

A MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER

During her last assigned speaking slot in the Member's Statement segment of Question Period, Stephanie delivered a blunt message for the Prime Minister:

"Mr. Speaker, this is my last statement of the Session and possibly before we go to the polls. I'm grateful for the four years that the good people of Calgary Midnapore have allowed me to be their voice, so I can't let this opportunity pass without expressing the following:

"Mr. Prime Minister you have failed the people of Calgary Midnapore. You have taken away their right to make a living. You have implemented bills C-48 and C-69. You delayed TransMountain. You did not stand up for Keystone XL and Line 5. You cancelled Energy East and the Northern Gateway. You've called my small business owners "tax cheats", attacked their retirements and their succession plans. And this was all before 2020."



ABOVE: Stephanie reviewing feedback from Calgary Midnapore constituents on key issues of concern, including the decimated energy sector.

You failed to protect them. You squashed their ingenuity of therapeutics, rapid tests and pilot projects and it is you who have delayed their freedom with your horrific procurement of vaccinations, which is delaying their lives and dreams. You may want to forget what you have done to the people of Calgary Midnapore, but I won't let you."

OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6
HOUSE OF COMMONS
818 JUSTICE BLDG.
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
STEPHANIE KUSIE, MP



FOLD

REGULATING SOCIAL MEDIA?

At the time of writing, Bill C-10, An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act is being debated and amended in the House Committee on Canadian Heritage. In April, the Liberals voted against the section of their own Bill that would have at least partially exempted individual users who upload videos to social media sites like YouTube and Facebook from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) regulation under the Bill. The Liberals also promised to introduce a new amendment to regulate apps.

Stephanie has been hearing from constituents who are extremely concerned about this, and she and her colleagues agree. They support creating a level playing field between large foreign streaming services and Canadian broadcasters while protecting the individual rights and freedoms of Canadians. Unfortunately, as written Bill C-10 targets the freedoms of individual internet users in Canada.

It gives sweeping power to the CRTC to regulate the internet, including individual users, with no clear guidelines for how that power will be used. The Liberals even voted against an amendment to make CBC/Radio-Canada respect their own mandate.

The Liberals also rejected an exemption to individual users who upload videos to social media sites and went further by promising to introduce a new amendment to regulate apps.

Conservatives proposed to protect individual users and smaller players in the market by exempting streaming services and social media users with lower revenues. The Liberals rejected this common-sense compromise.

Stephanie believes it is important to stand up for the freedoms of Canadians who post their content online and will oppose C-10 at every stage of the legislative process.

If you would like to register your stance on C-10, please consider completing and returning the reply card included in this mailing.

LATEST EVENTS

While it has certainly changed the format, the pandemic has not stopped Stephanie from hosting and facilitating some important discussions. Using virtual platforms such as Zoom and Facebook Live, she has welcomed several special guests to join her for Q&A sessions that she hopes have been of interest to constituents (below). If you missed any of these, visit Stephanie's website to watch them at your convenience. You can also subscribe to her e-newsletter at www.stephaniekusieemp.ca to ensure you are notified of future events.

ALBERTA ENERGY: WHAT'S NEXT?

Stephanie believes wholeheartedly that the world needs more Canadian energy. To answer constituents' questions regarding the current state of Alberta's energy sector and what's to come, Stephanie invited MP Greg McLean (Shadow Minister for Natural Resources & Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency) and Hon. Sonya Savage, Alberta's Minister of Energy, for a Q&A. From legislation such as Bills C-69 and C-48, to the cancellation of Keystone XL, to carbon capture, it was a great discussion. The takeaway? To protect and propel Alberta's energy sector, we need to vote in a Conservative government at the federal level.

PARENTING A TEEN IN THE PANDEMIC

Mental Health matters to Stephanie, which is why she invited Chantal Côté, a registered psychologist in Calgary Midnapore, to join her for a Q&A geared towards parents of teenagers. The pandemic has been an exceptionally challenging time for this age group – and Ms. Côté was able to answer parents' questions and provide them with strategies and advice to help their teens get through this unprecedented period.

BUDGET 2021 BREAKDOWN WITH SPECIAL GUEST KIM MOODY

Budget 2021 was unveiled by Minister Freeland on April 19th and to help make sense of what it will mean for families and Canada's financial future, Stephanie invited Kim Moody, CEO and Director of Canadian Tax Advisory at Moodys Tax to join her on Facebook Live. Constituents across the riding submitted their questions and concerns about the Budget, and Stephanie and Kim provided answers and their individual perspectives.

EQUALIZATION & TRANSFERS FAIRNESS *Tom Kmiec, MP Calgary Shepard*

My Bill C-263, the *Equalization and Transfers Fairness Act* will ensure fairness and transparency to Canada's equalization and transfer system by removing the per capita cap on payments, ensuring the federal government cannot unilaterally change the equalization formula, and making a successful referendum on equalization impossible to ignore.

