

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

# Community Newsletter



September 2024

Dear Constituent,

Since the last newsletter, I have returned to Ottawa and resumed my duties in the House of Commons. After a great summer in the riding getting to speak with many of you, I know there is a lot of work to be done. I continue to hear about the key issues of food insecurity, housing affordability and high taxes -- all issues that my Conservative colleagues and I are aiming to address this session.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, I addressed some of the issues that Amish and Mennonite communities continue to face as a result of the federal government's pandemic restrictions. This is an issue that I have been working to resolve for years, the federal government failed to properly inform Amish, Mennonite, and demographics without phone and/or internet access about pandemic border restrictions in advance of crossing the Canada-US border, leading to fines and penalties. I initially asked the question of how this was to be communicated to these communities in April 2021 and have followed it up multiple times over the years and finally received a response from the government in January 2023 ([https://www.alexruffmp.ca/newsmedia/q-976-\(amish\)](https://www.alexruffmp.ca/newsmedia/q-976-(amish))) that it did not inform the Amish community of the rules before they arrived at the border. The community now faces approximately \$300,000 in fines and collection agencies have taken liens out against many of the Amish properties. The government still does not have a plan on how they will rectify the situation and give the Amish their lives and farms back. Watch the full statement here: <https://youtu.be/BwGYnCG-xlw?si=hntPrIqTxDpsoLv->

On September 20<sup>th</sup> I also asked a question to the parliamentary secretary regarding the Auditor General's report on chronic homelessness. I had the privilege of sitting in on the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities back when we studied the Housing Accelerator Fund where concerns were raised about how funding would be spread to rural areas. I asked how much money has been delivered to Canadians living in rural Canada and the parliamentary secretary could not say with confidence that a single penny has been delivered to those living in rural Canadian ridings. You can read the full question here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/documentviewer/en/44-1/house/sitting-340/hansard#Int-12869931>

Many constituents have reached out with concerns regarding Bill C-63 or the Online Harms Act. While this bill aims to protect people online, it may end up stifling free speech and a creating unnecessary and expensive bureaucratic red tape (the Parliamentary Budget Officer recently calculated that Bill C-63 would cost Canadian taxpayers at least \$200 million in bureaucracy <https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/LEG-2425-008-M--online-harms-act-establishment-digital-safety-commission-ombudsperson-office--loi-prejudices-ligne-etablissement-commission-ombudsman-bureau-securite-numerique>). To address this, my Conservative colleague, MP Rempel-Garner put forward bill C-412 that addresses online harm without creating a government-managed surveillance state or restricting Charter-protected speech. You can read the full text of the bill here: <https://youtu.be/IEMhhaMB7nQ?si=LEiDYz3LnUW40jEK>.

I was happy to welcome the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food, MP John Barlow to Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound earlier this month to tour some local farms and hear from producers about some of the issues they are facing.

I was proud to highlight the excellent work our fruit growers, dairy farmers, beef farmers, sheep farmers and more do to contribute to our economy. I have included some photos from our visit below.

I would also like to shout out our amazing firefighters and first responders in Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound and across the country. I was honoured to participate in the 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb this year at the Bayshore in Owen Sound. This event involved completing 10 laps at the Bayshore arena in full gear as first responders would have done on 9/11 to acknowledge first responders that were lost in that tragic incident and others over the years. This event certainly reaffirmed my immense respect for first responders and highlighted how truly difficult their sacrifices are.

It was a pleasure spending the summer in the riding, thank you to everyone who organized and attended events in our community, I enjoyed getting to see many of you throughout this summer.

Finally, a reminder to check out the final section of this newsletter for additional information on federal programs and community resources.

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

Alex Ruff, MSC, CD, MP  
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

**REMINDER:**

The constituency office will be closed on Monday 30 September for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and will re-open on Tuesday 01 October. Additionally, the constituency office will be closed on Monday, 14 October for Thanksgiving and will re-open on Tuesday, 15 October.

