

KUSIE UPDATE

February/March 2022



MESSAGE FROM STEPHANIE

*Dear Constituents of Calgary
Midnapore,*

How wonderful it is to feel Spring upon us! The nice weather and longer days paired with the elimination of most COVID restrictions in the province and around the country is breathing new life into many of whom the pandemic has left feeling weary.

The past few months in Ottawa have been exceptionally challenging and emotional; from the Conservative Party's leadership changes to the historic protests, the Prime Minister's unprecedented invocation of the Emergencies Act, and most recently, the deeply concerning situation in Ukraine. I have received thousands of emails and calls regarding all of these issues and I would like to thank the constituents who have taken time out of their busy days to share their thoughts and feelings with me. Knowing where you stand helps guide me in my decision making as your representative in Ottawa.

The next Parliamentary session will be another busy one given Canada's current geopolitical concerns, the inflation crisis, supply chain interruptions, and labour shortages. Additionally, studies at the Committee level are now well underway – and the results could prove very interesting. We also await the tabling of Budget 2022.

You can expect the Official Opposition to continue to press the government to end all federal mandates and to be relentless in our advocacy for the Canadian energy industry. More than ever, the world needs Canadian energy!

I hope you will join me and my special guest, the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Michael Chong, at my upcoming Foreign Affairs Virtual Town Hall on April 5th. Please see details on the last page of this newsletter.

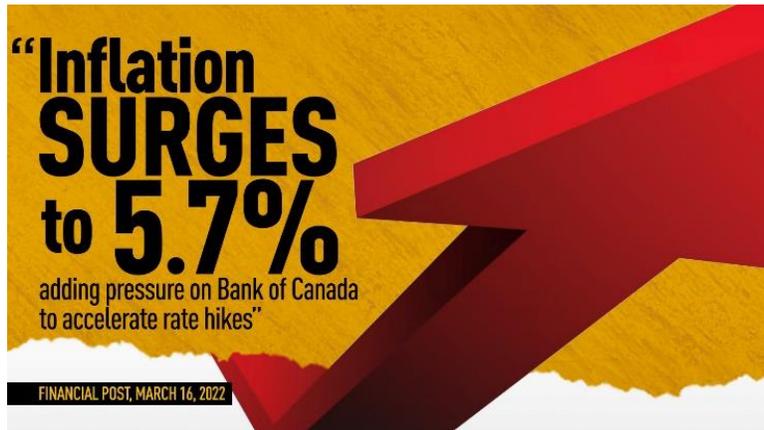
I wish each of you a joyful start to Spring and look forward to seeing you as we ease back into in-person events.

Sincerely,

Stephanie



INFLATION HITS 5.7% IN CANADA



Families across Canada are feeling the effects of the inflation crisis. The Bank of Canada has maintained that a healthy level of inflation is roughly 2 per cent. Justin Trudeau's out of control spending has shot Canada's inflation rate to nearly 6 per cent.

House prices have doubled under Justin Trudeau and are up 29 per cent in the last year. Groceries are costing families an extra \$1,000 annually. Gas

prices are through the roof, making it more difficult for parents to drive to work or take their kids to hockey practice.

Trudeau's April 1st imposition of a federal carbon tax only adds salt to the wound. In documents tabled with the Standing Committee on Finances (FINA), Bank of Canada Tiff Governor Macklem revealed that the Liberal Carbon Tax increased inflation by 0.4 per cent, compounding the cost-of-living crisis.

Two-thirds of Canadians say that inflation and the affordability crisis are their top economic concern, and Stephanie has heard from many of her constituents (especially seniors on a fixed income) that they are really worried about being able to pay their bills.

Stephanie and her colleagues are calling on the Liberals to get spending under control, provide a path to a balanced budget, and focus on growing our economy rather than trying to borrow and spend their way out of the financial mess they have created. Stephanie encourages all constituents and Canadians to pay attention to the tabling of Budget 2022 it will indicate whether the Liberals intend to ease the financial burden on Canadian families -- or make it worse.

This week, you will see the Conservative Party present ideas to address the cost of living crisis; one of which is [a GST/HST holiday on gas prices](#).



You can also tune into Finance Committee meetings [here](#), where the Conservative team is pressing the government to put an end to their high-tax, high-debt agenda.

HOUSEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS

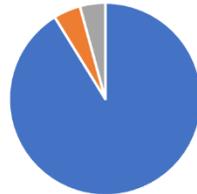
In Stephanie's latest Householder (the booklet mailed to you last month), we invited every household in the riding to provide feedback on the issues that affect them. Here are the results:

Has your household been affected by the rising cost of living?



