

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

## Community Newsletter



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

July 2023

Dear Constituent,

Since last newsletter, the House of Commons was quite busy, sitting to midnight on many occasions as the government tried to get legislation passed before the summer recess. I was fortunate to travel home over many weekends in May and June to attend events and meet with constituents. The House of Commons officially rose for the summer on 22 June 2023 and I am now back in the riding for the summer.

In the House of Commons during the final weeks, I delivered several major speeches.

The first speech addressed the Liberal government's Bill C-35, where I raised concerns that the national child care plan leaves a lot of organizations behind and lacks the flexibility and capacity to accommodate the unique needs of Canadian families. The essence of my speech can be summed up in the following quote:

*Affordable quality child care is critical, but if people cannot access it, it does not exist. Bill C-35 does nothing to address accessibility. All Canadian families should have access to affordable and quality child care, and should be able to choose child care providers that best suit their family needs. This is especially pertinent in rural Canada. Bill C-35 is good for families that already have a child care space, but it does not help the thousands of families on child care wait lists or the operators who do not have the staff or infrastructure to offer more spaces.*

My full speech on Bill C-35 can be watched here: [https://youtu.be/L0v\\_1ZidWwA](https://youtu.be/L0v_1ZidWwA)

This bill was eventually passed through the House of Commons and is now in the Senate.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, I spoke against the Liberal and NDP's plans to amend the Standing Orders of the House of Commons to make hybrid parliament permanent. While I can understand wanting to make the House of Commons more accessible, MPs are elected to represent their constituents in Ottawa, not to represent Ottawa to their constituents. I also mentioned how the House of Commons becomes a more polarizing and partisan place when MPs are not face-to-face while also citing how interacting with Ministers in-person has allowed me to accomplish more for constituents. My full speech can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/-13an847zQ4>

Unfortunately, this amendment to the Standing Orders was passed and hybrid parliament will now continue indefinitely until a future federal government brings forth changes.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, I spoke to a concurrence motion on public safety. In the speech, I discussed the recent revelations regarding serial rapist Paul Bernardo being moved from a maximum-security prison to a medium-security prison and the fact that the Minister's staff was aware of the move back in March but the

Minister claimed to have found out only when the news stories broke in May. On behalf of all the victims and their families, my Conservative colleagues and I will continue to push the Liberal government for clarity on how this file was mismanaged and how to put Bernardo back where he belongs, in a maximum-security prison. In addition, my Conservative colleague MP Tony Baldinelli tabled C-342 (<https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/44-1/c-342>) that would ensure this, but unfortunately, the Liberal government prevented it's expedited implementation. My speech can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/5ATvndxIXa0>. {Note: since this speech Corrections Services Canada have stood by their decision to leave Bernardo in a medium security prison and Minister Mendicino was removed from the Liberal Cabinet}.

On the same day, I spoke to a concurrence motion on the Taliban and the ongoing human rights violations in Afghanistan. I highlighted the poor treatment of Afghan women and girls and the need for human rights to be respected.

I concluded my speech with the following quote:

*I do have hope. I have hope that, thanks to the better parts of almost two decades of Afghan women and girls getting educated and seeing that they have a better hope for the future, one of them, one day, would be back in Afghanistan, leading that country. Maybe we will see a day in the not-too-distant future where Afghanistan is a democracy.*

My full speech can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/9wApNijyRMI>

Finally, I spoke to Bill C-275, introduced by my Conservative colleague MP John Barlow, An Act to amend the Health of Animals Act (biosecurity on farms). Given the volatility of farming, this bill helps to ensure that animal health is protected from trespassers which could be carrying harmful diseases on their clothing and that protesters do not interfere with farming operations on private property. There have been instances in Canada where protesters have trespassed on farms, bringing with them harmful disease which have wiped out entire herds of livestock. My speech and the response from MP Barlow can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/QKbaTrrXanI>

This summer I am glad to be able to spend the summer back in Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, where I will be able to meet with constituents and attend as many events as possible. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, I held my second annual constituency BBQ in Chesley, I was impressed with the turnout, and I was honoured to recognize many deserving constituents with King's Coronation pins.

There are also several significant upcoming local events this summer to look forward to like the Salmon Spectacular, Summerfolk and the Tara Fall Fair, to name a few. I hope to see you out there!

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: Key Legislation Passed this Session



Overall, the primary focus for my Conservative colleagues and I in this past session of parliament was to address the ever-increasing cost of living crisis. Despite putting forward multiple motions to relieve the heavy tax burden on Canadians, we were unable to get them passed through the house. However, we did pass Bill C-234 through the House of Commons and onto the Senate; this bill would remove the carbon tax from farm fuels.

Additionally, we have:

- Forced the Liberal government to withdraw amendments to Bill C-21 which would have banned hundreds of hunting rifles;
- Protected victims' rights by tabling legislation to keep serial killers and mass murderers like Paul Bernardo in maximum-security prison;
- Protected working Canadians by ensuring their pensions are protected in the event of a company declaring bankruptcy;
- Tabled legislation ([Bill C-342](#)) to force the Liberal government to keep violent repeat offenders in jail, not bail; and
- Pushed the Liberal government to act on emerging foreign election interference revelations.

