

# Kusie Update

March 2023



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,*

Spring has sprung! I hope this season of new life and renewal is rejuvenating for you after what has been a long and hard winter for many.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to rage on and constituents of Calgary Midnapore are feeling the pinch more than ever when buying groceries, fueling up our cars, and heating our homes. I have heard

from many who are struggling to provide for themselves, including expectant mothers and seniors. It's heartbreaking. Myself and my Conservative colleagues have been relentless in calling on the Liberal government to cancel its plans to increase taxes on Canadians, but they did not listen. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, Justin Trudeau proceeded with his plan to increase the carbon tax as well as his excise tax on alcohol. I wish it were an April Fool's joke but no... Trudeau really did that. This federal government has become shockingly disconnected from the needs of Canadians and has failed to show compassion to the millions of families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Budget 2023, which was unveiled in late March, did not give me hope for any kind of return to a balanced budget. Rather than showing fiscal restraint, the Liberals have proposed \$43.9 BILLION in new spending. Conservatives will vote against this Budget in Parliament as it did not meet our criteria for support. Conservatives advocated for a plan to:

- Bring home powerful paycheques with lower taxes and scrap the carbon tax so hard work pays off again.
- Bring home lower prices by ending inflationary debt and deficits that drive up inflation and interest rates.
- Bring homes people can afford by removing government gatekeepers to free up land and speed up building permits.

We will continue to fight for all of these things!

As part of my role as Shadow Minister for Treasury Board, I continue to release new episodes of my video series, *By the Numbers* -- including my latest episode on the [PBO's Report on Supplementary Estimates](#). (It may sound boring to some, but the devil is in the details, let me assure you!).

Unfortunately in late March, the terrible online censorship Bill C-11 passed through the House of Commons ([thanks to the NDP and Block who voted alongside the Liberals](#)). Conservatives, and thousands of concerned Canadians, fought against this Bill tooth and nail -- but as usual, the Trudeau Liberals show little to no regard as to what Canadians have to say. The Bill has now returned to the Senate. You may wish to [contact Senators](#) to express your views (more on C-11 in this newsletter).

I understand how difficult it is for Canadians to stay positive during this period of hardship, but I want you to know I am in your corner. I will continue to advocate for you and my team is here to help assist you. May the season of Easter help give hope to those whose hearts are weary and burdened.

All my best,

*Stephanie*

## PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

### Budget 2023 – Pouring fuel on the inflationary fire

In the weeks leading up to the release of Budget 2023, the Liberal government signaled an intent to rein their spending. In fact, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland promised Canadians:

“That is one of our primary goals in this year’s Budget. Not to pour fuel on the fire of inflation. So, in our Budget, we will exercise fiscal restraint.”

However, the Liberals are asking Canadians to give them another **\$43.9 billion** this year.

Only a Liberal-NDP government would see a \$43.9 billion ask as “showing fiscal restraint”. If nothing else, the fact that Canadians will be footing the bill for an 80% increase on debt interest alone – to \$44 billion - should be enough proof that we can’t ‘spend ourselves rich’. We will be spending almost as much on debt interest as we are on health care.

Budget 2023 proves once again that the Liberals are unable to responsibly manage the public purse.



Their out-of-control inflationary spending is forcing Canadians to rely on food banks for the first time in their lives. It has put them in a position where they cannot afford to buy a home --- or keep the one they’re in. Canadians are skipping meals and turning off the heat in their houses. This cannot continue. It’s long past time to reverse inflationary deficits, cut taxes, and end their war on work.

In comparison, Conservatives want to see workers bring home more of what they earn.

As Shadow Minister for Treasury Board, part of Stephanie’s job is to watch how taxpayer funds are being spent. Like the \$100M in contracts they awarded to their friends at McKinsey; the \$93,000 that the Housing Minister gave to a company connected to a former senior staffer;...or the \$22,790 that the Minister of International Trade gave her to friend for PR tips. Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will continue to call out the Liberals for outsourcing contracts, rather than using the public servants that Canadians already pay for.

