HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

45th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

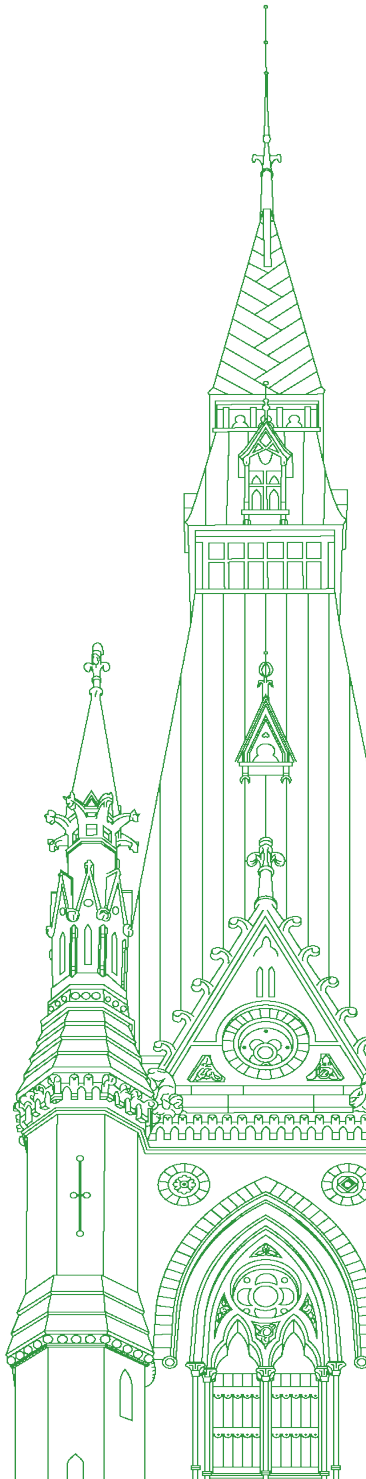
# House of Commons Debates

**Official Report**

(Hansard)

**Volume 152 No. 164**

Friday, November 6, 2026



Speaker: The Honourable Francis Scarpaleggia

**CONTENTS**

(Table of Contents appears at back of this issue.)

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Friday, November 6, 2026**

The House met at 10 a.m.

*Prayer*

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

● (1000)

[*English*]

### THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from November 5 consideration of the motion that this House approve in general the budgetary policy of the government, of the amendment and of the amendment to the amendment.

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I will be sharing my time with the member for Honoré-Mercier.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue, it gives me great honour to rise today to speak to budget 2026. Yesterday, the Minister of Finance rose in the chamber to deliver budget 2026, an ambitious yet common-sense plan that would build on the generational investments made in budget 2025 to grow our economy, protect our communities and build a more unified Canada.

As Canada grapples with this unique moment in history, it is important to remember that Canada has what the world wants and the foundations to build more ourselves here at home: abundant energy, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, leadership in AI and extraordinary talent all across this country. Unlike those who talk the economy down, talk down our workers or claim that Canada is broken, budget 2026 will harness our strengths here at home and help Canadian businesses invest, improve productivity, scale up at home, compete on the world stage and create good-paying jobs.

This budget will show that Canada is moving, and moving fast, to build a strong, more resilient and more united country, and while that long-term vision takes root, we will provide Canadians with a bridge and a boost in the interim to help make life more affordable. We have more than can ever be taken away from us, and budget 2026 is our plan to be the masters of our own destiny.

Budget 2026 highlights Canada's resilience amid global uncertainty. It also makes clear that Canada is meeting those challenges from a position of strength. The global economic order is experiencing its most consequential transformation in close to a century. The conflict in the Middle East has driven up energy prices. That is incontestable. Protectionism is rising around the world. Supply chains are being reorganized around security and sovereignty, and capital is seeking countries that can offer stability, energy and resources, talent, and trusted access to global markets. We have the opportunity, and in fact the duty, to meet this moment by helping to build a stronger, more independent Canadian economy.

Budget 2026 is key to that approach, and it meets the moment. While others offer slogans or partisan rhetoric, we have the right plan and we know it is working. There are many signs of progress. They are multiple and are outlined in budget 2026 in the fiscal outlook.

The world has changed dramatically. The relationships that powered Canada's prosperity for decades can no longer be taken as a given. Since we were elected, our response has been very clear: We will focus on what we can control, and we will do so from a position of strength and resilience.

We are strengthening our foundations here at home, diversifying our partnerships abroad and making life more affordable for Canadians. Our competitive advantages are among the strongest in the world, ranging from a skilled workforce, clean and traditional energy, and an abundance of critical minerals and natural resources, to our strong public finances and access to global markets. We have what the world wants, and we have what it takes to chart our own course. Canada and Canadians are ready to embrace this opportunity. We will not listen to those who say it is not possible and that we should settle for less.

The numbers show that Canada is facing these challenges from a position of strength. Canada is not immune to geopolitical realignments, but we are moving decisively to seize the opportunities that they create.

*The Budget*

The Canadian economy grew by 3.3% annualized in the second quarter of this year, the fastest growth in the G7, driven by higher exports, household spending and new business investment. Recent data suggests that the economy remains resilient in the third quarter as well. According to the International Monetary Fund, Canada is projected to grow at the second-fastest pace in the G7 in 2027.

● (1005)

Fiscal discipline is the bedrock of our approach. By spending less on day-to-day operations and managing public finances responsibly, we can invest more in Canadian workers, businesses and industries while making generational investments in infrastructure, defence, housing and innovation, and increasing our productive capacity, which is needed to expand our economy. By reducing operating costs, we are also able to invest in Canada's long-term growth while making life more affordable for Canadians.

Over the past year, our government has put in place a series of ambitious strategies spanning electricity, defence, critical minerals, food security, artificial intelligence and nature. Together, they are helping Canada seize major opportunities while strengthening our resilience in a more uncertain world.

The early results are clear. Investment is growing. Major projects are advancing. New trade and investment agreements are opening markets abroad. More Canadians are finding rewarding, well-paying careers in the industries that will drive growth in the decades ahead.

Our government's strategy has helped position Canada to enter a new era of investment. Budget 2026 advances flagship tax policy changes, including the productivity mega deduction and the Canada growth incentive, which will further strengthen our tax competitiveness and create the conditions to catalyze an investment supercycle.

Through strategic, targeted investments and broad-based tax policy changes, Canada remains among the leading advanced economies for tax competitiveness. Public investment, private capital, major projects and new market opportunities are coming together to expand what Canada can build and produce for decades to come. This is at the heart of Canada's investment supercycle: a continuously evolving cycle in which each investment strengthens the conditions for the next.

Foreign direct investment in Canada is at its highest level in nearly two decades. Canada attracted $98 billion in foreign investment in 2025 and has led the G7 in direct investment inflows per capita since early 2025.

In September, Canada hosted its first-ever investment summit, bringing together approximately 200 of the world's leading investors. It helped secure nearly $500 billion in new investment commitments and financing for businesses in Canada. Our government's focus now is to turn those investment commitments into projects, jobs and growth. That means more homes, modernized infrastructure, twice the electricity capacity, new critical mineral projects, defence investments that build new industries, and deeper connections to global markets. It also means helping businesses of all sizes invest in technology, innovation, robotics and AI to boost productivity and better compete globally.

Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of Canada's economy, making up over 98% of Canadian businesses and creating jobs in communities across this country. To help businesses invest, grow and succeed in Canada, budget 2026 introduced several measures. They include the Canada growth incentive to help high-potential Canadian businesses attract investment and grow here at home. They also include a new tax exemption on up to $15 million in capital gains earned from successful investments in eligible Canadian companies for founders, key employees and investors, and an enhanced small business rollover to allow more investments to qualify for tax deferrals on capital gains when proceeds are reinvested in another Canadian small business.

Budget 2026 also announced a commercialization expansion of the scientific research and experimental development tax incentive program. It is worth $930 million of investment over five years to help turn more Canadian ideas into growing companies, high-paying careers and made-in-Canada innovation.

I would not do the budget justice if I did not also point to the fact that building a stronger economy means supporting Canadians with affordability. We have boosted the Canada groceries and essentials benefit and made changes to refocus the Canada workers benefit, and we are doing a lot more. We have also made the Canada caregiver credit refundable. All of these things are going to support millions of Canadians with some of the affordability challenges that we know they are feeling on a day-to-day and monthly basis.

In short, budget 2026 puts Canada in the driver's seat to determine our own future. That is exactly what Canadians hired us to do, and that is exactly what we are going to remain focused on.

● (1010)

**Greg McLean (Calgary Centre, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague is on the finance committee with me, and we manage to work pretty well together as far as what we have to get done at that committee goes.

I heard his speech today, and I know it is a canned speech, as it always is from that side of the House, with a whole bunch of slogans. The government has been very good at coming out with marketing slogans, and I love the name of this one, “Masters of our destiny”. Masters of our own destiny includes Canadians, Canadian taxpayers and Canadian businesses, and, frankly, the government is spending their future.

There is a huge accumulation of debt in this budget classified in different ways, but we are talking about an additional $766 billion of borrowing over the next five years. It as a ludicrous amount. "Debt" is defined in public finance as demand brought forward. What is the government going to do when it has to pay that debt?

Will the member please come to the table and tell me what he means by "fiscal prudence", because we are exactly not there, and how he is going to reiterate that line when he has to—

**The Deputy Speaker:** I have to cut off the member to allow the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance a chance to respond.

**Ryan Turnbull:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the member has against an investment supercycle and the government stepping up to attract investment in Canada and to incentivize that investment. We are sticking to both fiscal anchors in this budget. We are getting to one of our fiscal anchors a whole year ahead of schedule.

I know the member opposite is worried about debt and debt charges. Canada has a AAA credit rating and the lowest debt service cost of the G7 countries as a result of our strong fiscal fundamentals. We also know that long-term bond yields in Canada have been largely isolated from the increases we have seen across the G7. Canada has the lowest rate of increase in bond yields of any G7 country.

[*Translation*]

**Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, people seem to have a lot to say this morning, but you will not have to interrupt me.

In his introduction, the member said that Canada has what the world wants. That is what worries me the most, because what they are trying to do with the 6% under the superdeduction is offer a massive discount to foreign investors who want to come here to extract our natural resources and very likely, or rather certainly, process them elsewhere. That is what we call selling our natural resources at a discount.

I would like the member to explain to me how the government plans to implement measures to protect this and ensure that processing takes place here. We are all in favour of economic development, but there are limits.

[*English*]

**Ryan Turnbull:** Mr. Speaker, Canada has always been a jurisdiction of high standards, and we are not going to lower those standards today.

We are streamlining permitting processes to get shovels in the ground on major critical mineral projects. We have enhanced the tax deductions for exploration in this country for minerals and critical minerals and extended those benefits to incentivize more critical mineral development across Canada, because we have such a wealth of natural resource assets that the world wants and needs.

The member opposite talked about the productivity mega deduction. It cuts across the entire economy, applies to businesses of all sizes and allows them to have the confidence to invest in themselves and in new machinery and equipment and enhance their productivity after getting the tax deduction this year. That is only going to be a good thing for investment in this country.

● (1015)

**Danielle Martin (University—Rosedale, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I think Canadians understand that at a time like this when we have to face going into deficit, we should be doing it to invest in infrastructure that will build the country for the future.

I am wondering if the member could talk a bit about the concept of separating our operating and capital expenditures and moving to try to balance the operating budget as a government over the coming years.

**Ryan Turnbull:** Mr. Speaker, that is a great question. What we have done very transparently is define a capital budgeting framework with a set of definitions that corresponds to best practices around the world. We have set ourselves up to invest in the economy, draw in and attract private capital and ensure that the economy can grow.

That is exactly what we have seen. My colleagues should remember that there is $27.5 billion less of a deficit in this budget, in this fiscal year, than was projected in the spring economic update. That is good news for this country. That is a result of growth in the economy and of new capital investment. We are seeing it rise at 9%. That is significant, and all colleagues should be able to recognize that.

**Eric St-Pierre (Honoré-Mercier, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight to the member for Calgary Centre that I will be reading my original speech today. I would also like to wish the Speaker a happy Friday. I can see that everybody appears to be in a great and jovial mood today. I suspect they are all feeling very cheerful having read yesterday's budget.

Yesterday, our government released our budget, masters in our own House or, as we say in French, *Maîtres chez nous*.

[*Translation*]

I would like to take the next 10 minutes to talk about an important budget.

As members know, the expression *maîtres chez nous* is a slogan that was used during the Quiet Revolution in Quebec. It was an expression that was used during the campaign to nationalize electricity in the 1960s, before my time. It represents our natural resources, or protecting our lakes and rivers, but it also represents protecting our culture, our identity and our pride in being Canadian.

[*English*]

Budget 2026 is about action, so let me outline why this budget advances many of these priorities.

Yes, the front cover of the budget includes transmission lines from Churchill Falls in Newfoundland and Labrador, and that is because electricity is at the heart of this budget. Let me go through some of those measures that would advance Canada's electricity strategy.

Budget 2026 invests $50 billion in Canada's electricity strategy, but $50 billion is more than money, though. It is about real results. New Economy Canada mentioned last night that "Budget 2026 puts electrification at the heart of Canada's economy, ensuring energy security and affordability for businesses and households."

What would $50 billion get us? It would get us four things. First, our government's electricity strategy is about building infrastructure, because we must build really fast.

Last year, I had the honour of reading Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson's book, *Abundance*, which I highly recommend. This book is important because it calls for a shift toward supply-side progressivism, where the state must actively build and reform zoning and permitting laws, but invest in large-scale physical infrastructure to electrify the economy. This $50-billion investment would do that. It would electrify the economy.

When I worked in climate philanthropy, we worked with technical modelling and with partners like the Canadian Climate Institute, l'Institut de l'énergie Trottier, the David Suzuki Foundation, The Pembina Institute or The Transition Accelerator, and all modelling demonstrated that for Canada to get to net zero, we would need to at least double our electricity grid.

Yesterday's budget puts money where our mouth is. This investment in Canada's electricity strategy is about connecting grids. In a turbulent world, we need to better integrate our provinces and territories, and this includes our complex regional electricity grids.

There are 31 transmission lines that cross Canada to the U.S. border, north to south. However, to protect our sovereignty and strengthen our federation, we are now investing in integrating our grid from east to west to north. We are doing this to unify our country and to grow our economy while reducing emissions.

My third point is that our $50-billion electricity strategy is about making technological components to power our grid and build our capacity and value chains. This is a unique opportunity to advance clean-tech value chains where Canada holds a strong competitive advantage. This is an opportunity for us to advance batteries and electrochemical storage, advance electricity grid equipment and infrastructure, utilize our Canadian-made critical minerals and advance our nuclear energy with CANDU technology, but also with small modular reactors. It is also an opportunity to advance hydro, solar and wind renewable energy.

My fourth point is that our investment in electricity is about jobs and it is about labour. We need the skills and labour to help build out the grid and ensure support for great Canadian jobs across our country.

I would also like to highlight some other measures from budget 2026 that would advance Canada's electricity strategy. One, clean electricity investment tax credits phase-out to 15% would now occur in 2040 instead of 2034. This is positive news for the clean-tech sector.

Two, this budget encourages more investment in electricity transmission and does so by extending the clean electricity ITCs for provincial electricity transmission lines in each province, with $2.4 billion allocated in 2027 to 2031 and $36 billion allocated by 2042. This is about building Canada strong.

● (1020)

Third, it promises that $4 billion over 10 years would be provided to support electricity infrastructure expansion, renewable energy and new funding for the smart renewables and electrification pathways program.

Fourth, the budget would support robust cost-benefit analysis to better understand interties and inform cross-border cost allocation discussions.

Building out transmission lines and interties is not always a technical problem. It is often one of governance, of navigating complex provincial jurisdictions and challenges with social acceptability. According to Electricity Canada's statement last night on budget 2026, modernizing our grid is a "nation-building endeavour."

This is about building real projects. For example, our budget would now allow the building of a 15-megawatt hydro facility in the Yukon, as well as an eight-megawatt hydro facility in Atlin. This is in addition to the massive 14,000 megawatts at Churchill Falls. We will be building more clean renewable projects for decades to come.

I spoke about grids and electricity, but let us talk about buildings and how budget 2026 benefits the decarbonization of our buildings. As Clean Energy Canada announced last night, "Budget 2026 offers a new framework for climate progress: build, switch, transform, and innovate." Last month, our government announced a transformative $2-billion investment in a national heat pump rebate program, which will benefit one million Canadian homes and reduce 25 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, while significantly reducing energy costs and creating jobs throughout the country. Whether Canadians are wearing a better parka to keep ourselves warm in the winter or installing a heat pump to reduce our energy bills, Canadians understand that staying warm should not mean wasting energy. Canadians also keep more money in their pocket.

I am thrilled that budget 2026 renews the green industrial facilities and manufacturing program, which, to my knowledge, is now called SHIFT, the strategic high-efficiency industrial facilities transition program. This $400-million investment will help optimize energy efficiency for Canadian industrial and manufacturing facilities in a way that will help us remain competitive while also lowering carbon emissions. As a strong advocate of energy efficiency measures, I am also deeply excited for the renewal of DRE, or the deep retrofit accelerator initiative.

Let us discuss transportation as well. We know that nearly one-fifth of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions come from the vehicles on our roads. Do members know that nearly 25% of global car sales this year will be electric vehicles? That is right. Everyone looks really impressed. Globally, one in four vehicles sold will be electric, and by 2030, 40% of new car sales will be EVs. The opposition is very excited about this change. Canada is huge, and we need infrastructure to change our cars. We need larger charging networks to connect Canadians, including rural communities. This is why I am electrified that budget 2026 supports the installation of 55,000 new EV chargers. That is about $600 million invested over five years to renew the zero-emission vehicle infrastructure program. This investment would mean 55,000 new EV chargers across Canada, with 9,000 in Quebec, 23,000 in Ontario, 17,000 in B.C. and many in Alberta and elsewhere.

As I wrap up, I would like to highlight a few other measures. The first one is on sustainable finance. I would like to thank the leadership of the member for Whitby as we continue to develop a new sustainable bond framework for government issuance using made-in-Canada sustainable investment guidelines. The second is on marine conservation. It is worth highlighting the investment of $282 million over 11 years for the creation of two new national marine conservation areas, as well as support for three more in the north. Canada has set ambitious targets of 30% conservation of its land and oceans by 2030, and this will help us get there.

If I may, I would also like to quickly mention that budget 2026 supports our national parks and historic sites. I would like to mention quickly the support for the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award, which does excellent work. In passing, my friend Ryan Keeping, who ran across Canada a few years ago, and his father, Scott Keeping, from Halifax are very big fans of Terry Fox. There is also the Canada groceries and essentials benefit program, which benefits all of us across our ridings.

● (1025)

[*Translation*]

Third, support for the Francophonie summit is also crucial. That is important to us.

In closing, budget 2026 is one that will help all Canadians, that is good for nature and the environment and that helps mitigate climate change.

[*English*]

**Dane Lloyd (Parkland, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I note that the hon. member is a climate change champion and that he talked a lot about the clean energy investments his government is making. I want to ask about the productivity mega tax deduction. It is estimated that this tax deduction will provide a $2-billion annual tax break to Canada's oil and gas sector. We are certainly excited about that in Alberta.

I wonder if the member could tell us how excited he is that his government is providing a $2-billion tax break to Canada's oil and gas sector.

**Eric St-Pierre:** Mr. Speaker, I think you are excited about the budget from yesterday. I am very enthused about yesterday's budget. As I outlined, we had a lot of measures in there. I can sense your excitement. I know you are going to applaud the excitement for yesterday's budget. You are looking forward to going back to your riding, talking about the electricity funding and probably even the EV chargers that might be installed in some of your communities—

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member is now speaking directly to the member who just offered him a question. I remind the member to speak directly through the Speaker. I will let the member finish very briefly and then continue with questions and comments.

**Eric St-Pierre:** Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I think the member will appreciate the positive impact this will have on all communities.

[*Translation*]

**Patrick Bonin (Repentigny, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, it is rather unbelievable that the government is sending out its green warriors this morning to try to make this budget seem green, when it is not green at all. What we are seeing this morning is greenwashing, and it is shameful to see the government members trying to make us believe that this is a green budget.

I would like the member for Honoré-Mercier to answer me in French, because he mentioned the importance of the francophonie, but he only spoke French for about 20 seconds of his 10-minute speech. That is really something else.

Let us talk about the environment. This budget includes billions of dollars in subsidies for fossil fuels. That money will be used to produce oil. It earmarks $43 billion for an oil sands pipeline. It includes funding to produce gas via hydraulic fracturing, which is banned in Quebec.

Is the member for Honoré-Mercier comfortable with the government's decision to continue with oil and gas subsidies? Is he comfortable with dismantling the climate change action plan, including industrial carbon pricing and the clean electricity strategy? Is he—

**The Deputy Speaker:** I have to give the member for Honoré-Mercier the opportunity to respond.

*The Budget*

**Eric St-Pierre:** Mr. Speaker, it is always an honour to answer questions from my colleague from Repentigny. I have known my colleague, who used to be with Greenpeace, for nearly a decade. I am used to his opposition to all governments.

I certainly hope that my colleague will be very excited that Quebec is getting 9,000 EV charging stations and that we are going to work in Churchill Falls to increase clean electricity generation. The Canadian Climate Institute supports our budget. Clean Energy Canada supports our budget. The Pembina Institute and the Transition Accelerator also support our budget. The list goes on and on.

I work very hard on the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development with my colleague, and I very much look forward to him standing up and supporting our budget.

● (1030)

[*English*]

**Gord Johns (Courtenay—Alberni, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, I am really glad that my colleague talked about transportation. We saw, in the budget, $1.2 billion for Marine Atlantic, for Atlantic Canadian ferry infrastructure, which is critical, as I know, from coastal communities. It is our marine highway and we support that.

When it comes to Vancouver Island and coastal communities, BC Ferries got nothing. In fact, we got a loan. We got an interest-bearing loan from the Canada Infrastructure Bank instead. This inequity is not nation-building. In fact, we get $6 per capita for operating costs. Atlantic Canadians get $125.

When is the government going to stand up and invest in Vancouver Islanders and stop abandoning us? They elected two Liberal members. They have not done anything for us. They have abandoned Vancouver Islanders.

**Eric St-Pierre:** Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is a colleague and a great friend. I respect his advocacy for his riding enormously. I would like to highlight that in the budget there was over $280 million allocated for marine conservation. I am certain that the member will be very excited about our objective of increasing marine conservation from 15.5% up to 30%, which would benefit all Canadians, including the folks from Vancouver Island.

[*Translation*]

**Tim Watchorn (Les Pays-d'en-Haut, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague supports energy efficiency and funding for energy-efficient projects.

Can he tell us a little more about how the budget will help us be more productive in that regard?

**Eric St-Pierre:** Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent question.

As members know, a few weeks ago our government announced a $2-billion heat pump program, which will benefit one million Canadian households. Rebates of $10,000 will be awarded to lower-income Canadians. This will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 megatonnes. This is very positive for Canada.

[*English*]

**Hon. Michael Chong (Wellington—Halton Hills North, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I will be splitting my time with the member for Calgary Crowfoot.

