

Kusie Update

Spring 2021



Message from Stephanie



*Dear Constituents of
Calgary Midnapore,*

This month marks one year since the pandemic truly turned our lives upside-down. It's been an uphill battle, but I am so proud of the way our community has come together and persevered.

It remains my honour to serve you and represent you in Parliament, where I've been hard at work to preserve our Conservative values and way of life in Calgary Midnapore. I have given speeches, participated in debates, questioned Cabinet Ministers,

and given media interviews over the past few weeks on topics ranging from the carbon tax to the failed Canadian Infrastructure Bank, to support for Canadian workers. Links to all these interventions in the House of Commons are available within this newsletter.

In my role as the Shadow Minister for Transport, I've been advocating strongly for the aviation sector, which has been ignored for over a year by the Liberal government. I have been asking tough questions in Committee and will continue to push for transparency and accountability.

The federal budget 2021 is set to be released on April 19 and you can certainly expect commentary from me and my Conservative colleagues to follow.

I recently sent a 2020 Tax Guide to every household in the riding. I hope it will help you get the most out of your tax filing this year.

I would be pleased if you would consider joining me at my upcoming "Alberta Energy: What's Next?" virtual Q&A on March 31st. Read on for registration details.

As always, I am eager to hear your thoughts on current issues facing Calgary Midnapore and Canada as a whole. I look forward to the day when we can meet again in person. Until then, please continue to engage with me via email, comment cards, and social media.

I wish you and your family a very Happy Easter!

Sincerely,

Stephanie

IN THE RIDING

Valentines for Seniors

Stephanie was happy to spread some love throughout the riding again this year! With the help of students at St. Sebastian Elementary School, she was able to deliver 300+ Valentines to the residents at AgeCare Walden Heights. Stephanie was happy to once again see young residents of Calgary Midnapore showing their care and appreciation for seniors.



CIVIX Rep Day – Nickle School

Rep Day is a nationwide civic education initiative that connects elected representatives with students for a dialogue on current political issues. Stephanie was happy to participate in Rep Day again; this year visiting virtually with Mr. McEwan's grade six students at Nickle School in Bonavista (where she was once a student).

ON THE HILL

Vaccines and Travel Restrictions

Albertans are understandably growing increasingly frustrated by continued restrictions, including those related to travel outside of Canada imposed by the federal Liberal government, at the direction of Prime Minister Trudeau.

[Stephanie released a statement](#) expressing concerns about this new level of restrictions, which require a 3-day hotel quarantine, following the Liberal announcement in January. After reports of unsafe and deplorable conditions at some of these hotels, long waits for bookings, unrefunded monies and limited availability of food and water the Official Opposition has since officially called for an end to the flawed program.

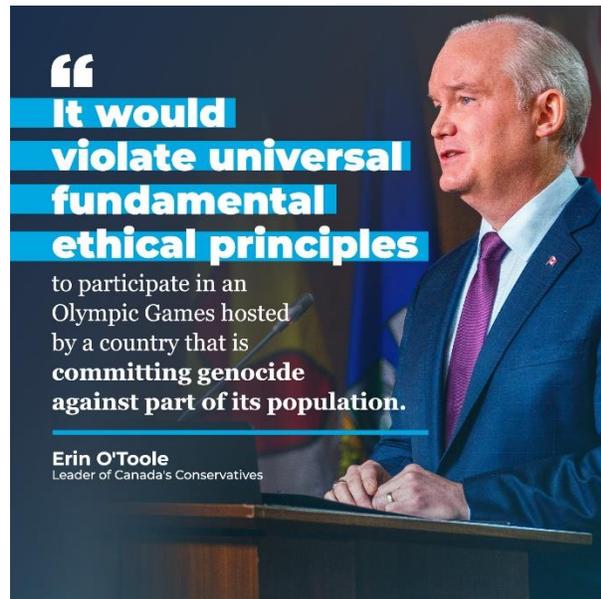
The *fact* is, lockdowns and restrictions were put in place to buy governments time to get permanent solutions like vaccines, rapid testing, variant testing capacity, and therapeutics – and these tools now exist. The *problem* is, Justin Trudeau hasn't succeeded in bringing them to widespread use in Canada. We need to be using these tools to reduce quarantine times, like our allies around the world are doing.

