



# House to House

Serving Arbour Lake, Citadel, Evanston, Hawkwood, Kincora, Lynx Ridge, Nolan Hill, Sage Hill, Scenic Acres, Sherwood, Silver Springs, Ranchlands, Rocky Ridge, Royal Oak, and Tuscany

## Spring 2017

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### Dear Constituents,

Without the hard work and dedication of my team, I would not be able to handle the thousands of letters, emails, survey responses, phone calls, invitations, and social media messages I receive. I also depend on my team to prepare me to debate various bills and motions on wide ranging topics, and to question expert witnesses at committee meetings.

At my office in Crowfoot, Carol helps constituents who have had difficulties dealing with departments or agencies of the Federal Government. She has successfully helped dozens of constituents solve bureaucratic problems with IRCC, CRA, CPP, EI, and many other departments and agencies. Carol is usually people's first point of contact with our office and helps me keep up with written correspondence. Her assistance has been invaluable to many people under serious distress from significant problems involving government.

Kelli helps me stay in touch with constituents through meetings with schools, churches, youth groups, community associations, student organizations, cultural communities, business

groups, and seniors' residences in Calgary Rocky Ridge. Kelli is also the principle editor of this newsletter and oversees my digital media. Her work ensures that I never lose track of the important things going on in our communities, which helps me to represent you well in Ottawa.

Elvanee handles administrative duties from my Ottawa office, assists Kelli with external communication, arranges my travel, and coordinates my schedule in Ottawa. Democratic accountability is very important to me, and I expect that it is important to you as well, so Elvanee has a critical job to ensure that my activities and expenses are documented correctly for public scrutiny.

Brad also works in my Ottawa office and conducts policy research, briefs me on important issues, prepares me for committee business, assists with speeches and question period preparation, media enquiries, and stakeholder relations. He also assists Carol with constituency correspondence. I have to be prepared at all times to debate different bills and motions, and Brad has the knowledge and talent to quickly prepare detailed briefings on very short notice to

ensure I am always ready to execute my legislative duties, whether a committee meeting, a debate in the House, an important vote on a complex bill, or questions from constituents or the media.

From time to time, I also employ interns and am assisted by volunteers, who support me and the rest of the staff. This is an opportunity for young people to gain practical experience during or between school terms, or prior to embarking on a career.

Without my support team in both Calgary and Ottawa, I could never cope with the demands of my legislative duties and community responsibilities. I deeply appreciate the work they do every day to enable me to represent you as your voice in Ottawa.

*- Pat Kelly*



### HIGHLIGHTS

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# ALBERTA JOBS TASKFORCE



Conservative Alberta MPs have met with thousands of everyday Albertans from across the province to hear how the economic crisis has affected them. They have shared their ideas on how the Government can create jobs in Alberta and help those affected by this crisis.

The resulting report includes 11 recommendations containing immediate solutions to get Albertans back to work, as well as proposals for Alberta's long-term economic prosperity. The following is a summary of the recommendations; a full report is available at: [AlbertaJobsTaskforce.ca](http://AlbertaJobsTaskforce.ca)

I sincerely thank the people who gave their time to share their experiences, by attending meetings in person and providing written and online feedback.

**ONE: Reduce the tax burden on Alberta's families and business by:**

- a) Eliminating the proposed Carbon Tax,
- b) Reviewing Corporate Tax rates and immediately reducing the Small Business Tax Rate to 9%, and
- c) Reversing the mandatory increase to CPP contributions.

**TWO: Increase support for job creation in Alberta's Oil and Gas Industry by:**

- a) Honouring decisions of the National Energy Board that will see the approval and expansion of pipeline projects in order to safely get Canadian products to market and create jobs, and
- b) Reducing the regulatory burden and bureaucratic red-tape on natural resources projects in order to ensure competitiveness of the Canadian industry.

**THREE: Provide immediate support to unemployed Albertans by:**

- a) Encouraging retraining and education programs by increasing their promotion and offering incentives to workers and employers who use them, and
- b) Reviewing the Employment Insurance program to improve efficiency, increase fairness, and encourage professional development.

**FOUR: Provide immediate critical support to Alberta's families by:**

- a) Investing in programs and partnerships to help local food-banks respond to the growing demand,
- b) Reversing the scope of the new mortgage rules, and
- c) Implementing new programs and providing increased mental health funding.

**FIVE: Provide immediate assistance to Alberta's job creators by:**

- a) Reducing red tape and regulatory hurdles for new small businesses,
- b) Creating tax-credits and work-sharing programs to encourage the hiring of unemployed skilled workers, and
- c) Creating incentives to encourage young and new Canadians to consider business development.

