

KUSIE UPDATE

June 2022



Peaceful Lake Chaparral

MESSAGE FROM STEPHANIE

It is wonderful to be back home after a busy and eventful Parliamentary session! Though Parliamentarians have returned to their ridings, it doesn't mean our work is done for the summer – it just means that our focus shifts from a legislative agenda to a constituency agenda. I am looking forward to spending time with constituents at events and meetings this summer, hearing what's on your mind and providing assistance where I can.

I've already unofficially kicked off Stampede at community events across Calgary Midnapore and look forward to celebrating our city's biggest event of the year over the next few weeks.



Now that it's officially summer, families are more eager than ever to travel and visit the loved ones they've been missing during the pandemic. Unfortunately, the Liberal government has not made summer travel a very fun experience for anyone. We have all seen the unacceptable lineups at Service Canada locations across the country and the utter chaos unfolding at airports, especially at Canada's largest, Pearson International. My Conservative colleagues and I have been fighting hard to ensure Canadians receive both the government services they are duly entitled to *and* that the government ministers responsible for this nightmare are held to account. We were successful in pushing the government to drop some of its travel mandates, though Justin Trudeau still refuses to do away with the ArriveCan app and is keeping all existing border restrictions to enter Canada will remain in place until at least Sept. 30.

Trudeau's outdated policies are hurting families, workers, and the tourism industry which is desperate to bounce back after a punishing two years of uncertainty. I will continue fighting for common sense policies that make your life easier, not more difficult. That includes lower taxes, relief from inflation, and the ability to keep more of your hard-earned money.

The Official Opposition will return to Parliament in the fall with a newly elected Leader. I look forward to working with him or her to repair the damage done by the Liberals – and to ensure my constituents, our province, and our natural resources sector are treated with respect.

I hope to catch up with you this summer, whether it's during Stampede, at my Ice Cream Social on August 6th (see last page for details), or a Virtual Town Hall.

Have a safe and fun Stampede! Yahoo!

Sincerely,

Stephanie

PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

SKYROCKETING INFLATION

The effects of the Liberal tax-and-spend mentality are being felt by Canadians across the country as the cost of living continues to rise. Prices have increased by 7.7 per cent compared to a year ago.

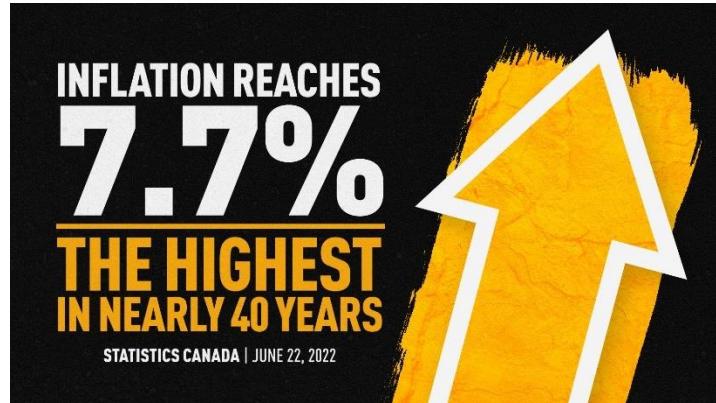
The fact is inflation is costing every Canadian an extra \$2000 this year alone.

Food is getting more expensive, up 9.7 percent in just the last year – the largest increase since 1981.

Gas prices are at record highs, as much as 247.4¢ in British Columbia, and close to \$2 a litre everywhere in Canada.

Housing prices continue to reach new records, after already doubling since Justin Trudeau became Prime Minister.

Lower income Canadians are being hit particularly hard, and are faced with impossible decisions about whether they can afford food or shelter.



Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues in the Official Opposition care, and want to provide solutions to the issues we are all facing together. That is why we have suggested reasonable and pragmatic solutions to address the cost-of-living crisis.

Since February, some of the proposals Conservatives have tabled include:

- Suspending the GST on fuel to give Canadians a break;
- Suspending the carbon tax increase on April 1st; and
- That the tariff on fertilizer bought before March 2nd be removed in order to help our agricultural producers.

