



Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth and Resilience

On Monday, April 19, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Canada's First Minister of Finance, tabled in the House of Commons Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth and Resilience.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the greatest crises of our time, leaving no community behind. In our community, we have shared in the suffering, and I want to acknowledge remarkable courage, compassion and innovation our community members have shown.

We all want the pandemic to end, but until then we must all continue to do our part by following public health guidelines, and getting vaccinated as soon as we are eligible to do so.

This budget is about finishing the fight against COVID-19, healing the wounds left by the COVID-19 recession, and creating more jobs and prosperity for Canadians in the years to come.

In the lead up to this budget, I connected with residents, business owners and stakeholders in Newmarket-Aurora through tele-town halls and Zoom Calls. While there were as many questions as there were suggestions, I really appreciate the ideas and suggestions from my constituents that helped shape the recommendations I shared with the Minister on behalf of our community.

The constituents of Newmarket-Aurora were clear in stating that job recovery was the most important indication of a recovery from this pandemic, along with the re-opening of businesses. In Budget 2021, it is clear that our government agrees.

On Tuesday, April 20, I had the opportunity to participate in debate over Budget 2021 to share my thoughts with my colleagues across Canada. I welcome you to watch my speech [here](#).

I am encouraged to see that the voices and requests of Newmarket-Aurora were heard with remarkable clarity and inspiration, and to share a few Budget 2021 highlights below.

[View the Budget](#)

Budget 2021 Highlights

ENSURING SAFE AND DIGNIFIED LIVING CONDITIONS FOR SENIORS

BUDGET 2021

Every senior deserves to live in dignity, safety, and comfort. For far too many seniors, this year has been spent in isolation from family and friends, and they have been overwhelmed by the casualties of this pandemic.

It is essential that we protect the health and well-being of our seniors, and those who care for them, through this pandemic and into the future.

The government plans to provide a one-time payment of \$500 in August 2021 to Old Age Security (OAS) pensioners who will be 75 or older as of June 2022. As of July 2022, the budget proposes to increase regular OAS payments for pensioners 75 or older by 10 per cent on an ongoing basis.

In addition to these improvements to OAS, Budget 2021 proposes:

- \$3 billion over five years to support provinces and territories in ensuring standards for long-term care are applied and permanent changes are made.
- \$41.3 million over six years, and \$7.7 million ongoing, for Statistics Canada to improve data infrastructure and collection on supportive care, primary care, and pharmaceuticals.
- \$90 million over three years to launch the Age Well at Home initiative to assist community-based organizations, and regional and national projects in helping seniors stay in their homes longer.

[More Information](#)

PROTECTING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF CANADIANS

BUDGET 2021

The personal, social, and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of Canadians. In particular, health care workers, front-line workers, youth, seniors, Indigenous Peoples, and racialized and Black Canadians have faced increased stress and anxiety during this difficult time.

I am pleased to see significant investments into protecting the mental health of Canadians, and supporting populations dealing with mental health challenges, on this budget, including:

- \$45 million over two years to help develop national mental health service standards, in collaboration with provinces and territories, health organizations, and key stakeholders.
- \$100 million over three years to support innovative mental health interventions for populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- \$50 million over two years to support a trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder stream of mental health programming for populations at high risk of experiencing COVID-19 trauma and those exposed to various traumas brought about by COVID-19.
- \$62 million for the Wellness Together Canada portal so it can continue to provide Canadians with the tools and services to support mental health and well-being.

[More Information](#)

SUPPORTING CANADIAN BUSINESSES AND WORKERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

BUDGET 2021

The broad suite of support measures introduced by our government have supported businesses across Canada throughout the pandemic.

These programs are meant to ensure employers who have suffered revenue declines during the pandemic have the support needed to pay their bills, keep their employees on payroll, and re-hire laid off employees.

To bridge Canadians through the rest of this crisis to recovery, continued support is needed. Extending support means that millions of jobs will continue to be protected.

