

TERRY BEECH

YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
BURNABY NORTH-SEYMOUR

Our Government's Work on
AFFORDABILITY



Jobs and the Economy



Housing



Families



Pharmacare



Childcare & Education



Seniors

Introduction

Canada is successful because we are a country that cares about and invests in people. I grew up in a working middle class family, and money was always tight. At age 12, my parents divorced, and at age 13, I moved out of the house for the first time. Regardless, I felt hopeful. I knew that if I worked hard enough, I could build a better future for myself and my family because I grew up in a country that invested in my future.

I decided to get involved in federal politics in 2015 because I started seeing our country heading in a different direction. Under the previous government, life was getting more unaffordable. Housing and rental costs had reached record highs, poverty and homelessness were increasing, and from the conversations I had on the doorstep, I could see that many members of our community were feeling left behind.

Since we took office in 2015, we have focused on making life more affordable. We've made historic investments in housing through our \$72+ billion National Housing Strategy and our new Rapid Housing Initiative. We've made record investments in childcare, and we are building a universal \$10-a-day childcare system. We've focused on creating good-paying, sustainable jobs and created over 1 million jobs between 2015 and 2020. In the Fall of 2020, we committed to creating one million jobs and restoring employment to previous levels. Despite the severe impact of COVID-19 on Canadian workers and businesses, we have now recovered more than 117 percent of the jobs that were lost during the pandemic. This means we surpassed our targets and 523,000 more Canadians are working today than before COVID-19 first hit. We've targeted affordability for seniors by increasing OAS and GIS by up to \$2,100 per year, and we've created over \$11 billion in new funding for home care, palliative care, and mental health care. On top of all that, we set ambitious targets to expand our middle class by reducing poverty nationwide. Initially, we set a target to reduce Canada's poverty rate by 20% by 2020. By 2017, we had already hit this target, three years ahead of schedule. To date, over a million Canadians, including 435,000 children, have been lifted out of poverty since 2015. This is the largest poverty reduction and lowest poverty rate in Canadian history. We knew we needed a change in 2015, and we've worked hard to make sure that families right across Canada have a real and fair chance at success.




Nova and I marching in the 2019 Canada Day Parade with our amazing volunteers! Entering fatherhood has given me a greater understanding of the challenges facing families in our community.




MPs from all parties voted us Parliamentarian of the Year for Civic Outreach. This award is an honour our whole community can celebrate, and it would not be possible without your active engagement and feedback.

HIGHLIGHTS


Investing in the future of Canadians to make life better and provide more opportunities for future generations.




\$72+ BILLION NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY



1,000,000 JOBS CREATED BY CANADIANS



1 MILLION + CANADIANS LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY



A 10% INCREASE IN OAS/GIS FOR SENIORS

Jobs and the Economy

We know that investing in the middle class has worked. Lowering taxes for the middle class and providing more support for families and skills training reduced unemployment to its lowest level in 50 years. Growing the economy and creating a million new jobs only increases Canadians' quality of life if we can ensure that everyone benefits from their hard work. We know that the investments we make have to be done both sustainably and equitably. That's why we are focused on keeping Canada's triple-A credit rating and debt-to-GDP ratio in check, and making investments where we will get long-term returns, like in infrastructure, education, and health.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS' EFFECTS ON AFFORDABILITY

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our strong fiscal footing put us in the position to create over 75 unique support programs and provide \$322 billion to fight the virus while also directly supporting Canadians. This is the largest economic relief package by the Canadian government since the Second World War and one of the world's most ambitious COVID-19 relief plans. The results have prevented thousands of businesses from closing and kept food on the table for millions of Canadians. The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy helped more than 5.3 million Canadians keep their jobs. At the same time, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support have helped more than 154,000 organizations with rent, mortgage, and other expenses. Due to the success of these programs, we created the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program and the Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program to help businesses that are still struggling. Our actions have stabilized the economy and helped recoup more than 117 percent of the jobs lost. As we continue to navigate the pandemic, we will keep focusing our fiscal firepower on creating jobs and getting people back to work. That means investing in areas that create jobs and repositioning our economy for long-term success and leadership in the economy of the 21st century.

