



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# STEPHANIE KUSIE

Member of Parliament  
Calgary Midnapore



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stephaniekusie



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

At the time this publication was being prepared, we are on day ten of the largest strike by public servants in Canada's history. I am very much hoping it is resolved by the time you read this newsletter, however I fear that many of you will have felt the repercussions of the loss of key federal services in the interim. My Conservative colleagues and I expect the Liberal government to work expeditiously—and fairly—to fix the problem they created. Despite spending twice as much—an additional \$21 billion—on the public service, the Prime Minister has still failed to avert this job action by 155,000 workers. Justin Trudeau had two years to negotiate an agreement and he failed. Now Canadians are paying for his mistakes and receiving poor services while backlogs grow.

Parliament is also debating and voting on the 2023 federal budget, which is big on spending and short on fiscal responsibility. I've included more on this on page 7 of this publication.

The election interference issue continues to grow as more information is steadily revealed,

*(MESSAGE—con't on page 4)*

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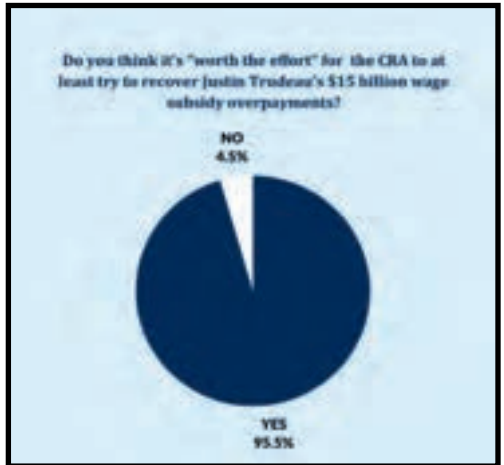
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**RIGHT:**

*The feedback from one of Stephanie's recent web surveys about wage subsidy overpayments is very clear. Please consider taking the time to fill out and return the reply card included in the middle of this publication to ensure Stephanie is aware of your concerns on some key issues. To subscribe to her e-newsletter, visit [stephaniekusiemp.ca](http://stephaniekusiemp.ca).*



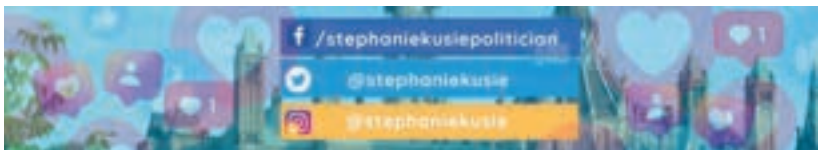


*(MESSAGE—con't from page 2)*

despite the Prime Minister's efforts to avoid independent scrutiny. I've summarized the highlights to date on the insert you will find in the centre of this newsletter, and will keep constituents updated through future information pieces including my regular e-newsletter. Unlike the publication you are currently reviewing (which can take five to six weeks to reach your mailbox from the time of creation) the *Kusie Update* communication piece allows me to share information on a more timely basis. If you would like to subscribe to it, you can do so at [www.stephaniekusiemp.ca](http://www.stephaniekusiemp.ca).

And finally, I am conducting another flag draw ahead of Canada Day. Entering is easy—just complete the reply card found in the centre of this publication and make sure to indicate you want to be included in the draw. Good luck!

*Stephanie*



# BILLS BEFORE PARLIAMENT

As of mid-April 2023, the following were included in the bills before the House of Commons. Progress of *all* legislation can be monitored at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca).

**C-314** Tabled by Conservative MP Ed Fast, this Private Member's Bill (PMB) would amend the Criminal Code to clarify that mental disorder is not a grievous and irremediable medical condition for which a person could receive medical assistance in dying. (*Current stage: Second Reading*)

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**C-324** Another Conservative PMB, which was successful in passing through the House of Commons, would amend the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* to expand the definition of *eligible farming machinery* and extend the exemption (from the carbon tax) for qualifying farming fuel to marketable natural gas and propane. (*Current stage: Second Reading in the Senate*)

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**C-11** *The Online Streaming Act* is days away from becoming law. Debated in both Houses of Parliament for more than a year, the legislation will impose rules on streaming services like Netflix and Spotify, to boost Canadian content, and gives the CRTC broad powers to enforce the Act. The Senate reviewed the Bill as passed by the House and found it needed multiple amendments. Unfortunately, the Minister of Canadian Heritage rejected some key amendments and the Liberals and NDP once again voted together to send C-11 *back* to the Senate, where the Liberals cut debate short and forced it through on April 27th. (*Current stage: Waiting Royal Assent*)

