

TERRY BEECH

YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
BURNABY NORTH-SEYMOUR

Our Government's Progress On **RECONCILIATION**

-  **Backgrounder**
-  **Delivering on Indigenous Priorities**
-  **Housing and Infrastructure**
-  **Healing and Addressing Past Harms**
-  **Lifting Drinking Water Advisories in First Nations Communities**
-  **Investing in a Brighter Future for Indigenous Peoples**
-  **Advancing Indigenous Self-Determination**
-  **Promoting Economic Reconciliation**
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Background

In 2015, when our government was first elected, we made it clear that there is no relationship more critical to the federal government than the Nation-to-Nation relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. Having been re-elected in 2021, we outlined further commitments in the most recent Speech from the Throne to continue this vital work. We've expedited work to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation and a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy. We've accelerated work on the National Action Plan and implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls for Action. We've supported more affordable and sustainable Indigenous housing and made significant progress in our plan to close the infrastructure gap and end all boil-water advisories across Canada. We're committed to moving forward together. Our government has also passed Bill C-15, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, which was developed with Indigenous partners, fulfilling our commitment to introduce legislation to implement the Declaration as government legislation.

Since 2015, we have invested approximately \$200 billion in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to deliver better access to health care, education, child and family services, housing, and infrastructure. A fair Canada is one where the government continues making meaningful progress in the journey of reconciliation by working in partnership with Indigenous Peoples. The federal government continues to prioritize its responsibility to help ensure First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities have what they need to grow and succeed on their terms. Budget 2024 invests in the following steps on the path of reconciliation.

- Delivering on Indigenous Priorities, since 2015, by investing approximately \$200 billion in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to deliver better access to health care, education, child and family services, housing, and infrastructure.
- Healing and Addressing Past Harms to support Indigenous people and communities to pursue new opportunities to rebuild from the harmful legacies of colonialism. Since 2015, the federal government has agreed to well over \$57 billion in settlements.
- Indigenous Services Canada is working with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to address on-reserve housing needs and support projects in First Nations communities, including new builds, retrofits, and renovations. These include:
 - 4,982 housing-related infrastructure projects (2,550 completed), benefitting 611 First Nations communities;
 - Building 5,875 new homes across 1,308 projects;
 - Renovating and upgrading 12,793 homes across 1,502 projects; and,
 - Acquiring 3,324 lots for Indigenous people to develop across 393 projects.
- Lifting Drinking Water Advisories in First Nations Communities because everyone in Canada should have safe and clean drinking water. Since 2015, 144 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted nationwide. A further 271 short-term drinking water advisories have been addressed before becoming long-term advisories. This has resulted in 94 percent of First Nations communities now having clean water.

The past year has seen the achievement of significant milestones along the path to reconciliation:

- The Federal Court approved a historic \$23.3 billion settlement to compensate those harmed by the discriminatory underfunding of the First Nations Child and Family Services program and the government's narrow definition of Jordan's Principle.
- The Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, supported by \$4 billion over seven years, is currently being co-developed with Indigenous partners.
- The new \$2 billion Indigenous Health Equity Fund will address the unique challenges Indigenous people face when accessing health care services.
- An infusion of \$1.6 billion will help ensure First Nations children receive the support they need under Jordan's Principle.

- Several more coordination agreements were finalized under An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families—a critical step towards reducing the number of Indigenous children in care and keeping them connected to their families, communities, and cultures.
- The National Inuit Health Survey continued to roll out to communities to collect up-to-date information, better understand health strengths and challenges at the regional and national levels, and contribute to changes that will improve the health and well-being of Inuit.

Budget 2024 continues this work by proposing investments to advance the health and well-being of Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities. This budget also proposes investments in Indigenous self-determination and economic reconciliation.

Health outcomes for Indigenous people remain below those of the general population. This is just one of the many harmful legacies of colonialism. To improve health outcomes and ensure the most vulnerable Indigenous people have the support they need, the government is strengthening on-reserve income assistance and disability income support programs and investing in primary health care, mental health, and food security.

