



RON LIEPERT

Member of Parliament
Calgary Signal Hill

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Dear Constituents,

I want to outline in this newsletter some of the issues we are addressing in Parliament and highlight some of the good news Calgary has seen in recent weeks. Albertans continue to work around this Liberal government's shortfalls and lead the nation when competing internationally for business.

I continue to hear constituent concerns about the overspending of the federal government and its effect on their own financial security. According to several polls a record high 47% of Canadians are worried about their personal debt, and 68% are concerned about rising interest rates. Budget 2023, introduced in mid-April, did little to allay these concerns.

While the federal government continues to run deficits, Alberta announced in its budget recently a surplus of \$12.3 billion. Oil and gas revenues continue to power Alberta and Canada's GDP. While the federal fiscal outlook is bleak, Alberta continues to fair relatively well.

Canada continues to support our Ukrainian friends in their fight against Russia. The government recently announced the donation of 200 Senator armoured personnel carriers and four Leopard 2A4 tanks. The government has also announced other donations to help fight the Putin regime. We must remember that while the Ukrainian forces have been effective in defending their freedom, the Russian aggression

continues, and Conservatives will support all efforts to assist Ukraine.

Many Albertans became overnight small-screen stars earlier this year as HBO's *The Last of Us* aired across North America. It has been very special to see our city featured so prominently in the show and watch the interviews of the cast. Many Calgarians were extras in the filming while hundreds of local professionals helped the production bring in \$200 million in revenue and create 9,000 jobs in Alberta.

Sincerely,
Ron Liepert

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Budget 2023

Budget 2023 projects this year's spending at \$432.9 billion, with a deficit of \$40 billion. Spending over the next five years is projected to hit \$3 trillion. There is no longer a date being projected by this government for a return to a balanced budget. The previous budget said the deficit would be eliminated in 2027/28. Now the government is forecasting a \$14 billion shortfall at that time. Program spending includes an increase in the GST rebate (called a grocery rebate) for lower-income households which will cost \$2.5 billion. \$13 billion is forecast over five years for a national dental care program, and \$4.5 billion over five years in tax credits toward clean tech manufacturing. Alberta may see significant benefits from the \$1.5 billion Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund for the development of our mining industry. The budget also cuts 3% across the board for all government departments by 2026/27, estimated to save \$15 billion over five years. The national debt will rise to \$1.3 trillion, with annual interest payments totaling \$50 billion, or \$10 billion more than is spent on defence.

Bill C-11 (Amending the Broadcasting Act)

Many constituents have expressed concerns about Bill C-11, and rightfully so. As it passed third reading in the house, Conservatives still had concerns that it was too powerful in its ability to control what people create and what they see online. The bill went to the Senate late last year and a number of amendments were proposed. These followed the receipt of a petition with over 100,000 signatures. The bill returned to the house where the government adopted some minor amendments but chose to exclude most amendments supported by the Conservatives. One notable amendment the government did not accept was to exempt user-generated content from regulation. This means the bill

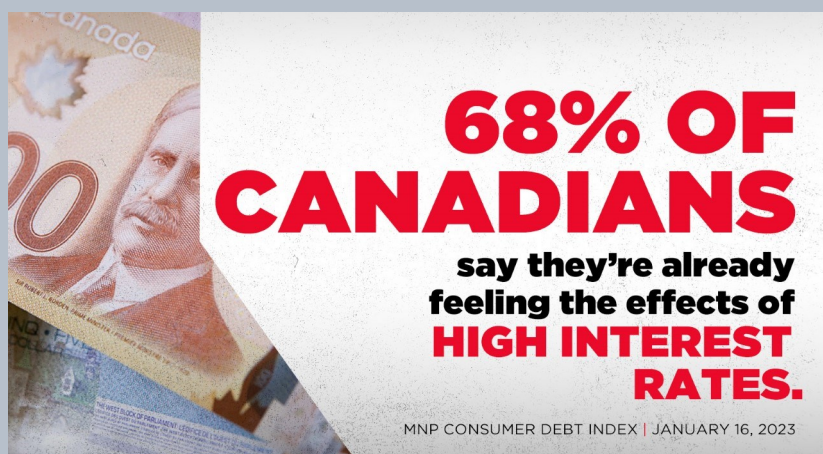
will still give the CRTC the mandate to regulate what you see on YouTube, Instagram, and other social media platforms. The bill will now become law.

