

# KUSIE UPDATE

September 2022



*Sunrise in Fish Creek Park*

## MESSAGE FROM STEPHANIE

*Dear Constituents of Calgary Midnapore,*

Despite the deceptively warm weather, fall is indeed here and constituents across the riding are getting back into their routines. Whether it's buying back to school supplies, gassing up on the way to a hockey practice across town or picking up groceries to cook a healthy meal, families everywhere are feeling the pinch of inflation. Recent research shows that Canadians are spending more on taxes than food, clothing, and shelter combined<sup>1</sup>.



The cost of government is driving up the cost of living and Conservatives have returned to Parliament with the intention of making life more affordable for Canadians. You will see me and my Party focusing on cost-of-living issues in the House of Commons – whether it's calling on the Liberals to stop their plan to triple the carbon tax, abandon their intended payroll tax hikes, or advocating to remove red tape and gatekeepers to allow businesses, farmers, and workers to produce more affordable energy, food, and housing, you can count on us to be your voice.

After receiving significant pressure from His Majesty's Loyal Opposition and Canadians at large, the Liberal government is *finally* lifting its federal travel mandates as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. This means that all COVID-19 border restrictions for anyone entering Canada, including proof of vaccination, quarantine and isolation requirements and COVID testing will be dropped. Trudeau's problematic ArriveCan app will now be made "optional" and masking requirements have also been scrapped. Many Canadians have been eagerly awaiting this day – perhaps wondering if it would ever come. But just two weeks after being elected as the new Leader of the Conservative Party with a resounding 68% of the vote, the Hon. Pierre Poilievre is already getting results. Not only has he forced the Liberals to walk back their terrible policies, but he has also placed a massive spotlight on the crises that the government has helped create.

We will no doubt have a very busy legislative agenda in Ottawa, but I look forward to engaging with constituents at upcoming virtual town halls and meet and greet events. I am also eager to read the reply cards included in my latest mailer, which should hit mailboxes around mid-October. Understanding your needs as a constituent is of paramount importance to me, so please be sure to share your thoughts.

I will continue to keep you updated on the work I am doing on your behalf and you can trust that I will remain relentless in my commitment to fight for the Conservative values held in Calgary Midnapore, and the industries which make our nation strong.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie*

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<sup>1</sup> Fraser Institute: <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/categories/taxes>

## PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

### *Constituents are writing about...*

*I'm writing about concerns over Bill C-27, The Digital Charter Implementation Act. Without critical amendments, this bill will do more harm than good for my rights.*

*Anonymous*

[Bill C-27](#) (currently at second reading in the House of Commons) seeks to reorganize and modernize the protection of Canadians' digital privacy rights through three separate component Acts. Stephanie is hearing from constituents who are asking for considerable amendments and changes to this legislation.



In Acts one and two, the Bill incorporates the content of the former Bill C-11 – which ‘died’ legislatively speaking on the Order Paper when the Liberal government called the 2021 federal election. The proposed Bill also adds a new component in Act three, which sets a framework for the use of AI systems in Canada.

These three component acts are summarized below.

The **Consumer Privacy Protection Act (CPPA)** seeks to repeal, replace, and update consumer Personal Information Protection (PIPI) in the existing Act (PIPEDA). Roughly 90% of the CPPA is identical to its preceding legislation of PIPEDA however, there are new terms and definitions of consumer ‘knowledge and consent’, and the anonymization and de-identification of consumer data if being sold for research, business, or development purposes. Additionally, the Act seeks to add serious financial penalties for violators of up to \$25,000,000 or 5% of gross global revenue for indictable offenses. The current penalties are limited to no more than \$100,000 for the same indictable offenses.

The **Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act** seeks to set up a Tribunal which will consist of a maximum six members, of which at least three members must have experience in information and privacy law. This Tribunal will be responsible to determine the severity of financial penalties handed out to those organizations which violate the CPPA.

The **Artificial Intelligence and Data Act** aims to regulate the creation and use of AI systems in Canada by both domestic and international based entities by setting out a framework and set of rules for their use, for human oversight, and for record keeping. Financial penalties range up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$10,000,000 for companies. However, notable security organizations of CSIS, DND, and CSE are all exempt from this legislation.

**Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues believe that Canadians must have the right to access and control collection, use, monitoring, retention, and disclosure of their personal data. They also want to see international violations receive enforcement assistance from the Canadian Government.**

While Bill C-27 is a good first step on the long overdue overhaul of Canada’s digital data privacy framework, the Official Opposition will put forward common-sense amendments and request

clarification at the Committee stage to ensure Canadians and local small businesses are adequately protected.

Some key concerns with the Liberal proposal as tabled:

1. Has the protection of the sharing of Canadian's personal information actively been improved?
2. Are there proper protections being created for Canadians' biometric data, for which no protection currently exists?
3. Should security agencies/departments such as CSE, CSIS, and DND all be exempt from AI regulations?
4. Why is a permanent full-time staff of 20 personnel needed to support a 6-person Tribunal which will only be needed a handful of times per year to determine penalties?

Stephanie is also concerned that the requirement for all businesses to have a privacy watchdog and maintain a public data storage code of conduct will be an unmanageable burden on small businesses, especially sole proprietors.

