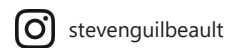
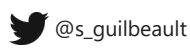




HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# STEVEN GUILBEAULT

Member of Parliament  
Laurier-Sainte-Marie



Fall 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Dear residents of Laurier-Sainte-Marie,

Fall is a busy time for families, businesses, and community organizations in Laurier-Sainte-Marie, as it is for the federal government. The new parliamentary session is an opportunity to advance several important issues for Canadians.

The environment remains a top priority for our government, and it has been a constant concern for me since my appointment as Minister of Environment and Climate Change a year ago. We are moving forward on several fronts to ensure that everyone can live in a clean and healthy environment and that Canada is a leader in the fight against climate change. The UN conference on biodiversity, COP15, which will be held in Montreal in December, will be an opportunity to intensify international collaboration to conserve nature and halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

In the face of the rising cost of living, a global phenomenon that directly affects the daily lives of Canadians, the entire government is working to make life more affordable in Canada. Our government is doubling the GST tax credit and enhancing existing programs, such as the Canada Child Benefit, Old Age Security and the Canada Workers Benefit. We are also investing in our housing initiatives and dental care for the most vulnerable Canadians.

Over the past few months, we have also witnessed the erosion of rights south of the border. While some voices are being heard in Canada to turn back the clock and undo certain achievements, we are determined to preserve and protect the rights of Canadians. In particular, we reiterate the right of women to make decisions about their own bodies and our support for 2SLGBTQI+ communities.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions. My team and I are here for you.


Sincerely,

**Steven Guilbeault**

Member of Parliament for Laurier-Sainte-Marie  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

### CONTACT

**CONSTITUENCY OFFICE**  
800, DE MAISONNEUVE  
EAST BLVD, SUITE 1010,  
MONTREAL (QUEBEC)  
H2L 4L8  
Tel. 514-522-1339

 [steven.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca](mailto:steven.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca)

 [stevenguilbeault.libparl.ca/](http://stevenguilbeault.libparl.ca/)



Printed on 100 %  
Canadian recycled paper

For additional content and relevant  
hyperlinks, consult this newsletter in  
electronic format on my website :  
<https://stevenguilbeault.libparl.ca/>

# FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Last March, we introduced [Canada's first national Emissions Reduction Plan](#), which aims to reduce emissions by at least 40 % below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 (for more information, see the May 2022 newsletter on my website <https://stevenguilbeault.libparl.ca>, in the "News" section). As the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I continue to devote all my energies to achieving our ambitious goals to protect the environment and fight climate change. Here are some of our government's recent initiatives and achievements.

## BANNING HARMFUL SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Our government is delivering on its promise to [ban harmful single-use plastics](#). We have adopted final regulations prohibiting certain harmful single-use plastics (bags, straws, sticks, cutlery, ring holders and certain food service containers). The ban on the manufacture and import of these harmful single-use plastics will come into force in December. We will continue to take strong action for a healthy environment and healthy economy, with shorelines, parks and waterways free of plastic pollution.

## MODERNIZING THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Our government has introduced [Bill S-5](#), the Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act, to strengthen the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), the cornerstone of Canadian environmental law. We are strengthening CEPA to do more to protect the most vulnerable, such as children and marginalized populations, as well as people living in communities with higher levels of pollution; better identifying products that may cause harm through mandatory labelling; and recognizing the right to a healthy environment for Canadians, which paves the way for evolving and stricter norms today and in the future, based on advances in scientific evidence.

## PROTECTING AND EXPANDING 22 OF OUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREAS

We announced a [federal investment of \\$460 million over five years to protect and expand 22 of Canada's national wildlife areas](#), in addition to the creation of 15 new urban parks, including in the Montreal area, and four new freshwater marine conservation areas, while working to acquire the lands needed to expand and complement existing national parks.

## CAPPING EMISSIONS FROM THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR

On September 30, we concluded consultations on our commitment to cap and reduce emissions from the oil and gas sector by 2030 on the path to net-zero emissions by 2050. We are also working to reduce methane emissions, a greenhouse gas 28 times more powerful than CO<sub>2</sub>. Our goal is to cut methane emissions in the oil and gas sector by 75 % by 2030. Reducing emissions from the oil and gas sector is key to achieving Canada's goals and driving concrete action on climate change.

## UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY: COP15 IN MONTREAL

[Canada will host the largest United Nations nature Biodiversity Conference in a generation this December in Montreal](#). The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be a landmark event for Canada, with thousands of foreign delegates from 196 countries gathering to make new commitments on the protection of nature and species at risk worldwide. COP15 will allow Canada to work closely with all countries and international actors to urgently end and reverse the alarming loss of biodiversity around the world.

## UPDATE ON PLANTING 2 BILLION TREES

[Our government has committed to planting two billion trees over 10 years](#). After a first season, we are proud to announce that program partners have successfully planted 97 % of the 30 million trees planned for the 2021 planting season. Approximately 29 million trees of over 150 species have been planted at more than 500 locations across Canada. Switching from seed to tree is a complex process that takes several years. That is why the program was designed to plant more trees year over year, leading to our goal of 2 billion trees by 2030.