Supporting Small Businesses

One of the most important elements of making life more affordable is ensuring Canadians have good jobs in a growing, sustainable economy. Part of that strategy includes a heavy focus on supporting the largest job creators in the country: small businesses. As a former small business owner and entrepreneur, I know first-hand how much work goes into making a small business successful. Our government is committed to listening to small business owners and making policy decisions that help them grow and thrive. That's exactly why **we lowered small business taxes from 11 percent to 9 percent. This is now the lowest rate in the G7.** We have also negotiated with credit card companies to lower the fees they charge businesses by 27 percent when their customers use credit cards. These two initiatives alone are putting **up to \$15,000** back into the pockets of small business owners each year.

Establishing a \$15 Federal Minimum Wage

Canada's prosperity and stability depend on every Canadian having a fair chance to join the middle class. Yet, some Canadians struggle to do so while supporting families in part-time, temporary, and low-wage jobs—often working several jobs to make ends meet. The COVID-19 pandemic has also increased pressure on the essential work done by many minimum wage-earning workers. To support workers in the federally regulated private sector, we have established a federal minimum wage of \$15 per hour that will rise with inflation. We will include provisions to ensure that where provincial or territorial minimum wages are higher, that wage will prevail. This has directly benefited over 26,000 workers who were making \$15 per hour in the federally regulated private sector.

Creating New Training Opportunities

Skilled trades are vital to our economy. Apprenticeships are the first step to becoming a skilled worker, and that's why we are providing \$470 million over three years, beginning in 2021-22, to Employment and Social Development Canada to establish a new Apprenticeship Service. The Apprenticeship Service will help 55,000 first-year apprentices in construction and manufacturing Red Seal trades connect with opportunities at small and medium-sized employers. It will provide an additional incentive for employers to hire people who are traditionally underrepresented in the trades, including women, racialized Canadians, and persons with disabilities.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Over the last four years, the Canada Summer Jobs program has provided funding for more than **1000+ summer jobs** at **300+ local employers**. That translates to more than **300,000 hours** of valuable work experience for students in Burnaby North – Seymour!

Canada Training Benefit

In conversations I have had over the phone and on the doorstep, people have expressed concerns about changing industries and how we can better train people for their jobs. That's why, in Budget 2019, our government brought in the Canada Training Benefit. The Canada Training Benefit gives Canadians the opportunity to do four weeks of training every four years to adapt to the changing workplace. It provides up to \$1,000 to pay for training and additional income support to help with everyday expenses. To expand on the success of the training benefit, in Budget 2022, we are providing \$84.2 million over four years to double the funding for the Union Training and Innovation program. We have also doubled the Canada Student Grants maximum funding amount until July 2023, meaning there is up to \$6000 per year in non-repayable aid available for full-time students in need. When we invest in lifelong education, our community and our country are stronger and better equipped to prosper.

Canada's Worker Benefit

Another policy that contributes to increased affordability is the new Canada Workers Benefit (CWB). This benefit will provide low-income families up to \$2,335 per year, and single individuals can receive up to \$1,395. To make it easy, if you qualify, you will automatically receive it when you file your taxes. The CWB allows low-income workers to take home more money while they work, which encourages more people to join and stay in the workforce. This program is helping more than two million Canadians and has lifted more than 70,000 Canadians out of poverty. Our government has expanded the CWB to support about 1 million additional Canadians in low-wage jobs by raising the income level at which the benefit starts being reduced: to \$22,944 for single individuals without children and to \$26,177 for families. For the first time, most full-time workers earning minimum wage will receive significant support from this important benefit.

Canada Summer Jobs Program

The Canada Summer Jobs Program (CSJ) ensures that young Canadians get the experience they need to secure good-paying jobs. We doubled the number of students who received summer jobs through the CSJ and created almost 70,000 jobs for youth in 2018 and again in 2019. In 2020, we expanded the program to create 94,000 additional job placements. We will also invest \$371.8 million in new funding for Canada Summer Jobs in 2022-23 to support approximately 220,000 summer jobs over the next two years.

