

# ***Kusie Update***

**April 2023**



Submit your photos of the riding to:

[Stephanie.Kusie.C1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Kusie.C1@parl.gc.ca)

## MESSAGE FROM STEPHANIE



*Dear Constituents of Calgary Midnapore,*

As I write to you, we are in the middle of a five-week Parliamentary sitting stretch in Ottawa, and I can tell you there has been no shortage of debate in the House of Commons during this session!

Foreign Interference remains top of mind as more and more information is leaked from CSIS officials. Whether it's election interference, accusations surrounding [\(former\) Liberal MP Han Dong and alleged](#)

[actions related to the detention of the two Michael's](#), the [suspicious donation to the Trudeau Foundation](#), or the disturbing news that [Conservative MP Michael Chong and his family have been targeted and intimidated by the Communist Party in Beijing](#), the Liberals' affiliations with the government in China are too numerous to continue denying. I outlined my grave concerns in the House this week – I encourage you to [watch \(and share!\) the speech](#). All of these allegations will continue to be discussed in the Chamber and at Committee and you can count on Conservative MPs to push for the answers that you deserve.

As if that wasn't enough, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) was on strike for nearly two weeks and the union representing the CRA only reached a tentative deal with the federal government on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Federal public servants being away from their desks meant even more disruptions for Canadians across the country who are seeking to renew their passport, receive their tax refund, or get answers from Immigration about when they will see their loved ones. As the Shadow Minister for Treasury Board, I am deeply concerned by this government's inability to provide basic services to Canadians and I will continue to hold them to account.

You can expect the remaining weeks of Parliament to be action-packed as the Liberal government, with the help of their friends in the NDP, will attempt to push through their desired legislation before the summer recess. It is a privilege to be your voice in Ottawa and you can rely on me to honour our shared values in Calgary Midnapore when I evaluate the legislation before me.

You should soon receive a mailer at your house with lots of information about what I've been working on. Please consider filling out the comment card and mailing it back to me so I know where you stand on the issues of the day. I'd also appreciate it if you would [participate in my monthly survey](#). Hearing directly from you helps me when making decisions on your behalf.

As always, I look forward to returning home to Calgary for the summer and reconnecting with constituents on Canada Day, at pancake breakfasts and other local celebrations. In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather and longer days.

All my best,

*Stephanie*

## PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

### PSAC strike

After nearly two weeks on strike, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) reached a tentative agreement with the federal government for 120,000 workers to return to work with a 12.6% wage increase over four years. A remaining 35,000 CRA workers represented by the Union of Taxation Employees (UTE) also reached a near identical tentative deal with the federal government on May 4<sup>th</sup> to put the largest Public Service strike in 40 years to an end.

As the strike took place during the critical time for individuals and businesses to file their taxes (and the government made it clear the filing deadline would not be extended), Justin Trudeau's incompetence means that Canadians and small business owners were unable to speak to the CRA if they had questions about preparing their returns.



While there may now be a deal for some workers, Justin Trudeau's incompetence has created larger backlogs for passports, immigration, veteran services, and other important government programs that Canadians rely upon. Constituents across the riding have expressed frustration and heartache having to wait months, and sometimes years, to receive answers from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship about when they will see their loved ones -- and due to the Liberal

government's inability to reach a deal with the public service (which they had two years to do), the waiting list has grown longer. Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues find this unacceptable and have questioned the government repeatedly over the course of this strike.

Conservatives will bring back common sense to ensure that Canadian taxpayers are getting value for their money, which includes an effective, efficient, and motivated public service.

### Bill C-21 Update

Once again Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government are doubling down on their plans to attack legal law-abiding firearms owners, instead of going after the gangs and criminals which are causing the violence on our streets. In late April, Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino re-introduced eerily similar controversial amendments to Bill C-21 (*An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*). These amendments, which were

previously withdrawn in February after Parliamentarians and thousands of Canadians voiced their opposition, now seem to be back on the table.

The Liberals had two months to re-write their amendments and ensure that criminals, not law-abiding hunters, farmers, and Indigenous Canadians were being punished. They failed.



Minister Mendicino's "new" amendments are nothing more than a re-worded package from December that will harm legal firearm owners. To be clear, the "new" definition is the same as the old one and the hunting rifles previously targeted, will likely be added to the ban by the Liberal Firearms Advisory Panel. The amendments just confirm that when the Liberals say they are banning "assault-style firearms" they are still committed to ultimately banning hunting rifles and the way of life for many Canadians. Farmers, Indigenous Canadians, and hunters will not be fooled by the ministers' "new" statements or amendments.

