



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

STEPHANIE KUSIE

Member of Parliament
Calgary Midnapore



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stephaniekusie



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

As I write this message it is -35 degrees Celsius in Calgary and I am hoping all constituents are safe and warm.

However, I'm sure many are worried about the resulting heating bills this cold weather will bring.

Our Conservative team has been working to ease the financial strain all Canadians are feeling and you can review some of the *many* times we've tried to have Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Singh vote to reduce the taxes we all pay on page 7 of this publication.

However, with the recent news that the interest payments on Canada's record debt were 37% higher in the last quarter of 2023 than in the same period in 2022, it is clear that there is a great deal more work to be done.

As Statistics Canada explained, this means that federally, the government spent over 10 cents of every dollar in revenue on interest payments (that doesn't include actually reducing the debt), and provincially, the amount was 7.7 cents. That has serious, long term repercussions as it represents a loss of billions of dollars every month

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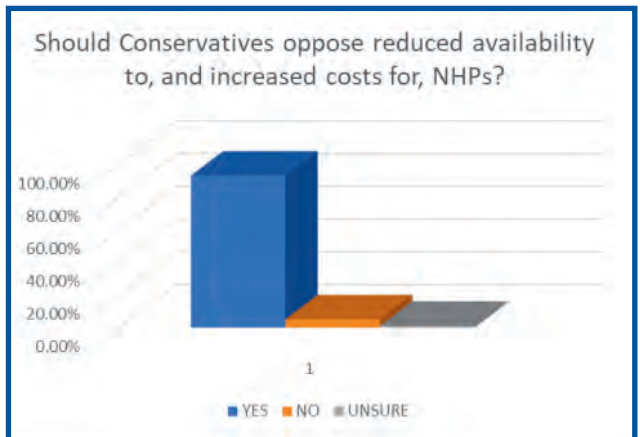
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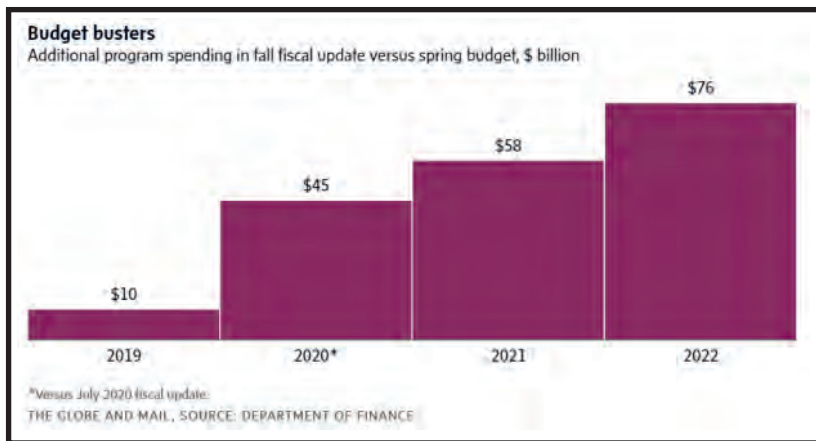
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RIGHT:

The feedback from a recent survey about changes to Natural Health Product regulations was very clear. For more on this issue, please see page 8 of this booklet.





(MESSAGE—con't from page 2)

that can't be used to lower taxes or improve government services.

Meanwhile we have a Prime Minister vacationing in Jamaica —and misleading Canadians about who is paying for it—while food bank usage balloons and homeless encampments grow in almost every major city in this country. That is not acceptable.

There will be significant challenges ahead for all of us, as our economy slows, interest rates remain high, our debt grows and taxes climb. As the Shadow Minister for the Treasury Board, and your Conservative Member of Parliament, I will continue to do everything in my power to tackle those challenges and work to restore Canada to the country it was, and can be again.

Stephanie

ABOVE: *In a November 18, 2023 editorial, the Globe and Mail reviewed “The ever-receding horizon of Liberal fiscal restraint”. As the chart reveals, “rolling out new spending has become standard practice for the Liberals” particularly since Fall 2020 under Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland who promised to have the budget balanced by 2028 but instead has announced **one hundred billion dollars** in additional debt.*

A REVIEW OF THE FALL SESSION

It is no secret to anyone that Canadians are struggling. This year, more Canadians visited food banks than ever before. Life costs more and work doesn't pay. Housing costs have doubled. Crime, drugs and disorder, are now common on our streets.

