



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Mike Morrice*

Member of Parliament  
Kitchener Centre

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

October 15, 2022

Dear Minister Freeland,

I am writing to you today to raise three critical priorities in advance of the upcoming Fall Economic Statement and Budget 2023:

### **1. Funding the Canada Disability Benefit**

As you know, Canadians with disabilities live disproportionately in poverty and face direct and indirect costs from having a disability, including medical expenses, specialized equipment, accessible housing, and reduced earnings. I encourage you to recognize the importance and urgency of this much-needed benefit by committing to funding it with the urgency it deserves, and supporting C-22's accelerated passage through the House of Commons.

### **2. Ending tax exemptions for real estate investment trusts (REITs)**

Ending tax exemptions for real estate investment trusts (REITs): Homes should be places people live, not commodities for investors to trade. Yet, our housing market currently encourages these investors to speculate on housing, fueling the housing crisis facing Canadians across the country. While the governing party has committed to studying the financialization of housing, this work has already been done. From the Federal Housing Advocate to the Social Development Centre of Waterloo Region, all have recommended an end to the tax exemptions that REITs currently enjoy. I've since tabled this recommendation as Private Member's Motion 71. I encourage you to include this necessary, reasonable measure in the governing party's plan to address the housing crisis, directing this revenue towards building affordable units across the country.

### **3. Stop introducing new fossil fuel subsidies, and truly phase them out altogether**

I know we share an interest in tackling the climate crisis, and I appreciate that "early moves" to eliminate these subsidies is in the confidence and supply agreement that allows the governing party to enjoy the confidence of the House. I encourage you to follow through on this agreement. This would mean not adding new subsidies - starting with a cancellation of the planned \$8.6 billion tax credit for oil and gas companies to invest in carbon capture and storage. These projects are based on unproven technologies that have been shown to increase carbon emissions in most applications worldwide. If the oil and gas industry believes so strongly in this technology, let them invest in it themselves with their record-breaking profits. These tax credits and subsidies are public dollars that could be directed toward effective, science-based climate solutions that benefit the most Canadians, including building

retrofits and investments in sustainable transportation. We are in an emergency, and should be acting like it.

I hope to work with you on delivering legislation and a budget that prioritizes supporting Canadians and fighting the climate crisis. I would be glad to discuss any of this further with you and members of your team. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morrice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Mike Morrice,  
MP for Kitchener Centre

Cc:  
MP Terry Beech, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance