

# ***Kusie Update***

**November/December 2021**



## Message from Stephanie

*Dear Constituents of Calgary Midnapore,*

Let me begin by saying **THANK YOU** for your incredible support and for electing me to return to the House of Commons as your Member of Parliament. Although the election proved to be unnecessary, I was incredibly humbled to be made aware that I received the greatest number of votes for any woman in Canada. It is an incredible honour to represent you, and I remain committed to fighting for the people of this riding and our way of life here. I will continue to stand up for jobs, small businesses, the energy sector, and our conservative values. I will also continue to assist constituents with matters relative to federal services and programs.



We are not short on issues to debate as we begin this new, 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament. My colleagues and I are very concerned about rising inflation, labour shortages, supply chain constraints, national unity, border security, the housing bubble, softwood lumber tariffs, digital censorship, and of course, the catastrophic flooding in British Columbia.

The priorities announced in the Government's Speech from the Throne on November 23rd do not match those

of everyday Canadians who are worried about the rising cost of living. My Conservative colleagues and I are feeling strong and united in this new Parliament and will continue to work hard every day to defend small business owners, energy, auto and steelworkers, farming families, and parents and seniors that feel left behind by the Trudeau Liberals. You can count on us to use our voices *in* the House of Commons, unlike the Liberals and NDP, who prefer to hide from accountability.

I am excited to get to work in my new Shadow Cabinet portfolio: Employment, Future Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion. You will see me talking a lot about labour shortages and the concerns of business owners and workers as we seek to recover from the pandemic. (Read on for more on this new role!)

Please continue to keep in touch with me – I appreciate knowing what's on your mind. I receive all of your letters, emails, and I know this an extremely tough time – and I want you to know *I am listening*. My sincere hope is that all families in Calgary Midnapore find some peace and comfort in this Christmas season.

My plan is to host an in-person Meet & Greet event in January and I will keep you posted on the details as soon as they're available.

Take care and see you soon!

*Stephanie*

## The 44<sup>th</sup> Parliament



Following the fall election, Stephanie was appointed by Conservative Leader, the Honourable Erin O’Toole, to serve as Shadow Minister for Employment, Social Development and Disability Inclusion. As Parliament resumes, she is excited to start working on this new file and hold the Liberal government to account. There will be lots of work ahead for Stephanie as workforce development – including addressing the more than 1 million job vacancies - and employment benefits will be crucial to getting the country back to work and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

One of her first priorities will be working with the Shadow Minister for Finance, Pierre Poilievre, on the new ‘Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit’ and ensuring that it adequately provides supports to the people who need it. Another ongoing issue in this portfolio will be labour shortages in critical industries. As COVID-19 has created a significant shift in the labour market, Stephanie will be looking into possible solutions to this crisis.



Additionally, an important element of her new file is disability inclusion. As our recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 gets underway, Stephanie wants to ensure that the aspirations and rights of persons with disabilities are included and accounted for. She will be holding the government accountable by demanding they make the necessary supports available to individuals with disabilities so that they can live fulfilling lives and participate fully in society, including in the workforce.



## Speech from the Throne

Last week, the Liberals finally brought Parliament back, although one of their first priorities was [to push through a motion](#) which would require the House of Commons to return to working in a hybrid fashion even though they had just completed two days of sittings with almost all Members of Parliament being present.

The Prime Minister’s Speech from the Throne showed a similar disregard for the urgent issues facing Canadians. Justin Trudeau’s political priorities do nothing for: people worried about the cost-of-living crisis which is pricing families out of homes and driving the cost of everyday essentials up; businesses crippled from supply chain constraints, or; workers whose wages are stagnating.

Rather than focusing on employment and investment to kick start our recovery and strengthen our economy, this Liberal government is focused on furthering its own ideological agenda – no matter the cost.



The reality is that from coast-to-coast-to-coast, life is getting more expensive for Canadians and if issues like inflation and the deficit continue to be ignored, the situation is only going to get worse.

Instead of presenting an economic plan for families, seniors and small businesses that have been left behind, Justin Trudeau’s approach means more of the same -- more deficits leading to higher taxes, at a time when many Canadians are already barely making ends meet.

Stephanie also questioned the Prime Minister’s promise to support all regions of Canada, as the Liberals have already

proven their blatant discrimination against Alberta. As she pointed out: “No region left behind’ means the attack on the West and jobs in Western Canada must end, but unfortunately based on the past actions of this government, I expect more of the same.”

Though the Speech from the Throne had few surprises (given the policies presented during the most recent campaign) – it did serve as an example of just how out-of-touch this Prime Minister is. In the Speech, (given by the new Governor General, Her Excellency the Rt. Hon. Mary May Simon), Trudeau made his priorities clear. The Conservative Party of Canada will be there for the people and industries who feel abandoned by the Liberal government.