To make progress towards safe, secure communities, the government is addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the justice system and enhancing funding for community policing, emergency management, and preparedness.

Budget 2024 and ongoing initiatives will contribute to meaningful improvements in the lives of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families and communities and advance the work of building a better Canada for generations today and tomorrow.

Key Investments Priorities Since 2015

First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$29 billion for child welfare services, including funding to implement An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families to maintain and enhance the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and to support ongoing negotiations towards additional program reforms; • Nearly \$8.1 billion to meet the health, social, and education needs of First Nations children through Jordan's Principle; • \$7.2 billion to support primary care and public health on reserve, distinctions-based mental health care, and non-insured health benefits. This also includes \$1.2 billion in infrastructure funding, which has already supported 248 health-related projects in First Nations communities; • \$7.2 billion to support primary care and public health on reserve, distinctions-based mental health care, and non-insured health benefits. This also includes \$1.2 billion in infrastructure funding, which has already supported 248 health-related projects in First Nations communities; • Over \$6.1 billion for elementary and secondary education to help First Nations children living on reserve receive high-quality schooling. This also includes \$1.8 billion in infrastructure funding, which has already supported 310 school facility projects; • Over \$6.3 billion to address critical infrastructure gaps related to water and wastewater and accelerate progress to end long-term and short-term drinking water advisories in First Nations communities on reserve; • Over \$4 billion to support First Nations housing on reserve; • Almost \$2.5 billion to support community infrastructure on reserve; • \$1.4 billion to advance housing, water and wastewater, and community Infrastructure Priorities in Self-Governing and Modern Treaty First Nations; • Nearly \$2.5 billion to build an early learning and child care system that meets the needs of First Nations families;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$991 million for First Nations and Inuit policing and police facilities to provide access to local and culturally sensitive police services that make communities safer; and, • \$417 million targeted for First Nations post-secondary education.
<p>Inuit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 million to implement the Inuit Nunangat Policy, which was co-developed with the Inuit and will guide the federal government in the design, development, and delivery of new and renewed federal programming, policies, and initiatives; • Over \$1.3 billion to support housing in Inuit communities; • \$43.7 million to eliminate tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat by 2030; • \$5.6 billion for non-insured health benefits and distinctions-based mental health care; • \$25 million to implement the Inuit Nunangat Policy, which was co-developed with the Inuit and will guide the federal government in the design, development, and delivery of new and renewed federal programming, policies, and initiatives; • Over \$1.3 billion to support housing in Inuit communities; • \$43.7 million to eliminate tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat by 2030; • \$5.6 billion for non-insured health benefits and distinctions-based mental health care; • \$25 million to implement the Inuit Nunangat Policy, which was co-developed with the Inuit and will guide the federal government in the design, development, and delivery of new and renewed federal programming, policies, and initiatives; • Over \$1.3 billion to support housing in Inuit communities; • \$43.7 million to eliminate tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat by 2030; • \$5.6 billion for non-insured health benefits and distinctions-based mental health care.
<p>Métis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than \$860 million for Métis communities to build an early learning and child care system that meets the needs of Métis families; • \$690 million to support housing in Métis communities; • More than \$400 million towards Métis communities' skills and employment training, economic development, and support for the startup and expansion of Métis small- and medium-sized businesses;

Progress since 2015 with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Our federal riding of Burnaby-North Seymour contains the traditional, unceded territory of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. The Tsleil-Waututh's oral histories tell of up to 10,000 members living before contact with Europeans. The wrongs of the past cannot be washed away or ignored, but we can and must do our best to rebuild often broken relationships. In this context, we have been working not only to rebuild these relationships but also to support Indigenous Partners in building better economic conditions in Indigenous nations, including the Tsleil-Waututh, and improving the lives of community members in natural and sustainable ways.