This budget fails to establish a credible fiscal anchor to reduce the debt and to balance the budget. The fiscal anchors of Liberal budgets of the past decade were ever-changing and never met. The Prime Minister has continued with that practice. The national debt is increasing, interest costs are starting to take off and there is no plan to balance the budget. Here are the consequences.

The Prime Minister risks losing credibility with financial markets because there is no credible fiscal anchor to reduce the debt and balance the budget. Canada's experience in the mid-1990s demonstrates how quickly things can change when investors lose confidence. Debt crises have their small beginnings when interest expense grows faster than nominal GDP, and that is exactly what is happening.

Interest expense on the debt is growing faster than nominal GDP, and interest on the national debt has now become the fastest-growing expense. Interest expense currently costs 11¢ of every tax dollar and is projected to rise to 14¢ in four short years. That is $85.5 billion a year, more than what the government spends on public health care. That is $8,000 a year for a typical family of four.

Canada has the smallest of the G7 currencies, and ours is not a reserve currency. Canada also has some of the highest levels of household indebtedness in the world and some of the highest income taxes in the G7, which means that households already struggling to pay the bills and struggling with affordability have little ability to pay more in tax. Canada has some of the highest levels of subnational debt in the world, for which the federal government is the backstop.

All this borrowing is also making life more unaffordable for individuals, families and companies. Massive increases in government debt compete with individuals, families and businesses for the money available to borrow from lenders. Lenders increase interest rates. The yields on the Government of Canada's five- and ten-year bonds have been rising in recent years. These are key benchmarks that determine the bank's cost of funds and interest rates for mortgages, lines of credit and car loans. These rising interest rates hit Canadian households particularly hard because of the high levels of household indebtedness in Canada, currently at $3.3 trillion.

Another consequence of rising debt and interest costs is that Canada is rapidly losing fiscal capacity to deal with a future major crisis. In the last 20 years, Canada has faced two major crises: the 2008 global financial crisis and the 2020 pandemic. In those cases, Canada's debt to GDP was roughly 30%, giving the government the fiscal firepower it needed to respond, and allowing the government to borrow upward of 5% to 15% of GDP in order to respond.

The Prime Minister has stated, in his recently released national security strategy, that we must be prepared for a major crisis. It states that Canada needs to prepare for all contingencies up to and including war and other worst-case scenarios, and has put economic security at the heart of that plan.

The next major crisis the Prime Minister says we must be prepared for requires fiscal capacity, just as was needed in 2008 and in 2020. The problem is that the debt is rising, and so are interest costs. They are reducing the capacity for the government to do that. The government's debt to GDP is currently 40% and climbing, and interest costs are starting to take off. This is leaving less and less fiscal capacity to deal with a future crisis the Prime Minister says we must be prepared for. While the government is not facing an immediate fiscal impasse, it has become complacent in not having credible fiscal anchors to reduce the deficit and the growth of the national debt.

All this spending in the budget also is not working. It is doubling down on what the previous Trudeau government did. In the Prime Minister's first budget, deficits over five years were double that of Mr. Trudeau's last budget. In the Prime Minister's second budget, spending has been obscured by pushing it off the budget onto the balance sheet by capitalizing borrowing. For all the talk of increased business investment, employment growth and economic activity, little is showing up in the numbers.

● (1035)

Food bank usage is at record highs, with some 2.35 million Canadians visiting a food bank each and every month, up 117% since 2019. Overall business capital formation has declined in five of the last six quarters and remains at the low levels of when Mr. Trudeau left office. Unemployment remains elevated, about 1% above pre-pandemic levels, because the economy is not generating enough jobs to push it down to roughly 5.5%. Productivity growth remains sluggish, if not non-existent, since the Bank of Canada declared a productivity emergency two and a half years ago. Economic growth remains stagnant, below 1% this year.

All these things, food bank usage, overall business capital formation, unemployment, productivity and economic growth, have changed little in the last 18 months under the government. That is because the government has failed to introduce the fundamental supply side reforms necessary to spur investment, create growth, and raise incomes and paycheques for Canadians, reforms such as an overhaul of Canada's competition policy to increase consumer choice and lower prices for struggling households; an overhaul of our taxes that the business community and experts have long called for in order to increase investment and incomes; an overhaul of our regulatory system, particularly for small- to medium-sized businesses; addressing interprovincial trade barriers; and so many other regulations that are strangling business and capital formation.



The last thing I would like to say is this. This budget is an affront to Parliament. It is a travesty of a document. First of all, it is incoherent and impossible to understand. There are several definitions of net debt in this document. Its accounting definitions, operating versus investment, are so vague that even financial experts are finding it impossible to understand exactly what is going on. Off-budget items have been so massively expanded by capitalizing them on the balance sheet that the deficit figure has become a completely useless figure, and the debt is growing at more than twice the pace of the deficit.

Here is the bigger travesty. The fact we had to wait this long to get the document is an outrage. The government made numerous announcements contained in the document months ago, outside the fiscal framework and outside Parliament. Parliamentarians should not have to learn about $36 billion in tax expenditures at some investment conference in downtown Toronto through the nightly news. This is the place where the Prime Minister should be telling Canadians how much the government plans to spend, how much it plans to tax, and how much it plans to borrow.

The government has spent most of the last year announcing spending and taxation at its own organized conferences and its own contrived photo ops outside Parliament. To add insult to injury, when it does finally have an opportunity to tell us exactly what is going on in the budget, it is obscured by all sorts of financial chicanery.

Finally, the head of government, for whom the budget document is supposed to be an aspirational and generational blueprint, is jetting off to yet another around-the-world tour, leaving us to pick through whatever gobbledygook this is. I have a message for the Prime Minister. This is not Goldman Sachs. This is not Brookfield. This is the Parliament of Canada, and democratic accountability in this place, particularly over the public purse and taxation, is sacrosanct. It is time to start showing up in Parliament and to start answering some questions.

● (1040)

[*Translation*]

**Guillaume Deschênes-Thériault (Madawaska—Restigouche, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I believe our budget reflects a very responsible fiscal approach. In fact, the debt-to-GDP ratio is falling, and we achieved our fiscal targets a full year ahead of schedule. Moreover, in a period of trade uncertainty, it is important to invest and stimulate the Canadian economy, support our small and medium-sized enterprises and to make essential investments, such as in the fight against homelessness, for example.

With that in mind, the question I have for my colleague is this: Does he agree that we should make use of our fiscal flexibility? Canada is in a strong fiscal position to invest in Canadians' priorities, whether that means tackling homelessness, strengthening our national defence or supporting economic growth across the country.

**Hon. Michael Chong:** Mr. Speaker, I think the problem is that, although we are not currently in a fiscal crisis, the government needs to prepare for future crises like the ones in 2008 or 2020, which forced the government to spend a great deal of money to support our fellow Canadians. The problem with the government's budget is that the national debt is 10% higher than it was in 2008 and 2020. The government is considerably reducing its ability to respond to a future crisis.

**Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Pierre-Boucher—Les Patriotes—Verchères, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate my colleague on his speech.

One thing that drew my attention as he spoke—probably because of my own academic training as an accountant—is everything he pointed out about deficit accounting, and what constitutes an expense, an investment or a debt. In the end, none of it makes any sense anymore. My colleague and I are not the only ones who cannot make heads nor tails of it. It would leave anyone with training in accounting, economics or finance completely in the dark. The system has become totally insane: Ottawa is using every trick in the book to hide the real status of the deficit. I agree with that.

I also greatly appreciated it when he mentioned that the only indication we have now about the actual state of things is when we see the debt increasing, because it has become so hard to hide. In any case, the right approach still eludes them.

My question for my colleague is this: What are the consequences of rising debt? The government keeps telling us that Canada has a AAA credit rating, but it seems to me that it has been repeating that line for a long time while deficits continue to grow. Can that really go on forever?

● (1045)

**Hon. Michael Chong:** Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. colleague is raising an important point about the debt.

[*English*]

The problem, first off, is that the government uses different definitions of net debt in the same document. The document opens with a net debt definition used by the International Monetary Fund. Later on, in the annexes, it uses a completely different definition of net debt. In fact, it does not even refer to it as net debt but simply as debt. The document is very confusing and very difficult to follow, because there are so many varying definitions for various items.

The second point I would make in response to my colleague's point is that the federal government is rapidly diminishing its capacity to respond to a future crisis that the Prime Minister says, in his national security statement, could be coming. In 2008 and 2020, the federal debt stood at roughly 30% of GDP, allowing the government to spend upwards of 15% of GDP to respond to that crisis. It now stands at 40% and is rising.

**Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, last year in the House, the Prime Minister stated the government would deliver a declining level of debt, yet we have higher debt and a higher debt-to-GDP ratio. I wonder if my colleague could opine on the fact that the government has not delivered what the Prime Minister has promised.

**Hon. Michael Chong:** Mr. Speaker, my colleague makes a very good point. The Prime Minister risks losing fiscal credibility with markets by following the pattern, frankly, of the previous Trudeau government in establishing ever-changing fiscal anchors and never meeting them.

We all saw this story play out in the mid-1990s. Markets can very quickly lose confidence in a government's ability to service its debt and to finance its operations. The bond markets have in recent years gone wobbly, as they have in recent months in the United States and in France. The government is not on a fiscally prudent track. The irony is that Mr. Trudeau's last budget was far more fiscally conservative, with deficits half of those of the current Prime Minister's budgets.

**Pat Kelly (Calgary Crowfoot, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to speak about the budget, but before I get into the details of the budget, it is important to put it in the context of the government and its legacy since 2015. In 2015, when the Liberals were first elected, they inherited a balanced budget with a $2-billion surplus. We had an economy wherein housing was affordable, where a normal family with proper jobs or a person with a proper job could save their money and buy a house, across Canada. We had a country that had a middle class described by the very liberal New York Times as the world's most prosperous middle class.

There were pipelines approved. The northern gateway pipeline to the Pacific coast on the shortest route to Asian export markets was approved. The Keystone XL pipeline was approved. The Trans Mountain expansion was on the horizon with a private sector proponent. The energy east pipeline was on the horizon, to be proposed by TransCanada.

The Liberals blew it all. They immediately broke the promise they had made in the 2015 election to run only two years of modest deficits that would permit the budget to balance itself. They cancelled the northern gateway pipeline. They passed Bill C-48 to make sure it could never come back. They failed to champion Keystone XL. They chased the TransCanada pipeline out of Canada. The company changed its name to TC Energy and focused its investment activity in Mexico and the United States. They chased Kinder Morgan out of Canada and built the TMX at an extraordinary cost to the Canadian taxpayers.

This is the legacy of the government: broken promises and expenditures.

Minister Morneau repeatedly broke every fiscal promise. He declared this fiscal anchor of a declining debt-to-GDP ratio, as opposed to his election promise of a balanced budget, and then the Liberals blew through that promise and broke it repeatedly. His successor, Chrystia Freeland, in 2022 said that a declining debt-to-GDP ratio was "our fiscal anchor" and "a line we shall not cross" and that it could not be breached, in order to sustain their fiscal credibility.

Two years after that, the promise was broken again. She resigned rather than table a budget with a $30-billion deficit. We were here when an unsigned budget was just dropped on the table without a speech. It was extraordinary. That was just two years ago. Following the resignation of Prime Minister Trudeau, the current Prime Minister promised in the election that elected his government that there would be a declining debt to GDP. The Liberals broke that promise immediately. The PBO, as recently as just this month, has said debt is the fastest-growing expense of the federal government, and that brings us to the budget, which we had yesterday.

Before the budget, Conservatives had three asks. We asked for immediate relief for Canadian consumers who are unable to afford the high cost of living. We asked for the extension and removal of all taxes on fuel through to the spring, not just the excise tax but the whole range of federal impositions on the cost of fuel that make life unaffordable for Canadians.

We asked the government to stop its wasteful spending, and the Liberals delivered a budget that contains 150 billion dollars' worth of new spending. It is very difficult to follow the threads of their spending, as my colleague said before me, in this 500-page budget of confusing definitions and charts. We called upon the Liberals to rein in the spending so that interest does not end up choking out all other spending opportunities.

Our third ask was that they return to their anchor, or at least their stated anchor, of declining debt to GDP.

● (1050)

The anchors that have been cut loose and dropped to the bottom of the ocean by the government are astounding. There has never been a fiscal anchor that has held the government. The PBO said as much. The PBO's report said there is no evidence that the stated fiscal anchors put any meaningful restraint on the government's spending. Like a sailor, the Liberals buy an anchor. They do not tie it to the boat. They drop it overboard and realize that the boat is not being held. They go back to the chandler and buy another anchor, and everybody on the dock laughs at them.

We ask that the government finally hold itself to a meaningful fiscal anchor. A declining debt-to-GDP ratio is an anchor. It is something, at least. However, for a government that began its tenure with a balanced budget, a true fiscal anchor, I would suggest, would leave the government with the ability to cope with international crises and national emergencies, which happen much more often than people think. It is quite reasonable to expect that once every 10 years or so, there will be a catastrophic global event that will require massive support from the government. That is why it should be balancing the budget in the meantime. In a time of a growing world economy, the government should be balancing its budget and leaving fiscal capacity to run deficits in times of national emergency, not simply as a matter of course.

The government has added $750 billion to the national debt since members were elected in 2015. This budget proposes to add another $765 billion through to 2031. The Liberals have already given themselves extraordinary self-congratulations in their projection, claiming they will move up, by one year, the time at which they balance their so-called operating budget. What an utterly meaningless measurement of fiscal prudence that anchor is. It is rooted in accounting trickery wherein they can randomly choose how to classify their expenses in order to reduce whatever their so-called operating number would be and claim they have balanced it. Even the whole approach of meeting a fiscal anchor by something that is going to happen in the future is very typical of the government. It is always in the future, someday in some future year, going to deliver what it has promised today.

This budget is very disappointing. It does not address any of the three important asks that opposition parliamentarians raised with the government: making life affordable for Canadians, reining in its wasteful spending, and establishing a somewhat serious fiscal anchor and to actually be held by that anchor. Therefore, this budget is a disappointment. It is, as the member for Wellington—Halton Hills North said earlier, an affront to Parliament that the government would table a budget that adds extraordinary amounts of debt that is non-budgetary.

It is 500 pages long and very difficult to follow. The debt is accelerating faster than the deficits because of the way the government is accounting for its spending. This budget will not help make life more affordable for Canadians, it does not restore any type of fiscal discipline, and it leaves Canada vulnerable to future crises by eroding Canada's fiscal capacity to deal with uncertainty in the future. We have been warning these Liberals for 11 years that their reckless spending will leave us where interest chokes out other spending priorities.

● (1055)

**Hon. Mark Gerretsen (Kingston and the Islands, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I always get a kick out of listening to Conservatives tell us that they are great at balancing a budget and that they left a balanced budget when they left in 2015. When we look at the last two Conservative governments, of Brian Mulroney and Stephen Harper, they introduced 19 budgets. How many of those did they balance? They balanced three. Does anyone know why? The first two came on the heels of Paul Martin's surpluses. When Paul Martin, the Liberal finance minister and prime minister, left government, he left Stephen Harper with a surplus that allowed him to balance two budgets. Then he ran deficits for the rest.

How did Stephen Harper balance that one in 2015 that the member referenced at the beginning of his speech? He balanced it by selling off shares of GM at bargain prices. He balanced it by slashing veterans services and, for the first time in recorded history, had our defence at less than 1% of our GDP. Please, can the member tell me—

**The Deputy Speaker:** I have to interrupt to give the member for Calgary Crowfoot a chance to respond.

**Pat Kelly:** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear any contrition over all the broken promises the Liberals have made for 11 years.

If the member really wants to go back 40 years to Brian Mulroney, I might point out that when Brian Mulroney became prime minister of this country, Canada really, truly was in an absolute financial death spiral that had been left by Pierre Trudeau. I guess nine short years was not long enough to completely undo the fiscal vandalism of an even earlier Liberal government, so I will not take any lessons from him.

I may also remind the member that in 2008, it was his party that was ready to bring down the Harper government, in cahoots with the Bloc, over its refusal to spend even more and run a bigger deficit.

---

# STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

● (1100)

[*English*]

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL BUSINESS

**Ernie Klassen (South Surrey—White Rock, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a local business' significant milestone. On November 1, Forte Workplace Law marked its 10th anniversary in business. It has maintained a strong focus on the community while building a reputation that extends well beyond South Surrey.

The firm has consistently supported local organizations while giving back through volunteer work in the community. It has also been a leader in helping make workplaces safer. The firm created Not Your Average Law Job, a national program recognizing lawyers who have built rewarding careers in a field facing burnout. Forte also created StandUP Teams, a bystander training program designed to address workplace bullying and harassment.

Founded by Sara Forte, the firm has since grown to nearly 30 people and has received numerous awards for its work. I congratulate Sara and the entire workplace law team on reaching this important milestone and thank them for their contributions to our community.

* * *

## THE BUDGET

**David Bexte (Bow River, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, they are the masters of a looming disaster.

Job one for the Liberal government should have been saving Canadians money on fuel, food and homes. Instead, they added $765 billion in new debt.

The Liberals keep claiming Conservatives are talking down Canada. We are not. We are calling out a government whose out of control spending keeps Canadians down and dependent on the government.

After 11 years, the Liberals have one answer for every problem, and it is another program, another bureaucracy, another billion dollars. They drive up the cost of living then hand Canadians another government program. That is not compassion; it is dependency by design.

The Liberals measure success by more spending, more programs and more sign-ups. For the Liberals, programs are more important than people, spending money is more important than getting results and growing government is more important than Canadians standing on their own feet. Success should not be measured by how many Canadians are signing up for programs, but by how many Canadians get off them.

The Liberal culture of dependency is a dangerous way of thinking. As long as the Liberals keep governing this way, they will keep making life worse for the Canadians they are trying to help.

* * *

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH OF DIMES

**Maggie Chi (Don Valley North, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, what began in 1951 with the marching mothers movement and volunteers going door-to-door collecting dimes in support of finding a cure to polio lives on today as March of Dimes.

This past summer, I had the pleasure of visiting with the wonderful staff and volunteers at March of Dimes in my riding of Don Valley North, and I want to take this occasion to congratulate them as they mark 75 years of service.

I advise the House of this remarkable organization because, throughout its history, March of Dimes has helped countless Canadians with disabilities overcome barriers and achieve their full potential. I commend it for its continued dedication to building a more accessible and inclusive Canada for generations to come.

* * *

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT

**Michael Cooper (St. Albert—Sturgeon River, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's story keeps changing in his role in awarding a $2.3-billion contract to Telesat. The Prime Minister is in a blatant conflict of interest because the CEO of Telesat is none other than one of his closest personal friends.

The Prime Minister initially claimed that he had not discussed the contract with anyone in government, but yesterday his story changed. Yesterday, he said he was not part of the decision, but refused to say if he was part of the discussion. If he was part of the discussion, then that is illegal, and if he really was not involved, why is it that the Prime Minister has failed to issue the public declaration of recusal required by law?

We have had enough of the obfuscation, enough of the weasel words. The Prime Minister needs to come clean on Telesat.

* * *

## MOVEMBER

**Jake Sawatzky (New Westminster—Burnaby—Maillardville, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, as we enter another November, I rise to recognize the Movember movement for men's health.

Movember brings light to some of the darkest topics, such as suicide. Unfortunately, three out of every four suicides are men. As someone who has nearly lost several people I care about deeply to suicide attempts, this cause hits close to home.

Our government is advancing Canada's first federal men and boys' health and well-being strategy to better support men's physical and mental health.

Today, I would like to speak to the men out there. They may not realize it all the time, but there are always people they can turn to. The world needs them, and they are enough. They do not have to face their challenges alone. In a moment of distress, remember that they can dial 988 and find someone to help them through.

This Movember, let us make time for conversations. Even when uncomfortable, they can make all the difference.

* * *

## VETERANS' WEEK

**Greg McLean (Calgary Centre, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, it is Veterans' Week, and I am reminded that the story of service and sacrifice continues to be written by every generation.

On October 25, I joined veterans and serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces at Calgary Cenotaph for the dedication of a new plaque honouring those who served in Afghanistan. For many Canadians, remembrance brings to mind the sacrifices made long ago, but after September 11, 2001, a new generation answered the call to service. More than 40,000 Canadians served in Afghanistan over more than a decade, defending freedom, protecting vulnerable communities and upholding Canada's commitment to the world.

As we gather on November 11, we remember all who served and all who fell, including Calgary's own Corporal Nathan Hornburg, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2007. While we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we also pay tribute to the dedicated members of our Armed Forces, who continue to serve both at home and abroad. May their sacrifice never be forgotten, lest we forget.

● (1105)

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION

**Yasir Naqvi (Ottawa Centre, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it is my tremendous honour to celebrate the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition on their 25th anniversary. The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition is an amazing partnership of eight organizations supporting the urban indigenous community in Ottawa. They came together in 2001 to tackle a number of issues facing the community, with a particular focus on health and homelessness.

Last night, we had a remarkable community gathering with members of the urban indigenous community from Ottawa and with the broader community coming together to celebrate the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition. It is the elders and speakers that are part of the coalition, and learning from their wisdom, that make the whole experience so worthy.

I want to congratulate the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition for the tremendous work they do and wish them all the best for the next 25, 50 and 100 years.

* * *

## THE BUDGET

**Tako Van Popta (Langley Township—Fraser Heights, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government had one job, to make life more affordable for Canadians. Instead, the costly credit card budget adds a staggering $765 billion in new debt over five years, the largest borrowing spree in Canadian history.

The Prime Minister may divide spending across three credit cards to make it look smaller, but Canadians know the truth. Borrowed money must be paid back. That means higher debt interest costs, higher taxes in the future and more pressure on family budgets today. Conservatives called for relief on fuel, food and housing costs, and for a serious effort to reduce wasteful spending. Instead, the government plans even more spending while breaking its promise to reduce debt. The budget is not a plan for prosperity. It is a plan for being mastered by debt, and Canadians will be left paying the bill.

* * *

[*Translation*]

## CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE BRANDON

**Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 1926, the Brandon business community chose collaboration and mutual support over competition. They understood that they could achieve more together, so they created the Chambre de commerce de Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon, which expanded its catchment area in 1987 and became the Chambre de commerce Brandon.

Leveraging everyone's expertise and experience for the benefit of all, the Chambre de commerce Brandon has been working to ensure the economic and social development of its business community and its residents for 100 years now. By working together in a spirit of co-operation and partnership, the members of the Chambre de commerce Brandon are ensuring a positive and prosperous future for their community.

I want to acknowledge their extraordinary contribution to our community and their commitment to fairness, integrity and inclusion. One hundred years of commitment to sustainable development is remarkable and deserves recognition.

Happy 100th anniversary and best wishes for continued success.

* * *

## MENTAL HEALTH

**Hon. Rachel Bendayan (Outremont, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, mental health is an issue I care about deeply. Over half of Canadians aged 40 or more have confronted a mental health problem at some point. They could be our friends, neighbours or loved ones.

In the Plateau and Mile End, we are fortunate to have the Regroupement des organismes pour hommes de l'Île de Montréal, or ROHIM, the Centre d'apprentissage parallèle, the Suivi communautaire le fil and many other community organizations to turn to. Our federal government has just announced a historic investment in mental health and addictions.

