

## Dear Jeremy,

This month's E-Newsletter comes to you amidst growing tensions, at home and abroad. With hundreds of thousands of truckers making their way to the capital, and with millions of Canadians cheering them on, it's clear that a grassroots defense of our fundamental rights and freedoms is beginning to swell.

I had the pleasure of attending and showing my support for the Freedom Convoy along with hundreds of others as they rolled through Swift Current on January 24. It was a powerful symbol of hope and unity after what has been an incredibly divisive couple years, and it is my desire that their peaceful protests will be successful.



Click on the image above to view the large crowds in Swift Current on Monday!

The convoy was sparked by the Trudeau Government implementing its vaccine mandate for truckers who are crossing from the US into Canada. This mandate is negatively impacting the very people that we held as heroes in the early days of the

pandemic for driving long hours and keeping our fragile supply chains alive. After flip-flopping twice, the government decided to go full steam ahead and enforce its mandates at the border while knowing full well that we are already short 18,000 truck drivers, and following the mandate's implementation, could suffer another blow of nearly 16,000 truckers.

What does this mean for you? Not only is this mandate infringing on the fundamental rights and freedoms of truckers, but it is also resulting in severe food shortages and supply chain issues across the country because we simply can't deliver goods to market at the same capacity as before. This is driving the already out of control prices even further through the roof. The Liberal government is implementing this policy as inflation is hitting a new 30 year high at 4.8 percent. Many Canadians are already struggling to make ends meet, and with these inevitable price increases, this could mean the breaking point for many Canadian families.

## **New Year = Higher Taxes!**

I must also point out that as most of Canada eagerly ushered in the New Year, the Liberals are quietly ushering various new tax increases for the coming year. On April 1st, the federal carbon tax will be increased from \$40 per tonne to \$50, which will immediately result in higher energy prices for everyone. This year we will also see a CPP tax increase that will be costing Canadians an extra \$300 per year. To add insult to injury, these tax increases come as the government continues to spend without any control or oversight, and Canadians are dealing with higher prices at the gas pump and in the grocery stores as a result of inflation. I assure you that I will continue to fight against any tax increases that will be an extra burden on middle-class families.

## Hope on the Horizon:

That all said, we have reason to be encouraged. Canadians like you are raising their voices across the nation, and I've been humbled to see the commitment of everyone in the Southwest in standing on guard for the freedoms of our country, whether that be freedom from mandates, onerous taxes, or otherwise. Last week I held a roundtable in Rockglen and enjoyed a good conversation with a number of the locals regarding a variety of pertinent issues.



Always appreciate hearing from constituents, pictured here in Rockglen (PC: Wes Bloom)

I hope to host three more in the coming months, including in Leader, Shaunavon, and Central Butte. Keep an eye out on our social media pages (linked below) where we'll advertise those. Our next Town Hall is scheduled for Thursday, February 24th at the Leader Community Centre, from 7-9PM. If you live nearby, be sure to pop in!

Next week, the House of Commons will resume sitting, as will all Parliamentary committees. While I'm eager to continue holding the Trudeau Government to account in the House of Commons, I'm also excited to be joining the Standing Committee on International Trade, where we'll be studying trade issues that are pertinent to our local economy in the Southwest, and in all of Canada. If you have any insight pertaining to that file, feel free to reach out!

## **Add Your Name:**

Finally, I want to close this message by asking you to consider adding your name to two important e-petitions put forward by my Conservative colleagues. My colleague MP Leanne Rood sponsored this e-petition\* put forward by her constituent, which calls on the federal government to adjust EI eligibility for Canadians impacted by COVID-19 measures and remove discriminatory conditions. Meanwhile, my colleague MP Jeneroux has sponsored an e-petition\* against the home equity surtax proposal, an issue many have reached out to me about, expressing reasonable concerns.

And that's a wrap for this month—Wishing you a great weekend!

In your service,



Jeremy Patzer, M.P. Cypress Hills—Grasslands

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