Here in our community, organizations like the Royal Soccer Club, the Byte Camp Education Society, the Down Syndrome Research Foundation and the Burnaby Neighbourhood House have received funding to create jobs for young students in our community. This program is a win-win for employers and students; it means that employers receive extra help during a busy season, and it means students can earn money to save for tuition. The CSJ has led to the creation of over 840 jobs for students in the last two years in the areas of Burnaby and North Vancouver.

Housing

One of the biggest contributors to unaffordability in Canada, especially here in the Lower Mainland, is the high cost of housing. Rents and mortgages are high, and the constituents I speak with on the doorstep always raise housing affordability as a top priority. In 2016, I made my first presentation to the Prime Minister and Cabinet after meeting with dozens of concerned neighbours, families, and business owners. Our government restored support for the construction of affordable housing in 2017, recognizing that these are vital investments. Combined with constraints on housing inventory, the low-interest-rate environment has contributed to a recent surge in housing prices in our communities. That is why our government is making the largest investment in housing in Canadian history to meet this challenge.

Canada's National Housing Strategy

One of the core pillars of our movement to increase affordability is the **\$72+ billion National Housing Strategy**. This is the first significant federal investment in housing in over 50 years. We're investing in housing across the entire continuum – from homelessness to supportive housing, social housing, and rental housing.

The key aspects of the National Housing Strategy include:

- A reduction of homelessness by 50%.
- The removal of housing strains on more than 530,000 households.
- The creation of 100,000 new housing units: four times more than the previous government.
- The repair and renewal of more than 340,000 housing units: three times more than the previous government.
- The protection of an additional 385,000 households from losing an affordable place to live.
- The new National Housing Council will provide recommendations on how to make housing a human right.
- A tax on underused housing to support investments in affordability.
- \$600 million over seven years, which started in 2021-22, to renew and expand the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund. This fund encourages new funding models and innovative building techniques in the affordable housing sector. This funding will support the creation of up to 12,700 units, building upon the previous creation of 17,600 units. We also allocated an additional \$200 million in dedicated support under the existing Affordable Housing Innovation Fund. This will include \$100 million to support nonprofits, co-ops, developers, and rent-to-own companies building new rent-to-own units.
- \$315.4 million over seven years, which started in 2021-22, to increase financial assistance for low-income women and children fleeing violence to help with their rent payments, as well as \$118.2 million to support community housing providers that deliver long-term housing to many of our most vulnerable.
- \$300 million in funding from the Rental Construction Financing Initiative will be allocated to support the conversion of vacant commercial property into 800 housing units. The demand for retail and office space has changed due to COVID, resulting in higher vacancies for landlords, particularly in urban cores. This is an opportunity for property owners and communities to convert excess space into rental housing, enhancing the affordability of urban communities. Another \$1 billion from the initiative will go towards supporting co-op housing under a new Co-Operative Housing Development Program.

To learn more about the National Housing Strategy or the First-Time Home Buyer incentive, visit www.placetocallhome.ca.

Indigenous Housing

Housing conditions on reserves across the country need serious attention. Indigenous Canadians deserve safe, affordable, and accessible housing options to live and raise their families. On top of the \$72+ billion National Housing Strategy that will benefit Indigenous communities, we've also invested \$600 million in First Nations Housing, \$400 million in Inuit Housing, and \$500 million in Métis Housing. Since 2015 we have invested \$2.7 billion to support housing in Indigenous communities, and we have allocated \$4.3 billion over seven years to continue improving and expanding Indigenous housing in Canada, including:

- \$2.4 billion over five years to support First Nations housing on reserves.
- \$565 million over five years to support housing in Self-Governing and Modern Treaty Holder First Nations communities.
- \$845 million over seven years to support housing in Inuit communities.
- \$190 million over seven years for housing in Métis communities.
- \$300 million over five years to co-develop and launch an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