She will also be working to prioritize value for money. The minimal reductions to their outsourcing budget proposed for 2023 by this government are simply not enough. Spending over \$20 Billion per year on consultants to do the work that our public servants are equipped to do is completely unacceptable.

The Liberals enjoy pointing to their charts, graphs, and buzzwords - which are meaningless to most Canadians who are focused on surviving this cost-of-living crisis. They pat themselves on the back for all the things they are yet to deliver, completely ignoring the fact that their failed fiscal management style has pushed Canadians to the absolute brink of despair.

In Budget 2023, the Liberals have done exactly what they said they wouldn’t do... they’ve poured fuel on the fire of inflation. Only a common-sense Conservative government will be able to put it out.

## Carbon Tax increase

Justin Trudeau *claims* to understand that Canadians are suffering economically, while he allows the price of virtually everything to increase yet again. And the [Parliamentary Budget Officer](#) confirmed for the second time that the carbon tax will leave most Canadians with less going forward, not more as the Prime Minister wants us to believe. As PBO analysts stated: "Most households will see a net loss, paying more in the federal fuel charge and GST, as well as receiving lower incomes, compared to the Climate Action Incentive payments they receive and lower personal income taxes they pay due to lower incomes."

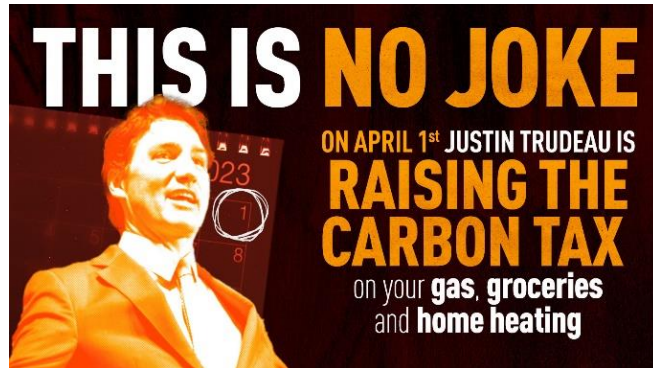
On April 1st, the Liberal carbon tax will be increased to \$65/tonne (14 cents per litre) meaning that the price of gasoline, home heating and other fuels will see a corresponding increase. This annual increase is another step in the Liberal goal to triple the tax and bring it to \$170/ tonne by 2030.

Stephanie has spoken in the House of Commons many times about the challenges being faced by her constituents – and Canadians – as a result of the Liberals' irresponsible spending and high taxes.

She and her Official Opposition colleagues have attempted numerous times to have the Liberals rescind – or at least pause – the carbon tax while Canadians are facing such a high cost of living. The issue has been raised repeatedly in Question Period, and has included many requests for the Liberals to cancel their planned increases to the tax. Conservatives also put forward motions to have it removed from home heating and food inputs. Unfortunately, **the Liberal/NDP coalition consistently voted against all of them.**

To help ease the tax burden on Canadians, Conservatives have called on the Liberal government to:

- ⇒ Cancel the carbon tax on food inputs and production (*Dec 8 2022*)
- ⇒ Exempt home heating fuel from the carbon tax – (*Oct 20 2022*)
- ⇒ Eliminate the plan to triple the carbon tax (*Sept 27, 2022*)
- ⇒ Suspend the carbon tax (*June 7, 2022*)
- ⇒ Present a federal budget with no new taxes (*March 31, 2022*)
- ⇒ Postpone the 2021 increase of the carbon tax (and the alcohol escalator tax) (*Dec 7 2020*)
- ⇒ Repeal the carbon tax (*June 18, 2019*)
- ⇒ Eliminate the carbon tax on fuel (*June 7, 2019*)
- ⇒ Promise not to further raise taxes (*February 4, 2019*)
- ⇒ Eliminate the carbon tax (*Dec 4, 2018*)
- ⇒ Provide details on how much the proposed carbon tax will cost Canadian families (*June 14, 2018*)
- ⇒ Cancel plans for new taxes (*June 8, 2018*)
- ⇒ Provide data used by government to develop Budget 2018 which would indicate how much the federal carbon tax will cost Canadian families (*June 1, 2018*)
- ⇒ Specific request for: " the Department of Finance's documents titled "Impact of a carbon price on households' consumption costs across the income distribution" and "Estimating economic impacts from various mitigation options for greenhouse gas



emissions," and any other documents that calculate the cost of carbon taxes on Canadian workers, businesses, and families." (Feb 23, 2017)

Stephanie and the rest of the Official Opposition will continue to use the tools at their disposal to work on behalf of Canadians who can no longer afford the consequences of this Liberal government.

