



The Ellis Eyeopener

Newsletter April 2024

Issue #11



Working for You in Cumberland-Colchester and on Parliament Hill

Welcome to the latest edition
of my monthly e-Newsletter
The Ellis Eyeopener

It's 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.



In the Community

Tour of Springhill Institution and Nova Institution for Women



I have heard a multitude of complaints from corrections officers at the Springhill Institution, during a tour of the medium security prison.

Safe injection sites and drones dropping contraband into the facility are commonplace!

These issues, and little recourse for officers, have made this important and stressful job even worse.

Trudeau's soft on crime agenda has made it even inside the walls of our higher security prisons!

The alarming increase of drone drops has resulted in weapons such as body amour-piercing ceramic knives now in the hands of prisoners. Guards fear for their lives, and are calling for immediate action to stop drones from supplying prisoners with contraband.



I toured the Nova Institution for Women. Corrections officers do incredible work! The job stress is significant, especially when coupled with staffing shortages, inmate contraband drug use, supported by the prison needle exchange program, and increasing violence against officers.

Is there somewhere in the community
I could tour/visit?

Please email your suggestions to: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

Chinese
scientists,
Winnipeg
bio-lab,
and stolen
top secret
intelligence



Health minister doesn't have any answers

SHORT END OF THE STICK



The Canadian Federation of Small Business has criticized the federal government's decision to slash carbon tax rebates for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The government plans to reduce the SME rebate allocation from nine per cent to five per cent this year, as revealed in new documents published by the federal government. The change coincides with an increase in rebate allocations for consumers and indigenous governments, set at 93 per cent and two per cent, respectively.

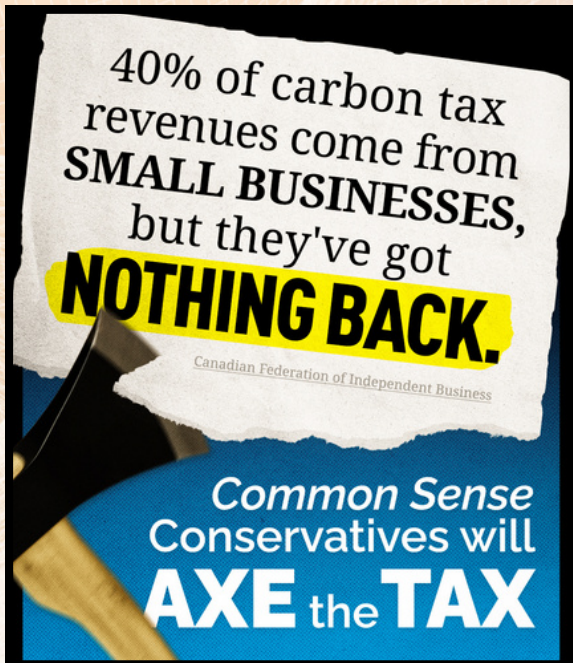
A call for fairness and action

The Canadian Federation of Small Business contributes 40 per cent of carbon tax revenues, yet are increasingly sidelined in rebate allocations. CFIB President Dan Kelly has voiced strong opposition to the federal carbon tax, echoed by 85 per cent of small firms.

Business is still owed \$2.5 billion, with more on the slate after April 1.

As your Cumberland-Colchester Member of Parliament, I stand with small business in the fight for carbon tax rebates.

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**SPIKE
THE
HIKE**

 **STEPHEN ELLIS**

MP | CUMBERLAND—COLCHESTER

**AXE
THE
TAX**

Two thousand people came out to our Common Sense Rally in Halifax with Leader Pierre Poilievre. After eight years of Justin Trudeau, Canadians are struggling.

The costly NDP-Liberal coalition continues to pour fuel on the inflationary fire with \$60 billion in new spending, driving up inflation and interest rates.

A Common Sense Conservative government will 'Axe the Tax'.

Over the past few months, Conservatives have been fighting hard in Parliament to hold the coalition accountable to bring home common sense. We have highlighted the inflationary spending in the Liberal-NDP budget and demanded the coalition provide a path to balance to bring down inflation and interest rates. This includes axing the tax.

Justin Trudeau and his coalition partner Jagmeet Singh also continue to ignore the crime and chaos on our streets, letting dangerous, repeat, and violent offenders out on bail, as well as funding dangerous narcotics with taxpayer dollars.

The work is just getting started, but the Common Sense Conservatives will never stop fighting for Canadians.

Let's bring it home!



A constituency celebration!

International Women's Day



In Cumberland

Autumn House is a women's shelter in Amherst. It hosted a wonderful lunch for International Women's Day! Autumn House offers services to women and gender diverse people who have been abused by an intimate partner. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and our phone lines are always open.

The luncheon featured guest speaker Nayo Upshaw who is a Mom, school vice-principal, feminist, and active community member.

Thank you to the organizers. It was great to see more than 150 people attend this worthwhile event in celebration of International Women's Day.



In Colchester



The Lotus Centre is a multi-service outreach support centre for more than 400 women. While its function is to act as a resource facility in the Truro area, it provides referral accessibility for a range of community organizations, and supplies physical needs from clothing to personal hygiene baskets to everyone who requires assistance.