First-Time Home Buyer Support

For many members of our community, homeownership is something that seems out of reach. In Budget 2019, we took a big step forward by introducing the First-Time Home Buyer Incentive. This program will make it easier for middle-income Canadians to fulfill their dream of owning a home. It provides first-time homebuyers with an incentive of up to 10% of the house price, lowering the cost of monthly mortgage payments. This is a huge deal for individuals and families in our community looking to get into the housing market. In Budget 2022, we introduced the Tax-Free First Home Savings Account, which gives first-time home buyers up to \$40,000. Like an RRSP, contributions would be tax-deductible, and withdrawals to purchase a first home—including investment income— would be non-taxable. We have also doubled the First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit amount to \$10,000, providing up to \$1,500 in direct support for your first home. Additionally, we are introducing a Tax-Free First Home Savings Account to allow Canadians to save up to \$40,000, tax-free, to help buy their first home

The Rapid Housing Initiative

In 2020 we established the Rapid Housing Initiative, a historic \$1 billion investment to create 4,700 new permanent affordable housing units across the country. This initiative quickly developed new modular multi-unit rentals, converted non-residential buildings into affordable multi-residential homes, and rehabilitated buildings abandoned or in disrepair into affordable multi-residential homes. Costs to purchase land and buildings are eligible under the new initiative. In Budget 2021, we invested \$1.5 billion in the Rapid Housing Initiative to add a minimum of 4,500 new affordable units across Canada. At least 25% of funding went towards women-focused housing projects. We have given another \$2.5 billion in commitments to speed up development and the building process. In Burnaby, we have seen millions of dollars from this program, including \$11 million to build new co-op housing.



YWCA Calgary has been a critical partner in our work to expand affordable housing across Canada as part of the National Housing Strategy. It was a pleasure to speak with CEO Sue Tomney about their strategic plan and learn more about their work to address housing, domestic violence, and economic empowerment issues. In addition, we had the opportunity to visit the YWCA's new housing construction site, which will eventually house women and children fleeing domestic violence. We are proud to be partners in this project and look forward to its completion.

Middle class Income Tax Cut and Canada Child Benefit

Increasing affordability for families is a major area of focus for our government. When we took office in 2015, we immediately announced two major policies that since had a positive impact on making life more affordable in Burnaby, North Vancouver, and across Canada. The very first thing we did when we took office was cut taxes for the middle class, and raise them for the wealthiest 1 percent. By lowering income taxes for 9 million middle class families we have ensured these families have more money to invest in everything from housing to school supplies. The other was the historic **Canada Child Benefit (CCB)**. The CCB has had the most profound impact on child poverty reduction of any government action in Canadian history. This program has helped lift nearly 435,000 children and more than 800,000 Canadians out of poverty since 2015. As of July 2022, we have increased the benefit to \$5,903 per child aged 6 through 17 and to \$6,997 per child under the age of 6. This benefit is helping 9 out of 10 families in our community to pay for healthy groceries, rent, sports teams, and music lessons. The Canada Child Benefit has caused the single largest reduction in child poverty in the history of Canada, and it is providing critical help to the families that need it most.



IN OUR COMMUNITY

I've had countless discussions with families in our community who have shared how the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) has changed their lives. **9 out of 10 families in Burnaby and North Vancouver** are benefiting from this program and receive more money to put towards healthy groceries, new clothes, and extracurriculars like playing soccer with Cliff Avenue United FC or heading up to Camp Jubilee in North Vancouver. For many families, these are things they could not afford in the past, and the CCB is giving them more financial flexibility and peace of mind.

OUR RECENT AFFORDABILITY INVESTMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

DOUBLING THE
GST TAX CREDIT



11 MILLION +
CANADIANS SUPPORTED

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT



435,000 +
CHILDREN LIFTED OUT
OF POVERTY

\$500 RENTAL SUPPORT



2 MILLION +
CANADIANS ABLE TO PAY
THEIR RENT

Canada's First-Ever Poverty Reduction Strategy

The Canada Child Benefit is a core pillar of Canada's first-ever Poverty Reduction Strategy. We developed this strategy with Canadian families in mind – and it all began through listening. Thousands of Canadians from across the country, including right here in Burnaby and North Vancouver, shared personal stories about the struggles of living in poverty. With what we heard, we developed a plan that tackled poverty from all angles. I know from my own experience, as well as through the conversations I've had on the doorstep here in Burnaby and North Vancouver, that poverty is the combination of many factors: housing, childcare, retirement, the general cost of living, and the list goes on. Taking an all-encompassing approach is how we've been able to achieve the largest reduction in poverty in Canadian history.

