

## **Work in the House of Commons:**

Over the past few months, MP Jeremy Patzer has been working hard to make the voice of the Southwest heard. Right from the beginning, MP Patzer has hit the ground running by taking on policy issues which are pertinent to the constituents of Cypress Hills—Grasslands and Canada at large.

### Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne:

- MP Patzer delivered his [maiden speech in the House of Commons](#) as an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. His speech focused on:
  - o The government's lack of care for western Canadians, even though the Prime Minister had claimed just weeks earlier to have heard the frustrations of the West. For example, the government announced that it would double down on its carbon tax to cut down on Canada's carbon dioxide emissions.
  - o The government's negligence to develop Canadian energy and their punishing of oil and gas workers.
  - o How Saskatchewan has managed to dramatically reduce carbon emissions by developing more efficient energy sources and using revolutionary farming practices.

### February Rail Blockades and the Teck Frontier Cancellation:

- MP Patzer questioned the government on their [inaction when dozens of rail blockades](#) were set up across the country, hurting farmers who were already struggling to get by.
- MP Patzer questioned the government on the [cancellation of the Teck Frontier project](#) which resulted in thousands of jobs lost and billions of dollars in investment pulled from Alberta.

### COVID-19 and the Economy:

- MP Patzer played an important role in the Conservative Party's efforts to put pressure on the government to provide more support for Canadian businesses struggling to keep their workers employed during the pandemic:
  - o Questioned the Minister of Agriculture for her lack of a plan to support the needs of those who feed the country when Farm Credit Canada's funding and available loans proved to be insufficient or inaccessible for Canadian agricultural needs.
  - o Brought attention to the problems that livestock farmers faced and the vulnerable state of Canadian supply chains.
  - o Echoed the calls of Canadian cattlemen who called on the government to create a set-aside program.
- As the need to begin reopening the Canadian economy became clear, MP Patzer was able to ask the Minister of Health if testing for antibodies to determine herd immunity to the coronavirus was possible.

### Medical Assistance in Dying and Compassionate Palliative Care:

- Following a decision by a Superior Court of Quebec judge's order that the Government of Canada loosen restrictions on Medical Assistance in Dying, debate began in the House of Commons on Bill C-7, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*.
  - o Among other things, the legislation introduced by the government seeks to, "repeal the provision that requires a person's natural death be reasonably foreseeable in order for them to be eligible for medical assistance in dying," and, "permit medical assistance in dying to be provided to a person who has been found eligible to receive it, whose natural death is reasonably foreseeable and who has lost the capacity to consent before medical assistance in dying is provided."
- Many constituents who reached out to raise their concerns on the new legislation.

- They were concerned that these new provisions would put vulnerable Canadians at risk of abuses at the hands of those who deemed them to be valueless.
- They were also concerned that this legislation would further strip healthcare professionals of their Freedom of Conscience as guaranteed in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- MP Patzer reaffirmed his commitment to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death, and his commitment to protecting Canadians' Freedom of Conscience and Religion.
  - Without significant changes to the legislation, MP Patzer will vote against the bill when it is brought to vote in the House of Commons.
  - He has also stated publicly that he believes it is time for Canada to invest in compassionate care for those who are near the end of their life.
    - For instance, following a report on the horrific conditions of long-term care facilities in Ontario and Quebec during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Post Millennial [published his op-ed expressing this belief](#).

#### Industry and Manufacturing:

- MP Patzer brought several other issues to the attention of the government and put pressure on them to act on the needs of his constituents and Canadians across the country.
  - He questioned the government on their inaction to make exceptions to copyright laws to allow interoperability between manufacturers without the fees that are typical to bypass digital locks (these exceptions are made in United States' copyright legislation). This puts the Canadian agri-food industry at a disadvantage compared to their American counterparts.
- MP Patzer questioned the government on their allotment of personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturing contracts with the Government of Canada.
  - Announcements made by partnering businesses and the federal government indicated that most contracts to manufacture PPE were made with companies located in the maritime provinces, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia, with very few located in the prairie/central provinces, despite hundreds of companies applying for these contracts.
- The government would not answer when asked by MP Patzer if they would recognize the importance of petroleum (oil and gas) in the creation of PPE.

#### **Work on the Standing Committee on Industry, Science, and Technology:**

MP Patzer has also been very busy with his work on the Standing Committee on Industry, Science, and Technology, along with his colleagues the Hon. MP Michelle Rempel Garner, MP Earl Dreeshen, and MP Tracy Gray, along with his other opposition colleagues from the Bloc Quebecois and the NDP.

#### Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (i.e. NAFTA 2.0):

- The committee studied the newly signed Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).
  - Many witnesses gave testimony about how this free trade agreement would affect their businesses and the Canadian economy.
    - MP Patzer heard from Honey Bee Manufacturing which testified to how Canadian copyright laws restrict agricultural equipment manufacturers.
    - The United States' copyright laws give American manufacturers a competitive advantage by exempting manufacturers from exorbitant fees to bypass digital locks which restrict third-party manufacturers from developing compatible equipment.
- The committee heard from witnesses about the lack of a softwood lumber agreement with the United States.
  - Excessive tariffs on Canadian exports negatively affect western Canadians and indigenous communities who rely on softwood lumber for their livelihoods.

- Canadian logging corporations are undergoing reduced operations as a result of these tariffs which lower revenue on softwood lumber exports. Witnesses testified that if the tariffs were removed, producers would be able to increase their revenue.

#### Fraud Calls:

- Witnesses from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and the RCMP testified for a study on fraud calls in Canada which results in millions of dollars stolen from Canadians every year.
  - MP Patzer questioned the CRTC on to what extent new communications and social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, SMS, iMessage, Instagram, Twitter, et cetera) are used to scam Canadians (i.e. what percentage of dollars lost occur on these platforms).
  - MP Patzer asked the witnesses how new technologies and protocols such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), or STIR/SHAKEN can be used to root out fraudulent calls and messages.

#### Government Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- The committee dealt with a number of issues related to the government's response to the pandemic.
  - The committee studied domestic agricultural supply chains and the government's failure to make sure that Canadian farmers have access to the support they need to be able to continue to feed Canadians.
  - MP Patzer scrutinized the government's slow response and the insufficient financial support offered to struggling farmers.
    - Farmers expressed that the government's financial aid for farmers, through Farm Credit Canada, was insufficient and that most farmers were unable to qualify for these loans.
      - This issue was brought to MP Patzer's attention by many of his own constituents, as well as by witnesses before INDU representing farmers across the country.
    - The vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture testified that, "our current suite of business risk management programs aren't working for anybody," and that, "We've been asking for the last four and a half years to get adjustments and changes to our business risk management programs, and nothing has happened."
    - The committee heard about the difficulties farmers faced even before the pandemic, such as the rail blockades.

#### Rural Broadband Access:

- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the disparities between rural and urban broadband access. The committee studied this issue in-depth.
  - MP Patzer questioned the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development on the connectivity needs of rural Canadians.
    - MP Patzer asked the Minister why cell-service coverage maps in many rural areas are inaccurate and/or misleading and if the government is planning on fixing these issues.
  - A senior vice-president from Rogers gave testimony to the committee about internet access across the country.
    - MP Patzer asked him why it is acceptable, in the year 2020, to continue to have data caps on home internet plans when so many Canadians are reliant on their home broadband for their day-to-day activities, even during non-pandemic times.

- MP Patzer asked a representative from Telus if they are actually committed to developing rural broadband, given recent threats from their executives to pull investment from rural communities and to layoff employees.
- Conservative members of the committee consulted Canadians on the issue of rural broadband access across the country in order to better understand and meet their needs. The findings of this consultation and its final report can be found [here](#).

#### Freedom of Speech, Privacy, and the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Canadians expressed their concerns with the government expressing interest in censoring free speech and blocking access to information that the government disagrees with.
  - The government itself spread misinformation time and time again by repeating talking points of the Chinese Communist Party and the World Health Organization.
    - Despite the government recanting on its claims, they still expressed interest in limiting Canadians' freedom of speech and in becoming the sole arbiter of truth.
  - This issue was studied by the Industry Committee and witnesses were called from some of the world's largest tech companies.
    - MP Patzer questioned a representative from IBM Canada on what they meant when they stated in their opening remarks that they sought to provide a "single source of truth" through their servers and databases.
      - This scrutiny complimented MP Rempel Garner's line of questioning directed at Google and its subsidiary, YouTube, for their known censorship of independent or right-leaning news agencies and sources.
- User privacy has also been a major concern for many Canadians as companies begin releasing tools for developers to create contact tracing applications to limit the spread of COVID-19.
  - MP Patzer questioned a representative from Google on how they are keeping Canadians' privacy safe while also making sure their contact tracing tools are as effective as possible.
    - For example, MP Patzer questioned Google's decision, in coordination with Apple, to push contact tracing applications onto the Android platform through a system update.
      - MP Patzer raised the concerns associated with this system, such as a user's information being tracked even when they are unaware of it.
    - MP Patzer asked Google whether or not it would allow governments with known human rights abuses to make use of its contact tracing tools.
- Canadians have expressed their concerns and frustrations with the government's lack of accountability.
  - Independent news organizations have been shut out of government press conferences
  - The government has coordinated with the NDP to close Parliament and make the tradeoff of our democratic institutions for limited questioning periods in the House of Commons.
  - The Executive Director and General Counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association testified on this issue.
    - They stated that, "There's no question that there's an absence of accountability."
    - The association also testified that they "would argue against any measure by any government or any legislature seeking to in any way chill, let alone censor, people in terms of their freedom of expression" referring to the government's attempts to shut down what the government considers to be "fake news".

