

*Newsletter October 2023*



**Working for You  
in Cumberland-Colchester  
and on Parliament Hill**

## **Conservative Party of Canada National Convention in Quebec City**



*It was an honour, as a Member of Parliament for only two years, to have been asked to participate in the Social Affairs, Health and Criminal Justice Panel at our 2023 Conservative Policy Convention. We took many questions on criminal justice and social policy, MAiD (medical assistance in dying), and the changes that are coming up in 2024 such as bail reforms, seniors' pensions, and questions about healthcare and how we can change the system, as we prepare to for the next election.*

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Stay in tune with your MP.**

*Sign up for the monthly MP Digital Newsletter. Send an email to [Stephen.Ellis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Stephen.Ellis@parl.gc.ca) or by calling our constituency offices 902-895-2863 (Truro) or 902-667-8679 (Amherst)*



**STEPHEN ELLIS**

**MP | CUMBERLAND—COLCHESTER**

# CUMBERLAND - COLCHESTER POP UP CONSTITUENCY OFFICES AND TOWN HALLS

## Offices:

**October 10**  
10am - 2pm  
The Hall  
44 King Street  
Parrsboro NS

**October 11**  
11am - 3pm  
Pugwash Fire Hall  
11057 Hwy 6  
Pugwash NS

**October 12**  
11am - 3pm  
North Shore Rec Centre  
30 Blair Ave  
Tatamagouche NS

## Town Halls:

**October 10**  
6pm - 7:30pm  
Stewiacke Community  
Centre  
111 Hwy 2  
Stewiacke NS

**October 11**  
6pm - 7:30pm  
Pugwash Fire Hall  
11057 Hwy 6  
Pugwash NS

**October 12**  
6pm - 7:30pm  
Great Village Fire Hall  
8739 NS Trunk 2  
Great Village NS

*FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*

*For more information:  
[stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca)*

## Statement from MP Stephen Ellis

# Dangerous drug decriminalization program has put children at risk



Dr. Stephen Ellis, Conservative Shadow Minister for Health, and Laila Goodridge, Shadow Minister for Addictions, released the following statement on the acknowledgement by the Trudeau Liberals that their dangerous drug decriminalization program has put children at risk:

“The announcement is an admission by the Liberals that their failed drug policy has put children and families at risk.

“For years now, Justin Trudeau has flooded the streets with deadly drugs. When overdoses increased following the rollout of that policy, they doubled down and decriminalized hard drugs in British Columbia, leading to opioid deaths increasing even more. British Columbia streets have become less safe, and so have the places where our children play like playgrounds, wading pools and skate parks.

Even the areas around schools and daycares, which were already supposed to be kept free of drug use, have been victimized by the unprecedented levels of drug addiction that have resulted from the Liberal-NDP coalition’s failing drug policy.

“Under his leadership, Justin Trudeau has allowed overdoses in British Columbia, where his reckless decriminalization policy applies, to increase by 351 per cent, while the street cost of dangerous drugs has dropped 70-95 per cent. The impact of Trudeau’s failure has not only been felt by those suffering from addiction but also by families and children who are forced to live through the crime, chaos, drugs and disorder that Trudeau has brought to our communities.

“The announcement is a clear admission that decriminalization and the flooding of Canada’s streets with taxpayer-funded opioids are failed policies that hurt addicts and communities. It also fails to go far enough to end the problems that the Liberal-NDP coalition has caused.

“Conservatives will end decriminalization of hard drugs, stop the taxpayer-funded handout of opioids, and invest money into treatment and recovery, ensuring Canadians will be able to bring their family, friends, and loved ones home drug-free.”

# Cost of Living!



**90 per cent of young people  
doubt they will ever  
be able to afford a home**

No matter where I go in Cumberland Colchester, whether it be at the War Memorial in Amherst, the Truro Farmers Market, in blueberry country, even at the gas station filling up my car, the message is the same: **Axe the Tax!**

We know that the 16 cents per litre carbon tax invoked July 1 by the Trudeau government disproportionately affects us on the East Coast, because we are essentially a rural area and have to drive places. Most of us live in single-family dwellings and we heat our homes with furnace oil. People are afraid of the consequences that heating their homes in the upcoming winter will bring.

Conservatives have two priorities this fall. Reversing the housing catastrophe that Justin Trudeau has caused, and axing the Trudeau-NDP carbon tax to bring down the cost of food, gas and heat. Under Trudeau, housing costs have doubled, mortgages have doubled, down payments have doubled, rent has doubled.

For the first time in Canadian history nine out of 10 young Canadians don't believe they will ever own their own home.



**Click photo for video**

**A Conservative government would be committed to real economic growth!  
I receive phone calls and emails daily from concerned constituents.**

**The solution is clear.**

**The Conservative Party will immediately axe the carbon tax, provide more money in your pockets, and will build homes not bureaucracy.**

# Cumberland-Colchester

## October casework update

### *Did you know?*

Our offices in Truro and Amherst have the ability to assist constituents with a variety of issues, including federal legislative programs.