[*English*]

As Movember begins, we are reminded that one in five Canadians has already had a problem with mental health. That is huge, and we know that men have trouble breaking the silence. The results of our consultation on men and boys' health shows that we need to do much more, which is why our government is making a historic investment in mental health and addictions. I would like all those struggling out there to know that they matter and we see them. They deserve care when they need it, and they deserve it without judgment.

* * *

● (1110)

## CHINESE CANADIANS OF FORCE 136

**Chak Au (Richmond Centre—Marpole, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, as Remembrance Day approaches, we honour the Chinese Canadians of Force 136. For decades, their story has remained largely untold.

During the Second World War, they volunteered for dangerous secret missions behind enemy lines in Asia. They risked their lives for Canada while facing discrimination and being denied the right to vote at home. They fought for freedom overseas and helped advance equality at home. This week, I attended the unveiling of Canada Post's stamp honouring their service. Their stories show why recognition matters.

My motion, Motion No. 32, would designate June 22 as national Chinese Canadian contributions day and June as Chinese Canadian contributions month. I urge all members to support this motion and honour those who helped build and defend Canada. Lest we forget.

* * *

## NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY

**Eric St-Pierre (Honoré-Mercier, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly celebrate National Philanthropy Day.

National Philanthropy Day is celebrated on November 15 by networks such as Philanthropic Foundations Canada, Environment Funders Canada, Association of Fundraising Professionals and Imagine Canada, as well as thousands of philanthropic foundations, community foundations, donor-advised funds, charitable organizations and non-profit organizations.

I spent a decade working in the philanthropic sector, and I can attest personally that philanthropy helps strengthen society because it contributes to important public policy developments and advances issues that Canadians believe in. Philanthropy makes Canada strong because it helps build vibrant communities and active civic participation by bringing people and communities together.

On National Philanthropy Day, I encourage all Canadians to open their hearts, discover their moment to give, and thank philanthropic stakeholders, who give creatively and generously in ways that serve the public good and make Canada thrive.

* * *

## THE BUDGET

**Dan Muys (Flamborough—Glanbrook—Brant North, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians expect their government to manage public finances responsibly. That means a credible fiscal anchor to bring debt under control, a path to a balanced budget and a full accounting of government borrowing. This costly credit card budget falls well short.

Federal debt continues to rise with no plan to balance the overall budget. Debt interest will cost Canadians more than $60 billion this year, more than health care and more than national defence. CPP contributions are there to support Canadians' retirement. They should never be used as permission for Ottawa to borrow more. The $765 billion more in debt piled on in this budget will ultimately drive up interest rates and taxes.

For people in Waterdown, Paris and Binbrook in my area, this costly credit card budget means higher mortgage payments and higher car payments, the very last thing they can afford.

* * *

[*Translation*]

## THE BUDGET

**Pauline Rochefort (Nipissing—Timiskaming, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to be able to represent the people of my riding, Nipissing—Timiskaming, during the tabling of our budget, “Masters of our Destiny”.

[*English*]

I would really like to thank all of the citizens and organizations in Nipissing—Timiskaming who participated in the budget process. They submitted briefs and participated in round tables. I want to say a very special thank you to the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce, because it organized a special round table for small business. I really look forward to coming back to my riding and speaking about the productivity mega deduction that applies to small businesses.

[*Translation*]

In closing, I want to thank the people of Nipissing—Timiskaming. On behalf of the government of Canada, I thank them.

Now, we move on to action.

* * *

[*English*]

### EMPLOYMENT

**Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, our troubles seemed so far away, but now it looks as though they are here to stay. The costly credit card budget told us about the government's aspirations, but today's job numbers reveal the results.

The job numbers are the report card on the government's performance. Unemployment is up 6.7% and youth unemployment jumped to 13.7%. Canada lost over 50,000 private sector jobs in the last month alone. That is over 50,000 private sector jobs in one month. Perhaps the most troubling is that the percentage of unemployed people who are finding work continues to decline. Less than 20% of unemployed people found a job in the last month. Almost 30% of Canadians are living in a household that has difficulty meeting their financial needs.

The budget contained almost no measures on employment and no response to constructive, Conservative proposals on jobs and families, and now we are seeing more job losses. Yesterday, we got the rhetoric. Today, we got the results. How we long for yesterday.

* * *

● (1115)

[*Translation*]

### INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN MADAWASKA—RESTIGOUCHE

**Guillaume Deschênes-Thériault (Madawaska—Restigouche, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, to build Canada strong, we need strong rural communities, and that requires modern, sustainable infrastructure tailored to the needs of local residents.

Earlier this year, we launched the build communities strong fund, which enables us to invest in essential community infrastructure across the country, including in Madawaska—Restigouche.

Recently, I had the distinct pleasure of announcing a $2-million investment in Républik Nature to modernize its visitor centre and purchase a new all-season chairlift. These improvements will help ensure safe and reliable winter operations while supporting the expansion of summer activities, such as mountain biking. The project



will generate meaningful benefits for tourism, the economy and the community.

I would also like to recognize the leadership and dedication of the entire Républik Nature team, as well as its volunteers, whose efforts have made Mont Farlagne a key asset for the vitality and quality of life in the Madawaska region.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### FINANCE

**Hon. Michael Chong (Wellington—Halton Hills North, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, interest costs on the national debt are skyrocketing. By 2030, they will chew up 14¢ of every tax dollar, which is $85.5 billion a year and $8,000 for a typical family of four. That is more than we will spend on public health care, and more than we will spend on a whole range of other social programs. It is the fastest-growing expense in the government's budget.

What is the government going to do if we face another major crisis like we faced in 2008 and 2020?

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the member mentioned “fastest-growing”. Canada has the fastest-growing economy in the G7, as of quarter two results, at 3.3%. That has given us $27.5 billion more in revenue, with a lower deficit than projected in the spring economic update.

I am happy to confirm for the member opposite that the Government of Canada is exceeding its fiscal guardrails. We are balancing the operating budget one year ahead of schedule and sticking to our deficit-to-GDP ratio declining path.

**Hon. Michael Chong (Wellington—Halton Hills North, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, in most projections, growth remains anemic, below 1% this year, which is essentially zero.

Over the past six months, the government has announced tens of billions of dollars in tax expenditures outside of this place, which we only got the details of yesterday in the budget, so I have a simple question. Will the government commit that in the next six months, it is not going to be making any more major tax expenditure or spending announcements outside of this place, and will instead respect Parliament and announce them here?

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, what we will commit to is growing the Canadian economy as fast as possible to achieve what we promised Canadians, which is to have the strongest, most resilient economy in the G7. How do we do that? We leverage the strong fundamentals and fiscal firepower this country has to invest in Canadians, to support them with affordability measures like a boost to the groceries and essentials benefit, to move forward with our electricity strategy, to end homelessness and to ensure that we have a growing, prosperous economy that creates good-paying jobs for the future.

* * *

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT

**John Brassard (Barrie South—Innisfil, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister chose his words very carefully yesterday when asked whether he had discussed the $2.3 billion given to his longtime friend and fundraiser Dan Goldberg, CEO of Telesat. He said that he was not involved in the decision. That was not the question.

Section 9 of Canada's Conflict of Interest Act prohibits public office holders from using their position to influence others to advance their own private interests and those of relatives or friends. Let us try this again. Has the Prime Minister ever discussed Telesat with his ministers, any of his staff, or public servants, yes or no?

**Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the question was asked yesterday, and the answer was provided many times yesterday. Canada has world-leading rules and regulations when it comes to ethics, disclosure and compliance. All members on this side of the House take that very seriously. The answer yesterday, as the answer is today, was that we follow these rules and we take them very seriously.

● (1120)

**John Brassard (Barrie South—Innisfil, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, that is the exact same response the Liberals gave as the SNC-Lavalin and WE scandals were unfolding. It is what they said on the green slush fund scandal and Trudeau's trip to billionaire island. In every case, after they repeated it, the truth came out.

Let us hear it one more time. Who wants to hear it one more time? Did the Prime Minister have any discussion about Telesat with any ministers, any staff or any public servants during or after 2.3 billion in tax dollars was given to a near bankrupt company run by a well-connected Liberal insider and friend of the Prime Minister, yes or no?

**Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, for those who have just tuned in, on the Conservative side, we have just entered the conspiracy TV segment of the show, where conspiracies come left, right and centre. Some are right-wing focused; some are really right-wing focused.

Again, we follow the rules here. The minister spoke to this. The Prime Minister spoke to this. We will always follow the rules on this side of the House.

[*Translation*]

## THE BUDGET

**Dominique Vien (Bellechasse—Les Etchemins—Lévis, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, here is what Gérald Fillion said on *Téléjournal* yesterday: "We are back to the time-honoured tradition of big-spending Liberal budgets."

The budget adds a record $765 billion in new debt over five years. That is $44,000 per household. Meanwhile, families are struggling to afford groceries and young people cannot afford a home.

Will the Liberals finally listen to us and agree to our plan to save Canadians money?

**Carlos Leitão (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we chose to make major investments in our economy. We made that choice because the time to invest is now. We are facing an existential threat to our economy now. Our neighbour is determined to completely disrupt our industrial sector.

We need to change our economy. To do that, the government must invest. We chose to invest. We also did not forget Canadians by proposing an important initiative to address homelessness.

**Dominique Vien (Bellechasse—Les Etchemins—Lévis, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, what would have actually been helpful would have been to cut taxes at the pump, because that affects everyone. That is a well-known fact.

The Conservatives proposed to eliminate all federal fuel taxes to save Canadians 20¢ a litre, or $1,200 per family. However, the Liberals chose instead to add $151 billion in additional spending.

My question is very simple: Why are the Liberals refusing to cut their spending and refusing to agree to our plan to save Canadians money?

**Caroline Desrochers (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we, on this side of the House, are aware of the situation. We know that housing is one of the biggest expenses for families.

That is why, yesterday, we made historic investments in housing to continue the work that we began last year. We are recapitalizing Build Canada Homes to triple the construction of affordable housing. We are continuing to support programs under which tens of thousands of housing units are currently being built across Canada, including through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, or CMHC.

The cornerstone of the budget is our investments to put an end to homelessness over the next 10 years.

**Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, this budget got a very poor reception in Quebec. The president of Quebec's Treasury Board gave it a failing grade, and for good reason. Quebec simply asked that Ottawa not make cuts to health care. However, the budget confirms the federal government's intent to lower the health transfer escalator from 5% to 3% as of 2028. That means care that will not be provided and hospitals that will not be renovated.

Health care is a priority for Quebeckers. How can this government dare to table a budget with health care cuts?

**Hon. Rachel Bendayan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, our budget includes historic investments to support mental health and fight addiction. In addition, at the municipal level, addressing homelessness is a priority for mayors. The new provincial government also sees addressing homelessness as a priority. At the federal level, we agree. We just announced a historic investment of $45 billion. We can and must work together.

● (1125)

**Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, Quebec had two demands with respect to this budget: health care and the reimbursement of nearly $700 million owed to Quebec for welcoming asylum seekers, because we are the ones looking after them. The federal government has been dragging its feet on this debt to Quebec since 2024, when Quebec was taking in a disproportionate share of asylum seekers, without the federal government providing any assistance or ensuring fair distribution. As the saying goes, a debt paid is a friend kept. On this issue, however, the federal government has not been treating Quebec like a friend.

Why do the Liberals have money for everything except repaying their debts to Quebeckers?

**Caroline Desrochers (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, as my colleague is well aware, we made historic investments in health care in the 2025 budget. We are continuing to do so in the 2026 budget, for example with a $2-billion program that will invest in mental health infrastructure and in tackling addiction, and with a new $5-million fund that will support projects that integrate social services, health and housing.

We are committed to this. We are going to end homelessness, and we will do so in partnership with the provinces and municipalities.

**Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Pierre-Boucher—Les Patriotes—Verchères, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the federal government does not have any money for Quebec's requests, including for health care, but it has plenty of money for Canadian propaganda. There is $300 million in the Liberal budget to plaster the maple leaf everywhere, $300 million to bring back *Heritage Minutes* and celebrate Canada's 160th anniversary. How nice is that? We will be able to watch the new *Heritage Minutes* on TV while we wait 12 hours in the emergency room.

It is absurd.

How can anyone be so out of touch with the priorities of Quebeckers?

**Hon. Rachel Bendayan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, this budget makes massive investments in culture. That is good for Quebeckers.

It provides support for our artists on an unprecedented scale. It also provides support for our journalists. There is funding for the Francophonie summit and for expanding the presence of the French language across Canada

It is a good budget for Quebec.

* * *

[*English*]

## FINANCE

**Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance told this House that they had found $60 billion in savings in the expenditure review. His own deputy minister, though, stated that the review was merely an allocation exercise and that there were no actual savings. The costly credit card budget is showing an increase of billions in operating spending, adding to the already crushing debt load on Canadians.

Did the finance minister mislead the House, as his deputy and the budget show? If not, where is the $60 billion in savings?

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we are at a time when our sovereignty and economic security are being tested. What is the Government of Canada's response to that? It is to realize that our future is in our hands and that to build that future is our responsibility.

What we are doing is leveraging fiscal strength with fiscal responsibility to invest in the Canadian economy and to support Canadians with new affordability measures in this budget, like the groceries and essentials benefit and like making certain tax credits and extending them to encourage more investment and more growth. That is exactly what Canadians elected us to do.

**Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, not wanting to be left out, the President of the Treasury Board, responsible for spending oversight, also stated that they had found $60 billion in savings. His deputy, though, contradicted him, calling it a "reallocation exercise" and stating there were no actual savings.

Here we have the two ministers most responsible for the public purse both claiming $60 billion in savings, yet the costly credit card budget shows an increase of billions in operating spending. Did both ministers mislead the House? If not, where is the $60 billion in savings?

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, budget 2026 puts Canada's future in our hands. It is in our hands to build this country up. We have a growing economy, with 3.3% second quarter GDP growth. We found $27.5 billion less of a deficit, with a 9% increase in new business investment, and non-U.S. trade is up 56%.

We are putting Canada on track to enter an investment supercycle to see our economy go from $3.4 trillion to $4 trillion over the next number of years. That is progress. That is how we build Canada.

* * *

● (1130)

## THE BUDGET

**Pat Kelly (Calgary Crowfoot, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, in 2015, the Liberals promised two years of modest deficits that would lead the budget to balancing itself. Instead, they added $750 billion to the national debt through 11 years of credit card budgeting. Interest on national debt is now the fastest-growing government expense, threatening to choke out priorities like health care and national defence.

How can we trust the Liberals to get their spending under control when yesterday's budget adds another $765 billion to the national debt?

**Corey Hogan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, managing debt is important, and so is intellectual honesty and context.

The reality is that our debt servicing is at 1.7% of GDP, comparable to the Harper years that they lionize, and well below the 6.5% in the nineties. We have the lowest net debt. We have the second-lowest deficit. We are using that fiscal capacity to grow our economy, including in our home city of Calgary, where we are seeing significant growth and significant investments, including tens of thousands of jobs and thousands of youth jobs.

There is much to be excited about. I hope they get on board.

**Pat Kelly (Calgary Crowfoot, CPC):** The Speaker, for 11 years in a row, the government has tabled spending, borrowing and deficit projections that breached their previously promised targets, and the member wants to talk about honesty.

The projections in yesterday's budget confirm that they have broken last year's fiscal anchor of a declining deficit to GDP and the government's old fiscal anchor of a declining debt to GDP.

After 11 years of broken promises, how can Canadians trust the finance minister?

**Corey Hogan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the deficit is down. Rents are down. Housing prices are down. Economic activity is up.

The plan is working. We welcome members to get on board.

**Chak Au (Richmond Centre—Marpole, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, families in Richmond Centre—Marpole are cutting back on groceries and other essentials to make ends meet. They expect the government to show the same discipline, yet this costly credit card budget has another $62-billion deficit for this year and over $60 billion in debt interest, which is more than the Canada health transfer. A family of four will pay $6,000 just on Canada's interest payments.

This is a budget mastered by deficit. When will the Liberal government cut spending, reduce the deficit and give struggling families breathing room?

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I have great news this Friday. Budget 2026, announced yesterday, is leveraging our fiscal strength to support small businesses right across the country. With the productivity mega deduction, Canada is the most tax-competitive jurisdiction for new business investment in the world. From mines to mills to auto manufacturers and from bakers to dry cleaners, we are giving businesses the confidence, through a tax deduction, to invest in themselves today. With the Canada growth incentive, we are, more than ever, supporting successful entrepreneurs to reinvest—

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Regina—Lewvan.

* * *

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT

**Warren Steinley (Regina—Lewvan, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, let us try this again. There is no doubt that the AI minister, the Prime Minister and the Telesat CEO are good friends. They hang out together. They are in running clubs and book clubs. Their kids all go to the same rich private school, so there is a close relationship.

Why did the AI minister put Dan Goldberg of Telesat on his ethics screen but the Prime Minister did not?

**Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, what I will say is that when we look at Canada in terms of ethics and when we look at all the other rules and regulations as they pertain to ethics, Canada leads the way. As members of Parliament, all of us here follow them every single day, and we will continue to do so.

**Warren Steinley (Regina—Lewvan, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, after being here for a few years, I thought Justin Trudeau was going to have the most corrupt government ever in the history of the country, but the Prime Minister said, “Hold my beer. Watch this.” He is giving $2.3 billion to Telesat and to a close personal friend.

We all know the Prime Minister thinks he is better than the average Canadian, but why does the Prime Minister think he is above the law?

**Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we are about 15 minutes into question period and they have already jumped the shark three times. It is amazing.

Our country, again, has the most focused, stringent ethical rules of any nation in the world. We are focused on them every single day. The Prime Minister spoke about this on several occasions today, and the answer is that we follow the rules every single day. Why? It is the right thing for this country.

**An hon. member:** Oh, oh!

● (1135)

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport is an able member. I know members are suggesting a lot of things he could say, but if they could just withhold them until after question period, they could suggest them to him at that point.

[*Translation*]

The hon. member for Repentigny.

* * *

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Patrick Bonin (Repentigny, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government has delivered yet another budget that acts as though climate change did not exist. There is nothing in it to reverse the government's climate betrayal. The Liberals are not making amends for their historic rollbacks. On the contrary, they continue to subsidize oil and gas. They are weakening the clean electricity regulations. They want to generate more energy from gas and nuclear power. On top of that, they are weakening their industrial carbon pricing.

The only thing green in this budget is the picture on the cover. How can they table such a budget in 2026?

**The Deputy Speaker:** I would remind the member that members are not to hold up objects or hold props in their hands in the House, either during question period or during debate.

The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

**Hon. Rachel Bendayan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, our nature strategy is the envy of the world. We are making historic investments in clean energy. I am thinking of our electricity strategy and the Churchill Falls project, which will be a game changer for Quebeckers and will capitalize on Hydro-Québec's expertise.

Our government is firmly and resolutely committed to growing the economy and protecting our environment.

**Patrick Bonin (Repentigny, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, on Monday, Canada will arrive at the COP climate conference in Turkey with yet another budget that says the exact opposite of its lofty rhetoric.

In the meantime, on Thursday, the Auditor General said that Canada had quietly reneged on its promise to stop exporting thermal coal, the worst fossil fuel in the world. Canada had promised to stop exporting it by 2020. Since then, not only have exports continued, but they have also increased.

Does the government realize that it deserves to be tarred, feathered and driven out of COP?

[*English*]

**Wade Grant (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I am so honoured today that my son is on the Hill. He is 18 years old. This budget is about his generation, his future and what he is going to inherit.

We can build the economy while protecting the environment and protecting nature. His favourite place in the whole world is Haida Gwaii, on the coast of British Columbia. That is why we are investing $1.2 billion to protect our oceans and protect whales and in marine conservation, with $3.6 billion for the conservation of nature. We are also investing nearly $20 million to establish three new national marine conservation areas in the north.

* * *

## RAIL TRANSPORTATION

**Shelby Kramp-Neuman (Hastings—Lennox and Addington—Tyendinaga, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday's budget raises fundamental questions about the government's spending priorities. The government cannot claim fiscal responsibility while taxing the fuel rural Canadians rely on and committing billions to Alto high-speed rail. Families in Hastings—Lennox and Addington—Tyendinaga face the prospect of paying for a vanity project that could also take their land without any demonstrated business case. This is not responsible governance. It is a staggering disconnect from reality.

Will the government cancel Alto and put those billions toward the priorities of Canadian families?

**Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, when it comes to high-speed rail, in particular this high-speed rail, it is a generational and transformational opportunity for Ontario and Quebec, boosting the GDP by up to $32 billion, with 50,000 jobs, and reducing our carbon footprint. The big thing, quite frankly, is that we are listening to Canadians. We are listening to Ontarians and Quebeckers with respect to high-speed rail. We have, we are and we will.

## EMPLOYMENT

**Shelby Kramp-Neuman (Hastings—Lennox and Addington—Tyendinaga, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the government keeps talking about its ambitions, but today's jobs report from Statistics Canada tells a very different story. Unemployment is up 6.7%, youth unemployment has jumped to 13.7% and 50,000 private sector jobs have vanished in just one month. Meanwhile, the government is projecting five more years of massive deficits, exceeding $50 billion annually, along with mounting debt servicing costs.

When will the government stop making promises and deliver a credible plan to create jobs and put Canadian finances back on a sustainable footing?

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, Canada has one of the lowest debt service costs in the world. We have a AAA credit rating, and long-term bond yields are rising less than other countries in the G7. Everyone in the world recognizes the strong fundamentals in the Canadian economy except the Conservative Party of Canada. It is the only one doubting Canadians and this country.

We will never apologize for investing in Canadians and putting our country on track for a prosperous future. That is what we were elected to do. When will they get on board?

● (1140)

**Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, pretending one's grades are better than they are is not a way to improve one's performance.

The question was about jobs. The answer did not mention jobs. The budget barely mentioned jobs. We see the results today in the Statistics Canada jobs report. That report is not about aspirations; it is about results. Over 50,000 private sector jobs were lost in one month alone. Youth unemployment spiked. Unemployment overall spiked. Less than 20% of Canadians who were looking for a job found a job in the last month.

Canadians are struggling. Jobs are down. When will they actually fix the problem?

**Hon. Stephanie McLean (Secretary of State (Seniors), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the budget that was tabled yesterday shows that we care about Canadians. It also shows that we are investing in the future of Canadian workers. Just yesterday, Canada's Building Trades Unions said:

> Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU) welcomes the federal government's investments in infrastructure, housing, energy, and major projects in Budget 2026. These investments represent an important opportunity to build Canada's economy, strengthen energy security, and create good-paying, unionized jobs with lasting benefits for Canadian workers and their families.

Canadians believe in this budget. They should too.

* * *

## THE BUDGET

**Hon. Mike Lake (Leduc—Wetaskiwin, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Liberals have fittingly titled their new fiscal approach as though it is the next instalment of the Marvel universe. For over a decade now, Liberals have self-identified as heroes, unbound by the laws of physics or economics, and nothing is real. A former Liberal hero once made the fantastical claim that budgets would balance themselves. Now, in this fourth instalment, “masters of deception”, the Liberals' newest star, surrounded by the same old supporting cast, is using his cloaking superpower to render his gargantuan deficits invisible to the common eye.

Can anyone over there distinguish fantasy from reality anymore?