Pharmacare

Many of us need access to prescription drugs on a daily basis. As it stands today, Canada is the only country in the world with a universal public health care system that doesn't include access to prescription medication. We're changing that. We approach the issue of Pharmacare with the perspective that no Canadian should ever have to choose between paying for prescriptions and putting food on the table. Yet, with costs remaining too high, nearly one million Canadians give up food and heat every year so they can afford the medications they desperately need. From young children who need life-saving drugs to seniors who need low-cost medication, we're committed to making sure all Canadians have access to affordable prescription drugs.

Dental Care

Canadians deserve high-quality dental care, and our government is investing to ensure that they can access it. By the end of this year, families in Canada will be able to claim up to \$1,300 over two years for children under the age of 12. We will continue to invest in expanding this support so that by the 2026-2027 fiscal year, all Canadians will be able to have their dental health covered by the public system.

Our Work to Lower Prescription Drug Costs

- Joined the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) to increase public drug buying power.
- Investing \$544 million to lower the cost of prescription drugs and promote healthcare innovation as part of an **\$11.5 billion** investment in home care, pharmaceuticals, and mental health care.
- Through Budget 2019, we will create the Canadian Drug Agency that will save Canadians billions of dollars each year, and we are investing **\$1 billion** to help families with the high cost of drugs for rare diseases. This is the next step toward a National Pharmacare program, which would see universal access to prescription drugs.

Joining the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance



PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES
WORKING TOGETHER MEANS
increased buying power together,
CREATING **cost savings for you.**

Childcare and Education

The federal government will work with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners to build a Canada-wide, community-based system of quality childcare. The Canada-wide early learning and childcare plan will drive economic growth, help secure women's place in the workforce, give every Canadian child the same head start, and grow the middle class.

To fund our Early Learning and Childcare Agreements we are investing up to \$30 billion over the next five years and \$8.3 billion in ongoing funding. This will allow for:

- A 50% reduction in average fees by the end of 2022.
- An average of \$10 a day by 2025-26 for all regulated childcare spaces in Canada.
- Ongoing annual growth in quality affordable childcare spaces across the country, building on the approximately 40,000 new spaces already created through previous federal investments.
- Making it more affordable for parents to return to work by decreasing the cost of having children in childcare while parents work. This results in thousands of parents being more likely to enter the labour force as childcare becomes more affordable.

In our previous agreement with British Columbia, we agreed to:

- Create an estimated 1,370 licensed infant/toddler childcare spaces across the province in areas of highest need.
- Provide at least 1,786 children across the province access to low-cost infant/toddler spaces.
- Support up to 4,000 future and current early childhood educators in earning or upgrading their certification as well as accessing training opportunities.
- Provide approximately 590 families, living both on and off reserve, with access to culturally based Indigenous childcare.
- Ensuring approximately 1,428 additional children with developmental delays or disabilities can participate in a childcare setting by providing them with focused support.
- Increase funding for the Young Parent Program by 63% to ensure its ongoing sustainability in providing access to no-fee childcare for young parents completing their secondary school education.

Parental Benefits

We've introduced a new Employment Insurance Parental Sharing Benefit to encourage both parents in two-parent families to share equally in the work of raising their children. The new Parental Sharing Benefit means up to five more weeks of EI benefits when parents agree to share parental benefits. Parents can also access an additional eight weeks if they choose to spread their EI benefits over a longer period. This is an evidence-based approach that provides greater flexibility – particularly for mothers – to return to work sooner if they so choose, so they can continue to contribute to Canada's growing economy.

Starting September 25, 2022, parents can also receive maternity benefits amounting to 55% of their earnings, up to a maximum of \$638 a week. They will have two options to choose from:

- Standard parental benefits - up to 40 weeks, 55% max \$638 a week.
- Extended parental benefits - up to 69 weeks, 33% benefit rate up to \$383 a week.



