



May 2023

Dear Constituent,

Since last newsletter, there has been a lot of new legislation and issues coming to the forefront. During meetings with stakeholders and constituents in the riding, discussions and events have ranged from environmental conservation to honouring firefighters.

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Minister of Finance delivered the 2023 budget. I was disappointed to see the continuation of large deficits with no path the balancing the budget in the near future, especially given that Canada will be paying \$43.9 billion in 2023-2024, just to service Canada's debt. However, I was glad to see the federal government finally commit to implementing a 9-8-8 suicide hotline, an important initiative that my Conservative colleagues and I have been pushing for years. Additionally, I was glad to see the government recognize the inclusion of nuclear power in some of the budget's green innovation and tax credits.

On the good news front, my Conservative colleague and riding neighbour, Huron-Bruce MP Ben Lobb's Bill C-234, An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act passed third reading in the House of Commons. This bill, which I proudly seconded, removes the carbon tax from farm fuels to reduce the financial burden on our farmers for the next eight years. This bill is increasingly critical as the carbon tax was hiked yet again on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 from \$50 per tonne to \$65 per tonne.

In the House of Commons, I have had the opportunity to speak to a number of bills surrounding various issues. Notably, on April 17<sup>th</sup> I gave a speech on the importance of our farmers and why I support Bill S-227, an Act to Establish Food Day in Canada, you can watch this speech here: <https://youtu.be/ClvRh4lkfoE>. This bill received Royal Assent on May 11<sup>th</sup>. I also participated in debate and spoke on foreign interference (<https://youtu.be/DrtafMaaPPM>), electronic privacy and security ([https://youtu.be/-\\_eDEK81Ojg](https://youtu.be/-_eDEK81Ojg)), and affordable housing (<https://youtu.be/TuCxfSfbrSE>).

Additionally, I have had the opportunity to debate and discuss rural high-speed internet, the since ended Public Service Strike to include its impact on services like passports, and I participated in the Red Dress Day debate where I questioned Minister Marc Miller, Indigenous-Crown Relations on behalf of our local First Nations. All of my interjections in the House of Commons can be read and watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/@alexruffbruce-grey-owensou5888/featured> or [click here](#).

On the issue of rural connectivity, I had the opportunity to speak to the Auditor General's latest report on "Connectivity in Rural and Remote Areas." My interjections on the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/PZq9jIRZyrw>.

Unfortunately, those interested and worried about Bill C-21, the Liberal's firearms legislation, this bill has now passed the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) and all

stages of debate in the House of Commons. It is now being studied by the Senate. My interjections in SECU committee on 02 and 04 May can be found here: <https://youtu.be/YDcQ2clvLL0> and my final speech at 3<sup>rd</sup> reading can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/W2iAieF5tfo>. I was able to get an important amendment included in the bill with respect to mental health but in my opinion this bill still is focused on the wrong demographic, law-abiding firearms owners versus addressing criminals.

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

## UPDATE: Private Member's Bills Jointly Seconded



As a Member of Parliament, I had the opportunity to jointly-second several my colleague's Private Member's Bills. Below I have outlined the status of bills I have jointly seconded.

**Bill C-289: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (identity verification)**

This bill, put forward by Simcoe North MP Chambers, would have amended the Criminal Code to make it easier for authorities to prosecute and convict money launderers.

- This bill was **defeated at second reading** in the House of Commons on March 22, 2023, with the Liberals, NDP, and Bloc voting against.

**Bill C-288: An Act to amend the Telecommunications Act (transparent and accurate broadband services information)**

This bill, put forward by Daulphin-Swan River-Neepawa MP Mazier, requires internet providers to be transparent when advertising internet speeds.

- This bill **passed third reading** in the House of Commons on April 26<sup>th</sup> and is currently at second reading in the Senate.

**Bill C-280: Financial Protection for Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Farmers Act**

This bill, put forward by York-Simcoe MP Scot Davidson proposes to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act to support Canada's fresh produce farmers and sellers through the establishment of a deemed trust.

- This bill **passed second reading** in the House of Commons on May 17<sup>th</sup> and is currently at consideration in committee.

**Bill C-241: An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (deduction of travel expenses for tradespersons)**

This bill, put forward by Essex MP Chris Lewis would allow for tradespeople to deduct some travel expenses from their income tax.

- This bill **passed third reading** in the House of Commons on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and is currently at second reading in the Senate.

**Bill C-234: An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act**

This bill, put forward by Huron-Bruce MP Ben Lobb would temporarily remove the carbon tax on farm fuels.

- This bill **passed third reading** in the House of Commons on March 29<sup>th</sup> and is currently at second reading in the Senate.

