



CASE FOR SUPPORT 2023



Includes 2022 Annual Report



Join Us on Second Street

When 11-year-old Yana Stepanenko fled to a train station in Kramatorsk, Ukraine last year with her mother and younger brother, it was to escape a war that killed 6,000 Ukrainian civilians. Instead of escaping however, Russian rockets hit the station, killing 50 people and injuring more than 100 others.

“I was crying,” Yana recalls. “I was scared. And then I tried to lift my legs. And I didn’t understand. I couldn’t see where they were. They were gone. There was blood, but there were no legs.”

Yana’s heartbreaking story opens SecondStreet.org’s mini documentary, *Defund Putin*, which weighs the atrocities of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It looks at how Russia relies on oil and gas sales to finance its war machine – including the rockets that took Yana’s legs – and highlights the opportunity Canada has to reduce those sales by half.

Defund Putin shows how SecondStreet.org is unique among think tanks. The vision was to create a new think tank that would marry original research with personal stories, showing how everyday people are affected by government policy decisions, for better or worse.

Yes, to use the example above, we serve up analysis on the logistics of energy replacement, and we speak to experts in the energy industry. But numbers and analysis don’t stir emotion and inspire us to act in ways that the very real human consequences of war can and hopefully will. The story of Yana and her family drives our data home.

Politicians across the spectrum regularly make bold claims about what their policies will do for Canadians, but very few of us ever see the results. Nowhere is this truer than with our health care system, where thousands of Canadians suffer and die each year while sitting on wait lists for treatments that could have saved or improved their lives.

Not only has SecondStreet.org continued to update its ground-breaking research on government-mandated wait lists each year, but we also continue to tell the stories of people devastated by the status quo. These include Joan Hama, who suffered a ruptured colon after waiting too long for a colonoscopy. Racked with sepsis, she had to be revived multiple times at the hospital as her family waited to say their goodbyes. Joan survived

and told her story to SecondStreet.org in 2022 – the same year 13,581 other Canadians died while awaiting vital surgeries, procedures and diagnostic scans.

Of course, identifying problems and telling stories is not enough. SecondStreet.org also offers carefully gathered and researched policy prescriptions. In the case of health care, this includes options practiced by other developed nations and the statistics to back up those practices. While private health care delivery has long been taboo in Canada's salons of respectability, our research shows that almost all countries that provide universal health care actually do so with a mix of public, private and not-for-profit options. These give patients choice and provide more timely access to care.

It's slow and incremental, but we are seeing changes in Canada with provincial governments as diverse as New Democrats in British Columbia and Conservatives in Ontario contract backlogged procedures out to private clinics. An editorial in the *Hamilton Spectator* noted the move in Ontario "was a recommendation of SecondStreet.org."

The public is ready for change. Public opinion research commissioned by SecondStreet.org reveals 59% on Ontarians, to use one example, support contracting procedures out to private clinics.

In 2022, *CTV News* featured our Died on a Waiting List findings as a top story on its national newscast, a sign that even the legacy media are recognizing more of the same in health care is not working. The momentum toward changes in health care will only intensify in 2023, and SecondStreet.org is well positioned to be a big part of the national conversation.

In 2022, SecondStreet.org also produced *Survivors of Socialism*, a series of video interviews with Canadians who previously lived under socialist and communist regimes. We've all heard certain politicians, university professors and activists praising these government systems, including now-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau himself expressing admiration for China's "basic dictatorship." While some might characterize these systems as utopias to be embraced or emulated in

Canada, people who have lived under their regimes offer stark lessons.

The series is aimed at younger Canadians and features interviews with expatriates from Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, China, the former Soviet Union and more. At the heart of these interviews is a most important question – *Are there any emerging government policies in Canada that concern you as they remind you of the country you fled?* It should come as little surprise, perhaps, that those who lived under tyrannical regimes identified the federal government's continued crackdown on free speech as a top concern.

We take particular pride at SecondStreet.org in working to build new audiences, as well as collaborating – rather than competing – with like-minded think tanks. Many of our projects feature the work of others, and we remain committed to that practice moving forward.

Our work continues to gain prominence. This includes the international stage where we have been shortlisted for awards and recognized as a top new think tank. Just as importantly, we're growing. 2022 revenues were up 44% over the previous year. Captained by President Colin Craig and our volunteer board of directors led by Kip Woodward, our team is doing outstanding work, and we look forward to bigger things to come in 2023 and beyond.