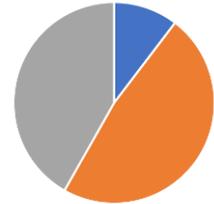
■ YES ■ NO

Would Justin Trudeau's plan to tax the sale of your home hurt your financial future?



■ YES ■ NO ■ N/A

Have you been affected by the immigration backlog?



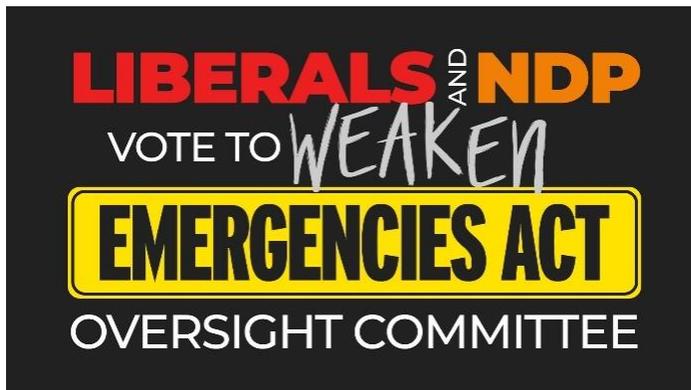
■ YES ■ NO ■ N/A

PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

INVOCATION OF THE EMERGENCY MEASURES ACT

As the EMA legislation requires, a Parliamentary Committee has been struck to look into the use of the extraordinary measures employed by the Prime Minister under his emergency declaration during the protests earlier this year.

The Act is clear in stating that the Committee should be a lean and opposition-heavy so as to avoid the same government which invoked the Act being able to also control the hearings into the situation. As Conservative House Leader John Brassard explained, "in a healthy democracy, the government of the day cannot be allowed to police itself."



Unfortunately, the Liberals, backed by their NDP allies, have set the stage to do that just that. They have already weakened the accountability and oversight measures required under the Emergencies Act by forcing through an absurd proposal to strike a committee that does not respect the balance and the unique functions of both the House of Commons and the Senate, or the role of the Official Opposition in our democracy of holding the government to account. This is of particular

concern given today's news that their alliance is being formalized.

However, the first public meeting of the Special Joint Committee on the Declaration of Emergency (DEDC) will be held on March 24th, 2022. You can access previous meetings, and watch current ones, [here](#).

Another area of concern is that, despite the claims of the Prime Minister that the *Emergencies Act* was introducing temporary government powers, he has been contradicted by his Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister, and future Liberal leadership hopeful, Chrystia Freeland.

During a February 18th press conference, she indicated that " we will be putting forward measures to put [some of] those tools permanently in place. The authorities of FINTRAC, I believe, do need to be expanded to cover crowd sourcing platforms."

As a result, Conservatives brought forward a motion to have the Finance Committee look into the financial implications of the EMA. The text of the motion reads as follows:

That, the committee undertake an emergency study on the invocation of the Emergencies Act and related measures taken regarding the 2022 Freedom Convoy, and that:

a) The study examine:

- i. The financing of the protest and the blockades;*
- ii. The broadened scope of Canada's anti-terrorist financing laws;*
- iii. The federal government's increased ability to interfere with the business of crowdfunding websites; including but not limited to new Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) regulations with which crowdfunding websites must comply;*
- iv. The ability of Canadian financial institutions to temporarily and selectively cease providing financial services to specific clients;*
- v. The increased powers given to Canadian financial institutions to share personal information on anyone suspected of involvement with the 2022 Freedom Convoy;*
- vi. The long-term impacts of these measures on individual Canadians' financial futures; and*
- vii. Any other issue or topic related to the extension of powers or their effect on the Canadian financial system by the invocation of the Emergencies Act on Monday, February 14, 2022.*

The minutes of the meetings can be accessed [here](#). It is expected that a report on the findings will be completed by the end of March, and that will be available through this link as well.

INVASION OF UKRAINE

The Conservative Party has historically been a strong supporter of a free and democratic Ukraine and, although it is ultimately up to the Liberal government to act, Stephanie and her colleagues continue to do everything they can to ensure Canada responds firmly to Russia's attacks.

Stephanie also spoke during debate in the House of Commons on a motion brought to Parliament March 3rd, by the Conservatives. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/house/sitting-40/hansard#Int-11556786>



Conservatives
CONDEMN
Putin's invasion of Ukraine

The Official Opposition continues to ask the Liberal government to consider sanctions over and above what they have already announced, including Stephanie's [request](#) that Russia's Ambassador to Canada be expelled from Canada.