We are committed to investing in early learning and childcare to increase affordability and ensure our kids are set up for success.

Making Life More Affordable for Seniors

I connect with seniors in our community as much as possible. Whether at Confederation Seniors Centre for the lunch program or Parkgate Community Centre for a game of pickleball, I've built a good understanding of the issues important to seniors. Because seniors disproportionately face affordability challenges compared to other Canadian age demographics, one of the core aspects of our plan to increase affordability is focused on seniors. That is why we bolstered Old Age Security (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), and Canada Pension Plan (CPP) by moving the age of eligibility to receive OAS, GIS, and CPP back to 65 after the previous government decided to raise it to 67. As far as the CPP is concerned, along with the provinces, we are raising the maximum CPP retirement benefit by up to 50% over time. This translates to an increase in the maximum retirement benefit of more than \$7,000. We also started targeted outreach to seniors, raising the uptake of OAS and GIS. This will ensure more Canadians receive the benefits to which they are entitled. Also, in Summer 2022, we increased OAS and GIS again, meaning that seniors in our community now receive up to \$2,100 more per year than when we took office in 2015. In Budget 2019, we introduced another set of more positive steps, one of which is a higher GIS exemption. This change will mean that working seniors can earn up to \$30,000 before the GIS benefits are fully rolled back; it represents a \$1.76 billion investment in Canadian seniors. To provide additional support, in Budget 2022, we implemented a ten percent increase to the maximum GIS Benefit for single seniors and a ten percent increase to the OAS pension for Seniors aged 75 and above. If you or anyone in your family needs help getting access to the benefits you deserve, contact our office, and we will be happy to help. When seniors have the support they need, they can be lifted out of poverty. That's our goal as a government.



We're taking steps to make life more affordable for seniors. With new increases to OAS and GIS, seniors are now receiving up to \$2,100 more per year than they were in 2015.

Age of eligibility for CPP,
OAS and GIS reduced from

67 BACK TO **65**

MEANS...

more Canadians are receiving the
benefits they deserve,

INCLUDING...

increased financial security for
900,000 Canadians.

- Since the pandemic began, we have implemented over 75 unique programs to support Canadians. These programs have been lifelines for Canadians in communities across the country and are catalogued in our **COVID-19 Report**. Most of these programs have either now ended or have been transformed into a more effective model for our post-pandemic economy. To read this report and others on what our government's doing for the environment, economy, seniors, housing, and the major investments we've made to improve life in Canada, visit my website at TerryBeechMP.ca/reports.

More of our Work to Make Life More Affordable for Seniors

- Investing \$28.7 billion in public transit so that seniors have transportation independence.
- A historic investment of \$11 billion in home care, palliative care, and mental health care.
- Enhancements to the CPP, along with the provinces, to raise the maximum CPP retirement benefit by up to 50% over time. This translates into an increase in the current maximum retirement benefit of more than \$7,000.
- Building 12,000 new affordable housing units specifically for seniors, and 60,000 affordable units overall, through a new National Housing Co-Investment Fund.
- Enhanced the CPP to increase the maximum level of pension earnings to 14% as of 2025.
- Started targeted outreach to seniors, raising the uptake of OAS and GIS. This will ensure more Canadians receive the benefits they are entitled to claim.
- Expanded auto-enrollment to include GIS benefits, ensuring more Canadians automatically receive their benefits.
- Meeting the immediate needs of seniors who have faced economic challenges as they took on extra costs to stay safe by providing a one-time payment of \$500 in August 2021 to OAS pensioners who will be 75 or over as of June 2022.
- Introducing legislation to increase regular OAS payments for pensioners 75 and over by 10% on an ongoing basis as of July 2022. This will increase the benefits for approximately 3.3 million seniors, providing additional benefits of \$766 to full pensioners in the first year. This gives seniors more financial security later in life, particularly when they face increased care expenses and a greater risk of running out of savings.
- Investing \$20 million in community-based projects that support Canadians living with dementia and their families.
- Supporting caregivers with the new Caregiver Credit and Employment Insurance caregiver benefits.
- \$6 billion over ten years to provinces and territories for delivery of home care services.