With Dr Jane Goodall at a tree planting ceremony in Sudbury, Ontario, in July.

## PUTTING A PRICE ON POLLUTION

[Putting a price on pollution is widely recognized as the best way to fight climate change by driving innovation and energy efficiency, and it is a critical part of our comprehensive climate plan](#). Since 2019, every province and territory in Canada has had a price on pollution with the same standards to ensure fairness and effectiveness. Our government fought all the way to the Supreme Court so that it would no longer be free to pollute in Canada. Over the coming years, we will continue strengthening the price on pollution, helping to provide cleaner air and a stronger economy.

### Federal government appointment opportunities

The federal government publishes opportunities for appointments to a large number of boards, commissions, Crown corporations, agencies and tribunals across the country. These selection processes are open, transparent and merit-based. You can view these appointments and apply on the Governor in Council Appointments web page : <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/topics/appointments/governorcouncil.html>



## MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR CANADIANS

Canadians are feeling the rising cost of living, and many are worried about paying for groceries and other essential expenses. Our first order of business when Parliament resumed in September was to table legislation to **help make life more affordable for Canadians**. This legislation will:

- Double the GST tax credit for six months, putting more money back in the pockets of Canadians — up to \$234 for single Canadians without children, and up to \$467 for families. This additional, targeted support will help roughly 11 million individuals and families who already receive the tax credit, including about half of Canadian families with children and more than half of Canadian seniors. Seniors would receive an extra \$225 on average.
- Provide up to \$1,300 over the next two years for dental care for children under 12, starting this year.
- Send a one-time \$500 payment to nearly two million renters who are struggling with the cost of housing.

This targeted relief supports the steps we've already taken this year to make life more affordable :

- We are raising the Canada Workers Benefit to put up to \$2,400 more into the pockets of low-income families starting this year;
- We are increasing Old Age Security by 10 % for seniors 75 and over, providing an additional \$766 to more than three million seniors, starting in July 2022;
- We are cutting childcare fees by an average of 50 % across the country by the end of this year and making childcare more accessible in Quebec, which already has its own childcare system; our plan will help create approximately 37,000 new spaces in Quebec.
- We are tying key benefits to inflation so they keep up with the cost of living, including the Canada Child Benefit, the GST Credit, the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

## CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

In 2016, we introduced the **Canada Child Benefit (CCB)**, which gives more tax-free money to nine out of 10 families and has helped lift nearly 435,000 children out of poverty. The CCB provides additional support to millions of families each year. To meet the rising cost of living, the CCB was increased again on July 20. This year, eligible families will receive up to:

- \$6,997 per child under the age of 6
- \$5,903 per child aged 6 to 17

By indexing the CCB, we are providing Canadian families with more money to help them cope with the rising cost of living, such as paying for healthy food, sports programs and music lessons for our youth.

## DENTAL CARE FOR CANADIANS

One-third of Canadians do not have dental insurance, and in 2018, more than one in five Canadians reported avoiding dentistry due to cost. That is why **we will provide dental care to families who earn less than \$90,000 a year**. Our dental care system will begin this year for children under the age of 12, making it easier for families to have better access to dental care and to pay for dental visits. Our system will then extend to those under 18, seniors and people with disabilities in 2023, with full implementation by 2025.

### Services offered by my office

- COVID-19 Support Measures
- Employment Insurance
- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Citizenship and Immigration
- Passport Canada
- Veterans Affairs
- Canada Student Loans
- Federal funding for organizations
- Federal Crown Corporations
- Acquisition of Canadian flags and pins



## A MORE MODERNIZED AND CLIENT-FRIENDLY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

Our government continues to take measures as part of our commitment to improving and strengthening our immigration system :

- **Temporary lifting of the 20-hour-per-week cap on the number of hours that eligible post-secondary students are allowed to work** off-campus while class is in session. From November 15, 2022, until December 31, 2023, international students who are in Canada and who have off-campus work authorization on their study permit will not be restricted by the 20-hour-per-week rule. This measure will provide many international students with a greater opportunity to gain valuable work experience in Canada, and will increase the availability of workers to sustain Canada's post-pandemic growth.
- **Launch of pilot project to automate the processing of study permit extensions.** The types of applications being included in this pilot have a consistently high approval rate, as all applicants have previously been approved to come to Canada. The pilot will involve a small group of applicants who could see their extended study permit approved within minutes of applying. Should the pilot be successful, it will be expanded in order to help reduce processing times and allow visa officers to focus on more complex applications.
- **New exemption of medical examination for permanent and temporary residence applicants** who are already in Canada and meet certain criteria from the immigration medical examination requirement. This new measure will help provide faster processing of applications and will benefit more than 180,000 applicants in Canada. This exemption applies to foreign nationals who have a new or pending application for permanent or temporary residence or a permanent resident visa, made from within Canada, and completed an immigration medical exam within the last 5 years and posed no risk to public health or safety.
- **Work in progress to reduce application backlogs**, with a focus on addressing labour shortages, improving client experience and reuniting families. Our government announced that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will have hired up to 1,250 new employees by the end of the fall to increase their processing capacity and tackle the backlog in the short term, while action is taken to make the system more sustainable in the long term. We have reduced wait times and have returned to pre-pandemic service standards in critical areas, including the 6 month service standard for the Express Entry permanent residence pathway, and the 12 month service standard for family reunification through spousal sponsorship, and permanent resident cards.