### **In the Constituency:**

As a supporter of the arts, Stephanie was thrilled to be invited to attend and speak at the ribbon cutting of the ATCO Performing Arts Centre – the new home of the [Youth Singers of Calgary](#). Two of Calgary’s most philanthropic women, Margaret and Nancy Southern of ATCO, spoke to attendees about the important role that music, song, and performance play in the lives of Calgary’s kids. No matter what challenges it’s facing,





Calgary's oil and gas sector continues to support so many important facets of our city and lives. Thank you, ATCO, for this brilliant new Centre!

Thank you, Kiran, a passionate social worker and volunteer Guider, for inviting Stephanie to join the 210 Queensland Guides (of the Famous Five District) for a meeting of Sparks, Brownies, and Guides. As a former Guide herself, Stephanie had a great time answering questions and talking to the girls about her role as an MP and how they can become leaders in their communities. Connecting with the next

generation of Calgary Midnapore is always a special experience.

## Climate Extremist appointed as Minister for the Environment

In late October, Justin Trudeau appointed climate extremist, Steven Guilbeault as Environment Minister. Then, during the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Trudeau proclaimed that, to reach net-zero by 2050, he will impose a hard cap on emissions from Canada's oil and gas sector.



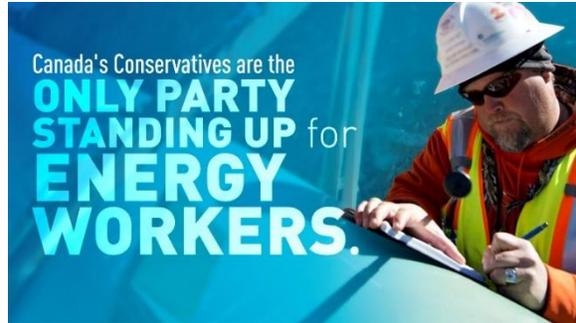
As if Bills C-69 and C-48 weren't damaging enough to the energy sector, Trudeau's latest plan will chase away investment and jobs in Canada and encourage the world's heaviest emitters like China to increase their oil production. Instead, he prefers to import oil from countries like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela than champion our very own world-class industry which is essential to the health and social transfers all provinces depend on.

Trudeau has promised over the years to take the concerns of the West seriously, but time and time again these have proven to have been empty words. National unity is a major concern and with his latest announcement, Trudeau is only fanning the flames of division.

Many countries are experiencing the first effects of energy poverty. Government policy that makes energy more expensive for Canadians is not the answer.

In the midst of this global energy shortage, Canada's world-class energy products should be a part of the solution. Unfortunately, while other leaders are pushing to increase energy production, our Prime Minister prefers to virtue signal on the world stage.

The Liberals have turned their back on Canada's energy industry. Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will continue to oppose their anti-energy ideology.



Please see comments made by the Shadow Minister for Environment, [Dan Albas](#) and check out [Erin O'Toole's video](#).

You might also like to see the Leader's strong statement in the House this week, [defending Canadian Energy and pipelines](#).

## **Greener Homes Grant**

Over the past months Stephanie has heard from constituents unhappy that the Liberal government's Greener Homes Grant contains restrictions which unfairly eliminates Albertans from accessing certain portions of the program. Intended to help homeowners make upgrades to their homes to increase the energy efficiency, the portion related to water heaters only allows limit grant approvals to electric heaters. As many Albertans use natural gas heaters, they are ineligible to access any of these funds. Stephanie has written to the new Minister of Natural Resources to ask that this portion of the program be reassessed with this in mind.

## **PCR Test Requirement for Travelers**



In May, the government's own COVID-19 Testing and Screening Expert Advisory Panel released a report recommending that fully vaccinated non-exempt travellers do not need to take a pre-departure test. The expert panel and leading health experts made it clear that the pre-departure PCR policies for fully vaccinated travelers entering through land borders and air travel need to be updated.

In addition, constituents have been communicating their frustration with the expensive (and inconvenient) requirement to provide proof of a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of returning to Canada, especially given that the United States requires only a fairly inexpensive and much more convenient rapid anti-gen test.

As the Liberals had not acted on the Advisory Panel’s recommendations, early in November the Official Opposition urged the Liberal government to repeal the PCR requirement for vaccinated Canadians.

In mid-November, the Liberals announced they will be lifting the PCR requirement for fully vaccinated travellers returning to Canada, but only for short trips (72 hours or less). This policy was to take effect on November 30th, 2021 but that same day the government announced new restrictions as a result of the discovery of the new Omicron variant. Flights from a number of countries have been suspended and incoming air travellers from all countries except the United States must be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival in Canada, regardless of whether they're vaccinated or not. And they'll also have to quarantine until their test results come back negative. To ensure you have the most accurate information, check [here](#) for travel updates.