In the last session of Parliament, Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues continued their work as the Official Opposition, to do what they can to help ease the burden Canadians are feeling, including:

- forcing the Liberals into panic mode over their punishing carbon tax, which led to the Prime Minister announcing a temporary pause on the tax on home heating oil until after the election;
- working to pass Bill C-234 (which would make food cheaper for Canadians by removing the carbon tax for farmers);
- using the procedural tools available to the Official Opposition—such as placing thousands of amendments at committee and in the House of Commons and forcing all-night around-the-clock voting to block the Liberals' \$20 billion of inflationary spending—to further Conservative efforts to eliminate the punishing carbon tax;
- providing Canadians with the transparency they deserve over the \$54 million ArriveScam app, which is now being investigated by the RCMP;
- holding the Liberals to account over their quarter-billion dollar payment to a Beijing-controlled bank;
- launching Bill C-356, *The Building Homes, Not Bureaucracy Act*, to incentivize municipalities who prioritize building homes;
- calling on the Prime Minister to release the multi-billion dollar contracts he signed with Stellantis, Volkswagen, and Northvolt so that taxpayers know the total cost, *and* how many foreign replacement workers were hired;



- introducing a Bill to amend the Criminal Code to protect rural Canadians and farm families from crime;
- ensuring open banking was included in the Fall Economic Statement, so Canadians have more choice over their banking, bringing more competition and lowering prices for everyone;
- exposing massive corruption and a government cover-up at Trudeau's \$1 billion green slush fund, leading to

two ethics investigations into the former Chair and a Director, and an Auditor General investigation into the fund;

- bringing forward legislation to reverse regulatory changes which will help ensure NHPs remain available and affordable;
- passing a motion that will work to include people with disabilities in education both internationally and domestically.

However, clearly there is a great deal more to be done and, while the Leader of the NDP continues to prop up the Liberal government, every achievement is hard won. (For example, even as we prepare this mailing, the NDP has blocked Conservative attempts to have the Minister appear at Industry Committee to address the issue of rising cellphone bills.) However, with the spring budget looming, Stephanie and the Conservative team will continue to work tirelessly in Parliament and their ridings to bring common sense back to Canada.

Conservatives are calling on Justin Trudeau to cancel his

APRIL 1ST

TAX HIKES ON

**BEER, WINE,
& SPIRITS**



ESCALATOR TAX ON ALCOHOL

At the time of writing, constituents have been expressing concerns about the high levels of tax being paid by Canadians, including the annual increase to the cost of alcohol. Stephanie agrees.

Conservatives have actually been raising this in the House of Commons since the Liberals established the escalator tax shortly after they were elected in 2015.

Stephanie discussed the issue in her January 2023 e-newsletter, which you can access on her website at stephaniekusiemp.ca. As she pointed out, she and her Conservative colleagues have asked Justin Trudeau to at least consider postponing these tax hikes (including on CPP payroll taxes, the increased carbon tax and alcohol) on numerous occasions, given how many Canadians continue to struggle as a result of the pandemic, but he refused.

As an example of *some* of the many ways they have tried to help ease the tax burden on Canadians, Conservatives have called on the Liberal government to:

⇒ That, given that the government has announced a “temporary, three-year

UPDATE ON REGULATORY CHANGES TO NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS (NHPS)

Stephanie recently surveyed all Calgary Midnapore households about whether the regulatory changes to NHPs included in Bill C-47 will affect them, and how. There was significant feedback and the results are summarized in the chart on page two of this booklet. (The original mailing is available on Stephanie's website at www.stephaniekusiemp.ca.)



Over 80% of respondents expressed concern about the additional regulations which will limit and restrict Canadians from making their own medical and personal health choices and impose significant new fees on the import, manufacture, and sale of natural health products whilst simultaneously imposing new labelling laws that will massively increase the cost of all these products.

From day one Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues opposed C-47. Unfortunately, they were the only party in the House of Commons to do so. The Liberals, along with their NDP coalition partners, the separatist Bloc Québécois and the Green Party caucus all voted in favour of C-47. In doing so they voted to restrict the access of NHPs for all Canadians who use these products daily.

As a result of the concerns Conservatives heard from their constituents, Bill C-368, *An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (natural health products)* was created and introduced. This legislation would remove the two sections in C-47 which focus on NHPs. Stephanie hopes that the government and all other opposition parties in the House of Commons will reconsider their reckless decision and vote in favour of C-368. You can follow the progress of this—and all other Bills—at <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo>.