Building infrastructure is one of the best ways to ensure long-term prosperity for any community. We also recognize the unique needs of the Tsleil-Waututh community and the need for genuine partnership in any project we pursue. Since we took office in 2015, many vital projects have been completed:

- We designed and constructed a new \$2.7 million community health facility in partnership.
- Maintenance and repairs to an existing early learning and childcare facility.
- Invested \$55,000 in the Tsleil-Waututh Child and Family Development Centre.

- Supported the British Columbia First Nations Housing Conference on housing program reform with roughly \$238,000.
- Provided \$100,000 to support the ability of First Nations across the country, including the Tsleil-Waututh, to govern, manage and maintain their housing portfolios.
- Conducted housing policy workshops and provided homeownership policy toolkits.
- Provided \$300,000 to develop a community-led land use plan that underlines the community's vision, including priorities, strategies, and policies for land and resource use and infrastructure development.

Ongoing Work with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation

While we have been able to work together and accomplish a lot, ongoing projects still have yet to be completed. These are in a few different categories:

Waste Management

- Compiling and distributing complete Waste Education toolkits to the First Nations schools that had not yet received one during the 2018-2019 distribution. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the toolkit will be expanded and accessible to off-reserve schools with high First Nations attendance and relevant to adult education programs.
- Supporting the creation of Indigenous-led Waste and Environmental Advisory Committees will allow First Nations to share information on best management practices, provide input on waste policy and programming, and support other First Nations in their waste and environmental initiatives.
- Providing funding to help create a Zero Waste Education course, standards of excellence for the operation of waste management programs/systems, an incentive/recognition program to encourage compliance with standards of excellence, and educational videos for communities to learn about effective waste management.
- Helping to support their Zero Waste Circuit Rider program and providing direct funding to the Tsleil-Waututh to train operators and circuit riders on their water and wastewater systems.
- Budget 2022 proposes to provide Indigenous Services Canada with \$398 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to support community infrastructure on-reserve. Of this, at least \$247 million will be directed toward water and wastewater infrastructure.

Training and Education

The Community Infrastructure Branch of Indigenous Services Canada is working with several First Nations-led organizations to establish lines of evidence to support the transformation of infrastructure service delivery to First Nations communities. Engagement with communities and First Nations will drive this policy development and the transformation of how the federal government and Indigenous communities plan projects together.

Delivering on Indigenous Priorities

For too long, previous governments have failed to invest in the future of Indigenous Peoples. Since 2015, the government has been reversing this trend.

The government has worked with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners to make meaningful, distinctions-based investments that respond to Indigenous-identified priorities.

In addition to these investments, since 2015, the federal government has worked collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to honour treaty rights, resolve historical wrongs, implement rights, and reinvigorate the modern treaty process. Work to advance reconciliation and support Indigenous self-determination has increased the federal government's total recorded liabilities from \$11 billion in 2015-16 to \$76 billion in 2022-23, as noted in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement. Of this amount, the vast majority relate to Indigenous claims, providing compensation for past harms of colonialism. This reflects the progress the federal government has made to advance reconciliation by addressing the lasting impacts of colonialism while supporting healing for every generation, from survivors to their descendants and those that will come after.

Investments to date have improved the lives of Indigenous people and created new opportunities in communities across the country. By partnering with Indigenous people and service providers, these investments have delivered better access to health care, education, child and family services, housing, and infrastructure. For example:

