

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

## Community Newsletter



March 2024

Dear Constituent,

Since last month, the House of Commons has been busy with many key pieces of government legislation, Private Member's Bills, and reports from the Auditor General.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, I introduced by second Private Members Bill C-377, An Act to Amend the Parliament of Canada Act (need to know). This bill will formalize the process for Parliamentarians to request a SECRET security clearance from the Government of Canada. Bill C-377 does not guarantee an applicant will pass the vetting process and it does not guarantee the applicant will have access to classified information. If passed, this bill will increase Parliament's ability to take national security and intelligence issues seriously while facilitating Parliament's ability to not only hold the government to account but to increase Canadians' trust in our federal democratic processes and institutions. Additionally, this bill would reduce government waste by reducing the need for special committees. You can find my press release here:

<https://www.alexruffmp.ca/newsmedia/common-sense-conservative-bill-improves-government-transparency>, and the clip of me introducing the bill here:

<https://youtu.be/MX5iBBa1cqs?si=P3xk7w20AeTW1Bh0>.

This past month, I also spoke to Bill C-35 on childcare. I highlighted numerous local statistics and feedback from childcare centres across the riding. Some of the major concerns included labour shortages, impacts on pre- and after- school programs, and the lack of childcare spaces available. The Liberal government's childcare program is also disproportionately assisting higher income parents as opposed to lower income Canadians. You can watch my full speech here: <https://youtu.be/EN--RwXyFrM?si=ra7D5JEikrpGbMCW>.

Earlier this month, the Auditor General released her report on the Liberal government's ArriveCAN app. This app was originally budgeted for \$80,000 but ballooned to 750 times the original price. The Auditor General still cannot determine the final cost of this app (estimates sit around \$60 million). I recommend you read the Auditor General's report here: [https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl\\_oag\\_202402\\_01\\_e\\_44428.html](https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_oag_202402_01_e_44428.html), where she highlights the poor contracting practices and lack of financial oversight.

The House of Commons passed our Conservative Opposition Motion to call on the Prime Minister to "*table in the House of Commons, no later than Monday, March 18, 2024, a report which details the complete direct and associated costs concerning the ArriveCAN app incurred to date...*" and "*call on the government to collect and recoup all funds paid to ArriveCAN contractors and subcontractors which did no work on the ArriveCAN app, within 100 days of this motion being adopted, and for the Prime Minister to table a report in the House demonstrating that taxpayer funds have been repaid.*" You can read the full Opposition Motion here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/votes/44/1/648?view=party>.

I also had the opportunity to participate on Veteran's Affairs committee to speak to a motion to explore political interference surrounding the Canadian National Afghan Memorial. Unfortunately, the Liberal members spent

over an hour filibustering an amendment that was supported by all parties, you can view the clip here: <https://youtu.be/3vin71RCaoY?si=-p3JplUtX8fviKBG>.

With income tax season approaching, you will be receiving a tax guide from me in the mail to outline some of the benefits you may be entitled to and to provide you with contacts at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to assist you. I encourage you to take the time to read through it and fill out the included survey question. I have also received a number of questions regarding electronic HST/GST filing and new requirements for Bare Trusts, I'm working with a number of my colleagues to seek clarity from both the Minister's office and CRA. The two written questions I've submitted to the Liberal government can be reviewed here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/documentviewer/en/44-1/house/sitting-294/order-notice/page-9>.

As always, feel free to contact my office with any federal concerns.

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:

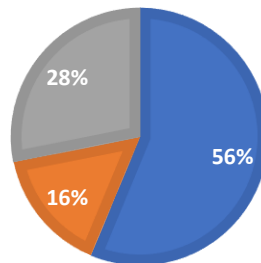
Are you impacted by the CRA changes to:

- a) Mandatory electronic filing of GST/HST;
- b) New bare trust reporting;
- c) Both; or
- d) Neither?

Last month's survey response:

**DO YOU SUPPORT CONSUMER-LED OR OPEN BANKING TO IMPROVE BANKING OPTIONS AND COMPETITION FOR CANADIANS?**

■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure



# 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):

Carbon Tax	Support for Farmers
Federal Deficit	The Excise Tax on alcohol
Crime and Canada's Bail System	Seniors on fixed incomes
Food Price Inflation	Online Harms Bill C-63
Israel-Hamas War	Firearms
Bill C-367	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](#).