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**C-18** *An Act respecting online communications platforms that make news content available to persons in Canada* essentially will force internet giants like Google and Meta to negotiate deals to pay Canadian media companies for the content they link to and preview on their websites and

(*BILLS —con't next page*)

platforms. Although this Bill hasn't yet received Royal Assent, it is already generating pushback from these companies, with Google temporarily blocking news content from Canadian users earlier this year. *(Current stage: Senate Committee)*

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**C-318** This Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Conservative MP Rosemarie Falk, would help address the inequities in the parental benefit system. It proposes amending the Labour Code to allow a new 15-week EI benefit for adoptive and intended parents who are currently not eligible for maternity benefits. Having the opportunity to bond with a new child is just as important for adoptive families and this legislative would provide some financial support while doing so. *(Current stage: First Reading, House of Commons)*

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## **LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHT - C-323**

### ***An Act to amend the Excise Act (mental health services)***

Since the pandemic there has been a growing awareness of the rapidly increasing need for mental health supports in this country.

According to Health Canada statistics, nearly one-quarter of Canadians over the age of 15 self-report having unmet mental health needs.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues believe the services of a psychotherapist or a mental health counsellor are just as important to the health of Canadians and their

families as those of a nurse or family doctor.

She has heard from many constituents who would like to see all counselling and mental health services exempt from GST charges. Currently some services and providers are still being taxed, which passes an extra cost to those who need help the most.

Brought forward by the Shadow Minister for Health, Private

*(C-323—con't page 10)*



## **BUDGET 2023—No Path to Balance**

Justin Trudeau has delivered to Canadians what Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues had already expected in his 2023 financial plan by refusing to even utter the words of “a balanced budget.”

From “*the budget will balance itself*” in 2015, to a \$40.1 billion deficit in Budget 2023, Justin Trudeau has continued to make life more unaffordable for your family and neighbours in Calgary Midnapore. And now in the Liberals’ latest budget there is admittedly no path to balance. For the first time since forming government, the Liberals have communicated what Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre has been saying for years: this government has no plan to return Canada’s finances to a positive balance and will continue raising your taxes to cover his inflationary spending and debt.

Just last year the Deputy Prime Minister stated, while delivering Budget 2022 that, “(she was) absolutely determined that our debt-to-GDP ratio must continue to decline. Our deficits must continue to be reduced... This is our fiscal anchor. This is a line we shall not cross.”

*(BUDGET —con’t next page)*



**“A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL ONCE AGAIN MAKE THIS A COUNTRY WHERE HARD WORK PAYS OFF, WHERE PEOPLE KEEP MORE OF EVERY DOLLAR THEY EARN SO THAT THEY CAN GET AHEAD.**

**“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.”**

*The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Official Opposition*

*(BUDGET —con't from previous page)*

A line we shall not cross? It seems the Finance Minister has a rather short memory as Budget 2023 delivered a \$40 billion deficit and has ballooned Canada's federal debt to a staggering \$1.22 trillion. This translates to roughly \$81,000 per household in Canada. Justin Trudeau's government has no regard for your finances today, or your children and grandchildren's future finances. A Conservative budget would have ended the war on work and lowered taxes for workers and seniors, put an end to inflationary deficits which have driven up the cost of everything, and removed the gatekeepers standing in the way of building homes for Canadians.

While the Liberals are focused on putting Alberta's energy workers out of a job, Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues are determined to put you back in the driver's seat and on a road to prosperity once again.



# ELECTION INTERFERENCE

Conservatives are calling for a  
**NATIONAL  
—PUBLIC—  
INQUIRY**  
on Beijing's interference  
in Canada's elections.



After being elected in 2015 Justin Trudeau confirmed his intention to follow in his father's footsteps and strengthen relations between Canada and China. His admiration of the country's "basic dictatorship" system raised serious concerns at the time, and those have only grown given continuing revelations of significant interference in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections by the People's Republic of China (PRC). Reports of money being funnelled to candidates, and Canadians being intimidated by foreign powers need to be fully investigated. Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues have been raising this in the House of Commons and at Parliamentary Standing Committees at every opportunity.

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 has done his best to avoid questions on the issue, has dismissed concerns as ill-founded or even racist and, when he *finally* begrudgingly was forced to act, appointed long-time Trudeau friend David Johnston as a "Special Rapporteur" tasked with investigating these allegations.