Troy Lanigan
Founder &
Managing Director

"Politicians across the spectrum regularly make bold claims about what their policies will do for Canadians, but very few of us ever see the results."





VISION

A prosperous, free Canada where all can pursue happiness. We see opportunity, choice and responsibility as three pillars for the successful, self-governing nation envisioned by Canada's founders.

MISSION

To tell the stories of ordinary Canadians and their families, and show how public policy choices harm or help their prosperity, freedom and lives.



BACKGROUND

Troy Lanigan and Mark Milke founded SecondStreet.org in 2017.

Their observation was that public policy research and discussion would gain more traction amongst the public, stakeholders and lawmakers if it was better connected to real life experiences. In other words, put a face to numbers and statistics primarily through short videos and articles, but also give voice to those people whose stories are being told through avenues like media or lawmakers seeking public input.

Moreover, while SecondStreet.org would undertake its own research, it would also advance the work of other think tanks where public policy issues and the search for solutions overlapped with the stories and narratives being told by SecondStreet.org.

After writing a business plan in 2017, the pair sought seed capital in 2018 that would eventually secure the hiring of a full-time president, Colin Craig, late in 2018. After a short period of capacity

building that included development of a student internship program, SecondStreet.org was launched publicly in February 2019.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Second Street is the most common street name in Canada – there is one in almost every community across the country. Symbolically, it is where people live, work, learn, pray, shop, eat – it's where lives are lived, discussions had, experiences shaped.

Whether it's a local infrastructure project, provincial environmental regulation or the federal government's response to a pandemic, people are having conversations and exchanging their experiences on Second Street. SecondStreet.org seeks to gather those experiences, examine the public policy choices involved and advance options that support improved prosperity, freedom and livelihoods.

2022 AT A GLANCE

9

9 policy briefs

produced from original research. The reports examine a wide array of policy areas – from health reform and Canada's ability to displace Russian oil and gas sales to government policies that drive up housing costs in Canada.

45

45 videos released

on a wide range of topics, including: patients describing their experiences with the health care system, health reform videos, interviews with Canadians who lived in socialist countries and of course our mini documentary – *Defund Putin*.

3.6

3.6 million impressions

through our social media content – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and more!

1.2

1.2 million online views

of SecondStreet.org's videos.

22

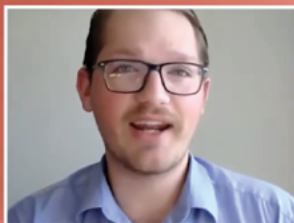
22 columns

published by major media outlets more than 50 times.

45

45 television and radio interviews

across Canada to discuss SecondStreet.org research.



Dominick Lucyk

SecondStreet.org



Dana Kovanda

Canadian from Czechoslovakia



SecondStreet.org's Dom Lucyk speaks with Dana Kovanda about conditions growing up in former Czechoslovakia when it was under communist rule. Secondstreet.org posted 45 videos on public policy related content in 2022.

IN THE NEWS

2022



Support for private health-care options has grown since start of pandemic: survey

By Emily Mertz • Global News
Posted December 2, 2021 5:00 am • Updated December 6, 2021 8:31 pm

REGINA LEADER-POST

Opinion / Columnists

Dom Lucyk: Saskatchewan people are ready for a real shift in health care delivery

It's unacceptable that in such a prosperous province, we have people waiting so long for essential care.

Dom Lucyk



FINANCIAL POST

Opinion: Governments cut alcohol red tape. Sky did not fall

One more reminder that governments should constantly review their regulations

Colin Craig, Special to Financial Post

TORONTO SUN

Columnists

OPINION: Poor government policies exacerbate expensive housing problem

Special to Toronto Sun

CALGARY HERALD

Columnists

Corbella: Canada could displace half of Russian energy sales

Licia Corbella

Published Dec 05, 2022 • Last updated Dec 05, 2022 • 5 minute read

FINANCIAL POST

Opinion: Health care needs reform more than dollars

Canadians are ready for health reform. How about our politicians?

Licia Corbella, Special to Financial Post



TRUE NORTH

GUEST OP-ED: Canada could take away half of Putin's energy sales

By Colin Craig • December 13, 2022

TORONTO SUN

Editorials

EDITORIAL: Health-care waiting list deaths a national scandal

Postmedia News
Aug 15, 2022

The deadly aspects of both Canada's lacklustre health care management combined with our aggressive response to COVID-19 is becoming increasingly clear.

