

*Ottawa*

Room 914 Justice Building  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
Tel.: 613 992 0826  
Fax.: 613 992 0845  
pat.kelly@parl.gc.ca



*Constituency*  
202-400 Crowfoot Crescent NW,  
Calgary Alberta  
T3G 5H6  
Tel.: 403 282 7980  
Fax.: 403 282 3587  
pat.kelly@parl.gc.ca

**Pat Kelly**

Member of Parliament,  
Calgary Rocky Ridge

## News Release

For immediate release

### **Auditor General finds no clear link between new Liberal spending and results on tax evasion**

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

OTTAWA: Pat Kelly, Member of Parliament for Calgary Rocky Ridge and Conservative Shadow Minister for National Revenue, commented today on the Auditor General's Fall 2018 reports which found that the Canada Revenue Agency cannot link increased funding in Budgets 2016 and 2017 to any progress on tax evasion or aggressive tax avoidance.

“For years now, the Liberals have claimed to be serious about overseas tax havens and evasion. When the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers were uncovered, they boasted that Budget 2016 assigned \$444 million and Budget 2017 assigned \$524 million to the CRA to crack down on tax evasion. According to the Auditor General, that extra spending has had no discernable effect.

“Today the Auditor General reported that the CRA could not distinguish results of tax compliance measures based on ongoing funding from those based on the special funding it received from Budgets 2016 and 2017 and could only provide estimates instead of precise figures to Parliament because its calculations were incomplete. Canadians may never know whether the increased funding for CRA helped catch tax evaders or not.

“What we do know, is that under this Government, the CRA is falling short of its obligations under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The Auditor General confirms what I have heard from countless Canadians: processing times for simple adjustment requests are out of control, reaching 41 weeks in some regions. Audit times vary widely across the country, offers of tax payer relief favour big companies over individuals, and CRA agents do not consistently apply the law. Canadians need to have confidence that the tax system will treat them fairly.

“Canadians deserve and expect accuracy and consistency from our tax collection agency. Conservatives call on the Revenue Minister to take immediate steps to eliminate the refunds and adjustment backlogs, to ensure real transparency around measures to combat tax evasion, and to ensure that each agent treats Canadians fairly by accurately applying the law.” he concluded.