

HAVE YOU BEEN PERSONALLY AFFECTED BY HIGHER THAN NORMAL INFLATION?

YES _____ NO _____

COMMENTS:

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:

Postal Code:

Email:

Survey Responses

Thank you to those who took the time to respond to the previous question:
“Should the CRTC have the power to regulate what you post on the Internet?”

Yes: 19% No: 81%

Please visit my website or email my office if you wish
to sign up for my e-newsletter:
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Meetings and Events



Grand Opening and Winter Festival at the Hawkwood Community Park.



Sage Hill Community Association's Winter Festival



Indigenous Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony and the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Field of Crosses.



Interviewed for the premiere of this local podcast.



Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation

Erik Butters (Canadian Cattlemen's Association)

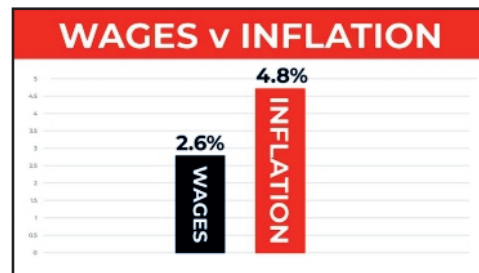


Inflation

In this Parliament, my Conservative colleagues and I are the voice for millions of Canadians who are being left behind by growing inflation. Food is getting more expensive. Gasoline and home heating cost more. Housing prices continue to reach new record levels.

80% of Canadians state that the cost of living crisis is making their lives less affordable and 60% of families with children under 18 are concerned they might not have enough money to feed their family.

Last year the average official inflation rate was 4.4%, and many anticipate the trend to continue through 2022. The official rate as reported by Statistics Canada excludes necessities like food, fuel, and housing, which usually have more volatile pricing than other goods. Some of the price increases are a result of supply chain disruptions caused the pandemic, but most inflation is due to too many dollars chasing too few goods.



The federal government increased spending by more than **\$400 billion** over the past two years. Much of this new spending went to pandemic response programs, but came at a significant cost in terms of additional debt and inflationary effects, making life more expensive for everyone.

Just weeks after the pandemic was declared in March 2020, the Bank of Canada began a program of buying new bonds and debt instruments issued by the Government of Canada to fund its deficits, as well as buying provincial and corporate bonds. When the Bank of Canada buys the Government of Canada's debts it is increasing the money supply by creating new money ("quantitative easing" or roughly the equivalent of printing money).

The Bank of Canada's mandate is to keep inflation at around 2% per year. It does this by controlling the supply of money in circulation and by setting the benchmark interest rate on which other lenders base their rates. Lower interest rates tend to correlate with higher

inflation and vice versa. In order to get the rate of inflation back to the 2% target, the Bank of Canada will likely need to stop printing more money and raise interest rates.



In a meeting of the Finance Committee on April 16, 2020, I questioned then Governor of the Bank of Canada Stephen Poloz about how the bond buying program would effect the Bank's ability to maintain its inflation targets. I asked him if, "... *you believe that all of these measures that you have announced so far fall within your inflation targets and that there will be no effect on inflation by these [quantitative easing] programs.*" He responded that the Bank was more concerned about *deflation* than *inflation*.

I followed up on the topic at the Finance Committee again in November 26, 2020. Committee members asking the new Governor of the Bank of Canada Tiff Macklem when the bank would stop printing money to finance the government's deficits: "*you were asked ... if you were going to discontinue quantitative easing when inflation hits 2%. You said that you expect recovery to be well under way before that...when can you commit to ending quantitative easing?*" He replied with claims of uncertainty about how economic conditions would develop as the pandemic ran its course and evaded the question.



I then asked Governor Macklem on April 27, 2021 "*How much inflation will you tolerate in 2021 and 2022 and keep interest rates where they are? On which factors does this fairly precise guess about this up and down between 2% and 3% rely?*" He replied that

the band is 1% to 3%, and went on to say "*If we saw that inflation was sustainably higher than our forecast and sustainably higher than our target, yes, we would react. We have the tools and we know how to control inflation.*"

Other Finance Committee witnesses warned about the dangers of inflation, and pointed out the ways that inflation disproportionately harms lower income wage earners, seniors, and modest savers. The committee also heard how official inflation statistics underestimate the inflationary pain felt by lower income consumers since the official consumer price index excludes volatile commodities like food, gasoline, heating fuel and housing. Lower



income consumers spend a bigger proportion of their incomes on these items, the prices of which has increased even faster than the consumer price index.

