



# Kevin Sorenson

Member of Parliament  
Battle River-Crowfoot



## REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT

### *Christmas 2017*

*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!*

From my family to yours!  
Ryan, Matthew, Kevin and  
Kristen and Darlene

We wish you and your family all the blessings that  
Christmas brings!



### **Dear Constituents:**

At Christmas time, we reflect on the love and good fortunes with which we have been blessed — faith, family, and friends. I hope everyone can be with loved ones and have a wonderful Christmas.

2018 will certainly pose challenges for our nation, from international trade to energy to taxation. I continue to encourage students that I speak with that Canada—and Alberta in particular—is the best place to be getting an education and pursuing opportunities after graduation.

In this Christmas Report, I share some of the work I have been doing on your behalf in Parliament and at home.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at any time. I need you to share with me your views and opinions on the federal government's programs, services, performance and how it affects you, your family and your businesses.

**Hon. Kevin Sorenson, M.P.**  
**(Battle River-Crowfoot)**



Good News from Oyen! Todd Garman (Iron Horse), Jay Slemph (PEP), Jordan Christianson (SAB), Doug Jones (Oyen), and Charmain Snell (Oyen) at the October 24, 2017 Sod Turning for the Oyen Rail Yard & Logistics Park Project. When complete, it will serve local industries and producers in the Special Areas and throughout the MD of Acadia.

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## PHOTO GALLERY



Kevin visits with students at Round Hill School and gets a picture with them under the Eagle! School Principal Karla Koleba and teacher Eric Jensen (far right) helped students get answers from their Member of Parliament to questions including: What is your job? What is a political party? What party do you represent? How does House of Commons business work? How do you propose/make laws?



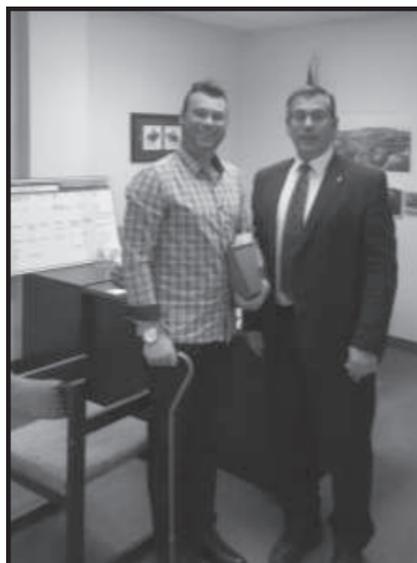
Kevin visits Our Lady of Mount Pleasant School in Camrose. Mark Sych (far left) teaches the Grade 9 Social Studies class and invited Kevin to the 'Question Period' with future Battle River-Crowfoot voters. Like the Official Opposition in Ottawa, these students had no shortage of questions and ensured that their Member of Parliament heard their opinions.



Kevin meets with MERIT Canada, the construction industry association representing 3,500 construction firms in eight provinces. Randy Martin (left) is Chief Financial Officer from Alberta. MERIT has numerous concerns and is working to 'turn around' the downturn in the industry in Alberta, including the reduced productivity of the construction sector, reduced employment opportunities (including for younger workers), the proposed small business tax changes from the Liberal government in Ottawa, and more.



Kevin meets with Alberta representatives from the Canadian Real Estate Association. Kevin says, "The struggles and challenges home buyers and sellers are having under the rules and regulations of both the provincial and federal governments are very disappointing. First-time home buyers are having a difficult time 'moving up' and those trying to join the middle class are facing barriers to coming up with the down payment for a mortgage in our area of Alberta."



Constituent Colby Dick of Stettler, meets with his Member of Parliament in the Constituency Office to discuss transplant delays among other medical system problems.



Former Consort Mayor Terry McMahon (right), his wife Wendy and Trudy Brown visited their Member of Parliament in Ottawa in October. "It's always great to have folks with updates from home visit our House of Commons office," Kevin says.