In 2015-2016, Alberta's revenues dropped by \$8.8 billion. With the fiscal stabilization cap, Alberta only received \$248.3m. Without the cap, Alberta would have received \$2.9B.

In 2018, despite Alberta's massive drop in revenues, the Liberal government supported and extended the existing formula. Since 1961, Alberta's net federal fiscal transfers have amounted to more than \$600 billion.

We deserve a fair deal. It's time for equalization fairness. Learn more at tomkmiecm.ca/equalizationfairness



CASEWORK CORNER—IMMIGRATION AND COVID

Many of the calls Stephanie's office in Calgary receives are from people looking for an update or a status report on their immigration files. This could include everything from Permanent Resident (PR) card renewals, citizenship ceremonies, sponsorships, temporary visitor visas (TRV), and work permits.

Immigration files have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Previous timelines for processing are no longer being adhered to by the government, and there is no information provided on target dates going forward. Understandably this is creating anxiety and uncertainty in many families who are at the mercy of what was already a lengthy process for reuniting families or waiting for their own applications to be approved.

As a result of this, we are receiving an increased number of requests to expedite applications. The following summary will help clarify what our

office is and is not able to do with regards to immigration files.

Some of the things we can assist with are:

- enquire about the status of your application by phone or email. Although we cannot change the overall process, this allows us—with the appropriate permissions—to get a detailed description of what has been done on your application by the agent;
- in certain situations, ask that a note be sent to the agent working on your file to get an update;
- ask for urgent processing in the limited situations where this is allowed (reach out to our office directly to see if you qualify); and
- demanding that the Minister or department approve an application.

Please don't hesitate to contact Stephanie's office about problems you may be having with federal departments either by phone, at 403-225-3480 (push 1), or by email at stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca. Please remember to include your name and a daytime phone number.

denied. It goes without saying that we can't guarantee a TRV will be approved, but we may be able to point out extra factors that you may not have considered. We do not do the application for you.

Some of the things Stephanie is not able to assist with include:

- writing letters vouching for people who want to visit Canada;
- duplicating the work of an immigration consultant or lawyer; and
- demanding that the Minister or department approve an application.

The Liberal government tabled their first federal budget in over two years on April 19th. It is a huge document—well over 700 pages—and as I write this, it is being reviewed and debated in the House of Commons, before it will be sent to Finance Committee. There is more on



CHAMBERS

COMMISSION

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

some of key budget issues in this mailing.

As well, I invited local financial expert Kim Moody to provide his take on its impacts

for Canadians. I also held a virtual townhall on the future of the energy

sector, where I was joined by the Official

Opposition Shadow Minister for Natural

Resources, Greg McLean, MP, and

Alberta's Energy Minister, Hon. Sonya

Savage. If you weren't able to join us live,

the recordings for both of these events

are available on my [YouTube channel](#).

I am also hearing increased concern from a wide number of constituents about Bill C-10, which the Liberal government

tabled in February. Canadians, and the

Official Opposition, are leery about the

sweeping power this legislation would

give to the Canadian Radio-television and

Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

to regulate the internet, including

individual users, with no clear guidelines

for how that power will be used.

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 (there is one included in this mailing), and social media. If you would like to receive my email updates, please subscribe on my website.

Sincerely

Stephanie

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* As we are currently not conducting in-person meetings as per local health guidelines, please call in advance to ensure we are able to accommodate a physical visit to the office.

While House of Commons guidelines permit a maximum of four householder mailings per year, Stephanie supplements those with regular electronic newsletters. If you would like to receive those, you can subscribe through her website.

Stephanie receives thousands of emails every week therefore it is important to include your name and mailing address so her staff can prioritize the concerns of Calgary Midnapore constituents.

2021 FEDERAL BUDGET

The federal budget tabled by the Liberal government in mid-April is over 700 pages. It contains some positive intentions, some misses, and some complete oversights. At the time of writing, Conservatives continue to review the document details in conjunction with how the Liberals plan to bring the various elements to the House of Commons. Some of the items are repeats of the promises made in the Fall Economic Statement, and some are merely promises of future legislation rather than immediate commitments. A few highlights are below.

- Budget 2021 proposes to extend the wage subsidy, rent subsidy, and Lockdown Support for businesses and other employers until September 25, 2021, for an estimated total of \$12.1 billion in additional support. Conservatives supported and put forward changes to the Wage Subsidy and Rent Relief programs to improve the programs to ensure that they helped Canadians who have fallen through the cracks. There are still Canadians who are not eligible for these programs through no fault of their own, and the Official Opposition will continue to bring those loopholes to the government's attention.
- The Budget also proposes a new Canada Recovery Hiring Program, which will run from June to November and will provide \$595 million to make it

PROVINCIAL HEALTH CARE TRANSFER REQUESTS IGNORED

As the pandemic raged through the country over the last year, provincial healthcare budgets have been stretched beyond all recognition.