Budget 2021 proposes:

- Extending the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy until September 25, 2021, and gradually decrease the subsidy rate as of July 4, 2021 to ensure an orderly phase-out of the program.
- Extending the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support until September 25, 2021, and gradually decrease the subsidy rate as of July 4, 2021 to ensure an orderly phase out of the program.
- Extending the application deadline for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to June 30, 2021.
- Ensuring no business is left behind by extending the deadline for similar support under the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund to June 30, 2021, and providing \$80 million on a cash basis for the Community Futures Network of Canada and regional development agencies.

[More Information](#)

SUPPORTING CANADIANS DURING THE PANDEMIC

BUDGET 2021

After the creation of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), which supported 8 million Canadians, the government transitioned the support to a suite of new temporary benefits: the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB), the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), and an enhanced Employment Insurance (EI) system.

More than two and a half million Canadians have returned to work since the start of the pandemic, but many continue to face challenges finding and keeping work.

Budget 2021 proposes to help ease their financial stress by:

- Temporarily waiving the one-week waiting period for EI claims to allow people who apply for benefits to be paid their first week of unemployment.
- Providing additional weeks of Recovery Benefits and EI regular benefits to continue to support workers through a transition away from emergency income supports and position Canadians for the recovery.
- Ensuring the EI system remains flexible, accessible and responsive to the needs of Canadians over the coming year while the job market begins to improve.
- Extending EI sickness benefits to better support workers suffering from illness or injury, so they can feel confident they are supported and their jobs are protected as they recover.

[More Information](#)

ESTABLISHING A CANADA-WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SYSTEM

BUDGET 2021

Budget 2021 proposes a transformative, permanent federal financial commitment to Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) with the goal of bringing the cost of child care to \$10 a day for all regulated spaces in Canada by 2025-26.

To ensure all families have access to high-quality, affordable child care, Budget 2021 proposes:

- \$27.2 billion over five years for a 50/50 share of child care costs with provincial and territorial governments.
- \$1.4 billion over five years, and \$385 million ongoing, to ensure more indigenous families access high-quality programming.
- \$29.2 million over two years, to support child care centres in improving their physical accessibility.

The federal government will work with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners to build a Canada-wide, community-based system of quality child care, to grow a qualified workforce of early childhood educators, and build a baseline of public available data to measure progress and continuously improve the system.

[More Information](#)

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF YOUNG CANADIANS

BUDGET 2021

Young Canadians are among the hardest and fastest hit by this pandemic, and must be at the centre of our recovery. Canada's growth and prosperity well into the future depends on new opportunities for young people today.

Budget 2021 builds on recent investments in youth by:

- Extending the waiver of interest accrual on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans until March 31, 2023.
- Increasing the threshold for repayment assistance so that nobody earning \$40,000 per year or less will need to make any payments on their student loans.
- Doubling the Canada Student Grants until the end of July 2023 to help low-income students cover the cost of their tuition, school supplies, and living expenses.
- Investing \$721 million in the next two years to ensure youth and students can access valuable job skills and experience through the Student Work Placement Program, the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, and Canada Summer Jobs.

[More Information](#)

RESTORING TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORT

BUDGET 2021

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on workers and businesses in the tourism, arts, and culture industries has been severe.

To assist these sectors, Budget 2021 proposes a package of supports totaling \$1 billion over three years, including:

- \$200 million to support major festivals and events so Canadians can continue to celebrate our artistic excellence and unique character.
- \$200 million to support local festivals, community cultural events, outdoor theatre performances, heritage celebrations, local museums, amateur sports events, etc.
- \$100 million to Destination Canada to help Canadians and visitors explore the country.
- \$500 million for a Tourism Relief Fund to support local tourism businesses adapt their products and services to public health measures and recover from the pandemic.
- \$70 million to help Canadian musicians, concert venues, producers, and distributors weather the pandemic.

[More Information](#)

STRENGTHENING CHARITIES, NON-PROFITS, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

BUDGET 2021

During the pandemic, charities, non-profits, social enterprises, and other organizations have faced unprecedented hardship, while continuing to provide essential services to those in need in our communities.

It is essential that we provide them with support, so they can continue to address these challenges directly at the community level.