Top Left: Lowering taxes for small businesses from 11% to 9%, and negotiating lower credit card fees means small businesses are saving up to \$15,000 per year.

Top Right: Meeting with Seniors at the Parkgate Community Centre alongside Prime Minister Trudeau.

Bottom Left: We are saving families in our community time and money with the completion of the Lower Lynn Improvements Project, speeding up commute times for 120,000 daily travellers, and creating opportunities for new public transit initiatives.

Grocery Rebate

We recognize that the rising cost of living is putting a strain on families nationwide. To support those who need it most, we announced the introduction of a new Grocery Rebate in Budget 2023. This rebate will provide up to an additional \$467 for a family of four to help with the cost of living or to use as needed. We're also proud to have implemented other measures in the past year, such as a doubled GST tax credit, a new quarterly Canada Workers' Benefit of up to \$2,400 for a low-income family, dental care for kids, \$500 for low-income renters, and reduced child care fees across the country. We're committed to supporting Canadian families during these challenging times and will continue to do everything we can to ensure everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive.

Automatic Tax Filing

To ensure more low-income Canadians can quickly and easily auto-file their tax returns, Budget 2023 announced that we will increase the number of eligible Canadians for File My Return to two million by 2025—almost triple the current number. Our government will report on its progress in 2024.

Making Life More Affordable for Students

Having a good education is vital to success in our modern society. However, far too many Canadians see their goal of attending university becoming more unaffordable. That is why we are expanding a variety of supports and ensuring fairness in our educational system by:

- Increasing Canada Student Grants by 40% (\$4,200 for full-time).
- Raising the interest-free Canada Student Loan limit from \$210 to \$300 weekly.
- Waiving the requirement for mature students, allowing 1,000 more students to benefit from federal aid in the upcoming year.
- Increasing limits on certain RESP withdrawals from \$5,000 to \$8,000, \$2,500 to \$4,000 for part-time.
- Allowing divorced or separated parents to open a joint RESP for their children.

A Code of Conduct to Protect Canadians With Existing Mortgages

Our government, through the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada, is publishing a guideline to protect Canadians with mortgages who are facing exceptional circumstances. Specifically, we are taking steps to protect Canadians and ensure that federally regulated financial institutions provide Canadians with fair and equitable access to relief measures that are appropriate for their circumstances, including extending amortizations, adjusting payment schedules, or authorizing lump-sum payments. Existing mortgage regulations may also allow lenders to provide a temporary mortgage amortization extension—even past 25 years.

Do you have ideas on how to help improve affordability in Canada?

Share your thoughts at TerryBeechMP.ca/yourvoice

A Housing Market That Works for Canadians

Budget 2023 announced that we will consult on changes required to remove regulatory barriers for homebuyers from diverse communities seeking access to alternative financing products to ensure the dream of home ownership is possible for all Canadians.

Junk Fees

One of the worst feelings is when you make a purchase that you feel good about, only to have it come back to bite with hidden fees. Hidden Fees and Junk Fees are deceitful tactics that only enhance corporate greed while making life less affordable for Canadians. That is why we are amending the Competition Act to strengthen protection against hidden prices and clarify that hiding fees from customers are against Canadian business law. Additionally, we are changing the Bank Act and Financial Consumer Agency of Canada so that banking institutions have to implement protections and warn Canadians if they are at risk of experiencing junk fees.

Predatory Lending

Our government is introducing changes to Criminal Code to lower the criminal interest rate from the equivalent of 47% to 35% APR and adjusting the criminal code's payday lending exemption, requiring payday lenders to charge no more than \$14 per \$100 borrowed. This will ensure Canadians are protected from harmful practices and rates when they need to visit a payday lender. Additionally, we are launching a consultation on additional revisions to the Criminal Code provincial/territorial-requested payday lending exemption so that these rules are consistent across every province and territory, providing Canadians country-wide protection.



Answering questions on our affordability measures in the House of Commons.



Speaking at the British Columbia Union of Municipalities Housing Summit.