We're here today – and into the foreseeable future - because the Liberal government has failed to secure and use these tools. The Official Opposition asked the government what scientific data they used to determine that having people quarantine in a hotel would be a lower health risk than quarantining at home – and they were unable to answer. Conservatives have asked the government to urgently provide scientific support for their National Advisory Committee on Immunization's recommendation to push the advised time between doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine from three weeks to four months. Stephanie and her colleagues have serious concerns about experts' feedback that this extended delay creates the conditions for vaccine-resistant strains to emerge.

By now, Canadians should know when things are going to get better. The Liberals can't keep asking Canadians to sacrifice more without being clear when restrictions can be eased.



Erin O'Toole calls for relocation of 2022 Olympic Games



As part of a repeated Conservative message that the Liberal government must take a stand against the genocide and human rights abuses condoned by China, including the kidnapping and continued imprisonment of two Canadians, the Leader of the Official Opposition stated the 2022 Olympic Games must not be held in China.

Canada must take a stand but we do not need to do this alone. We should work with our closest allies and co-ordinate an effort to relocate the games for 2022. And in doing so, we can remind them of the role Canada has and must continue to play in taking an early stand for human rights and dignity.

As the Honourable Erin O'Toole stated: “The world should not be denied the 2022 Olympics. Our

athletes should be able to compete, break records, and smash barriers. But not in China.”

Conservatives pass motion to create committee on Canada-U.S. relations

Recognizing the importance of the economic relationship between Canada and the US, the Official Opposition tabled a motion in early February to establish a special committee focused on that issue.

Stephanie and her colleagues are concerned the Liberal government is not proactively setting up a plan for Canada to recover from COVID-19. Trade between Canada and the U.S. exceeds \$1.5 billion per day, but “Buy America” procurement rules and an absence of government advocacy for North American energy security puts that in jeopardy.



At a time when both our countries need to be focused on getting people back to work and restoring our ways of life post-COVID-19, this committee’s goal will be to get answers for Canadians and fight to secure our future.

As the Honourable Erin O'Toole stated: “We need a plan to create jobs in every sector and every region in this country. Canada cannot afford another failure to plan. We must begin planning to reopen and rebuild our economy, and to get Canadians back to work.”

Firearms Legislation (Bill C-21)



The long-standing position of the Conservative Party of Canada, and subsequently my position as well, is to protect the rights of legal gun owners who use their firearms for recreational or hunting purposes. The Liberals tabled Bill C-21 which unfairly targets law-abiding firearms owners and will cost taxpayers billions more while doing nothing to reduce crime. Adding new measures will be largely ineffective since criminals predominantly obtain firearms outside of our system of regulation.

We tried introducing alternative legislation to target actual gun crime – such as MP Bob Saroya's bill which strengthened the criminal code surrounding the import of illegal weapons – however the government voted against that bill.

And then the Liberals tabled Bill C-22, which actually *weakens* the laws protecting Canadians from gun violence. It eliminates a number of serious firearms offences that would receive mandatory prison time, including robbery with a firearm, discharging a firearm with intent to harm, and weapons trafficking.

The Liberals are proposing to allow criminals to serve house arrest rather than jail time for a number of offences including sexual assault, trafficking in persons for material benefit, and kidnapping. This does nothing except put communities and victims at risk.

Conservatives believe that law-abiding firearms owners should not be treated like criminals, and that serious, violent offences that are committed with firearms deserve mandatory prison time.

Liberal and Bloc MPs join forces to stifle debate on Senate amendments to Bill C-7 (Medical Assistance in Dying)

Stephanie voted against *Bill C-7, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)* when it originally appeared before the House of Commons due to her concerns about the lack of protection for vulnerable Canadians. It was subsequently returned by the Senate, at the last minute, with an amendment that would start a reckless countdown to expand MAID to those with mental illness. This is a serious change and in fact the Liberals' own Justice Department has said that expanding MAID to those where mental illness is the sole underlying condition 'could be seen as undermining suicide prevention initiatives and normalizing death as a solution to many forms of suffering'.

The Official Opposition believes that, at the very least, the new version of C-7 should have received full Parliamentary review and analysis. Instead, the Bloc and Liberals joined forces to avoid thorough debate and scrutiny over the new version in favour of rushing the amended legislation to a vote.

