

The Kusie Update

November 2020



A MESSAGE FROM STEPHANIE



Dear constituents of Calgary Midnapore,

Time flies. Just over a year ago, I was re-elected as your Member of Parliament and we had just gotten started in a new Parliamentary session when *all* our lives were turned upside-down by COVID-19. We've been through a lot together this year and I want to thank you for your support during such an uncertain time. I ask that you remain hopeful as we press on as a community. There is light at the end of the tunnel and if we can draw from what generations past have taught us during this season of Remembrance, it is to be brave, and to count our blessings.

There is no doubt that 2020 will be a year for the history books. In addition to the pandemic, and the innumerable failures of the Trudeau government, the American Presidential Election has also been unfolding. The outcome will most certainly impact us on many levels, especially our energy industry. The media has devoted much time to American politics, relieving our own Prime Minister of necessary scrutiny. Over the last few months, it has become clear that the Liberals would rather trigger an election than come clean with Canadians, and in this minority Parliament, anything can happen. We have been questioning the government's decision-making during the pandemic and the Prime Minister is trying to avoid substantive answers. But you can trust that my Conservative colleagues and I will continue to press for answers, to propose solid policy and fiscal solutions, improve legislation and make lives better for Canadians.

Though I haven't been able to see you as much as I would like to due to COVID restrictions, I will be hosting a virtual Town Hall on December 3rd and I sincerely hope you will be able to join me. I look forward to providing you with an update, hearing what's on your mind and answering your questions. Read on for more details!

Until then, hold your loved ones tight, live in the moment, and take some time to enjoy the beautiful community we live in.

All the best,

Stephanie

IN THE RIDING



WestJet Elevation Lounge – ribbon cutting

Late last month, Stephanie was pleased to attend the official opening of the WestJet Elevation Lounge in the Calgary International Airport.

Two years of planning went into the design of this flagship lounge, and it was clear to Stephanie that the needs and safety of guests and frequent travellers were carefully

considered. The Elevation Lounge is a wonderful addition to WestJet’s offerings and a special achievement for this proud Calgary company.



TELUS Kits for Kids

Since 2006, Telus’ “Kits for Kids” program has been distributing backpacks filled with school supplies to students in need across Canada.

Stephanie was happy to personally deliver backpacks to Our Lady of Peace School in Millrise this year.

She appreciated meeting Principal Coumont, Assistant Principal Evans, and Ms. Boyle – all of whom have been working hard to keep their students safe and happy during this challenging time.

Erin O’Toole’s visit to Calgary

The Leader of Canada’s Official Opposition, the Honourable Erin O’Toole, recently visited Alberta to meet with Conservatives from across the province. Stephanie was honoured to host the Leader at a private - socially distanced - event in Calgary Midnapore. Mr. O’Toole also joined Premier Jason Kenney at the United Conservative Party’s virtual AGM, where he discussed what the road back to prosperity could look like after five years of anti-Alberta policies under the Liberal government.



Meet & Greet event - postponed

Stephanie had planned an in-person meet and greet event at Filo's Restaurant in late October (while taking into consideration all the required precautions), however due to additional COVID restrictions that came into effect the evening prior to the event, our office made the decision to postpone it. When it is once again appropriate to host an in-person get together, Stephanie will resume her plan to host the event at Filo's.

In the meantime, Stephanie encourages all constituents to support local businesses and to post photos on social media with the hashtag **#yycmidnapore** so she can see your community support in action!

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day certainly looked different this year. Although there was an in-person ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, many local events were conducted virtually. Stephanie commends all constituents who took the time to take part in these events or watched ceremonies on TV. Stephanie's Remembrance Day message this year focused on the need to appreciate and preserve



the freedoms that were hard fought by a courageous generation of men and women who were willing to lay down their lives for others. ([see here](#)).

Stephanie was particularly touched by the Legacy Community Association's efforts to develop their own Field of Crosses in their community garden. Stephanie assembled a cross with the kit the Community Association kindly provided and placed it in the garden. She watched as parents and children arrived on a snowy evening to place their own crosses and was heartened to see moms and dads teach

their little ones the importance of remembrance. Thank you to all who played a role in the creation of the Legacy Field of Crosses – it was very meaningful.

