



Dear Friend,

I hope that you had a Merry Christmas, and I wish you all the best for happiness in the New Year.

Following the September election, Parliament convened on November 21, 2021. It was a pleasure to once again participate in debates in the House of Commons where I had the opportunity to grill ministers during a "Committee of the Whole"; speak on the Opposition's motion on housing and question the government about its failed first time homebuyer incentive.

On December 9, I was named a member of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics (Ethics or ETHI). This committee is one of four standing committees that must be chaired by a member of the opposition, and I was honoured to be elected as the committee chair during its first meeting on December 13.

The Ethics Committee has parliamentary responsibility to review the effectiveness, management and budgets for four Officers of Parliament: the Information Commissioner, the Privacy Commissioner, the Commissioner of Lobbying and the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner. The committee studies reports tabled by these Commissioners and any other matter the Committee chooses related to its mandate.

The Ethics Committee held important, high profile, studies during the last parliament, particularly its hearings on Questions of Conflict of Interest and Lobbying in Relation to Pandemic Spending, precipitated by the federal government's decision to award a half billion dollar contract to the WE organization, which had close ties to the Prime Minister's family and had given gifts to the Minister of Finance.

I was a member of the Ethics Committee in 2016 and 2017, and it is a pleasure to return. As committee chair, it is my responsibility to ensure that the committee is conducted with fairness to all members and that meetings are conducted in accordance to the standing orders of the House of Commons. Committees are independent of Parliament and are permitted to operate as masters of their own destiny in accordance with the will of its members. The committee is composed of five members of the government party (Liberals) and six members of the opposition (four Conservatives, one Bloc, one NDP). As Chair, I only vote if there is a tie. The committee composition reflects the relative balance of parties within this minority parliament wherein the opposition parties can defeat the government members in a vote if all opposition parties are in agreement.

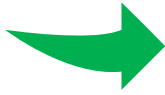
Chairing a standing committee is a new parliamentary responsibility, and one that I look forward to. Given the nature of a minority parliament, and the experience of the previous parliament, the Ethics Committee will likely be a busy committee where highly contentious studies may take place, I appreciate the confidence that my colleagues have placed in me to ensure that this committee is conducted fairly where all members' voices will be heard.

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-Pat Kelly

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## MONTHLY POLL QUESTION



Do you intend to travel internationally between now and summer 2022?

**[RESPOND HERE](#)**



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## COFFEE, COCOA, AND CHAI

**Please join us!** My staff and I will be serving coffee, cocoa, and chai at the new Evanston community park located at the corner of Evanston Drive and Symons Valley Parkway between 12-2pm on Family Day (Monday, February 21st). This come-and-go event will be dependent on the weather and public health orders which may be in place on this date.



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## CANADA SUMMER JOBS

The **call for applications** for Canada Summer Jobs 2022 is now open until Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Employers may wish to visit [www.canada.ca/canadasummerjobs](http://www.canada.ca/canadasummerjobs) for more information, including the eligibility criteria and application guide.

Not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and private-sector businesses with 50 or fewer full-time employees are eligible to apply for **funding to hire a young person** next summer.

Jobs that are approved for funding will be advertised at <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/youth>. Youth who are looking for summer employment are encouraged to consult the site regularly.



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## 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.



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## MY INBOX

Since the election in September, correspondence was received about many topics, including the following, in no particular order:

*Home equity tax, Canada-China relations, the fall economic update, climate change, indigenous children's welfare payment, universal basic income, mandatory vaccinations for public servants, Bill C-2, Bill C-4, national debt, rising costs of inflation, unused vaccines, the vaccine rollout, COVID variants, Afghan interpreters, residential schools, mental health, vaccine passports, support for small business, universal childcare programs, school closures, lockdowns, Canadian energy policy, CRA*

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*wait times, CRA customer service, Erin O'Toole, Pierre Poilievre, Ethics Committee*

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## OUR COMMONS

If you would like to find out what is happening in the House of Commons or any of its committees, this is a handy online tool. It's updated in real-time, has links to video feeds and much more.

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/en>



## WHICH BENEFITS ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR?

The [Benefits Finder tool](#) allows you to find benefits you may be eligible for to by answering a few questions. After completing the multiple-choice questions, your possible benefits are listed and additional information is provided. Many federal and provincial programs are incorporated into the search results.



## 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.



## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

As the pandemic continues and Canada's response to it evolves, check travel restrictions and requirements if you plan to leave the country. Requirements for reentering Canada change from time to time, so it is important to have the most up to date information before you depart, and before returning to Canada.

Transport Canada's list of restrictions and requirements is [here](#). Check with your airline to for any additional restrictions.



## YOUR COMMUNITY – HAWKWOOD, EVANSTON

Congratulations to the communities of Hawkwood and Evanston for the completion of their new all-season parks!



The [Grand Opening Winter Carnival](#) at the Hawkwood Community Park is scheduled for January 22 from 3:30-6:30 pm.

Evanston also has plans for a [Grand Opening event](#), which is scheduled from 12:00-4:00 pm on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

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## STAY CONNECTED

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