## Update on Excise Tax on alcohol

Notice another increase on the shelves for beer, wine, and spirits?

This is no April fool's joke. On April 1<sup>st</sup> the Liberal government increased the tax on alcoholic products once again under the 'Federal beverage alcohol duty.' This government has now increased the tax on *all* alcohol by a staggering 14.1% since 2017. That is on top of Canada's already G7 leading alcohol taxes, with as much as 80% of the cost of a single bottle of alcohol being taxes, according to Spirits Canada.

Earlier in March the House of Commons voted in favour of a Conservative motion calling on the government to: "cancel its April 1, 2023 tax increase on beer, wine and spirits." While our motion passed and ultimately played a role in pressuring the government to cap the tax at a 2% increase for the 2023/24 year (instead of the planned 6.3% increase) Stephanie and her colleagues are not satisfied.



By freezing the increase at 2% for one year – rather than eliminating it entirely - the Prime Minister has effectively disregarded the will of Parliament and has left small business owners, breweries, wineries and all Canadians with no guarantee that his government will not raise the tax once again in 2024 or later. Stephanie's colleague and fellow Calgary MP Pat Kelly introduced a Private Members Bill in 2022 which would change that. C-266 would amend the *Excise Tax Act, 2001*, to repeal sections of the act that call for annual adjustments to the taxes imposed on beer, malt liquor, spirits and wine.

Stephanie looks forward to voting in favour of this bill once it comes up for debate.

## Update on Censorship Bill C-11

Constituents continue to express their concerns about the implications of the Liberal's C-11. Stephanie has made her opposition to this legislation very clear in several constituency communications, including:

[June-2022-Householder-E.pdf](#) and

[Kusie-Update JUNE-2022-1.pdf](#)

It was also discussed during her virtual town hall with guest MP Melissa Lantsman on November 14th 2022, where constituents had the opportunity to ask questions directly of both Stephanie and the Deputy Leader.

As a brief summary, after hearing testimony from more than 130 digital experts, Canadian YouTubers, Indigenous creators, and TikTokers, the Senate introduced several amendments to C-11, including a

small one that would make sure some user-generated content would be excluded. The Conservative Official Opposition was still opposed to the legislation itself because, ultimately, with or without the amendment, under Bill C-11, the CRTC would still be able to compel platforms to promote CRTC-approved 'Canadian' content.

Both the amendments, and the bill itself, came up for a vote at Third and final reading in the House of Commons on March 30th, 2023. The Liberals and NDP joined together to accept some of the amendments but ultimately rejected several others.

Because many of the Senate's amendments were rejected by the government, Senators must now debate and either accept or reject what the House of Commons has sent back to them. This is expected to happen mid-April. The Senate has indicated it will essentially accept all the changes the government has made to the amendment list, but Conservatives hope the public will continue to make their opposition to C-11 known.



Stephanie will keep constituents updated on this important issue as more information becomes available.

### Increased crime and the need for Bail Reform

Canadians are watching in horror as violent crime becomes more and more prevalent in their cities. A teenager was recently stabbed to death at a Toronto subway station, a police officer was stabbed in Louiseville, Quebec, and just this week, at least three people were stabbed and a fourth assaulted in an attempted robbery in Calgary.



[Violent crime has increased by 32%](#) and gang-related murders have doubled during the eight years since Justin Trudeau took office.

Conservatives believe much of this violence could be prevented with stronger bail conditions. Canadians recently learned that [In Vancouver alone, the same 40 criminals have been arrested 6,000 times!](#)

This is unacceptable.

Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities. This Conservative proposal uses a common-sense approach to keep some of the most dangerous criminals behind bars, making our streets safer.

