

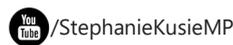


Stephanie KUSIE ^{MP}

CALGARY MIDNAPORE

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



Dear constituent:

I sincerely hope you and your families are keeping safe and healthy, and I thank you for following the social distancing guidelines set out by our public health officials. I recognize it has been extremely difficult in more ways than one, and like you, I am looking forward to having things revert to a closer semblance of normal.

It might be a while until that day comes; however, some provinces—including Alberta—are beginning to roll out their re-opening strategies and slowly ease health restrictions. In order to avoid a second or third wave, we need federal action – which is why my colleagues and I have been proposing solutions to the federal government about how to support provinces and territories and also asking for a plan for Canada's economic recovery.

Conservative MPs have been working hard to ensure that the benefit packages proposed by the Liberal government are available to as many individuals and businesses as possible. Several of our suggested improvements have been implemented (see pages 2 and 3), but there are still gaps which have allowed too many Canadians to fall through.

We know that challenges remain. The months ahead will not be easy and I would appreciate *your* feedback on the best way forward so Calgarians can get the support they need and our economy can begin to reopen. I encourage you to fill out and return the enclosed reply card, so a member of my team can follow up with you.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Stephanie

GET IN TOUCH

CALGARY OFFICE *
204-279 Midpark Way SE
Calgary, AB T2X 1M2
403-225-3480

OTTAWA OFFICE *
818 Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6
613-992-2235

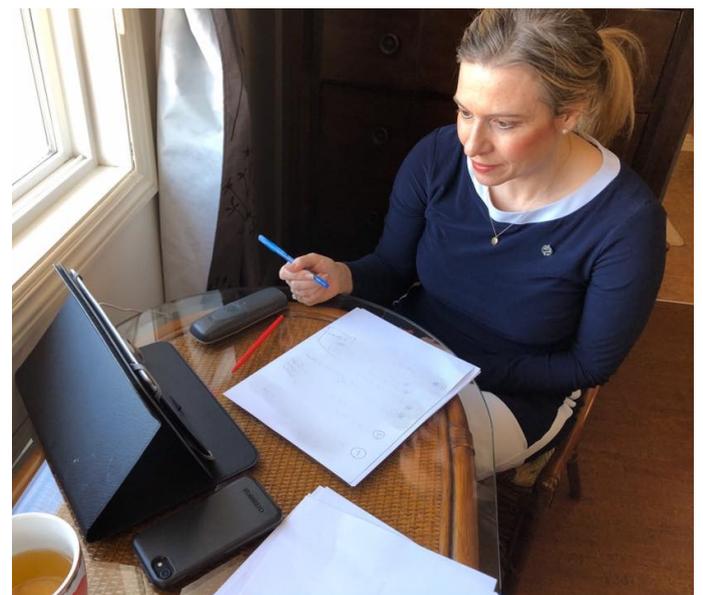
✉ stephanie.kusie@parl.gc.ca
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* Please call in advance to ensure in-person visits are once again available.

WORKING THROUGH QUARANTINE IN CALGARY MIDNAPORE

Even though my team and I have, for the most part, been working remotely, we continue to:

- respond to an increased volume of calls and emails from constituents needing help and information;
- facilitate repatriation for a number of Canadians stranded abroad;
- participate in daily and weekly conference calls with Liberal Ministers, Conservative colleagues, local organizations and agencies;
- work as part of a group focused on developing strategies to help with Canada's economy recovery;
- Vice-Chair the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources as it conducts virtual sittings;
- host a number of public events including a national telephone townhall (*right*);
- attend virtual Parliamentary sessions, including Question Period;
- send out regular updates to my constituents; and
- work with my provincial and municipal counterparts to try to ensure constituents get the help they need during this time, regardless what level of government is involved.





SHADOW MINISTER FOR FAMILIES, YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Note: Information on support programs and services changes often. This information is current as of May 12th, 2020. Check <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html> to make sure you have the most current information.