**Corey Hogan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for that tour through the Conservative cinematic universe, but let us get back to the facts here. The reality is we have seen in our home province of Alberta an increase of 40,000 jobs since the start of the year. We are seeing debt servicing at low levels internationally. Our deficit is the second lowest in the G7, 2.5% compared to the U.S.'s 8.5%.

We are on track to meet the targets we said we were going to meet a year ahead of schedule, in fact.

**Hon. Mike Lake (Leduc—Wetaskiwin, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, back in the real world, in 2015, Canada had a balanced budget and the richest middle class in the world. After a global economic meltdown, Canada's federal debt was $616 billion. Yesterday, we found out that after a decade of mismanagement, the Liberals' costly credit card budget would add more debt in the next five years than our country accumulated in 148 years. The Liberals have a predictable and increasingly tiresome response, an almost trance-like repetition of all the new things they are spending on in, entirely fuelled by massively out-of-control debt.

When will this unconstrained explosion of deficit spending end?

**Sophie Chatel (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague is speaking about heroes, but we are all wearing the poppy, and about the spending for our veterans. Here is what the budget would do. Veterans were always there for Canada, and we will be there for them. Our government is committed to ending veteran homelessness. That is what budget 2026 would do. It proposes $6.5 billion over 10 years to renew Reaching Home and the veteran homelessness program, supporting community-led initiatives to prevent and address homelessness. Those who serve our country deserve a safe place to—

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Spadina—Harbourfront.

## CANADIAN HERITAGE

**Chi Nguyen (Spadina—Harbourfront, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, Spadina—Harbourfront is home to one of the largest arts and culture communities in Canada. We know a thing or two about showcasing incredible Canadian talent and the artists who tell our stories. Budget 2026 includes much-needed investments to support professional artists and organizations experiencing financial pressures.

Could the parliamentary secretary tell us more about the measures included and how we are investing in Canada's cultural sovereignty?

**Carlos Leitão (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for highlighting the important contributions that artists make to Canada's cultural identity. The proposed Canada creative credits in budget 2026 would help artists grow their creative businesses by providing tax relief on qualifying artistic income. Our government is also helping artists keep more of what they earn by expanding the expenses artists can deduct. Together, these measures will give our artists the tools and flexibility to grow their businesses and build lasting careers.

* * *

● (1145)

[*Translation*]

## FINANCE

**Jacques Gourde (Lévis—Lotbinière, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, we cannot become masters of our destiny by mortgaging our grandchildren's future. Canadians are trapped by Liberal debt. The projected deficit for the next five years is $288.7 billion, just for government operations, bringing the total to $1.593 trillion.

When will the Liberal government start thinking about returning to a balanced budget?

**Carlos Leitão (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it has been said before that we should not be obsessed with balanced budgets. Now is not the time to get into that.

I, too, want to ensure that my grandchildren have a bright future. That is where we are going with two-thirds of our financial support measures. Two-thirds will go toward supporting the economy and increasing investment. Investing in our new economy is how we are going to ensure a bright future for our grandchildren.

**Jacques Gourde (Lévis—Lotbinière, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Liberals are pushing today's problems down the road by cutting a cheque. They are offloading them onto my grandchildren. Maéva, Loïc, Béatrice, Delphine, Arthur, Mathilde, Clémence and Octave are calling on the Liberal government to take responsibility today so that they will not be crushed by debt tomorrow.

Will the Liberal government finally listen to the people who are going to foot the bill?

**Hon. Rachel Bendayan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think my colleague has had the chance to read the budget in full. The figures we presented yesterday show that the deficit fell by 40% in 2025-26. In fact, we are balancing day-to-day spending a year ahead of schedule. Last year, we set two clear fiscal anchors: balance the operating budget and reduce the deficit-to-GDP ratio.

The 2026 budget that we presented yesterday meets both of these anchors and goes even further.

[*English*]

**Dane Lloyd (Parkland, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister claims his budget will make Canadians masters of their own destiny but with this massive debt binge, the only masters are global bankers and bondholders. The total deficit, projected at $150 billion, undermines our economy. Debt interest payments are now over $1 billion each week, and the fiscal guardrails are far in the rearview mirror. Canada lost over 50,000 private sector jobs just last month. Unemployment is up.

When will the Prime Minister finally master his credit card spending so that Canadians will not be mastered by his debt?

**Corey Hogan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind my colleagues across the way that Stephen Harper ran deficits in seven of nine fiscal years.

In Alberta, we are seeing the plan we are putting in place go to work. We have 40,000 new jobs this year, 4,000 of which are youth jobs. We have the Pacific link pipeline under construction next year. We also have the pathways carbon capture project going. It is an exciting time to be a Canadian. It is an exciting time to be an Albertan. I really hope they get on board.

**Dane Lloyd (Parkland, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, if I mastered my own finances the same way the Prime Minister masters the budget, I would not qualify for a payday loan at Money Mart.

The Prime Minister told Canadians his deficit was only a measly $62 billion but when he includes his so-called investments, it reaches $150 billion. This kind of accounting trickery would not get someone a bank loan from the Prime Minister, but he keeps printing money and driving up inflation. Meanwhile, Canada lost 50,000 jobs just last month.

When will the Prime Minister finally get his costly credit card spending under control so that Canadians will not be mastered by his debt?

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, why does it seem that Conservatives only seem to celebrate when they think Canada is failing? It is as if they are confirming what they really want every day in the House.

We are standing up and using the fiscal strength that Canada has to make the country stronger, to support Canadians with real affordability measures. We have cut taxes on income, housing, fuel and new business investment. We have seen the economy growing, and we are continuing to invest in jobs. In my region alone, 50,000 new jobs have been created by our government. There are billions of dollars of new investment. That is how we build Canada strong.

● (1150)

**Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, let us talk a bit about that 50,000 figure. The member said that there is an aspiration in the budget to, at some point in the next five years, create 50,000 jobs. In today's job report, released today, we hear that 50,000 private sector jobs were already lost in the last month. That is not an aspiration. Those are real concrete numbers reported not by the finance minister but by Statistics Canada.

The government whip pretending that things are better than they are does not comfort Canadians at home who are struggling. He should stop pretending that things are better than they are and start fighting for people who matter.

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it is not aspirational when I mentioned 50,000 jobs. The new nuclear project at Darlington is 21,700 jobs in my region alone. The Pickering refurbishment project is another 30,000 jobs. Those are real jobs for real Canadians in my region. That is not aspirational. That is not hope. It is real action in the real economy, creating growth and good jobs for the future. That is exactly what we are about on this side.

**Branden Leslie (Portage—Lisgar, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister promised to make life affordable and get government spending under control. Instead, the Liberals gave Canadians a costly credit budget that should have been titled masters of debt. One in three Canadians is now skipping meals or eating less because they simply cannot afford groceries. While Canadians struggle to put food on the table, the Liberals continue to borrow billions and billions of dollars more, leaving taxpayers with the bill.

How much debt does the Prime Minister intend to pile onto Canadians before he admits that his approach of just throwing it on the tab is no substitute for reasonable fiscal policy?

**Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, one of the first things that our government did when elected was to cut taxes for 22 million Canadians. We then entered into a comprehensive expenditure review and found $60 billion in savings over five years from government operations.

In the budget, we are leveraging that strength. We are enhancing the groceries and essentials benefit, offering hundreds more dollars per year to Canadian families. Twelve million Canadians are going to get more support this year as a result of the fiscal strength that our government has shown because our economy is growing. We will continue to invest in them.

**Branden Leslie (Portage—Lisgar, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, those programs clearly are not working, or they would not have put $100 million toward food banks that need more money to keep up with the pace of demand because of their policies. Families are already struggling with mortgages, groceries and gas. Half of Canadians say they have had to dip into their savings just to cover basic necessities, yet this year the federal government will spend $60 billion paying interest on the Liberals' debt.

That is more than we send to the provinces to deliver health care and nearly twice what families are provided through the Canada child benefit. With interest payments consuming more than 10% of the federal budget, when will the Prime Minister present a credible plan to get Liberal spending under control and reverse—

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Secretary of State for Seniors.

**Hon. Stephanie McLean (Secretary of State (Seniors), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, this budget puts money in the pockets of Canadians, not tomorrow, but today. We are increasing the amount of the Canadian groceries and essentials benefit so that, with this one-time top-up, families of four will receive $2,570. That is real money that they can put toward groceries and can use to ensure that their children have a good start. However, we do not stop there. There is no consumer carbon tax. We have put a pause on the fuel excise tax. There is $10-a-day child care and school meals for up to 400,000 children. They laugh.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

* * *

## INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

**Billy Morin (Edmonton Northwest, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, Miranda Mamakwa died on September 8 due to complications from open-heart surgery because the Indigenous Services Canada non-insured health benefits program failed four times to organize her medical transportation to the south. She demanded justice in her final Facebook posts.

Nothing in this budget addresses the excessive transportation costs or lack of doctors for remote communities that need basic health care.

On top of housing, heating and grocery costs still being out of control, when will the Liberals realize that their aimless spending does nothing to address affordability and avoidable human costs forced on first nations?

**Brendan Hanley (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, budget 2026 answers the call, with historic long-term investments that reflect the priorities of communities, from education and health care to essential infrastructure and supports.

Healthy people are the foundation of strong communities, so budget 2026 invests over $3 billion to support access to essential health care and strengthen public health in indigenous communities.

This is one of the many ways that we are supporting reconciliation and indigenous priorities in this budget.

● (1155)

**Billy Morin (Edmonton Northwest, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, well, there is the real answer for Miranda's family regarding this budget: rhetoric through numbers to cover up their failure. Details show NHIB is frozen or less than next fiscal, which means more status quo and failure.

It gets worse. The Prime Minister promised to end homelessness in 10 years in this costly credit card budget, but the real number it does not tell us is that when we divide its allocation for housing over 600-plus first nations, it results in three houses per year for each first nation.

Have these Liberals actually convinced themselves that three houses per year will end homelessness on first nations?

**Brendan Hanley (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that the member, who I work with on committee, brings up the question of housing. With budget 2026, we are committing $32 billion over the next 10 years for housing and infrastructure so that first nations communities have the stability they need today to build the stronger communities of tomorrow. This single commitment represents 60% more than all federal funding invested in first nations infrastructure since 2015. This is part of our government's plan to give first nations communities the certainty to think big and the stability to build for future generations.

* * *

[*Translation*]

## CANADIAN IDENTITY AND CULTURE

**Bienvenu-Olivier Ntumba (Mont-Saint-Bruno—L'Acadie, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the riding of Mont-Saint-Bruno—L'Acadie in the House. What makes me proud is seeing people from all over coming together to celebrate their identity and the richness of our francophone communities. Through festivals and stories, our artists and creators help to strengthen our feeling of belonging.

Can the government explain today how the budget will support our francophone communities and those who bring our culture to life?

**Madeleine Chenette (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages and to the Secretary of State (Sport), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his question and for the work that he does on environmental issues. Budget 2026 makes unprecedented investments in culture so that we can celebrate and protect what makes us Canadian. The budget includes investments in infrastructure and investments for our creators, artists, cultural institutions, media and journalists. I also want to point out that $339 million has been earmarked for the 2028 Francophonie summit.

Let us celebrate our francophone communities. Let us show pride in our culture both at home and abroad.

* * *

[*English*]

## EMPLOYMENT

**Chris Lewis (Essex, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, nearly one in five young people in Windsor-Essex who wants to work cannot find a job. That is thousands of youth being denied the opportunity to get ahead, buy a home and build a future for themselves. After 10 years of the Liberal government, youth unemployment in Windsor-Essex is higher than the national average of 13.7%. Young people are paying the price for a decade of failed Liberal budgets.

Why does this Liberal budget have nothing for the youth in Windsor-Essex?

**Peter Fragiskatos (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the general uncertainty that has been prompted by the tariffs levied against Canada in such an unjustified way has created uncertainty in business. We know that the Conservatives almost always fail to mention this, but it is a key point, and it is a key point relating to the youth unemployment rate.

The productivity mega deduction has been mentioned here at length today. It should be. It creates the most competitive tax jurisdiction in the industrialized world. That means investment. That means jobs. That means jobs for young people. Let us work together to continue to make this happen.

* * *

## NEWS MEDIA INDUSTRY

**Gaétan Malette (Kapuskasing—Timmins—Mushkegowuk, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, when the power goes out, when forest fires burn wild and the highways close, people in my riding tune in to their radio stations such as Moose FM and Le Loup. When rural Canadians travel to work, they listen to their radio. However, the government spends only 3% of its advertising budget on local Canadian radio.

Without spending an extra dime, will the government give local radio its fair share of federal advertising?

[*Translation*]

**Madeleine Chenette (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages and to the Secretary of State (Sport), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, there is no question that our media are important and that they need to be protected and properly funded. That is what our budget is doing, once again. We will support our local media and encourage them to produce fact-based news and data so that Canadians can better understand local realities.

[*English*]

**Gaétan Malette (Kapuskasing—Timmins—Mushkegowuk, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, this is about priorities. I am not asking the government to spend more. I am asking it to make better use of money that is already spent. Rural communities depend on local radio stations for breaking news.

Will the minister commit to redirecting a greater share of existing advertising dollars to local radio?

● (1200)

[*Translation*]

**Madeleine Chenette (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages and to the Secretary of State (Sport), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for that question because it is certainly important for our government, without a doubt, to invest in local radio stations and journalists. That is exactly what we did once again in budget 2026. We are here to support the media, because they are such a force when it comes to gathering data and disseminating fact-based local news. Journalism is an extremely powerful tool for Canadians.

* * *

[*English*]

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Danielle Martin (University—Rosedale, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, violent crime in Toronto has reached historic lows, with homicides and shootings declining significantly over the past two years. In fact, across Canada, homicides decreased by 125 in 2025 compared to 2024, which is the largest year-over-year decline in nearly 40 years. While there is more work to do, these results matter.

Can the Minister of Public Safety update the House on the actions our government has taken to contribute to this decline?

**Hon. Gary Anandasangaree (Minister of Public Safety, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for University—Rosedale for her hard work. I also want to thank the brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect Canadians each and every day. Their hard work is delivering results.

Our government has moved quickly to implement one of the most ambitious public safety agendas in a generation, with measures to combat organized crime, gun violence, cybercrime, auto theft and home invasions. We will not stop there. We will continue to give law enforcement the tools necessary to do its job more effectively.

## THE ECONOMY

**Ellis Ross (Skeena—Bulkley Valley, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government's new mastered-by-debt budget will make life even more unaffordable in Skeena—Bulkley Valley. There is no trade deal with the United States, $765 billion on the costly national credit card and more money for the Prime Minister's consulting friends. While the Prime Minister's friends benefit, last month nearly 30% of Canadians aged 15 and older lived in a household struggling to meet basic financial needs.

When will the Prime Minister stop piling on generational debt and start making life more affordable for Canadians?

**Hon. Rebecca Alty (Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, our government understands the pressure Canadians are facing, and budget 2026 delivers concrete, affordable measures, including increasing the Canada groceries and essentials benefit by 50% in 2027, providing up to $1,290 for an individual and $2,570 for a family of four; investing $610.3 million in nutrition north to lower food costs in northern communities; and introducing the build Canada workers benefit to help workers keep more in their pocket.

Budget 2026 delivers affordability relief today while building a stronger—

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member for Vancouver East.

* * *

## AVIATION INDUSTRY

**Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister talks about building a stronger, more solvent Canada, but instead of protecting vital public services such as YVR and other major airports, he wants to sell them to private interests, putting affordability, safety and workers' rights at risk. Budget 2026 allocates $37.6 million to the privatization process. YVR has held the title of best airport in North America for 12 consecutive years.

Why is the Prime Minister letting corporate interests be the masters of our own destiny, and will he immediately reverse course and keep our public airports in public hands?

**Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we are focused on modernizing the airports. What that means is more investments in those airports. What that means is more service in those airports. That means more jobs in those airports. It also means looking at how things are done now and how they can be done differently in terms of sharing that investment with the regional networks to build up Canada from coast to coast to coast.

* * *

## THE BUDGET

**Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, what we are is award-winning.

Not only are the Liberals selling airports and our public assets, but Christmas came early for billionaires and corporate executives. Budget 2026 delivers $36 billion in mega deductions for corporations, but there is no mega deduction for everyday people. The temporary groceries benefit will quickly be swallowed up by rising food prices.

Instead of gifting corporations $36 billion in mega deductions, will the Prime Minister redirect those resources to build a network of public grocery stores to introduce competition and bring down prices?

**Caroline Desrochers (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the colleague knows very well that we are here for real Canadians with real programs. We are investing in affordable homes. We have committed to ending homelessness in the next 10 years. We are putting $10 billion through Build Canada Homes to build transitional housing, $5 billion to support projects that bring together housing and social projects, $6.5 million to renew the Reaching Home program and $2 billion for a health infrastructure that will help Canadians with mental health and addiction problems. We are here for Canadians, real Canadians.

* * *

● (1205)

## PRESENCE IN THE GALLERY

**The Deputy Speaker:** I wish to draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of Her Excellency Beate Meinl-Reisinger, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs for the Republic of Austria.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

* * *

## POINTS OF ORDER

DECORUM

**Hon. Mark Gerretsen (Kingston and the Islands, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions, and I believe that if you seek it, you will find unanimous consent to allow the member for South Surrey—White Rock to repeat his S. O. 31.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**An hon. member:** No.

*Points of Order*

**Hon. Mark Gerretsen:** Mr. Speaker, Standing Order 16(2) specifically indicates that we are not supposed to interrupt people when they are speaking. I know that it certainly does happen in the House. However, when the member for South Surrey—White Rock was giving his S. O. 31, the member for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan was extremely loud in an otherwise very quiet room, directing some very personal comments toward the member.

I understand that something may have happened in committee that upset the member for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, but the reality of the situation is that we have established a precedent. I would strongly encourage my colleagues to reconsider, because they know that they have found themselves in that position from time to time, and they would hate to set a precedent of starting to routinely shut statements down if this happens.

Perhaps at the very least, the member for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan could stand up and apologize to the member for South Surrey—White Rock for his actions while the latter was giving his S. O. 31.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The member for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan is rising.

I invite members, if they rise on this point of order, to perhaps refer to the Standing Orders or past precedents without engaging in debate.

The hon. member for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan.

**Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the last time the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries rose in the House, he said the following: “It is interesting that the Conservatives have a member from Alberta asking questions about—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**The Deputy Speaker:** I am going to stop things now. I have risen, so no member will be recognized, and nothing will be in Hansard.

I did say to refer to a standing order or a previous practice of the House. I did not want to engage in debate over what happened and who said what to whom. That is not the role of the Speaker, and I do not want to engage in debate that members are having.

The rule is that members should withhold commentary. There is only one member recognized at a time during Statements by Members under Standing Order 31, and during question period. It is not a power that members have given to me to recognize multiple members at the same time. I invite members to withhold their commentary as best they can during S. O. 31 statements and during question period as well.

As Speaker, as a chair occupant, I do not have unlimited power to make you all quiet down. I know you are passionate individuals. You have a lot to say when you want to. That was a good reminder from the chief government whip about Standing Order 16(2). It also says to not cross between the person speaking and the Speaker, which some members are wanting to do.

There are other members wishing to rise on the same point of order.

[*Translation*]

I am going to give the floor to the member for Berthier—Maskinongé, but I do not want to start another debate.

I recognize the whip of the Bloc Québécois.

**Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I rise as the whip.

When a member is giving an S. O. 31 statement, particularly a member of a political party that has a lot of members here, the member may have to start over if there is a technical issue. It is customary to allow that. I was surprised to hear noes.

I would ask if it is possible to reconsider the matter, because, next time, it might be one of my members, and their request might be denied because somebody said no once.

[*English*]

**Scott Reid (Lanark—Frontenac, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. There are frequently comments and heckles during member statements and question period. The question is, with respect to Standing Order 16(2), where is the line crossed?

I think the reasonable expectation would be that if something interrupted the ability of the member to actually get a recording, if the sound was so loud that the intervention could not be properly heard, then I would say that violates Standing Order 16(2). My understanding is that, in this particular case, that did not happen, and in fact, the recording is fine. We cannot hear the commentary of the member for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan.

As a result, I suggest that Standing Order 16(2) was not, in this case, violated and that there therefore is no need to redo the S. O. 31 statement.

● (1210)

**The Deputy Speaker:** I am going to do something first, but then I am going to invoke Standing Order 10, which as members know is my favourite standing order because it says no more debating with the Speaker.

I will hear from the chief government whip, then the member for Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan. I do want to allow the member for Saanich—Gulf Islands to rise. She has indicated that she wishes to raise a different point of order.

The chief government whip.

**Hon. Mark Gerretsen:** Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank my colleague in the riding to the north of mine, the member for Lanark—Frontenac, because he is absolutely correct.

I think I would agree with him that there should be an establishment of breaking in one's speech and not being able to talk. If the member reviews the video of the S. O. 31, which he can do, he will see that the member for South Surrey—White Rock actually stopped at one point, waited and then restarted. We can see that; the video is there.

I just want to thank my colleague for coming to our defence. We really appreciate that.

**Garnett Genuis:** Mr. Speaker, I had raised the issue previously of the grossly unparliamentary anti-Alberta remarks of that member. When I had, the Speaker responded, which is a matter of past practice, as you know. The Speaker said at the time, "It would not be proper if somebody did that, but unfortunately, the Chair did not hear that." He later said, "I do not know [what] it was. I will check the record."

The Speaker acknowledged that remarks of that character were improper. The Speaker has yet to come back to the House to rule on the unparliamentary anti-Alberta comments of the member for South Surrey—White Rock. I think that member needs to address the way he speaks about people from my region. If comments like that were made about members from B.C., where he is from, members from Quebec or members from Ontario, I think the House would have no problem acknowledging that they were unparliamentary and the member would have to retract those comments.

The member needs to be accountable for the way he talks about Alberta.

**The Deputy Speaker:** As I mentioned before these two new statements were made, the Speaker has said he will take the comments that were made and come back to the House, if required.

On this particular issue, as I said, I will invoke Standing Order 10. The chief government whip made a good point and reminded all members of Standing Order 16(2), to not intervene during statements and just in general in the House when one member is recognized by the chair occupant. Perhaps in the lobbies, the whips can negotiate, if they wish, for another UC motion.

However, on this particular issue, I am invoking Standing Order 10, so the House can proceed to its prearranged business that the government has set before the House.

With that being now said, I know that the member of Saanich—Gulf Islands has a different point of order she wishes to raise.

**Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP):** Mr. Speaker, my point of order, unusually at the end of the question period, relates to something that happened yesterday in this place at approximately four o'clock.

I think it was the member for Similkameen—South Okanagan—West Kootenay who had the floor and was speaking when the House was disrupted, very much contrary to Standing Order 16(2), in a gross violation of decorum. It was probably an accident that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance thought it was appropriate to enter the House waving the budget and essentially turning this place of parliamentary business into a Liberal rally. I was deeply offended. I have never seen anything like it.

I know the Speaker called for order at the time and did his best to remind people to take their seats, but a presentation of a budget, and I have been to many of them, is a moment when members are keen to hear from the Minister of Finance, not to have the budget paraded as a document with lots of cheering and whooping it up.

I just wanted to put it on the record. The event has now passed, but people can find lots of photos of it on The Globe and Mail's website.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I understand the hon. member for Barrie South—Innisfil is rising on this point of order.

