### ELECTION INTERFERENCE

After being elected in 2015 Justin Trudeau was very clear about his intention to follow in his father's footsteps and strengthen relations between Canada and China. His admitted admiration of the country's "basic dictatorship" system raised serious concerns at the time, and those have only grown over the past eight years.



Which brings us to continued revelations of significant interference in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections by the People's Republic of China (PRC). Reports of money being funneled to candidates, and Canadians being intimidated by foreign powers need to be fully investigated. These are serious concerns and my Conservative colleagues and I have been raising this in the House of Commons and at

Parliamentary Standing Committees at every opportunity. The Leader of the Official Opposition has been calling for an inquiry into the situation for months. It seems the Commissioner of Elections has agreed and has [announced](#) she is launching an investigation.

Canada's election law is very clear: "No person who does not reside in Canada shall, during an election period, in any way induce electors to vote or refrain from voting for a particular candidate."

Yet the Prime Minister continues to try to avoid questions and dismisses concerns as ill-founded or even racist.

When questioned by the Official Opposition in the House of Commons in November, the Prime Minister stated he was never briefed on election candidates receiving money from Beijing. This even while Global News was reporting intelligence memos were given to Justin Trudeau months before, outlining how Beijing's Toronto consulate directed the funneling of a large sum of money to 11 candidates in the 2019 election.

The Prime Minister recently tried to imply the government was dealing with election interference, by pointing to a current National Security and Intelligence Committee study which he 'hopes' will launch a study "on how we can best protect our democracy in the coming months." However, as the [National Post](#) explained, "The parliamentary committee of four Liberals, one Bloc member, one New Democrat, an independent senator and two Conservatives is sworn to secrecy on the evidence it hears and, given its heavy government influence, it will not be viewed by the public as an impartial player."

When the former head of CSIS called for a public inquiry into election interference the Prime Minister labelled that suggestion as undermining democracy.

In another attempt to downplay or deflect concerns, the Prime Minister has told Canadians that they don't need to worry because the government's panel on election security, the Critical Election Incident

Public Protocol Panel, was watching for signs of election interference in 2021 and would have informed Canadians if anything was suspicious. And he has since appointed the former Trudeau Foundation CEO, Morris Rosenberg, to write the public report. The same Morris Rosenberg who, while heading the Foundation, was involved in facilitating a controversial \$200k donation from influential CCP official Bin Zhang, who was also intimately involved in Trudeau's 2016 billionaire cash-for-access scandal. (To their credit, this week the Foundation indicated they would be returning the money in question.)

As well, after [Global News alleged](#) in late February that Han Dong, the MP for Don Valley North was aided in the 2019 election by the Chinese consulate in Toronto, the Prime Minister [dismissed questions](#) about the situation, coming close to accusing media of racism for even daring to ask about it, and defensively claiming that those who are trying to get at the truth are damaging confidence in Canada's democratic institutions.

Canadians have fought and died to protect our democracy. The Prime Minister is wrong to treat this so cavalierly.

Revelations from Top Secret intelligence and national security documents in the Globe and Mail on February 22nd, 2023, are deeply disturbing and must be taken extremely seriously. It is increasingly clear that Communist Party (CCP) agents have been interfering in our elections. They are operating here on Canadian soil, coercing people to go back to the People's Republic of China (PRC) by threatening their families in the PRC. No Canadian, regardless of where they or their families came from, should be subjected to pressure and intimidation from foreign powers – especially by authoritarians like the CCP.

Conservatives having been taking these reports of alleged interference seriously and will continue to demand honest answers from this government. Elections Canada has the power right now to investigate and prosecute violations of elections law, including foreign interference. They should work with CSIS, the RCMP and security services to do this.

Although the Leader of the NDP, Jagmeet Singh, claims he wants to see a full inquiry into the situation, his MPs continue to block efforts to call key witnesses at the expanded [Election Interference study](#) at the Standing Committee on

[Procedure and House Affairs](#). Conservatives will continue to use the tools at our disposal to find out what happened, and who knew what, when. We will also continue to advocate for a foreign agents registry to be established in Canada. This would require all persons or entities working on behalf of foreign governments to declare any activities intended to influence Canadian policies, officials or politicians.

