

WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

JENNY KWAN

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT • DÉPUTÉE • 溫哥華東區國會議員

VANCOUVER EAST



Right to Housing

Housing has long been declared a basic right by the United Nations, and Canada has signed and ratified a number of international human rights treaties that identify the right to adequate housing as a fundamental human right. The NDP introduced Bill C-325 to enshrine the Right to Housing for all Canadians in the Canadian Bill of Rights. To my dismay, every Liberal MP joined hands with the Conservatives to vote against the bill.

The 2017 Homeless Count found that in Metro Vancouver, there are currently 3,605 people who are homeless. Since 2014, the number of homeless people in Metro Vancouver has increased by 30%, and that number is constantly growing. Of the population, half of them have been homeless for over a year; 16% are young people under the age of 25; 21% are seniors; 21% either have a part-time or full-time job.

With the rental vacancy rate sitting at below 1% for years, many renters are living in constant fear that they may be the next victim of eviction. Many are paying more than 30% of their total income on rent. Families and individuals who have been living in the riding for generations are finding the dream of home ownership in the communities where they grew up further and further out of reach.

This housing crisis did not occur overnight. In fact, I would argue that our housing crisis began in 1993 when the Liberal government cancelled Canada's national affordable housing program. Had the Liberals not cancelled the program, today we would have half a million more units of affordable housing across Canada than we currently do. In B.C., we would have an additional 100,000 units. Just to illustrate the point, for the homeless population, with 100,000 units of affordable housing, we would be able to house every single homeless person in Metro Vancouver 27 times over. Just imagine what that would look like for our community.

The Liberals say they have a housing plan, but 90% of the funding promised in the 2017 budget will not actually be spent until after the next election. The Liberals say housing is right but under their plan, those who need safe secure affordable housing now will just have to wait. Canada is one of the world's richest countries, there is no good reason why thousands of people should be clustered into overcrowded shelters or into sprawling tent cities, or have to couch surf or sleep in their cars or on the street.

房屋作為基本權利

聯合國的人權憲章早已經把房屋列為基本人權，而加拿大亦簽署了有關的國際人權協定。新民主黨在國會提出 C-325 法案把加拿大人的住房權列入加拿大的人權法內。令人十分失望的是，所有自由黨的國會議員和保守黨的議員都投反對票。在 2017 年大溫哥華的露宿者點算顯示，目前有 3605 名露宿者。比起 2014 年時的點算增加了 30%，而數字正持續上升。這些露宿者有一半已經有超過一年沒有居所；當中的 16% 是低於 25 歲的年輕人；21% 是長者；21% 的露宿者有全職或兼職工作。在我們的出租空置率低於 1% 的情況下，很多租客都經常憂慮會成為下一名被迫遷的受害者。很多家庭用在房屋的開支都超過總收入的三成。很多長期居住在溫東的個人和家庭都渴望能夠在區內擁有自己的房子，讓他們和家人能夠在自己成長的社區生活下去，但這樣的夢想卻越來越難實現。



我們面對的房屋危機並非一席之間形成的，我深信是源於1993年自由黨政府取消加拿大的國家可負擔房屋計劃，這項計劃的取消令全國合共失去50萬個可負擔房屋單位。試想想若果在卑詩省有多10 萬個可負擔房屋單位，我們不單可以讓所有露宿者有屋住，很多低收入和有需要的家庭都可以受惠。這對國家、我們社區和經濟都會有重大的影響。

自由黨政府宣稱有房屋計劃，但在2017年財政預算案所提出的九成撥款都要等到下次大選時才有著落。自由黨現在宣稱房屋是人權但根據其計劃，所有需要可負擔房屋的人都要等等等。加拿大作為世界上其中一個最富裕的國家，是沒有理由讓數以千計的人民露宿街頭的。



UNYA Native Youth Center

The Urban Native Youth Association has been working with the City of Vancouver, the Provincial and Federal government, and the private sector to realize their vision of building a Native Youth Centre. This centre will be a hub for the urban indigenous community, with multi-purpose programming spaces that provide culturally responsive services. Above the center will be 180 units of affordable rental housing units for Indigenous youth and families. With over a decade of hard work and many partnerships built, 50,000 sq. ft of land has been secured for the project, and fundraising efforts to fund the construction are underway. The organization has already fundraised \$2.6 million to date for this project and has requested \$10 million from the Federal government. In Vancouver, 34% of our homeless population is Indigenous, despite comprising only 2% of the general population.

