





CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

PAT  
KELLY

Member of Parliament  
Calgary Rocky Ridge

Parliament during  
COVID-19

**Dear Residents of Calgary Rocky Ridge:**

During the pandemic, I have continued working to represent you. There have been some challenges, but my staff and I have been available to assist by adjusting to working remotely and learning new technology.

**Constituency Office Still Operating:**

My staff continue to help constituents to navigate the benefits and guidelines related to Covid-19 and assist with challenges related to Citizenship and Immigration, Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, and other federal departments and programs. Since March 13<sup>th</sup>, I have spoken or written to hundreds of constituents who have called or emailed me.

**Parliament Suspended in March:**

Since suspending in March, the House of Commons has not been sitting in a usual way. Instead, the Special Committee on the Covid-19 Pandemic (COVI) met both virtually and in the House of Commons.

This committee includes all MPs, with a proportionately small number attending in person on a given day. I traveled to Ottawa on three occasions to ask questions, clips of

which are available on my website. During committee meetings, MPs cannot debate, introduce, or vote on legislation.

Parliament has reconvened on several occasions to allow the government to introduce emergency legislation, but not to allow any other Parliamentary business.

**Representing Calgary Rocky Ridge:**

Many constituents contacted me with very specific problems and concerns about the federal government’s economic responses. Problems with CERB, CEWS, CEBA, BCAP, and other programs were brought to my attention. I raised many of these issues directly in the House of Commons, and at the Finance Committee. I also worked with my Conservative caucus colleagues to propose concrete steps to address many of these problems.

In some cases, the Government made changes to its programs in response to our suggestions, including ways to ensure more small business owners and workers could access the CERB and CEBA and CEWS programs. In other cases, the Government promised to improve delivery of its programs, but has yet to do so, leaving many businesses unable to access the CEBA and CEWS programs, both of which are intended to save jobs and prevent businesses from failing due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Is the current and increasing level of debt a concern to you?**

YES  
☐

NO  
☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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## Parliament during COVID-19 (cont'd)

### Public Accounts Committee (PCAP) and the Auditor General:

Since March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Public Accounts Committee has met once to review the appointment of Karen Hogan as Canada's new Auditor General. Committee members questioned her office's budget. Since 2018, well before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Office of the Auditor General has called for additional funding to ensure that it could fulfil its mandate.

In 2019, the Auditor General announced that it had to postpone performance audits due to lack of funds. Since then, the Auditor General has been asked by Parliament to undertake a comprehensive audit of the Government's much criticized infrastructure plan, and has unprecedented new Government spending to audit, without any additional resources.

I have repeatedly called upon the President of the Treasury Board to fully fund the Auditor General so that Parliament will have the information that it needs to hold the Government to account for its spending to ensure that Canadians are receiving value for money and that funds are expended as authorized by Parliament.

### What to Expect Next:

This summer there were four scheduled meetings of the COVI committee where MPs could question the Government, but no other business could take place. Democracy is essential, and Parliament is an essential service. It has been very disappointing that the Government has prevented Parliament from functioning properly during the pandemic.

I expect that this fall, Parliament will resume its full powers while taking measures to ensure public health and the safety of MPs are not compromised. In a minority parliament, it is essential that the full powers of Parliament be reinstated, especially the ability for Parliament to test the confidence of this minority Government through Opposition motions which have been suspended since March 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Staying in Touch:

Please contact my office if you have concerns or wish to share your views on federal matters. If you are interested in signing up for my e-newsletter, you may do so on my website: [patkellymp.ca](http://patkellymp.ca), by emailing [pat.kelly@parl.gc.ca](mailto:pat.kelly@parl.gc.ca), or phoning my office at 403-282-7980.

**PAT KELLY, MP**

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