A Poilievre government will:

- ✓ bring back mandatory jail time for serious violent crimes that were repealed by the Liberals;
- ✓ crack down on Justin Trudeau's easy access to bail in Bill C-75 that makes these tragedies more likely; and

- ✓ bring in bail rules that will ensure serious, repeat, violent offenders remain behind bars as they await trial.

A Conservative government will do what is necessary to keep violent criminals where they belong – behind bars.

## Accountability and transparency a must for all Financial Institutions

Stephanie was recently selected to serve on the Executive of the Canadian Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

She is honoured to join other members of this Network who are working to strengthen accountability.

"I am honoured to have been selected to serve on the Executive of the Canadian Chapter of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

I will do my best, relying on my formal business education and my international experience, to help fulfil the Network's mandate of **increasing accountability and transparency for Financial Institutions**. These objectives are more important than ever, both domestically and internationally."

**STEPHANIE KUSIE**  
MP CALGARY MIDNAPORE



## Update on the Underused Housing Tax

In her previous [e-newsletter](#), Stephanie alerted constituents to the impacts of the UHT on Canadians. While the overall requirements haven't changed, the Liberals *have* agreed to extend the reporting deadline to the end of October. CRA provided the following [information](#) in late March:

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) understands that there are unique challenges for affected owners in the first year of the Underused Housing Tax Act (UHTA) administration.

To provide more time for affected owners to take necessary actions to comply, the Minister of National Revenue is providing transitional relief to affected owners. **The application of penalties and interest under the UHTA for the 2022 calendar year will be waived for any late-filed underused housing tax (UHT) return and for any late-paid UHT payable, provided the return is filed or the UHT is paid by October 31, 2023.**

This transitional relief means that **although the deadline for filing the UHT return and paying the UHT payable is still April 30, 2023, no penalties or interest will be applied for UHT returns and payments that the CRA receives before November 1, 2023.**

For more information on the Underused Housing Tax, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/excise-taxes-duties-and-levies/underused-housing-tax.html>

## IN THE RIDING

### International Women's Day Celebration

Stephanie was thrilled to be invited to celebrate International Women's Day with the ladies of PIA ([Portail de l'Immigrant Association](#)) at their Gala de Reconnaissance! She enjoyed engaging with franco-Albertans and many new Canadians – and also enjoyed taking in all of the music and culture!



### Silverado Community Association AGM

Stephanie recognizes the importance of our local Community Associations and the work they do to make our riding an even better place to live. She was glad she could catch up with the Silverado CA at their 2023 AGM and congratulate Barbra Deskin on being re-elected as President! Thank you to all the volunteers on the Silverado CA -- and on all of the CA's across Calgary Midnapore -- who are giving of their time.



## HAVE YOUR SAY

### National Seniors Council Launches Public Consultation on Aging at Home –

Canadians are living longer and healthier lives than previous generations and many want to live independently, in their homes they built, in the communities that support them, for as long as possible. There is currently a public consultation being conducted by the National Seniors Council with the goal of collecting information to support policies which will help Canadians age closer to home and family by supporting access to home care.

The consultation is available until April 14th, 2023 and is open to all Canadians – older adults, caregivers, those who have experience or expertise in working with older adults, and individuals representing the diverse voices in our communities. Stephanie encourages everyone

Information on how to participate can be found [here](#).

### How can Canada's immigration system work better – for everyone?

As international migration represented more than 95% of Canada's population growth last year, recent polls have shown that 75% of Canadians worry the plan to hike immigration even further would lead to excessive demand for housing, health and social services.



Constituents of Calgary Midnapore can voice their opinion on the Liberal government's current policies, and what the future of immigration in Canada should look like, through the public consultation currently being conducted.

Comments can be submitted [here](#) until April 27th.

## SHADOW MINISTRY UPDATE

Stephanie has been busy with her role of Shadow Minister for Treasury Board this past Month. Meetings on the McKinsey & Company contracts have continued at the House of Commons Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO). Members heard from some important witnesses with



the hope of getting some answers on why these contracts increased so significantly under the Liberal Government.