**John Brassard (Barrie South—Innisfil, CPC):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. On this point of order, related to the same standing order, I know you were in the chair yesterday when this happened. I was in the House. The Prime Minister and the finance minister walked in, waving the budget around like we were in some sort of Roman Colosseum. Maybe sometimes it seems that way, but I will say that I believe, Mr. Speaker, if you look back at the tapes, you will see that the member who was speaking was disrupted at that point as she was talking about government business.

I believe her privileges to speak freely and not be disrupted in this place with respect to government business were breached yesterday. I would ask that the Speaker take it back, look at the tapes and look at the way they entered this place and disrupted the proceedings of the House.

● (1215)

**The Deputy Speaker:** I will go back and review the tape specifically as to what happened, and recollect my memory, and then take it back to the Speaker for the Speaker to determine whether he needs to return to the House with a ruling. That will lay the matter closed for now.

---

# ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

## SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B), 2026-27

A message from Her Excellency the Governor General transmitting supplementary estimates (B) for the financial year ending March 31, 2027, was presented by the President of the Treasury Board and read by the Speaker to the House.

**Hon. Shafqat Ali (President of the Treasury Board, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the supplementary estimates (B), 2026-27.

* * *

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF CANADA

**Hon. Shafqat Ali (President of the Treasury Board, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to table, in both official languages, "Public Accounts of Canada 2026". The Auditor General of Canada has provided an unqualified audit opinion on the Government of Canada's financial statements.

* * *

## DEPARTMENTAL RESULTS REPORTS 2025-26

**Hon. Shafqat Ali (President of the Treasury Board, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to table, in both official languages, on behalf of 92 departments and agencies, the departmental results reports for 2025-26.



[*Translation*]

## AUDITOR GENERAL

**The Deputy Speaker:** It is my duty to lay upon the table, pursuant to subsection 8(2) of the Auditor General Act, a report of the Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons entitled "Commentary on the 2025-2026 Financial Audits".

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(g), this document is deemed to have been permanently referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

* * *

[*English*]

## PETITIONS

### ENDOMETRIOSIS

**Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to table a petition initiated by a Vancouver high school student, Elize Nocente, and signed by over 1,500 people to shine a light on endometriosis. They point out that, to correct a typo in the online petition, endometriosis affects one in 10 women and girls. Up to two million girls, women and gender-diverse people in Canada are affected by this. The petitioners say Canada has no national action plan, no coordinated federal funding line and no standard clinical guidelines for the disease and that research is underfunded.

The diagnosis delay for endometriosis averages 11 to 12 years, and the petitioners say a mandatory endometriosis education program would help correct this. They call on the Government of Canada to, first, fund a national advisory board on endometriosis education that would develop evidence-based education and resources for use in secondary schools, increase public awareness and allow people to recognize signs of the disease early on and, second, to work with provinces and territories to support mandatory inclusion of endometriosis education in curricula.

● (1220)

### FISHERIES

**Clifford Small (Coast of Bays—Central—Notre Dame, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition once again on behalf of the fine folks of the south coast of Newfoundland who gathered signatures to ask the minister to allow for use of mechanical haulers in the recreational scallop fishery. Commercial fishermen also support this use of mechanical haulers because it would allow them to take part in the recreational scallop fishery.

For a government that hangs its hat on DEI, the policy to not allow mechanical haulers in the recreational fishery flies in the face of its DEI policy, when so many people who are injured or have debilitating physical conditions that prevent them from taking part in the recreational scallop fishery would be able to go out and use a mechanical hauler, to take part and do the things they do in their traditional way of life back home.

I would like to thank Gerald Parrott for collecting the names and give a shout-out to his buddy Bob Hynes. I am looking forward to the day when the minister allows recreational scallopers to use mechanical haulers.

CLIMATE CHANGE

**Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to rise to present a petition on behalf of residents of Saanich—Gulf Islands and elsewhere. This is e-petition 7056, with well over a thousand signatures.

The petitioners are deeply concerned about the crisis of global climate change that is occurring and the impact on our children and grandchildren. The petitioners look at the science and put forward that Canada needs to cut greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2035 and get as close to zero as possible by 2040 if we have any chance of holding the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C.

They are calling on the government to set a goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2035. They call for legislation to establish a national carbon budget to plan Canada's emissions and to report on an annual basis as to whether we are keeping to the budget for emissions.

* * *

## QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURN

**Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, if the government's responses to Questions Nos. 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458 and 1459 could be made orders for return, these returns would be tabled in an electronic format immediately.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Mike Kelloway:** Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

[*For text of questions and responses, see Written Questions website*]

# GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

## THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion that this House approve in general the budgetary policy of the government, of the amendment and of the amendment to the amendment.

**Chi Nguyen (Spadina—Harbourfront, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I will be sharing my time with the member for Vancouver East.

Budget day is a big day for all Canadians. There is no question that our world has changed. We also know that Canada has the innovation, resources and talent to be stronger than it was before.

I spent much of yesterday combing through the budget for all of the details that I know will positively impact my riding of Spadina—Harbourfront. I am thrilled to rise today to add my voice in support of budget 2026. I believe strongly that it is a budget that invests in people and shapes Canada's future. Budgets can be aspirational, but this one is also practical, with real measures that support Canadians.

[*Translation*]

In a country where we are masters of our destiny, we must be able to live, work, and build our lives while being free to choose our own destiny.

[*English*]

Budget 2026 proposes to enhance the Canada groceries and essentials benefit, with an additional payment that will raise the support in 2026-27 to about $1,290 for a single person without children and $2,570 for a couple with two children. Not only would the Canada groceries and essentials benefit lift an additional 120,000 people out of poverty in 2027, but we would see a measurable impact on the lives of women and girls.

● (1225)

[*Translation*]

A job should allow Canadians to earn a decent living. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. That is why budget 2026 proposes to enhance the Canada workers benefit by introducing the build Canada workers benefit.

Nearly two million low-income workers would receive increased assistance, including 180,000 new recipients. For workers with the lowest earnings, this could mean up to $675 more per year, and even more for those eligible for the disability supplement. Taken together, the benefit would lift an estimated 240,000 people out of poverty.

Building a stronger economy also means supporting those who care for others.

[*English*]

We cannot speak about affordability measures without speaking about those who are experiencing homelessness in Toronto. This includes families and children who are struggling to find a safe place to call home. Organizations in my riding, such as West Neighbourhood House, The Neighbourhood Group, CAMH, Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre, St. Felix Centre and Homes First have been on the front lines working hard to support our community members, and our government has been working on this issue since day one. We know and understand that everyone deserves access to safe and affordable housing.

In September, alongside the Accelerating Accessibility Coalition, I convened a round table on accessibility, community connection, health and multi-generational livability along Toronto's waterfront. The costs of homelessness extend far beyond street homelessness. Residents have told me how important it is that they can continue to live in their communities and not be pushed out to end up looking to shelters as alternatives. This underscores the importance of our launch of Build Canada Homes to increase housing supply and build more affordable homes.

Budget 2026 sets Canada on an ambitious path to end homelessness over the next decade. We are providing almost $30 billion to move people from homelessness into stable housing. Our housing plan would address the mental health and substance use challenges that are contributing to homelessness, instability and growing pressures on communities across Canada. Homelessness is a complex challenge that does not have a simple solution. It is a responsibility shared across multiple levels of government.

Our federal government is doing our part. This includes $32 billion over 10 years for first nations housing and infrastructure and the launch of a first nations on-reserve infrastructure program. This amounts to nearly $45 billion in new housing investments that will strengthen Canada's housing system, expand affordable and non-market housing and ensure that the housing market works better for everyone. We must build in all parts of Canada and ensure that those most vulnerable are not left behind.

Budget 2026 is also about building opportunities to showcase Canadian identity. Spadina—Harbourfront hosts one of the most vibrant arts and culture sectors in Canada. Downtown Toronto is a site for tourists, residents and all who enjoy the arts. We have performance spaces, galleries, festivals and cultural organizations such as TIFF, the Ed Mirvish Theatre, Harbourfront Centre and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, just to name a few, that bring the magic of creativity and innovation into our lives.

It is no secret that I love the arts and that the collective of makers, designers and creatives I have met over the course of the last year has made an impact on the way I do my work here as a member of Parliament.

I know the vital role arts and culture plays in our economy, our community and our national identity. Their contribution speaks for itself. Canada's arts and culture sector contributed $65 billion in direct GDP in 2024, supports 13 jobs for every $1 million in economic output and generates an estimated $17 billion in federal and provincial tax revenue. In fact, the sector has grown faster than many traditional industries in recent years and supports hundreds of thousands of great jobs across this country.

This is why budget 2026 proposes to invest $4 billion for arts and culture to protect and celebrate what makes us Canadian. This includes our government's intention to establish a new Canada creative credit to support artists. Canadian artists will not pay tax on up to $45,000 of income derived from their creative work. I have already heard from stakeholders in my riding who immediately know the impact this will have on working artists and students who are looking to build their careers in the arts, but we have not stopped there. We are also strengthening Canadian film, media and journalism, CBC/Radio-Canada and our national cultural institutions.

We are also bringing back the Canada strong pass, giving Canadians the opportunity to fully explore their communities and the people and places that make them unique. Budget 2026 would renew the Canada strong pass for summer 2027, making it permanently free for young Canadians under 25 to visit our national museums year-round. Not only does this provide free admission to Parks Canada sites and participating museums and galleries, but also savings on Via Rail travel.

Spadina—Harbourfront is home to the iconic Union Station, and I know first-hand that the influx of visitors has enormously benefited small business owners in our neighbourhood. What an incredible opportunity for more children and young adults to engage more with the art, history and stories that define our country and connect with Canada's natural beauty through our national parks.

The businesses that live on the periphery of downtown tourism and of arts and culture also need opportunities to thrive. Over Thanksgiving, I hosted a small business round table and heard from a wide range of business owners and operators about the opportunities they also saw for themselves in Toronto. Business owners are community leaders. They are job creators, and they draw people into the vibrancy of our neighbourhoods. One operator described how quickly they were losing U.S. corporate bookings following tariff announcements. Others explained that uncertainty in planning for next year's costs was forcing them to scale back their plans today. These conversations made it clear how uncertainty can hold back investment, even when business owners see opportunities to grow.

*The Budget*

In September 2026, our government announced the productivity mega deduction. Building on the productivity superdeduction introduced last year, this measure would allow businesses to immediately deduct the full cost of a broader range of capital assets, covering more than 65% of investment on a permanent basis. It would bring Canada's marginal effective tax rate on new business investments down by half. If a business is ready to invest, that means a lower after-tax cost of getting new equipment to expand or increase their operations.

● (1230)

[*Translation*]

A stronger Canada is a Canada where we are masters of our destiny, and that starts with giving Canadians the means to move forward, the freedom to make their own choices, and the ability to build their own future.

[*English*]

I believe deeply in a Canada where every person, no matter where they start, has a fair shot at a great life. I believe that a Canada where we invest in people, not cut them off, demonstrates to Canadians that we show up when they need us most. To achieve this for Canadians, we must strengthen our economy so that decisions made by other world leaders do not dictate the direction of our future. We must build a Canada that gives Canadians the tools and the means to be the masters of our own destiny and, as a country, to chart our own course.

I am proud to support this budget because I believe it would move us closer to that future. As our Prime Minister has said, "Nostalgia is not a strategy". We cannot build Canada's future by waiting for the past to return. We have to invest in the people who will build what is coming next.

* * *

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING SAFEGUARDS ACT

BILL C-41—NOTICE OF TIME ALLOCATION MOTION

**Hon. Stephanie McLean (Secretary of State (Seniors), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, an agreement could not be reached under the provisions of Standing Order 78(1) or 78(2) with respect to the second reading stage of Bill C-41, an act to amend the Criminal Code, an act to amend the Criminal Code regarding medical assistance in dying and to make related amendment to other acts.

Under the provisions of Standing Order 78(3), I give notice that a minister of the Crown will propose at the next sitting a motion to allot a specific number of days or hours for the consideration and disposal of proceedings at the said stage.

* * *

## THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion that this House approve in general the budgetary policy of the government, of the amendment and of the amendment to the amendment.

**Eric St-Pierre (Honoré-Mercier, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday's budget included tax measures for artists. If someone is a Canadian artist, for example, they will not have to pay tax on their income up to $45,000. The member mentioned TIFF, the Toronto International Film Festival. I am a big fan myself.

Can the member for Spadina—Harbourfront outline other examples of how this tax measure would benefit the fine residents of her constituency?

**Chi Nguyen (Spadina—Harbourfront, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, OCAD University, one of the important post-secondary institutions in my riding, is really thrilled about this particular measure to support the income of artists. We know there are affordability challenges, and we know that people getting started in the arts need a real shot at this. The investments overall, the $4 billion in arts and culture, are going to make a significant difference for fighting for arts and culture in our country.

**Ziad Aboultaif (Edmonton Manning, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the presented budget would bring lots of debt to Canadian households, which is something that would be unbearable. It is already unbearable and will become even worse in a few years. Somebody has to pay this debt, and that somebody is our future generations.

Is the hon. member not worried about how much debt Canadians will have to take on in the next years just because of the way the government has been handling the books?

● (1235)

**Chi Nguyen:** Mr. Speaker, we are living through a time of real global crisis, and that means our government needs to respond with supports and the resourcing to make sure people do not fall behind. The systemic investments that will improve our country need to happen now.

[*Translation*]

**Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Pierre-Boucher—Les Patriotes—Verchères, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether my colleague opposite is as disappointed as I am by her government's decision not to maintain the health transfer escalator at a level that reflects the actual increase in health care costs. It has to be said: There was just one high-priority request from the Government of Quebec, and it was also shared by other provinces, namely an adequate health transfer escalator. Once again, the government has found a way to run up an incredible deficit. It had money for all sorts of things, but not for health. Why is that?

[*English*]

**Chi Nguyen:** Mr. Speaker, I want to remind my colleague that, in sections 91 and 92, the primary driver of responsibility for health care is the provinces. While we know how important it is to make investments in health care and be a partner to our provinces, we cannot shoulder all of it. We are continuing to make very important investments in mental health, in supports. We are making sure we are serving all Canadians, but we want to stay in our lane and focus on the things we are responsible for at the federal government level.

**Branden Leslie (Portage—Lisgar, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague just made reference to the health care system. Obviously, I assume we have all heard many stories of families or loved ones facing challenges going through our health care system. I am curious what the member thinks about the fact that the totality of all of the money we send to provinces to deliver that health care system has been now dwarfed by the interest on the debt the Liberal government has accrued, and this will be getting worse year over year.

Why is it better to send money to bankers and bondholders than to help people in our health care system?

**Chi Nguyen:** Mr. Speaker, one of the things we are doing extraordinarily well in this budget is making significant generational investments in indigenous reconciliation with nearly $50 billion in investment in new measures that allow indigenous communities to get to reconciliation. This is a way of supporting Canadians who need support in these times.

**Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, there were high expectations for this budget, but unfortunately, it misses the mark. This budget benefits the wealthy at the expense of the working class in this country.

The Prime Minister talks about the masters of our destiny, but who are they? They are the billionaires and corporate executives he invited to his exclusive investment summit. When we look at this budget, it is clear whose interests come first. Christmas came early for CEOs, foreign investors and arms dealers in this budget. The single biggest item Santa Claus is bringing is a $36-billion mega deduction, over five years for big corporations, more than all the affordability measures that he purports to champion for everyday people. Where is the mega deduction on grocery bills for everyday Canadians? Where is it on their rent? Where is it on their cellphone bill?

The government talks a lot about affordability, but this budget does very little to bring down the cost of living for everyday people. Instead, it doubles down on the familiar promise that if we give enough money to the biggest corporations and investors, somehow everyone will benefit.

Canadians have heard that promise before. It has not solved the affordability crisis. The government will say that it is spending $4 billion on a one-time increase to the Canada groceries and essentials benefit, which is a fraction compared to the $36-billion mega deduction for corporations. For a single person, that amounts to $267 a year, roughly $20 a month. That money will quickly be swallowed up by rising food prices. It is a temporary measure that does nothing to address the underlying causes of the grocery crisis.

One in three Canadians is skipping meals. Food bank use is at a record high. The government has no plan to confront the market concentration and pricing power of Canada's major grocery chains. The NDP has proposed real solutions: a network of public grocery stores to introduce competition and bring down prices, and a ban on surveillance pricing so corporations cannot use people's personal data to charge them more. We need to tackle the problems at their source, not simply give people a temporary payment while the big grocery chains continue to profit.

On housing, the government has announced that it will end homelessness and expand non-market housing. I love that. On the face of it, it sounds like good news. To end homelessness, Canada needs deeply affordable non-market housing. Experts say that Canada needs at least 200,000 net new non-market homes per year for three decades. Budget 2026 is proposing to deliver 24,000 non-market homes for 10 years.

That is just on capital investment. On supportive and operating costs, at least $5.7 billion per year is needed. This plan is entirely dependent on the provinces and territories, which are expected to pay for ongoing operations and wraparound services, including health care and mental health and addiction supports.

A building without the necessary operating funding for deep core and support services is not a solution to homelessness. The housing minister would know this better than anyone else. He promised to end homelessness in Vancouver when he was the mayor of Vancouver. Instead of delivering on that promise, homelessness grew under his watch. He blamed the federal and provincial governments for failing to provide the funding at the scale necessary.

Since the federal government is not stepping up with operating costs under budget 2026, my question is this: Has the Minister of Housing secured the operating and wraparound funding from the provinces and territories to deliver on the Prime Minister's promise to end homelessness? If not, this will become just another broken promise.

On another metric, the government admitted that Canada failed to build enough non-profit housing. We need to build a million non-profit homes to make a dent in the housing crisis, yet the commitments under budget 2026 are not even one-quarter of that ambition, nowhere near the postwar housing program the Prime Minister promised during the election campaign.

I will say this. The budget is not all bad news. The renewal funding for Reaching Home and the Canada housing benefit is good news and something I strongly advocated for.

Let me turn to another issue. While the government finds billions for corporate tax breaks and military spending, the cupboards are bare when it comes to essential public services. There is no new investment in child care. There is no increase to the Canada health transfer. The NDP called for an escalator of at least 6% to help the provinces and territories meet growing health care needs. Pharmacare is not even mentioned once in this 511-page budget. People cannot find family doctors. They wait months for treatment. They pay out of pocket for medication.

● (1240)

Rather than strengthen the public services Canadians depend on, the government is allowing them to erode. Meanwhile, one in five federal dollars is going to military spending, rising to one in four by 2030. Canadians deserve to know why there is so much money for weapons and war, but so little for the services that help people live with dignity.

This budget also lays out the groundwork for the privatization of Canada's airports, with $37.6 million allocated to prepare for that process and the expected legislation. Canadians should be very concerned. YVR is one of the best airports in the world. Privatization can mean higher costs for travellers, pressure to cut jobs and working conditions, and public assets being turned into opportunities for private investors to extract profits. Our airports are essential infrastructure. The Prime Minister does not have the mandate to privatize them. They should serve the public interest, not become another vehicle for private wealth accumulation.

There is another glaring omission in this budget. There is nothing meaningful to ask the wealthiest Canadians and largest corporations to pay their fair share. Canada's 40 billionaires increased their collective wealth by $95 billion in 2024-25, a 20% increase, yet this budget offers no new wealth tax and no serious new revenue measures targeting those with the greatest ability to pay.

The NDP has called for a wealth tax on very rich Canadians, and that could generate up to $40 billion a year. Think about that. Instead of giving corporations a $36-billion annual mega deduction, we could be asking those who have accumulated extraordinary wealth to contribute more to the country that helped make that wealth possible. Public money should come with public interest conditions, good union jobs, Canadian investment, accountability and a fair return to Canadians. We should be investing in productive infrastructure, in public services and in things that make life better, not simply hoping that corporate tax breaks will trickle down.

On climate, the government's priorities are equally difficult to reconcile. There is approximately $4 billion over 10 years for clean electricity, compared to $55 billion in public financing and investment for a pipeline. Bill C-39 attacks the environment and indigenous and labour rights. We cannot claim to be building a clean energy future while continuing to put enormous public resources behind fossil fuel infrastructure. The Prime Minister is driving up emissions, the same person who used to be the UN special envoy for climate and finance. Canada needs investment in renewable energy, a modern electricity grid and a just transition that puts workers and communities at the centre.

The Prime Minister tells us that the masters of our destiny are those who will build Canada's future, but the masters of our destinies in this budget are not Canadians and their families. They are the CEOs, billionaire and investors invited to the Prime Minister's investment summit. Brookfield, BlackRock and the big banks will be happy, but Canadians deserve a budget that puts the affordability crisis for families first.

Lastly, let me turn to immigration for a brief moment. The government has committed to transitioning 100,000 temporary residents to permanent status, and it is about time. That transition is welcome, and I hope it is only the first step in regularization.

I also want to note that outside of the budget, there is a one-time addition to the levels plan of 100,000 PR spots, which will include humanitarian applications for Hong Kong lifeboat people and Ukrainians. I have stood with them to fight for this from day one, and this announcement shows what happens when impacted communities and allies come together to demand fairness. That is justice. That is fairness.

● (1245)

**Eric St-Pierre (Honoré-Mercier, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the budget provides financial support of nearly $600 million for electric vehicle chargers, with 55,000 new EV chargers across the country and 17,000 in B.C. I know the members for Portage—Lisgar and Vancouver Quadra are extremely excited about this new program. I wonder if the member for Vancouver East is also excited for this program and the impact it will have in her riding.

**Jenny Kwan:** Mr. Speaker, I would be very excited, actually, if the Liberal government prioritized a climate strategy instead of building a pipeline, putting $55 billion into it, that will decimate the climate, do little to address the crisis we are faced with and exacerbate the situation we are faced with. Instead of putting $55 billion into a pipeline, we should redirect those resources to climate action, including EV vehicles and other environmental measures that are necessary for our climate.

**Dane Lloyd (Parkland, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, related to my hon. colleague's last question and her answer, I wonder if the member is aware of the value of the productivity mega tax deduction for Canada's oil and gas sector. Much of the revenue the government has projected to raise in the next few years relies on the success of our oil and gas sector.

I wonder if the member can tell us how excited she is about the productivity mega tax deduction benefits for the Canadian oil and gas sector.

**Jenny Kwan:** Mr. Speaker, I just came back from COP17, which was a UN conference on biodiversity, and guess what. Canada is not making its targets. The 30 by 30 goals are not going to happen under the current situation, and that is not considering Bill C-39 and the ramming through of environmental strategies, environmental protections, indigenous rights and so on.

If we are going to talk about protecting the environment, I will ask the member and all members of the House, including those in the government, this question: Where is the Prime Minister who was the climate envoy at the UN and who once upon a time talked about the importance of finance and marrying the economy to the environment?

● (1250)

**Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP):** Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my hon. colleague from Vancouver East. She raised many good points.

One thing I was surprised by was from earlier today. One of the Liberals who were speaking to the budget said that it was really committed to robust cost-benefit analysis. However, there is no cost-benefit analysis anywhere, neither robust nor otherwise, for the proposed and now approved Pacific link pipeline. The government is moving ahead with it as a major project of "national interest" with no cost-benefit analysis.

I wonder if my hon. colleague is as troubled by that as I am, since we are paying for it.

**Jenny Kwan:** Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague for her advocacy, always, for the environment and the people.