Nova Scotia Highlanders Regimental Museum



Russell Clarke

One of the last WW1 heroes

March 12 -- Springhill - and Canada - lost Russell Clarke, one of Nova Scotia's last surviving veterans of the Second World War, a pillar of his community, and a good and decent man. He was six days away from his 100th birthday.

In 1942, at humanity's darkest hour, with Nazi Germany ravaging Europe, Russell answered the call, and joined the Royal Canadian Artillery at the age of eighteen, and was initially stationed in Dover, England. Like so many other Canadians of that time, he was risking life and limb, something that would have become all too clear when he watched the first casualties of D-Day come back to Dover on the morning of June 6th, 1944, a sight that he described in a 2022 interview: "It was a morning much like today, except it wasn't raining. We ended doing traffic control because they ended up bringing ambulances back with casualties by 1 o'clock that afternoon. I was on the edge of it, but I saw a lot of things I'll never forget."

Russell later served in the Netherlands, and can therefore be counted among those Canadians that gave our country a good name and reputation among the Dutch that persists to this day. One of his duties was stockpiling ordnance for the First Canadian Army's final push into Germany in the spring of 1945.

On VE Day he was stationed near the city of Apeldoorn. After returning home, he continued his service in the reserves, eventually rising to the rank of Lieutenant. For the remainder of his life, Russell was an upstanding citizen, and active in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10, Amherst, NS. In 2017, at the age of 93, he played a role in the effort to save the Amherst armory.

I have had the great pleasure of meeting him many times, and like many of his family and friends, I was struck by his humility and decency. Despite all that he had done for his country and community, and despite having played a role in defeating the worst tyranny the world has ever seen, he remained humble and adverse to fuss.

What was once a living memory for most of us is now rapidly passing into history. There aren't many men like Russell left anymore. Those Canadians, who did their part in the fight against Nazi tyranny, are one by one leaving us to take their rightful place in eternity. The sad day is coming when they won't be here anymore to share their stories. On that day, the responsibility will fall to us, and to the generations to come, to do right by them, to make sure that they will not be forgotten, and to ensure that their struggle was not in vain.

I offer my most heartfelt condolences to Russell's family in this difficult time, and to the good folks of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10, who have lost such a dear friend.

COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION



It was a heartfelt and emotional service paying tribute to the late Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who not only served our country, he changed it for the better. My sincere condolences to the Mulroney family. May his Irish eyes continue to smile down on us.



Please join me in congratulating Saribel Deslauriers, Executive Director of the Downtown Truro Partnership, being recognized as one of the 25 Most Powerful Women In Business, by the Atlantic Business Magazine! Thank you for all your work in our community!



I had great discussions on my "Blue Seal Tour" with Vancouver's Filipino community on our shared values of faith, family and freedom. Common-sense Conservatives will make this country work, and bring home the "Blue Seal" national standard. This will give thousands of nurses, doctors and health professionals the opportunity to work in their fields. It's time to:

- Axe the Tax
- Build the Homes
- Fix the Budget
- Stop the Crime
- Bring it Home!



Many thanks to Audeamus Service Dogs for a great discussion on how more of Nova Scotia's Veterans can benefit from expertly-trained service dogs.

Always a pleasure reconnecting with friends in Vancouver. Canadians long for the Conservatives to repair Canada's criminal justice system, ensuring repeat offenders receive jail time, not bail!



Cumberland-Colchester

March 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	373		Phoenix Pay System	27		Finance/ Federal Grants	87
	Service Canada	291		Veterans Affairs	40		Federal Complaints	147
	CRA	178		CBSA	9		All Other (Misc)	277
	Passports	63		Health Canada/ Covid-19	120		Total since November 2021	1,576

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902-667-8679



Truro Free Tax-Help Super Clinic

Date: Saturday April 6, 2024
Time: 10:30am –4:30pm
Location: Colchester East Hants Public
Library 754 Prince Street, Truro

If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers from the **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program** may be able to do your taxes for **free!**

Canada Revenue Agency will be onsite with information about the benefits and credits you may receive.

Service Canada will be available to issue Social Insurance Numbers, Canada Dental Care Plan (CDCP) attestations, issue My Service Canada Account (MSCA) Personal Access Codes (PAC), and provide general information on Service Canada programs including Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and more.

Service Nova Scotia will be onsite with information on provincial programs and rebates including the Heating Assistance Rebate Program.

Go to canada.ca/taxes-help or call 1-855-516-4405 for more information.



Canada Revenue
Agency

Agence du revenu
du Canada

Canada

9-8-8

Suicide Prevention
Helpline

WHAT
YOU
NEED
TO
KNOW



9-8-8

Canada's New Three-Digit
Suicide Prevention Helpline



STEPHEN ELLIS

MP | CUMBERLAND—COLCHESTER

- Thanks to the advocacy of Todd Doherty, Conservative Member of Parliament from Cariboo—Prince George, Canada is launched 9-8-8 on **November 30th**.
- 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.

WORKING FOR YOU

AT HOME AND IN OTTAWA

MP STEPHEN ELLIS

Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester
Shadow Minister of Health



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