Instead of recklessly expanding MAID to those with mental illness without parliamentary review, the focus should be on providing additional mental health support.

The Official Opposition tried to work with the other parties to remove the portion added to C-7 by the Senate regarding those suffering from mental illness, however they were not successful. As a result, Stephanie voted against C-7 and she and her colleagues will continue to advocate for changes to protect the vulnerable in Canada. Persons with disabilities and indeed all Canadians deserve as much.

<https://mailchi.mp/conservative.ca/news-release-communicu-qnugo89tvk?e=c7e5cc5e59>

Emergency Debate on Keystone XL & Enbridge Line 5

On the very first day of Joe Biden's Presidency, he revoked the permit for the Keystone XL expansion. By the stroke of a pen, he struck a devastating blow to the Canadian energy sector that will affect thousands of Canadian workers and our country's economy.

Conservatives recognize the importance of the energy sector and that know that securing jobs will be essential to Canada's economic recovery from COVID-19. This is why the Conservative Party called for an Emergency Debate in the House of Commons where Conservatives fought for the industry. As part of the debate, Conservative Members proposed that several Parliamentary Committees (Natural Resources, Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Transport, and Infrastructure and Communities) study the impact that the Keystone XL cancellation could have on Canada – however, at every turn, the Liberals shamefully shut down debate.

Days later, Governor Whitmer in Michigan added salt to the wound by taking legal action to shut down Enbridge's Line 5, which carries 540,000 barrels per day of crude oil and natural gas liquids to refineries and consumers in Ontario, Quebec, Michigan, and Ohio. The Governor is using the guise of water safety to shut down this essential line, yet multiple environmental and safety reports on Line 5 have been completed and show no concern with the pipeline. Line 5 has been in operation for 67 years and has never had a leak. Shutting down Line 5 would result in a loss of 50,000 energy jobs in Canada and the USA.

Unsurprisingly, Canada's Prime Minister did not stand up for these jobs. The Liberals have no interest in addressing the real issues that affect Canadians. Canada's Official Opposition will. Leader Erin O'Toole

The **CANCELLATION** of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline means:



IMMEDIATE AND ALARMING FUEL SHORTAGES across Ontario and Quebec



HIGHER fuel prices



Loss of **THOUSANDS OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT JOBS**

CANADA CAN'T AFFORD ANOTHER LIBERAL PIPELINE FAILURE.

raised his disappointment about these attacks on Canadian energy and made the case for why the projects should continue, including the economic benefits for both countries. Conservative MP Marilyn Gladu (Sarnia Lambton) wrote directly to Governor Whitmer, urging her to keep Line 5 operation. MP Gladu also sponsored an e-Petition (e-3081) that Stephanie encourages you to sign and share with your friends and family. This petition can be found online at

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3081>

Canadians need a government that will champion jobs in every sector, especially at this critical time. That's what a Conservative government led by Erin O'Toole will do.

Bill C-263 The Equalization and Transfers Fairness Act

Early in February, Alberta Member of Parliament Tom Kmiec tabled Bill C-263 *The Equalization and Transfers Fairness Act*. This bill follows direction straight from the Fair Deal Panel regarding changes that should be made to the federal equalization and transfers programs. C-263 does essentially three things: removes the \$170 per capita cap on fiscal stabilization payments, ensures the federal government cannot unilaterally change the equalization formula, and makes a successful referendum on equalization impossible to ignore. This bill is a good starting point to increase fairness for Albertans within confederation through adjustments to the equalization and transfers system.



INTRODUCED BY **TOM KMIEC** MP FOR CALGARY SHEPARD

Changes to commercial rent relief

For months, Conservatives and entrepreneurs called for changes to the Liberals' flawed rent relief program so that tenants could apply directly. As well, it was made clear there was a need for the introduction of a sliding scale instead of requiring a 70% reduction in revenue, so that more businesses could receive help. The Trudeau Liberals finally made these changes, although they did so with no warning to small businesses (SMEs). These businesses need to know the details of government programs so they can plan for the future. Any changes or extensions to the rent relief program should have been announced before the previous program expired. Stephanie would appreciate any feedback from business owners about whether the new program is helping them, or not.