The following key government legislation also passed through the House of Commons this past session:

**Bill S-8:** An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts and to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations

- This bill broadens the criteria to ensure that foreign nationals who are subject to economic sanctions are not able to enter our country. This bill received Royal Assent on 22 June 2023.

**Bill C-9:** An Act to amend the Judges Act

- This bill updates the Judges Act to strengthen the judicial complaints process. This bill received Royal Assent on 22 June 2023.

**Bill C-18:** An Act respecting online communications platforms that make news content available to persons in Canada:

- The bill forces major tech companies such as Google and Meta to pay news outlets for content. As a reaction, Meta has recently announced that it will be removing news content from its platform: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/meta-google-rodriguez-bill-c18-1.6890248>. This bill received Royal Assent on 22 June 2023.

**Bill C-21:** An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)

- This bill, originally put forward as a handgun freeze, later expanded into ban a large number of hunting rifles. Since then, the bill has morphed to primarily impact the specifications for new firearms. The bill is currently at committee stage in the Senate.

Bill C-22: An Act to reduce poverty and to support the financial security of persons with disabilities by establishing the Canada disability benefit and making a consequential amendment to the Income Tax Act:

- Bill C-22 proposes a new federal financial benefit for Canadians living with disabilities. This bill received Royal Assent on 22 June 2023.

Bill C-35: An Act respecting early learning and child care in Canada (at Second Reading in the Senate)

- This bill enshrines existing childcare funding commitments into law. This bill is currently at Second Reading in the Senate.

Bill C-41: An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

- Bill C-41 would allow the Government of Canada to grant very limited exemptions to the Anti-Terrorism Act to allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance in areas controlled by terrorist organizations. This bill received Royal Assent on 20 Jun 2023.

Bill C-42: An Act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act and to make consequential and related amendments to other Acts

- The objective of this bill is to protect Canadians against money laundering and terrorist financing, deter tax evasion and tax avoidance. This bill is currently at Second Reading in the Senate.

To see the status of all bills in the House of Commons and Senate, visit <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bills>

## Monthly Survey Question



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

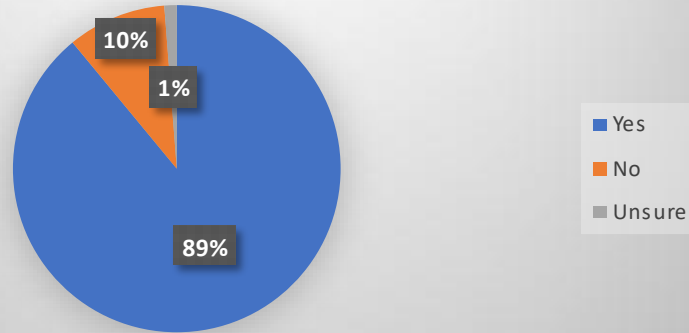
This month's new question is:

**New:**

Do you believe all serial killers should permanently remain in maximum security prisons?

Last Month's Response:

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?



## 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
Crime and Canada's Bail System	Seniors on fixed incomes
Food Price Inflation	Freedom of Speech/ Censorship
Child care	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](#).

Ruff Looks For Nominees For King's Coronation Pins (9 Jun 2023)

<https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2023/06/09/ruff-looks-for-nominees-for-kings-coronation-pins/>

MP Alex Ruff Calls Hateful Letters Targeting Pride Community 'Disgusting' (30 Jun 2023)

<https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2023/06/30/mp-alex-ruff-calls-hateful-letters-targeting-pride-community-in-owen-sound-disgusting/>

560 CFOS: Open Line

<https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/06/30/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-106/>

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



Great to catch up with Hydrogen Optimized VP Ted Stuart on the latest advancements with their RuggedCell™, a large-scale water electrolysis system for producing clean hydrogen. (31 May 2023)



Attending and serving beef at the Grey County Beef BBQ & Dance. (3 June 2023)



Recognizing the Tara Rotary Club on 85 years of community service. (10 June 2023)





Impressive dress, drill & deportment at the 167 Air Marshal Bishop V/C Squadron 81st annual review! Congrats to the awards winners! (10 June 2023)



Moving RCL Branch 290 Tobermory service at Dunks Bay Cemetery to pay tribute to local veterans. It was honour to participate in the ceremony & march with the branch. (11 June 2023)





Speaking with grade 8 students from Arran Tara Elementary School as they visit parliament. (14 June 2023)

## Additional Resources



### Call for Nominations for the Veterans Ombud Commendation

Nominations for the 2023 Veterans Ombud Commendation are now open. This award recognizes the exceptional dedication and selfless motivation of those who work tirelessly to support the Veterans and their families of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. If you know an individual or organization who has made outstanding contributions to Canada's Veterans and their families, please consider nominating them for this award.

Please send completed nominations by mail, fax or electronically to:

Office of the Veterans Ombud  
PO Box 66  
Charlottetown PE C1A 7K2  
By Fax: 888-566-7582  
By email: [commendation-citation@ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca](mailto:commendation-citation@ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca)

### New Horizons for Seniors Program

The community-based stream of the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) is a federal grant that supports community-based projects that are designed by seniors for seniors. This program funds projects that empower seniors in their communities and contribute to improving their health and well-being.

The program will be open August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

More information can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/new-horizons-seniors-community-based.html>

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>

## 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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