### Laurier-Sainte-Marie Youth Council

Are you between 16 and 25 years old and looking for an enriching experience? Are you interested in public policy and want to get involved? Join our Laurier-Sainte-Marie Youth Council! Hearing the views of youth in our riding will allow me to bring new ideas on issues affecting our community and our country.

<https://stevenguilbeault.libparl.ca/2021/02/17/laurier-sainte-marie-youth-council/?lang=en>

## THE FIRST-EVER FEDERAL 2SLGBTQI+ ACTION PLAN: HISTORIC STEPS TO BUILD A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE

On August 28, our government launched Canada's first Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan: Building our future, with pride. The action plan will advance 2SLGBTQI+ rights in Canada and abroad by prioritizing community action and integrating and coordinating the work of the Government of Canada. It provides \$100 million over five years to support 2SLGBTQI+ community action. Of this amount, the federal government will allocate:

- Up to \$75 million for 2SLGBTQI+ community organizations:
  - \$40 million in new capacity building support
  - \$35 million in new project-based support
- \$11.7 million to stabilize and expand funding for the 2SLGBTQI+ Secretariat
- \$7.7 million for data collection, community-led research and evaluation
- \$5.6 million for awareness campaigns aimed at eliminating stigma and ending discrimination

For more information: <https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/free-to-be-me/federal-2slgbtqi-plus-action-plan.html>



With Quebec drag queen Gisèle Lullaby, winner of Canada's Drag Race 2022 - Congratulations, Gisèle!

## THE 2SLGBTQI+ ACRONYM

Terminology and acronyms are continuously evolving. Based on [extensive consultation with 2SLGBTQI+ communities across the country](#), the Government of Canada will adopt and encourage the use of the 2SLGBTQI+ acronym, which is more inclusive and places the experiences of Indigenous 2SLGBTQI+ communities at the foreground as the first 2SLGBTQI+ peoples in North America. It stands for Two-Spirit (2S), lesbian (L), gay (G), bisexual (B), transgender (T), queer (Q), intersex (I), and additional sexually and gender diverse people (+).

## A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO DEFEND ABORTION RIGHTS

[In the wake of the reversal of the Roe vs Wade decision in the United States, we reaffirmed our commitment to defending abortion rights across the country and around the world.](#) No government, no politician, no man should dictate to a woman what she can and cannot do with her body. We will always defend Canadian women's right to choose.

Our government has taken concrete action in this regard. In 2019, we expanded access to the Mifegymiso abortion pill and made it available without ultrasound to improve access in remote and rural communities. We also introduced the \$45-million Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund, which ensures that Canadians who face barriers to accessing sexual health care, including abortion, receive financial support and vital capacity funding for organizations that provide these essential services.

Our government is currently funding a Statistics Canada survey on sexual and reproductive health to better understand the challenges some populations face in accessing care.

These initiatives demonstrate our determination to guarantee the right to abortion, but also to facilitate access for all those who choose it.

## ENDING VIOLENCE BASED ON GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

By launching [Canada's first-ever Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence in 2017](#), our government has made sure to increase support for our most vulnerable populations, including women, girls, 2SLGBTQI+ and Indigenous people. Our 2021 investments have supported over 1,200 front-line organizations that provide essential services to survivors of gender-based violence. As part of Budget 2022, we are continuing to work to advance the National Action Plan by investing \$539 million over five years to enable provinces and territories to complement and enhance services and supports to prevent gender-based violence and support the survivors.

## THE FIRST DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

On October 7, our government released Canada's first-ever Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This Action Plan consists of current and future actions, including programs, policies and investments that aim to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in Canada.

The Action Plan consists of four initial pillars:

- Pillar 1 - Financial Security: actions to improve the immediate and long-term financial security of persons with disabilities, such as through the creation of a new Canada Disability Benefit.
- Pillar 2 - Employment: actions to address long-standing barriers that persons with disabilities face in the labour market and workplace, including by providing supports to both persons with disabilities and employers.
- Pillar 3 - Accessible and Inclusive Communities: actions to address the physical, communication, and attitudinal barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from fully participating in their communities and the economy.
- Pillar 4 - A Modern Approach to Disability: actions to address the challenges that persons with disabilities face in accessing federal programs and benefits, as well as ensuring the needs of persons with disabilities are reflected in government policies and programs.

The Action Plan will evolve over time to respond to ongoing engagement with persons with disabilities and will reflect their realities in an ever-changing world.

For more information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/10/government-of-canada-releases-national-disability-inclusion-action-plan.html>