The latest development comes via numbers detailing how delayed treatments have led to an increase in the number of people who have died awaiting surgeries.

The numbers come from think-tank SecondStreet.org, which focused on data from Ontario.

FINANCIALS

Revenues	2023***	2022**	2021*
• Donations	650,000	620,438	\$254,605
• Other	-	683	\$21
Total	650,000	621,121	\$254,626
Expenses	2023	2022	2021
• Salaries, benefits, and subcontractors	445,000	362,849	146,697
• Research, videos, and equipment	97,777	92,267	38,803
• Advertising	57,500	47,182	11,199
• Bank charges	3,000	2,744	1,674
• Other	34,292	37,802	23,665
Total	637,569	542,844	222,038
Surplus / deficit	12,431	78,277	32,588

* SecondStreet.org switched from a July 1–June 30 fiscal year to a calendar year format starting in 2022. This column represents revenue and expenditure estimates during our half-year transition period (July 1, 2021–December 31, 2021)

** 2022 audit not completed at time of publication.

*** 2023 budget figures.

ISSUE PROFILE: HEALTH CARE REFORM

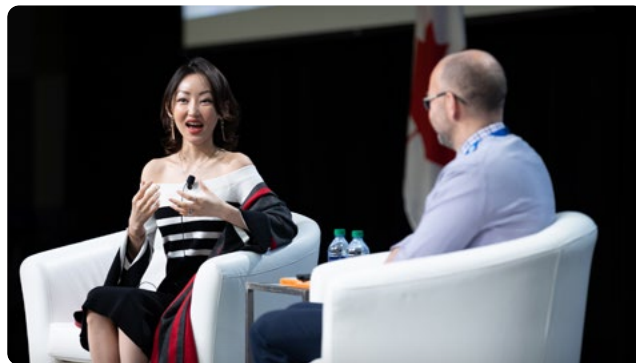
Our nation's health care system was in crisis long before the COVID-19 pandemic pried open the cracks. The evidence is damning, and nowhere worse than with the thousands of Canadians who suffer and die on wait lists each year for procedures that might have saved or improved their lives.

Digging beneath the data, SecondStreet.org brings the real stories of these neglected patients to light. This past year, Joan Hama spoke with us from British Columbia about her own dreadful experience – about being forced to wait so long for a colonoscopy that her colon eventually ruptured. Sepsis set in, and Joan's death seemed imminent. The hospital had to revive her repeatedly as her family gathered to say their goodbyes.

Fortunately, Joan lived to share her story, but over 13,500 Canadians did not – a yearly death toll that has risen by two thousand since 2020-21.

SecondStreet.org's original research has made it Canada's go-to source for these stories and data. Every year, we work to determine the number of patients who die while waiting for health services including hip operations, heart operations, MRI scans and more.

And we know that measuring the problem is not enough. For this, SecondStreet.org puts forward real-world policy solutions from home and abroad with the aim of providing patients more choice and improving health care outcomes.



SecondStreet.org's president Colin Craig interviews North Korean defector and human rights activist Yeonmi Park. Park was the keynote speaker at the 2022 Canada Strong and Free Networking Conference in Ottawa.

ISSUE PROFILE: SURVIVORS OF SOCIALISM

Some politicians, university professors and activists praise socialism and communism as utopian systems that should be embraced in Canada. In 2013, now-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau infamously expressed his admiration for China, saying, "their basic dictatorship is actually allowing them to turn their economy around on a dime."

Advocates of such tyrannical regimes might benefit from watching SecondStreet.org's *Survivors of Socialism* project, which emphasizes the trail of devastation these systems have left in their wake. *Survivors of Socialism* sought to shine a light on communist and socialist ideologies by speaking with Canadians who previously lived under their regimes.

SecondStreet.org spoke with expatriates from a wide array of countries, including Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, China, the former Soviet Union and more. Boris Rassin, who grew up in Latvia while it was controlled by the Soviet Union, told us a shocking story that highlighted censorship and food supply problems under its former regime. Boris explained how the Soviet government destroyed old cookbooks because it didn't want citizens wondering why so many ingredients and foods no longer existed under communism.

