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FALL 2020



LIBERAL THRONE SPEECH—LOST OPPORTUNITY

The Liberals’ Speech from the Throne was intended to be a plan for Canada to get through COVID and our economy back on track. It failed miserably on both counts by not addressing the many challenges facing our communities and country. The Speech, full of platitudes and rehashed promises, laid out big spending ideas hoping to shift attention away from Liberal corruption and scandals. It offered no implementation plan and little hope. It could have been an opportunity to unite Canada.

Conservatives, Premiers, and millions of Canadians asked Trudeau to acknowledge and address western alienation. Not only was western alienation not mentioned, he went so far as to call it “crazy” while speaking in French in the House of Commons. His exclusion and dismissive language only fuel the idea that in Trudeau’s Canada, the West is insignificant.

Premiers reiterated their need for additional healthcare support and sought a long-term commitment from the federal government. Instead of a pledge to work with and support provinces, the Liberals are offering an “Ottawa Knows Best” approach to interfere in the jurisdiction of the provinces in healthcare, housing and social supports.

Key sectors like farming and energy were again ignored. Trudeau instead committed to re-training Canadians in high tech, “Knowledge Economy” jobs. Small businesses across the country were hoping to see how Canada would re-open our economy and help get Canadians back to work. Most Canadians don’t want more government hand outs, they want to work.

Our local communities have job-creating, shovel-ready infrastructure projects. They are just waiting for federal and provincial funding to start investing in water, wastewater, rural broadband, roads, bridges, and much more. Any Throne Speech commitments for infrastructure projects had no timelines, nor any new commitments to help cash-strapped municipalities.

Current and former Parliamentary Budget Officers, as well as business leaders from across the country, have called for a plan to get spending under control. Canada has never taken on this amount of debt, borrowing \$5 billion per week. Experts and public servants alike call it unsustainable. The Liberals’ promise of a fiscal update in a few months, combined with more excessive spending, will lead Canada into a fiscal crisis and put vital social support systems like healthcare and employment insurance at risk. Endless borrowing is not a path out of problems – as we all know. It results in even higher taxes and cuts to services.

Canadians want leaders that put our country ahead of political interests. The Liberals ignored this too. Rather than a plan all Canadians could support, they outlined a plan they hope will get them re-elected. Canadians want hope restored, prosperity rebuilt, our country and communities protected, provincial imbalances eliminated, quality of life improved and to make Canadian unity a priority. The Throne Speech missed the opportunity to do any of that.



I was pleased to meet with Erin O’Toole, our newly-elected party leader, to discuss how our Conservative team will continue holding the Liberals to account and representing the interests and concerns of hard-working Canadians.

CONSTITUENT FEEDBACK

Please mark the answer to the question below:
Do you feel the Speech from the Throne provides a solid plan for Canada’s economic recovery?

- Yes NO Unsure

COMMENTS: _____

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CONVERSION THERAPY, MAiD TOP LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Trudeau Liberals kicked off the fall sitting of the new Parliamentary session by reintroducing their pieces of legislation on Conversion Therapy and Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). On October 1st, the government tabled Bill C-6, legislation to ban the practice of Conversion Therapy. There is no doubt that forced Conversion Therapy is wrong and should be banned. Unfortunately, the new Bill is a carbon copy of the Bill tabled in the last session that does not distinguish between voluntary or forced, and expands the definition to include gender transition, exploration of gender identity and sexual behaviour. There is no articulated protection offered for parental rights, religious freedoms, or protections for conscious rights. While I am strongly opposed to any so-called therapy or treatment that forces a person to try to change their sexual orientation against their will, I am concerned there is a strong possibility certain religious activities, such as youth groups, Alpha courses, pastoral or teacher counselling, or even doctors, mental health professionals, friends or family members who provide support to persons struggling with their sexual orientation, sexual feelings, or gender identity, may fall within the definition of the proposed law. The Liberal government knows that most Canadians don't want to see conversion therapy, but they also know that most Canadians don't want conversations between a parent and a child or teacher or religious leader and a young person to be criminalized either. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. We need to get this right, not divide Canadians, which is exactly what the Liberals are trying to do.

Similarly, the previous MAiD bill, tabled in response to a Quebec Superior Court decision from 2019 that struck down the "reasonable foreseeable natural death" clause of the legislation as unconstitutional, was effectively

nullified by Trudeau's prorogation of the House of Commons earlier this summer. The new Bill, also called C-7, repeals the "reasonably foreseeable" clause but still requires the patient to have a 'grievous and irremediable medical condition.' Since MAiD became law in Canada in 2016, roughly 13,000 Canadians have received an assisted suicide and the proposals will broaden eligibility and therefore the uptake. Sadly, the Liberal government has not funded their \$3 billion national strategy for palliative care across Canada which was part of their 2015 platform. The results of the Liberal government's online consultation on the issue, which ended on January 27, 2020, can be found online in the *What we Heard Report: A Public Consultation on Medical Assistance in Dying*. Our Conservative team is closely reviewing the government's amendments to this legislation and discussing it as a caucus. Our priority is ensuring this type of legislation includes safeguards for the most vulnerable in our society, as well as for the conscience rights of physicians and allied health professionals. It should be noted that both of these Bills were re-tabled just as this newsletter went to print, and will already be working their way through the legislative process by the time this reaches constituents.



A staple of my annual schedule is the Canadian Food-grains Bank's Fall Harvest. This year over 2,300 bushels of wheat were harvested, raising more than \$14,000.

HOW CAN WE HELP

INQUIRIES WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

- Service Canada
- Revenue Canada
- Phoenix Pay
- Immigration
- Veterans Affairs

INQUIRIES ON COVID-19 SPECIFIC BENEFITS:

- Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB, formerly CERB)
- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
- Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)
- Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)

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NO POSTAGE REQUIRED

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