

**ALEX  
RUFF** MP  
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

## Community Newsletter



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

February 2023

Dear Constituent,

I hope you had time to gather with loved ones over the holidays despite the significant storms leading to road closures on and around Christmas.

In the constituency over the Christmas holidays, I was fortunate enough to host a number of free public skates at arenas across the riding. In Meaford, Shallow Lake, Hanover, and Flesherton, I had the opportunity to engage with a number of constituents while lacing up the skates and hitting the ice. Thank you to those who made it out. I hope to continue hosting free public skates in the future. I also hosted an information session on the Canada Summer Jobs program, which provides funding to employers in the riding to hire summer students. The deadline to apply was 12 January 2023, and funding will be announced in multiple rounds throughout the spring months.

Some great discussions were had at the Bruce County Beef Farmers and Grey County Beef Farmers Association AGMs in January and I also met with local reps of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario. Topics that were covered included: the carbon tax, carbon sequestration credits, BSE, transportation regulations, vaccine bank for Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD), fertilizer tariffs, mental health and more.

In mid-January, the City of Owen Sound and region was fortunate enough to host Scotiabank's Hockey Day in Canada. The event was a unique opportunity to showcase our area on the national stage and thousands of constituents came together to partake in the festivities. By all accounts, it was a huge success.

Since October 2022, I've been working with MPs across all parties to address the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, in particular, to protect the vulnerable former Afghan women MPs from the brutal regime. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Taliban murdered former MP Mursal Nabizada in Kabul, Afghanistan. Since then, we have been calling on the Minister of Immigration to fast-track the immigration cases for vulnerable Afghan politicians that are being effectively hunted down by the Taliban, so they can find safety in Canada. Our six-member all-party group issued the following statement on 16 Jan 2023:

*"Since October 2022, as a joint all-party effort, we have been working to assist in bringing the nine remaining Afghan women MPs still trapped in Afghanistan to safety to Canada."*

*"As Canadians are aware, the situation in Afghanistan grows more dangerous by the day. The Taliban continue to exhibit a complete disregard for human rights, arbitrarily arresting and often torturing those who oppose them, particularly those individuals who had prominent roles under the former Republic, including parliamentarians. Their brutal gender apartheid system now*

*controls every aspect of life for all women and girls. No female is safe. But this is particularly so for these brave women MPs who led the way in opening up public and civic space for women and girls under the previous Afghan government."*

*"Unfortunately, and tragically, over the weekend we have learned of the murder of Mursal Nabizada in her home. Our hearts and prayers go out to her family, friends, and the eight still trapped Afghan women MPs."*

*"As Canada has been involved in encouraging and mentoring women MPs in Afghanistan, we believe we have a moral responsibility to help them now. For the sake of the lives of these eight women, we urge the Canadian government to act on this matter urgently and take immediate action to assist in getting these women to safety."*

Since the House of Commons resumed, I have also had the opportunity to speak on a number of pertinent issues to the riding. This included Bill C-21, which targets law-abiding firearms owners. Fortunately, the Liberal government finally rescinded their last-minute amendments that would have banned a large number of hunting rifles and shotguns. Unfortunately, the bill is still being debated despite doing nothing to address public safety. I'll continue to oppose this nonsensical legislation while advocating for public safety legislation that goes after criminals. For example, I spoke on multiple occasions about crime and needed bail reform. This is aligned with all the Premiers and police forces across Canada who have been advocating for changes to the bail system too. My interjections can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/5r-b9C2Sla4>. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the House of Commons voted on an Opposition Motion calling for reforms to the bail system put forward by Official Opposition. Unfortunately, the Liberals, Bloc, and NDP all voted against it. Here is the text of the motion:

*That, given that, after eight years of this government's soft on crime policies,*

*(i) violent crime has increased by 32%,*

*(ii) gang-related homicides have increased by 92%,*

*(iii) violent, repeat offenders are obtaining bail much more easily,*

*(iv) increasing daily acts of crime and violence are putting Canadians at risk,*

*(v) five Canadian police officers were killed in the line of duty in just one year,*

*the House call on the government to enact policies that prioritize the rights of victims and law-abiding citizens, namely:*

*(a) fix Canada's broken bail system by immediately repealing the elements enacted by Bill C-75, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts, which force judges to release violent, repeat offenders onto the streets, allowing them to reoffend;*

*(b) strengthen Canada's bail laws so that those who are prohibited from possessing firearms and who are then accused of serious firearms offences do not easily get bail; and*

*(c) ensure that Canada's justice system puts the rights of law-abiding Canadians ahead of the rights of violent, repeat offenders.*

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/votes/44/1/251?view=party>

I would welcome any feedback on our motion and the aspects you agree or disagree with as I continue to advocate for needed public safety and justice system reforms. Please answer my related survey question this month on my website. Details below.

Additionally, this past month, I spoke on Bill C-35, An Act respecting early learning and child care in Canada. I support this bill, in principle; however, it doesn't work for many local day-care centres in our area and across rural Canada. You can watch my brief intervention here:

<https://youtu.be/F5tMtajJnzQ>.

As always, if you have any issues of federal concerns, please feel free to reach out to my office.

