



PARLIAMENTARY UPDATES



Money Out the Door

The government continues to find new ways to waste taxpayer funds:

- » The Health Committee has uncovered a **\$150 million "unfulfilled contract"**. In simple terms, that is money spent with no goods or services received, which will now be written off. The government refuses to provide information about who the contract was with, or what it was for.
- » The Ethics Committee is investigating improper payments from the "green slush fund" (*Sustainable Technology Development Canada*) including a **\$217,000 grant to a company owned by the STDC chair**, and two payments totalling **\$37.7 million that did not meet program criteria.**
- » Ottawa paid **\$670,000 to consultant KPMG to get advice on how to reduce consultant payments.** Ottawa spent \$18.7 billion on "management consultants" in 2022-23, up from \$17.5 billion the year before. 🍁



I met with the Canadian Bankers Association and had a frank discussion about mortgage renewals. Thousands of Canadians don't know what they will do when their mortgages renew: a typical mortgage payment will more than double.

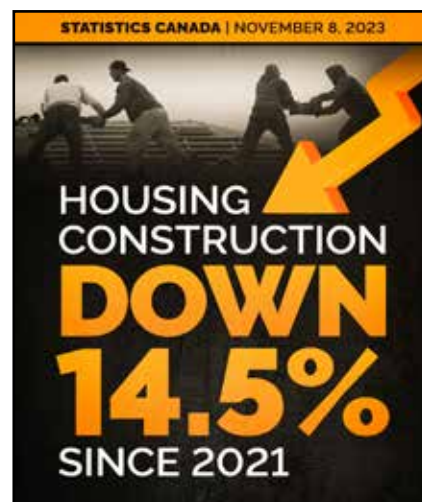


Mr. Speaker, The government's insatiable appetite for spending has triggered an inflation

crisis and interest rate hikes. Millions of Canadians with mortgages are left wondering what they are going to do when their payments go up by over \$1,000 a month on their next renewal.

When will the NDP-Liberal government get its inflationary deficits under control so people can afford to stay in their homes?

*Pat Kelly, MP
Question Period,
House of Commons,
Oct 27, 2023*



More Spending = Higher Inflation

Government over-spending fuels inflation, which in turn leads to rising prices, rising interest rates, rising taxes, and more and more hardship.

The Governor of the Bank of Canada, Tiff Macklem, has now spoken out. He acknowledged that excess spending and the carbon tax are making it harder for the Bank to fight inflation and bring down interest rates. When asked if government spending and Bank objectives were going in opposite directions, he simply replied "yes". About excess government spending, he said, "If all those spending plans are realized, government spending will be adding to demand more than supply is growing. And in an environment where we're trying to moderate spending, get inflation down — that's not helpful. It's going to be easier to get inflation down if monetary and fiscal policy are rowing in the same direction." 🍁

Rising Taxes on Beer, Wine and Spirits: I have consistently fought the Accelerator Tax (automatic annual tax increase) on beer, wine and spirits. Last year, the tax was reduced from a planned 6.3% to 2%, but another increase of 4.7% is expected on April 1, 2024. I oppose automatic tax increases generally because taxes should be debated in Parliament. This tax in particular is an unwarranted burden on a simple pleasure. 🍁



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UNFAIRLY APPLYING THE CARBON TAX

If there is one thing I know about Canadians, it is that they care deeply about fairness. They expect that government policy will treat us all equally.

The Liberals have abandoned that principle when it comes to the carbon tax on home heating fuel. By exempting only heating oil, the government has created two classes of taxpayer depending on where you live and how you heat your home.

In fact, the Minister for Rural Economic Development, in a rare moment of complete candor, said western Canadians wanting an exemption should elect more Liberals.

I voted to apply the tax exemption to **all** Canadians, no matter where they live, what kind of home heating fuel they use, or how they vote. Tax policy should be applied fairly.

I don't think we should be taxing home heating fuel of any kind. In a Canadian winter, it is essential. Removing the tax would be the fair thing to do. 🍁

Mr. Speaker, after eight years, the desperation of the NDP-Liberal government proves the Prime Minister is not worth the cost.

Liberals admitted that the carbon tax exemption was not granted to western Canadians because they do not vote Liberal. The minister from Edmonton Centre and the member for Calgary Skyview are either so ineffective that the Prime Minister just ignores them or they actually agree that Alberta should pay more to keep the heat on.

Will the Prime Minister take the tax off home heating for all Canadians, yes or no?

Pat Kelly, MP

Question Period, House of Commons, Nov 1, 2023

Pat Kelly

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I am very active on the Standing Committee on National Defence. On this occasion, I am questioning officials about defence procurement, which is frankly a mess.

I questioned defense industry representatives who told me, after a year and a half, that they haven't received "firm signals" from the government to put production on a war footing despite warnings from the Chief of the Defence Staff about the production of basic supplies like artillery shells.

I questioned the Procurement Ombudsman about his budget and contracts that are improperly awarded.

All in all, Canada is completely neglecting our defence readiness at a time of global disruption. 🍁

During Veterans' Week, I visited the Field of Crosses on Memorial Drive, including attending a sunset commemoration dedicated to those who were 18 and under and died for our country in WWI and WWII. Every year, 3500 crosses with the names of every individual from Southern Alberta who lost their life in defence of Canada is placed along Memorial Drive, a very special tribute unique to Calgary. I had the pleasure to talk with Murray McCann, who founded the Field of Crosses.



CEO Lindsay Mazzucco and CIVIX celebrated their 20th Anniversary this month. I participated in Rep Day 2023 and I look forward to visiting classrooms in the upcoming year to engage students in civics education.



(Above) I met with Alberta teachers (including two from Calgary Rocky Ridge), in Ottawa for the Teachers Institute on Parliamentary Democracy program.

(Below) I met with The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Delegates at the Antisemitism: Face It Fight It Conference and heard first hand about how antisemitism affects our community.



Arctic Security: A Threat We Must Face

On November 3, I presented to the House of Commons a Report from the Standing Committee on National Defence about Arctic security. Arctic security is Canadian national security and continental security, and it is under significant threat, a threat that current policies of the government are not equipped to face. The report had 26 recommendations, including:

1. Canada must procure undersea surveillance capacity to detect foreign threats.
2. Canada must urgently undertake a procurement process to replace the Victoria-class submarines with new submarines that are under-ice capable for operations in our Arctic waters.
3. The Government must reconsider its longstanding policy with respect to the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defence program. The country is currently vulnerable because of virtually no capability to intercept inbound missiles of any type.
4. The Government must urgently address the personnel crisis in the Canadian Armed Forces by fast-tracking the recruitment of new members, aiming to complete the recruitment process in under six months to ensure we have the level of personnel needed to defend our Arctic now and into the future.
5. The Government must undertake a comprehensive survey of our infrastructure, including military, civilian, and corporate holdings, as well as natural resources, mining and mineral operations in our Arctic, for the purpose of forward planning for NORAD modernization, developing a strategy for critical infrastructure investments and protecting Canadian interests from malign foreign actors. 🍁



You can read the entire report online at: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/NDDN>

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