Kevin Sorenson, MP joined other Members of Parliament to welcome to Canada Caroline Cox (The Baroness Cox) of the United Kingdom (center). She has had a long career promoting freedom of religion and humanitarian aid. She shared her expertise in a roundtable discussion with the Canadian Members of Parliament.



CANADA 150



## Liberals Gambling With Canada's Future Prosperity



In the Fall Economic Statement, the numbers confirm that the recent level of Canada's economic growth is unsustainable. The Economic Statement projects 2.1 per cent growth next year, and just above 1.5 per cent in the years after that—normal growth for the Canadian economy. Better than normal growth projections could have easily been possible. The problem is that the Liberal government has no 'fiscal plan' that would bring Canada back to balanced budgets. Instead, the Liberals are prepared to continue annual borrowing and spending and increase the massive debt load. This will continue to burden future generations with having to pay interest payments on debt (under higher interest rates) and the principle of the debt itself—if economic growth contracts.



The Liberals are gambling that with enough massive public spending, Canada's economy will grow until "budgets balance themselves" because they believe annual GDP will provide enough revenues for the government to 'overshadow' budgetary deficits. Yet, Canada is facing difficult challenges including: renegotiating NAFTA (Canada's trade agreement with our largest customer), challenges in the energy sector, high household debt levels, an ageing population, and others.

In the event of a crisis such as a world economic slow down or domestic tragedy requiring emergency assistance from the federal government, further massive borrowing and spending will be the only tool remaining for the Liberals. Governments should pay down deficits and debt (to reduce interest payments on borrowed money) during growth periods. Debt-reduction doesn't happen during slow economic times when governments need to spend to bolster the national economy or provide social assistance.

The Liberals said they would raise taxes on the rich by adding a new tax bracket to capture government Revenues, but they don't define who is 'rich' and who is 'middle class'. Now, according to the Finance department, we know the tax measure has failed because the highest-income earners are actually paying \$1 billion less in taxes. The Liberals claimed they would lower taxes for the middle class, yet the Fraser Institute calculates that 87% of middle-class taxpayers are paying more income tax—on average \$800 more.

The government gave \$372.5 million in a handout to Bombardier—a company that hired the Finance Minister's family business. Now, Bombardier is selling its intellectual property and its next generation aircraft to a European company. Even worse, these hundreds of millions of dollars have become a bonus windfall from taxpayers to the wealthy Bombardier owners and investors. In other words, the rich are getting richer while the working class taxpayers pay the bills.

The previous Conservative government achieved the largest drop and the lowest levels of poverty in recorded Canadian history. Poverty fell from a high in the mid-teens under the first Trudeau government to 8.8% in the last full year of our government. We raised the personal income tax exemption and freed a million low-income Canadians from taxation; launched the working income tax benefit that provided a pay increase to low-income working people; eliminated red tape, so small upstart businesses that could not afford accountants could start their businesses. These policies were incentives so that people could get jobs, work hard, and get ahead on their own merit. We will again offer this political and economic alternative to Canadians in 2019. Canadians will be tired of debt charges, interest payments and high-taxes. Canadians will no longer want to live under the fear of economic growth returning to 'normal' levels—or lower—in the event of a crisis.



## Liberals Refuse to Support Canada's Energy Sector



We are all disappointed that TransCanada announced it is cancelling its effort to build the Energy East Pipeline. This project from Alberta to New Brunswick, would have created 15,000 middle class jobs and injected \$55 billion into the Canadian economy.

As Conservatives, we believe that supporting the middle class includes supporting policies and projects that actually help the middle class by creating jobs and prosperity, so that Canadians can create more opportunities for their children and their grandchildren. TransCanada's announcement was not a result of any decision taken by it, but instead a result of Justin Trudeau's mismanagement and failure to champion the Canadian energy sector.

The Prime Minister is putting the interests of foreign oil companies and foreign nations ahead of Canadian interests. Over the past two years, Justin Trudeau introduced new regulations on Canadian energy projects, and forced Canadian oil companies to comply with standards that are not required of companies in foreign countries like Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, all of which sell and export their oil to eastern Canada. Nearly a million barrels a day are imported to Canada's east coast. Shameful.