Despite provincial governments repeatedly asking the federal government to increase funding for healthcare, the Liberal government's budget failed to deliver.

The 2021 federal budget contained more than \$100 billion in new spending, but there was no increase in health transfers.

Frontline workers here in Calgary have seen how stretched our health care resources truly are. The federal government's failure to include support for Canada's healthcare system in the budget, while at the same time announcing over \$100 billion for political priorities and risky economic ideas, is extremely concerning.

BELOW: Virtual tools have allowed Stephanie and other MPs to fulfil their Parliamentary duties, while adhering to public health requirements



easier for businesses to hire back laid-off workers or to bring on new ones. Stephanie and her colleagues have said repeatedly that Canadian businesses need support and will be reviewing the program details to ensure that it will deliver.

- Canada's deficit is projected to be \$354.26 billion in 2020-21, \$154.7 billion in 2021-22, and \$59.7 billion in 2022-23. The updated deficit numbers improve on the most recent forecast provided by the Parliamentary Budget Officer; however, this is still a historic high for Canada's deficit. The Liberals are counting on a stronger-than-expected economic recovery for the smaller deficit figures. Further, Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio is now up to 51.2% for 2020-2021. Before the pandemic, this figure hovered around 30%. (*Crestview Strategy*)

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues have been expressing concerns about this skyrocketing debt since the Liberals were elected. The federal debt per capita rose by \$2000 (to \$19,034) during the first four years of the Liberal government, which was pre-COVID, and jumped an additional \$10,000 (to an estimated \$29,136 per person) during the last three quarters of 2020. The 2021 budget spending commitments will bring that number to a whopping \$33,000 per Canadian, so far.

THE RRIF FINANCIAL SECURITY ACT Kelly McCaughey, MP Edmonton West



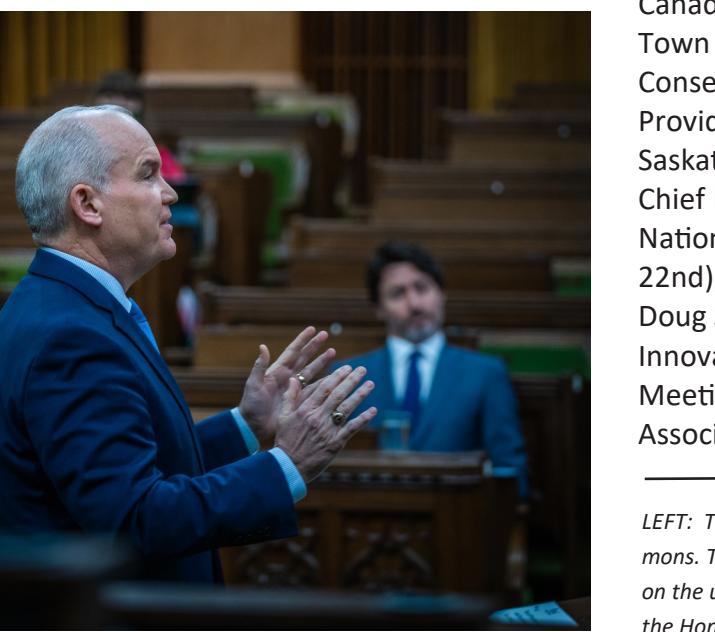
In 2016, I introduced the RRIF Financial Security Act, to eliminate the mandatory minimum withdrawal for seniors who hold a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF). Because of the additional income forcing the spending of these savings, the PBO estimates the added tax from RRIF withdrawals is in the hundreds of millions.

At age 71, RRIF holders must start withdrawing a percentage of their tax-protected savings each year – regardless of whether they need it. Since these withdrawals count as income, they can trigger clawbacks of other benefits. A senior saving for late-in-life expenses like long-term care, could have their benefits reduced because of the additional

ERIN O'TOOLE WORKING ON BEHALF OF ALBERTA

As the Shadow Minister for Transport, Stephanie has been pleased at the level to which the Honourable Erin O'Toole has made it a priority to ensure strong support for the aviation and travel industries as a whole, as well as his continued commitment to Albertans.

Stephanie joined members of the Conservative caucus as the Leader of the Official Opposition was the virtual guest of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce for a



LEFT: The Leader of the Official Opposition speaking in the House of Commons. The Conservatives called for an emergency session in Parliament on the urgent need for the Liberal government to act to save Line 5 and the Hon Erin O'Toole led the debate.

discussion in late April, followed by a discussion with the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, where he outlined his vision for Canada's future.