**SIX: Introduce immediate solutions to help Alberta's youth by:**

- a) Implementing programs to encourage employers to hire recent graduates,
- b) Exploring ways to reduce the burden of student debt for those challenged to find employment, and
- c) Increasing Financial Literacy across Canada.

**SEVEN: Improve Federal-Provincial relations by:**

- a) Coordinating bureaucratic processes, reducing unnecessary regulations and removing trade barriers between the provinces,
- b) Making targeted and fiscally responsible infrastructure investments, and
- c) Reviewing the Equalization Payment Formula – specifically the use of two-year old data to calculate a province's fiscal capacity.

**EIGHT: Increase Canada's competitiveness by:**

- a) Building on Canada's bilateral relationship with the United States and adjusting domestic policy decisions in light of the new United States Administration,
- b) Expanding free-trade agreements around the world and consulting Canadian businesses on the re-negotiations of NAFTA, and
- c) Publicly supporting and promoting Canadian industries at home and abroad.

**NINE: Encourage Alberta's economic diversification by:**

- a) Using the strength of Alberta's skilled labour force to create a hub for clean tech development,
- b) Investing in innovation infrastructure in Alberta to attract skilled workers and encourage investment, and
- c) Partnering with First Nations communities in economic growth activities and investing in programs to help Alberta businesses fully leverage the power of new free trade agreements.

**TEN: Consider reviewing the immigration system by:**

- a) Reforming credential matching for new Canadians,
- b) Reforming the Temporary Foreign Workers Program to address the issues of wage distortion and the overuse of the program, and
- c) Consulting with the provinces and territories prior to setting the mix of economic and humanitarian immigrants, and striving to meet the requests for increased numbers of immigrants under the Provincial Nominee Program.

**ELEVEN: The Government of Canada must:**

- a) Commit to balance the budget within the next five years, and
- b) Present a clear plan that outlines the spending and tax changes that will be used to bring the budget back to balance, and how those will affect Canadians and Canadian businesses. 🍁

## PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

**Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy, and Ethics (ETHI)**

In the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy, and Ethics (ETHI), we concluded our study of the Security of Canada Information Sharing Act (SCISA) and made significant progress on the next study on our agenda, that of the Private Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA).

Conservative and Liberal Members disagreed on recommendations for SCISA. The Liberals suggested reforms, while Conservatives argued that the law is too new for a comprehensive review and that the departments and agencies which can share information under it have not had a chance to work with it enough to suggest appropriate changes. My Conservative colleagues and I released a dissenting report which recommended that the Act be studied again in a few years, to allow time for a more informed examination.

In late March, I tabled a motion to invite the Hon. Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board, to attend ETHI to discuss his abandonment of the Liberal campaign promise to start the first phase of reforms to the Access to Information Act by the start of fiscal 2017-2018. The Liberal majority on ETHI voted against the motion.

**Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs:**

In the same week that Budget 2017 was released, the Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (PROC) vigorously debated a proposal from Liberal MP Scott Simms to allow the Government to change the rules of parliamentary procedure, called Standing Orders, without unanimous consent of Members. For decades, all governments, including those led by Prime Ministers

Mulroney, Chretien, Martin, and Harper, respected the convention of requiring unanimous consent for changes to Standing Orders.

Conservatives and New Democrats on PROC committed many hours to keeping the debate alive to allow time for Canadians to state their opposition to this unprecedented move to centralize more power in the hands of the Prime Minister and his staff. I had the opportunity to join the Committee for a four hour block in early April. The debate continues as of the drafting of this article. Please have your say through the survey question included in this newsletter, and by contacting the Clerk of the Committee at [PROC@parl.gc.ca](mailto:PROC@parl.gc.ca) (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/PROC/Contact>).

**Take Note Debate on Alberta Economy:**

On December 13th, I rose in the House to request an emergency debate on the jobs crisis in Alberta. My request, along with similar requests from my colleagues, was initially denied, but on February 8th, I participated in the Take Note Debate on job losses in Alberta. You can watch a video of the speech on my website at <http://patkellymp.ca>, in the video gallery section. In particular, I drew attention to the excellent feedback my Alberta colleagues and I received from the Alberta Jobs Taskforce roundtables we hosted earlier in the year.

**Budget 2017:**

Budget 2017 was released on March 22nd and failed to address the Taskforce's recommendations for policies which the Government of Canada can pursue in the medium term to help out of work Albertans get back on their feet, and in the long term to help Alberta's workforce adapt to changing economic conditions. A

video of my speech in response to the Budget on April 3rd is available on my website at <http://patkellymp.ca> in the video gallery section.

**Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)**

On February 1st, I attended FINA to hear from housing and mortgage professionals about the effects of the government's changes to insured mortgage rules. I later met with Michael Wolfe, Dan Putnam, and Dave Trithart from Mortgage Professionals Canada when they came to Ottawa in March to discuss mortgage and housing policy. Videos of my question in Question Period on February 4th and my Member's Statement on March 6th are available on my website.