For eight years, Justin Trudeau has made life easier for criminals to commit crime.

Bill C-5, the Liberal bill to repeal mandatory minimums for gun crimes, and Trudeau's Bill C-75 which made it easier for violent criminals to get bail are just two examples of Conservatives opposing this Liberal government's soft on crime agenda and standing up for your family's safety.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will continue to oppose this government's attacks on legal Canadian firearms owners. And a Poilievre government will do what is necessary to keep violent criminals where they belong – behind bars. We will do this by bringing back serious sentences for repeat violent offenders, and reverse Justin Trudeau's reckless bail policies. We will also stop the flow of illegal guns at their source and give the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) the resources they need to protect our borders.

While the Liberals are focused on confiscating firearms from law-abiding Canadians, Conservatives will continue advocating for common sense firearms policy and laws that will keep our country and communities safe.

### **Trudeau's online censorship bill passes**

After multiple iterations of the Bill, over two years of debate, and despite pushback from Canadian content creators and thousands of Canadians opposing this government's attempt to censor the internet, Bill C-11 officially became law in late April.

The Online Streaming Act (Bill C-11) will limit what Canadians view and listen to, and will also harm digital first creators, by limiting their success and ability to reach global audiences. This means that home-grown creative content in Canada will no longer succeed based on merit, but instead will only reach audiences if it meets the criteria set by bureaucrats from Ottawa. You can read more about C-11 in Stephanie's [January 2023 newsletter here](#).



This new law sets a dangerous precedent for the content Canadians are able to interact with and that is why at every step of the way Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues fought against this censorship. However, instead of listening and acting on the common-sense amendments made from our Conservative team in both

Chambers of Parliament (the House and the Senate), the Liberal-NDP coalition rejected our proposed changes, and ignored the voices of Canadians.

What's worse, is that the Liberal-NDP coalition restricted debate and silenced the duly-elected voices of all MP's. Just think -- if they have no problem censoring elected Members of Parliament, they will not blink an eye at silencing your voice.

That is why a Poilievre government will repeal Bill C-11 immediately and protect the individual rights and freedoms of *all* Canadians – not just those Justin Trudeau agrees with.

## IN THE RIDING

### Parliamentary Intern visits Calgary Midnapore

One of ten Parliamentary interns from across Canada, Sarah-Rollason Macaulay selected Stephanie's office to work in for her term with an Opposition MP, and has been enjoying her up-close look at the current Parliament and the daily work of a Member. Here's what she has to say about her experience thus far:

*The Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP) has been the experience of a lifetime for me. PIP is a non-partisan full time paid internship where interns work with both a government and an opposition MP. Working on both sides of the Parliamentary floor gives all of us interns a good overview of how different political parties work. Interns work on Committees, write speeches and op-eds, meet with stakeholders, etc. We also write a research paper on a topic on Canadian politics. It's a fascinating up-close look at what MPs do on a daily basis and how our federal government functions outside of a textbook.*



*I've found meeting with different stakeholders one of the most interesting parts of my role. These meetings allow me to see what the priorities are in different areas of our country and learn about new issues that I haven't really thought about before living in my own province.*

*I'm from Winnipeg and I wanted to learn about a different area of the country politically, as well as learn about the concerns of another province, so visiting the constituency is a special highlight for me. In my first office placement, I visited Halifax and now I was able to join Calgary MP Stephanie Kusie in her riding!*

*While in the constituency you get to see what an MP does in their riding and accompany them to meetings, tours, and events. I've been able to learn much more about the work that goes on in the riding and get an in-*

*depth look at how an office helps their constituents.*

*Being part of PIP has exposed me to different points of views and allowed me to get a deeper understanding of the differing issues people have in other parts of the country and how everything fits together to make Canada. If you are a recent university graduate who has an interest in politics and would like to know more, please don't hesitate to [reach out](#).*

*-Sarah Rollason-Macaulay*

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Parliamentary Internship Program.

