

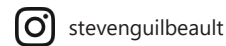
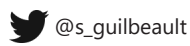


HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Budget 2021

STEVEN GUILBEAULT

Member of Parliament
Laurier-Sainte-Marie



Spring 2021

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Dear residents of Laurier-Sainte-Marie,

The 2021 federal budget was presented on April 19. As we continue to fight COVID-19 and to support families, businesses, and communities, we are investing in a green and sustainable recovery.

This budget reflects what we have heard over the past few months. Many of you participated in the pre-budget consultations that I organized virtually in the riding and provided your comments to the Minister of Finance through the pre-budget consultation portal or by mail.

In this newsletter you will find some highlights of Budget 2021 for you, your family, your business, and our community. In addition to working hard to bring forward a 2021 federal budget that meets the needs of Canadians, our government continued to focus on delivering as many vaccines as possible. At the time of writing, more than 29 million doses of vaccine have been delivered to provinces and territories, including more than 6.5 million in Quebec. More than 65.3 % of Quebecers have received at least one dose. As expected, Canada is seeing a steady increase in the number of vaccines and predictable delivery schedules. Per capita, Canada is ranked first in the G20 on the administration of first doses, and we are administering doses faster than any other G20 country.



I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. My team and I are here for you.

Steven Guilbeault
Member of Parliament for Laurier-Sainte-Marie
Minister of Canadian Heritage

CONTACT

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
800, DE MAISONNEUVE
EAST BLVD, SUITE 604,
MONTREAL (QUEBEC)
H2L 4L8
Tel. 514-522-1339

*Because of COVID-19, we work mostly remotely, but we are reachable at all times by phone and by email.

 steven.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca
 stenguilbeault.libparl.ca/

For more information
on Budget 2021, visit
www.budget.gc.ca

EXTENDING THE SUPPORT MEASURES

Our emergency aid measures for businesses are extended. The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy will be extended until September 25, 2021, with the possibility of an extension until November depending on the economic situation and public health.

Our aid measures for individuals are also extended.

- The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), which replaced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) last year, is being extended by 12 weeks, for a maximum total of 50 weeks, until September 25. It will gradually be reduced to less than \$300 a week by the fall due to the anticipated economic recovery.
- The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) will be extended for four weeks and will remain at \$500 per week.



Printed on 100 %
Canadian recycled paper

IMPROVING OLD AGE SECURITY FOR CANADIANS 75 AND OVER

Seniors deserve a secure and dignified retirement. Our government is committed to enhancing Old Age Security (OAS) benefits for seniors aged 75 and over, providing support where it is most needed. As seniors age, their health and home care costs increase; simultaneously, they are more likely to be unable to work, disabled or widowed.

This commitment would be implemented in two stages:

- Meet immediate needs by providing a one-time payment of \$500 in August 2021 to OAS pensioners who will be 75 years of age or older as of June 2022.
- Increase regular OAS payments by 10 % for pensioners 75 years of age or older as of July 2022. This would increase the benefits for approximately 3.3 million seniors, providing additional benefits of \$766 to full pensioners in the first year, and indexed to inflation going forward.

Seniors of all ages benefit from measures in Budget 2021, including the new \$90 million Age Well at Home initiative which will assist community-based organizations in providing practical support, and additional funding for long-term care, affordable housing, people with disabilities, the Accessibility Fund and food security.

Since 2015, our government has made unprecedented investments to support health care for Canadians. In 2020-2021, our government will provide \$ 41.9 billion to the provinces and territories through the Canada Health Transfer. For Quebec, this represents \$9.4 billion, an increase of \$315 million from the previous year.

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND STUDENTS

In Budget 2021, the government is investing more than \$5.7 billion for young people over the next five years, to help them continue and complete their education and create 215,000 new jobs and skills opportunities. The government proposes to :

- Invest \$4.1 billion to facilitate the repayment of student debt. As Quebec does not participate in the Canada Student Loans Program, equivalent compensation from the Government of Canada will be paid to the Quebec Loans and Bursaries Program.
- Expand the Student Learning Program and support extracurricular education organizations working towards high school graduation.
- Invest \$721 million over the next two years to help young people access quality employment opportunities. This will be done through the Student Work Placement Program, the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, the Canada Summer Jobs program and a new Apprenticeship Service for apprentices in the construction and manufacturing Red Seal trades.
- Provide support to Indigenous youth through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and Inuit and Métis Nation Post-Secondary Partnerships Program and Post-Secondary Education Strategies.