Debate on C-14, the Fall Economic Statement Implementation Act

On March 8th, the House of Commons voted on Bill C-14 at second reading. While Conservatives support many of the measures in Bill C-14, Stephanie and her colleagues strongly oppose raising the maximum borrowing limit by \$700 billion (56.8%) to a staggering \$1.83 trillion, an increase that is vastly beyond what is needed for all of the emergency programs and stimulus.

Conservatives have proudly supported programs to help Canadians who have been hit hard by Justin Trudeau's failure to create jobs. But Canadians deserve to know where their tax dollars are going. Under the Liberal government, Canada has had a record economic decline, the highest unemployment in the G7 despite the highest spending in the OECD, and the worst economic growth per capita since the Great Depression.

The Prime Minister now holds the record for the longest period in Canadian history without an economic plan and \$700 billion is far beyond what the government needs to fund all the emergency programs, stimulus and even additional spending promises. They have not explained why they need to increase total federal debt to \$1.83 trillion.

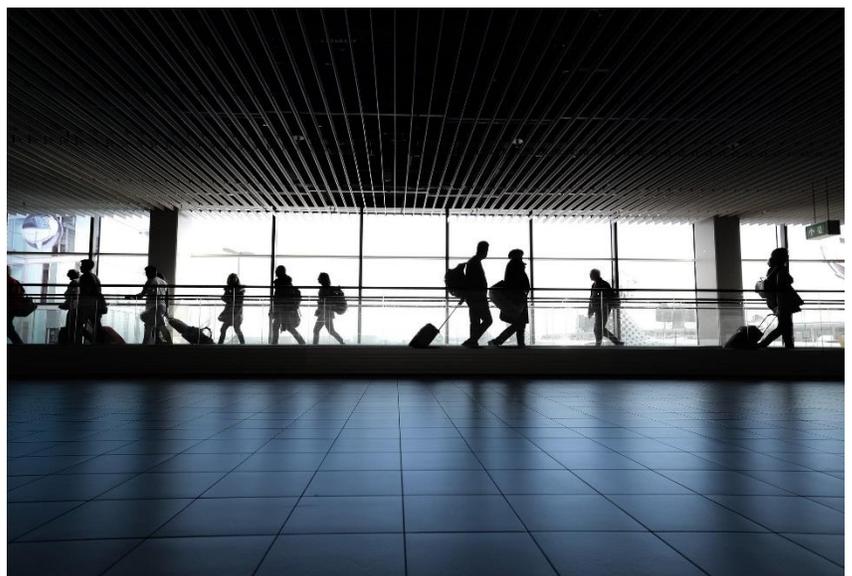
Conservatives made it clear to the Liberal government that the Official Opposition would vote in favour of Bill C-14 if they would agree to make voting to increase the debt limit a separate vote. There is no reason, beside politics, for the Liberals not splitting this bill.

Stephanie in the media:

- [CBC Radio's The House: "Shots in the dark"](#)
- [CPAC Panel](#)
- [Rob Snow Show](#) (scrub to 20:00 mark)
- [Blueprint podcast](#)
- [660 News](#)

SHADOW MINISTRY & COMMITTEE UPDATE

Stephanie has been very busy in her role as Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee for Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. The committee has just finished hearing from witnesses on two studies: The impact of COVID-19 on the aviation sector and the Canada Infrastructure Bank. They heard from witnesses who discussed at length the decimation the aviation sector is facing as a result of COVID-19. This includes Calgary's own WestJet who has had to cut their workforce from approximately 14,000 to 5,600



employees. The committee hopes to complete reports on these studies this spring so that they can present their recommendations to the Government.

You can read WestJet's testimony at Transport Committee at Transport Committee [HERE](#)

The Committee's next study this spring will look at targeting infrastructure investment to the benefit of social, economic, and environmental outcomes. Stephanie will be happy to provide you with an update and information on that study once it's underway.

You may wish to check out two videos below that draw attention to Canada's forgotten aviation industry:

- [National Aviation Day](#)
- ["One Year Without Wings"](#)

UPDATE ON PETITION e-2889

After a 2019 collision at the Cu Nim Gliding Club in Black Diamond, AB resulted in the death of Adam Leinweber (along with a gliding instructor) when the tow plane collided with the glider, Adam's parents began to do what they could to help another family avoid this type of tragedy.

