



December 2023

Dear Constituent,

Since the last newsletter, debate in the House of Commons has ranged from labour legislation, changes to the *Competition Act*, improving transparency to federal transportation and more. This flurry of activity included the fall economic statement, which serves as a fiscal snapshot with an accompanying act for implementation ([C-59](#)) that is still being debated. As for what I've been hearing from constituents - affordability and the rising cost of living remain top of mind with the holidays approaching.

This past November, in the House of Commons, I had the opportunity to speak a number of times on the importance of Arctic sovereignty in Canada's North during a concurrence motion. You can watch my interjections here: <https://youtu.be/9Nwl-LxQ18c?si=kEyHo3zvtoaKmhJ6>.

In mid-November, a group of constituents approached me and asked that I support [Motion-86, Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform](#), a non-binding Private Member's Motion which will be up for a second reading vote in February. I am taking this opportunity to consult with constituents about whether a Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform is something they would like to see. Please take the time to carefully read the motion and answer the survey question on the homepage of my website [www.alexruffmp.ca](http://www.alexruffmp.ca).

MOTION TEXT - That:

- (a) the House recognize that,*
- (i) representative democracy is a fundamental part of Canadian society,*
- (ii) in Canada's current electoral system, the majority of voters cast ballots for a candidate who does not get elected, and many voters feel that election results do not accurately reflect their views,*
- (iii) a Leger poll conducted in September 2020 showed that 80% of Canadians support the idea of striking a non-partisan, independent citizens' assembly on electoral reform,*
- (iv) many Canadians are concerned with the health of Canada's democracy, including voter distrust and disengagement, low voter turnout, and the polarization of politics,*
- (v) all politicians, and all parties, are widely perceived by the public to have a vested interest in the design of the electoral system,*
- (vi) citizens' assemblies have considerable legitimacy and public trust because they are independent, non-partisan, representative bodies of citizens,*
- (vii) citizens' assemblies have been used successfully in Canada, Australia, Belgium, France, Ireland, Scotland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom to tackle difficult issues through nuanced public deliberation,*
- (viii) a citizens' assembly on electoral reform would give citizens a leadership role in building consensus on a specific model for electoral reform for Canada; and*
- (b) in the opinion of the House, the government should create a Canadian citizens' assembly on electoral reform, which would,*

- (i) consist of citizens selected by sortition, an impartial selection process to ensure the assembly's independence and non-partisanship,*
- (ii) reflect the diversity of the Canadian population, including a representation and meaningful participation of age groups, genders, ethnicities, languages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and geographic regions including from First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples,*
- (iii) determine if electoral reform is recommended for Canada, and, if so, recommend specific measures that would foster a healthier democracy.*

At the end of November, the Liberal government finally went live with a 9-8-8 suicide hotline. My conservative colleague, MP Todd Doherty, has been advocating for the creation of a national suicide hotline in Canada for years, and it is great to see this initiative come to fruition. I encourage you to watch his video outlining the initiative

here: <https://www.facebook.com/ToddDohertyMP/posts/pfbid022gTiYo8wm5FnQRqtBL4Ah2R4cRLcS1TXB2c66aDJtWMgSdCw5HQRcA4LkwG2cQC3l>

On November 24, 2023, the government announced the launch of a public consultation on legislative amendments to counter foreign interference. The government published two consultation papers:

- [Addressing foreign interference \(justice.gc.ca\)](https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/consultations/2023/foreign-interference/summary.html): Whether to amend the Security of Information Act and modernize certain Criminal Code offences, and to introduce a review mechanism in the Canada Evidence Act to manage sensitive information
- [Enhancing measures to counter foreign interference: Whether to amend the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act \(publicsafety.gc.ca\)](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/eng/consultations/2023/foreign-interference/summary.html)

This public consultation closes on February 2, 2023.

In addition, the government published "[What We Heard Report: Consulting Canadians on the merits of a Foreign Influence Transparency Registry.](https://www.canada.ca/en/government/what-we-heard-report.html)"

With respect to seniors, I missed highlighting in last month's newsletter the vote on MP Larouche's bill [C-319](#):

*This enactment amends the Old Age Security Act to increase the amount of the full pension to which all pensioners aged 65 or older are entitled by 10% and to raise the exemption for a person's employment income or self-employed earnings that is taken into account in determining the amount of the guaranteed income supplement from \$5,000 to \$6,500.*

This bill passed second reading and was sent to committee for study despite all Liberal MPs voting against it. In addition, I want to remind all seniors with internet access to check out the Government of Canada website regularly for the latest updates on any federal programs and benefits: [www.canada.ca/seniors](https://www.canada.ca/en/seniors).