Our interviews and surveys include an important question: *Are there any emerging government policies in Canada that concern you as they remind you of the country you fled?* The answers were stark. The people we spoke with told us government efforts to restrict freedom of speech and freedom of expression in Canada were the most troubling warning signals.

ISSUE PROFILE: ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL SECURITY

Since its founding, SecondStreet.org has examined the intersection between natural resource development and the environment. However, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, SecondStreet.org's examination expanded to include geopolitics.

After Russia's invasion, many observers pointed out that the world could buy more oil and natural gas from Canada if we developed more of our resources and built the infrastructure to export them beyond North America. This way, the West could wean itself off its dependence on Russian oil and gas – the same pipeline that is funding Vladimir Putin's military.

SecondStreet.org investigated. How much of Russia's energy sales could Canada displace if our governments made it a national priority to develop and export more of our resources? It was an answer no one seemed to have.

We surveyed experts in Canada's oil and gas industry to examine what was possible. The findings showed that by the end of this decade, Canada could be replacing about half of Russia's oil and natural gas sales (46% and 59% respectively). That would take a big bite out of what fuels Putin's military.

After releasing this research to the media and participating in news interviews, SecondStreet.org produced *Defund Putin*, a 19-minute mini-documentary. Telling the story of 11-year-old Yana Stepanenko, the production discusses our research while humanizing those who have suffered from the invasion. Yana was waiting with her mother and brother at a train station, hoping to escape the country, when disaster struck. Russian rockets hit the station, killing over 50 people and wounding more than 100 others. Yana survived, but she lost both of her legs in the attack. Her mother lost a leg as well. To make matters worse, Yana's father died fighting for his country a month later.

Thousands of other Ukrainians have stories of suffering at the hands of the invasion – and millions of others in Eastern Europe live in fear of Putin's war machine.

SecondStreet.org commissioned two Leger polls to see what Canadians think of increasing our oil and gas production to offset Russian energy sales. In both polls, more than 70% of respondents were in favour of stepping up our energy production to make a difference here at home and around the world.



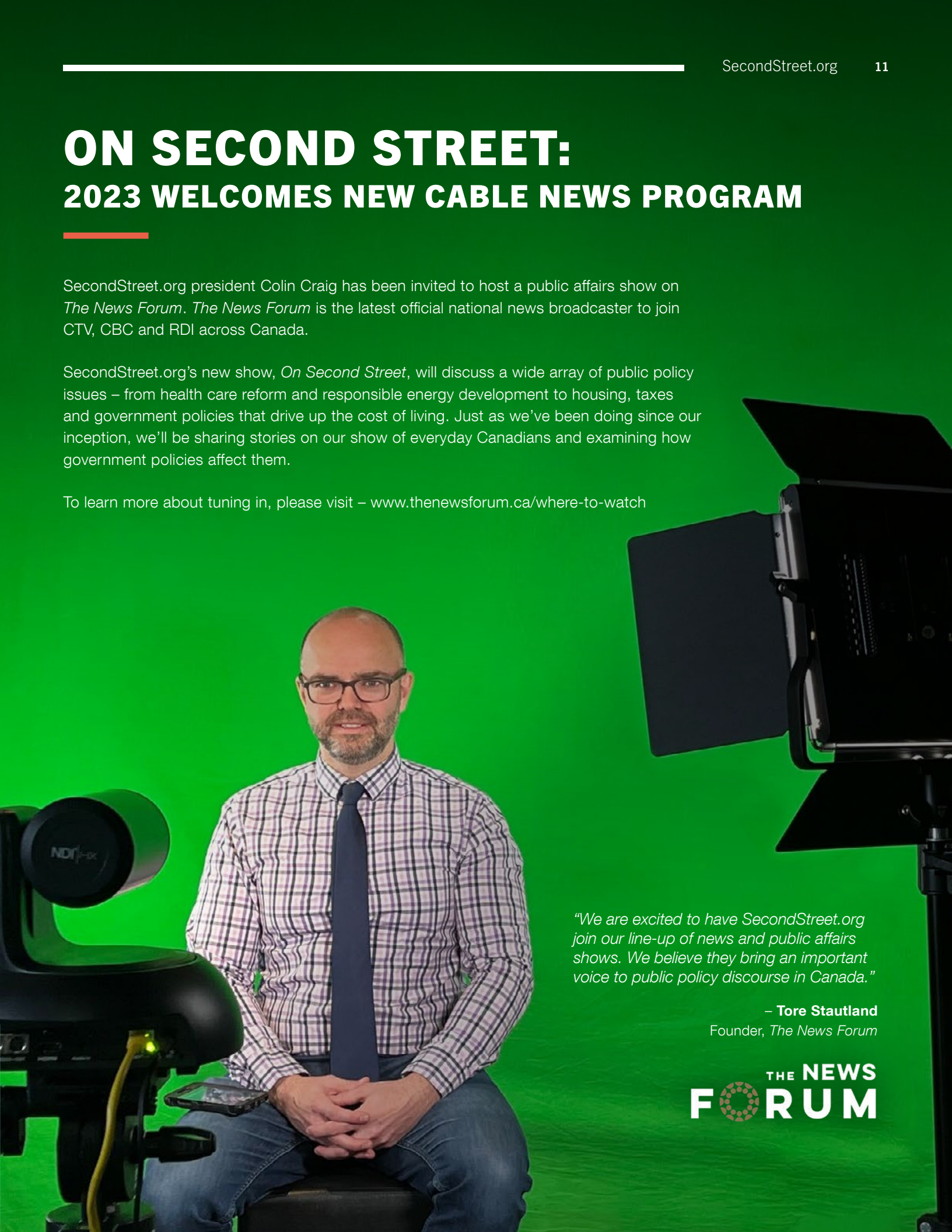
Yana Stepanenko, her mother and brother at a hospital in Ukraine.