After the Transport Canada report into the crash revealed that, although both aircraft were equipped with FLARM (the traffic awareness and collision avoidance technology for General Aviation, light aircraft, and UAVs) the tow craft's system was reported not functional on the day of the collision. The Leinweber's subsequently sponsored an e-petition calling for mandated aircraft collision avoidance systems for gliding clubs in Canada. When Stephanie learned that they were short of the total signatures required by the House of Commons to ensure certification of the petition, she asked her colleagues and social media following to consider signing the e-petition. She wants to thank all those who followed through and expects the certified petition to be tabled in the House of Commons in the coming days.

Stephanie in the House – click to watch these interventions on YouTube:

- [SO31 – Feb. 16, 2021](#)
- [SO31 – Mar 9, 2021](#)
- [Speech \(x2\) Mar 9 2021](#)
- [Speech on Bill C-18 -- Mar 9 2021](#)
- [Adjournment Debate – Mar 10 2021](#)
- [Question Period – Mar 11 2021](#)

CASEWORK CORNER

Our office would like to highlight a few key points as we head into tax season:



- Watch your mailbox for a tax return guide. We do not provide tax help at our office but have provided an important guide with some reminders of helpful tax credits.
- Paper filing is being discouraged and will have extra delays attached to it -- as much as up to 10- 12 weeks. You are encouraged to set up a CRA My Account if you have not already done so. It will make filing much faster and easier. Paper filing is still available, but it carries with it delays which you should be aware of.
- CRA is offering a number of virtual clinics to help you file. You can find that information [here](#).
- You may have received a letter in February inviting you to participate in filing with CRA over the phone. They have reached out to individuals, inviting them to be part of a new program where they will assist you -- provided you have a simple return with no changes. If you did not receive a letter you are not eligible to participate.
- If you worked from home during the pandemic, there is a new tax credit as a home office expense. If you received COVID benefits other than the GST they were taxable.
- If you owe CRA for a COVID benefit they are allowing an additional year to pay that back interest free.
- There is a [liaison officer](#) that offers free help to self-employed individuals and is available by phone or videoconference.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Sarah Watson for more information on any of the above. Again, while we cannot assist you with technical tax questions or do your taxes, we can provide you with information as to your options as you head into the tax season.

HISTORICAL CALGARY MIDNAPORE



Are you a history buff? If so, you might like to check out [“The Alberta History Show”](#), hosted by the “History Wrangler” (Rob Lennard) who combines his zest and knowledge of Alberta history with his passion for performing and entertaining Albertans of all ages throughout the province. A new episode is added every Monday at ‘high noon’.

FEATURED PHOTO

Bow Valley Ranche is a gem in the heart of Fish Creek Park. There you’ll find the Bow Valley Ranche Restaurant, Annie’s Café, and several quiet paths where you can walk or bike; and benches where you can sit and soak up the sunshine and listen to the birds.

Your photo could be featured next! Please submit photo(s) taken of the riding to:

stephanie.kusie.c1@parl.gc.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS



Stephanie continues to advocate for Alberta's energy industry and wants to provide you with an opportunity to submit your questions regarding the future of the sector. Join Stephanie for a virtual Q&A on **March 31st**. There will be much to discuss, from Keystone XL to Enbridge's Line 5. Stephanie has invited **MP Greg McLean** (Shadow Minister for Natural Resources & Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency) and the **Hon. Sonya Savage** (Minister of Energy for the Government of Alberta), to join her. Stephanie and her guests are looking

forward to sharing news and answering your questions. You can register for this free event on Stephanie's website: <https://stephaniekusiemp.ca/2021/03/23/alberta-energy-whats-next-registration-now-open/> Don't forget to submit a question!

"Women in Politics" – Guest speaker at a virtual discussion hosted by the University of Manitoba Campus Conservatives

If you would like to hear about Stephanie's experiences in politics, and/or take part in the Q&A, you can register for this free virtual event [here](#).

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA CAMPUS
CONSERVATIVES PRESENT...
Member of Parliament
STEPHANIE KUSIE
SHADOW MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
WOMEN IN POLITICS
WHEN APRIL 7, 2021
TIME 7PM (CDT)
WHERE ZOOM CALL
WHERE TO SIGN UP
FILL OUT THE GOOGLE DOCS IN THE POST DESCRIPTION TO REGISTER