In addition to regular press conferences, his work in Parliament and with Caucus, the Leader has also prioritized staying on top of issues of concern to Alberta. That includes meeting with and attending: the Business Council of Alberta Town Hall (Jan 13th); the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors Town Hall (Jan 13th); the UAlberta/UCalgary Campus Conservatives Pub Night (Jan 13th); Brad Sorenson, Providence Therapeutics (Jan 27th); an Alberta/Saskatchewan/Manitoba EDA Town Hall (Jan 28th); Chief Billy Morin, Enoch First Nation/Treaty 6 First Nations (Feb 8th); an Alberta Caucus Meeting (Feb 22nd); an Alberta EDA Town Hall (Mar 17th); Minister Doug Schweitzer, Alberta Jobs, Economy and Innovation (Mar 28th); the CAPP Board of Directors Meeting (Mar 30th); and a Fort McMurray Construction Association Town Hall (Apr 15th).

The "other" category included everything from physical health to church and community connections to hugs from grandkids.

HOW HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOU?

Stephanie thanks everyone who took the time to fill out and return the response card in her last mailing (and hopes you will provide your feedback on the questions below as well).

While responses continue to trickle in, the chart at right summarizes the data Calgary Midnapore constituents provided by early May 2021, regarding how COVID-19 was impacting them.

The "other" category included everything from physical health to church and community connections to hugs from grandkids.

COVID and Calgary Midnapore



Sixty-five percent (65%) of constituents who responded to our last mailer stated that COVID-19 has negatively affected their Mental Health — this issue has taken an incredible toll on our community and our families.

In your response to the last mailer, COVID-19 has negatively affected my:

FAMILY LIFE



OTHER



BUSINESS INCOME



TRAVEL PLANS



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FOR SENIORS

COVID-19 has significantly impacted seniors. Responses from Stephanie's last household mailing indicate that seniors felt the pandemic has primarily affected their mental health. Being unable to interact with family, friends, their church fellowship, etc., has been tough on people who may not have any other social outlets.

There are some budget items which will be of help to some Canadian seniors. For instance, Budget 2021 promises to:

- provide \$3 billion over five years to support provinces and territories in ensuring standards for long-term care
- provide \$41.3 million over six years and \$7.7 million ongoing for Statistics Canada to improve data infrastructure and data collection on supportive care, primary care, and pharmaceuticals
- provide \$90 million over three years to Employment and Social Development Canada to launch the Age Well at Home initiative to

support community-based organizations providing practical support to low-income and vulnerable seniors age in place

- provide a one-time payment of \$500 in August 2021 to OAS pensioners who will be 75 or over as of June 2022 and bring forward legislation to increase regular OAS payments for those same pensioners as of July 2022

However, after evaluating these proposals, Stephanie and her colleagues feel they still leave too many seniors behind and provide too few details.

There is no doubt that federal support is necessary to address the acute challenges in long-term care.

The Official Opposition will be monitoring the progress of the Trudeau government, which must aggressively move beyond announcements, and work in collaboration with provinces, territories, seniors' advocates, and caregiving organizations to ensure meaningful and appropriate solutions.

Conservatives also recognize that mental health is a concern for long-term care residents, workers, and their families. That is why we have called on the government to increase mental health supports for those most affected by the pandemic

The Official Opposition also called on the Liberal government to deliver increased financial supports for low-income seniors. Stephanie has heard from many Calgary Midnapore seniors who state the Liberal plan to boost OAS to those 75 and older will do nothing to help them as they struggle to make ends meet. She has asked for a the rationale behind this seemingly arbitrary age cut-off.

As well, massive deficit spending which Canada has experienced the past five years jeopardizes the long-term viability of important social programs like OAS and GIS and our health care system. This unsustainable debt will lead to higher taxes penalizing those who can least afford it.

BUDGET 2021 BY THE NUMBERS: NO PLAN FOR THE ECONOMY

FACT

THE FEDERAL DEBT WILL PASS \$1.2 TRILLION THIS YEAR.

FACT

EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IN CANADA NOW EACH OWE OVER \$33,000 IN FEDERAL DEBT.

FACT

THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL ADD \$330 BILLION TO OUR NATIONAL DEBT OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS.

FACT

THE BUDGET CONTAINED NO INCREASE IN SUPPORT FOR HEALTH CARE FUNDING.

FACT

THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, EVER.

HAVE YOUR SAY:

The Liberal government has said they "embrace the idea of vaccine passports". If this would allow you to travel internationally in the future, do you agree?

YES

NO

UNSURE

Justin Trudeau tabled Bill C-10 in February, legislation which will regulate social media for individual users. Do you agree with having your social media use regulated?

YES

NO

UNSURE

The cost of living continues to rise, with staples like gas and groceries taking a bigger chunk out of Canadians' budgets. Is your family feeling the effects?

YES

NO

UNSURE

Additional comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Email: _____

SOURCE: 2021 Liberal Budget