**ELECTION—continued on next page**

# ENTER THIS YEAR'S DRAW FOR A CANADA FLAG!

In advance of Canada Day, I will be once again holding a draw for **50** Canada flags in June.

To participate, simply provide your name, address and email on the reply card at right and confirm you want to be entered in the draw by checking the question at bottom. (Note that only those entries which include a complete mailing address, and who are residents of Calgary Midnapore, will be added to the draw.) Reply cards must be mailed – postage free – to my office before **JUNE 23, 2023**. Winners will be notified via email and the flags will be available via for pick-up before Canada Day.

Good luck!



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## ***ELECTION—continued from previous page***

We already know that the communist regime in Beijing used donations to the Trudeau Foundation to try and influence the Prime Minister. Despite promises to refund the money once this was revealed, the Foundation was unable to find someone willing to accept the funds. And, just recently, the entire board and President and CEO of the Trudeau Foundation resigned, apparently due to unwillingness by the “old guard” to be transparent about the entire situation.

The Official Opposition called for an expansion of the Election Interference study at the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (including having the Prime Minister’s Chief of Staff appear), and will 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.

Canadians have fought and died to protect our democracy. It's long past time for this to be taken seriously by the Prime Minister.

# HAVE YOUR SAY:

Have you noticed an increase in your gas/grocery bills since the April 1st carbon tax increase?

- YES       NO       N/A

Do you agree with the Conservative plan to lower your taxes so you can bring home bigger paycheques?

- YES       NO       N/A

How do you feel Budget 2023 will impact your family?

- NEGATIVELY       POSITIVELY

As we head into summer, what are your biggest concerns?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- YES!** Please enter my name in Stephanie's 2023 draw for a Canada flag!

.....  
DETACH HERE  
.....



**STEPHANIE KUSIE, MP**  
**818 JUSTICE BUILDING**  
**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
**OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6**

## TAX INCREASE ON BEER, WINE AND SPIRITS

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

Sadly, this was no April fool's joke. On April 1<sup>st</sup> the Liberals 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.

They have ignored Canadians, business owners, and even Parliament itself with this tax increase. 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.*" The Liberals chose to ignore this and instead of simply cancelling the tax hike as directed, they only lowered the amount slightly. By directly disregarding the will of the House of Commons, Justin Trudeau has thumbed his nose at Canada's democratic system in favour of his own agenda.

Stephanie's colleague and fellow Calgary MP, Pat Kelly introduced a Private Members Bill in 2022 which would address this issue permanently by amending the Excise Act, 2001 to repeal sections that call for annual adjustments to the taxes imposed on beer, spirits and wine. You can read more about MP Kelly's Bill C-266 at <https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/44-1/c-266>.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Stephanie believes that all Canadians have a right to know not only where their tax dollars are going but also that they are being used appropriately, so she recently launched an informative new video series called “By the Numbers” in which she delves into major government spending and uncovers areas where the government has failed to put your hard-earned tax dollars to good use.

Each episode is approximately five minutes or less and available to watch on her YouTube channel ([youtube.com/StephanieKusieMP](https://youtube.com/StephanieKusieMP)) or at [StephanieKusieMP.ca](https://StephanieKusieMP.ca).

Some of the topics covered



already include: McKinsey & Company; Defence procurement; and an overview of Budget 2023.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues want Canadians to get more value for their tax dollars and will continue to hold the government accountable for its severe lack of fiscal responsibility.

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### *(C-323—con't from page 6)*

Member's Bill C-323 would force the government to remove the federal tax from services provided by a mental health counsellor or psychotherapist thereby relieving some of the financial burden Canadians are subject to from this Liberal government. Stephanie looks forward to continuing to support her Conservative colleague's bill, and hopes the Members of all other federal parties will see the merit in having this legislation become law.



## PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Stephanie has been working hard as Shadow Minister for Treasury Board. She has been focusing on several key issues over the past months, some of which are outlined below.