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

As the Official Opposition Shadow Minister for Families, Children and Social Development, I am responsible for reviewing policies and programs brought forward by Minister Ahmed Hussen on behalf of the Liberal government. During the COVID-19 pandemic, several concerns were brought to my attention specifically which I worked to help resolve.

Realizing in early April that Service Canada had shut down phone lines for the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), I contacted the Minister asking that this be addressed on an urgent basis, and service was reinstated.

It also greatly concerned me to learn that the government was denying pregnant Canadians access to the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), and instead were being forced to start using up their EI maternity leave – in some cases months before the baby was due. I was relieved when the Minister agreed to have this unfair situation corrected. As part of our efforts to ensure this has been done, I am reaching out to any Canadian who may have been affected by this unfair policy. Please visit my website, www.stephaniekusiemp.ca, to learn more.

Foster families also contacted my office to ask for assistance in addressing another inequity in the government's benefit packages. The increase to the Canada Child Benefit was not being offered to these families and many were in dire need of additional financial assistance.

As restrictions start to loosen up across the country, a scaled down version of the House of Commons is currently sitting in person once per week (on Wednesday), and twice per week virtually (on Tuesdays and Thursdays). The House PROC Committee has been tasked with studying the idea of a Virtual Parliament, as the current infrastructure is inadequate

for fulsome debate. I encourage you to tune into Parliamentary activities on parlvu.parl.gc.ca

The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA), which I Vice-Chair, also conducted virtual meetings throughout the pandemic. The Conservative MPs on the Committee wanted to obtain some specific answers from the Liberal government about the financial programs announced during the pandemic, and their plans for the months ahead as Canadians work to recover from the shutdown. You can watch webcasts of the HUMA meetings at parlvu.parl.gc.ca as well.

I have hosted some virtual townhalls during the crisis to try to help answer as many questions from constituents as possible. You may also wish to check out [my latest Q&A](#). I will conduct another one soon.

I remain here to assist you. Please contact my office should you require help navigating any of the federal benefits currently being offered, or any other federal service. As always, my team and I welcome you to share what's on your mind.



Member of Parliament Jamie Schmale (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock) invited me to appear as a special guest on an episode of the Blueprint podcast during the shutdown.

I had the opportunity to discuss the impact of COVID-19 in Calgary Midnapore specifically, as well as concerns related to my portfolio as Shadow Minister of Families, Youth and Social Development, including those surrounding the government decision to close Service Canada locations across the country.

You can watch this episode as well as others at <http://podcast.conservative.ca/>. A new episode is uploaded every Thursday.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Prevent the spread.

For more information:
Coronavirus Hotline 1-833-784-4397
canada.ca/coronavirus
phac.info.aspc@canada.ca





MY WORK ON YOUR BEHALF

Since the coronavirus virtually shut down our economy, I have been working closely with my Conservative colleagues in Ottawa to make sure your voice continues to be raised in Parliament. **We have focused on putting forward constructive solutions** to gaps and flaws in the existing financial support measures. We were successful in a number of areas, and we have also proposed additional improvements, such as:



FOR BUSINESSES:

- ⇒ revising the initial proposal for the wage subsidy (CEWS) to 75% of payroll (from the original offer of only 10%);
- ⇒ we are still working to have the government address other improvements, such as removing the requirement to have a business account to qualify for the emergency business loan account;
- ⇒ expanding the eligibility criteria for the program to include revenue decline so that more small businesses qualify for the \$40,000 loan; and
- ⇒ rebating the GST small businesses have collected in the last 12 months and allow source reductions to be kept by business owners to be applied to the \$75,000 wage subsidy.



FOR WORKERS:

- ⇒ bringing the Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit more in line with Employment Insurance by allowing Canadians able to earn up to \$1,000 per week and still be eligible for the \$2,000 tax-free benefit;
- ⇒ encouraging the government to make the CERB available to small business owners who pay themselves through equity in their business, but who have lost all income due to COVID-19 (currently, only business owners previously paid in dividends or wages qualify for CERB);



FOR SENIORS:

- ⇒ recognizing that investments have taken a big hit, Conservatives are advocating that seniors be allowed a one-time withdrawal from their RRSP in 2020, which if repaid by December 31, 2023 will be tax-free;
- ⇒ that mandatory RRIF withdrawals be waived until December 31, 2020; and
- ⇒ our suggestion that seniors in need be provided additional support through increases to current benefits has been partially implemented by the government, although there is currently no means testing included.