Over the holidays, I will once again be hosting free public skates throughout the riding. I have included the locations, dates, and times below, and I hope to see you there!

27 December 2023 11:00am to 11:50am - P & H Centre - [Hanover](#)

28 December 2023 1:00pm to 2:00pm - Keady Community Centre - [Keady](#)

30 December 2023 1:00pm to 2:00pm - Julie McArthur Regional Recreation - [Owen Sound](#)

This will be the last newsletter before the holiday season; if I don't see you before then, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

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

# Monthly Survey Question



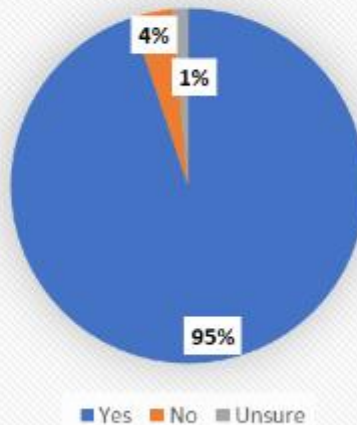
Have your say on my website: [www.alexruffmp.ca](http://www.alexruffmp.ca)

This month's survey question:

Do you support *Motion-86 to establish Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform?*

[https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/lisa-marie-barron\(111023\)/motions/12517157](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/lisa-marie-barron(111023)/motions/12517157)

Do you support my bill, C-358, to remove the GST from the carbon tax?



## 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):

The World Health Organization	Support for Farmers
Federal Defecit	Carbon Tax Increase
Crime and Canada's Bail System	Seniors on fixed incomes
Food Price Inflation	Freedom of Speech/ Censorship

Israel-Hamas War	Firearms
Climate change	Natural Health Products

# 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 (17 November 2023): <https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/11/17/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-122/>

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!

			
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# Community Outreach





Attending the RCL Branch #383 Remembrance Day service in Tara (11 Nov 2023).



Meeting with constituents to discuss Motion-86 (14 Nov 2023).



Recognizing firefighters from West Grey, Georgian Bluffs, and Meaford for their many years of service (16 Nov 2023).







It was a pleasure to recognize students at John Diefenbaker Senior School in Hanover for excellence in science, math & computing (14 Nov 2023).



Participating in the Owen Sound Santa Claus parade with Mayor Boddy, council and MPP Byers (18 Nov 2023)

## Additional Resources



### Canada Service Corps (CSC)

If you know of an organization that is interested in providing meaningful volunteer service opportunities for youth between the ages of 12 and 30, you can encourage them to apply for funding under the [CSC](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/youth/canada-service-corps.html) for youth beginning in October. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/youth/canada-service-corps.html>

### Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ)

If you know of an organization that is planning to hire youth between the ages of 15 and 30 next summer, you can encourage them to apply for funding under CSJ. The CSJ program provides wage subsidies to not-for-profit organizations, public sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees. The funding application period will close on 10 January 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>

## Communities at Risk: security Infrastructure Program

The Security Infrastructure Program aims to protect at risk Canadian communities like community centres and places of worship. The application process is open until 31 March 2024, you can learn more here:

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/scrt-nfrstrctr-prgrm/index-en.aspx>

## Government of Canada Seniors Programs

Learn more here: [www.canada.ca/seniors](http://www.canada.ca/seniors)

## Government of Canada Retirement Hub

Learn and plan for your retirement and get the most out of your Canadian public pensions.

Learn more here: <https://retraite-retirement.service.canada.ca/en/home>

## CMHC's Eco Improvement

Apply for a partial premium refund of 25% if you're CMHC insured and working on energy efficient renovations to your recently purchased home.

More information can be found here: [https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/consumers/home-buying/mortgage-loan-insurance-for-consumers/cmhc-eco-programs/cmhc-eco-improvement?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter-cmhc-housing-updates&utm\\_campaign=2023-09-Eco\\_Improvement](https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/consumers/home-buying/mortgage-loan-insurance-for-consumers/cmhc-eco-programs/cmhc-eco-improvement?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter-cmhc-housing-updates&utm_campaign=2023-09-Eco_Improvement)

## 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).

## 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.ruff@parl.gc.ca](mailto:alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca) or [alexruffmp.ca](http://alexruffmp.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.**

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