



The Ellis Eyeopener

Newsletter February 2024

Issue #9



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

Chamber of Commerce

Spending soars out of control

Having an opportunity to speak to a group of engaged community leaders is not only an important part of being your representative – it is vital.

It allows me to hear from the grassroots and discuss issues, concerns, and goals that are critically important to our community.

Thank you to the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce for an opportunity and platform to address their membership.

Continued on Page 2



Welcome back to my regular monthly e-Newsletter

The Ellis Eyeopener

It is a summary of the most important work I have undertaken during the past month, on your behalf. I hope you find the news features and pictures to be of interest.



MP Ellis, Chamber talk about challenges

Continued from Page 1

More than 50 Chamber members, guests, and politicians were in attendance, as we discussed challenges facing our economy, healthcare, housing, and immigration.

In financial terms, it is critical for a federal government to come to grips with its spending. Canada has a \$1.2-trillion debt at the beginning of 2024. That is about \$30,645 for every Canadian.

Interest costs are skyrocketing. In 2021, debt interest cost us \$23.3-billion; in 2023-24 it doubled to \$46.5-billion. This is an unsustainable direction.

Healthcare delivery, funding, staffing, and the ability to meet an ever-growing demand for services are issues we read about and see every day were discussed with Chamber of Commerce members.

We also considered the housing crisis and immigration.



Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce breakfast with MP Stephen Ellis. Federal government spending is out of control, with a \$1.2-trillion debt. A Conservative government will move to turn massive deficits into balanced budgets

CONSERVATIVE EFFORTS LEAD TO DELAY IN MAID LEGISLATION

Skids put on assisted dying for those with mental illness

OTTAWA – The Report of the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying has been tabled in the House of Commons. It confirms what common sense Conservatives have been saying for years, that Canada should not move forward with MAID for mental illness.

The Trudeau Liberals have ignored mental health experts, advocates, and opposition parties and have instead opted to pursue a reckless expansion of assisted suicide for those suffering from mental illness.

Again, we see the government introduce another Bill to put a temporary pause on expanding MAID to those suffering from mental illness until 2027.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Thanks to the advocacy of Todd Doherty, Conservative Member of Parliament from Cariboo–Prince George, who launched 9-8-8.
- 9-8-8 is for anyone who is thinking about suicide, or who is worried about someone they know.
- The goal is to prevent suicide by making it as simple as possible for people to get the help they need in the moments they need it most.

The evidence the committee heard was loud and clear. Nothing has changed in the last year with respect to these two key issues. Canada is not ready for this, and frankly, there is no evidence that Canada will ever be ready.

If the Liberal government moves ahead with this radical and dangerous expansion of MAID, it will inevitably lead to the premature deaths of Canadians who could have gotten better.

Justin Trudeau must immediately and permanently halt the expansion of MAID to those with mental illness.

Common sense Conservatives believe that those struggling with their mental health deserve support and treatment, not death. We know that recovery is possible, and this is why we will never give up on anyone. Conservatives will always stand on the side of the most vulnerable and their loved ones.

“The Trudeau Liberals have ignored mental health experts, advocates, as well as opposition parties, and have instead opted to pursue a reckless expansion of assisted suicide for those suffering from mental illness.

9-8-8
Canada's New
Three-Digit
Suicide
Prevention
Helpline



Poof!

Liberals, Medicago and \$150 million

Your money gone



Where did all the Covid-19 grant funding go when Japanese company Mitsubishi pulled up stakes and left town?

The Conservative Party Caucus will be looking closely at the Pharmacare Bill that will cost a projected \$20 billion.

Redacted documents to receive close study

An emergency meeting of the Standing Committee on Health, with respect to \$150-million paid to drug manufacturer Medicago, contracted to supply Covid-19 vaccines, has been held. This company is owned by Mitsubishi of Japan, and it did not produce a single vaccine for Canadians. It has also ceased operations in this country. Where is the money? Watch for my updates this month! We have looked at documents that have been redacted (portions removed) that show specifics of the contract with Medicago. We demand to see the unredacted contracts to reach our own conclusions -- in the interests of taxpayers -- who, it appears, are out-of-pocket another \$150-million!

See Page 5 for my letter to Liberal Health Committee Chair Sean Casey



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

January 16, 2024

Sean Casey
Chair of the Standing Committee on Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Chair,

The Trudeau Government handed out \$150 million in taxpayer money to a Quebec-based pharmaceutical company, Medicago for research and development. This company was bought by Mitsubishi, a multi-billion-dollar foreign company, and has shut down its operation in Quebec, forcing nearly 600 workers out of their jobs. Worse still, Medicago has delivered nothing in return for the \$150 million handout that they received.