Stephanie and her Conservative colleagues will continue to fight and hold the Liberal government to account to ensure legislation is efficient and of benefit for all Canadians.

## IN THE RIDING



### PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

In late August, Stephanie hosted a Platinum Jubilee High Tea, where 70 of her constituents were officially recognized for the positive impact they've made within their communities.

These individuals were nominated by their friends, families, and neighbours for demonstrating qualities extolled by Her Late Majesty the Queen, such as public service, dedication, and sacrifice.

Stephanie honoured each recipient with a

special Platinum Jubilee commemorative pin and shared highlights of their personal achievements with those in attendance.

Little did we know that this would be the last time we would sing “God Save the Queen”. 17 days later, Queen Elizabeth II passed away. Ten days of mourning followed, making September a quiet and solemn month in the riding.

Stephanie will remain forever grateful to Her Late Majesty for her unwavering love and dedication to our country, her steady hand, and her indomitable spirit, which helped guide so many of us in difficult times. She will be forever missed.

We now turn to King Charles III to carry on her great legacy. God Save the King!



## PORTFOLIO UPDATE

During the first few weeks of the fall session, Stephanie has been working hard on Bill C-22, the Canada Disability Benefit Act. One in five Canadians live with a disability and the poverty rate of working-age persons with disabilities is almost double that of Canadians without disabilities. With this new Bill, the government is attempting to create a new benefit for persons with disabilities living in poverty, similar to the Guaranteed Income Supplement provided to seniors.

Stephanie stands with the disability community and will be supporting the Bill at this stage, but she still has a number of concerns regarding whether the Bill will actually work as intended. There are many details missing from the Bill including when the benefit will begin, how much individuals will receive, and if the amount will be indexed to inflation.

Additionally, Stephanie is concerned about how the Bill will work with the existing disability supports. Too

often, the Trudeau government pursues an Ottawa-knows-best approach, leaving many Canadians behind trying to access federal supports and services. Canadians with disabilities need to be assured that if they are to receive the benefit, it won't result in benefit cuts and higher taxes as a consequence.

While Stephanie remains in the portfolio of Employment, Future Workforce Development and Disability inclusion, she will continue to urge the government to provide Canadians with more details on this important legislation and ensure that the bill is successful in supporting those with disabilities.



*1Stephanie speaking on Bill C-22*

## CASEWORK CORNER

Our office continues to work hard for our constituents on a variety of issues that people in Calgary Midnapore are facing daily.

The two files we continuing to receive a high volume of request are with Immigration and Passports.



One of the most frequent requests we receive is for our office to check on Temporary Resident Visas for family members wanting to visit Canada. Due to the COVID pandemic wait times have not been restored back to pre-pandemic levels. As such, wait times are much longer than they used to be and even if you applied and the wait time was a certain number of days it is the current date on the website that determines the timelines that IRCC is using. The other thing to note is that unless the wait time has exceeded the time stated on the website there is nothing we can do to move the application faster. If there is an emergency, we can request urgent processing however we cannot guarantee that the decision will be favourable. It is still up to the agent working on the file. There are also a handful of countries around Ukraine that are not processing any TRVs at this time due to the work of the crisis in Ukraine.

Please check for the expected wait times by country here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/check-processing-times.html>

Passport requests are still coming into the office regularly and we are still requesting transfers for files within 20 days of travel. Service Canada however is making it a bit easier now as the Sundance office is back to doing applications and you can also request the transfer yourself to that office. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have urgent travel and have not yet received your passport.

We are as always available to work on other issues that come up for our residents. Feel free to reach out by email: [stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephanie.kusie.c1a@parl.gc.ca) or by phone at 403-225-3480, ext. 1

## STEPHANIE'S LATEST VIDEOS



3Kusie: "The Liberals and the NDP have run this country into the ground"



2Stephanie Kusie debates Bill C-30



5Member's Statement: Sept. 22, 2022



4Kusie: The Liberals' plan to increase payroll taxes is anything but compassionate



6Stephanie Kusie presses Liberals on cost of living crisis



7Stephanie Kusie debates Bill C-22 (Canada Disability Benefit Act)

## CENTENNIAL FLAME RESEARCH AWARD



The Parliamentary Committee for [Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities](#) invites interested Canadians with disabilities to **apply for the Centennial Flame Research Award**.

Since 1991, the award has been granted annually by the Committee to a Canadian with a disability, to conduct research and to prepare a report on the contributions of one or more persons with disabilities to the public life of Canada or the activities of Parliament.

The report of the award recipient will be presented to the Committee and will be included as part of the Committee's report on the [Centennial Flame Research Award Act](#), which is tabled in both Houses of Parliament.

For 2022, the amount awarded will be \$6,700. Funding for the award is collected from the fountain of the Centennial Flame monument on Parliament Hill, where visitors regularly toss coins for good luck – as well as from monetary donations made to the Centennial Flame Research Award Fund.

If you are interested, please apply by October 31, 2022.

For more information: <http://ow.ly/Juxj50JbiT0>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Stephanie looks forward to engaging with constituents this session and hopes you will join her for another informative **Virtual Town Hall** this fall and a **Christmas Meet & Greet** event.

An email invitation will be sent to all newsletter subscribers, so keep an eye on your inbox for further details on these events.