After nearly two years of warning the government about the effects of its deficits, facilitated by artificially low interest rates and bond buying by the Bank of Canada, Canadians are feeling the effects of the highest inflation rate in nearly 30 years. Groceries, gasoline, heating, housing, and a variety of consumer goods are all increasingly expensive at a time when wages remain stagnant. Raising interest rates is the main tool the Bank of Canada can use to fight inflation, but most indebted consumers, especially those with large mortgages, cannot afford higher interest costs and neither can the federal government which has added \$400 billion to the national debt on top of the nearly \$100billion that the Liberal government accumulated prior to the pandemic.

The only solution will be a strong economy with growing wages and increasing GDP to manage the long term consequences of the national debt and inflation. 🍁

Social Media

When the House of Commons is sitting, I raise questions to Ministers, give speeches on legislation, speak at committees, attend votes, meet with constituents and stakeholders in my Ottawa office, and more.

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Winter 2022

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Dear Constituents,

On October 28th I was sworn into the 44th Parliament as Member of Parliament for Calgary Rocky Ridge. I thank my wife Kimberley, my children, and the many volunteers who supported me through my re-election on September 20th. It is a both an honour and a responsibility to represent over 145,000 constituents in the House of Commons. I will do my best to represent you with my voice, with my votes, and with all the parliamentary tools available to me.

The House of Commons only sat for three weeks between June 22, 2021 and January 31, 2022. During this time, the government almost completely avoided democratic scrutiny by Canada's elected Members of

Parliament. As a result, MPs had only a limited ability to question the government on inflation, housing affordability, deteriorating public finances, the bungled Afghanistan evacuation, the crisis in Ukraine, and the federal government's pandemic policies.

My constituency office remains open for constituents who need help with federal departments or agencies. I also enjoy talking to or meeting with anyone who wants to share their views on national affairs.

- Pat Kelly



Interim Opposition Leader Candice Bergen

On February 2, under provisions of the Reform Act 2015, the Conservative Party caucus voted to remove the Hon. Erin O'Toole as leader of the Conservative Party.

I thank Mr. O'Toole for his service to Canada, to Parliament, and to our caucus and party. I also thank him for enduring the stresses that political leadership inflicts on families.



Later in evening of February 2, the Hon. Candice Bergen was elected by the Conservative caucus to act as interim leader and Leader of the Official Opposition, until a new party leader can be chosen by party members.

Ms. Bergen was a minister in the Harper Government, served as Opposition House Leader and was also Deputy Opposition Leader under Mr. O'Toole.

She is well known for her strong performances in Question Period and will lead the Official Opposition in holding the Government to account in the House of Commons. 🍁

What's Inside

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Afghanistan Evacuation

In August of 2021 the Taliban gained full control of the government of Afghanistan and the capital city of Kabul amid the negotiated and scheduled withdrawal of United States armed forces personnel. This takeover by the Taliban put thousands of people at grave risk of reprisal.

The timetable for the American withdrawal was long known, and there was general expectation that the Taliban would swiftly take over the remainder of the country not already under their control.

Conservative MPs warned the government months earlier that people who had helped Canada during its lengthy combat mission in Afghanistan, including thousands of Afghan interpreters and contractors, would be at risk if the government fell. We demanded an evacuation plan for Canadians and our Afghan allies.

Images of the Kabul airport shocked the world, and Canada’s response appeared to be particularly chaotic and ineffective compared to our allies. The Liberal government inexplicably stopped funding safehouses for interpreters. Furthermore, in October 2021 a government data leak exposed the personal information of hundreds of visa applicants attempting to escape Taliban reprisals.

Prime Minister Trudeau dissolved Parliament and called the election on August 15, the same day that Kabul fell to the Taliban. As a result, Parliament could not question the Trudeau government about its response to the crisis until late November when the House of Commons resumed sitting. Conservative MPs then raised the issue in Question Period and used an Opposition Day to pass a motion, with the support of the other opposition parties, to create a special committee to study the issue.

The motion specifically granted the committee the authority to question those in the government responsible for Canada’s response and to report back in six months. It also specifically authorized the committee to compel production of relevant documents for the Law Clerk to review before they are discussed, in order to protect Canada’s national security, military strategy, and intelligence gathering capabilities.

Canadians deserve to know whether their government is competent to handle foreign policy and logistics challenges like evacuating allies during humanitarian crises, and whether their elected leaders are complicit or negligent in abandoning allies to torture or execution for having aided our Armed Forces.🇨🇦

Alberta Energy Jobs & Canada’s Environment Minister

Since being elected in 2015, the Liberal government has implemented several measures which have seriously harmed Alberta’s economy and Canada’s energy industry. Bill C-69, cancelling Northern Gateway, banning Canadian (but not American) tanker traffic off of BC’s northern coast, and changing the rules during the application process on Energy East all contributed to capital flight and systematically undermined confidence in Canada’s ability to complete energy infrastructure projects.