城市原住民青少年中心

總部位於溫東的城市原住民青少年協會現正跟溫哥華市、省、聯邦政府和私人企業合作，希望籌建青少年原住民中心。該中心將會成為城市原住民社群的重要設施，提供多用途的場地和專門服務。在中心樓上會建造 180 個為年青原住民家庭而設的可負擔房屋。在該協會十多年來的努力下，目前已經為中心籌獲 5 萬平方尺的土地，並且籌募了 260 萬元的興建經費，協會目前正尋求聯邦政府撥款 1 千萬元支助。在溫哥華，有 34% 的露宿者是原住民(原住民只佔人口的 2%)，我呼籲聯邦政府參與及支持這項計劃。

The Future of Chinatown

For our community, historic Chinatown is experienced not only through its physical structures, but also through its ambience. When our community thinks about protecting the heritage of Vancouver's Chinatown, the size, scale and architecture of the exterior of the building is just as important as the use of the building. When community members think about the ambience of Chinatown, we are envisioning a Chinatown vibrant with aromatic food stalls, similar to the food streets in Hong Kong and China. We are imagining a hub of intergenerational activities, where elders share stories of the past, teach the youth various traditions and the secret of how to make homemade Chinese delicacies in celebration of different cultural festivals, or play mah-jong together.

There has been strong momentum in current revitalization efforts by community members to guide changes to Chinatown in a way that honours the area’s historic significance and community vision for the neighbourhood. Some of the dedicated members of our community are working with the City of Vancouver to have Chinatown designated as a UNESCO world heritage site. There is currently a robust fundraising effort by Youth for Chinese Seniors to establish an intergenerational drop-in space for Chinese youth and seniors.

To truly honour the history of Chinatown, many constituents want to see our community build on our capacity to learn from and care for its elders, and they want to see a community that can support young families. Many of the current residents of Chinatown are seniors now, and are living in substandard housing. Those seniors, and the businesses that serve them are in perpetual danger of being displaced by the ongoing developments. I therefore feel very strongly that every development in Chinatown matters, and should prioritize affordable housing and services for seniors and families. Advocates are calling for the City of Vancouver to purchase the site of 105 Keefer to develop social housing and community amenities at the site. On my end, I will continue calling on the federal government to support the development of affordable housing to meet the community needs of Vancouver Chinatown.

唐人街的未來

對於我們社區，歷史性的唐人街不單是實體結構，還是有氣氛和經歷。當我們期望保存溫哥華唐人街的遺產時，大廈外觀的體積、規模和建築跟建築物的用途同樣重要。社區成員所思念的是唐人街的氣氛，所預見的是具朝氣活力和食物氣味，食物檔如同在香港和中國所見的食街那樣。我們想像的是跨世代的融洽相處，長者給年輕人分享過去的故事，講述傳統文化習俗，教授烹飪和如何烹調中國不同節慶的美食，又或者一起揼麻將。

在尊重歷史重要性及社區願景方面，我們喜見社區人士正在大力推動振興華埠。一些忠誠的社區人士更把溫哥華唐人街確認為聯合國世界文化遺產為努力奮鬥的夢想。同時在社區內亦正如火如荼地籌募建立華裔青年和長者跨世代的活動中心。

要真正尊重唐人街的歷史，很多居民渴望見到的是我們的社區能夠關心和向長者學習，他們想看到社區能夠協助年青的家庭。很多目前居住在華埠附近的居民都是長者，而且是住在環境低於水平的房間。這些長者，以及為他們服務的小商業，正瀕臨被正在進行的發展所取代。我強烈感到，唐人街的每一項發展都很重要，是應該把可負擔房屋及服務長者和家庭定為優先。社區人士倡議溫市政府購買這幅土地用作發展社區房屋和社區設施。而我則會致力要求聯邦政府支持及承擔歷史性唐人街的社區和可負擔房屋需要。