ON THE HILL



Bill C-7 (MAID)

Stephanie continues to hear from constituents concerned about the Liberal government's legislation on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), Bill C-7. The Bill is currently before the Justice Committee and the Conservative members continue to ask that the number of meetings allocated to hear from witnesses and review the bill be increased – however the Liberals continue to refuse to consider this.

The Conservative Party's priority has always been to ensure that this type of legislation includes safeguards for the most vulnerable in our society, as well as for the conscience rights of physicians and allied health professionals, and a majority of Calgary Midnapore constituents have indicated they agree.

Earlier this month Conservatives introduced a number of reasonable amendments to C-7, in an attempt to reinstate protections the Trudeau government have removed, including:

- reinstating the 10-day reflection period when death is reasonably foreseeable;
- maintaining the requirement for two independent witnesses when death is foreseeable;
- ensuring physicians have expertise in a patient's condition;
- extending the reflection period when death is not reasonably foreseeable;
- protecting vulnerable patients by requiring the patient to be the one who first requests information on medical assistance in dying; and

- protecting conscience rights for healthcare professionals.

Unfortunately, once again the Liberals chose partisanship over good policy and voted down all these amendments. This despite the fact that members of the Justice Committee from all parties have heard firsthand from disability advocates vehemently opposed to C-7 and its rapid expansion of MAID who argue it amounts to a ‘deadly form of discrimination,’ making it easier for persons with disabilities to die, than to live. It’s shameful that in the Liberal government’s rush to pass this bill before Christmas, they continue to neglect to address legitimate concerns being raised by persons with disabilities.

“The Great Reset”

The World Economic Forum recently developed a plan to use the pandemic to change the global political and economic systems. In September, Justin Trudeau spoke to the United Nations and used the phrase, “the pandemic has provided an opportunity for a reset”.

To rebuild post-pandemic, Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues support getting as many people back to work as quickly as possible in EVERY sector, including natural resource development. The Liberals are instead bent on “re-imagining economic systems” and launching a vast and risky economic experiment, one that is uncertain, at best.

It’s hard to believe that anyone would look at the carnage caused by COVID-19 and see an opportunity. It’s even harder to believe that anyone would think this is the right time for an agenda that will create even more uncertainty.

While Stephanie is well aware there are lessons to be learned (such as strengthening our supply chains, for example), she also feels strongly that this isn’t the time for “reimagining” the economy and toying with our future. This is the time to overcome COVID-19, protect the vulnerable, and save jobs. And once the pandemic is behind us, build back our economy as quickly as possible.

**CONSERVATIVES WANT
TO BRING BACK
ECONOMIC
CERTAINTY.**



Canada’s Conservatives priorities are jobs, growth, prosperity, and above all else to bring back certainty.

The Leader of the Official Opposition, the Honourable Erin O’Toole, commented on this issue. You can view the video at these links.

<https://twitter.com/erinotoole/status/1329157998103687170>

<https://www.facebook.com/erinotoolecpc/videos/1311774592501341>

Opposition Day Motion on China and Huawei

In November, Stephanie and her colleagues used one of their few Opposition Days to put forward a motion calling on the Liberal government to take a stand on Communist China and defend Canada's national interest. The text of the motion was:

That, given that (i) the People's Republic of China, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, is threatening Canada's national interest and our values, including Canadians of Chinese origin within Canada's borders, (ii) it is essential that Canada have a strong and principled foreign policy backed by action in concert with its allies, the House call upon the government to: (a) make a decision on Huawei's involvement in Canada's 5G network within 30 days of the adoption of this motion; and (b) develop a robust plan, as Australia has done, to combat China's growing foreign operations here in Canada and its increasing intimidation of Canadians living in Canada, and table it within 30 days of the adoption of this motion.

Stephanie was pleased to see the motion pass, as it will require the Prime Minister to get serious on the Chinese regime (even though he voted against it). Canadians expect the Liberal government to uphold our democratic norms and respect the will of Parliament by taking action to defend Canada's national security and make a decision on Huawei and Canada's 5G network, and by developing a plan to protect Canadians against Communist China's growing influence operations here at home.