Politically Speaking, Rogers TV (1 February 2024) [https://www.alexruffmp.ca/newsmedia/politically-speaking-%7C-rogers-tv-\(february-2024\)-](https://www.alexruffmp.ca/newsmedia/politically-speaking-%7C-rogers-tv-(february-2024)-)

New report details Carbon Tax pricing, CTV News (15 February 2024) [https://www.alexruffmp.ca/newsmedia/new-report-details-carbon-tax-pricing-\(ctv-news\)](https://www.alexruffmp.ca/newsmedia/new-report-details-carbon-tax-pricing-(ctv-news))

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MP Alex Ruff Introduces New Security Clearance Bill (20 February 2024) <https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2024/02/20/bruce-grey-owen-sound-conservative-mp-alex-ruff-introduces-new-security-clearance-bill/>

560 CFOS Open Line (23 February 2024) <https://www.560cfos.ca/2024/02/23/the-open-line-with-claire-mccormack-133/>

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!



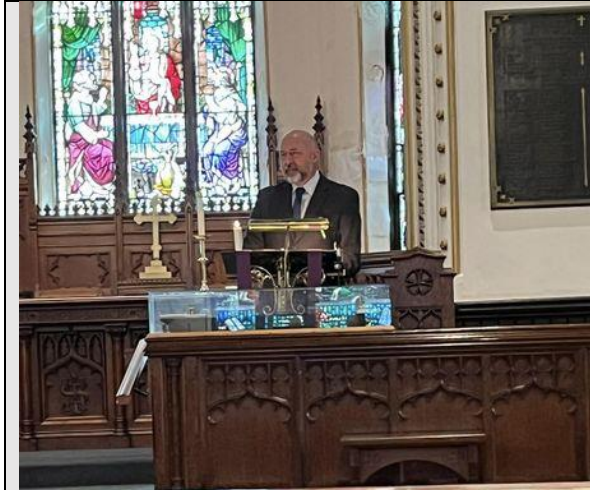
# Community Outreach



Recognizing Arran Tara Elementary School's Grade 2 class for their kindness projects. The projects raise money for a variety of local community organizations. (9 February 2024)



Supporting the OSDSS fundraising breakfast at RCL Branch 383 Tara. (25 February 2024)



Appreciated the opportunity to give thanks and blessings to our Great Lakes Mariners, their families and the fleet at the 31st Annual Mariners Service. (25 February 2024)



Kicking off Meaford's Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) anniversary (11 March 2024).

## Additional Resources



### AgPal Program and Service Finder

AgPal helps farmers and agri-businesses find relevant resources by gathering agricultural information and presenting it all in one place. Search and navigation tools make it quick and easy to find exactly what you are looking for. Find programs, services, market intelligence, research and more!

Visit AgPal here: <https://agpal.ca/en/home>

### Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)

Recently, the federal government announced the enrollment schedule for the CDCP. Starting in mid-December 2023, letters will be mailed to seniors aged 87 and above who may qualify, followed by those aged 77 to 86 in January 2024, then those aged 72 to 76 in February 2024 and those aged 70 to 71 in March 2024. These letters

will include a personalized application code and instructions on how to apply. Once you have applied and it is confirmed that you qualify, your information will be shared with Sun Life, who will enroll you in the CDCP. Sun Life will mail you a welcome package that will include the following information:

- Information on the CDCP
- Your member card
- Your coverage start date

The full application schedule is set out below:

Group	Applications open
Seniors aged 87 and above	Starting December 2023
Seniors aged 77 to 86	Starting January 2024
Seniors aged 72 to 76	Starting February 2024
Seniors aged 70 to 71	Starting March 2024
Seniors aged 65 to 69	Starting May 2024
Adults with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate	Starting June 2024
Children under the age of 18	Starting June 2024
All remaining eligible Canadian residents	Starting 2025

You can find the eligibility criteria here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan/qualify.html#wb-cont>

Services that may be covered in the plan here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan/coverage.html#wb-cont>

General information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan.html>

## 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>

## 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 are 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](http://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 [alexruffmp.ca](http://alexruffmp.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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**Constituency Office**

1101-2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East  
Suite 208  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2J1