



May 2021 House to House E-Newsletter 403-282-7980

Dear Friend,

On April 19th the government tabled its first budget in over two years. While the budget contains necessary supports for Canadians and businesses that remain unable to work or open due to the ongoing pandemic, it is by far the largest spending budget in Canadian history and does not contain any medium or long term plan to return to balance or a short term data based plan for a safe and permanently reopened economy.

Under this budget, the current government will have added more to Canada's public debt than the combined total of all previous governments in Canadian history.

The ongoing deficits, without any fiscal anchors or a debt management strategy, will threaten Canada's economy in the years to come, and the federal government's slow procurement of vaccines is prolonging lockdowns. Furthermore, the sustainability of Canada's finances is increasingly vulnerable to any increase in interest rates.

Canada needs real sustained economic growth in order to get Canadians back to work, and to reduce public and private debt. This budget fails to chart a path forward beyond the current crisis.

-Pat Kelly



MONTHLY POLL QUESTION

How concerned are you about the increasing level of debt in Canada?

[RESPOND HERE](#)

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



SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Recently I have had 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**, including my response to **Budget 2021**, are available on my [YouTube channel](#).

From my response to Budget 2021:

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities, they are the backbone of the Canadian economy, and the owners, workers and customers are our neighbours and our friends. These small businesses are the ones that have borne the brunt of COVID.

Yes, this budget contains extensions to the supports many small businesses need just to survive through the summer, but that is not what small businesses want. They want their customers back. They want to be open. They want to serve the needs of their communities. They want to give their own friends and neighbours their jobs back. They want to at least try to put the hopes and dreams of their business shattered by COVID back together.

Small businesses do not want to take on more debt. The average small business has already taken on \$170,000 in debt since the pandemic began, and these debts threaten their recovery. Some of this debt is in the form of low or no-interest loans from government aid programs, but the majority of this debt actually comes in the form of bills that small businesses just cannot pay, things like their rent or their suppliers' invoices. These debts threaten to cascade throughout the economy and prevent recovery.

By the end of last year, 60,000 small businesses had failed, and now nearly 200,000 more are hanging by a thread. There is one particular group of small businesses that has been completely, and at this point one must even conclude deliberately, ignored by the government, and that is the small businesses that had the terrible misfortune to have opened their doors in late 2019 or early 2020. In most cases, the owners of these businesses put their life savings into their businesses and incurred significant debt to pursue a dream to open, start or reinvent a small business, but these businesses have nothing, and there is nothing in this budget that will help them.

The Minister of Small Business and her parliamentary secretary have been saying for months that new businesses will be supported, but they have done nothing. This once-in-two-years budget still ignores these businesses.

Just this weekend, I received an email from the owner of a business who opened an auto service business in Calgary in October 2019. This business cannot even acquire a CEBA loan, which is among the easiest ones to qualify for, never mind access to the other aid measures. This small business is not going to be sustained by words. It needs cash, or better still, its customers from a fully opened economy and a vaccinated population.

Between platitudes such as “we have your back”, “we will stop at nothing” and “we will continue to work for new programs for new businesses”, the government will occasionally mention it is concerned about the integrity of its programs and is making sure businesses do not suddenly materialize and take advantage of its programs. Of course, nobody wants anyone to game the system, but with all the red tape in this country, it takes months to even get a building permit to start a new restaurant.

Somebody who opened in March of 2020, spending their own money and exhausting their finances long before COVID began, is left out of the programs. There are thousands of these businesses.”



MENTAL HEALTH

My Conservative colleague **Todd Doherty, Conservative Special Advisor for Mental Health and Wellness**, issued the following statement in April:

"With the release of the first federal budget in two years, Justin Trudeau has finally acknowledged Canada's worsening mental health crisis, but continues to fail to take real, effective action to help Canadians.

"Conservatives have said consistently that mental health is health. There is no health without mental health, and it should be treated with the respect and funding support it deserves.

"Despite receiving unanimous support in Parliament last year, the three-digit national suicide prevention hotline still has not been implemented. In the half of a trillion dollars of debt promised, there is no funding for this vital lifeline nor any commitment to get it done. Instead, it proposes yet more consultations by the CRTC.

"The time to act is now. Under the leadership of Erin O'Toole, a Conservative government will prioritize the implementation of a national three-digit suicide prevention hotline, we will boost funding to the provinces for health care, and we will incentivize employers to provide mental health coverage to their employees.

"Canada's Conservatives have a clear plan to secure the future for Canadians. We will continue to push the Liberals to take action to support mental health and well-being, especially during this crisis."



SEEKING EMPLOYMENT?

If you are **looking for a job**, visit www.jobbank.gc.ca to search for opportunities. Jobs in this riding recently funded by Canada Summer Jobs grants are posted on this site. 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>.



MY INBOX

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

Bill C-10 (internet, freedom of speech), increasing level of debt, carbon tax, federal budget, escalator tax, virtual parliament, economic recovery, vaccine procurement and roll-out, CRA deadline, poor CRA service, CRA simple tax returns, Canada Training Credit, carbon engineering, domestic vaccine development, mental health, NACI recommendations, vaccine passports, COVAX, small businesses, CEWS, CERS, Canadian energy policy, travel restrictions, tourism industry, border restrictions, hotel quarantine rules/exemptions, environment, provincial lockdown measures, Charter of Rights and Freedoms, aviation industry, non-essential travel, international travel, Erin O'Toole, Conservative caucus, pay increases, possible 2021 election, Canada-China relations, universal basic income, universal pharmacare, Bill C-6 (conversion therapy), Bill C-7 (MAID), UNDRIP and Bill C-15, professional sports, universal basic income, vaping products, Bill C-21 (Firearms policy), C-268 (Freedom of Conscience), British pensions.



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.



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 – TUSCANY

Two associations serving Tuscany residents.

The **Tuscany Community Association (TCA)** is holding their AGM on Wednesday, May 19th. A link to the virtual meeting can be found on their website: www.tuscanyca.org. Volunteers are always welcome, and often the work can be done outdoors or from home! If you can spare some time, please email executiveadmin@tuscanyca.org to find out more about the roles available.

The **Tuscany Club (TRA)** (Tuscany Residents Association) is hosting the annual Community Spring Cleanup on Sunday, May 16th. Open to



everyone! Information package [here](#). All current targeted health measures will be adhered to.



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