Alex Ruff, MSC, CD, MP  
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

## CHAC Ice Fishing Contest 2023



The Conservative Hunting and Angling Caucus is proud to be hosting our Annual Fishing Contest! This year, instead of a summer contest, we will be doing an ice fishing contest.

Starting February 1st, 2023 until March 15th, 2023 at 11:59 pm, use a fishing lure from my office by contacting me at [alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca](mailto:alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca) to catch some fish! Take a picture of your fish with the lure still attached showing my name, and e-mail the photo to [cpchuntingandangling@outlook.com](mailto:cpchuntingandangling@outlook.com) with

your name, Province, age (for age category only), and a short story about catching your fish so we can share with others!

At the end of the contest, we have a panel of fishing experts from across Canada who will judge the pictures, and select our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners; as well as the top youth winners. Prizes will be handed out to the winners, which include a Shimano ice fishing rod and reel, as well as other outdoor items.

For more information, visit the Conservative Hunting and Angling Caucus Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/CPCHuntingandAngling/>

## Monthly Survey Question



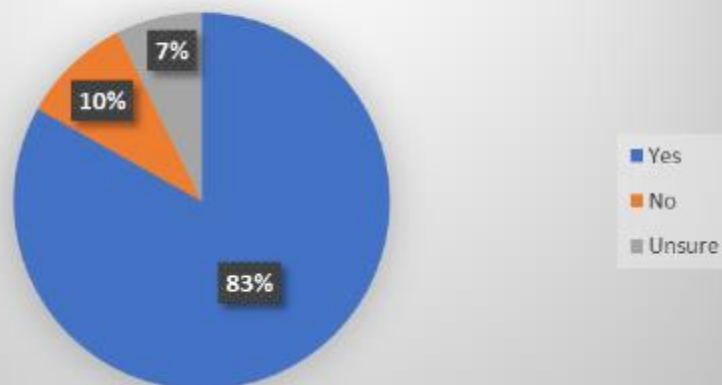
Have your say on my website: [www.alexruffmp.ca](http://www.alexruffmp.ca)

This month's new question is:

As called for by all Premiers and numerous Police Chiefs, do you support bail reform to end the catch and release of violent offenders?

Last Month's Response:

Would you support a law that requires the federal government to find equivalent efficiencies and savings before committing to new spending?



# Constituency Mailbox



Here is a list of some of the issues among many, that I received correspondence on from the community during the past month (in no particular order):

Bill C-21 and Firearms	The War in Ukraine
Bail Reform	People's Republic of China Influence
Healthcare	Seniors on fixed incomes
Carbon Taxes	Affordability (food, home heating, other goods)
Support for Farmers	Unidentified Objects in Canadian Air Space

## Alex in the Media



To check out my interjections in the House of Commons, other videos, and local news, see below and click [here](#).

Ruff credits rural Canadians for gun legislation amendment withdrawal (7 February 2023): <https://blackburnnews.com/agrimedia/2023/02/07/ruff-credits-rural-canadians-gun-legislation-amendment-withdrawal/?fbclid=IwAR0F1tSV8qiCvulDkSrNlXYtmv1rbuDrvBkiXeC-kZpb84je-nlArZIB70>

Liberals blasted for 'disgusting' lack of action in saving female former MPs from Taliban (25 January 2023): <https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/afghan-women-mps-liberals-failing-to-help/wcm/29d123ce-d845-428a-8151-ee48620f7177/amp/?fbclid=IwAR2cIR0MES7Df6GDvA7k2Lym9UTHTQGYdx9-CtZ350ExcFYs6Qi9ffl5Z-A>

'Someone will kill me': Former Afghan MP fears her fate if she can't come to Canada (21 January 2023): <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/afghan-women-assassination-taliban-nabizada-1.6721619?fbclid=IwAR0JV0kSTaPaoDHI50BIXaK76fE-HxAKsbrX-t244lNByrgq1DytA-uP248>

Rogers TV: Politically Speaking (17 January 2023): <https://youtu.be/dtWnjt4ufa4>

MPs implored federal government to bring former Afghan politician to Canada before she was killed (17 January 2023): [https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadian-mps-afghan-politician-killed-1.6716195?fbclid=IwAR3os4ELvGvCrlc3zF1CfPt8bA3\\_ULIKF7yB6o3AdArnMQcmq72ym3PEca8](https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadian-mps-afghan-politician-killed-1.6716195?fbclid=IwAR3os4ELvGvCrlc3zF1CfPt8bA3_ULIKF7yB6o3AdArnMQcmq72ym3PEca8)

560 CFOS Open Line (12 January 2023): <https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/01/17/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-92/>

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MP Alex Ruff Reflects On 2022 (31 December 2022):

<https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2022/12/31/bruce-grey-owen-sound-mp-alex-ruff-reflects-on-2022/>

Ruff offers to pay for Liberal MPs to take gun safety course (23 December 2022):

<https://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/2022/12/23/ruff-offers-pay-liberal-mps-take-gun-safety-course/>