## **Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine – 5,000 doses now available in Alberta**



Stephanie has heard from constituents hesitant to get the previously available COVID-19 vaccines who indicated they would prefer the Johnson & Johnson single dose option. Although the federal Liberals donated a contract for ten million doses of the vaccine internationally this past summer, Alberta is one of the Canadian provinces which specifically requested the J&J option in an effort to see more people with at least one dose of a vaccine before winter. As CTV [reported](#) earlier this month, the first shipment of 5,000 doses have arrived and Albertans who would like to receive

the vaccine are asked to call 811. Another 15,000 doses are expected, although a firm delivery date is not yet available.

## **Results Canada – Parliamentarian’s Year in Review**

Since being elected in 2017, Stephanie has collaborated with and championed the work of [Results Canada](#), a not-for-profit organization that seeks to advance solutions that will end extreme poverty. Whether it’s participating in discussions on global health, education, or economic opportunities, Stephanie has been proud to support this group. As a member of the International Parliamentary Network for Education, Stephanie looks forward to more conversations around accelerating quality education for all.

### **key events**

**International Parliamentary Network for Education**  
Results Canada was happy to support the *International Parliamentary Network for Education* in their mission to mobilize the political leadership necessary to accelerate quality education for all. We partnered with all the Canadian members who were a part of this important Network advancing access to quality education.



Thank you MP Mike Lake, Senator Mobina Jaffer, Parliamentary Secretary Anita Vandenberg, MP Chris d’Entremont, MP Dave Epp, MP Greg McLean, MP Heather McPherson, MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith and MP Stephanie Kasle for championing global education!



Results Canada’s “Parliamentarian’s Year in Review 2020-21” is available [here](#).

## Casework Corner

As we begin to try and adjust to the ever-changing situation with COVID in the world, Immigration continues to be the number one challenge in the federal realm in terms of casework. One of the main factors was of course COVID itself which saw global offices open and then close depending on the wave and numbers in each country. That in turn affects how applications are being processed and the timing of same. Another key contributor to the increasing delays and backlog has been the unexpected situation in Afghanistan and the need to get refugees out as promised. That meant that experienced officers were moved off regular files and over to the crisis.

The combination of these two events has created a cascading impact on Permanent Residency applications, sponsorships, work visas, PR card renewals, temporary residence visas and citizenship applications. It has meant an increase in constituents requesting help on files and we are doing our best to do inquiries on your behalf. (It is an additional concern that the Liberal government has lifted the crossing restrictions at Roxham Road, which has previously proven to be a large source of illegal immigration. While those who have gone through the appropriate channels wait longer and longer for their applications to be processed – and in some cases, have to repay significant fees due to the government’s delays – the lifting of these restrictions will only add to their already lengthy wait times.)

It is important to note that the role of our office is to do inquiries only. We cannot request a file be expedited (unless you qualify), and we cannot change or impact decisions. We also do not write letters of reference for applications. We can get updates on existing files, give you the link to see if you qualify for urgent processing of an application and give advice on how to ensure that you have the right information on a TRV application. Thank you for your patience while we navigate uncertain timelines. We know that this is already a hard process for families.

As always, we remain ready to serve you as you navigate federal programs and departments. Our next most common requests are for Service Canada which includes CPP/OAS and Employment Insurance, CRA, Immigration and Veterans Affairs. I can be reached directly at **403-225-3480 ext. 1** or by email at **stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca**

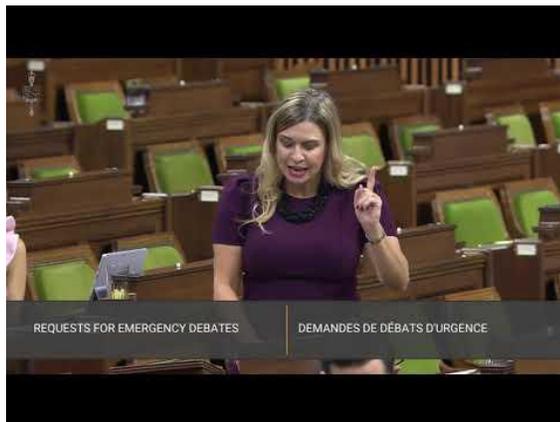
## Stephanie's latest videos:



*"You don't get a blank cheque!" (debating Bill C-2) Nov. 29, 2021*



*Asking about labour shortages across Canada (Question Period) November 26, 2021*



*1MP Stephanie Kusie requests Emergency Debate on the labour shortage crisis in Canada*



*MP Stephanie Kusie's reaction to the Speech from the Throne -- November 24, 2021*

## Calgary Midnapore – through your eyes



Calgary Midnapore is the best riding in Canada! We'd love to share your photos of this wonderful place we call home. Please submit your photo(s) of the riding to: [stephanie.kusie.c1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephanie.kusie.c1@parl.gc.ca)

Thanks to Nancy in Deer Run for submitting this photo of the low-lying fog in Fish Creek!