She is exactly right. There is no cost-benefit analysis. The other thing that has been pointed out is that businesses are not required to do an impact assessment on the environment with their businesses. Less than 1% of businesses actually do that work. I asked the minister directly at COP17 whether the Liberal government will impose this regulatory requirement so that we know what the impacts are. Not only is the government not doing a cost-benefit analysis, but it is not making businesses do impact assessments, which is absolutely essential when the government wants to build a pipeline that will absolutely decimate our environment.

[*Translation*]

**Patrick Bonin (Repentigny, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for her excellent speech. I would like to know what she thinks about the fact that the government is claiming that it has an electrification strategy when it has actually only allocated $2.4 billion between now and 2030 for the clean electricity and clean technology investment tax credits. The government is weakening its own clean electricity regulations. It is going to cost the government $22.8 million to weaken a regulation that we have already paid to implement, all to please the gas companies and generate more electricity from natural gas.

[*English*]

**Jenny Kwan:** Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague for his work and advocacy.

He is exactly spot on. The Prime Minister and the Liberal government will not hesitate one bit in dumping $55 billion into a pipeline that will decimate our environment. What we are seeing right now is the backsliding of a Liberal government on Canada's environmental strategy. That is clear as day. The investment that it put into climate initiatives is a drop in the bucket when we compare it to the big oil investments that the Prime Minister is all too eager to dump—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Resuming debate, the hon. member for Lévis—Lotbinière.

[*Translation*]

**Jacques Gourde (Lévis—Lotbinière, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I will be sharing my time with the member for Calgary Centre.

When we look at the budget this Liberal government is presenting, we have to wonder what happened to all of its big promises. The government promised an ambitious budget. It talked about growth, productivity, streamlining and a new way of doing things. Rhetoric aside, once one has actually read the budget and looked at the numbers, what is left? Not much. This budget is all sizzle and no steak. The truth is that Canadians do not need big announcements. They need to be able to afford their groceries, mortgage, rent and bills at the end of the month. They want to know that their hard-earned money is being put to good use, but this budget is not very reassuring for them.

Let me start with public finances. The government is patting itself on the back for getting additional revenue, but we need to look at where a lot of that money is coming from. One of the reasons government revenues are going up is because prices are going up, because inflation is driving up nominal revenues and tax revenues. Although the government is taking in more money, Canadian families are paying more to fill their grocery carts. It is easy for the government to pat itself on the back for this additional revenue when it is Canadians who are the ones paying the inflation bill. The Liberal government seems to be forgetting one thing: When the price of gas, bread, meat or housing goes up, it is not good news for families. It means less money in their pockets. Inflation is the worst form of taxation, because it takes what little the middle class has left and makes the rich richer.

Despite this additional revenue, the Liberals continue to spend recklessly. Let us look at the numbers. The projected deficit for this year is $62.3 billion. In five years, in 2030-31, it will still be $52.9 billion, according to estimates. That is $288.7 billion in accumulated deficits over five years for government operations. That is a mountain of debt that we are leaving to our children and grandchildren, and that is not all. This year, the government will spend $60.2 billion on interest payments on the debt. In five years, that amount will have grown to $85.5 billion, meaning $25.3 billion more per year. That is more than all the revenue collected from the GST in Canada.

That is money none of us will never see again, unless we happen to be among the Prime Minister's banker buddies or other friends. Imagine what that money could do for our hospitals, schools, infrastructure and families. Unfortunately, it is going toward interest payments. We cannot build a country by working only to pay interest on the debt. It is all well and good for the government to talk about a balanced operating budget, but the overall budget is not balanced. The deficit is still there, year after year. It is a structural deficit. We will not become masters of our destiny by mortgaging our grandchildren's future. Canadians are trapped by Liberal debt.

Now let us talk about the cost of living. The Liberals are announcing a supplement to the Canada groceries and essentials benefit that will provide up to $339 for a single person and $679 for a family of four. It is all well and good to send a cheque, but does that lower the cost of the grocery basket? Does it lower food prices? The answer is no. A one-time cheque does not solve the problem. It helps some families for a while, but it does not make the cost of living go away. It does not address the root cause of the problem. Instead of dealing with problems in the here and now, the Liberals tend to cut a cheque and kick the problems down the road. The Liberals hand out cheques to help Canadians pay prices they cannot bring down. Families want to be able to live on their wages, just as businesses want to make a living by selling their products, not by relying on subsidies. No one wants to have to wait around for a government cheque just to make ends meet.

● (1255)

I want to turn now to the Alto project, the much-touted high-speed rail link. In the budget, the Liberals present Alto as a major driver of economic growth. I have a very simple question: Where are the studies proving that? Where is the evidence that this project will be profitable? Which independent study proves it? Where is the proof that taxpayers will recoup their investment? Where are the guarantees that costs will not spiral out of control?

The Parliamentary Budget Officer has already estimated construction costs at between $75 billion and $113 billion. Those are staggering figures. I doubt that those amounts are fully reflected in the current budget. This is taxpayers' money: money from workers, farmers, small business owners and families who pay their taxes. The government already seems eager to fast-track the project.

Annex 3 of the budget states:

> In Budget 2026, the government proposes to introduce new legislation that will support accelerating the construction of Alto High-Speed Rail. Legislation will streamline expropriation activities and enable early preconstruction work.

The government is going to accelerate the expropriation process. Something is really off. The government really wants to accelerate expropriations and start pre-construction work. It wants to move the project forward. It is not even hiding it. However, serious questions remain unanswered. Is it cost-effective? Do Canadians really need it? Have the economic benefits been confirmed as announced? The government wants to accelerate the process, but it has yet to answer all of these questions.

In the meantime, farmers and property owners are in limbo, unsure whether the project could affect their land and property. I am thinking especially of farmers in the Mirabel area, who already survived one expropriation for the former airport. Today, they are in limbo once again. These people deserve answers. They deserve to be heard.

Now let us talk about bureaucracy. That is probably where the expectations were the highest and the disappointment is the greatest. The Minister of Finance set the bar very high. He talked about streamlining administrative procedures. Small and medium-sized businesses were expecting concrete action. Business owners on the ground do not need to be told what bureaucracy is. They experience it every day. Owners of garages, farms, restaurants and construction firms want to keep their businesses running. They spend too much of their days filling out forms, meeting the requirements of various government departments and trying to understand rules that keep changing. They want to run a business, not become experts in federal red tape. What does the budget actually offer them? It offers them a tax deduction for investments that was previously announced. That is all.

After the Minister of Finance set expectations so high, where is the big plan to streamline administrative procedures? Where are the concrete measures to cut red tape? Where is the plan to eliminate redundancies and unnecessary requirements? I will say it again: This budget is all sizzle and no steak.

The government announced major changes. Canadians were promised a real transformation. In the end, business owners are finding that there are very few new measures. We cannot ask businesses to be more productive while also forcing them to waste hours and days dealing with the federal bureaucracy. We need to trust them. We need to give them space to work and create wealth.

When we put all these things together, we can see why this budget is so underwhelming. We have a government that continues to rack up deficits. We have an interest bill that will be $25.3 billion a year higher by 2030-31. We have families who are seeing their purchasing power decline and who are being offered temporary cheques instead of lasting solutions. We have a high-speed project with a price tag in the tens of billions of dollars but whose benefits have yet to be proven and for which the government already wants to speed up expropriations. We have provinces calling for more resources to care for their citizens.

Canadians work hard. They get up early in the morning. They pay their taxes. They deserve better than promises and announcements. They deserve a government that spends prudently, respects taxpayer dollars and tackles the real issues. With this budget, unfortunately, Canadians may once again be paying a lot to get very little in return.

● (1300)

**Caroline Desrochers (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague talked about affordability. I know that he is keenly aware that housing is the number one expense for a household. Budget 2026 invests $45 billion in improving the housing supply to tackle all the housing-related issues. This includes recapitalizing Build Canada Homes to build even more affordable housing.

We are maintaining the existing programs that support tens of thousands of projects currently under construction, such as the CMHC programs, the infrastructure investments to help build more housing, and the red tape reduction measures. Obviously, the centrepiece of this budget is the investment to end homelessness in 10 years.

I wonder if my colleague can confirm that investing in housing is clearly good for Canadians and good for Quebeckers.

**Jacques Gourde:** Mr. Speaker, I hear my colleague promoting the Liberal budget. Yesterday, I heard the Minister of Finance promoting his budget as energetically as a 1960s vacuum cleaner salesman. Remember the big Electrolux vacuum cleaner that was supposed to suck up all the dust? With this budget, the government is sucking up all the money out of Canadians' wallets.

The Liberals certainly have convinced us that they are the masters of our destiny.

**Patrick Bonin (Repentigny, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear my colleague's thoughts on the fact that the budget once again includes oil and gas subsidies and also provides for the creation of a so-called sovereign wealth fund, which is anything but sovereign, to fund major projects such as the proposed oil sands pipeline on the west coast. That pipeline would carry one million barrels of oil a day and cost at least $43 billion, much of which will be public funding.

Does my colleague think that this budget is good for the environment?

● (1305)

**Jacques Gourde:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleague agrees with me. Under the new provision of Bill C-39, the government is giving itself the power to start major projects without waiting for the results of the environmental assessment. It will look at the recommendations after, and then it might do something about them, or it might not. Basically, the government is just doing whatever it wants.

[*English*]

**Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for the great concern he shows for Quebeckers, as well as Canadians.

*The Budget*

I wonder if he could share some of his thoughts on this incredibly massive amount of added debt for Canadians. The budget shows over $60 billion, but the reality is the cash out the door for this year is going to be about $154 billion. About $90 billion of that money is actually hidden as capital. We will have an extra $154 billion just this year and almost three quarters of a trillion dollars added over the next five years.

What does my colleague think it is going to do to his kids, his grandkids and future generations of Quebeckers and Canadians as they have to pay this back?

[*Translation*]

**Jacques Gourde:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for his very thoughtful question.

I am worried too. I am worried about what life will be like for my children and especially for my grandchildren. The budget's projections extend as far as 2060. In 2060, my grandchildren will be paying for today's disastrous budget and its long-term consequences.

Five years from now, we will already be paying $85 billion a year. What will it be 10 or 15 years from now? Will we be spending $100 billion or $125 billion on debt payments alone?

Think of what this money could have done for our grandchildren's future.

**Guillaume Deschênes-Thériault (Madawaska—Restigouche, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I salute my colleague. We serve together on the Standing Committee on Official Languages.

The budget includes $400 million for the Francophonie summit. We are continuing to implement our official languages action plan, which is backed by a $4.1-billion investment. This is the largest investment in official languages in history. Culture is receiving $4 billion, which will have benefits for Canada's francophonie. Next year's francophone immigration target is 9.5%, setting francophone communities back on the path to growth.

Is my colleague as excited as I am about what yesterday's budget does for Canada's francophonie?

**Jacques Gourde:** Mr. Speaker, I am excited about anything that supports the francophonie, particularly if it means conducting an economic study to examine the benefits of the Canadian francophonie around the world.

*The Budget*

[*English*]

**Greg McLean (Calgary Centre, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, the government talks about elbows up, Canada strong, building Canada strong, spending less to invest more, it being time to build, building a Canada people can afford, the strongest economy in the G7, a new Liberal government, the best possible deal for Canadians, building together, the true North strong and free, giving ourselves far more than the Americans can take away, and the idea that no deal is better than a bad deal. Now it talks about being masters of our destiny.

The government by sound bite is killing us. We have got to get past this and actually get to some serious governance in the House of Commons and across the country as well. This is just complete inanity going forward.

Budgets are documents about choices the government has to make going forward about how it balances society's interests. The Liberals have turned from those actual budgets to tome-sized documents about all the great things they are going to do for Canadians. In that actual revolution of what the document was supposed to be and what it has become for the sound bite-obsessed Liberals on the other side of the House has been just nuts. There are 510 pages of what they want to do, and about how they are going to be all things to all people. It is just a bunch of words the Liberals put together to try to impress a whole bunch of people and get some special interests onside.

I know that there are a whole bunch of things in the budget for a whole bunch of people all the way across the country, and businesses are going to jump at the chance, because we are becoming much less of a democratic society and much more of a government-knows-best, centrally planned economy society. I think there are a lot of people who, if they take a look at that long-term, are going to actually worry about where it started and how we got here. It is escalating, and we notice the way the government is actually moving further in this direction.

The thing about budgets is that they are sacred documents about choices we have to make going forward, no matter where we are. It lays out the things we can do and the things we cannot do. However, the Liberal government has consistently shown that it has not had to pay the price for ramping up deficit after deficit. That is the way it has been since 2015, when it was supposed to run short deficits for a short period of time. At that point in time, Canadians were still of the mind that the government had to balance the budget. There is a reckoning at some point in time for spending tomorrow's taxpayers' dollars today.

I am sure members will recall when the Liberals under former prime minister Jean Chrétien had to make a fundamental choice for Canadians. They had to cut health care funding and university funding across Canada. It used to be that 50¢ per dollar was paid by the federal government, before the mid-1990s when the Chrétien government had to make extreme cuts in order to get back to balance. The International Monetary Fund had said that the Canadian government could no longer pay its bills and could risk not being able to pay even the interest on its bills, which had escalated to about 40% of our collective taxes at that point in time. The Liberals had to make severe tax cuts very quickly, and that meant they stopped transferring funds to the provinces.

It was the easy way to do it. That was the biggest federal expenditure. There is an overlap between what the provinces should pay for and what the federal government should pay for. The Chrétien Liberals made the unsavoury decision they had to make: They cut the spending they gave to provinces. As a result, our health care system faltered. The provinces had to spend more of their resources on health care over the next decade in order to try to deliver a health care system that Canadians used to be able to count on.

That is about choices. We have to recognize where these choices have to go. It is not about being all things to all people. The cost of this is billions of dollars foisted upon a different generation. Literally, now it is hundreds of billions of dollars.

Let me explain that, because it is not immediately clear in the budget what the Liberals have done. The Prime Minister is very financially astute. He has played around with balance sheets and income statements in his previous life. Now he is doing that with the Government of Canada, the Government of Canada's balance sheet and the Government of Canada's income statement. The Liberal government and the previous Liberal government came up with several debt metrics along the way, such as the debt-to-GDP ratio and the deficit-to-GDP ratio. It kept missing these targets all along the way. If the Liberals are going to keep missing their targets, their so-called anchors, the best thing to do is to change the definitions of what those anchors are.

● (1310)

If we look at what we actually carry in debt in this country right now, we see that there is interest-bearing debt outstanding for Canada, over $1.5 trillion that we owe debt on around the world. That is just the Government of Canada. The provincial governments owe a lot more as well, but more than $1.5 trillion is owed, and we pay interest on that. Currently we are paying about $60 billion a year of interest on the more than $1.5 trillion of interest-paying debt. That is going to go up over the next five years by $765 billion.

The government can talk about investing versus operational deficits. That is garbage. There is and always has been a way to account for this. The Liberals are obfuscating the fact that they are going to increase the country's borrowings on international markets by 50% over the next five years and pay interest on that, with 85.5 billion taxpayer dollars going toward interest. That is obscene. To try to hide that in the budget document by changing the definitions is chicanery of the highest order. I call out the government on that because the Liberals have to be more transparent with Canadians about what they are actually causing for future generations of Canadians. The government is spending like there is no tomorrow.

I am going to give an example. According to the spring economic update, the amount the government is going to have to borrow over the next five years was only $668 billion. Since then, that number has gone up by almost $100 billion, which we in this country are going to have to borrow and pay interest on. Do we think this is a problem, including going forward, when we are not going to be able to pay our interest on the amount that is outstanding, which Canadians owe on the world markets?

I do not know what the endgame is here for the Liberals, but we are piling unsustainable debt onto Canadians' backs. I hear my colleagues across the way talk about how there is a crisis in the world so we have to spend like there is no tomorrow. I have been a member of the House for seven years, and I cannot say how many times the Liberals have said that we need to blow our brains out because there is a crisis.

There have been two legitimate crises in the last two decades: the financial crisis in 2008 and the pandemic we went through, but now the Liberals are addicted to throwing money out the door, and they continue to throw it out the door more and more. There are always good reasons to throw money at people. The people receiving it think it is a great thing. However, the people spending it are not going to be happy when they get the bill at the end of the day, when it becomes more transparent about what actually is being spent and how they are not going to be able to pay the bills down the road, the taxes that future generations of Canadians have to pay. That is the price the government is exacting from Canadians at this point in time.

I am going to talk a little about democracy. Democracy matters in this country. My colleague referred earlier to how the government continues to roll this out the door. The budget that was just presented is the budget for 2026-27, a fiscal year that ends in five months. That is great. The Liberals have just given us a budget seven months late. They are seven months late to deliver a budget for the current fiscal year.

This is not normal. The Liberals pretended this was normal coming out of an election, but this is not normal for the way the country is to run. Throughout the summer and throughout the intervening period, the government has spun money out and has made announcement after announcement, and now a bunch of that money-spinning appears in the budget. This is not democracy. This is not the way one sets a budget for Canadians and gets it passed in the House of Commons.

All those announcements the Liberals made all through the summer, where they chucked money out the door, are now in a budget that says this is what they are going to spend this year. As I say, the spring economic update said we would have to borrow an additional $668 billion over five years. They now finally present the budget, and it is $775 billion to borrow over the next five years, a ludicrous amount of money. Again, though, there are no anchors, no guardrails whatsoever. It is a government with no guidelines whatsoever. It just wants to spend money.

There has to be an end to this. I hope that end happens before Canadians realize that they are at the end of their rope, because many Canadians are at the end of their rope financially, and that we actually get some sanity back into the way we deliver the finances of this country.

● (1315)

**Eric St-Pierre (Honoré-Mercier, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, in the budget, there is a $400-million investment to optimize energy efficiency for Canadian industrial manufacturing facilities. It is called SHIFT, the strategic high-efficiency industrial facilities transition program.

The member for Calgary Centre introduced a private member's bill, Bill C-269, which calls for a tax credit for heat recovery equipment to recover heat produced by industrial processes. I am curious if the member for Calgary Centre supports our government's $400-million investment in SHIFT.

**Greg McLean:** Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask the member that question earlier today, because just two days ago the Liberals voted down the actual credit that we talked about here, and it was well costed, it was supported by industry and it was actually very clear about what it was doing.

This shift is a bit of a mirage. The budget just tossed $400 million out there, but it does not explain exactly what they are going to do. The problem, as with all the things the government is doing at this point in time, is that the government is going to pick and choose who its friends are. That is who is going to get the projects of national interest. Someone is going to have to have friends in the Prime Minister's Office.

As I said in my speech, it has become a much more centrally controlled economy, as opposed to a private sector-driven economy that follows the rules.

**Scott Reid (Lanark—Frontenac, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague said that this will not end well if we do not get this under control. I wonder if he could just project a bit. If the spending does not come under control, if we have another budget like this one next year and if we continue to simply spend this way, how would this end? Could he project what would happen if the government does not bring its spending under control?

**Greg McLean:** Mr. Speaker, there are many scenarios that people put on the table. Canada is, believe it or not, one of the most indebted countries in the world. There are three types of debt: corporate, individual and government. In that hierarchy, Canada is the second-most indebted country in the world, behind only Luxembourg. We should think about that, because eventually, at the end of the day, there is one taxpayer: the Canadian taxpayer. They have a mortgage and consumer debt. There is a whole bunch of corporate debt that gets passed down to consumers, and there is a whole bunch of government debt that lands on the backs of consumers as well, who are paying the interest on each of those.

That is heavier in Canada than almost anywhere else in the world. It is something that is going to land on the backs of taxpayers. I do not know what the government is going to use as a backstop at some point in time, but this is unsustainable. Effectively, the government is going to have to look at assets and what it is going to have to deal with, with the International Monetary Fund, at some point in time in the future.

● (1320)

[*Translation*]

**Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear my colleague's thoughts on something. How is it possible that a government can find a way to spend more money, much more than before, while cutting funding to the provinces and Quebec, particularly with regard to health transfers?

It makes no sense. Our residents need care and our hospitals need renovations. We did not ask for transfers to be increased. We simply asked that they be maintained.

The government has even shown a certain degree of contempt, going so far as to cut them. I would like to hear my colleague's thoughts on that.

**Greg McLean:** Mr. Speaker, that is an important question. Looking at the budget, I noticed that government's personal income tax revenues will increase by more than 4% per year over the next five years. However, its spending on health care is only going to increase by 3%. The government will be receiving more revenue from individuals, but it will be spending less on health care. Where is that money going?

[*English*]

**Sherry Romanado (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I did listen carefully to my colleague's speech, and I have one question for him. In budget 2026, we also include $25 million for the military and civilians who were injured at CFB Wainwright, in addition to another $3 million. Would the member support that initiative?

**Greg McLean:** Mr. Speaker, yes, of course I will. We have to take good care of our military, especially at this point in time, just before Remembrance Day. I thank my colleague for her government's putting forward the support for all the people who serve our country so well.

**Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak in this place just before we go to our constituencies.

As to the last exchange between the hon. parliamentary secretary and my friend from Calgary Centre, we are all mindful of the losses in our military, particularly from the disaster that just happened at CFB Wainwright. There are things that we share in this place, and I hope one of them is eternal gratitude for our veterans and those who serve in the armed forces.

Once we leave this place today, we will be back in our own constituencies for one week, so this opportunity to speak to the budget I really appreciate.

Last year, I struggled with the 2025 budget. I discussed it with members of the Prime Minister's staff, with the Prime Minister and with the former minister of the environment, and in the end, I was the only opposition member to vote for it. I do not think this is a spoiler alert, but that will not be happening again. I will not be voting for this budget. I am appalled, on numerous levels, by the budget.

There is much that has been said in this place that I do not need to repeat. The member for Vancouver East was speaking to her concerns. Yes, it is good to see the commitment to end homelessness, but where are the funds going to be found to ensure that first nations, Inuit and Métis people have adequate housing?

I completely agree with my friend from Calgary Centre and my friend from Wellington—Halton Hills North that this budget is miraculously weird. The Government of Canada can insist that other entities live up to generally acceptable accounting practices, but apparently it does not have to live up to them itself.

Given that I have a limited amount of time, I want to speak to the fundamental reason that I am grievously shocked by how bad this budget. There is one key topic, one thing, that I want to focus on in the time I have available: This is the first budget in more than a decade that not only fails to live up to the challenge of the climate crisis, but actually repudiates the very idea of targets.

On page 7 of the budget, it attacks the idea of targets. For Canadians who are watching, it says, “For too long, climate action was about targets without a practical plan”. Then it refers to investments as “punitive regulations”. Then it says, “Our new approach is a bold, pragmatic plan with four pillars”. None of them take us anywhere near the targets.

I want to make it very clear to anyone watching that the targets repudiated in this budget are legally binding. Canada signed on to them under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to which we are a party, and through which we committed that when we tabled a target, we were committed to achieving it. That target, the current one to which Canada is legally committed, is for significant reductions by 2030.

A previous government under Stephen Harper left in place its targets for 2030. In this place, at least the Liberals, New Democrats, the Bloc and the Greens had said that what Stephen Harper's former minister of environment, Leona Aglukkaq, had tabled was woefully insufficient. We are not going to even meet those targets now, much less the improved targets that Justin Trudeau put in place.

