

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

Community Newsletter



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

March 2023

Dear Constituent,

Since the last newsletter I have been able to spend a couple weeks home in the riding as the House of Commons recessed for constituency weeks although some committee meetings continued focused on foreign election interference. During my time in the riding, I had the opportunity to meet with a number of you and discuss a diverse array of thoughts and concerns ranging from the opioid crisis to local business operations.

On the topic of the riding boundaries, the Federal Electoral Boundary Commission for the Province of Ontario was tasked with reviewing and drawing 122 electoral districts in Ontario. The Commission originally proposed changes to Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound; however, after consultation with municipalities, and an instrumental submission by Grey Highlands, the riding boundaries will remain the same. The report can be found here: https://redecoupage-redistribution-2022.ca/com/on/rprt/index_e.aspx and my statement on the report here: https://www.alexruffmp.ca/_files/ugd/558de0_fac737a7d1ea4f08b02870392fa96f80.pdf

Making international news headlines in February and a potential emerging issue for Canada's national security has been the unidentified objects spotted over Canada and the US. On 14 February, an unidentified object was detected by NORAD over Lake Huron, and the object was shot down. You can see my joint statement with other MPs along Lake Huron here: https://www.alexruffmp.ca/_files/ugd/558de0_83c0253c074c4a07b88ce517a2b027d9.pdf

Also making headlines this month is election interference conducted by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in our 2019 and 2021 federal elections. The Liberal government announced that it was appointing a 'special rapporteur' to dig into foreign interference and requested that the National Security and Intelligence Committee (NSICOP), of which I am a member, explore this issue outside of the public sphere, more information on this study can be found here: <https://www.nsicop-cpsnr.ca/press-releases/pr-cp-2023-03-08/pr-cp-2023-03-08-en.html>. All opposition parties are calling on the Liberal government to conduct a public and non-partisan independent inquiry to explore the magnitude of foreign interference in order to prevent it in the future. I spoke to this topic on March 20th during debate on our Conservative motion focused on getting answers to the questions Canadians have been asking. You can view my questions to the Minister of Public Safety and others here and judge for yourself their answers: <https://youtu.be/DrtafMaaPPM>.

Finally, Pierre Poilievre, leader of the Official Opposition announced a new policy initiative that would aid in alleviating staffing shortages in our healthcare sector. Today, there are over 50,000 nurses and doctors that are unable to work in their desired profession as they were licenced in foreign countries before moving to Canada. A future Conservative federal government would establish a "Blue Seal" national testing standards for doctors, nurses, and eventually tradespeople

to ensure that immigrants trained in other countries can swiftly attain equivalency license standards. This “Blue Seal” program would be achieved by close consultation with provinces and will create a 60-day standard so foreign-trained health professionals applying for Blue Seal certification get a chance to take the test and get an answer within 60 days. As always, I welcome your feedback on this initiative and you can read more about it here:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/poilievre-calls-for-testing-that-would-allow-doctors-nurses-to-work-across-canada-1.6319764?fbclid=IwAR06hfCvuUow6P5fWAF4me0t3kpUnxx3laa-5PkSeFwMArqBED8ySz3pijo>

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

Monthly Survey Question



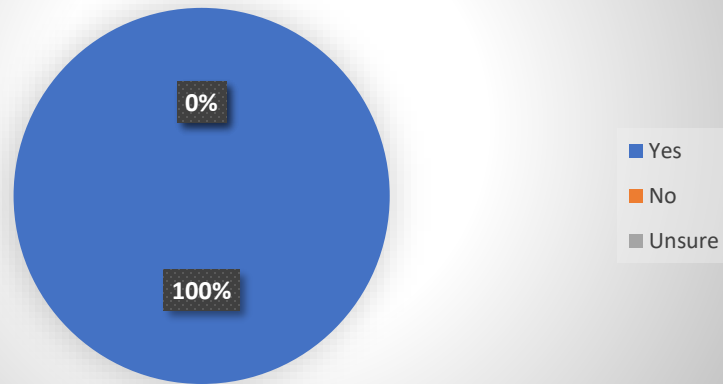
Have your say on my website: www.alexruffmp.ca

This month's new question is:

New: 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?

Last Month's Response:

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



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	Chinese Communist Party Election Interference
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](#).

560 CFOS Open Line (17 Mar 23): <https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/03/17/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-97/?fbclid=IwAR0taJE5nWf1y7IcXYe6sTm1lvi6x7ZXna4Loa-oc5yczdJgwW5ycFNa5TQ>

Rogers TV: Politically Speaking (2 Mar 2023): <https://rogerstv.com/show?lid=12&rid=50&sid=5835&gid=632455>

560 CFOS Open Line (28 Feb 2023): <https://www.560cfos.ca/2023/02/28/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-96/>

Coast Guard Searching For Debris From NORAD Action Near Lake Huron Shoreline (featured in article) (14 Feb 2023): <https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2023/02/14/canadian-coast-guard-activity/>

No Major Changes To Grey Bruce Federal Electoral Ridings (16 Feb 2023): <https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2023/02/16/grey-bruce-federal-electoral-ridings-to-remain-the-same/>

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



Meeting with P&H Milling Group (16 Feb 2023)



Visiting the South Bruce Game & Fish Protective Assoc/Walkerton Gun Club to provide an update on C-21 and hear their concerns (1 Mar 2023)



Meeting with Bagida-waad Alliance to learn more about their stewardship of the land and water (3 Mar 2023)

Additional Resources



Seeking Feedback: Canadian Citizenship Oath

The federal government is seeking feedback on a plan to let people take the Oath of Citizenship online, rather than attend an officiated ceremony.

If you have any feedback, you can add your comments here prior to March 27th, 2023:

<https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2023/2023-02-25/html/reg1-eng.html>

Aging at Home Consultation

The Federal government, through the National Seniors Council wants to hear from Canadians about ways to further support those wishing to age in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

The consultation period is from March 20, 2023 – April 14th, 2023 and you can submit feedback and comments here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/national-seniors-council/consultation-aging-at-home.html>

Income Tax Filing Deadline

The deadline for most Canadians to file this return is April 30, 2023. Since April 30, 2023, falls on a Sunday, your return will be considered filed on time if the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) receives it, or it is postmarked, on or before May 1, 2023.

If you or your spouse or common-law partner are self-employed, you have until June 15, 2023, to file on time. Filing your return before the respective deadline will allow you to avoid interruptions to any benefit or credit payments you may be entitled to.

If you have a balance owing, your payment is due on April 30, 2023. Your payment will be considered on time if the CRA receives it, or a Canadian financial institution processes it, on or before May 1, 2023.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/newsroom/tax-tips/tax-tips-2023/what-you-need-know-2023-tax-filing-season.html>

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: www.freetaxclinics.ca

March is Fraud Prevention Month

Learn more here: <https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/features-vedette/2023/02/tricks-trade-ficelles-metier-eng.htm>

And here: <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/competition-bureau-canada/en/fraud-and-scams/fraud-prevention-month>

[Report fraud and cybercrime here](#)

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 are open until March 31, 2023.

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>

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>



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