Budget 2021 is proposing:

- \$755 million in disbursements through the Social Finance Fund, with \$220 million over its first two years, to support the development of the social finance market, create thousands of new jobs, and drive positive social change.
- \$400 million to create a temporary Community Services Recovery Fund to help charities and non-profits adapt and modernize to better support Canada's economic recovery.
- \$50 million over two years to renew the Investment Readiness Program to support these organizations in capacity-building activities.

[More Information](#)

REACHING NET-ZERO BY 2050

BUDGET 2021

While climate change is the biggest challenge we face today, it is also one of our greatest opportunities. Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$17.6 billion towards a green recovery to create jobs, build a clean economy and fight against climate change.

Among other initiatives, this investment will go towards:

- Helping homeowners complete deep home retrofits through interest-free loans worth up to \$40,000 to lower their home's environmental footprint and energy bills.
- Supporting projects that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by transforming key sectors and accelerating the adoption of clean technology across the economy through Canada's Net Zero Accelerator.
- Creating jobs and supporting the growth of clean technology manufacturing in Canada through proposed tax reductions and incentives that encourage clean economy businesses to invest, grow, and deploy solutions in Canada.

[More Information](#)

SEIZING DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES

BUDGET 2021

With more companies, workers, and consumers shifting to working and buying online, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the importance of new technologies and the digitization of our economy.

Canadian businesses need to adopt new technologies and digitize to meet customers' needs and stay competitive. To fuel the recovery, jobs, and growth, Budget 2021 proposes:

- Launching the Canada Digital Adoption Program to create thousands of jobs for young Canadians, to help Canadian businesses adopt new technologies, and to help offset the costs of going digital.
- \$1.4 billion to work with organizations across Canada to provide microgrants to smaller businesses to support costs associated with technology adoption, and create training for young people to support businesses that adopt new technology.
- \$2.6 billion to the Business Development Bank of Canada to help businesses finance technology adoption.

[More Information](#)

FIGHTING SYSTEMIC RACISM AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

BUDGET 2021

A more equitable and inclusive society demands all Canadians to come together to address racism in all its forms: violence, harassment, discrimination, exclusion from opportunities, and a myriad of expressions of unconscious bias.

Budget 2021 takes the next step towards long-term foundational change by providing:

- \$11 million for the Canadian Race Relations Foundation to scale-up efforts to empower racialized Canadians and community groups.
- \$200 million to establish a new Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund, a sustainable source of funding to help combat anti-Black racism and improve social and economic outcomes in Black communities.
- \$100 million to the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative to support capacity-building of Black-led non-profit organizations.
- \$250 million combined over five years to ensure Statistics Canada has the data needed to make evidence-based decisions across priorities.

[More Information](#)

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS CANADA

BUDGET 2021

Based on respect, partnership, and recognition of rights, we are committed to continuing our work with Indigenous partners.

Through Budget 2021, we are proposing an investment of \$18 billion over the next five years to improve the quality of life and create new opportunities for people living in Indigenous communities. Among the initiatives included as part of this funding are:

- Continues support to the COVID-19 response in Indigenous communities and ensure that indigenous leadership has the tools and resources necessary to keep communities safe, respond to outbreaks, and support vaccine rollout.
- A plan to help build resilient Indigenous communities through investments in infrastructure initiatives to support clean drinking water, housing, schools, and roads. In turn, this will create good jobs and build healthier, safer and more prosperous Indigenous communities in the long-term.

[More Information](#)



The Tradition Continues

Did you know that it is a tradition among Canada's Ministers of Finance to purchase, or wear, new shoes when the budget is delivered?

Yesterday, the tradition continued with Canada's first female Minister of Finance. On the eve of Budget Day, Minister Freeland shared on her social media that she would be wearing new shoes from ZVelle, a woman-led Canadian business in her riding of University-Rosedale.

While the beginning of the tradition is unclear, wearing new shoes on a budget day has been used as a symbol by finance ministers for many years.



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To read Budget 2021 in full, please visit: budget.gc.ca