As the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs stated: "It is time the Trudeau government acknowledge their approach to the Chinese regime has not worked. [They] must acknowledge that their passive approach has failed to defend Canadians and our national interest. It's time for action."

The full debate can be found [here](#), under Government Orders.

Small Business Audits

Thousands of small businesses across this country have been crippled by this pandemic. Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues recognize the vital role that these job creators play in our economy and have been relentless in their fight to protect and preserve them.



However, under the Liberals, a large number of businesses have been placed under audit by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) since September, placing onerous requirements on them while many are struggling to survive the pandemic's second wave. As Conservative Party Leader, Erin O'Toole stated, "once again, the Liberals had branded small businesses as potential tax cheats and wanted to investigate them amid a crisis. Can you imagine a small business holding on by a thread and having the tax collector descend on you with an audit? I think it's horrible. It's unfair."

To counter these unfair audits, Stephanie and her colleagues used their Opposition Day to present a motion in the House of Commons to end these wage subsidy audits. The motion was successfully

passed, forcing the Trudeau Liberals to pause their punishing audits on small and medium sized businesses until June 2021. Additionally, they must provide additional flexibility in the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, and other programs to support entrepreneurs and workers.

It's important to note that the Liberals (who, time and time again provide placating talking points about their dedication to protecting small businesses) voted *against* the motion. Nor have they taken steps to honour the will of Parliament and put an end to the audits.

Stephanie will continue to work with her colleagues to get results for small businesses and their workers. They will continue to put pressure on the government until the Trudeau Liberals stop disrespecting hardworking entrepreneurs and end the punishing audits on small businesses.

Note: A video clip of Stephanie participating in this debate is available in the section below, under "Debate".

Stephanie in the House of Commons



SO31

Under Standing Order 31, a Member of Parliament is permitted 60 seconds to make an uninterrupted statement. Also known as an “SO31” or a “Member’s Statement”, MP’s can share important news from their riding or other issues they, or their Party, wish to highlight. Stephanie delivered several SO31’s within the last month. Links to each are below:

- [Tribute to Max Ward](#)
- [The Prime Minister must treat women in the House with the respect they deserve](#)
- [Order of Canada recipients](#)
- [Struggling Airline Industry](#)

Question Period

Question Period, or QP, is a 45-minute time slot in every Parliamentary day where members of the Opposition are allowed to question the Government about various issues. These spots are designated based on party numbers, and there is a team which helps direct the main issues the Official Opposition will focus on that day. Stephanie has posed numerous questions in the House of Commons, both in-person and virtually. You can watch them here:

- [November 6th](#)
- [November 4th](#)
- [October 23rd](#)
- [October 21st](#)

Debate

While QP is generally the most televised segment from the House of Commons, debates are occurring all day long. There are scheduled opportunities for petitions to be presented, for Private Member's Business to be debated, and for Government Business to be addressed, for example. Stephanie participated in the debate around the JUST Act (originally brought forward by Interim Conservative Leader, the Honourable Rona Ambrose), and she also took part in the Conservative Opposition Day Motion directed at helping small businesses:

- [Speech on Bill C-3 \(the JUST Act\)](#)
- [Standing up for small businesses](#)

Adjournment Proceedings

Adjournment proceedings are yet another regular portion of the Parliamentary day, Mondays to Thursdays. It is a 30-minute time slot where MPs from the Opposition Parties have the opportunity to request more substantive answers from the Government if they feel the response given during Question Period was inadequate.

- [Timeline of the Liberals' failure to present a plan to Canada's aviation sector](#)

SHADOW MINISTRY UPDATE



Since being named Shadow Minister for Transport, Stephanie has met with well over 70 stakeholders and has heard loud and clear how concerned they are for the future of the sector. Stephanie shares their concerns and recognizes that transportation (air travel in particular), will play a major role in Canada's recovery from COVID-19. She has advocated tirelessly, calling for the government to implement rapid testing and present a plan for the sector.

Stephanie recently visited with airline workers on Parliament Hill during the ["Save Canadian Aviation" rally](#), took the Prime Minister to task in [Question Period](#), and [grilled Transport Minister, Marc Garneau, in Committee](#).