**Conservative Leadership Race:**

Conservatives will choose a new permanent leader, to replace interim leader Rona Ambrose, on May 27<sup>th</sup>. I thank Rona Ambrose for her excellent work holding the governing Liberals accountable, for keeping our caucus united and effective as the Official Opposition, and for speaking out on behalf of Albertans during a time of economic hardship. I look forward to working with the new leader, who will be chosen by members of the Conservative Party of Canada. 🍁

# IN MY CALGARY AND OTTAWA OFFICES



Canadian Home Builders Association: Ryan Scott, Carol Oxtoby, Guy Huntingford, and Donna Moore.



Met with constituents Dallas Spiecker and Debbie Olynuk about consumer protection.



Forum for Young Canadians: Katherine Hovdestad and Lucia Acevedo.



Forum for Young Canadians: Aruba Nasser.



Engineers Without Borders: Deborah Wong, Jeremy Zhao, and Ren Zhang.



I seconded MP Len Webber's Private Member's Bill C-316, regarding organ donation.



More information about this bill is available at <http://www.lenwebber.ca/>



Daughters of the Vote delegate Rebecca Yang.

**Did you know? Helpful Facts About Parliamentary Procedure**

**The Standing Orders:** Both the Senate and the House of Commons operate according to respective rules of procedure called the Standing Orders. Originally inherited from the Province of Canada at Confederation, the Standing Orders of the House of Commons have grown and changed over the years. The committee which looks at proposed changes to these orders is PROC.

Whenever disputes about parliamentary procedure arise, the Speaker of the House acts as a judge: hearing arguments for and against the contested point, and issuing a binding ruling in keeping with precedent from previous rulings.

Every day in the House of Commons, fifteen minutes is set aside before Question Period for Members' Statements, pursuant to Standing Order 31. In Parliamentary jargon, these statements are usually called SO 31s as a result.

You can find a copy of the House of Commons Standing Orders at (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/about/house/standingorders/toc-e.htm>)

**Tax Guide Correction:** The projected premium rate per \$100 of insurable earnings is \$1.63 for 2017-2018, and \$1.68 for 2018-2019.

## SURVEY RESPONSES

Thank you to those who took the time to respond to the previous question: **“Are you satisfied with the service you receive from the Canada Revenue Agency?”**

20% of responders are satisfied, 50% are not satisfied, and 30% are unsure.

If you prefer to answer the new survey online, please visit my website at [www.patkellymp.ca](http://www.patkellymp.ca)

**SHOULD THE PARTY IN POWER BE ABLE TO BREAK WITH LONG-STANDING CONVENTION AND CHANGE THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WITHOUT ALL-PARTY APPROVAL?**

\_\_\_ Yes, a party which wins a majority of seats enjoys a mandate to restructure Parliament to make it easier to pass laws;

\_\_\_ No, all Members of Parliament need the prerogatives contained in the Standing Orders to represent constituents effectively.

**WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A** (Check all that apply):

☐ Stay-at-home parent

☐ Senior

☐ Veteran

☐ Retired

☐ Business Owner

☐ Working Canadian

☐ Single parent

☐ Unemployed

☐ Youth/Student

☐ Part of a multigenerational household

☐ Parent in a two-parent household

Comments:

Name(s):

Address:

Postal Code:

Telephone:

Email:



OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Fun evening of floor hockey at MRU.



Community AGMs in **Scenic Acres**, **Silver Springs**, and **Sherwood**. Good to see so many residents out to hear about the hard work done by these volunteer associations.

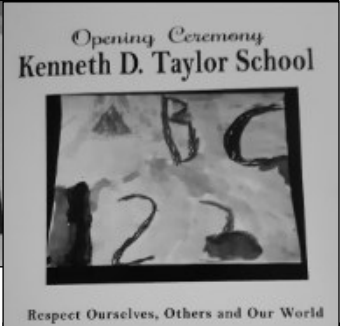


Honoured to speak and present medals at the **All Seniors Care Sage Hill Retirement Residence Seniors Games**. Congratulations to Chef de Mission Penny Blake, all participants, and to the staff for a job well done!



Please contact my office with details if you are hosting a **Canada 150** celebration. I will attend if I am available.

Celebrations of new schools in **Royal Oak** and **Evanston**!



**5th Annual Polar Plunge** at Arbour Lake. Participants were *Freezin' for a Reason*—funds were raised in support of **Special Olympics**.



**Westview Baptist Church** hosted a Syrian Culture event, raising over \$30,000 to sponsor a young professional couple.



**U of C Students Union** Leaders Dinner.



Helped out at the Skate Shack for the **Ranchlands Winter Fest**.

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