It's long past time for action.



*11Poilievre calls for transparency.*

## RECENT INCURSIONS INTO CANADIAN AIRSPACE



*2Photo Credit: Randall Hill/Reuters*

In February, there were four unauthorized incursions into North American airspace, including two confirmed incidents where Canada's airspace was violated.

These have all resulted in shoot downs, beginning with the downing of the Beijing Communist Party surveillance balloon off the coast of South Carolina, followed by the shoot down of unidentified objects over Alaska, the Yukon and Lake Huron.

These incursions pointed to Canada's vulnerabilities after eight years of Justin

Trudeau's failures to protect us. He has failed to upgrade our early warning systems, to counter foreign interference, to properly fund the Canadian Forces and also failed to acquire modern fighter aircrafts. This Liberal government is making Canadians less safe.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will call for strong action to counter such threats with a stronger military, better intelligence and strengthened alliances with fellow democracies.

## GROWING CONCERNS AT ROXHAM ROAD

With last year's surge of unlawful border crossings south of Montreal at Roxham Road, as well as reports that authorities in New York State are facilitating the transport of migrants to the Canada-US border, there has been renewed media and political attention on the issue. Justin Trudeau has broken our immigration system - under his government immigration backlogs are larger than they have ever been and [his own comments](#) have encouraged people to "skip the Immigration line" and cross the border at places like Roxham Road.

Justin Trudeau has utterly failed to address this problem. He has failed to work with our American partners to find a resolution and because of his failures, people are risking their lives trying to make it to these uncontrolled crossings in the middle of winter, instead of going through the safe, lawful process to apply for asylum.

Conservatives will fix what Trudeau has broken. In addition to [calling for the closure of Roxham Road within 30 days](#),



Justin Trudeau  
@JustinTrudeau

Officiel du gouvernement - Canada

To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength [#WelcomeToCanada](#)

1:20 PM · Jan 28, 2017

- We will prioritize the renegotiation of the Safe Third Country Agreement with the Americans
- We will eliminate the Liberal immigration backlog so that people aren't incentivized to make the dangerous decision to cross at places like Roxham Road.

## UNDERUSED HOUSING TAX

The Underused Housing Tax was brought forward by the Liberal government in December 2021, via Bill [C-8](#). Although it was sold by the Liberal government as being a tool to help address the growing problem of available housing, **there are some aspects of it which apply to Canadian owners**. CRA outlines the requirements and exemptions [here](#), but if you have any concerns about whether you are affected by the UHT, contact CRA or your financial institution or advisor.



As Bruce Ball, of Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) of Canada explains in a recent [article](#) “You can't assume that the UHT only applies to non-residents and you don't have to worry about it. If an individual holds residential property otherwise than in their own name, they may be required to file a report or risk a \$5,000 or higher penalty.”

For some Canadians who have helped children with an initial mortgage, co-ownership of a house or condo may be considered a partnership under the *Underused Housing Tax* and thus require filing a report. This may not mean the tax would have to be paid, as there are exemption requirements set out for a [specified Canadian partnership](#) under section 2 of the Act, but the [filing](#) may well be mandatory. An alternative scenario is parents who might own title for a residence where a child lives. In this case, the parents own the condo in trust for the child, and therefore are required to file a return, but would meet the exemption requirements for [specified Canadian trust](#) under section 2 of the Act.

There may also be implications for those who own vacation properties. As Ball notes, “Other areas of concern involving Canadians include farm properties, vacation properties held in a trust and trusts that are used as will substitutes. In all of these scenarios, tax may not be payable given underlying Canadian ownership, but a penalty will apply if a return including an exemption claim is not filed.”

Vacation properties owners may need to file returns if the property is owned through a private corporation, trust or partnership. The [regulations](#) to the Act outline exemptions and indicate the prescribed areas of Canada (and the prescribed conditions).

The CPA also discusses the issue of [Partnership versus co-ownership considerations](#). As the Vice-President of Taxation explains, “If an owner owns a residential property with other owners, special attention should be paid to determine if a partnership exists. In the case of individuals who are Canadians, the existence of a partnership may be the deciding factor to determine whether a UHT return must be filed as Canadian individuals holding a property as co-owners should generally be

excluded owners. In Canada, a partnership generally exists where there is a relationship between two or more persons carrying on a business, with or without a written agreement, to make a profit.”