Additionally, Conservatives brought a motion before the Foreign Affairs Committee outlining additional measures for the government's consideration. The text is below, and although the Liberals voted against

it, the motion passed with the support of the other Opposition parties. The text of the motion – and the debate around it – can be found [here](#). One of the multiple parts of that motion included calling for visa-free travel from Ukraine to Canada. (Which, Stephanie was very pleased to be advised, is being implemented as this update is being prepared.)

We also called for a Parliamentary [debate](#) on this issue where we asked all parties to come to the floor of the House of Commons as a united front to determine what further actions can and should be taken in the face of Russia's attack on Ukraine.

On March 15th, 2022, Parliamentarians, Senators, and staff were privileged to attend a [virtual House of Commons address by His Excellency Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#). Following his call for more assistance, the [Interim Leader of the Official Opposition echoed the President's call for a no-fly zone over Ukraine](#).

This situation continues to evolve quickly and Stephanie and her colleagues have made it clear they will continue to work with the Liberal government towards implementing increased measure to both help Ukraine, and sanction Russia.

BILL S-233:



Stephanie has been hearing from many constituents concerned about rumours circulating around a Senate Private Member's Bill. A social media post (wrongly) claims that S-233 would make those who have chosen not to get vaccinated ineligible to receive government benefits (EI, CPP, etc). She wants to clarify that this absolutely NOT true. There is no mention in S-233 (or it's companion Bill in the House, C-223) about stripping Canadians of benefits based on their vaccination status.

What they *do* call for is a national framework to be created to provide a guaranteed basic income for everyone 17 and over. This is not the first time this

type of troubling legislation has been proposed and Stephanie will not be supporting it. She and her Conservative support policies that reduce poverty, create jobs and a strong economy, and help Canadians get back to work. As the Parliamentary Budget Officer [confirmed](#), this policy would cost close to \$88 billion.

Those who would like to review any piece of legislation before the House or Senate – including S-233 – can do so here: <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bills>.

BOUNDARY REDISTRIBUTION

As required following the 2021 decennial census, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Alberta has begun its review of federal electoral districts.

The Commission will be revising boundaries to allow for what will be 37 Alberta ridings (up from 34). The redistribution is intended to reflect not only population growth and shifting, but also a balance of communities of interest.

There will be broad public consultation – both ahead of and following the initial draft proposal – and Stephanie encourages anyone who wishes to submit comments or suggestions to do so by mail or email no later than June 30th, 2022.

By mail:

Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Alberta
PO Box 45062
Calgary, AB
T2G 4X3

By email:

ab@redecoupage-federal-redistribution.ca

For more information on the Commission and the redistribution process, visit redecoupage-redistribution-2022.ca.

SAFER SKIES

On March 24th Stephanie will be tabling legislation in the House of Commons which would mandate operational collision avoidance systems – FLARM - for gliding clubs in Canada.

This Private Member's Bill is the result of a commitment she made to Martina and Bradley Leinweber of Calgary who lost their son Adam in a 2019 gliding crash.

The tow plane's FLARM system which, according to Canada's Transport Safety Board "significantly reduces the risk of mid-air collisions", was not working at the time and both Adam and his flight instructor were killed.

What Stephanie was surprised to learn is that there is actually no requirement that these safety systems be used in Canada. In fact, the Minister of Transport told the Leinwebers that there is no interest in implementing mandated use of FLARM.

Given that there have been 30 confirmed incidents or near misses involving gliders since 2010 - nine of which involved commercial aircraft – Stephanie believes this is something that *anyone* who travels by air should be concerned about.

The Leinweber's have been working to increase aviation safety for all Canadians, and Stephanie is honoured to help them move closer to that goal.

Links to both the bill presentation and her Member's Statement on it, will be available on [Stephanie's website](#) on March 25th.



Adam Leinweber's love of aviation began when he was a young boy

SHADOW MINISTRY UPDATE

HUMA Update



As Vice-Chair, Stephanie has been working hard on the [Committee for Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities \(HUMA\)](#).

The Committee started off the parliamentary session by hearing from the Ministers of Labour, Seniors, Families, Children and Social

Development, and Employment Workforce Development on their respective mandate letters. Committee Members were able to ask the Ministers important questions on issues like childcare, sick leave, and GIS claw backs. The Committee then moved on to studying labour shortages, working conditions and the care economy. They are hearing from expert witnesses and working to develop recommendations from their testimony to present to the government. You can view or read transcript of the meetings [HERE](#). The spring session will be very busy for HUMA Members as they move on to wrapping up their study from last year on the impact of COVID-19 on Seniors, then begin studying the government's Housing Accelerator Fund.

IN THE RIDING



QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's ascension to the throne. As Queen of Canada, she has personified the traits of public service, dedication, and sacrifice. To mark this historic occasion, countries across the Commonwealth are celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, the first of its kind to be celebrated.

