

Yesterday (September 30) I had the opportunity to rise in the House of Commons with my analysis of the government's Speech From the Throne. You can watch it here:



[Click here to play video on YouTube](#)

Some of my key observations included:

- The Speech should have been entitled, "**Not a Time for Austerity**" which is a line from the speech, but also the central theme. This speech is about continued massive spending, whether helpful or not.
- Clearly the priority for any government today is to address the global pandemic and minimize the toll it is taking on people.
- Governments must also have a plan to mitigate the damage from the shut down. In particular, government should be **removing the structural impediments** to those industries that have been hit unusually hard and may take years to recover. We see no such plan in this speech.
- **Canadians need clarity** on how we are going to emerge from this crisis.
- While we understand that governments had to move quickly, there are many corrections that need to be made. The government threw money at the wall to see what would stick. In fact, spending amounted to twice the amount lost. Many programs completely missed the mark. **Even in a pandemic, results matter.**

- We need to take those lessons and make a plan to move forward. **That isn't austerity. That is just common sense.**
- Canada has been spending beyond our capacity every year since this government took office. As a consequence, we entered this pandemic unprepared, already carrying massive debt.
- The government's theme of "Build Back Better" is an overreach. The slogan is beyond trite. It is vague but costly, and there is **no anticipated accountability for outcomes**. In fact, it is a plan to transfer wealth from the productive parts of the economy to special interests which are favoured by this government.
- And finally, the government feels it needs to retrain Canada's accomplished scientists, engineers and technicians, while claiming to "follow the science". We already have people well trained in following the science, who are **global leaders in Canada's sustainable and accountable natural resource industries**, industries that produce much of the wealth this government is planning to reallocate.



Asking About the \$320 Million to Newfoundland and Labrador's Offshore Industry

On September 28, I asked the government about the \$320 Million it proposes to give Newfoundland and Labrador. There are no details, no timelines, no plans, no accountability, no proposed outcomes for that money. One has to wonder if the fact that the Liberal Natural Resources Minister is from St. John's, NL, and the province sent a full complement of Liberals to Ottawa, has anything to do with the money. Support for hard hit industries is not inappropriate, but needs to have a purpose and accountable outcomes. It doesn't always have to be cash. Many policy and regulatory changes would be equally helpful to industries like oil and gas.

[Watch it on YouTube here.](#)



Facebook Live Event

We all connect with constituents differently these days. On September 24, I hosted a Facebook Live event where constituents could ask questions online. I think it was quite successful and I'll likely do it again. Follow my Facebook feed to be sure to hear about the next one.

If you'd like to take a look at the questions that were asked and my answers, [you can find it here.](#)

Coming Up

There are two events on my calendar that might interest you, both on October 14.

[Rutland Park Town Hall Meeting](#)

If you live in the Rutland Park area of Calgary Centre, I will be doing a joint Meet and Greet with Calgary-Currie MLA Nick Milliken from 4 PM to 7 PM. To ensure everyone's safety, we are asking for RSVPs in advance, and you will be asked to select one of four time periods to attend in order to manage the number of people in the room. Bring your questions or comments about provincial or federal issues, and Nick and I will do our best to answer them. There is no charge for this event. RSVP on [EventBrite](#): or go to my website.

[PASC Webinar](#)

I will be doing a webinar hosted by the Petroleum Accountants' Society of Canada from noon to 1 PM on October 14. The topic is: "*Over Funded and Underwhelming: Canada's Green Policy Sinkhole*". You need to register in advance and there is a small fee to attend (\$30 for non-members): [PASC Registration](#)

Please get in touch if there's anything my office can do for you.

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