MP Jenny Kwan briefing NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh on the history and status of Vancouver Chinatown and also on the challenges faced by the community as he makes his first visit to the Westcoast after he became leader.
駙勉誠在當選新民主黨黨魁後首次到訪溫哥華，國會議員關慧貞給他介紹唐人街的歷史、狀況和所面對的挑戰。



Mobile Office 流動辦事處

One of my favourite outreach initiatives is my mobile office. Every month I will take my office on the road, bringing it to community events like farmers’ markets. This allows me to serve constituents and participate in some of the many wonderful events throughout our Vancouver East community. Please look for my calendar in the mail, where the location and date for my mobile offices in 2018 will be listed. Please come out and say hi!

這是我其中一項最喜歡的外展活動。每個月我都會在不同社區的社區中心或農夫市場開設流動辦事處，讓我能夠把我和辦公室的服務直接帶到不同的社區，方便市民跟我見面溝通。我2018年的流動辦事處日期和地點將刊登在我的2018年月曆裡。請歡迎來臨跟我打招呼！

Untold Suffering for Live-in Caregivers

I have been calling on the federal government to take immediate actions to end the injustice and hardships experienced by the thousands of Live-in Caregivers due to backlogs and processing delays. Currently, Live-In Caregivers must work for two years in Canada before they can even apply for permanent residence. In addition to the 2 years work requirement, the average wait time to process Live-in Caregiver applications is roughly another 5 years.

Live-in Caregivers are one of the only economic streams of immigration that are forced to do this. As of June 2017, nearly 25,000 applications remained in this backlog. The stories of Live-In Caregivers are heartbreaking and really highlights the devastating impact of such immigration policies on families. Just imagine what life is like if you have to separate from your own children for more than 7 years while you care for the children of another family in a different country. If Canadians knew of the injustices and hardships Live-In Caregivers have to endure, I think they will find this unacceptable. It is time for us to implement the principle that if you are good enough to work, you are good enough to stay by expanding Canada’s immigration system to include caregivers so that they come to Canada as a permanent resident at the outset.



At a press conference in support of Joy where she courageously spoke out about the impact of 13 years of separation from her family. After much advocacy, her permanent residence application was finally approved and she will be united with her family. Her moving story is covered in the Toronto Star.

家傭 Joy 在記者會勇敢地向媒體訴說她與家人長達 13 年分離的痛苦。在經過關慧貞向政府提出質詢後，Joy 終於可以在今年與家人重聚。

不為人知的家居傭工痛苦

我一直都在倡議聯邦政府就數以千計的家居傭工所承受的痛苦和不公義馬上採取行動。目前家傭必須在加拿大工作滿兩年後才能申請永久居民身分。但在這兩年以外，申請的審批一般需要等候 5 年時間。在經濟類別移民當中，家傭是唯一面對這種待遇的。截至 2017 年 6 月，家傭的積壓申請高達差不多 2.5 萬宗。這些家居傭工的真實故事令人心酸，她們的遭遇反映出目前移民政策對這些家庭所造成的創傷。試想想當您要為加拿大人照顧其子女，卻同時放下自己的親生骨肉在另一個國家超過 7 年時間。我相信若果加拿大人在了解家傭所遭遇的痛苦和不公義，是不會坐視不理的。因此，加拿大的移民政策必須要貫徹”若果能夠在這裡工作，便應該在這裡居留”的原則，讓家傭能夠跟其他經濟類別移民一樣在抵埗時獲得永久居民身分。



Vancouver East actor and playwright Marcus Youssef wins Canada's largest and most prestigious prize for a theatre artist, the Siminovitch Prize. As prize also recognizes the importance of mentorship to support emerging talent. Marcus, as the recipient is awarded \$75,000 and in turn, gets to choose a "protégé" for a \$25,000 prize. The Protégé Prize went to Christine Quintana, also from Van East. A huge congratulations to the both of them! 溫哥華東區演員及劇作家 Marcus Youssef 贏得了加拿大國家劇院的重大獎項。該獎項同時確認栽培新進，Youssef 在獲得 7.5 萬獎金的同時，還可以推選新人獲得”門徒”獎 2.5 萬元，而該獎則由另一位溫東藝人 Christine Quintana 所獲得。