FOR STUDENTS:

- ⇒ pushing for help for students who would otherwise be unable to obtain employment over the summer months;
- ⇒ recommending that the government connect all students looking for financial assistance to the Canada Job Bank, providing them with job availability information ahead of applying for government benefits; and
- ⇒ matching students and youth employees with jobs in the agriculture and agri-food sector, as Canada's food supply chains continue to face a critical shortage of workers.



FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

- ⇒ calling on the government to fast-track Health Canada approvals for new drugs and tests.

RETURN SURVEY POSTAGE FREE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

HAVE YOUR SAY!

RATE MY PERFORMANCE AS YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

 RIGHT TRACK WRONG TRACK UNSURE

HOW CAN I BEST REPRESENT YOUR CONCERNS IN PARLIAMENT AS WE RELAUNCH OUR ECONOMY:

(1) I am a **business owner/employer** who would like to provide more information about how COVID-19 has affected my business and the priorities I want the government to focus on in the months ahead. Yes No (if yes, please include your mailing address below)

(2) I am a **resident** of Calgary Midnapore who would like to provide more information about how COVID-19 has affected me and my family, and the priorities I want the government to focus on in the months ahead. Yes No (if yes, please include your mailing address below)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ PC: _____

Comments: _____

Email: _____

YES! I would like to receive Updates on your work representing me in Ottawa.

THE ENERGY SECTOR'S CRITICAL ROLE

Canada's energy sector has enhanced our economy, created millions of jobs, and has made incredible strides in environmental protection. Oil and gas from Canada is among the cleanest and most ethically produced in the world.

The Conservative Party of Canada is the only federal party who recognizes and actively supports the important role of this industry. During the pandemic, billions of dollars from the energy sector are going towards helping Canadians across the country who have applied for emergency benefits.

Given the significantly increased debt Canada will be facing once this pandemic is over, it is essential that the Liberal government stop putting roadblocks in the way of this industry, especially given

that Canada's energy sector:

- employs more than 500,000 Canadians through direct and indirect jobs;
- creates 2.5 jobs elsewhere for every one created in the oil sands industry;
- has an \$108 billion direct GDP impact on the Canadian economy.
- contributes almost half of all monies spent on environmental protection in Canada; and
- spends over one billion dollars a year on clean technology. Investments.

I will continue to work with my Conservative colleagues to help strengthen Canada's economy going forward, and a strong energy sector will be an essential part of that recovery.



**KNOW
YOUR
PROVINCIAL
HEALTH
CONTACTS.**

- ⇒ Call **811** for all health inquiries
- ⇒ AB Government General COVID-19 Hotline: **310-0000**
- ⇒ For questions about financial relief, government programs, or services related to COVID-19: **310-4455**
- ⇒ Income Support Contact Centre: **1-866-644-5135**
- ⇒ Mental Health Support Line: **1-877-303-2462**
- ⇒ Health Canada COVID-19 Hotline: **1-833-784-4397**

TAX FILING DEADLINES

As most people are aware, the deadline for individuals to file 2019 returns was extended to June 1, 2020 (the deadline for self-employed remains unchanged at June 15th) and the deadline to pay any amounts owed has been extended to September 1, 2020.

NOTE: some taxpayers may have received a Notice of Assessment that says the deadline for payment is April 30, 2020, which is incorrect.

ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC RELAUNCH

We know that the re-opening of the economy must happen in stages, and individuals and businesses will be returning to new normal operations.

I want to hear what *you* need in order to get up and running again. Please consider completing the reply card below, or visit my website for a more detailed survey.

www.stephaniekusiemp.ca



RETURN, POSTAGE FREE,
NO ENVELOPE REQUIRED

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818 Justice Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

2. FOLD

1.



3. TAPE