Most recently, the Prime Minister appointed Steven Guilbeault as Minister of Environment and Climate Change, a role with significant responsibility and the final say in energy and industry projects. Mr. Guilbeault is a self-described lifelong anti-energy industry activist

who was proudly arrested for trespassing and mischief on several occasions. He remains unapologetic for his history of unlawful conduct and recently claimed that breaking the law in furtherance of political objectives is a part of “Canadian pluralism.” It is troubling that a Minister of the Crown, who has a responsibility to enact and enforce laws, gives such cover to people breaking the very laws he may enact, or existing ones that he has legal responsibility to uphold.

He is also on record admitting that the purpose of Bill C-69 was indeed to make it impossible to build pipelines, something his government had so far denied. He also said that his lifelong opposition to the energy industry is why he joined the Liberal Party of Canada. Most recently, he gave an interview to a publication

which receives foreign funding to oppose Canadian resource development, in which he mentioned, *“more stringent methane regulations, zero emission vehicle standards, net zero grid by 2035, cap on oil and gas and obviously phasing out fossil fuels – all of these things must be in place in the coming eighteen months.”*

His appointment reflects a serious lack of judgement on the part of the Prime Minister, as well as a commitment to destroying the energy industry and the related jobs and taxes which contribute to the Canadian economy. I will continue to support prudent industrial and environmental regulation while opposing this government’s ongoing assaults on energy workers’ livelihoods.🇨🇦

Housing Affordability in Canada

According to National Bank’s Housing Affordability Monitor, housing prices rose 4.6% in the third quarter and 18.6% year over year. This is the highest annual price increase since 1989. A Canadian worker earning the average Canadian wage, saving 10% of their gross income, would take 10 years to save enough money just for the minimum down-payment, and would still not qualify for the nearly \$700,000 mortgage necessary to buy an average Canadian home.

Such dramatic increases in the cost of housing are not sustainable. A shortage of supply is the single greatest factor affecting housing affordability.

To address supply from the federal level, Conservatives proposed measures in our recent election platform, including releasing a portion of unused or under-used federal property for housing development. Conservatives also proposed cracking down on foreign “investors” who buy Canadian homes and leave them vacant.

I spoke about the issue at the Finance Committee before the election, and again in the House of Commons on December 9th, saying:



Generations of Canadians have achieved a degree of financial security and independence through home ownership by buying a home probably around the time of family formation and then paying it off over a generation. Today's young people have simply given up on that dream...

Another factor limiting the supply of homes is the existence of unoccupied homes in

Canada. Conservatives are proposing to prevent foreign investors from parking their money in Canada as a place to sit money in a vacant property.

For many years now, it has been widely known that Canada's real estate market has been a prime destination for wealthy foreigners to, at best, take advantage of Canada's relative stability and rule of law as a hedge on their foreign wealth or, at worst, use as a haven for money laundering among the world's kleptocrats. It is time for meaningful action. No foreign national should be permitted to buy a home in Canada just to have it sit vacant while Canadian families give up the dream of ownership.

I will continue to resist any attempt to institute a tax on home equity or capital gains on the sale of a primary residence. Such ideas have been floated from time to time, including as a recommendation in a recently published research paper funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.🇨🇦

Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics

In December I was named a member of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics (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.

The Ethics Committee conducted important, high profile investigations during the last Parliament. For example, it held hearings on Questions of Conflict of Interest and Lobbying in Relation to Pandemic Spending, prompted 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.

Chairing a standing committee is a new parliamentary responsibility for me, and one that I look forward to. Given the nature of a minority Parliament, and the experience of the previous Parliament, this committee will likely be a busy one where contentious investigations may take place.

I appreciate the confidence that my colleagues have placed in me to ensure that this committee is conducted fairly and that all members’ voices be heard.🇨🇦

Cell Phone Tracking and Privacy

On December 16, 2021 the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) posted a tender seeking access to cell phone tower data from January 2019 to May 2023 to analyze travel patterns during and beyond the pandemic. This announcement brought to light the fact that the Public Health Agency had been tracking location information on 33 million cell phones without consulting the Privacy Commissioner.

ensure appropriate oversight for any such mass collection of data, that the collected data is rendered permanently unidentifiable, and that it is only collected or retained as long as absolutely necessary.



In response, Conservative Shadow Minister for Ethics John Brassard wrote to the Privacy Commissioner, urging him to investigate the

matter. Mr. Brassard also led a successful move to have the Access to Information, Privacy, and Ethics committee (ETHI) study the matter.

ETHI launched its study of the matter on February 3rd, with both the Minister of Health and the Chief Public Health Officer appearing to testify.

Members of the committee, including Liberal members, unanimously passed a motion calling on the government to suspend PHAC’s request for proposal for data collection until the study was complete and the committee could report back to the House of Commons that it is satisfied that PHAC’s plans adequately protect Canadians’ privacy.🇨🇦

Fall Economic and Fiscal Update

In December 2021 the Liberal Government introduced an Economic and Fiscal Update. It confirmed several points about inflation rates as well as the potential for increased debt servicing expenses from rising interest rates.