IMPROVING THE CANADA WORKERS BENEFIT

Budget 2021 proposes to expand the Canada Workers Benefit to support about 1 million additional Canadians in low-wage jobs, helping them return to work and increasing benefits for Canada's most vulnerable. The government would raise the income level at which the benefit starts being reduced to \$22,944 for single individuals without children and to \$26,177 for families.

EXTENDING EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SICKNESS BENEFITS

In the event of illness or injury, Canadians should feel supported and be confident that their jobs are protected while they recover. Budget 2021 proposes to increase the sickness benefit period offered by Employment Insurance from 15 to 26 weeks. The extension, which would take effect in summer 2022, would provide approximately 169,000 Canadians with more time and flexibility each year to recover and return to work.

ENSURING THE REVIVAL OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, AND SPORTS SECTORS

The arts, heritage and sports sectors have been among the hardest hit by the pandemic, and many artists and cultural workers have struggled to find work. This is why the 2021 budget includes many additional investments to support these sectors, such as :

- \$200M to support local festivals, cultural community organizations and events such as outdoor plays, heritage celebrations, local museums, amateur sporting events, and much more.
- \$200M in support of major festivals, which will continue to celebrate our artistic excellence and our uniqueness.
- \$300M over two years, starting in 2021-2022, to set up a stimulus fund for the arts, culture, heritage and sports sectors to promote recovery after the pandemic.
- \$70M over three years, starting in 2021-2022, for the Canada Music Fund. This amount includes up to \$50 million in 2021-2022 to help the live music industry, including concert halls, overcome the pandemic.
- \$275M over five years, starting in 2021-2022, to support the efforts of Indigenous peoples to reclaim, revitalize and strengthen Indigenous languages. This funding will support various initiatives such as language and culture camps, apprentice mentor programs and the development of resources and materials on Indigenous languages.
- \$105M over three years, starting in 2021-2022, to Telefilm Canada to modernize its current set of programs to provide better access to a diverse range of creators and producers, to support green practices and to respond to increasing digitization in the audiovisual industry.
- \$39.3M over two years, starting in 2021-2022, to support the Canadian book industry. This amount includes funding of \$32.1 million over two years, starting in 2021-2022, to help bookstores increase their online sales.
- \$80M over two years, starting in 2021-2022, to work to remove barriers to participation in sports and help community organizations launch local organized sport programs so that they are accessible to all.

Through these investments, we are making sure that the organizations and people who inspire us and who move us, get the support they need to recover from the pandemic.



At the Librairie du Square on Saint-Denis Street with Éric Simard, owner of the bookstore and president of the Association des libraires du Québec.

SUPPORTING CANADIAN BUSINESSES

Budget 2021 proposes to launch the Canada Digital Adoption Program. This program will help more than 160,000 businesses meet the costs of adopting new technologies, and provide them with the advice they need to get the most from new technologies, with the help of 28,000 young Canadians who will be trained to support them.

The government is also proposing to allow small Canadian businesses to fully charge capital expenditures of up to \$1.5 million in digital technologies or intellectual property. This measure represents an investment of \$2.2 billion in the growth of innovative businesses.

STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Since 2015, we have invested around \$60 billion in climate action and clean growth. In 2020, we announced an additional investment of \$15 billion for Canada's enhanced Climate plan, as well as almost \$15 billion for public transit in February 2021. Budget 2021 proposes to invest an additional \$17.6 billion for a green recovery.



Photo Alexandre Tétreault

ENERGY RETROFITS THAT REDUCE EMISSIONS

Buildings, including our homes, account for 18% of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions. The Canada Greener Homes Grant will help homeowners make their homes more energy-efficient, grow our domestic green supply chains, and fight climate change.

What's available through the initiative?

- **Up to 700,000 grants of up to \$5,000** to help homeowners make energy efficient retrofits to their homes, such as better insulation.
- **EnerGuide evaluations (worth up to \$600) and expert advice** to homeowners.
- **Recruitment and training of EnerGuide energy advisors** to meet the increased demand; this will create new jobs across Canada.

Participants are eligible for up to \$5,600 total under the initiative.

Budget 2021 also proposes to provide \$4.4 billion to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to help homeowners make major home renovations with interest-free loans of up to \$40,000. This program will notably support low income homeowners and rental properties serving low income renters, including cooperatives and not-for-profit owned housing.

The program would be in place by summer 2021. It is estimated that more than 200,000 households would benefit from this measure.

NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Local parks, green spaces and waterfront areas are our natural infrastructure. They provide natural spaces and animal passageways that support conservation and biodiversity. Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$200 million over three years, starting in 2021-2022, to establish a Natural Infrastructure Fund to support natural and hybrid infrastructure projects. This would help to improve well-being, mitigate the impacts of climate change and prevent costly natural events.

DEVELOPING THE CANADA WATER AGENCY

In preparation for the launch of a new Canadian Water Agency, which will ensure the safety, cleanliness and good management of our water, Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$17.4 million over two years, starting in 2021-2022, to support work with provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, and key stakeholders on the scope of the agency's mandate, including identifying opportunities to build and support more resilient water and irrigation infrastructure.

Thanks to these investments, Canada will be on the right track to accomplish its ambitions in terms of environmental protection and the fight against climate change, which we increased last April : reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030 (rather than 30 % according to our previous target) and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

A CLEAN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR THROUGH INNOVATION

Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$5 billion over seven years, starting in 2021-2022, for the Net Zero Accelerator announced last December in the government's strengthened Climate plan. By investing in decarbonizing large emitters, transforming key sectors like steel, aluminium, and cement, and accelerating the adoption of clean technology across the economy – for example, the auto and aerospace sectors – the Net Zero Accelerator will help meet our goal of net zero by 2050. Building on the support of the Net Zero Accelerator announced in the enhanced Climate plan, this funding would allow the government to provide up to \$8 billion in support of projects that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN NATURE CONSERVATION

The 2021 budget proposes to provide \$2.3 billion over five years, starting in 2021-2022, with \$100.5 million in remaining amortization, to :

- conserve up to an additional 1 million square kilometers of land and inland water to meet Canada's goal of protecting 25 % of its territory by 2025
- create thousands of jobs in nature conservation and management
- accelerate the creation of new provincial and territorial protected areas
- support Indigenous Guardians
- act to prevent the disappearance of species at imminent risk of extinction

Taken together with funding provided for the Nature Legacy Initiative announced in Budget 2018, this represents the largest investment in nature conservation in Canada's history.

CONSERVING CANADA'S OCEANS

The government has pledged to protect 25 % of its marine and coastal areas by 2025, working towards 30 % by 2030. Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$976.8 million over five years, starting in 2021-2022, and \$80 million in remaining amortization, to help Canada meet its goal of protecting the health of our oceans, commercial fishing stocks and the quality of life of Canadians, especially in coastal communities.

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The impacts of climate change, including flooding, coastal erosion, and permafrost thaw, are putting Canada's infrastructure at significant risk. To ensure Canada's resilience to climate change, Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$1.4 billion over 12 years, starting in 2021-2022, to enhance the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to support projects such as wildfire mitigation activities, rehabilitation of storm water systems, and restoration of wetlands and shorelines.

INCREASING THE MANUFACTURING OF ZERO-EMISSION TECHNOLOGIES

Budget 2021 proposes to reduce general tax rates by 50 % for corporations and small businesses that manufacture zero-emission technologies. These reductions will increase Canada's competitiveness to attract investment in manufacturing zero-emission technologies while supporting existing businesses in the sector.

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS TO ENSURE EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

High housing costs continue to place significant financial pressure on Canadians. Budget 2021 proposes to provide an additional \$2.5 billion over seven years to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), including :

- An additional \$1.5 billion for the Rapid Housing Initiative in 2021-2022 to add a minimum of 4,500 new affordable units to Canada's housing supply, building on the 4,700 units already funded through a \$1 billion investment in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement. The units would be built in the 12 months following the date of the funding allocation.
- \$600 million over seven years, starting in 2021-2022, to renew and expand the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund. To date, this program has committed funding to support the creation of over 17,600 units. This new funding would support the creation of up to 12,700 more units, bringing the total to more than 30,000 units.
- \$315.4 million over seven years, starting in 2021-2022, through the Canada Housing Benefit, to increase direct financial assistance for low-income women and children fleeing violence and help with their rent payments.
- \$118.2 million over seven years, starting in 2021-2022, through the Federal Community Housing Initiative, to support community housing providers that deliver long-term housing.

In addition to these new investments, Budget 2021 proposes to reallocate \$1.3 billion in previously announced funding that will accelerate the creation of new units and renovations of existing units and support the conversion of vacant commercial properties to housing.