#### Foreign State-Owned Enterprises and Acquisitions of Canadian Companies:

- Over the past few weeks, INDU has been studying an issue of national security by investigating weaknesses in the *Investment Canada Act* which allow state-owned enterprises from countries with known human rights abuses to acquire Canadian corporations.

- This issue is pertinent due to the weak state of many Canadian companies which are more vulnerable to acquisition given the economic crisis Canada is facing.
- This study was spearheaded by MP Rempel Garner and allowed MP Patzer to question representatives from the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, the Council of Canadian Investors, a former American professor who taught in China before leaving due to personal safety concerns, and a number of lawyers specializing in international investments, acquisitions, and mergers.

### Op-eds and News Releases:

MP Patzer has written a number of op-eds on various issues pertinent to his constituents and Canadians as a whole. These are available on his website located at [jeremypatzer.com/news](http://jeremypatzer.com/news).

### Video Highlights from First Parliament Session:

Video highlights from MP Patzer's first session in the House of Commons are available on his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/JeremyPatzerMP/960282951090129/> and on his YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCOMlymeNt28VZJWOgXYauMw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOMlymeNt28VZJWOgXYauMw).

### References to All Interventions in the House of Commons and Committee Meetings:

Source: [openparliament.ca](http://openparliament.ca)

#### House of Commons Interventions, Subjects (Oldest to Newest):

1. Canola: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2019/12/9/jeremy-patzer-1/>
2. Petition, Forced Organ Harvesting: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2019/12/12/jeremy-patzer-1/>
3. Carbon Tax: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2019/12/12/jeremy-patzer-2/>
4. Firearms: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2019/12/13/jeremy-patzer-1/>
5. Maiden Speech, Reply to Speech from the Throne, Carbon Tax, Energy: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/1/27/jeremy-patzer-1/>
  - a. Questions and Comments:
    - i. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/1/27/jeremy-patzer-4/>
    - ii. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/1/27/jeremy-patzer-3/>
    - iii. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/1/27/jeremy-patzer-2/>
6. Swift Current Fire Chief Tribute: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/1/29/jeremy-patzer-1/>
7. Carbon Tax: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/3/jeremy-patzer-1/>
8. Speech, RCMP: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/6/jeremy-patzer-2/>
  - a. Questions and Comments:
    - i. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/6/jeremy-patzer-1/>
    - ii. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/6/jeremy-patzer-4/>
    - iii. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/6/jeremy-patzer-3/>
    - iv. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/6/jeremy-patzer-5/>
9. RCMP: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/6/jeremy-patzer-6/>
10. Carbon Tax: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/6/jeremy-patzer-6/>
11. Family Day Tribute: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/18/jeremy-patzer-1/>
12. Rail Blockades: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/21/jeremy-patzer-1/>
13. Teck Frontier Cancellation: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/24/jeremy-patzer-1/>
14. MAiD/Palliative Care: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/2/26/jeremy-patzer-1/>
15. Equalization Payments and CUSMA: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/3/11/jeremy-patzer-1/>
16. Virtual Meetings and COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-1/>

17. Small Business Support COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-2/>
18. Farm Credit Canada and Agriculture COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-3/>
19. Supply-chain Livestock Support COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-5/>
20. Cattle Set-aside Program COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-4/>
21. COVID-19 Antibody Tests: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-8/>
  - a. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-7/>
22. CEBA, BRM, Agriculture COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-6/>
23. Small Businesses CRA Audits COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-9/>
24. Guaranteed Livable Income Post-COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2020/4/20/jeremy-patzer-10/>
25. Canadian Copyright Law and Agriculture Equipment Interoperability: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/covid-19-pandemic/43-1/19/jeremy-patzer-1/>
26. Medical Equipment Manufacturing and Regional Government Favourites: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/covid-19-pandemic/43-1/19/jeremy-patzer-4/>
27. Petroleum and PPE, COVID: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/covid-19-pandemic/43-1/19/jeremy-patzer-8/>

Committee Interventions/Questions (INDU, COVI), Subjects (Oldest to Newest):

Note: links only mark the beginning of lines of questioning.