She has been vocal in the media, appearing on [Alberta Primetime](#) and in [several news publications](#). She will continue to fight for this struggling sector and pressure the government to act.

AT COMMITTEE

A few weeks after the return of Parliament following Justin Trudeau's senseless prorogation, Stephanie was elected Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee for Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities (TRAN).



As the newly elected Vice-Chair, Stephanie wasted no time as she questioned the Transport Minister on his government's forthcoming plan for the aviation sector. In her allotted six minutes, she pressed him for answers on layoffs, passenger refunds, compensation restrictions, and regional routes.

You can watch this interaction on Stephanie's YouTube Channel [here](#).

Over the next few months, the TRAN Committee will be working hard to study transportation and infrastructure in Canada. They will continue their study on the certification of the Boeing Max 8 Aircraft.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will ensure the government performs their due diligence regarding the recertification of this aircraft, as the safety of Canadians is paramount. They will also study the impact of COVID-19 on aviation in Canada, focusing on rapid testing, restoring regional routes, and ways to support the sector so that Canadians can receive the refunds they deserve. It has been eight months since this pandemic hit and the government has failed to provide a plan for one of the hardest hit sectors.

CASEWORK CORNER

In our office, we have a dedicated caseworker who is here to answer questions and help facilitate issues that may arise with various federal government agencies. Common ones involve Service Canada (CPP/OAS and Employment Insurance, Canada Revenue Agency and Immigration). Please check back here for tips and important information of common calls and questions we get about casework issues. You can also email case specific inquiries to stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca. **Please remember to include your full name, mailing address and a daytime phone number.**

CRA:

During the height of the pandemic, one of the programs offered to Canadians was the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). It was intended to help those who are self-employed and were unable to collect Employment Insurance (EI). When CERB ended, the government introduced a new program dedicated to those still in need of assistance (Canada Response Benefit/CRB). If you are a previous CERB recipient who requires the CRB, please ensure that you re-apply for it on the [CRA website](#) or by phone. We have received numerous inquiries regarding the CRB. The main thing to note is that there is no automatic roll over since it's a new program. It requires a new application.

To confirm whether you're eligible for the CRB, you can do so via your "CRA My account" or call the automated toll-free lines: 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041.

Immigration:

After months of pressure from the Official Opposition, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced on October 8th that they were revisiting the government's definition of 'extended family'. The goal was to help reunite immediate family members and committed partners who had not previously qualified to come to Canada under the previous definition. The new exemption process was inundated with thousands of applications. We have been told Immigration agents are working their way through those



applications. Our office has received calls from constituents who would like us to check on the status of these applications however, because of the way the Government has structured the system, there is no way for us to track them. Patience will be required as you wait for them to process the applications they have already received. If you would like to apply you can find information on how to do so [here](#).

Service Canada:

Our office is often advised of the extremely long wait times to reach agencies on the phones. One way around this is to log on to the [web portal for Service Canada](#) and request a call back.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stephanie hopes you will join her and Special Guest Speaker, the Honourable Candice Bergen, Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition, for a Virtual Town Hall on the evening of December 3rd.

Both MP's look forward to providing an update and answering questions from the constituents of Calgary Midnapore.

To learn more and to register, visit [Stephanie's website](#).



HISTORICAL CALGARY MIDNAPORE

Did you know that Midnapore is named for the city of Midnapore in south-central West Bengal state? Midnapore was known as an agricultural trade centre in British India, connecting the vital rice, maize, legume, and oilseed farms of the region to rest of the subcontinent by rail. Midnapore was originally called Fish Creek, but the village postmaster allegedly changed the name when he found a letter addressed to the postmaster of Midnapore, India, mixed in with Fish Creek's mail. The Postmaster thought the name was fitting and it stuck!

FEATURED PHOTO



Thank you to **Mr. McCarthy** for submitting this serene photo of Lake Chaparral. Now that winter is upon us, we appreciate this momentary escape from the cold!

Please continue to submit your photos of the riding. We would love to feature them in upcoming editions of the Kusie Update! Send your photo(s) to: stephanie.kusie.c1@parl.gc.ca