It appears the Liberal Government did not embed any guarantees for return on investment or refund of money in the contract between Medicago and the Government of Canada. In the censored copies of the contract, no mention can be found of the \$150 million in lost taxpayer funds, nor any safeguards to protect public finances. We have concluded that the unredacted contract must be produced for the members of the committee. Viewing the full contract has a direct bearing on the veracity of the testimonies that the Minister of Health and the President & CEO of Medicago provided to the committee.

This is how taxpayer money is handled after eight years under this Liberal Prime Minister: \$150 million can be dolled out, without any safeguards put in place. This is just one example of how the prime minister has added more to the national debt than all previous prime ministers combined, which has resulted in interest payment on debt costing more than total federal spending on health this year, as well as 40-year inflation highs that are driving Canadians to food banks in record numbers.

Pursuant to standing order 106(4), we are calling for the committee to be recalled at the earliest opportunity to further scrutinize and investigate the loss of \$150 million in Canadian taxpayer money by The Liberal Government.



STEPHEN ELLIS

MP | CUMBERLAND—COLCHESTER

You can follow me on Instagram.
Go to @drsdellismp

Trudeau's Liberals

Headed for broke

Dear People of our Cumberland-Colchester community,

Justin Trudeau's inflationary tax-and-spend agenda has made 2023, and into this a year, a time of misery for many Canadians. Rents are rising faster than wages for the first time in 60 years, and food bank usage across Canada has exploded.

Common Sense Conservatives are offering relief to Canadians. However, the Liberals and their NDP coalition partners have continuously blocked Conservatives' efforts to axe Trudeau's carbon tax and bring down the price of gas, groceries, and home heating.

The carbon tax is a failed experiment. The Liberals still promise that it will protect the environment, and not cost Canadians anything, because they will get back more in rebates than they paid into the tax.

Not only have the Liberals failed to meet every single one of their environmental targets, but the independent Parliamentary Budget Officer has confirmed *that Canadians pay more into the carbon tax than they get back in rebates!*

The Liberals don't have an environmental plan – they have a tax plan.

They will claim that the carbon tax doesn't increase the cost of food, but when government taxes the person that grows the food and the trucker who ships the food, it increases the cost to Canadians who buy the food.

While Trudeau plays political games with the carbon tax by giving carve-outs to some Canadians and not to others, Conservatives are focused on axing the tax on all, for good.

Our plan is simple. No pauses. No gimmicks. No special deals based on politics. We will work everyday in Parliament to axe the tax, to bring home lower prices.

My Conservative colleagues and I remain focused on delivering for Canadians.

In your service,
Stephen Ellis
Member of Parliament
Cumberland-Colchester



HOT TOPICS

Nicotine pouches

Liberal health minister waffles while youth get hooked

At the end of November 2023, Health Minister Mark Holland promised Canadians he would move swiftly to shut down a "loophole" after Health Canada approved the sale of flavoured nicotine pouches, with no restrictions on how the product is advertised or sold.

This is a major concern for me. There has been no movement since then to protect our children from ingesting dangerous and highly addictive nicotine.

These Big Tobacco pouches continue to be sold in pharmacies and corner stores. There isn't any scientific evidence that these flavoured nicotine pouches make it easier for users to break the habit of other nicotine containing products.

I don't believe Canadians support another generation of young people being hooked on nicotine. We should be holding Imperial Tobacco to account by not allowing them to bring more dangerous products to market.

"We were duped," an embarrassed Holland said last November, when it was revealed thousands of young Canadians were purchasing Imperial Tobacco nicotine pouches, without any age restrictions, as if they were candies.

Approved under the Natural Health Product Regulations under the name Zonnic, sales of the pouches started in October at gas stations and corner stores.

But health organizations such as the Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Lung Association argue these products are being deliberately marketed to children.

To be certain, a Conservative government would not have allowed these products to even make it to stores.

Biotech firm falsifies Covid data in \$2-billion cash grab

BTNX Inc. is a biotechnology company, headquartered in Pickering, ON. This company was paid \$2-billion to distribute Covid-19 test kits related to the pandemic.

In order to obtain the distribution contract, BTNX falsified test samples submitted to Health Canada, a year-long investigation uncovered. It appears that Health Canada knew about the tainting of this data, identifying many red flags in BTNX's application.

Health Canada went ahead anyway, awarding contracts for the next two years, allowing this company to become Canada's largest pandemic medical supplier.

That's \$2-billion in Canadian taxpayers' money was spent, with the Liberal government knowing the data BTNX supplied was false.

It is another case of reckless spending, inattention to detail, and appears to have no concern for the health of the general public.



www.drstephenellismp.com

Need help with federal government programs?

Part of my job as a Member of Parliament is to act for constituents and help you resolve issues with federal government departments, programs, and services. If you are unsure if my office can help, feel free to ask!

Some of the areas where my office can help include:



Citizen and Immigration



Service Canada



Canada Pension Plan



Passports



Disability Pension Plan



Canada Revenue Agency



Veterans Affairs



Employment Insurance



Please reach out to my office
stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

COMMON SENSE

CONSERVATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Take a look at just some of the efforts our common sense Conservative team has worked on this year to pressure the government to bring home lower prices for all Canadians.