Our team is highly skilled and they work with federal departments to find answers to your questions.

Not every case is a solvable one.

My guarantee is that the team will work hard on every problem.

**Dr. Stephen Ellis**  
Member of Parliament



Constituency Assistants Holly Miller and Amy Menzies

## CASE BREAKDOWN

(open & closed combined)

	Immigration	289		Phoenix Pay System	21		Finance/ Federal Grants	70
	Service Canada	254		Veterans Affairs	35		Federal Complaints	147
	CRA	135		CBSA	7		All Other (Misc)	227
	Passports	62		Health Canada/ Covid-19	117		Total since November 2021	1,364

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902-895-2863  
**Amherst Office**  
902-667-8679

## Rural incentive supplements on the way

## Ellis pushes CRA to act



The Canada Revenue Agency has corrected the Climate Action Incentive rural supplement to include all residents in Cumberland-Colchester, thanks to MP Stephen Ellis fighting for his constituents.

Upper Stewiacke residents will receive their rural supplement (both retro and current) as part of the October 13 payment. For more information and qualification requirements go to CRA at the following address:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/cai-payment/qualify-for-the-supplement.html>

## Bill C-323 update will be available in November

My Private Members Bill C-323 to amend the Excise Tax Act is under consideration in the House of Commons.

The Bill received second reading September 27 and was passed unanimously. It now is in committee for study.

I will have a full report in in November. Briefly, the bill would eliminate the GST and HST for mental health services administered by psychotherapists and clinical therapists.

Massage therapy may be added as an amendment.

The next step in the process is committee study.

## Fighting for the Isthmus of Chignecto

We are lucky that Hurricane Lee's altered path did not create havoc on Nova Scotia's only land connection to the rest of Canada. It is essential to speak forcefully about the immediate need for a federal government project that would raise the dikes, eliminating what amounts to a clear and present danger to our economy and ways of life.

The federal and provincial governments are arguing about a cost-sharing agreement for a dike-raising program that is estimated to cost \$650 million, taking 10 years to complete.

This is not the path to follow, in my opinion.

The Isthmus of Chignecto dikes restoration and heightening has been turned into a political issue by the Liberal government, and this is wrong. Time is of the essence. \$35 billion worth of goods and services are transported annually by rail and highway along this narrow link to and from the rest of Canada.

On September 19, New Brunswick Senator Joe Quinn tabled a bill that would invoke section 92(10) of the Constitution, which allows the federal government to take jurisdiction of undertakings that are in the national interest.

This has precedent. In 2014, the federal government paid for a new Champlain Bridge in Montréal, as well as a new international bridge from Windsor to the United States. Senator Quinn's proposed legislation is called the 'Chignecto Isthmus Dikeland System Act'.

The key is to act immediately in a non-partisan manner, to ensure a safe and successful future, particularly for our constituents in Cumberland-Colchester.



# STEPHEN ELLIS

MP | CUMBERLAND—COLCHESTER

# MP Stephen Ellis in Cumberland



## Springhill Town Hall is a demonstration of participatory democracy

I would like to thank Springhill's George Laird for organizing the Town Hall in Springhill, attended by more than 30 people. It was a well-received dialogue, discussing the cost of living, the Conservative Party's Blue Seal Program, and what the future holds for the Isthmus of Chignecto.

## Boots turned purple at visit to blueberry fields

I greatly enjoy keeping in touch with folks throughout Cumberland-Colchester. It helps keep me grounded in my primary responsibility to represent the people of the constituency.

I had a wonderful visit in Westbrook with the Williams twins, Jane and Judy.

A short time later, I dropped in to see Alta Fife, whose son was winding up the family's blueberry harvest for the 2023 season.

Blueberry producer Greg Smith was assessing the 2023 season, and he told me of rising costs of production that have seen fertilizer prices almost tripled since 2020. Berry prices barely met the cost of production, Greg told me.

Finally, a huge thank-you to George Laird, for taking me deep into Cumberland blueberry country, to visit with people whose comments help guide my decision-making in Parliament.



# MP Stephen Ellis in Cumberland

## Town of Amherst

# Afghanistan Memorial unveiled

It was an incredible day!

My colleague Alex Ruff, Member of Parliament from Bruce Grey - Owen Sound was the keynote speaker. How appropriate he was, having served two tours of duty in Afghanistan.

I want to thank to Justin McKay for his vision and effort to get this done!

Thanks to all who showed up to support this incredible memorial.

Lest we forget.





# MP Stephen Ellis in Colchester



I toured Tajikeimik, meaning “to be healthy”, with representative, Vanessa Lilly - which is a new health and wellness organization located in Millbrook. We discussed the Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia taking control of the delivery of their health and wellness services and to improve overall benefits for their communities. The organization will strive to provide health and wellness services and programs used by Mi’kmaq people, with a focus on high-quality, culturally safe and holistic approaches.



I visited the Truro Raceway and saw General Manager Steve Fitzsimmons (above) and members of his team. I expressed strong support for the horse racing industry and the Truro Raceway. I will be making a presentation on Diamond Classic day on November 5.