ON SECOND STREET: 2023 WELCOMES NEW CABLE NEWS PROGRAM

SecondStreet.org president Colin Craig has been invited to host a public affairs show on *The News Forum*. *The News Forum* is the latest official national news broadcaster to join CTV, CBC and RDI across Canada.

SecondStreet.org's new show, *On Second Street*, will discuss a wide array of public policy issues – from health care reform and responsible energy development to housing, taxes and government policies that drive up the cost of living. Just as we've been doing since our inception, we'll be sharing stories on our show of everyday Canadians and examining how government policies affect them.

To learn more about tuning in, please visit – www.thenewsforum.ca/where-to-watch



"We are excited to have SecondStreet.org join our line-up of news and public affairs shows. We believe they bring an important voice to public policy discourse in Canada."

– **Tore Stautland**
Founder, *The News Forum*

THE NEWS
FORUM

Our Team

Our Staff & Contributors



Troy Lanigan
Founder & Managing Director



Colin Craig
President



Melanie Harvie
Executive Secretary



Heidi McKillop
Contributor



Kris Sims
Contributor



Dom Lucyk
Communications Director



James Skinner
Contributor



Kristen Schulz
Contributor



Licia Corbella
Contributor

Our Board



C.C. (Kip) Woodward
Board Chair



Scott Hennig
Director



Tracy Johnson
Director



Steven Muchnik
Director



Walter Robinson
Director

Moving Our Work Forward

SecondStreet.org is a unique think tank in Canada.

We conduct public policy research just as our peers do, but what sets us apart is that we tell the stories behind the numbers.

We use storytelling as a way to discuss public policy issues – strong narratives connect with people in ways that numbers cannot. Stories are memorable and “stick” with the public long after a statistic is forgotten.

We complement the stories we share by providing solid, groundbreaking research, offering proven policy solutions, working collaboratively with others and utilizing new strategies to reach a broader audience.

SecondStreet.org focuses on three core public policy areas: **improving health care** for patients, in terms of both access and outcomes; **securing energy supply** that is abundant, affordable and environmentally

responsible; and **examining the consequences of socialism**, using real-world examples to show Canadians – and especially our young people – what dangerous but fashionable ideologies including communism look like in practice.

SecondStreet.org is sharing the stories and information many politicians and legacy media either don't bother with or don't want you to see.

Now, in our fourth year, we are finding our voice as a key player in Canada's public policy landscape – particularly on the important issue of health care reform.

Will you join us?

SecondStreet.org is a registered Canadian charity.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you in moving our work forward.



**For donation inquiries, please contact
Troy Lanigan at: troy@secondstreet.org**

**Or donate online at:
www.secondstreet.org/donate**



SecondStreet.org fact checks actor Jim Carrey's comments on Canada's health care system.