Justin Trudeau claims to support the middle class. But the truth is that the very people the Prime Minister claims to help are the people being hurt most by his policies. Justin Trudeau missed this nation-building opportunity offered by the Energy East Pipeline. The Prime Minister could have encouraged the energy sectors in Alberta and Saskatchewan; ensured that Atlantic Canadians and Quebecers could share in the prosperity and; provide Canadian oil and energy products to every region of Canada, including those that process and 'add value' to them in the manufacturing sector and more.

When Conservatives form government, we hope TransCanada will try once more to advance this nation-building project that creates thousands of Canadian jobs, and helps export Canadian oil to Canadian provinces, and around the world. This would lessen or eliminate our need to import foreign oil.

It was the Liberal government that changed the criteria for the National Energy Board stating that any oil produced in Canada must account for 'downstream' and 'upstream' factors. This caused TransCanada to decide that it could no longer proceed. The Liberals did not apply these factors to foreign oil imported to Canada. Spending billions on "green" energy, forcing the shutdown of the coal industry, and reducing emissions were supposed to provide the 'groundwork' that would enable pipelines to be built. All that has been accomplished so far is more federal and provincial debt and more Albertans are out of work.



# Public Accounts of Canada 2017



On Tuesday, October 17, 2017, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts held a televised meeting to conduct a hearing into the Public Accounts of Canada 2017. The Public Accounts document is a three volume set published annually. It is the consolidated statement of the federal government's financial transactions for the year.

As the Chair of the committee, I can say that this is probably the most non-partisan committee in Parliament. Our job is to hold federal government departments and agencies accountable for 'poor' performance discovered by audits conducted by the Auditor General. The Public Accounts committee summons Deputy Ministers to testify and answer questions from Members of Parliament on the committee. Politics is 'put aside' as we are concerned with the performance of the department or agency carrying out the task given to it by Parliament.

Our committee tries to help departments and agencies to confront problems they have fulfilling their mandate. In the 42nd Parliament of Canada, for the first time, the Public Accounts committee has implemented a system where departments appear before the committee and make pledges to pursue and complete the recommendations of the Auditor General and the committee itself. They are required to report back to the committee regularly on their progress. The committee tries to accommodate the needs of departments and agencies with their deployment of solutions. The House of Commons Public Accounts committee retains the right to 'call back' responsible officials for unsatisfactory performance when it comes to commitments they have made to the committee in their initial appearance responding to an audit.

This new system, developed in Canada over the past several Canadian Parliaments was approved for implementation by the previous Conservative government to commence in the 42nd Parliament. It is finding considerable interest throughout Commonwealth countries operating under parliamentary systems as it is a well structured accountability process.

## The Auditor General underlined three concerns with the Public accounts of Canada 2017:

- The Phoenix Pay system and problems encountered with the expenditure of the \$22 billion in salaries and benefits for 2016-17. The Auditor General will report further on the Phoenix Pay system in November (this affects many in our constituency, especially at the Drumheller Penitentiary);
- The current Liberal government's calculations for estimated values of long-term liabilities (debt charges). Future 'discount rates' for debt renegotiations may not exist or be as generous as estimated; The Auditor General expects the government to review its discount rates, and,
- The on-going and chronic problem National Defence has recording and valuing \$6 billion in inventory. Auditor Generals have underlined this concern annually for 14 years consecutively.



Hon. Kevin Sorenson, MP welcomes Michael Ferguson, the Auditor General of Canada, Bill Matthews, Comptroller General of Canada and Paul Rochon, Deputy Minister of Finance to discuss the Public Accounts of Canada 2017.

**Seasons Greetings  
and  
Best Wishes for 2017  
From  
Andrew Scheer  
the Leader of  
Her Majesty's Loyal  
Official Opposition**