## Monthly Survey Question



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

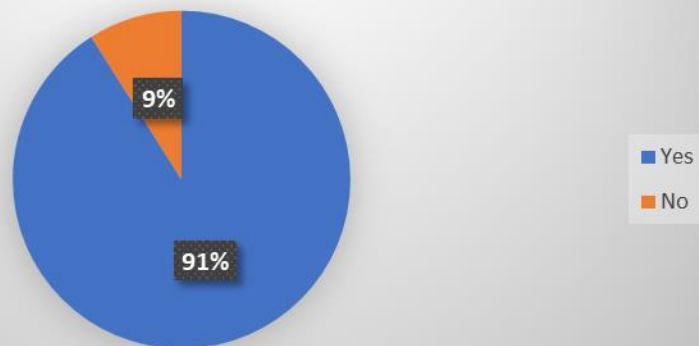
This month's new question is:

**New:**

Given the federal government is spending over \$43 billion interest on the national debt, do you believe the government should have a plan to balance the budget and reduce the national debt?

### Last Month's Response:

Given the recent revelations regarding foreign interference, would you support a public independent inquiry into election interference from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in Canadian elections?



# 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):

National Defence Spending	Support for Farmers
Federal Defecit	Carbon Tax Increase
Budget 2023	Seniors on fixed incomes
Food Price Inflation	Freedom of Speech
Excise Taxes	Firearms

## Alex in the Media



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

560 CFOS Open Line (19 May 2023): <https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/05/19/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-102/>. Topics included: the King's Coronation Pin (I'm seeking nominations from the riding to recognize deserving folks), firearms, TC Energy's proposed pump storage project, rural broadband (C-288), Canadian agriculture news and more.

Gun Legislation Amendment Introduced By Conservative MP Ruff Unanimously Supported (18 May 2023): <https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2023/05/18/gun-legislation-amendment-introduced-by-conservative-mp-alex-ruff-unanimously-supported/>

Conservative MP Alex Ruff Says Federal Budget Disappoints With 'Ever Increasing Deficits' (6 Apr 2023): <https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2023/04/06/conservative-mp-alex-ruff-says-federal-budget-disappoints-with-ever-increasing-deficits/>

560 CFOS Open Line (4 Apr 2023): <https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/04/04/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-100/>:<https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/04/04/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-100/>:<https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/04/04/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-100/>. Topics included: Astronaut Jeremy Hansen, the federal budget including the \$40B+ of interest, digital currency, MP Ben Lobb's bill to remove the carbon tax for farm fuels, Trudeau's vacations, POTUS & more.

MP Ruff calls Erin O'Toole's resignation "A loss for Canadians across the country" (4 Apr 2023): <https://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/2023/04/04/mp-ruff-calls-erin-otooles-resignation-loss-canadians-across-country/>

MP Alex Ruff Shares Thoughts On Proposed Meaford Energy Facility (24 Mar 2023):

<https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2023/03/24/mp-alex-ruff-shares-thoughts-on-proposed-meaford-energy-facility/>

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



Honouring Barry Penhale & Jane Gibson with a Platinum Jubilee coin for their tremendous community service. (26 Mar 23)



Touring the YMCA of Owen Sound (4 Apr 23)





Great to recognize Christhill farms for their well deserved Master Breeder award. (10 Apr 23)



Attending the Bluewater regional Science and Technology Fair. (12 Apr 23)



Attending Range Day at the East Grey Hunters & Anglers club. (22 Apr 23)



Attending the Keady Rod and Gun Show (06 May 2023)



Attending the coronation tribute for HM King Charles III organized by the Grey Highlands Peace Committee at Grey Gables (06 May 2023)

## Additional Resources



### Passport Status Checker

Service Canada launched a new digital tool to support the passport system. The Passport Application Status Checker enables Canadians, who recently applied for a passport, to check the status of their passport application online at [Canada.ca/passport-status](https://Canada.ca/passport-status).

## Grocery Rebate

Eligible Canadians will receive the Grocery Rebate through the Canada Revenue Agency via direct deposit or by cheque starting on July 5<sup>th</sup>. More information about tax credit and government assistance payment dates can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/benefit-payment-dates.html>

## Canada Summer Jobs 2023 : Employers that have been approved for funding

Here are the employers that have been approved for Canada Summer Jobs funding to hire youth in Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound: <https://disclosure.esdc.gc.ca/dp-pd/eec-csj/eec-csj.jsp?lang=eng&activity=792&jurisdiction=6>

## 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>

## Bruce County Housing Services

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>



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

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