Accompanied by Diane Wilman of the Director of Family and Seniors Programs of Frog Hollow Neighbourhood, two young women, Serah Gazali and Narges Samimi presented at the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage recommendations from a recent dialogue initiated by the office of MP Jenny Kwan and organized by Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House and Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, on systematic racism and religious discrimination in response to Motion M-103. A National Post coverage with the full meeting report is available online. 在 Frog Hollow 鄰社中心的家庭及長者項目總監 Diane Wilmann 的陪同下，溫東兩位年青女性 Serah Gazali 和 Narges Samimi 應邀到國會加拿大傳統委員會作證，代表兩個社區組織和關慧貞合辦研討會討論 M-103 動議所帶出的系統性種族和宗教歧視向政府提出建議。



MP Jenny Kwan and Mr. Ninh Nguyen, President of Little Saigon Vancouver Foundation, at the unveiling of the Vietnamese Boat People Communist Refugees Monument, which commemorates the Vietnamese people's journey to freedom, democracy, peace and protection for human rights. The monument stands proudly in McAuley Park in Van East. 溫哥華東區的新地標，由溫哥華小西貢基金會籌建紀念越南船民追尋自由、民主、和平及人權保障的紀念碑。基金會負責人 Ninh Nguyen 和關慧貞在揭幕典禮時攝。

Time to End Tax Avoidance/Tax Loopholes

The Liberals promised Canadians that they would close the tax loophole for stock options. Then we learned through Access to Information that CEOs lobbied the Minister of Finance to backtrack on that promise and the corporate elites got what they wanted, and the promise to close this lavish tax loophole is forgotten.

Canada’s top CEOs now make 193 times the average Canadian’s salary, and in fact, Canada’s richest CEOs made the average Canadian annual salary before lunch time on the first day of work this year. As well, recent international headlines, such as the Panama Papers show the wealthiest and corporations are increasingly turning to aggressive tax avoidance measures through the use of shell corporations and off-shore accounts in tax havens to avoid paying their fair share.

It is estimated that Canadian corporations alone stashed almost \$40 billion in 2015 in the top 10 tax haven destinations. From 1988 to 2001, Canadian direct investment in Barbados, a top tax haven destination, increased from \$628 million to \$23.3 billion, a 3,600 percent increase. The increasing use of these havens means Canadian taxpayers are losing \$7 billion in taxes each year.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Canada loses between \$8.9 billion and \$47.8 billion through tax evasion and avoidance. 91% of this money goes to the top 10% of income earners, and roughly 50% of that actually goes to the top 1%. It’s time for the government to shutdown these tax loopholes to ensure that everyone is paying their fair share of taxes.

加拿大必須堵塞稅務漏洞

自由黨在選舉時承諾會堵塞股票期權的稅務漏洞。但政府資訊卻揭露大企業的行政總裁在幕後向財政部長遊說要自由黨背棄承諾，很明顯，這些大企業的領袖成功令政府放棄了堵塞這項為富人而設的稅務漏洞。

加拿大頂層的行政總裁目前的收入是一般市民平均收入的 193 倍。加拿大最富裕的 CEO 工作半天的薪酬已經是一般工人全年的收入。但這還不足夠，國際媒體報導像”巴拿馬文件” 這樣的新聞，揭發很多富人和大企業都以激進的逃稅方法，以空殼公司和在海外稅務天堂成立離岸戶口去逃避支付公平的稅收。

根據估計，加拿大的大企業單在 2015 年便把差不多 400 億元的資金調到海外的逃稅天堂。自 1988 年到 2001 年期間，加拿大直接投放在其中一個海外逃稅天堂--巴巴多斯，便由 6 百萬增加至 233 億元，是 360 倍的增長。這些不斷在增加的逃稅天堂手段令政府每年失去 70 億元的稅收。

根據加拿大會議局的研究，加拿大在逃稅所失去的稅收高達 478 億元。這筆失去稅收的九成款項源自享有全國最高收入的首 10%人士。稅務必須公平，政府需要堵塞這些稅務漏洞。

“Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson has launched an examination under the Conflict of Interest Act of the conduct of Finance Minister Bill Morneau in relation to his involvement in Bill C-27.” - Global News
“利益衝突及操守專員 Mary Dawson 根據利益衝突法就財政部長 Morneau 涉及 C-27 號法案的利益關係展開調查。”

Liberals’ Ethical Scandal

The Liberals promised to set a new standard in ethics, yet they continue to miss the mark. Prior to the election, the current Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau, was the former Executive Chair and CEO of Morneau Shepell, a provider of pension administration technology and services in Canada, called for targeted pension benefits in Canada.

After the election, Bill Morneau became the Minister of Finance and he introduced Bill C-27, legislation that could directly benefit Morneau Shepell’s business. At that time, Morneau owned substantial holdings in Morneau Shepell Inc. Is it not common sense that he should have known that he and his family could stand to directly benefit from this legislation? In addition, when Morneau introduced C-27, it was widely believed that he had placed his assets, including shares in Morneau Shepell, in a blind trust. However, we now learn that he did not set up a blind trust, nor did he divest his assets. We have also learned that Morneau has assets in other numbered companies but he won’t tell Canadians what is in numbered companies. He also “forgot” to disclose his ownership of a company that owned his French Villa in France for which he was fined for by the Ethics Commissioner. Furthermore, Morneau, who is a resident of Ontario, transferred his Morneau Shepell shares to a private holding company, which was incorporated in Alberta, presumably to take advantage of that lower tax jurisdiction so he could avoid paying his fair share of taxes to his home province.

Given all of the above, how can you have confidence in this Liberal Minister of Finance? The NDP has called for the Finance Minister to apologize for breaching the trust of Canadians. He refused. We have also called for the Liberals to withdraw Bill C -27 and to close any loopholes to prevent this kind of thing from ever happening again. Sadly, all the Liberals members voted against the NDP motion on both of these items.

Real change you say? Not!

自由黨的操守醜聞

自由黨向國民承諾會樹立新的操守標準，但卻一次又一次的違背承諾。在上次選舉前，現任財政部長 Bill Morneau 是一間名為 Morneau Shepell 的退休金管理企業的行政主席及行政總裁，提倡政府就退休金利益進行改革。

大選後，Bill Morneau 被杜魯多委任為財政部長，他在國會推出 C-27 號法案，而該法案是可以直接令他的公司獲利。在那個時候，財長擁有他公司很多的股份。常理可見，試問他怎會不知道他的立法會直接令他和家人獲利呢？當他推出 C-27 號法案時，大家都以為他會像其他國會議員一樣把自己的資產包括他公司的股權放在保密信託。但財長卻被揭發他不單沒有去掉或把它放進保密信託，他竟然把公司的股權隱藏放入數間數字公司。更過份的是，身為安省居民的 Morneau 把他的股份注入另外的公司在阿省登記，此舉相信讓他能夠避開安省較高的稅率。此外，財長亦“忘記”申報他在法國擁有別墅而被操守專員罰款。

根據以上的行為，試問國民如何能夠對這位自由黨的財長有信心？新民主黨要求財長就違反操守向加拿大人道歉，但他卻毫無悔意拒絕認錯。我們亦要求自由黨撤回 C-27 號法案，並且堵塞漏洞讓這樣的事情不會再發生。令人失望的是，自由黨的所有議員都投票反對由新民主黨所提出的動議。自由黨所說要帶來的“真正改變”究竟在那裡？



MP Jenny Kwan and volunteers participating in the Walk for Reconciliation in the spirit of “We are all one.” Over 50,000 people of all backgrounds gathered in downtown Vancouver to take a step on the road to reconciliation. 國會議員關慧貞和義工參與原住民和解大遊行。超過 5 萬名來自不同背景的市民參與表達”我們都是一家”的精神，由溫市中心步行到士溫哥華東區。

Jenny Kwan, MP
關慧貞國會議員辦事處
Constituency Office
2572 E. Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V5K 1Z3
Tel: 604-775-5800
Email: Jenny.Kwan@parl.gc.ca