560 CFOS Open Line (22 December 2022): [https://www.560cfos.ca/2022/12/22/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-](https://www.560cfos.ca/2022/12/22/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-89/?fbclid=IwAR2r7liHEY9U9oUH5CII38YLVQTXekUy4e7wosrJcdcowGL_GgSsbxLQjW8)

[89/?fbclid=IwAR2r7liHEY9U9oUH5CII38YLVQTXekUy4e7wosrJcdcowGL\\_GgSsbxLQjW8](https://www.560cfos.ca/2022/12/22/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-89/?fbclid=IwAR2r7liHEY9U9oUH5CII38YLVQTXekUy4e7wosrJcdcowGL_GgSsbxLQjW8)

Pushback Grows Against C-21 Firearms Amendments (9 December 2022):

[https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2022/12/09/pushback-grows-against-c-21-firearms-amendments/?fbclid=IwAR2P6gVxRHZ1uxK9eP4Gf9\\_KKiP0kKoQBxKGIFerABnr6KF3k4cNfuLAZjc](https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2022/12/09/pushback-grows-against-c-21-firearms-amendments/?fbclid=IwAR2P6gVxRHZ1uxK9eP4Gf9_KKiP0kKoQBxKGIFerABnr6KF3k4cNfuLAZjc)

Interview with Alex Ruff: Let's Discuss Politics, Episode 26 (7 December 2022):

<https://youtu.be/gekgMtRwaYM>

My website features my previous press releases, videos, and CFOS 560 Open Line podcasts. Check it out [here](#).

To view all my interjections in the House of Commons, [click here](#).

Follow me on social media!



## Community Outreach



Warton Santa Claus parade (3 Dec 22)





Feversham Santa Claus Parade (4 Dec 22)



Chatsworth Santa Claus Parade (17 Dec 22)



Presenting a Platinum Jubilee Coin to Lyndsay Brooks (22 Dec 22)



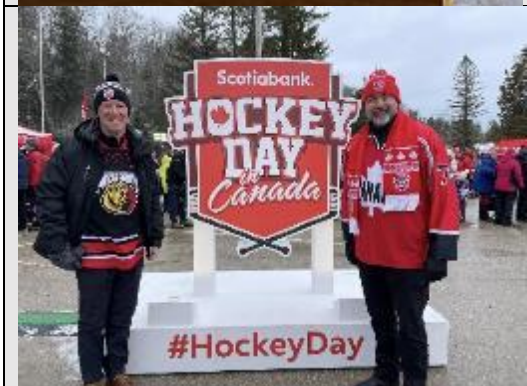
Touring the Hanley Institute in Flesherton (22 Dec 22)



Attending the grand opening of the new Peacocks Foodland store in Tobermory (19 Jan 23)



Helping out at the Sauble Beach & District Lions Club pancake breakfast. (21 Jan 23)



Celebrating Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada in Owen Sound (21 Jan 23)



Celebrating the Tara Curling Club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (22 Jan 23)



# Additional Resources



## Free Volunteer Income Tax Clinics

There are several free income tax clinics that are being planned to assist eligible constituents with completing their income tax returns. Please visit the link for updated listings:

<https://centraleastontario.cioc.ca/bresults.asp?ORGNUM=GRE0417&SL1=Community+Volunteer+Income+Tax+Program>

## Canada Dental Benefit

The interim Canada Dental Benefit is intended to help lower dental costs for eligible families earning less than \$90,000 per year. Parents and guardians can apply if the child receiving dental care is under 12 years old and does not have access to a private dental insurance plan.

More information can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/dental-benefit.html>

## Canada Housing Benefit

The one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit aims to help low-income renters with the cost of renting. You may be eligible for a tax-free one-time payment of \$500 if your income and the amount that you pay on rent qualify.

Canada Dental Benefit

Applications opened December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Telephone: 1-800-282-8079

More information can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/child-and-family-benefits/top-up-canada-housing-benefit.html>

## Community Services Recovery Fund

The Community Services Recovery Fund supports Community Service Organizations, including non-profit organizations, Indigenous Governing Bodies, and Registered Charities located across Canada. This fund specifically is aimed towards helping organizations adapt to pandemic recovery.

Applications open January 5, 2023, and close February 21, 2023.

More information can be found here: [www.communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca](http://www.communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca)

## Bruce County Housing Services – New Website

Bruce County has rolled out a new website experience for their housing services. It can be found here: <https://www.brucecounty.on.ca/housing-services>

## Grey County Housing Services

<https://www.grey.ca/resident-services/community-services/housing-programs-and-services>

## Grey Agriculture Services and Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce – The Guardian Network Training

Grey Agriculture Services are hosting a Guardian Network Training workshop on Feb 22, 9-5 in Markdale. More details available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=612974307505025&set=a.484492613686529>



If you think your neighbours or friends would like to receive this newsletter, please direct them to [alexruffmp.ca](http://alexruffmp.ca) or [alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca](mailto:alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca) where they can request to be added to our mailing list.

[Unsubscribe](#)

**Or to unsubscribe from this community newsletter, please hit 'Reply' and let us know. We will remove your email immediately.**

### **Constituency Office**

1101-2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East  
Suite 208  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2J1