## **SHADOW MINISTRY UPDATE**

Stephanie has been working hard as Shadow Minister for Treasury Board to hold the government to account. In addition to being the Conservative voice on the McKinsey contracts and the PSAC strike, Stephanie is also examining another important issue at Government Operations (OGGO) committee: Bill C-290, *An Act to Amend the Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*. This legislation aims to provide more effective measures to protect whistleblowers in the public service. She heard some invaluable testimony from former whistleblowers who faced severe retaliation for reporting unlawful activities. Stephanie and her colleagues are working towards a swift passage through the House of Commons for C-290 so that these updated protections are in place for public servants as soon as possible. For more information on this Bill, check out Stephanie's videos here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ao0d4gKHS0I&t=100s>
- <https://www.facebook.com/stephaniekusiepolitician/videos/1569040580283497>

## CASEWORK CORNER

As you likely know by now, the deadline to file and pay any amounts owing on your taxes was May 1st, 2023. Stephanie wants you to be aware of some possible issues/changes that could occur after an assessment.

### Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

This is a benefit designed to help families with the cost of raising their children however, like any benefit, the recipient must adhere to the guidelines set out by the government.

When it comes to the CCB, we often see issues stem from separation or divorce. The amount of the CCB will be calculated based on household income -- and when that changes, so does the amount you will receive.

This means that in a separation or divorce you must immediately notify CRA of your relationship status so that you do not end up in a situation of overpayment. We see lots of families in this situation and one parent, unfortunately, is typically given a large bill to repay. They can begin to take all or a portion of your benefit to repay the debt. If you find yourself in this situation, our office may be of help to find a solution with CRA on your behalf.

Please note that the CCB is reassessed in July and a new amount will be determined based on income changes and/or children aging out of the program.

### Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) repayment

If you owe money to the CRA, the agency has the ability to take any benefits to which you are entitled to pay down that debt faster. This can be your GST, your Climate Action Incentive Rebate, or your Canada Child Benefit. If this presents a hardship for you, please [contact the CRA](#) to request a lower percentage be taken, or to have the benefit restored (as long as you are making other arrangements). They will, at times, readjust the benefits for you.

### Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

The Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) is an income threshold benefit. It is specific to low-income seniors, however there are times when a lump sum amount (possibly after the death of a spouse or a cash-in of an RRSP or RRIF) can impact that amount and you will see that after your tax assessment, you lose the benefit for that year.



Should you require help or clarification, please contact Stephanie's Case Manager, Sarah Watson (remembering to include your full mailing address and a daytime phone number):

403-225-3480, ext. 1 OR [stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca)

## STEPHANIE'S LATEST VIDEOS

- [Will the Liberals ever stand up for freedom, democracy, and the rule of law?](#)
- [PSAC strike: Justin Trudeau's incompetence has brought us to this place](#)
- [It's time for Justin Trudeau to fix the public service that he broke!](#)
- [The largest public service strike in Canada's history is due to Justin Trudeau's incompetence.](#)
- [Canadians continue to suffer the consequences of Justin Trudeau's incompetence](#)
- [Stephanie Kusie delivers speech on Bill C-27](#)
- [Trudeau's failures have led to the largest public service strike in 40 years](#)
- [By The Numbers: Obsessed with Outsourcing](#)
- [PSAC strike: Trudeau's incompetence continues to hurt Canadians](#)

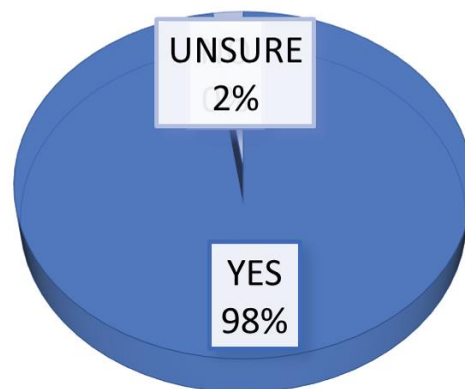


*[Featured Video: By the Numbers: Liberals living high on your dime](#)*

## MONTHLY SURVEY

In March, Stephanie asked constituents: ***Are you concerned by Justin Trudeau's failure to balance the budget and the resulting \$44 billion it is costing taxpayers just to pay the interest on the debt he has created?***

Here are the overwhelming results of that survey (at right):





**ENTER TO WIN A HOUSE OF COMMONS  
TRAVEL MUG BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS  
MONTH'S SURVEY:**

Question: *Experts are blaming Trudeau's catch and release crime policies on the 32% increase in violent crime in Canada over the last eight years. Do you agree?*

**[CLICK HERE TO ANSWER](#)**