ABOVE: *Stephanie met with delegates from the Canadian Health Food Association regarding the NHP regulatory changes.*

FACING FAMILY FINANCES IN 2024

Stephanie hears from so many hardworking constituents in her riding doing all the right things for themselves and their families who, through no fault of their own, are feeling financially strapped and anxious about their futures. A recent report from BMO Real Financial Progress Index, states that nearly a third of Canadians plan to cut back on spending for 2024, with 81% worried about their overall financial situation, and it's no wonder.



The biggest and most costly line item is always going to be the roof over our heads. With interest rates and rents skyrocketing, costs associated to housing may be the greatest financial challenge that Canadian families face this year.

Energy bills are higher than usual during these cold winter months, and thanks to Trudeau's punitive carbon tax, those bills are getting harder and harder to pay – especially for seniors on a fixed income.

Another major line item is groceries. With inflation rates at a 40-year high due to Canada's record high debt, Canadians are spending more than ever on necessities with many relying on local food banks or even skipping meals.

Gas is another necessity for most. As of April 1, provinces and territories using the federal backstop (including Alberta) will see gasoline fuel charges increase to 17 cents a litre and the propane fuel charge will rise to 12 cents a litre. Each visit to the gas pump is pricey, but Justin Trudeau said, "that's



(FINANCES —con't from previous page)

exactly what we want.”

In this affordability crisis, many Canadians have been forced to take on new personal debt with high interest rates. And, unfortunately, we are taking less of our paycheques home. The federal government is again raising the mandatory CPP and EI contributions and these payroll tax increases will cost a worker up to \$347 more in 2024.

As Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre stated last fall, “the promise of Canada was that hard work would get you a powerful paycheque that bought you good food and a decent home and retirement in a safe neighbourhood and a free country. And every generation was a little better off than their parents. That was the promise of Canada. And that is the most important promise Justin Trudeau broke.”

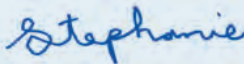
To respond to this survey, please detach this insert from the booklet, tape it closed and mail it back. No postage stamp is needed.

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 below 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 15th, 2024**. Winners will be notified via email and the flags will be mailed to contest winners before Canada Day.

Good luck!



Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Email: _____



YES!

Please enter my name in Stephanie's 2024 draw for a Canada flag!

FROM:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Stephanie Kusie, MP

Calgary Midnapore

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Jingle & Mingle

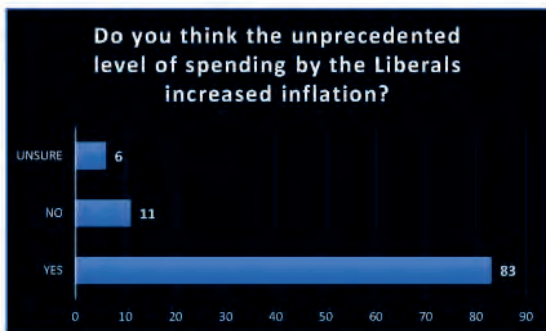


ABOVE: In mid-December Stephanie welcomed constituents to a 'Jingle and Mingle' event at Hudsons Shawnessy. It was a wonderful chance to catch up with, and hear directly from, residents of Calgary Midnapore. Attendees were encouraged to bring a non-perishable donation for the Veterans Food Bank of Alberta and 10 boxes were generously filled! Thank you to all who were able to support our Veterans and First Responders.

SURVEY RESULTS

In her last mailing Stephanie polled constituents on several issues, including whether the Liberals' irresponsible fiscal policies have increased inflation. As the graph at right reveals, re-

spondents overwhelmingly agreed. Additionally, 72% were being forced to adjust their spending plans due to increased interest rates, 79% believe housing prices will continue to stay high and there was a fairly even split on whether the high price of gas would cause constituents to reconsider their next vehicle purchase, with 48% saying yes, and 42% saying no.



pause” to the federal carbon tax on home heating oil, the House call on the government to extend that pause to all forms of home heating. *(Nov 2, 2023)*

- ⇒ That the House “call on the government to introduce legislation within seven days of this motion being adopted, to repeal all carbon taxes to bring home lower prices on gas, groceries and home heating.” *(Sep 28 2023)*
- ⇒ 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)*

Unfortunately, Justin Trudeau’s NDP coalition partners continue to prop up his minority Liberal government and have voted against virtually all Conservative attempts to lower the cost of living for you.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will continue to present common sense motions that will reduce the tax burden on all Canadians.



LEFT: Readers of the *Hill Times* voted OGGO the best House Committee of 2023 for its "ability to 'reveal Liberal scandals' and 'outrageous revelations'" largely as a result of the hard work of Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues. In 2024, they will continue to be a voice for Canadians.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE

As Shadow Minister for Treasury Board, Stephanie is a member of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO).