- In 2015, 11 mental wellness teams served 86 communities across Canada (not counting British Columbia, where mental wellness services are managed and provided by the First Nations Health Authority). By 2023, federal investments increased this figure to 75 teams serving over 385 First Nations and Inuit communities.
- Sturgeon Lake First Nation had its first midwife-assisted birth in the community in more than 50 years with support from program funding provided in Budget 2017. In October 2023, supported by investments in Budget 2021, the community broke ground on a standalone birthing center—the first of its kind to be built on reserve.
- As of March 2023, 10 First Nations and Inuit laws on child and family services have come into force, advancing self-determination as communities exercise their jurisdiction.
- A landmark Regional Education Agreement was signed in July 2022 with the First Nations Education Council in Quebec. This agreement, enabled by Budget 2022 investments of \$310.6 million over five years to improve student outcomes, supports 22 First Nations communities in Quebec, funding over 6,000 students based on their communities' vision for education.
- Since 2016, the federal government has invested over \$2 billion to build or improve 310 school facilities, 180 of which have been completed and 130 are ongoing, benefitting 319 First Nations communities.
- Since 2016, the federal government has invested over \$710 million in 286 health-related infrastructure projects, of which 260 are completed and 70 are ongoing, benefitting 214 First Nations communities.
- On December 15, 2022, the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management Act* came into force, replacing the repealed First Nations Land Management Act. This new legislation, co-developed with the Lands Advisory Board, supports First Nations who wish to reclaim jurisdiction over their reserve lands. With more than 100 First Nations managing their lands through a land code, in 2022-23, nine First Nations became signatories to the Framework Agreement, and three reasserted jurisdiction over their lands, environment, and natural resources outside of the Indian Act.
- Since 2016, Inuit has constructed nearly 500 new homes, repaired many existing units, and undertaken critical land development supported by the federal government's distinctions-based housing investments.
- The 2019 signing of the Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord was an important milestone in supporting the self-determination of Indigenous communities across Canada and ensuring culturally appropriate and high-quality programs and services for Métis children and families. As of March 2023, 10 First Nations and Inuit laws on child and family services have emerged, advancing self-determination as communities exercise their jurisdiction.
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In total, these investments represent approximately \$200 billion in support for Indigenous Peoples.

Housing and Infrastructure

Long-term investments in housing and infrastructure are solid foundations for building strong, sustainable communities, and this is true of our biggest cities and smallest towns. This includes our long-term goal of lifting all boil water advisories on reserve in Canada. We are making progress in partnership. Infrastructure investments, in particular, have been prioritized by Indigenous partners and the federal government. Since 2015, \$22.3 billion in targeted funding has been allocated toward more than 10,252 infrastructure projects that are building more homes in Indigenous communities.

To address on-reserve housing needs, Indigenous Services Canada is working with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to support projects in First Nations communities, including new builds, retrofits, and renovations. These include:

- 4,982 housing-related infrastructure projects (2,550 completed), benefitting 611 First Nations communities;
- Building 5,875 new homes across 1,308 projects;
- Renovating and upgrading 12,793 homes across 1,502 projects; and,
- Acquiring 3,324 lots for Indigenous people to develop across 393 projects.

From consultations with indigenous leaders, we implemented new, distinctions-based housing strategies, including

- \$600 million over three years to support housing on-reserve as part of a 10-year First Nations Housing Strategy that is being developed in partnership with First Nations leadership across Canada.
- \$400 million over ten years to support an Inuit-led housing plan in the Inuit regions of Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and Inuvialuit. This is in addition to the \$240 million announced in Budget 2017 over ten years.
- Past investments of \$500 million over ten years to support the Métis Nation's housing strategy, and in 2021, we made plans to invest \$600 million for First Nations Housing, \$400 million for Inuit Housing, and \$500 million for Métis Housing.
- Completed 172 community and recreational infrastructure projects, with 39 more in progress, to provide 159 First Nation communities with new playgrounds, youth centers, and sports fields. And support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence. This will be funded with a \$44.8 million investment. This funding will help build 10 shelters in First Nations communities on reserve across the country (funded through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Shelter Enhancement Program) and two in the territories (financed from the National Housing Co-Investment Fund) to support Indigenous women and children.
- Providing funding to support the ability of the First Nation to govern, manage and maintain its housing portfolio and to support the development of housing authority models.