1. Honey Bee Manufacturing, Canadian-US Copyright Laws: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/3/jeremy-patzer-1/>
2. Capacity Forest Management, Softwood Lumber Agreement, First Nations: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/international-trade/43-1/12/jeremy-patzer-1/>
3. Mélanie Joly, Money Handouts: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/6/jeremy-patzer-1/>
4. CRTC, Fraud Calls: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/7/jeremy-patzer-1/>
5. Canadian SIM-swap Victims United, Baran-Chong: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/8/jeremy-patzer-1/>
6. Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Fraud Calls: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/8/jeremy-patzer-3/>
7. Department of Industry, Domestic Supply Chains: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/9/jeremy-patzer-1/>
8. Minister Bibeau, Domestic Supply Chains: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/10/jeremy-patzer-1/>
9. Personal Protective Equipment, Minister Bains: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/11/jeremy-patzer-1/>
10. Department of Industry, Rural Broadband Access: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/11/jeremy-patzer-8/>
11. Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Agriculture, Economic Relief: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/12/jeremy-patzer-1/>
12. Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Crops 2019, 2020: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/12/jeremy-patzer-4/>
13. Mayor, City of St. Clair Township, SWIFT Program, Rural Broadband/Data: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/13/jeremy-patzer-1/>
14. Rural Broadband: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/14/jeremy-patzer-1/>
15. Department of Industry, Rural Broadband: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/14/jeremy-patzer-8/>

16. Senior Vice-President, Regulatory, Rogers Communications Inc., Rural Broadband: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/15/jeremy-patzer-1/>
17. Rogers, Home Internet Data Caps, COVID-19: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/15/jeremy-patzer-3/>
18. Executive Vice-President and Chief Customer Officer, Telus Communications Inc., Rural Investment: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/15/jeremy-patzer-4/>
19. Chief Legal and Regulatory Officer, Xplornet Communications Inc., Rural Broadband Access: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/15/jeremy-patzer-5/>
20. IBM Canada, Internet Censorship and “Single Source of Truth”: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/17/jeremy-patzer-1/>
21. Head, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google Canada, COVID Contact Tracing: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/17/jeremy-patzer-3/>
22. President and Chief Executive Officer, Western Canadian Shippers' Coalition, Rail Blockades and COVID and Exports: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/18/jeremy-patzer-1/>
23. Chair, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, COVID Support Canadian Agriculture: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/agriculture/43-1/12/jeremy-patzer-1/>
24. Chair, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, Young Canadian Jobs in Agriculture: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/agriculture/43-1/12/jeremy-patzer-3/>
25. Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Contact Tracing and Privacy: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/19/jeremy-patzer-1/>
26. Executive Director and General Counsel, Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Data Ownership and Privacy: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/19/jeremy-patzer-6/>
27. Executive Director and General Counsel, Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Freedom of the Press and COVID: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/19/jeremy-patzer-8/>
28. Gordon and Patricia Gray Chair in Particle Astrophysics, Professor Emeritus, Nobel Physics Laureate 2015, Department of Physics, Engineering Physics and Astronomy, Queen's University, PPE and Medical Equipment Development: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/20/jeremy-patzer-1/>
29. President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Ventilator Production and Hydrogen Transportation: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/20/jeremy-patzer-2/>
30. Special Adviser, Public and Government Relations, Groupe Robert Inc., Domestic Food Supply/Supply Chains: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/21/jeremy-patzer-1/>
31. Senior Fellow, Centre for Advancing Canada's Interests Abroad, Macdonald-Laurier Institute, State-Owned Enterprises: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/22/jeremy-patzer-1/>
32. COVID Committee, Canadian Copyright Law, and Manufacturers: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/covid-19-pandemic/43-1/19/jeremy-patzer-1/>
33. COVID Committee, Medical Supplies and PPE Manufacturing: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/covid-19-pandemic/43-1/19/jeremy-patzer-4/>
34. Chair, Council of Canadian Innovators, Canadian Sovereignty and Foreign Acquisitions: <https://openparliament.ca/committees/industry/43-1/24/jeremy-patzer-1/>