As Canada's longest serving monarch, the Queen has been a fixture of our society for seven decades. She has always made known her love for our country and has visited Calgary several times during her reign. This summer, I invite you to join me in celebrating this historic milestone.

We will be awarding 70 Platinum Jubilee pins to deserving citizens of Calgary Midnapore. The pins will be given to those who have demonstrated the qualities extolled by Her Majesty the Queen: public service, dedication, and sacrifice.

If you know someone who has gone above and beyond what has been asked of them and you believe is deserving of this award, I invite you to nominate them. My office will hold a special ceremony this summer to honour the recipients and tell their stories. More details on how to participate – including the nomination form – are available [here](#).

VALENTINES FOR SENIORS

This year, Stephanie was able to get the help of students at St. Teresa of Calcutta School to create dozens of heartfelt Valentines for residents in long term care at Silverado Creek Seniors Community. Faces lit up as they were delivered!

Thank you to the caring students and staff at St. Teresa of Calcutta for showing seniors that they are loved and cared for by members of the community. And thank you to Tyla, Praise, and all of the hardworking staff at Silverado Creek for keeping residents safe and happy.



Beautiful and creative Valentines made by the students at St. Teresa of Calcutta



Jordan Guildford and Stephanie at Hope's Cradle presentation

INSPIRING WOMEN OF FAITH: AN INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM - Q&A

In celebration of International Women's Day, Stephanie was pleased to attend a virtual interfaith symposium hosted by Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association. Attendees listened to representatives like Stephanie, from all different faiths, present their perspectives on the topic "Inspiring Women of Faith" and participated in a Q&A session.

HOPE'S CRADLE

Stephanie and a few of her Conservative colleagues in Alberta gathered this month for a presentation from Ms. Jordan Guildford on the painful reality of infant abandonments. Jordan has been partnering with local fire departments to establish Hope's Cradle; a charity that installs safe haven baby boxes at Fire Halls. It is an innovative, high-tech, and positive measure to support women placing vulnerable children in a safe

environment. If you would like to learn more about this important initiative, please visit:
<https://www.gemsforgems.com/hopes-cradle/>

CASEWORK UPDATE

Over the past 2-3 weeks, our office has received numerous calls and emails regarding delays in T4A slips.

We have reached out to Service Canada several times and have requested updates. We were informed that this is a Canada-wide issue and that many seniors in provinces across the country have been affected.

Here's what we know: Slips were sent later than normal on February 28th and that resulted in an initial delay. We have been told that some had to be re-sent on March 14th. This will result in another delay of up to 2 weeks for those slips.

If you have a [Service Canada My Account](#) or a [CRA My Account](#), you can check to see if the slips were uploaded – it is possible they are sitting there waiting to be printed. Note that there is an option on your account that may have turned off the paper mail option to receive an electronic copy only.

Our office is willing to request that slips be re-sent by the end of March if you have not yet received them. Just know that this will result in another delay with the mail.

Stephanie is reaching out to the Shadow Ministers for Seniors and National Revenue asking if their respective Ministers can explain what happened -- and also request an extension to the tax filing deadline be considered as a result of this frustrating delay.

If you have not yet set up an account with Service Canada secure portal online, we recommend you do so as it provides you with the ability to access Documents on your account. [Click here for more information about My Account.](#)

ENTER DRAW FOR A CANADA FLAG!



As part of events focused on recognizing the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, Stephanie will be holding a draw for 70 Canada flags in June.

To participate, simply print and complete the ballot found on [Stephanie's website](#) and return it—postage free—to her office before May 31st. Winners will be notified via email (or phone) and the flags will be available for pick-up before Canada Day.

Good luck!

STEPHANIE'S LATEST VIDEOS



Stephanie Kusie speaks on Putin's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine



Stephanie Kusie urges the federal government to expel Russia's Ambassador to Canada



Question Period: March 1, 2022



Question Period: Feb. 10, 2022



"Nothing to see here" - MP Stephanie Kusie speaks on Bill C-8

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Stephanie and her Special Guest, MP Michael Chong (Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs) for a virtual Town Hall discussion on the topic of Foreign Affairs. [Register today!](#)



JOIN STEPHANIE & SPECIAL GUEST

**SHADOW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MP MICHAEL CHONG**

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS
VIRTUAL TOWN HALL**

**APRIL 5, 2022
5-6 PM (MT)**

STEPHANIE KUSIE
MP / CALGARY NORTHEAST

TO REGISTER, VISIT: [STEPHANIEKUSIEMP.CA/EVENTS](https://stephaniekusiemp.ca/events)

The graphic features a laptop on a wooden desk with a mouse and notebook. The laptop screen displays the event details. The background is a blurred city street at night with bokeh lights.