

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

Community Newsletter



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

May 2022

Dear Constituent,

This past April has been eventful with big-ticket legislation being brought forward along with discussions and debate on Canada's positioning on the world stage.

On April 6th, the House agreed to a motion put forth by my conservative colleagues to call on the government to increase defence spending to at least 2% of Canada's GDP in accordance with NATO's 2014 Wales Summit Declaration. In my speech on the motion, I touched on my experience in the Canadian Armed Forces, the war in Ukraine, and highlighted the role that NATO plays in dealing with global threats. I also called for a nonpartisan foreign policy review which will drive a future update to our defence policy. You can watch my speech [here](#).

On April 7th, the Minister of Finance tabled the 2022 federal budget. While the budget promises to help resolve Canada's housing crisis, I am skeptical the impacts will be felt locally. To seek clarity on the federal government's First Time Home Buyers Incentive, I submitted a formal written question to the Minister looking for data as to how the program has impacted constituents to-date. I also questioned witnesses on HUMA committee regarding the Housing Accelerator Fund, a program geared towards larger cities, and how rural municipalities could benefit.

I was concerned that the budget neglected to mention measurable supports to our agricultural sector, especially given the inflated costs of fertilizer and feed. In addition, the federal government will be adding \$52.8-billion this 2022-2023 fiscal year to Canada's existing national debt of nearly \$1.2 trillion.

I am pleased to see \$8.64-million allocated to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission along with the labour mobility deduction for skilled tradespeople, two initiatives I have been advocating for. This funding will provide tax recognition for mobility and temporary relocation expenses for skilled trade workers up to \$4,000 per year.

For a couple weeks in April, I had the opportunity to travel to Europe with the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Canada's Minister of Veterans Affairs and three other MPs to honour Canada's military contributions abroad. We toured Vimy on the 105th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and visited Canadian war cemeteries. Other stops at important Canadian sites included: Juno Beach, France; Ypres, Belgium; and The Hague, Netherlands.

On the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) in April, the committee focused on labour shortages, working conditions, and the care economy. The committee heard from a wide array of witnesses like the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the National Police Federation, trade unions, and the Minister of

Employment, Workforce development and disability inclusion. More info is available here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/HUMA>

Simultaneously, as a member of the Special Committee on Afghanistan, the committees has been hearing compelling testimony on what went wrong during the evacuation of Kabul and what additional actions are required by the federal government to help those Afghans still trying to get out. More details are available here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/AFGH>

Fertilizer Tariff Update

Over the past few months, farmers and Agri-marts have been impacted by a 35% tariff applied to fertilizer products sourced from Russia and Belarus. During the May 19th meeting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food ([AGRI](#)), the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food was questioned about the fertilizer tariffs. She confirmed that currently the federal Liberal government will not provide any exemptions for fertilizer purchased before March 2nd. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is looking at other options for compensation to farmers, but no details have been provided to date. The testimony can be viewed [here](#).

Thank you again for reading my newsletter, and feel free to contact my office if you have any federal concerns.

Alex Ruff, MSC, CD
Member of Parliament
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

Monthly Survey Question



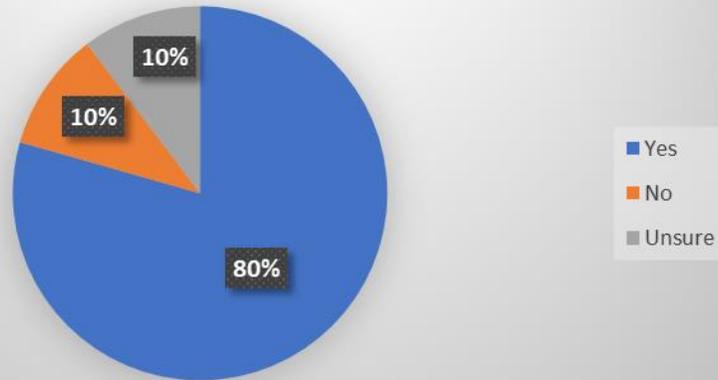
Have your say on my website: www.alexruffmp.ca

This month's new question is:

Should the federal government do more to address the illegal smuggling of firearms across our borders by gangs and criminals vice targeting law-abiding firearms owners?

Last Month's Response:

Should tradespeople be allowed to deduct work-related travel expenses from their income when travelling long distances to a job site?



Alex in the Media



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

(2022-04-11) [Ruff Says Budget Has Welcome Funding, But Serious Shortfalls](#)

(2022-04-22) [CFOS Open Line](#)

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





(2022-04-08) Paying tribute to 22B, Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment while at Vimy Ridge.



(2022-04-11) Tyne Cot Cemetery / Passchendaele. Paying tribute to Pte J Smith (Owen Sound).



(2022-04-13) Visiting the Sir John Monash Centre.

REALTORS® believe all Canadians should have a place to call HOME.

RAGBOS Government Relations Representatives meet with MP Alex Ruff, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

(2022-04-25) Meeting with RAGBOS to discuss local issues affecting homeowners and potential homeowners in our community.



(2022-04-28) Meeting with the Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of Canada and the Canadian Camping and RV council.

Additional Resources



Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Coin

In honour of 70 years of service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Alex Ruff, MP, will be receiving nominations for constituents you feel are worthy of being recognized with a Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Coin.

How to Nominate an Individual

If you know an individual that you feel is deserving of recognition for their community work with a Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Coin, please nominate this individual.

Nomination forms are available here: <https://www.alexruffmp.ca/platinumjubilee>

Email: completed form with the subject line: 'Platinum Jubilee Recognition Nomination' OR
Mail to the constituency office:

Platinum Jubilee Recognition Nomination
Office of Alex Ruff, MP
1101 2nd Ave E, Suite 208
Owen Sound ON N4K 2J1

Deadline: June 30, 2022



Passport Canada Updates

Passport services are experiencing delays.

If applying:

2 business days or less: [Visit a passport office](#)

3 to 25 business days: [Book an appointment](#) or [visit a passport office](#)

26 business days or more: Apply in-person at a local [Service Canada outlet Owen Sound, Walkerton, Collingwood](#) or apply by mail, or through my Constituency Office (note: service standard may not be met)

Planning to Travel?

Visit www.travel.gc.ca/travel-covid or call 1-833-283-7403 ([ArriveCan Information](#)) for the latest updates on testing requirements, advisories, arrival requirements and more.



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

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

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