MAID

There is significant concern regarding the expansion of medical assistance in dying to cover mental illness as a sole condition in the same category as many terminal illnesses. Many constituents have emailed regarding the mental health issue and the government has moved to extend the date to which this would take effect until March 2024. I support MAID in principle, but I also believe that such a sensitive expansion of legislation with including mental health in MAID deserves thorough review, which has not happened. Conservatives continue to call for more consultation before next spring's date when the provision would take effect.

Foreign Interference in our Elections

There is little doubt our electoral process has been impacted by efforts of the Chinese government, but many questions remain, and all opposition parties agree that a public inquiry is required. While there is no reason to believe this effort affected the overall outcome of the most recent election, it is still incredibly concerning to know that not only is another country trying to affect our elections. The Prime Minister responded by appointing former Governor General David Johnston as a "Special Rapporteur." Mr. Johnston has a mandate to investigate the scope of the influence, who was involved, and recommend next steps by October of this year.



68% OF CANADIANS
say they're already
feeling the effects of
HIGH INTEREST RATES.

MNP CONSUMER DEBT INDEX | JANUARY 16, 2023



Ottawa has awarded **23 contracts**
to McKinsey since 2015, with a total value of
\$101.4-MILLION

The Globe and Mail | January 16, 2023

Legislative Updates Continued

A number of Bills and issues have been updated or tabled since my last update.

C-21 (Firearms)

I appreciated your feedback on the handgun issue. Since then, the government has dropped the controversial amendments that aimed to ban numerous hunting rifles and shotguns in Canada - this is thanks to Canadians supporting Conservative efforts to have these amendments thrown out. C-21's original goals stand - and will likely pass with support from the BQ and NDP.

NDP Demands for Dental and Pharmacare, and Healthcare

While the government says a dental care plan for low- and middle-income families is on its agenda and has allocated some resources in Budget 2023, little else has transpired. The NDP maintains progress on this as well as dealing with "the current healthcare crisis" needs to occur in order for the continued propping up of the government. Meanwhile the federal government has reached agreement with most provinces to increase health transfers by about \$2 billion with a 5% increase over the next five years. Budget 2023 allocates \$49 billion in health transfers to the provinces in 2023/24.

ArriveCAN

The opposition continues to call for further inquiry of the ArriveCAN app and its ballooning costs. An audit has been approved to investigate the true cost of the contract, but we do know that approximately \$54 million was spent on an app that has been estimated to have a true value of around \$500,000.

C-35 (Childcare)

This unnecessary bill is another example of the Liberal government's virtue signaling. Legislation is not required to put in place the various agreements, with the provinces, which are designed to provide affordable childcare to Canadian families. While the intentions of \$10 a day-daycare are good, many issues remain. The government stipulates only public and not-for-profit childcare centres qualify, which leaves out many parents whose children attend private day care or day homes. There is nothing in the \$30 billion five-year commitment to address the largest problem, which is lack of staff. If there is no plan to address the staffing shortage, then no amount of money spent on affordable programs will be effective.

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE BUDGET:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

**A QUARTER
OF CANADIANS**
—say there is—
NO WAY
**THEY CAN AFFORD
A SUMMER VACATION**

SOURCE: IPSOS | APRIL 16, 2023



RON LIEPERT
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6

TAPE

No
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required

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I conclude this newsletter by announcing that I will not be a candidate in the next election and want to thank constituents for the trust placed in me as their Member of Parliament since 2015. It has been a sincere honour to serve. I believe strongly that the time has come to stand aside and allow for new voices to come forward to represent our community.

I have every confidence that Pierre Poilievre and our Conservative team will form Canada's next federal government – and while I am disappointed that I won't have the opportunity to serve in a Poilievre government, I hope that by making this announcement now, our community will have time to select an excellent candidate to be part of Pierre's team.

I intend to serve until the next general election scheduled for October 20th, 2025, however with a minority government in place an election could occur sooner than that date.

Ron Liepert
Member of Parliament for
Calgary Signal Hill