



**April 2021**

**House to House E-Newsletter**

**403-282-7980**

Dear Friend,

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the federal government is expected to table its first budget in over two years.

Covid spending measures and reduced government revenues have created a federal deficit of \$381 billion (more than total pre-Covid federal annual revenue) and pushed the national federal debt to over one trillion dollars - more than 50% of GDP.

While the federal government has had a responsibility to support Canadian families and businesses that have been prevented from working by public health restrictions, such supports will very quickly become unsustainable. My Conservative colleagues and I have called on the government to table a data driven plan for a safe, permanent end to public health restrictions and economic recovery.

As Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee and Shadow Minister for Small Business, I co-wrote the Conservatives' dissenting report from the Finance Committee, tabled in Parliament, that contained fifty-seven recommendations to the government. The top three recommendations were:

- Introduce no new permanent spending programs
- Implement a plan to balance the budget in 10 years
- Limit government spending increases to below inflation and population growth

Given Canada's high levels of both public and private debt, it will be critical to re-establish a strong, private, employment-based economy to ensure families can pay their bills and governments service the public debt.

The pandemic and related public health restrictions from all levels of government are being prolonged due to Canada's inadequate supply of vaccines, and insufficient availability of rapid result tests and screening. Prolonged restrictions have taken an enormous toll on the mental health of Canadians, in addition to unemployment, ruined businesses, and lives lost.

The upcoming budget must contain a real plan to safely and permanently reopen the economy, face up to the looming potential crisis of Canada's finances, and not indulge utopian fantasies.

*-Pat Kelly*



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#### **MONTHLY POLL QUESTION**

Do you think the carbon tax is truly an effective way to lower our carbon footprint as Canadians?

**RESPOND HERE**

Last month's poll question: *Do you have confidence in the federal government's vaccine procurement?* 18% Yes 82% No



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#### **INSTAGRAM!**

In response to some encouragement from constituents, I have launched an [Instagram](#) account this month.

Please follow me on [@patkelly.crr](#) as well as on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#) if you are on any of these social media platforms.

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## CONSERVATIVE RECOVERY PLAN:

Canadians deserve certainty, clarity, and competence from their government. You and your family deserve a real plan for the challenges we face today.

- Secure Jobs by recovering the 1 million jobs lost during the pandemic within one year.
- Secure Accountability by enacting the toughest accountability and transparency laws in Canada's history.
- Secure Mental Health through our Canada Mental Health Action Plan.
- Secure Our Country by creating a strategic stockpile of essential products and building the capacity to manufacture vaccines at home.
- Secure Canada's Economy by balancing the budget over the next decade. Canadians need a plan to safely reopen the economy so we can get back to work.

Securing our economy will mean jobs and growth in every sector in every part of the country. That is exactly what my Conservative colleagues and I are focused on.

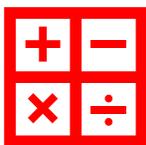


## SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Loans are available for the **Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program**. Details and how to apply: [HASCAP](#).

As the **Shadow Minister for Small Business and Western Economic Development**, I am seeking feedback from constituents regarding the government's policy. If you are a small business owner and are willing to share your experience, whether it be about successes or challenges, this helps to inform me in my role, and I welcome your input at [pat.kelly@parl.gc.ca](mailto:pat.kelly@parl.gc.ca).

Recently I have had many opportunities to speak up for Small Businesses during Question Period in the House of Commons and in meetings of the Standing Committee on Finance. These **videos** are available on my [YouTube channel](#).



## TAX PREPARATION

As income tax season is here, you will want to receive every tax credit you qualify for. The Tax Tips guide should have been delivered to you by now and is also available on my website.

Support for individuals impacted by COVID-19 in 2020 included: **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**, **Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)**, **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)**, and **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)**.

If you received these benefits in 2020, they are considered taxable income and aside from the CRB, there were no source deductions taken, so be prepared for a tax bill of up to 15-20% of benefits received. You should have received a T4A slip from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) by March 10th if you received any of the benefits listed above.

Please contact the CRA with any questions about your specific situation if you have questions or concerns.



## SEEKING EMPLOYMENT?

If you are looking for a job, visit [www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca) to search for opportunities. A [Mobile App](#) is also available.

Also, Statistics Canada is currently hiring census enumerators and crew leaders. Apply at <https://census.gc.ca/jobs-emplois-eng.htm>.

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## MY INBOX

In March, I received correspondence about the following topics, in no particular order:

*Lack of a federal budget, vaccine procurement and roll-out, online CRA accounts locked, rapid testing, small businesses, Canadian energy policy, immigration rules, Governor General, travel restrictions, hotel quarantine rules/exemptions, provincial lockdown measures, internet rates, KXL cancellation, Enbridge Line 5, aviation industry, non-essential travel, interprovincial travel, Erin O'Toole, Conservative caucus, possible 2021 election, Canada-China relations, Uyghur Muslim genocide, China 2022 Winter Olympics, climate change, CERB repayments, Bill C-7 (MAID), economic recovery, universal basic income, vaping, climate change, Bill C-21 (Firearms policy), tax incentives for newspaper subscriptions, poor CRA service, Private Members' Bills C-205, C-230, C-268, telecommunications, Bill C-15 (UNDRIP), Asian Infrastructure Bank, vaccine passports, CRA simple tax returns, British pensions, RRIFs, domestic vaccine development, Centre for Equitable Library Access, family law system.*



## APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> TAX INCREASES

The **Liberal 'escalator tax' on alcohol** automatically increased again on April 1st. This increase now occurs automatically every year and is not voted on in Parliament. Tax increases are usually presented in a Budget and voted on in Parliament, but the Liberal government used its majority in 2017 to pass a law to automatically increase the tax on beer, wine, and spirits every year. I do not support this escalator tax that has been applied by the Liberal government and will continue to call for it to be halted. Conservatives also support the reduction of interprovincial trade barriers for alcohol, which will reduce the cost to the consumer.

On April 1st the **Liberal Carbon Tax** increased again by 33% to \$40 per tonne. According to the CRA, this adds another 8.8 cents per litre to the price of fuel and is set to increase to \$170 per tonne (39.6 cents per litre) by 2030. Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole issued the following statement last week: "Canada's Conservatives will repeal Justin Trudeau's Carbon Tax. We will protect the environment and fight the reality of climate change, but we won't do it by making the poorest pay more."



## PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL CONTACTS

If you require assistance from your MLA, you can look up who represents you and their contact information [here](#). For questions about provincial government programs and services, click [here](#).

For assistance from your City Councillor, you can find your representative [here](#). For general inquiries about City of Calgary services and requests for assistance, please call 311.



## COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT – ROCKY RIDGE / ROYAL OAK

The **Rocky Ridge Royal Oak Community Association** is looking for volunteers, and often the work can be done from home! If you can spare some time, please email [volunteer@rrroca.org](mailto:volunteer@rrroca.org) to find out more about the roles available.



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