Individuals that appeared at OGGO include the Minister of Public Safety, the Minister of National Defence and a Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company. Unfortunately, there is still a long way to go as many of the documents we requested from the government are

coming in heavily redacted, or not at all. Members of the Committee are hoping to raise this issue when they return after the Easter break in a continued effort to compel the departments to provide the requested documents.

Stephanie also pressed the President of the Treasury Board at OGGO on the Supplementary Estimates C this past month. Despite the concerns raised by Opposition Members on outsourcing, the government asked for \$800 million dollars to pay for professional and special services for only a five-week period.

On March 28th, the Liberal government tabled their 2023 Budget. Stephanie was disappointed to still see billions being spent on outsourcing work that public servants could be doing. Despite their plan to cut \$7 billion in outsourcing over five years, the Liberals will still be spending over \$20 billion in outsourcing next year. This is only helping the well-connected high-priced consultants - not the Canadian taxpayer.

Additionally, Stephanie and her colleague Damien Kurek also brought an important issue to the attention of The President of the Treasury Board regarding pensions for firefighters at the Department of National Defence (DND). They wrote to the President of the Treasury Board asking that DND Firefighters be eligible for their pension after 25 years' service which is consistent with other firefighter services across the country and the Armed Forces that they serve with. You can read the full Letter [HERE](#).

Stephanie will continue her hard work this spring on the Treasury Board file and holding the government accountable as to how they spend your hard-earned tax dollars.

## STEPHANIE'S LATEST VIDEOS

[My reaction to Budget 2023](#)

[People Before Politics Episode 11: Stephanie Kusie](#)

[Team Trudeau can't answer simple questions...but they sure know how to spend taxpayers' money!](#)

[Parliamentary Traditions](#)

[MP Stephanie Kusie Questions Minister Jaczek at the Government Operations and Estimates Committee](#)

[It's time for the Liberal government to reign in their inflationary spending!](#)

[Canadians are sick of footing the bill for Liberal incompetence.](#)

[Canadian public servants deserve better](#)

[Time to let the sunlight in!](#)

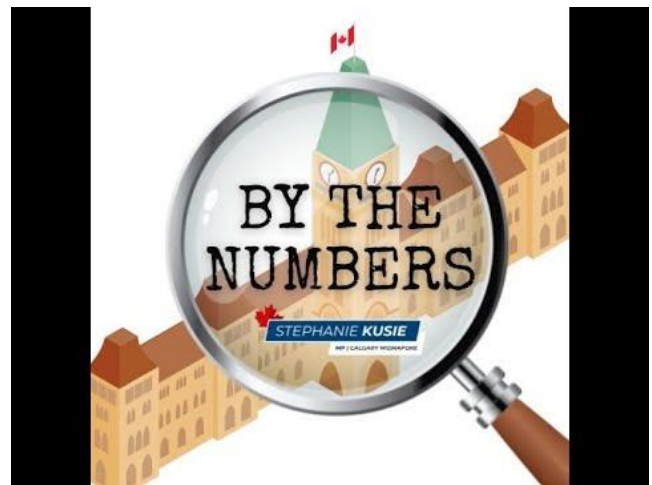
## MONTHLY SURVEY

Please consider taking part in this month's survey question. Now that Budget 2023 has been released, Stephanie would like to know...

**Are you concerned by Justin Trudeau's failure to balance the budget and leave Canadians with \$44 billion in interest payments on his debt?**

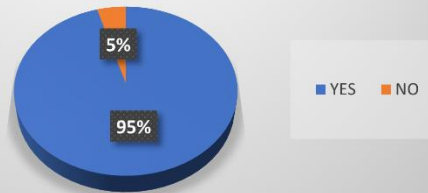
[Click here](#) to weigh in!

Last month, Stephanie asked constituents: **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?** Here are the overwhelming results of that survey:



*FEATURED VIDEO: By the Numbers – Questionable Contracts with McKinsey & Company*

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?



Stephanie promised one lucky constituent would win a House of Commons water bottle for participating in the survey. We are happy to share that **JOHN C.** was randomly selected and will receive his prize in the mail in the coming days.