Thanks to the hard work of Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues, OGGO was recently voted the best House committee by the *Hill Times* due to its efforts on uncovering government scandals and inefficiencies, such as:

ARRIVECAN

Due to allegations of forged resumes, identity theft, contractual theft, fraudulent billing, price fixing and collusion

made by the company Botler AI, Conservatives reopened the study into ArriveCAN this year.

GC Strategies, an IT firm of two people that subcontract all work, are centered in the Botler controversy, and are the same company that was paid \$11 million of the \$54 million paid for ArriveCAN, an app that was originally meant to be \$80,000.

This study has allowed MPs a better look into the government's contracting process to seek accountability and a complete overhaul of the procurement process.

(PORTFOLIO —con't page 14)

Liberal environmental policy “unreasonable and unconstitutional”

In the final months of 2023 the Supreme Court of Canada labeled the Impact Assessment Act (IAA) – formerly known as Bill C-69 – a “largely unconstitutional” piece of legislation and effectively rendered much of the act moot and in need of amendment. The court challenge, which was backed by nine of the ten provincial governments and all three territorial governments, confirms what was seen as a massive overreach of federal jurisdiction by this Liberal government.

Chief Justice Richard Wagner said

that “Parliament [under a Liberal majority at the time of passing] plainly overstepped its constitutional competence in enacting this.”

From day one Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues warned the Liberals that their plans to steamroll provinces by giving themselves unprecedented power over provincial infrastructure, industry and natural resources would hurt Canadians workers and was deeply unconstitutional.

A common-sense Conservative

CASEWORK CORNER:

As the new year begins Stephanie wanted to remind you of what our office can do for you and provide an overview of some of most common areas in which we help.

IMMIGRATION – we have the ability to reach out to IRCC to obtain information on your file however we *cannot* expedite files except for rare life or death situations. Our access to IRCC is limited to appointment times and

we process requests on a first come first served basis.

CRA – we work with a small team that can help with complex files and we can send your inquiry to them to see if we can help resolve it. Please note we do not do basic inquiries, nor do we work with collections so if your file has already gone to collections you will need to work with that department directly.

government will scrap Bill C-69 and attract investment into Canada's world class energy sector while respecting the constitutional rights of each province.

Similarly, the Liberals' unilateral single-use plastics ban was thrown out by a Federal Court Judge in November 2023 as yet another unconstitutional government policy. Justice Angela Furlanetto, who delivered the ruling, labeled the Order in Council as "unreasonable and unconstitutional." She went on to write in her decision that, "there is no reasonable apprehension that all listed (plastic manufactured items) are harmful."



The two rulings have left a major hole in Justin Trudeau's environmental policy and given provincial governments a major backing on their constitutional rights.

AN OVERVIEW

SERVICE CANADA – We can help with EI, CPP, OAS and passport issues.

We also help with other departments such as Veterans Affairs, Indigenous Services, Global Affairs and other issues that may arise. Feel free to reach out and we can advise you what we can help with for you and your family. It is essential to include your full mailing address, a

daytime phone number, and a brief outline of the issue you are requesting assistance with.

Most departments are dealing with long wait times despite extra hiring. We have no impact on the timelines themselves but can do our best to get clarity for you. Please feel free to reach us at Stephanie.Kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca or by phone at 403-225-3480 ext. 1.

GOVERNOR GENERAL REPORT

At the beginning of the fall session, Conservatives tabled the committee's report on the Governor General's excessive spending on a trip to the Middle East in 2022 that cost \$1.15 million, \$80,000 of which was used for inflight catering alone.

The Conservative supplementary report included additional recommendations in order to encourage fiscal responsibility in the office of the Governor General.

CANADA LIFE

On July 1st 2023, the government switched the administration of the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) from Sun Life to Canada Life. At the same time, they updated the plan.

During this process, the Liberals decided to utilize a less efficient manual enrolment process, rather than the industry standard automatic enrolment process, causing significant difficulty for members.

Why did the government choose this route? To clear out the old system that they had not been properly maintaining.



As a result, call centres were overwhelmed and many members unable to receive their benefits in a timely matter.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR OGGO?

MORE ARRIVECAN

The ArriveCAN study will continue this winter as we bring back witnesses, analyze the documentation we have been provided with and continue to fight to hold this government to account.

BUDGET 2024/ESTIMATES

OGGO will be analyzing the main estimates and the budget when it is tabled in the spring.



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
403-225-3480, ext. 1



YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

**STEPHANIE
KUSIE**

Member of Parliament
CALGARY MIDNAPORE