Why does this matter? It is all fine to hear the verbiage over and again that the world has changed and that everything has changed, but guess what has not changed. Canada is still located on planet earth. We are still subject to what happens in the planetary atmosphere, to physics and to the chemistry of the atmosphere, which we have already changed through our conduct.

We know from the world's best scientists and the world's most extensive peer review process, called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that if we do not reduce emissions very drastically, and before 2030, we are in for an accelerated heating of the planet that would cost, as it has already cost Canadians, billions of dollars in insurable losses and uninsurable losses, like the loss of life and loss of species. The heat dome in British Columbia in 2021 that killed 619 people in four days also killed three billion sea creatures in that same time, four days.

● (1325)

We cannot ignore the climate crisis, yet that is what this budget does. The Liberals still mouth the words “net zero by 2050” as if they are meaningful. They are not consistent with the science. They are not part of the Paris Agreement. Net zero by 2050 was an invention for public relations purposes to kick down the road to 2050 any real action for our children and grandchildren. As a grandmother of a two-year-old, I am not just worried but terrified for what kind of future our kids are going to have.

I voted for the budget last year because the Prime Minister stood and said the government was committed to achieving the Paris Agreement targets. I was a fool to believe the Liberals. I have repented for being a fool. I see clear-eyed now. They are building pipelines that are going to drive up emissions, and who is going to pay for them? It is the people of Canada. Is there a cost-benefit analysis? No. Will there be one? No. Why? It is because they want to drive up emissions. I do not understand why the government wants to drive up emissions and pour fuel on the fire of a climate crisis that takes Canadians' lives, destroys our crops and hurts our businesses from coast to coast. Worse, it steals the future from our children and does so in broad daylight.

This is not a budget I can vote for, and I beg the government and members who care about climate, who I know are there and care, to stand up and insist that we have climate action that does not mean building pipelines and expanding oil and gas production but reducing emissions and restoring forest cover as quickly as possible. Please do not tell us about giving $2.5 billion to De Havilland to help its bottom line. That does not buy a single water bomber for Canada. We must treat the climate crisis as the emergency that it is. We can no longer afford to hit the snooze button when the alarms—

● (1330)

**The Deputy Speaker:** It being 1:30 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business, as listed on today's Order Paper.

---

# PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[*Translation*]

## SPECTRUM POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CANADA ACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-268, An Act respecting the Spectrum Policy Framework for Canada, as reported (without amendment) from the committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** There being no motions at report stage, the House will now proceed, without debate, to the putting of the question on the motion to concur in the bill at report stage.

*Private Members' Business*

**Marianne Dandurand (Compton—Stanstead, Lib.)** moved that the bill be concurred in.

[*English*]

**The Deputy Speaker:** If a member participating in person wishes that the motion be carried or carried on division, or if a member of a recognized party participating in person wishes to request a recorded division, I would invite them to rise and indicate it to the Chair.

**Guillaume Deschênes-Thériault:** Mr. Speaker, I request that it be carried.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is that agreed?

**An hon. member:** No.

**Hon. Mark Gerretsen:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I suspect that if you canvass the House, members will realize that normally this sort of thing carries very quickly so that we can start the Private Members' Business hour of debate. Perhaps the person who said “no” did not quite realize that. Maybe you want to canvass the House one more time.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is it the will of the House to carry the bill at report stage?

(Motion agreed to)

[*Translation*]

**Marianne Dandurand** moved that the bill be read the third time and passed.

She said: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for allowing third reading of Bill C-268 to begin today. This bill addresses a very real problem. There are still many regions across Canada without cellphone coverage. The map may show that there is coverage and the telecommunications contract may include coverage obligations, but on the ground, people do not get a signal on their cellphone. It is this disconnect between what we see on paper and what people are actually experiencing that led me to introduce this bill.

I began working on this issue during the election campaign, following a discussion with the mayor of Martinville, Michel-Henri Goyette, who really opened my eyes to the cell service issues in his community. As is likely the case for all members who represent rural areas, I had experienced this problem myself. As I said when I introduced this bill, cell service is not a luxury. It is a matter of safety and economic development. It is a matter of fairness. Today, cellphones are a basic tool for working, communicating, getting around and calling for help, and yet there are still Canadians who have to leave their home and climb a hill or drive several kilometres just to make a call. That is unacceptable and needs to change.

Bill C-268 does three main things. First, it requires the CRTC to establish a process to ensure the accuracy of mobile network coverage data, because before we can solve a problem, we must first know precisely where it exists. Second, it requires the Minister of Industry to maintain and update the Spectrum Policy Framework for Canada. This framework has not been updated since 2007, the era of flip phones. Today, we have 5G networks, connected vehicles and satellites that communicate directly with our cellphones. Public policy must keep pace with technological change. Third, the bill provides for a periodic review of the framework. The objective is not to predict what technology will look like in 15 or 20 years. No one can do that. The objective is to ensure that our policies can evolve alongside technology.

I do want to highlight a positive development that has occurred since the spring. Issues related to cellular connectivity and network deployment have become much more prominent in the government's work. That is great news. Budget 2026 recognizes that challenges regarding coverage and reliability persist, particularly in rural and remote communities. The budget includes measures to release more spectrum for 5G and private networks, support satellite services that can extend coverage in rural and remote areas, update spectrum transfer rules and modernize infrastructure. I am particularly pleased to see these measures because affordability is important. However, for me, the key issue is deployment. A cheaper plan does not do much if the telephone is not connected in the first place.

Improving coverage requires proper rules, good spectrum management, reliable coverage data and investments. My bill is part of that process. I want to thank the researchers who helped shape the bill, Michael McNally and Gregory Taylor. I also want to thank Michel-Henri Goyette and the mayors in my riding who have continued to raise awareness of the realities on the ground and ensure that these issues are heard in Ottawa as much as they are now. Above all, I would like to thank my colleagues from all parties, because this bill is a good example of what we can accomplish when we focus on the problem rather than on our political differences.

● (1335)

Cell connectivity is not a Liberal, Conservative, NDP, Bloc or Green issue. It is an issue that concerns everyone. When a firefighter is out of reach on a country road, the problem remains the same, regardless of political affiliation. When a farm operation loses its connection, the problem remains the same, regardless of political affiliation. When a family has to drive a few kilometres away to make a call, the problem remains the same, regardless of political affiliation.

I am truly grateful for the support that the bill has received so far. For a private member's bill introduced in March to have reached third reading by November is remarkably fast. Above all, it shows a willingness to work together. I hope that our collaboration will continue through to the end. If my colleagues wish to keep moving the bill forward and send it to the Senate, I already someone in the other place who is prepared to sponsor it. I sincerely thank Senator Réjean Aucoin, who told me that he would take up the bill if it reaches the Senate. I am very grateful to him for that.

Our goal is not simply to pass a law. Our goal is that one day, folks everywhere, from Martinville, Quebec, to Chéticamp, Nova Scotia, to Whitehorse, Yukon, or any community in Canada, will be able to pick up their phones on a road where they used to lose the signal and see that the problem has finally been fixed. That is what I want, and that is why I am asking my colleagues to keep working together to move Bill C-268 forward.

[*English*]

**Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, this is legislation we are supportive of, and we are looking forward to further discussion.

I did want to take this opportunity, though, and it relates to spectrum, the opportunities people are going to have and how people see their future, to ask the member to comment on the jobs report that came out today, because we have not heard from any member of the government on the jobs report. We repeatedly asked about it in question period, but heard no response on it. The 50,000 jobs lost in the private sector and a big increase in youth unemployment are the results we are seeing.

The government, understandably, I think, does not want to talk about it, but can the member share any reaction to what we saw released from Statistics Canada today?

● (1340)

[*Translation*]

**Marianne Dandurand:** Mr. Speaker, cellular connectivity is essential to our economic development. Businesses need this connectivity to be able to operate. Sometimes technical issues prevent them from moving forward, getting new contracts and continuing to grow. Expanding cellular connectivity is one way to support the employability of people and the growth of businesses in the regions. I see it as an essential tool for economic development.

Right now, some farmers cannot use new technologies. Shipping companies are struggling to communicate. By improving cellular connectivity, we will help businesses be more successful and create good jobs.

**Eric St-Pierre (Honoré-Mercier, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague from Compton—Stanstead for her strong advocacy on behalf of her constituency. She is incredible, and I have a great deal of respect for her.

Can she give us some examples of the economic consequences of poor connectivity in rural areas, particularly when it comes to cellphone service?

**Marianne Dandurand:** Mr. Speaker, yes, there are significant economic impacts on businesses. While Internet access is steadily improving, cellular coverage remains a challenge. Transportation provides a clear example of the difficulties we face. The agricultural sector is also feeling the effects.

Students may be unable to complete assignments remotely due to a lack of connectivity. This has economic consequences, and social ones as well. Telehealth is still not an option in certain regions. This is also a matter of public safety. There are firefighters who cannot call for backup. There are people on the road who cannot contact emergency services after an accident. This really does create dangerous situations. In our area, some people cannot call 911.

Furthermore, as my riding borders the U.S., some residents pick up a signal from the United States. When they dial 911, their call is routed to a U.S. dispatch centre. It can take a very long time before they are transferred back to Canada. Public safety is of the utmost importance to me.

[*English*]

**Branden Leslie (Portage—Lisgar, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. colleague for bringing forward this bill and for her remarks. Coming from a rural riding, I know all the dead spots when I am driving, so I know when I am going to hang up before the call simply drops. That is on the highway. When a combine light is on fire and someone cannot call 911, that is a real problem. I have communities that I can stand in the middle of and not be able to make a phone call whatsoever. It is absurd. The telecom companies' maps say that we have perfect coverage, and they are lying. It is a complete facade.

In the last budget that was tabled yesterday, I scanned through to find out what more could be done. I think this legislation is an important step to provide transparency in the mapping. In the budget itself, though, I saw nothing substantial that is going to lead to actual improvements in wireless coverage for my communities.

[*Translation*]

**Marianne Dandurand:** Mr. Speaker, in my remarks, I did say that I was very pleased to see this mentioned in the budget. This proves that the government is very concerned about this issue. The budget mentions the issue of connectivity in rural and remote areas, as well as the affordability of telecommunications services. The proposed solutions that will be implemented are more spectrum for 5G networks and private networks, and satellite services. Satellites are the future.

[*English*]

**Greg McLean (Calgary Centre, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today at third reading of Bill C-268, an act respecting the spectrum policy framework for Canada. I would like to thank the member for Compton—Stanstead for bringing this legislation before Parliament and for her efforts in advancing this important discussion.

As Conservatives indicated at second reading, we support the objective of improving accountability and transparency in how wireless coverage is measured and how spectrum policy is reviewed in Canada. After hearing the testimony presented before the Standing Committee on Industry and Technology, Conservatives continue to support this bill, and we believe it is a constructive step in the right direction. That said, I believe it is important that we be honest with Canadians about what the bill could and could not accomplish.

In 2007, smart phones were only beginning to emerge. Streaming services were in their infancy. Remote work was relatively uncommon. Cloud computing was not yet part of everyday life for most Canadians. Artificial intelligence was largely the subject of academic research rather than a tool used by businesses and consumers every day. Today, virtually every aspect of modern life depends on connectivity. Our businesses depend upon it. Our educational institutions depend upon it. Our health care systems depend upon it.

Bill C-268 would not eliminate every dead zone. It would not immediately bring cell service to every kilometre of highway. It would not instantly connect every rural and remote community. However, it would address a fundamental question that Parliament should always be asking, which is whether we are measuring success accurately.

Too often in Ottawa, governments become preoccupied with targets, statistics, maps and announcements. Canadians, on the other hand, judge success much differently. Canadians judge success when they pick up their phone and it works. They judge success when they can call for help, as my colleague from Portage—Lisgar said. They judge success when they can operate a business, connect with customers and communicate with family members.

That gap between what governments report and what Canadians experience in their daily lives was a recurring theme throughout the committee's study of this legislation. Witnesses acknowledged that there can be a difference between coverage that exists on paper and coverage that is actually experienced in the real world.

For many Canadians, particularly those living outside major urban centres, that reality is all too familiar. They have all experienced it. A coverage map indicates service is available. A government report indicates objectives are being met. A telecommunications provider states an area is covered, yet when Canadians attempt to make a call, send a message or access emergency services, they discover that reality does not quite match the map.

The demand for reliable connectivity has increased exponentially, yet the framework that guides Canada's spectrum policy has remained largely unchanged. It is entirely reasonable for Parliament to insist that such an important framework be reviewed on a regular basis. In fact, Conservatives argued at committee that reviews should take place every two years instead of every five years.

Technology evolves rapidly. Markets evolve rapidly. Consumer expectations evolve rapidly. We believe that more frequent reviews would have better reflected the pace of technological change. Unfortunately, that amendment was defeated. Nevertheless, the principle remains the same, which is that regular review is better than no review.

While much of this debate is focused on rural and remote communities, I would like to discuss why this matter is also important to the people I represent in Calgary Centre. Calgary Centre is an urban constituency. It is home to office towers, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, technology start-ups and thousands of highly skilled professionals. At first glance, it may appear that connectivity challenges affecting rural Canada are far removed from the lives of those living and working in downtown Calgary. Nothing could be further from the truth. Calgary's prosperity is deeply connected to what happens beyond city limits.

The engineers who design energy infrastructure in Calgary often oversee projects operating hundreds of kilometres away. The geologists evaluating resource opportunities rely on data generated from remote locations across Alberta. Energy companies monitor pipelines, facilities and operations spread across vast areas of Western Canada. Construction firms, transportation companies and service providers routinely operate in areas where connectivity remains unreliable.

● (1345)

Workers travel these roads every day. Truck drivers travel these roads every day. Tradespeople travel these roads every day. Families travel these roads every day. All of them expect a basic level of connectivity and safety. In many respects, connectivity has become just as important to modern commerce as roads, railways and airports. Without it, economic activity becomes more difficult, less efficient and less competitive.

This is particularly true for Alberta's energy sector. The energy industry is increasingly reliant on sophisticated communications technologies, real-time data, remote monitoring systems and advanced automation. Reliable connectivity supports productivity, efficiency and safety. It helps workers communicate. It helps operators monitor critical infrastructure. It helps businesses compete in a global economy. It helps ensure that Canadian resources can continue contributing to our national prosperity.

When people think about connectivity, they often think about convenience: the ability to browse the Internet, the ability to stream a video and the ability to check emails. Those things certainly matter. However, connectivity today is also an essential economic tool. For energy producer monitoring facilities in rural Alberta, connectivity is not a luxury. For a business serving clients across multiple regions, connectivity is not a luxury. For a worker travelling to a remote site, connectivity is not a luxury. It is infrastructure.

There is another aspect of this legislation that deserves attention, and that is public safety. Perhaps the most compelling argument for improving coverage accuracy and accountability is the impact that connectivity has on emergency response. When Canadians find themselves in distress, they need confidence that they can call for help. That expectation should not depend on a postal code. It should not depend on whether someone happens to be driving along a major urban corridor or a more remote stretch of highway. It should not depend on whether someone lives in a large city or a small community.

Across Canada, we have witnessed floods, wildfires, severe storms and other emergencies that have demonstrated the importance of reliable communications infrastructure. First responders depend on communications systems to coordinate their response. Families depend on communications systems to receive alerts and information. Individuals depend on communications systems to seek assistance. When connectivity fails, the consequences can be significant. That is why accountability matters. That is why transparency matters. That is why accurate information matters. Canadians deserve to know whether coverage claims actually reflect real-world outcomes.

I often say that effective public policy starts with a simple principle: tell Canadians the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If there is a coverage gap, we need to identify it. If there is a problem, we need to acknowledge it. If objectives are not being met, we need to be honest about it. Only then can meaningful solutions be developed.

Bill C-268 would help move us in that direction. It would create a mechanism for better verification. It would require regular review. It would provide greater transparency. It would give Parliament additional tools to assess whether policies are delivering the outcomes that Canadians expect.

Would this bill solve every problem? No. Would it eliminate every dead zone? No. Would it instantly close every connectivity gap across this vast country? No. However, it would make it harder for governments and regulators to rely solely on paper success when Canadians are experiencing something entirely different on the ground. For Conservatives, that is an important principle. Governments should be judged on results, not aspirations, not announcements and not press releases, but results.

At the end of the day, Canadians do not care what a coverage map says if their phone cannot place a call. They do not care what percentage appears in a government report if they lose service on the highway. They do not care how success is defined in Ottawa if they cannot connect when it matters most.

Canadians deserve reliable service. Canadians deserve accurate information. Canadians deserve accountability. Canadians deserve a spectrum policy framework that is periodically reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant in a rapidly changing technological environment.

For those reasons, Conservatives will be supporting Bill C-268 at third reading, and I encourage all members of the House to do the same.

● (1350)

**The Deputy Speaker:** I see that some members are rising expecting questions and comments, but this is, of course, third reading of a private member's bill. This is a good moment to explain that in the first hour of third reading, only the mover of the motion has the right to speak, and then they get five minutes of questions and comments. In the second hour, the same mover of the motion will end with a right of reply. In this case, it is her choice whether or not to take it, but it will only be in the second hour.

[*Translation*]

Resuming debate.

The member for Berthier—Maskinongé.

**Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased speak to Bill C-268. That said, I am going to take the liberty of making a brief aside right at the outset. I am sure my colleagues will not mind.

I was a high school teacher for 25 years. Yesterday, I found out that a former colleague of mine, a teacher at L'Érablière high school who inspired me greatly and whom I hold in high regard, has won a science teaching award known as the Raymond Gervais Award. Charline Liard-Arbour is radiant, bubbly, full of energy, and, above all, innovative. She always has fresh ideas for making her subject more engaging, and I think this accolade is fully deserved. I tip my hat to her.

I would now like to come back to today's topic, Bill C-268. I am pleased to discuss it. It addresses an issue that is extremely important to everyone, but especially to members from rural ridings like mine. It is an issue that constituents bring up with us at least once a week. Cell service dead zones can pop up in surprising places. They happen everywhere. That is the truth.

When we look at Bill C-268, the first question that comes to mind is whether it will really make a difference. In committee, witnesses told us that the verifications introduced by the bill are already being carried out. One thing is certain: This bill will make reviews and transparency mandatory. This bill will force the government to update the spectrum policy framework for Canada every five years. That has not been done since 2007, so it has been awhile.

Second, it will force the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to verify the accuracy of the coverage data provided by telecommunications companies for the regions. I think that is a really good idea.

Lastly, it will require the Minister of Industry to publish a report within 18 months of Bill C-268 coming into force. I hope that will be done. I hope the government will honour its commitment to publish the report. There needs to be transparency.

There are also other laws, like the Foreign Interference and Security of Information Act, that are supposed to be reviewed in the first year following a general election. The last I heard, that has not yet been done. We know that even if there is an obligation to prepare a report or a study, it does not always happen. We sincerely hope that is not the case, but we have our doubts. The bill tabled by the member for Compton—Stanstead is full of good intentions. I know her well enough to believe that she wants to see action on this file. We will agree to fully support the bill. It is outrageous that, in 2026, the safety of some citizens is at risk because they do not have access to a network. That is crazy.

I have been an MP for seven years, but I have been talking about this issue for eight years. I was active in the community before I was elected. Several places have dead zones, including Saint-Édouard-de-Maskinongé, Saint-Mathieu-du-Parc, Saint-Élie-de-Caxton and even Pointe-du-Lac. For those who may not know, Pointe-du-Lac is part of the city of Trois-Rivières. Even Pointe-du-Lac has dead zones.

Sometimes, people can encounter problems in urban or semi-urban areas too, like Saint-Boniface, Saint-Étienne-des-Grès, Saint-Alexis-des-Monts, Sainte-Geneviève-de-Berthier, Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon and Saint-Didace.

As elected officials, especially at the federal level, if we want to have a presence in our communities, we have to be mobile. We spend a lot of time in our cars. What do people do while sitting in their car? They do admin. Through the magic of Bluetooth technology, people can talk on the phone. We know where the dead zones are. In the middle of a conversation with someone, we will warn them that a dead zone is coming up ahead, that our call might drop and we might have to call them back. That is not normal. It may be a funny example, but it can be a very serious problem if a driver gets in an accident on an isolated stretch of road and calling for help is not an option. In my riding, some deaths could have been prevented. This has not been proven, but sadly, by all indications, these deaths could have been avoided had there been signal. That is sad.

● (1355)

It is the government's responsibility to do everything it can to improve the situation. As elected officials, we are working hard and we want this to work, but government structures like the CRTC need to address this.

Licence holders must be compelled to use the spectrum. Some companies pay to reserve spectrum, but do not develop it. They do not believe it is profitable enough. I think the government should be able to say that, if they bought the spectrum, they have to develop it, and then give them a very short time frame to do so. If that spectrum is not developed, too bad for the licence holder. They will have to give it up and pass it on to the next operator. At some point, we need to ensure coverage for our population. The way it is makes no sense.

I imagine that my colleague is thrilled about our support. Sometimes things get rusty over time. The bill talks about implementing a review mechanism and requiring a report. Members can count on us to demand those reports. I urge my colleague to speak with the Minister of Industry and tell her that she will have to produce results, because we want to see results, output and new towers built where they are needed. If there are any companies that are waiting to make more profit, if they are not developing the spectrum or if they are refusing to share towers, as we sometimes see, that is unacceptable. We need to take action on that.

The Bloc Québécois will enthusiastically support this bill, in the hope that it will improve the situation.

● (1400)

**Guillaume Deschênes-Thériault (Madawaska—Restigouche, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise to speak on a subject of great importance in my constituency: cellular connectivity. This is an issue that worries me, just as it worries my colleague, the member for Compton—Stanstead, who is also a very strong advocate for the vitality of rural areas.

In my riding, I lose signal when I am in Upper Madawaska. Then, if I move around a bit, the signal comes back. When I pass through Saint-Hilaire, I lose the connection again. It comes back again when I reach Edmundston. However, it is not so great in Saint-Basile anymore, even though it used to work a few years ago. If I keep going towards Rivière-Verte and Sainte-Anne, there are dead zones. The same happens if I go to the Restigouche area, whether I am in Balmoral, McKendrick, Glen Levit or Robinsonville, to name but a few places.

My riding has very poor cellular connectivity. This is a top concern for my constituents, so it is a priority for me as well. It is very rare that I do not hear about this issue when I go home to my riding on the weekend. It is also a priority for local elected officials, including mayors and municipal councillors. I hear about this a lot. That is why I am pleased to co-sponsor my colleague's bill, which calls for a review of Canada's spectrum policy framework with a view to promoting the deployment of cellular connectivity in rural areas.

I like to use all the platforms I have, including this speech in the House, to raise the issue of cellular connectivity in Ottawa. I am also fortunate to be the co-vice-chair of our party's rural caucus, and this issue is top of mind for our group. Since I was elected, I have had multiple meetings with telecommunications companies, including service providers, as well as companies in the new technology sector. Some of them show great potential, particularly in low-earth orbit satellite technology. These technologies have the potential to be a real game changer in terms of connectivity. Yes, we have towers to serve areas that are more densely populated, but these satellite technologies would help bridge the gap in regions that are currently underserved. Coverage in these areas could be improved using these technologies. There is no question that further regulatory adjustments are needed to really take full advantage of the potential of these new technologies. As a member of Parliament, I urge members to act quickly on this issue, which I raise regularly.