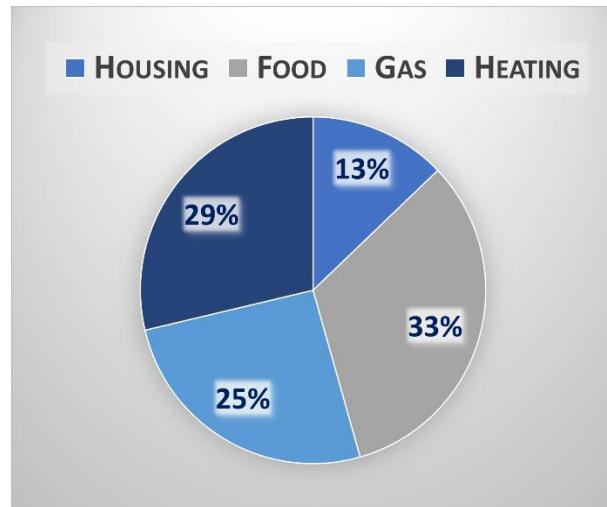
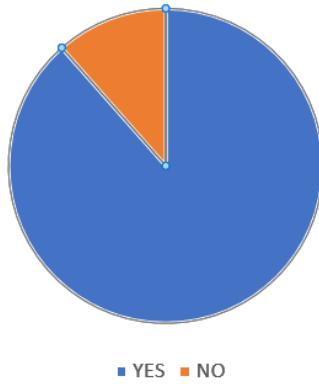
Stephanie has raised concerns about the cost of living repeatedly in the House of Commons this session, including on: [Feb 1st, 2022](#); [Feb 9th, 2022](#); [Apr 26th, 2022](#); [Apr 29th, 2022](#); [May 6th, 2022](#); [May 11th, 2022](#); [May 11th, 2022](#); [June 8th, 2022](#); and again on [June 8th, 2022](#).

For months, the Official Opposition has also been repeatedly calling for the government to lift the remaining federal COVID-19 restrictions to let Canadians go back to their pre-COVID normal lives, and to help with the delays and chaos at our airports.

Sadly, every time Conservatives make positive suggestions – including our [June 7th motion](#) - the Liberals and their NDP allies say 'No'. The reality is, every time the Prime Minister says 'No' for petty political reasons, he hurts Canadians.

In a recent household mailing Stephanie asked constituents where they are feeling the effects of the rising cost of living most. The results of that survey were telling:

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



Stephanie and her colleagues will continue to work to put forward constructive solutions, including through consultation with stakeholders, as she has done recently by hosting an Affordable Housing Roundtable (read on for more).

CONSTITUENTS ARE WRITING ABOUT:

BILL C-11

"I implore you to vehemently oppose Bill C 11 that will give far too much power to the CRTC to not only control what is viewable online in Canada, but also to remove content makers accounts, at their discretion. The path our current federal government is going down is terrifying with respect to our freedom of speech."

-Name withheld

Stephanie shares constituent concerns regarding C-11 (formerly introduced as Bill C-10 in the previous Parliament). In 2021, the Liberals forced Bill C-10 through the House of Commons without allowing a full debate at the Heritage Committee to address many outstanding concerns from experts and parliamentarians over how this legislation affects Canadians' rights and freedoms on the internet. The Official Opposition opposed the legislation and thankfully, it did not clear the Senate before Mr. Trudeau called a federal election.

But now we have round two, in the form of C-11.

Stephanie wants to be clear that Canada's Conservatives support creating a level playing field between large foreign streaming services and Canadian broadcasters **while protecting the individual rights and freedoms of Canadians**. Canada is home to many world-class writers, actors, composers, musicians, artists, and creators. Creators need rules which don't hold back their ability to be Canadian and global successes.

However, this bill is a near copy of the Liberals' deeply flawed Bill C-10 that fails to address the serious concerns raised by experts and Canadians. While the Liberals claim there is now an exemption for user

generated content, this legislation allows the CRTC to regulate any content that generates revenue ‘directly or indirectly.’ That means virtually all content would still be regulated including independent content creators earning a living on social media platforms like YouTube and Spotify. You can read about Conservative attempts to have the Minister of Canadian Heritage clarify what he means by “revenue” in C-11, [here](#).

Just like when this legislation was introduced the first time, Bill C-11 is another unacceptable attempt by the Liberal government to regulate the internet and restrict free speech. Canadians deserve better than a government that ignores their concerns and recklessly rushes important legislation. As a former CRTC Commissioner [stated](#) during hearings at the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage:

“A lot of risk to investment and innovation can be mitigated and a lot of uncertainty can be avoided if you were to just make it clear in the legislation that it applies only to streaming companies with annual Canadian revenues of \$150 million or more. The CRTC could then debate with them whether they are reinvesting in Canada and its cultural and industrial goals in an appropriate fashion. In other words, if the government’s goal is to, as was initially described, “get money from web giants”, then go get the money from web giants and make it clear that everything else will be left alone to continue the innovation and investment that have defined Canada’s creative sector in the past decade.”

Conservatives used every tool available to them to protect Canadians’ rights online, despite Liberal efforts to shut down the debate. As the Shadow Minister for Canadian Heritage stated in a June press release:

“The Government’s approach was both heavy-handed and irresponsible.



“In order to pass this bill, they shut down debate in the House of Commons, ended witness testimony while dozens of voices were yet to be heard, and forced votes on over 100 amendments without any discussion or explanation.

“Most concerning, when confronted with criticisms, the Government ignored the evidence provided by those who work in the industry and accused anyone who shared legitimate concerns of spreading misinformation.

“The truth is, the Liberals and NDP have been repeating falsehoods about the contents of the bill and the undemocratic processes they have been supporting to get this bill through the House of Commons to meet an arbitrary deadline.

“With the passage of Bill C-11, the future of Canadian creators is far less clear.”

Unfortunately, as the NDP joined the Liberals in shutting down debate on C-11 and forcing it through the Parliamentary process, it will now be up to Conservative Senators to try to amend/stop C-11. You can access all information regarding the progress of this legislation at

<https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-11>.

MINISTER MENDICINO UNDER FIRE

As many readers will be aware, Justin Trudeau's Minister of Public Safety misled Canadians earlier this year to justify the Liberal government giving itself unprecedented emergency powers.

He claimed he was asked by police to invoke the *Emergencies Act*, but we now know this is not true. This confirms what Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues knew all along about the Prime Minister invoking the *Emergencies Act*; that it was unnecessary, and Liberals were unjustified when they implemented it.

There is an incredibly high threshold for invoking the *Act*, one that Conservatives didn't believe at the time the government had met. We know today that we were right. That is why Conservatives have called for Minister Mendicino to resign - for lying to, and misleading Canadians about the *Emergencies Act*.

Stephanie's House of Commons most recent interventions are available [here](#) and [here](#).



ALLEGATIONS OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THE 2020 NOVA SCOTIA MASS MURDER INVESTIGATION

As the House of Commons recessed for the summer, Canadians learned that the Prime Minister's Office, and the then Minister of Public Safety, Bill Blair, politically interfered in the criminal investigation into the worst mass shooting in Canadian history in order to advance the Liberal's anti-gun agenda – and then they tried to hide it.

Regardless of individual political leanings, most Canadians would agree that the separation of political institutions from our law enforcement is crucial. Our police need to be able to do their important work without politicians making attempts to steer or influence them in any way. This is critical to ensuring there is faith and trust in our institutions.

The allegations that the Prime Minister's Office and the Public Safety Minister's Office politically interfered in the active police investigation into the 2020 Nova Scotia mass killing to advance the Liberal government's political agenda are very serious.

In the days after the horrific and traumatizing mass murders that took the lives of 22 Canadians, RCMP Chief Superintendent Darren Campbell alleges the Liberal government pressured the Commissioner of the RCMP to release specific details about the firearms used in the killings to advance their political agenda for pending gun control legislation.

The Superintendent said that would compromise active investigations both north and south of the border. However, Campbell alleges he was informed by the RCMP Commissioner that a “promise” had been made to former Minister of Public Safety, Bill Blair and the Prime Minister’s Office that the RCMP would release this information. He also alleges that the Commissioner was told releasing this information was, “tied to pending gun control legislation.”

Not only did they interfere for their own political gain, the Liberals actively withheld from the Inquiry the 4 pages of Supt. Campbell’s notes that revealed their interference.

These are serious and shocking allegations that deserve answers. That is why Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues have called for an immediate investigation into the matter, including an emergency meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU), to get to the bottom of this.

Ultimately, Canadians need to hear from the Prime Minister, the former Public Safety Minister and the members of the RCMP who were involved. There must be an investigation to hear the full story.

ARBITRARY LABELLING WOULD ADD UNDUE PRESSURE ON CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY

Recent email campaigns focussed on the government’s decision to include ground beef and pork in their required front-of-package labelling requirement. Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues called on Justin Trudeau to issue an exemption, and avoid what will be a major hit to Canadian producers. As a result of all the pushback, just as this newsletter was being finalized, Health Canada announced they were reversing this policy.