The Update included figures on overall expenditure showing \$71.2 billion in new spending since Budget 2021. This \$71.2 billion in new spending, coupled with breakdowns in supply chains, confirms what Conservatives have raised for some months: more dollars chasing fewer goods causes prices to rise.

Another effect of inflation in goods and service prices is higher than expected tax revenues, with sales taxes contributing an additional \$15.6 billion. Additional sales taxes resulting from inflation mean that consumers are paying more tax because prices for the same goods are higher.

The Update does not address the cost of living challenges which many Canadians face, the fact that business investment in Canada is reaching historic lows, or the tremendous backlogs across government departments providing services which Canadians rely on.

The vast amount of new borrowing throughout the pandemic, coupled with inflation and the possibility of higher Bank of Canada benchmark interest rates to bring it back on target, raises concerns about the cost of borrowing. The Update touches on this point



when it acknowledges that public debt charges are higher due to higher than expected interest costs on interest-bearing debt.

Higher benchmark interest rates by the Bank of Canada will increase the cost of borrowing further. According to the Update, a 1% increase in interest rates will increase the deficit by \$4.9 billion in the first year, \$5.8 billion in the second year, and \$6.4 billion in the fifth year.

Canada’s gross national debt for 2021-2022, including all liabilities without subtracting assets, is \$1.78 trillion. Its net debt after both financial assets and non-financial assets are counted, is \$1.19 trillion. The Update projects the deficit to diminish to \$13.1 billion by 2026-2027, but there is still no plan to balance the Budget in the foreseeable future, much less to resume paying down debt to create more fiscal capacity to address future crises.🇨🇦

An excerpt from my speech in the House of Commons on February 9, 2021:

“For six years this government is increasingly paralyzing the country with incompetence.

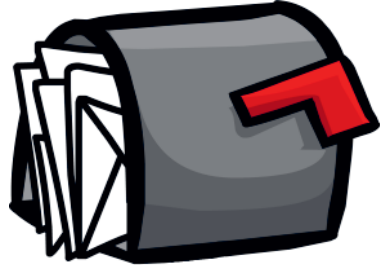
“We watched a government just shrug off payment systems that do not pay, procurement systems that do not procure and create regulatory systems designed to kill projects. It dithered for years with a non-decision on Huawei, jeopardizing national cybersecurity. It defied parliamentary orders. It has presided over the resignation of eight generals, one clerk of the privy council and a governor general.

“Now we are adding the inability to file timely fiscal reports to the incredible litany of muddled and incompetent government. Today, as we debate the implementation legislation for the fall economic statement, Canada is as divided as it has ever been. The government has long pitted east versus west, urban versus rural, and now the vaccinated against the unvaccinated. The government operates under an “us versus them” mentality that has finally and courageously been called out by one of their own this week.

“To conclude, I will not support this bill. It is a matter of confidence in the government, and I have none.”

From the Inbox

Each week I receive dozens of personal emails from constituents. These emails are an invaluable way for me to keep in contact with constituents and I do my best to individually reply to all of them.



Below is a list of just some of the topics of correspondence I have received since the last House to House Newsletter, in no particular order:

- Emergencies Act
- truck convoy
- protests
- blockades
- freedom
- federal mandates
- Home Equity Tax
- Fall Economic Update
- Indigenous Children’s Welfare Payment
- Ethics committee
- childcare benefit program
- mandatory vaccinations
- unused vaccines
- rapid tests
- pre-entry travel requirements
- lockdowns
- school closures
- use of mobile data
- P.E.I. potato ban
- Afghanistan
- parental bereavement leave
- increasing national debt
- rising cost of living
- inflation
- increasing housing prices
- carbon tax
- federal budget
- virtual Parliament
- Erin O’Toole
- Pierre Poilievre
- Conservative caucus
- economic recovery
- Liberal corruption
- unnecessary 2021 election
- election interference
- mental health
- vaccine passports
- vaccine rollout
- support for small business
- Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
- Canadians Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)
- Canadian Emergency Bank Account (CEBA)
- Canadian energy policy
- Canada Revenue Agency wait times
- Canada Revenue Agency service
- travel restrictions
- border restrictions
- tourism industry
- environment
- Charter of Rights & Freedoms
- international travel
- Canada-China relations
- China’s genocide of the Uyghurs
- China’s treatment of Hong Kong
- China’s Asian Infrastructure Bank
- 2022 Winter Olympics
- climate change
- racism
- support for seniors
- universal basic income
- Bill C-2 (COVID support) therapy)
- Bill C-4 (conversion therapy)
- firearms policy
- immigration concerns
- Winnipeg virology lab
- Wuhan virology lab



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