As we know, cell connectivity has enormous consequences. It impacts public safety. When cars break down in locations without service, it can cause problems. Just think of Highway 17 at night. Sometimes, it can be even more serious, when an accident happens and immediate emergency assistance is needed. It can even be a matter of life or death. Cell connectivity is an extremely serious issue, but the broader issue of economic development is another consideration. Businesses need reliable connections. That is what attracts them to a region. Consider workers, too. A lot of people work while they are on the road these days. As an MP, when I am driving around my riding, it is not unusual for my calls to drop, forcing me to wait a bit and then call the person back. This issue affects workplace productivity, because this is an inefficient way to work. It affects the regions' ability to attract and retain residents too, because cell connectivity is not a luxury; it is an essential service that affects a person's quality of life.

As members also know, people now use their cellphones to access a wide range of services, whether health care, government services or banking, to name just a few. I would also say that this is a matter of fairness between regions. If we want to build Canada strong, we need strong rural communities, and reliable cellular coverage is essential. That is why I support Bill C-268, which calls for a review of the Canada's spectrum policy framework. This is part of the solution. The other part is to emphasize the importance of acting quickly to establish a regulatory framework that supports the growth of satellite technologies in order to improve connectivity in rural and remote areas. This is an issue I have been working on and focusing on since my election to Ottawa, because I know that progress in this area will truly make a difference for the communities I represent, for my constituents, and for businesses in Madawaska—Restigouche.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of my colleague, the member for Compton—Stanstead, who is working tirelessly on the issue of cellular connectivity. She speaks about it regularly. She regularly addresses issues affecting rural areas. As the member for Madawaska—Restigouche, I always enjoy working with her because my riding and hers face many similar challenges, and I believe that by joining forces with other members from rural areas, we can successfully advance issues in Ottawa that are important to our communities. I would say that co-sponsoring this bill is another example of the strong collaboration that I hope will continue.

● (1405)

[*English*]

**Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I look forward to sharing a few thoughts on Bill C-268. I do think it is important to begin by discussing the context, in terms of the economic situation of our country. This bill includes an aspiration about opportunities that can be associated with rural connectivity. As members know, we are supportive of that.

The broader context, when it comes to opportunity for Canadians, is a challenging one. Yesterday, the government announced its budget. A budget is primarily about the government making the case for the things that it wants to do and the impact that it proposes will result from its policy. It is an exposition of the government's proposals, ideas and plans.

On the other hand, today, we received the jobs report, which is a report card, an assessment based on realities in the real world of what is actually happening in the economy, and gives us a real picture of whether or not the government's plans are working. The contrast between yesterday's message and today's reality is quite striking.

Yesterday, the government talked about all the jobs it was going to create. Today, we heard the results. Here they are. More than 50,000 private sector jobs were lost in the last month alone. Those are the realities, not hypotheses about the future. We saw an increase in youth unemployment from 13% to 13.7%, and an increase in the overall unemployment rate from 6.5% to 6.7%. The unemployment rate for 55-plus went up as well. There were increases across different demographics in the unemployment rate, increasing the unemployment rate overall.

Underneath that, we see some other data points that I think are important to dwell on. Number one, it is getting harder for unemployed people to find a job. The statistics track job-finding rates. Fewer than one in five unemployed Canadians found a job in the last month. It is getting harder for people who are out of work to find a job.

Also, the Statistics Canada report today looked at financial insecurity in households. Three out of 10 Canadians are living in a financially insecure household. That is a household where people are struggling to pay for their basic needs. We have a situation where people are working hard and yet there is an increase in that financial insecurity. Adding to that is the reality that Canadians are working longer hours, which is also in the jobs report.

Canadians are less likely to be working at all. If they are working, they are working longer hours and yet they are seeing higher levels of financial insecurity. If they are unemployed, they are having a harder time than ever before of finding jobs. Now, these are the realities in our economy.

First of all, we asked about the jobs report in question period, and the government consistently refused to respond or even mention the jobs report. The Liberals want to talk about the budget. We are happy to debate the provisions of the budget, but they do not want to acknowledge the existence of the jobs report, which is the report card, the results of their policies. The jobs report shows the government is failing. The Liberals do not even want to acknowledge or talk about it, and yet we have all of these numbers that demonstrate problems. These numbers demonstrate that it is harder to find a job than ever before, that more Canadians are unemployed than in the past, that it is particularly hard for young people to start out in life and access opportunities, and that those who are working are working longer and are more likely to be dealing with financial insecurity. These are the realities that I think demonstrate that the government's approach is not as sunny as it would like to pretend it is.

● (1410)

Moreover, when we highlight these problems, the Liberals say, “Stop talking things down. We should be optimistic. Why are you saying negative things?” I think it is important that we speak truth and look at realities. A young person who edits their credit card statement before they give it to their parents is not doing themselves or anyone else any good. The goal of looking frankly at these realities is to try to promote concrete action to address them so that we can solve the problems our country is facing. We want to solve these problems. We want to identify problems and then propose constructive solutions to them. The government putting its head in the sand, pretending that problems do not exist and pretending that things are sunnier than they are is not going to lead to solutions to the problems.

Let us look at the jobs report. Let us talk about the frank problems it demonstrates in terms of it being harder to find a job, harder to get ahead and harder to make ends meet even for those who are working. Let us talk about those problems and then let us talk about concrete solutions.

In the lead-up to the budget, Conservatives proposed detailed, concrete solutions. A year ago, we presented a jobs plan that focused on unleashing the economy, fixing immigration, fixing training and building homes where the jobs are. There were concrete proposals associated with all of those areas of recommendation. We have not seen action from the government on any of our proposals. In fact, in many cases, it has moved in the opposite direction. We also presented five different substantial constructive proposals to support families, like working to integrate work and family life, reforms to parental leave and changes to CPP to ensure that parents are not penalized for being with their kids later on in their retirement years. These are no- or low-cost proposals that would make life substantially better for Canadians, in one case protecting families impacted by the death of a parent. It was a proposal that cost less than a $1 million a year.

The Liberals are zero for five on implementing these constructive ideas. One would think they would have seen the constructive proposals coming from the opposition on jobs and families and said, “Let us put some of them in the budget. Maybe it will be harder for the opposition to criticize the budget if we take some of their good ideas and put them in there.” However, it is oh for four on taking ideas from the jobs plan, and oh for five on taking ideas from our proposals to support families. We see today the result of their unwillingness to listen to the constructive ideas that have come forward in the House. The result is a continuing worsening situation when it comes to jobs and financial security for families.

When it comes to the issue of jobs and connectivity, which the bill deals with, in rural and remote communities, addressing connectivity gaps can contribute to opportunities for people to have employment. One of the areas we are working on regarding jobs and opportunities in remote areas is to promote the construction of housing where the jobs are. We see high levels of unemployment in certain regions, which often but not always are bigger cities, and then there are labour force needs in other places. We want to support Canadians taking Canadian jobs, and that includes having an ability to take jobs where they are.

One of the barriers that can contribute to making it harder for people to relocate for jobs and opportunity is the availability of housing. We have introduced as part of our plan a significant incentive around workforce housing construction, making it easier to build homes where the jobs are and for people to choose to locate near where jobs are. Connectivity is part of that. It is one thing that allows opportunities to grow in remote areas and makes it easier for people to make a choice to locate in a different area in order to get jobs and opportunity. Conservatives have been supportive of the bill. We have been constructive in the process. We have contributed to the work that needs to happen in the area of promoting connectivity, work that I think the government has been way behind on.

Sadly, this is existing within an overall picture in which jobs are down and the government is failing. The Liberals want us to ignore their failure and feel sunny and happy about their hopes for the future. We need to look squarely at the realities and challenges and do the work necessary to address these problems. That should include implementing the constructive solutions that we have put forward as part of our jobs plan and our plan for work and family life.

● (1415)

**Branden Leslie (Portage—Lisgar, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. colleague for bringing forward this bill. Hearing her speech, I imagine our ridings share some similarities insofar as the rural nature of them.

I think this bill would make a difference, and that is why Conservatives supported it at second reading. I intend to also support it today. In fact, I brought up this bill while standing in a community with residents who were asking me why they could not make a phone call right where we were standing in the middle of town.

I think this is a step. Again, I was reviewing the budget from yesterday, and I see references to things like increasing spectrum availability and having it at an auction. Now, that sort of promise is positive, although it has no associated timeline with it, which is, of course, worrisome.

Going back to when we started developing this spectrum policy, it was the very earliest days of iPhones. Things have changed so immensely in technology and the way we live our lives.

Let me outline some differences. I might be driving home today here in Ottawa, and my phone call might drop. It will be annoying for a brief second, but I will hit redial, my call will be answered, and I will pick up where I left off in my conversation, versus when I am driving down—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Speaking of connectivity, the member's mobile device can be heard, and it is making it difficult for interpreters. I would invite the member to put the device away to make the work of our interpreters easier.

**Branden Leslie:** Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, there is good service in the big cities, and that is the key difference. We can stand in this place and make a phone call, but when I am driving down the highway heading from my home in Portage down to Winkler, I know exactly where the dead spots are. When I am on the phone, I will say, “Okay, I have to let you go. I am going to lose you here.” That is not identified on the map.

It is one thing to lose a phone call and have to pick it up a couple of minutes later or 10 kilometres later, which is worse than dropping a phone call in a city.

Where it really matters is when someone's home in a rural area has no coverage. They can buy a booster for a bit of coverage right within their own home. Another example is of someone driving a combine during harvest and, heaven forbid, there is a fire, which does happen. They try to call emergency services, hoping they might be able to get there in time to save their $1-million piece of equipment, but find that they have no service. Someone could have an invader on their property in the middle of the night in a rural area, and they hope to call emergency responders, but they leave their house and have no service.

It is one thing to be annoyed in a city when we do not have the ability to make a phone call. It is another thing to have legitimate safety concerns on farms and across rural landscapes across this country. It is unfair. We pay the same prices as anybody else buying their plans from any of these big telecom companies, and we get, at best, half the service.

In many locations, people simply more or less live without service. I can think of Elm Creek, Miami or Somerset. Standing in town feels like we are living in a third world country, yet when I pull up the maps, the coverage is perfect.

● (1420)

**The Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member cannot use props during a speech. He can make references to maps, but not show them or hand them around.

I will invite the member to continue.

**Branden Leslie:** Mr. Speaker, I will outline them. For one company, it is perfectly green with a couple of spots. For the other one, it is perfectly blue. The coverage is perfect, if I go online. That is not reality. It is not reality for thousands of my constituents. It is not reality for, I assume, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Canadians across this country.

Yes, the bill is a positive step. Forcing transparency upon these companies, to show the actual network service they are providing to their very highly paying customers, is the absolute minimum step we can take. I do applaud the member for bringing this forward, but I think it is time to look beyond this. Let us fix this problem.

There were efforts by Conservatives on the bill in committee to try to hasten the pace of the review from five years down to two years. I wish it had been adopted, and I hope the Senate might consider such a change to make sure there are updates to this proposal, to make sure these big telecom companies are following the letter of the law, should this plan to implement transparency actually come to light.

The other factor, with respect to our rural communities, is that we are thriving for many reasons, in many places, in many ways thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit of our people. We have so many businesses that are driving our rural economy, and more importantly Canada's, that are reliant on travel between smaller communities, whether in agriculture, manufacturing or anything else. We are yet again at another competitive disadvantage, from the business lens, when they do not have good enough service.

I recognize that if this problem were easy to fix, some government would have fixed it by now. We live in a nation where competition is something we have long dreamed of yet have never been able to achieve, frankly, in just about any of our major sectors, and particularly the telecoms, so taking this small step to make transparency emerge with the big actors here would be of value. It is frustrating that when I go close to the border, I lose service from my Canadian provider, yet an American tower will pick me up, and I will join a roaming charge service to be part of a U.S. network.

Why on earth would we allow an overlapping signal to come from the United States and allow our big telecoms to not be providing service to our border communities? These are some of our most important communities in terms of trade, and in my case agriculture, that are living with a U.S. signal as their main provider. This country needs to do better. We may not think of this sort of infrastructure as infrastructure, but it is vital infrastructure that is lagging, with tremendous disparity based on where people live.

When I go back to the map, just outside of my riding in Oak Bluff, just in the corner, there is good service. In Winnipeg, there is wonderful service. I understand that many people live in our big communities, but to charge the amounts we get charged as Canadian users of these technologies, particularly the ones who are receiving some of the poorest service we could imagine, is outrageous.

Anybody who has ever travelled internationally knows there are some countries we might not expect would have unbelievable cell phone coverage, but they do. It is remarkable that people can travel across so many places in this great nation and lose signal so many times. The Liberal government has focused time and time again on fibre and access into homes, and that is important, but in my view, the wireless networks and the shortages and lacks of coverage across so many regions are more important. This is an urgent issue. It is an urgent issue for our business community, for our families and for the safety of the people we are sent here to represent.

In the budget, there are nods to this being a problem. There is a section titled “Increasing competition in the telecommunications sector”. That is a great idea, but when I read through some of the offerings of the Liberal government, I see plans to make plans, to make promises to maybe do something.

We have suffered with Liberal government inaction on this policy file for 11 years. Not a single person in my riding would say their cell phone connectivity has gotten better. In fact, many of them tell me it has gotten worse. I think of the tower near Carman that was removed, which had everybody in the region wondering, “What happened? I used to get service here. Where did it go?”

● (1425)

The consultation process among these companies with the people who live, work and play across our rural landscapes is abysmal. While they simultaneously manage to say that they are enhancing services, what happens on the ground is really all that matters.

I would love every map in this country from our big telecom companies to be 100% accurate. I hope that by passing this legislation, we will force upon them the level of transparency required to come closer to achieving that. I recognize that it is difficult and is something that these companies surely do not want to do, but Canadians have a right to know that they are not getting the service they are paying a significant amount for, often $100 or more a month. It is not good enough.

I hope we can pass this legislation expeditiously and, more importantly, take steps to solve the true problems of service reaching cellphones across my riding and across this country.

**Ellis Ross (Skeena—Bulkley Valley, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to get up on behalf of Skeena—Bulkley Valley to talk about Bill C-268, which is long overdue, decades overdue. The last review was done in, I think, 2017.

That aside, we are talking about connectivity. We are talking about cellphone coverage. That is what we are really talking about. The north, in my riding, has been underserved for years, with broken promises. We are also talking about safety. I agree with that. I have heard all the speeches, but in one instance, we are talking about Highway 16, which has been referred to as the Highway of Tears, where a lot of aboriginal women go missing. The promise back then was to have 100% connectivity from Prince Rupert to Prince George. We are not even close. We have not even reached 50% of that connectivity promise.

This is not just about safety. It is about building Canada strong. In this case, I would urge the government to take a lesson from this side of the House. I know it does not like to, but it really should, because the north, especially regions like my riding, actually drives the economy of Canada, yet it does not get the services it requires to be a full, functioning, healthy economy. Connectivity has a lot to do with that.

Look at the Stewart port. It has billions of dollars of potential. The Liberals mention it when they need a photo op, but does it have good connectivity? No. Has it asked for that? Yes. Has it asked for highway upgrades? Yes, it has.

The Tahltan first nation was here just yesterday asking about connectivity so they will not have to subscribe to Starlink, a U.S. company, to provide them cell service. They also want infrastructure promises. The government has to get away from getting on the coattails of projects that already have their own momentum and look at different regions that can provide billions of dollars in investment to kick-start our economy after a 10-year period of stagnation.

The golden triangle in Tahltan territory needs connectivity and highway infrastructure. In Burns Lake, we need connectivity. We can contribute more than what we already see in the papers in places like Stewart, Tahltan, Burns Lake and even Kitimat, and especially along the Highway of Tears. That was promised decades ago. In this instance, we have to hold these big telecom companies in Canada accountable and make them do as they say and say as they do, not the other way around.

This legislation is long overdue. I really urge this House to vote in favour of it going forward.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired, and the order is dropped to the bottom of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

It being 2:30 p.m., the House stands adjourned until Monday, November 16, at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 28(2) and 24(1).

(The House adjourned at 2:30 p.m.)

# CONTENTS

**Friday, November 6, 2026**

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS


**The Budget**

**Financial Statement of Minister of Finance**
Motion ... 11417
Turnbull ... 11417
McLean (Calgary Centre) ... 11418
Perron ... 11419
Martin ... 11419
St-Pierre ... 11419
Lloyd ... 11421
Bonin ... 11421
Johns ... 11422
Watchorn ... 11422
Chong ... 11422
Deschênes-Thériault ... 11423
Barsalou-Duval ... 11424
McCauley ... 11424
Kelly ... 11424
Gerretsen ... 11425


## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS


**10th Anniversary of Local Business**
Klassen ... 11426

**The Budget**
Bexte ... 11426

**75th Anniversary of March of Dimes**
Chi ... 11426

**Public Services and Procurement**
Cooper ... 11426

**Movember**
Sawatzky ... 11427

**Veterans' Week**
McLean (Calgary Centre) ... 11427

**25th Anniversary of Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition**
Naqvi ... 11427

**The Budget**
Van Popta ... 11427

**Chambre de commerce Brandon**
Perron ... 11427

**Mental Health**
Bendayan ... 11428

**Chinese Canadians of Force 136**
Au ... 11428

**National Philanthropy Day**
St-Pierre ... 11428

**The Budget**
Muys ... 11428

**The Budget**
Rochefort ... 11428

**Employment**
Genuis ... 11429

**Infrastructure Investments in Madawaska—Restigouche**
Deschênes-Thériault ... 11429


## ORAL QUESTIONS


**Finance**
Chong ... 11429
Turnbull ... 11429
Chong ... 11429
Turnbull ... 11430

**Public Services and Procurement**
Brassard ... 11430
Kelloway ... 11430
Brassard ... 11430
Kelloway ... 11430

**The Budget**
Vien ... 11430
Leitão ... 11430
Vien ... 11430
Desrochers ... 11430
Perron ... 11431
Bendayan ... 11431
Perron ... 11431
Desrochers ... 11431
Barsalou-Duval ... 11431
Bendayan ... 11431

**Finance**
McCauley ... 11431
Turnbull ... 11431
McCauley ... 11431
Turnbull ... 11432

**The Budget**
Kelly ... 11432
Hogan ... 11432
Kelly ... 11432
Hogan ... 11432
Au ... 11432
Turnbull ... 11432

**Public Services and Procurement**
Steinley ... 11432
Kelloway ... 11432
Steinley ... 11432

Kelloway ... 11433

**Climate Change**
Bonin ... 11433
Bendayan ... 11433
Bonin ... 11433
Grant ... 11433

**Rail Transportation**
Kramp-Neuman ... 11433
Kelloway ... 11433

**Employment**
Kramp-Neuman ... 11434
Turnbull ... 11434
Genuis ... 11434
McLean (Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke) ... 11434

**The Budget**
Lake ... 11434
Hogan ... 11434
Lake ... 11434
Chatel ... 11434

**Canadian Heritage**
Nguyen ... 11435
Leitão ... 11435

**Finance**
Gourde ... 11435
Leitão ... 11435
Gourde ... 11435
Bendayan ... 11435
Lloyd ... 11435
Hogan ... 11435
Lloyd ... 11435
Turnbull ... 11435
Genuis ... 11436
Turnbull ... 11436
Leslie ... 11436
Turnbull ... 11436
Leslie ... 11436
McLean (Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke) ... 11436

**Indigenous Affairs**
Morin ... 11436
Hanley ... 11437
Morin ... 11437
Hanley ... 11437

**Canadian Identity and Culture**
Ntumba ... 11437
Chenette ... 11437

**Employment**
Lewis (Essex) ... 11437
Fragiskatos ... 11437

**News Media Industry**
Malette (Kapuskasing—Timmins—Mushkegowuk) ... 11437
Chenette ... 11438
Malette (Kapuskasing—Timmins—Mushkegowuk) ... 11438
Chenette ... 11438

**Public Safety**
Martin ... 11438
Anandasangaree ... 11438

**The Economy**
Ross ... 11438
Alty ... 11438

**Aviation Industry**
Kwan ... 11438
Kelloway ... 11439

**The Budget**
Kwan ... 11439
Desrochers ... 11439

**Presence in the Gallery**
The Deputy Speaker ... 11439

**Points of Order**

**Decorum**
Gerretsen ... 11439
Genuis ... 11439
Perron ... 11440
Reid ... 11440
May ... 11440
Brassard ... 11441

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

**Supplementary Estimates (B), 2026-27**
Ali ... 11441

**Public Accounts of Canada**
Ali ... 11441

**Departmental Results Reports 2025-26**
Ali ... 11441

**Auditor General**
The Deputy Speaker ... 11441

**Petitions**

**Endometriosis**
Kwan ... 11441

**Fisheries**
Small ... 11441

**Climate Change**
May ... 11442

**Questions Passed as Orders for Return**
Kelloway ... 11442

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

**The Budget**

**Financial Statement of Minister of Finance**
Motion ... 11442
Nguyen ... 11442

**Medical Assistance in Dying Safeguards Act**

**Bill C-41—Notice of Time Allocation Motion**

McLean (Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke) ..... 11444

**The Budget**

**Financial Statement of Minister of Finance**

Motion ..... 11444
St-Pierre ..... 11444
Nguyen ..... 11444
Aboultaif ..... 11444
Barsalou-Duval ..... 11444
Leslie ..... 11445
Kwan ..... 11445
St-Pierre ..... 11446
Lloyd ..... 11447
May ..... 11447
Bonin ..... 11447
Gourde ..... 11447
Desrochers ..... 11449
Bonin ..... 11449
McCauley ..... 11449
Deschênes-Thériault ..... 11449
McLean (Calgary Centre) ..... 11450
St-Pierre ..... 11451
Reid ..... 11451
Perron ..... 11452
Romanado ..... 11452
May ..... 11452

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

**Spectrum Policy Framework for Canada Act**

Bill C-268. Report stage ..... 11453
Dandurand ..... 11453
Motion for concurrence ..... 11453
(Motion agreed to) ..... 11453
Third reading ..... 11453
Genuis ..... 11454
St-Pierre ..... 11455
Leslie ..... 11455
McLean (Calgary Centre) ..... 11455
Perron ..... 11457
Deschênes-Thériault ..... 11458
Genuis ..... 11459
Leslie ..... 11460
Ross ..... 11462

**Published under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Commons**

## SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

**The proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees are hereby made available to provide greater public access. The parliamentary privilege of the House of Commons to control the publication and broadcast of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees is nonetheless reserved. All copyrights therein are also reserved.**

**Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the Copyright Act. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.**

**Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the Copyright Act.**

**Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.**

**Also available on the House of Commons website at the following address: https://www.ourcommons.ca**

**Publié en conformité de l'autorité du Président de la Chambre des communes**

## PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

**Les délibérations de la Chambre des communes et de ses comités sont mises à la disposition du public pour mieux le renseigner. La Chambre conserve néanmoins son privilège parlementaire de contrôler la publication et la diffusion des délibérations et elle possède tous les droits d'auteur sur celles-ci.**

**Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la Loi sur le droit d'auteur. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre des communes.**

**La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la Loi sur le droit d'auteur.**

**La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.**

**Aussi disponible sur le site Web de la Chambre des communes à l'adresse suivante : https://www.noscommunes.ca**