Mexico, Israel, and the EU have all exempted single ingredient whole-foods from front-of-package labelling under similar policies. Despite other single-ingredient products like meats, vegetables, fruits, and dairy products being exempt from front-of-package labelling, Health Canada was deliberately targeting ground beef and pork as an ‘unhealthy’ source of protein for Canadians.

As the Shadow Minister for Agriculture stated: “It doesn’t make sense if roast beef and whole hams are exempt, but

RCMP Commissioner accused of
**interfering in Nova Scotia
mass-shooting investigation
TO HELP LIBERAL
GOVERNMENT’S
GUN-CONTROL AGENDA**

THE GLOBE AND MAIL | JUNE 21, 2022



the same source of protein is no longer acceptable after being ground.”

Ground beef and pork are affordable sources of protein in Canadian families’ diets. With the price of groceries up 10 per cent year-over-year and high inflation compounding production costs for Canadian farmers, now is not the time to add onerous red tape to our agri-food supply chains.

Stephanie will continue to push the government to focus on tackling the cost-of-living crisis and sky-high food prices, instead of imposing additional regulations on food producers.

IN THE RIDING

HOUSING ROUNDTABLE



Housing Roundtable Participants:

Top row, L-R:

Craig Dickie – United Anthem
Kory Zwack – Calgary Housing Company
Stephanie Kusie – MP Calgary Midnapore
Darren Garlough – Office of Ward 12
Michele Ward – Homes by Avi
Richard Gotfried – MLA Calgary Fish Creek

Seated, L-R

Cliff Stevenson, CREA
Jackie Stewart – BILD Calgary
Brian Hahn – BILD Calgary
Chad Barber – Office of Ward 13
Dan McLean – Councillor, Ward 13

Seeking solutions to the housing crisis, Stephanie hosted a [roundtable discussion](#) in late June with local industry stakeholders. It was a productive discussion and Stephanie looks forward to presenting the group’s findings to her Conservative team. Thank you to all who attended for being part of the solution.

COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS AND BBQS

Now home from Ottawa, Stephanie was happy to connect with constituents from across the riding and celebrate the amazing community spirit within Calgary Midnapore! You may have seen her stop by the Deer Run Stampede Breakfast, Mid-Sun Community BBQ, Chaparral Pancake Breakfast, Legacy Neighbour Day, and the Willow Ridge Community BBQ. Thank you to the volunteers who made each of these events a success. There are many more Stampede and summer events that Stephanie looks forward to attending in the riding next month and hopes to see you at one (or more) of them.



Kim, Stephanie, Rob - Deer Run Stampede Breakfast



Patsy McNish and Stephanie - Mid-Sun Community BBQ



Volunteer, Stephanie, and David - Legacy Neighbour Day

OSTEN AND VICTOR ALBERTA TENNIS CENTRE SOD TURNING

Stephanie was honoured to participate in the sod turning ceremony at the Alberta Tennis Centre! Tennis has always been special to Stephanie and her family, so it was a joy for her to take part. The new “tennis bubble” is a fantastic addition to an already stellar facility that Stephanie is happy to have in her riding. Once completed, the covered courts will yield an additional 3,700 hours of court access year-round to members and visitors. The project is expected to be completed by fall. The Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre is located at 295 90 Ave SE – go check them out this summer!



L-R: Kourtney Penner, Ward 11 Councillor, City Of Calgary Sheila Taylor, CEO, Parks Foundation Of Calgary Stephanie Kusie, MP Calgary Midnapore Robin Emin, Director, Enterprise and Commercial, Rogers For Business Rick McIver, Minister Of Municipal Affairs, Province Of Alberta, Ron Ghitter, Chair, Board Of Directors, Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre, Michael Downey, President and CEO, Tennis Canada Danny Da Costa, CEO, Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre, Al Osten, Founding Donor and Honorary Director, Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre

A CONVERSATION WITH WITH WESTJET PILOTS

Earlier this month, Stephanie was invited to address a group of WestJet pilots on the importance of building relationships with government.

After spending a year in the role of Shadow Minister Transport, Stephanie got to know the aviation sector and the people who power it. She was happy to reconnect with this resilient group once again.