Called on the Trudeau government to extend the federal pause on the carbon tax to all forms of home heating for all Canadians.

Forced multiple votes pressuring Trudeau to axe the tax to bring home lower prices on gas, groceries, and home heating.

Introduced the Building Homes. Not Bureaucracy Act, to bring home more affordable housing for Canadians.

Introduced a motion to end Trudeau's deadly safe supply program and to invest in treatment and recovery for opioid addictions.

Passed Common Sense Conservative Bill C-280 to ensure financial protections for Canadian produce farmers.

Common Sense Conservatives' efforts led to the official Canada-wide launch of the suicide prevention hotline 9-8-8 as of November 30, 2023. Help should only be 3 digits away.

Introduced Common Sense Conservative Bill C-323 to remove the federal tax from mental health services.

Passed Common Sense Conservative Bill C-321 to address the escalating violence faced by health care professionals and first responders.

Introduced Common Sense Conservative Bill C-364 to improve safety and security in rural and remote communities across Canada.

50 years' service at the North River and District Fire Brigade



It was a pleasure to present Ronald MacCallum and Brian Ellis awards for their 50 years in Fire Service at the North River and District Fire Brigade. They were also founding members of the brigade! Congratulations once again!

Thrills through the woods with Sutherland's Lake Trail Groomers Association



We love outdoor activities in Cumberland-Colchester! There's no better way to spend a morning in the riding than meeting Ches and Gordon of the Sutherland's Lake Trail Groomers Association. With over 300 members and 200 miles of trails, Ches and Gord took me on a tour throughout Cumberland County. We talked about the tourism opportunity, connecting with the outdoors and sustainable development. Thanks to Tory Rushton, MLA Cumberland South and George Laird for the introduction!

It's a matter of free speech and the press

Not many people outside of Ottawa know about Rebel News, considered by most observers to be a far-right information gathering organization. Rebel is known to be an aggressive media outlet. This is why politicians on Parliament Hill blanch when reporters like David Menzies appear on the scene.

Such was the case January 9, when he was approaching Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland for comment, as she was on her way to an event. She saw him walking toward her, when suddenly a plainclothes RCMP officer blocked the reporter's path by bumping into him. Menzies was surrounded by other plainclothes officers, as well as several York Regional Police members.

The reporter was arrested for assaulting a police officer – by the one that intentionally bumped into him -- and was whisked off to jail. Menzies was later released from custody, without a charge being laid.

Is this a case of undermining freedom of the press?

I believe that it is.

This is not an argument supporting Rebel News. Rather, it is a sounding call that in Canada, we have freedom of the press and freedom of expression. We cannot let police, in this instance the RCMP, gain a precedence of overstepping the law and arresting a member of the press doing his or her job of informing the public.

Valentines for Veterans



This Valentine's Day, thank Canadian veterans by sending them a Valentine.

Let our veterans know that you recognize and appreciate their service!

There are many ways to take part!

You can deliver your cards to veterans in your community, share photos of your Valentines on our Facebook page, send an e-card to a veteran you know, or send your cards to us! (See address below.)



Hand-deliver or mail Valentines

We encourage you to give Valentines to veterans or Canadian Armed Forces members you know, or who live in your community. A personal touch makes this activity more meaningful!

You can also send your hand-made Valentines to Valentines for Vets. They will distribute them to veterans across Canada.

Mail your cards to:

Valentines for Vets
Veterans Affairs Canada
Commemoration, Distribution Unit
125 Maple Hills Avenue
Charlottetown, PE C1C 0B6



Share Valentines online

You can send your Valentines online to Canadian veterans in three ways:

Share a photo of your Valentine's Day cards on your social media channels. Use the hashtag #ValentinesForVets. Send a Valentine e-card to a veteran you know.

Post photos of your Valentines on our Facebook page in the comments section of our special Valentine's Day post.

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/commemorative-events/e-cards>

Valentine for Vets will share your digital messages with Veterans across Canada.

By sharing your images, you are giving Veterans Affairs Canada permission to publish your image on our social media platforms and/or website.

Have questions about the Valentines for Vets program? Please write to us at the above address!

Cumberland-Colchester

January 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.

Stephen Ellis
Member of Parliament



Constituency Assistants Holly Miller and Amy Menzies

CASE BREAKDOWN

(open & closed combined)

	Immigration	352		Phoenix Pay System	25		Finance/ Federal Grants	81
	Service Canada	285		Veterans Affairs	40		Federal Complaints	147
	CRA	165		CBSA	8		All Other (Misc)	260
	Passports	62		Health Canada/ Covid-19	120		Total since November 2021	1,511

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WORKING FOR YOU

AT HOME AND IN OTTAWA

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