We are also implementing an annual national tax of 1 % on the value of residential real estate owned by non-residents and non-Canadians that is considered vacant or underutilized, effective January 1, 2022. This will help to ensure that homeowners who use Canada as a place to store their wealth in housing pay their fair share. This measure would increase federal revenues by \$700 million over four years, starting in 2022-2023, an amount that will support the significant investments the government is making to make housing more affordable.

We continue to invest in the fight against homelessness by providing additional funding of \$567 million over two years to Reaching Home : Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

SIGNIFICANT FUNDS FOR LAURIER-SAINTE-MARIE

As part of the initial funding of the Rapid Housing Creation Initiative (RHCI), significant funds were invested in Laurier-Sainte-Marie.

Under the Big Cities component of the RHCI, the federal government granted an investment of \$56.8 million to the City of Montreal for the realization of 12 housing projects representing 263 housing units. Half of these projects are in Laurier-Sainte-Marie. They will be led by the Old Brewery Mission (Patricia McKenzie Pavilion), the Société d'habitation de Montréal, in collaboration with the Maison du Père, the City of Montreal, Projets autochtones du Québec, Chez Doris and Vilavi Québec, and will have in several cases the support of a technical resources group.

Under the RHCI Projects component, a federal investment of nearly \$116 million was allocated to the rapid completion of 54 projects in Quebec, for a total of 1,201 units. Four of these projects are in Laurier-Sainte-Marie. They are led by Maison du Sac à Dos, by Habitations du Réseau de l'Académie (RESAC) for the Jean-Brien project and by Vilavi Québec for the Montcalm and L'Espérance projects.

A \$1,5 BILLION INVESTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

A new investment of \$1.5 billion under the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program will improve the condition and availability of community buildings. This program promotes the renovation, repair and modernization of existing public community buildings, as well as the construction of new public community buildings. Municipalities and not-for-profit organizations are eligible for this program. To be considered eligible, the building must belong to the applicant and be used by citizens. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis for projects under \$3 million and until July 6, 2021 for projects between \$3 million and \$25 million. For more information : <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/gicb-bcvi/>

CREATING A CANADA-WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SYSTEM

Budget 2021 provides for investments to develop a Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system, an area in which Quebec is a pioneer. Budget 2021 proposes to proceed with an asymmetrical agreement with the province of Quebec that will allow for further improvements to its system. The federal government will authorize the transfer of the 2021-22 funds as soon as bilateral agreements have been reached with the provinces and territories.

ESTABLISHING A FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE OF \$15 AN HOUR

The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the essential work performed by a large proportion of minimum wage workers. To support low-wage workers in the federally regulated private sector, we plan to establish a federal minimum wage of \$15 an hour, which will increase with inflation. This will directly benefit the more than 26,000 workers who currently earn less than \$15 an hour in the federally regulated private sector.

FIGHTING AGAINST TAX AVOIDANCE AND TAX EVASION

Since 2015, our government has made significant investments to strengthen the capacity of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to fight tax evasion and abusive tax avoidance. These investments have generated positive results.

Budget 2021 proposes to provide an additional \$304.1 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, including to :

- Increase GST/HST audits in large businesses.
- Modernize the CRA risk assessment process to prevent unjustified and fraudulent GST/HST rebate claims from the outset.
- Strengthen the capacity to detect tax evasion involving trusts and to provide better service to executors and trustees.

These measures would recover \$810 million over five years. Additional gains will be made by the provinces and territories.

FIGHTING RACISM AND IMPROVING SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The increase in reports of harassment and attacks against Asian Canadians is a disturbing trend. That is why, in Budget 2021, we are investing \$11 million over two years to expand the reach of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation is a Crown corporation established in 1996 dedicated to eliminating racism, reaffirming the principles of justice and equality for all in Canada, and upholding the principles of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Budget 2021 also proposes to provide \$2 million in funding in 2021-2022 to strengthen the Safety Infrastructure Funding Program for communities at risk. This program provides not-for-profit organizations, such as places of worship, schools, and community cultural centers, with funds to improve their security infrastructure.

A RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL PLAN

Our government continues to practice prudent and responsible fiscal management. Canada entered the pandemic with a strong financial position. Our government was therefore able to take decisive action without delay and provide solid financial support. This support is necessary if we are to prevent economic scars and ensure that the recovery leaves no one behind. Budget 2021 sets a new fiscal target to reduce federal debt as a proportion of the economy over the medium term and eliminate COVID-19-related deficits. This framework is prudent and sustainable. S&P Global Ratings has renewed Canada's AAA rating following the federal budget.