**The government is requiring affected owners to complete and file the 9-page [Underused Housing Tax return](#) for each residential property owned in Canada on December 31.** There may also be a requirement to pay the Tax and there are significant penalties for failing to file on time: **affected owners who are individuals are subject to a minimum penalty of \$5,000 and affected owners that are corporations are subject to a minimum penalty of \$10,000.**

Conservatives disagreed with the legislation and voted against C-8. (The voting record can be found [here](#).) The UHT was also challenged at the Committee level as property taxation historically falls under provincial jurisdiction and some expert witnesses questioned whether it would withstand a court challenge. Additionally, the Parliamentary Budget Officer reviewed the financial implications of the Tax and questioned whether it would actually accomplish its intended goal. That report can be found [here](#).)

In terms of the requirement to file an annual UHT return, the Leader of the Official Opposition has also made it very clear that “Canadians’ interactions with government should not be onerous or frustrating” and a priority of a Conservative government would be reducing red tape for both individuals and businesses.

As the Shadow Minister stated in a recent press release: “Red tape is frustrating and costly — it makes our country less competitive, and our citizens less successful. But the Liberals continue to increase the size and cost of government while creating more regulations that make life even more expensive. “Conservatives are committed to cutting red tape, introducing a pay-as-you go law requiring an equal amount of savings for any new government expenditure, and we will remove the gatekeepers so we can make life more affordable and put Canadians back in control of their lives.”

## IN THE RIDING

### VALENTINES FOR SENIORS

For Valentine’s Day my office partnered with Le Roi Daniels School in Fairview to bring Valentine’s cards to residents of the AgeCare Midnapore facility. As a result, over 250 seniors received handcrafted Valentine’s wishes and cards.

This annual event has seen over a thousand seniors in Calgary Midnapore receive some Valentine’s joy and a reminder that they are loved and never alone. Our seniors built the very communities and city which we know and love today. It is vitally important for students to be reminded of this and be able to show their gratitude for seniors in their lives.



Thank you to all staff and students at Le Roi Daniels School for your participation in this event. Your contribution made an impact on every resident and staff of AgeCare Midnapore. And as one individual put it: “This means more than you can even imagine.”

### ACADIA WINTER CARNIVAL

Stephanie was thrilled to see so many families take in the festivities at the Acadia Community Association’s Winter Carnival! There were games, prizes, crafts, a bake sale, and glitter tattoos. Even Anna and Elsa from Disney’s *Frozen* made an appearance!

Stephanie enjoyed catching up with Acadia residents and board members – and meeting their little ones as well.

This Carnival would not have been possible without hardworking volunteers. Thank you, Acadia CA, for your dedication to bringing our community together. Stephanie looks forward to seeing you again soon!



### SHADOW MINISTRY UPDATE

Stephanie has been working hard as Shadow Minister for Treasury Board by monitoring how the Liberal Government continues to spend your tax dollars and holding them accountable in the House of Commons.

This past month she has been focusing on scrutinizing the government for their contracts with McKinsey & Company. So far, Conservatives on the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO) have questioned former Global Managing Partner of McKinsey, Dominic Barton; The Minister of Public services and Procurement; and the President of the Treasury Board.



Federal Government Consulting Contracts Awarded to McKinsey & Company

Contrats de consultation octroyés par le gouvernement fédéral à McKinsey & Company

Despite the hard work, there are still a number of important questions that remain, including why the government can’t confirm exactly how much taxpayer money they have given to McKinsey; why the Liberals are so reliant on consultants rather than the public service Canadians already pay

for; and whether personal connections were involved in the sudden spike on contracts under the liberals.

As documents and information continue to pour in on these questionable contracts, Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will keep working to get answers for Canadians.

## TRUDEAU CONTINUES TO DISRESPECT TAXPAYERS



As a Conservative, and as the Shadow Minister for Treasury Board, Stephanie believes vehemently that Canadians have the right to know how their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent.