- We will also provide \$40.8 million to support operational costs for these new shelters over the first five years and \$10.2 million annually.
- We also announced that \$1 million a year, starting in 2020, will support engagement with Métis leaders and service providers on shelter provision and community-led violence prevention projects for Métis women, girls, and LGBTQQIA+ and two-spirit people.
- The process of accessing funding for shelters will be done through an expression of interest. First Nations on-reserve across the country and Indigenous governments and/or organizations in the territories will be eligible to submit proposals.
- \$2.4 billion over five years to support First Nations housing on-reserves.
- \$565 million over five years to support housing in First Nations Self-Governing and Modern Treaty Holders communities.
- Along with these new investments, the federal government will allocate \$2 billion of the \$20 billion provided for long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services program to target the housing needs of First Nations children once a final settlement agreement is reached. This is in addition to the \$1.66 billion in housing investments made since 2016 to address housing needs on reserves.

Healing and Addressing Past Harm

Since 2015, the federal government has overhauled the Crown's approach to litigation by prioritizing negotiation whenever a settlement is possible—and taking a principled approach to litigation when it is not.

The federal government seeks to work together with parties to address past wrongs to the extent possible through financial compensation, meaningful apologies, and corrective action, which can help bring closure and promote healing—all reflective of what we've heard from engaging directly with Indigenous partners. In recent years, the federal government and Indigenous partners have resolved several long-standing grievances through settlements that correct the harm caused by Canada's historic wrongdoings. Although no settlement will absolve the trauma, pain, and lost opportunities inflicted by historical wrongdoings, these agreements support Indigenous people and communities to pursue new opportunities to heal and rebuild from the harmful legacies of colonialism.

- In December 2023, a settlement was approved that **will compensate Indigenous people who were placed in Federal Indian Boarding Homes (Percival)** while attending school far from their home communities, including those who suffered physical, sexual, or other abuse.
- In October 2023, a historic \$23.3 billion settlement was approved to **compensate First Nations children on reserves and in the Yukon** who were removed from their homes through involvement in the child and family services system, those impacted by the federal government's narrow definition of Jordan's principle, and their caregivers.
- In June 2023, Canada, Ontario, and the 21 First Nations signatories to the **Robinson-Huron Treaty** reached a \$10 billion settlement with \$5 billion contributions from both Canada and Ontario to compensate for unpaid past treaty annuities promised through a treaty that dates back to 1850. The communities received the full settlement payment on March 25, 2024, and they are now working to finalize their collective disbursement agreements.
- In March 2023, a settlement was approved to address harms suffered by First Nations communities as a result of Indian Residential Schools (**Gottfriedson Band Class**). Canada provided \$2.8 billion to establish the Four Pillars Society to support healing, wellness, education, heritage, language, and commemoration activities.
- In June 2022, a \$1.3 billion land claim settlement was reached with the **Siksika Nation** to resolve wrongs from over a century ago, including when the Government of Canada broke its Blackfoot Treaty promise and wrongfully took almost half of Siksika Nation's reserve land to sell to settlers.
- In December 2021, an \$8 billion **Safe Drinking Water Settlement Agreement** was approved, including funding to directly compensate Indigenous people and affected First Nations, and to ensure reliable access to safe drinking water on reserves.

- In September 2021, a settlement was approved to compensate **Indian Residential Schools Day Scholars (Gottfriedson)** who attended Indian Residential Schools but returned to their homes at night. While Day Scholars could seek compensation for sexual and severe physical abuse through the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement Independent Assessment Process, they were unable to receive a Common Experience Payment.
- In August 2019, the **Federal Indian Day Schools (McLean) Settlement** was approved to compensate Indigenous people for the harm they suffered as a result of attending a federally operated day school. A total of \$7 billion has been allocated to date.
- In December 2018, the **Sixties Scoop Settlement** was approved to compensate First Nations and Inuit people who were adopted by non-Indigenous families, became Crown wards or were placed in permanent care settings during the Sixties Scoop.
- The **Specific Claims process** resolves past wrongs against First Nations, such as the mismanagement of lands and assets or the unfulfilled promises of historic treaties, through negotiation and outside of the court system. From January 2016 to January 31, 2024, 283 claims were resolved for close to \$10 billion. Since the process was created in 1973, a total of \$13.9 billion has been provided to resolve 688 specific claims. These settlements total over \$57 billion combined.