Photo credit: ALPA Canada

CANADA DAY FLAG DRAW

Stephanie was thrilled by the positive response to her draw to receive a Canadian flag! All 70 winners were notified ahead of Canada Day. Any flags that were not picked up at the office have been mailed. It is wonderful to see the Maple Leaf being flown proudly across the riding.



Thank you to Anita for sending in this photo of your new flag!

PLATINUM JUBILEE PIN AWARDS

Stephanie asked constituents of Calgary Midnapore to nominate community members who have demonstrated the qualities extolled by Her Majesty the Queen: public service, dedication, and sacrifice – and you delivered! Our office has received dozens of nominations of deserving recipients and now that the nomination window has closed, all nominations are being carefully reviewed. Successful nominees will be notified this month and advised as to next steps.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE

It was a busy session in Parliament over the past month as political parties tried to get through as much business as possible before the summer recess. The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development (HUMA) was required to urgently study four divisions from the Budget Implementation Act. As Vice-Chair of HUMA, Stephanie heard invaluable testimony from stakeholders which resulted in the entire section on the new Employment Insurance appeal process being removed from the Bill. HUMA concluded by hearing from witnesses on the Housing Accelerator Fund Study. The Housing Accelerator Fund is a government program intended to increase supply of middle-class homes. The Committee has submitted recommendations to the government on this initiative and the program is expected to be launched in early fall.

Another Bill that will be studied by HUMA in the fall is Conservative Private Member's Bill C-215. This Bill seeks to extend Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits from a maximum of 15 weeks to 52 weeks. EI sickness benefits are an essential tool to support Canadians who are sick, injured, or dealing with a medical condition that prevents them from working. The extension to 52 weeks is critical for many Canadians with severe ailments like cancer or kidney disease, as these illnesses often require treatment that restrict a person from working for a year or more.



HUMA Meeting - May 30, 2022

One more new item in Stephanie's portfolio of Employment, Future Workforce Development and Disability inclusion is the re-tabling of the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) in the House of Commons. Although this benefit has the welcome *potential* to support persons with disabilities living in poverty, the Liberals have yet to provide many crucial details of the benefit such as the amount and how it will be delivered in conjunction with other disability benefits. As MPs wait for more details, Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will be expecting the government to develop a plan which will ensure that applying for the CDB won't be a difficult and bureaucratic process and that it integrates effectively into the existing web of disability supports, both provincially and federally.

CASEWORK CORNER

Stephanie thanks all constituents for their patience as her team is managing an exceptionally high volume of casework inquiries – the majority of which are regarding passports and immigration. Unfortunately, both of these federal departments are facing significant backlogs.

A few passport tips:

- Ensure you apply earlier than a last-minute travel date.
- Do not go to Harry Hayes and stand in line if you are more than two business days prior to travel. You will risk being turned away. For new applications, Sundance has better wait times than Harry Hayes. Those would still need to be within 25 business days of travel. You can also request an appointment for non-urgent applications at <https://eservices.canada.ca/en/service/>
- For urgent travelers that have not yet received a response from Passport Canada, please email the office: stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca and we will do our best to triage your requests based on your travel date. We



can only request urgent transfers five business days ahead of travel dates and you must have proof of travel available.

If you have been affected by the delays at Service Canada, you can ensure the Minister responsible is made aware of your experience by contacting her at karina.gould@parl.gc.ca. For those navigating the frustration of long airport wait times, lost luggage and cancelled flights, please consider sharing your feedback with the Minister of Transport at omar.alghabra@parl.gc.ca.

Basic information for Immigration:

Please note that we can only request files be marked urgent under very specific guidelines. Most files will not qualify. Those guidelines will vary depending on the type of application and can be found on IRCC's website. Please check before requesting urgent processing. We can do inquiries on status files. All files currently are not meeting the stated timelines due to COVID backlogs, Ukraine and Afghanistan applications.

For TRV applications, all applications applied for before September 7th, 2021 must be resubmitted. For any applications after that, please check the link for processing times by country before contacting us. If it's still in the stated timelines we cannot make requests for status updates. You can find the link to check your country here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html>

STEPHANIE'S LATEST VIDEOS



Member's Statement: June 16, 2022



Marco Mendicino should be fired for misleading Canadians



Stephanie Kusie: The Minister of Public Safety should resign



Stephanie Kusie: When will the Liberals lift their outdated and punitive travel restrictions?



Stephanie Kusie: Why won't the Prime Minister give Canadians a break?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date for Stephanie's next Meet & Greet event on August 6th!

