

OPPOSITION ACHIEVEMENTS

The work of the Official Opposition - the Conservatives - involves scrutinizing the government and identifying areas for improvement, as well as offering up ideas for new legislation. The spring parliamentary session ended mid-June. The Opposition focused on issues including the following:

Axe the Tax

- Continued pressing against the flawed carbon tax, revealing that government is not actually measuring any results that could be reliably attributed to the tax but just "modelling". Further, their own report showed the tax costs every family an average of \$2000/year.
- Opposed the inflationary carbon tax increase of 23% on April 1st, a hike that increases the cost of everything but particularly food, heating, and transportation.
- Forced a non-confidence vote on the carbon tax which would have allowed Canadians to vote in a carbon tax election.
- Called for Canadians to get a summer break by axing the carbon tax, federal fuel tax, and the GST on gasoline and diesel from Victoria Day to Labour Day.
- Fought to pass Bill C-234 in its original form to axe the tax on farm operations.
- Introduced Bill C-396 to stop the GST from being added to the carbon tax.
- Called on the government to convene an emergency carbon tax meeting with 14 First Ministers, as requested by several premiers.
- Asked for a pause on the carbon tax on home heating for all Canadians – not just those in Atlantic Canada.

Build the Homes

- Introduced Bill C-356 with practical solutions to build more affordable homes by linking municipal infrastructure funds to home building, and removing GST on construction of affordable rental units.
- Forced a vote on Bill C-356, but it was defeated by the NDP-Liberal coalition.
- Forced investigations into the housing mess at several parliamentary committees.

Fix the Budget

- Highlighted and opposed the inflationary spending (\$535 B) and deficit (\$40 B) in Budget 2024, and demanded a path to a balanced budget to bring down inflation and interest rates sooner.
- Identified specific areas of wasteful spending that could be cut without harming social support programs.
- Exposed corrupt allocation of taxpayer funds at Sustainable Development Technology Canada (the "green slush fund"), dramatic overspending on the failed ArriveCan app (millions paid to middlemen who did no IT work), and \$21 billion in government contracts, many sole-sourced, to insiders at McKinsey & Co, and other consultants, typically with little accountability.

- Passed Bill C-241 at third reading to allow tradespeople to deduct travel expenses.
- Demanded the repayment of funds paid to ArriveCan contractors who did no IT work.

Madam Speaker: the Liberals promised to be the most open and transparent government in history and said that data paid for by Canadians belongs to Canadians. Well, that promise is just a sick joke after nine years of secrecy and cover-ups. Yesterday, common-sense Conservatives forced the NDP-Liberal government to release some of the data that the government has been suppressing. It proves that the carbon tax costs every Canadian family nearly \$2,000.

Pat Kelly MP
House of Commons, June 14, 2024

House to House
Report from Parliament
October 2024

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TIME FOR CANADIANS TO DECIDE

This report should reach you shortly after Parliament resumes for the fall session (Sept 16). It is possible many things will have changed between me writing this report and you receiving it.

For example, until early September, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh propped up the Liberal government.

Conservatives have been demanding a "carbon tax election" for months. Canadians deserve the opportunity to pass judgement on this unpopular, expensive, and ineffective policy.

Canadians also deserve the opportunity to say whether massive government overspending - leading to inflation, high interest rates, and lower incomes - benefits Canadians, or if it is time to show more disciplined management and bring the cost of living and quality of life back to where families can afford the necessities of living.

I talked to constituents all summer at community events and I know they are fed up with this government, this Prime Minister, and their costly, damaging policies. It is well past time for Canadians to have an election to decide if it is time for a new government.



Arbour Lake Seniors' lunch

We will find out this fall if Mr. Singh will follow through and join Conservatives and vote "non-confidence" in this tired and out of touch Liberal government.

Pat Kelly



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CAPITAL GAINS TAX HIKE

At the end of June, the Liberals implemented a hike on the capital gains tax (legislation has not yet been introduced - we expect it this fall). The Liberals claim this is just asking the "ultra-rich" - 0.13% of Canadians they claim - to pay a little bit more, so you may not think it will affect you. But chances are good that it will - either directly, or indirectly.

Directly, most Canadians only have a significant capital gain to report on their taxes once or twice in a lifetime. It is often at retirement when people sell income properties (such as a rental property), or other investments outside of a registered plan. It could be the sale of a cottage or transfer of property to your children. It could be upon an inheritance from your parents. These transactions all attract capital gains tax - you report and pay tax on 50% of the gain. Under the new rules, any gain over \$250,000 must now be reported as 66.6% of the gain and is taxed on that larger amount.

That's for individuals. If the investment is held by a professional corporation, trust, non-profit or small business, the entire capital gain is subject to the increased 66% inclusion rate.

Who does this affect? Indirectly, almost everyone. Apart from Canadians who have saved for retirement outside of registered pension products (many Canadians do not have an employee or government pension plan and aren't eligible for RRSPs), it will affect farmers, professionals like dentists, pharmacists and doctors, small business owners, people in the "gig" economy who work for themselves (more and more these days), many tradespeople who run their own small companies, and on and on. These people may have to raise their prices to pay the extra tax.



WHAT'S NEXT

The Liberals introduced the capital gains tax hike without first passing legislation in Parliament. What else is up their sleeve?

Many think the Liberals are planning to tax the equity on our homes. They say they won't, but they keep sending up "trial balloons" - for example, by repeatedly seeking advice from activist group *Generation Squeeze* which persistently lobbies for taxes on the value of your personal residence.

When a government overspends this recklessly, and builds up astounding amounts of debt, **at some point they will have to find new ways to tax people.** With an election more and more imminent - an election the Liberals are unlikely to win - this might be the time to get radical policies into legislation, while they still can.

It will affect people who have investments - even those inside a registered plan like an RRSP, RRIF, TFSA or RESP. When those investments are taxed more highly, your returns are decreased. Decreased returns mean less money to live on in retirement.

And it will affect all Canadians because it will be yet another reason to invest somewhere other than Canada. Canada already has a serious issue with fleeing capital investment that is reducing our productivity and consequently our per capita GDP (how much each person earns on average). Lower per capita GDP means Canada's standard of living is falling. This will just make it worse. There are countries better suited to invest in, and investors will make that choice. 🍁



◀ Hong Kong Culture Day. My colleagues and I stand with Hong Kong.



▶ Igbo Cultural Association of Calgary's 2024 Igbo Day celebrating "Obinwanne" (Brotherliness).



▲ Delivering greetings at Azadi Fest, celebrating Pakistan's Independence Day.

▼ I joined over 20 partner organizations and thousands of Calgarians to celebrate Indian culture on India Independence Day at IndiYEAH! Fest.



▶ Calling on the Trudeau Government to recognize the election of the Venezuelan Opposition during a rally at City Hall in support of the Venezuelan people.



◀ Gunner Bill Stewart of the 14th CTR passed away on Aug 2. He was 103 and the last survivor of the Dieppe Raid. I joined veterans, families, and members of the KOCR (King's Own Calgary Regiment) for a ceremony of Remembrance.

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