### **MCKINSEY & COMPANY**

In January, a CBC article revealed that since 2015, the Liberal government spent over \$100 million on consulting contracts with McKinsey & Company—over 50 times the amount under the Harper government. Given the firm’s close ties with the Liberal government, Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues called for hearings on the issue at the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO) to get to the bottom of this outlandish

spending. MP’s heard from many expert witnesses including four different Ministers, McKinsey & Company representatives, and former Global Managing Partner at McKinsey and former economic advisor to Justin Trudeau, Dominic Barton.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKE**

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 155,000 public servants started their largest strike in Canadian history, because the President of the Treasury Board was unable to strike a deal with the union representing these employees, the Public Sector Alliance of Canada (PSAC). This strike had momentous impacts on essential services for Canadians including applying for passports

*(PORTFOLIO —con’t page 14)*

## **CIVIX CANADA 2023**

In early April, Stephanie had the chance to speak with grade five and six students from Sundance School in participation with CIVIX Canada's annual Rep Day program.

She enjoyed speaking to students about how

she became involved in politics, her previous career as a diplomat for Global Affairs Canada, what an MP's role entails, and the importance of Canada's democracy. The kids initiated a great discussion about leadership and overcoming obstacles. Thanks to CIVIX Canada for bringing this program to students right here in Calgary Midnapore.



## **CASEWORK CORNER:**

At the time of writing in mid-April, the Public Sector Alliance of Canada (PSAC) has entered into the largest strike by Canadian public servants in 40 years. With one third of the Government of Canada's workers – over 155,000 individuals – on strike, services provided by CRA, IRCC, Passport Canada and Service Canada have come to a near standstill.

Two departments in particular

stand out – passport processing, and IRCC requests.

Phones remain unanswered leaving families country in Calgary Midnapore and across the country unable to obtain essential information from the government. Our office will continue to do everything we can to assist while this labour disruption goes on, however now that it has started, the number of backlogged cases



## MOTHER'S DAY Q&A VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

*"When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child."*

SOPHIA LOREN

Stephanie hears consistently about the pressures being placed on families during this cost-of-living crisis. Mothers shoulder many of these burdens and she felt it was important to provide moms across Calgary Midnapore the opportunity to share their unique concerns.

In this spirit, and in honour of Mother's Day, Stephanie hosted a virtual Town Hall with special guest MP Michelle Ferreri (Shadow Minister for Families, Children, and Social Development). The MPs appreciated connecting with all of these strong moms and will take their thoughts and feedback to the Leader of the Official Opposition. You can watch a recording of the discussion on Stephanie's Facebook page.



## A SYSTEM IN FLUX

grows daily.

Through the duration of the PSAC strike, Service Canada announced that all domestic passport applications will be paused, except those for **emergency and humanitarian situations**. The full effects of the resulting delays will not be known until workers are back processing passports.

The situation is much the same at

IRCC as **all immigration applications have become subject to additional delays**. This, on top of an IRCC system which already had over 2.5 million applications delayed at the start of 2023. Some citizenship ceremonies have now been delayed for over three years.

Unprecedented delays in simple

*(A SYSTEM IN FLUX—con't next page)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Stephanie will be hosting some in-person and virtual events over the coming months, including her annual Ice-Cream Social at Annie's. Updated information will be available at [www.stephaniekusiemp.ca](http://www.stephaniekusiemp.ca).

*(PORTFOLIO —con't from page 11)*

and filing their tax returns. Stephanie has been working hard in the House of Commons to hold the government accountable for not negotiating a deal during the two years the union was without a contract before the members finally voted to strike.

### **PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS**

Another important issue before OGGO is Bill C-290. This bill aims to provide more effective measures to protect whistleblowers in the public service. Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues support the updated protections Bill C-290 will provide, and will be supporting the legislation.

*(SYSTEM IN FLUX—con't from page 13)*

renewals of things like work permits and Permanent Resident cards are leaving people without health care and the inability to travel when emergency situations arise. They are unable to even renew a drivers license which can take away the ability to work. This is in no way the fault of the person applying.

Please know that Stephanie takes these concerns seriously and is

working to not only assist those affected, but to communicate to officials the affect this is having on her constituents.

While our office is *also* dealing with these disruptions and delays, we are still available to residents of Calgary Midnapore with access/updates to federal inquiries. Please feel free to reach us at [Stephanie.Kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca) or by phone at 403-225-3480 ext. 1.



**STEPHANIE KUSIE**

MP | CALGARY MIDNAPORE

## HERE TO HELP WITH FEDERAL SERVICES!

- Service Canada (EI, CPP, OAS, CRA)
- Immigration
- Veterans Affairs
- Passport Canada
- Grants & Funding Opportunities

For assistance, please make an appointment:

[stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca)

403-225-3480, ext. 1



# YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

**STEPHANIE  
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CALGARY MIDNAPORE