Like so many Canadians, Stephanie was deeply troubled to see the gargantuan bill for Trudeau's delegation to London last fall to attend Her Late Majesty's funeral. Reports show a charge of \$6,000 per night for "the River Suite". To date, the government has refused to tell Canadians who stayed in the luxurious suite, which costed more than the average renter pays in three months. They have only provided redacted documents which once again demonstrates the lack of transparency of this so-called "sunny ways" Prime Minister.

Stephanie does not accept this and will continue to push for the answers that taxpayers deserve. At an upcoming OGGO Committee meeting, Stephanie will table a motion asking for a person-by-person breakdown of government expenditure, including how much each individual spent on accommodation, travel costs, food, alcohol and drinks. Stephanie will be requesting this information be provided without redactions, by March 6<sup>th</sup>. Read more here: TrueNorth: "[MP tables motion for feds to show receipts from trip to Queen Elizabeth's funeral](#)"

## CASEWORK CORNER

It's tax time! Here is some information to help you prepare:

- CRA has clear guidelines about who should file taxes. If you are unsure this site will help: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/income-tax/personal-income-tax/who-should-file-tax.html>
- Here is some additional information about filing for yourself or if you are filing for someone who is deceased. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/you-have-file-a-return.html>
- **Failing to file your taxes could affect other income that you receive from the government such as your GST, carbon tax rebate and your Child Tax benefits.**
- Did you know that if you separate from your partner, you have 90 days to let CRA know about



your change in marital status? This is especially important if you are receiving Child benefits. This is a common mistake that can result in a debt and a discontinuance of benefits as there is a change to the income calculations. You can inform the CRA of your separation here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/update-your-marital-status-canada-revenue-agency.html>

- Some Canadians don't feel confident filing their own taxes. If you are a senior or are struggling to find a tax preparer that will help with low income filing please see a list of options here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program.html>
- Our office is available to help with specific case inquiries only -- not general issues with CRA. We work with a small team called the Problem Resolution Program and can help when there is a delay in receiving a decision from CRA on a file that you have sent. Unfortunately we are *not* able to help with amounts owing that have gone to collections unless it is a child tax issue that needs our help in providing documentation to CRA.
- As always, do not ignore letters from CRA.
- Be aware of scam calls and check your online CRA MyAccount to verify that they are trying to reach you. You can also call back the main line to verify that someone is legitimately trying to reach you. CRA will typically always contact you via mail.

## STEPHANIE'S LATEST VIDEOS

- [After 8 years...](#)
- [Who are Canadians expected to believe?](#)
- [Liberals aren't supporting public servants and abstain on C-290](#)
- [Stephanie Kusie grills Immigration Minister at OGGO Committee](#)
- [Kusie on McKinsey contracts: What exactly are we paying for?!](#)
- [The Liberal government is always there for their friends at McKinsey](#)
- [Stephanie Kusie grills President of the Treasury Board at OGGO Committee](#)
- [Liberals love to reward THEIR friends... with YOUR money](#)
- [Speaking with the media regarding federal contracts with McKinsey & Company](#)
- [Kusie on federal contracts with McKinsey: "Call in the auditors!"](#)
- [What are the Liberals hiding when it comes to its relationship with McKinsey and Company?](#)



*Featured video: "By the Numbers: Liberal Failures in Defence Procurement"*

- [Stephanie Kusie speaks on Bill C-35 \(An Act respecting early learning and childcare in Canada\)](#)
- [Who's actually running the show in Canada?](#)
- [MP Stephanie Kusie on CTV's Power Play, discussing McKinsey contracts](#)

## MONTHLY SURVEY

“CRA commissioner Bob Hamilton told MPs in late January that ‘it wouldn’t be worth the effort’ to review and try to recover every dollar of \$15.5 billion in Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) payments recently flagged by the auditor general.” ([Montreal Gazette, Feb. 8, 2023](#))



Stephanie would like to hear from you! **Do you think it’s “worth the effort” for the CRA to at least try to recover Justin Trudeau’s \$15 billion wage subsidy overpayments?**

**[Click here to participate in this month’s survey and be entered into a draw to win a Parliament of Canada water bottle.](#)**

Below are the results from Stephanie’s February survey. Thank you to all who weighed in!