## Monthly Survey Question

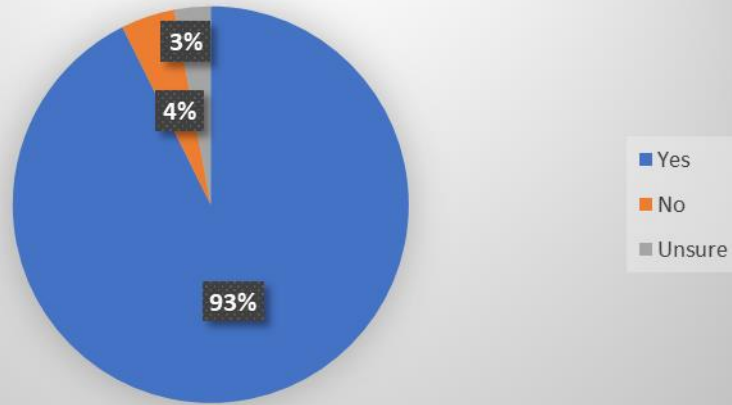


Have your say on my website: [www.alexruffmp.ca](http://www.alexruffmp.ca)

**Have you noticed an increase in criminal activity in Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound in the last year?**

Last month's response:

Would you support making it mandatory that all federal government departments and services must accept paper copies for mandated returns without penalty or fine?



## 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
The CBC	Bill C-293
Capital Gains Tax Hike	Seniors on fixed incomes
Food Price Inflation	Online Harms Bill C-63
Israel-Hamas War	War in Ukraine
Vote of non-confidence	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](#).

Rogers TV: Politically Speaking (13 Sep 2024): <https://youtu.be/j-zijeNF6Dw?si=UlaWjeJpa2IG1iyc>

560 CFOS Open Line (10 Sep 2024): <https://www.560cfos.ca/2024/09/10/the-open-line-with-clair-mccormack/>

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



Attending the Elmwood Homecoming (30 Aug 2024)



Participating in the festivities at the Desboro Fall Fair (31 Aug 2024)





Recognizing Happy Hearts Daycare for 50 years in business (06 Sep 2024)



Participating in the 9/11 memorial stair climb with local first responders (08 Sep 2024)



Cruising in the parade at the Arran Tara Fall fair (13 Sep 2024)



Participating in the Meaford Long Term Care's Community Walk to Wellness (14 Sep 2024)



Attending the Township of Chatsworth Fall Fair (14 Sep 2024)



Meeting with local producers with MP John Barlow in Holstein, Meaford, and Dundalk (13 Sep 2024)







## Additional Resources



### Call for Applications: Canada's Volunteer Awards (CVA) National Advisory Committee (NAC)

Members of the National Advisory Committee play a leading role in the selection of Canada's Volunteer Awards recipients by reviewing nominations and making recommendations to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. They also support the promotion of the program throughout their term.

The committee consists of up to 15 members from across Canada who are passionate about volunteering. Members are selected based on their knowledge and experience working or volunteering in support of community development. Additionally, members reflect Canada's diversity and serve for a term of three years.

CVA is accepting applications until October 23, 2024. If you want to learn more about the opportunity to become a National Advisory Committee member or to apply, please visit [https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/volunteer-awards.html?utm\\_campaign=CanadasVolunteerAwardsNationalAdvisoryCommittee&utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_term=en&utm\\_content=\\_2](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/volunteer-awards.html?utm_campaign=CanadasVolunteerAwardsNationalAdvisoryCommittee&utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=en&utm_content=_2)

### Transport Canada Survey on Personal Floatation and Lifejackets



Transport Canada has initiated their consultation on [Making personal flotation devices/lifejackets mandatory for recreational boaters](https://letstalktransportation.ca/lets-talk-making-personal-flotation-devices-lifejackets-mandatory-for-recreational-boaters) (<https://letstalktransportation.ca/lets-talk-making-personal-flotation-devices-lifejackets-mandatory-for-recreational-boaters>). The proposal could have a variety of impacts on everything from age requirements, vessel size, and vessel type including potential changes under the *Small Vessel Regulations*.

Please complete the survey by October 13, 2024:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=DzNJzYAdfUqt9d51wQcs031oVihlqFBGhPGnKx1mfhRUMzZSTFLXtjVXMFpYRIU2VIA3MjNITzBBMy4u&route=shorturl>

## 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>

## 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>

## 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](https://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.

[Unsubscribe](#)

Or to unsubscribe from this community newsletter, please hit 'Reply' and let us know. We will remove your email immediately.

### Constituency Office

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