Missing Children and Burial Information

- Providing funding so that communities can decide, at their own pace, how and when they want to make plans to locate children who died under the residential school system.
- Provided funding to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to support the development of a database registering the children who died or went missing while at Residential schools.
- Developing and maintaining the National Residential School Student Death Register.
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has begun discussions with various partners towards collaborating on an engagement strategy to gain a better understanding of Indigenous family and community interests. This partnership will help us move forward in a comprehensive manner on all of the calls to action regarding children who died or went missing while attending Residential schools.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Commission of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls delivered its final report, titled *Reclaiming Power and Place*, on June 3, 2019. It provided over 230 recommendations to governments, police services, and the Canadian public to help address levels of violence directed at Indigenous women and girls, as well as 2 LGBTQIIA+ people.

Our response to the interim report has been substantive and includes nearly \$50 million in new funding to:

- Increase health support and victim services for families and survivors.
- Support an RCMP National Investigative Standards and Practices Unit.
- Fund organizations with expertise in law enforcement and policing to review police policies and practices.
- Commemorate the lives and legacies of Indigenous women and girls.

Additionally, on June 3, 2021, the *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan: Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People* was released. Guided by the principle “nothing about us, without us,” the national action plan is being co-developed to address the unique needs, experiences and cultural contexts of Indigenous Peoples and communities from coast to coast to coast.

It is:

- A whole-of-Canada action plan with federal, provincial and territorial governments as partners with Indigenous governments and organizations. This Evergreen plan is Distinctions-based, regionally relevant, and reflective of the lived experience and expertise of family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people and survivors of gender-based violence. Together, these components will drive the transformative change needed to keep Indigenous women, girls and 2 LGBTQIA+ people safe wherever they live.
- To support an approach that addresses the root causes of violence, recognizes the scope of the problem, and factors in the different experiences of Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast to coast, we will provide \$2.2 billion.

National Council for Reconciliation

In Budget 2019, our government announced a \$126.5 million investment to establish the National Council for Reconciliation and endow it with initial operating capital. The purpose of this Council is to:

- Monitor, evaluate, and report annually to Parliament on the progress of reconciliation, including the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Develop and implement a multi-year National Action Plan for Reconciliation.
- Initiate innovative dialogue, thought, and action on reconciliation.

Commemoration

Our government is working with various partners to change the membership of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation. Budget 2022 also proposes to provide \$25 million over three years, starting in 2022-23, to Parks Canada to support the commemoration and memorialization of former residential school sites.

Education for Reconciliation

Our government is working with the Council of Ministers of Education to enhance our shared knowledge of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis history and culture across Canada. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and its partners must now consider and incorporate the perspectives and knowledge systems of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities across Canada. The SSHRC is one of the three major Federal granting agencies, and it promotes and supports post-secondary research and training in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Church Apologies and Reconciliation

On May 29, 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican. During this meeting, the Prime Minister formally asked the Pope to deliver a papal apology for the Catholic Church's role in Residential Schools. On March 28, 2018, the Prime Minister received a letter from a senior representative of the Catholic Church in Canada stating that Pope Francis would not issue an apology. Our government continued to push the Catholic Church to issue an apology, and on July 25, 2022, Pope Francis delivered a formal apology to residential school survivors and victims. Our government still believes that the church needs to provide further recognition of the wrongs it committed, and we will continue to push for them to do so.

Museums and Archives

Canadian Heritage is working with the Canadian Museums Association to support and review museum policies and best practices to ensure Indigenous artifacts, exhibits, and the like are properly respected and handled. Library and Archives Canada is digitizing and preserving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis-related content and supporting communities holding Indigenous language recordings. To commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools, honour survivors, their families, and communities, and support celebrations and commemoration events during the proposed National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Canadian Heritage will receive and administer \$13.4 million.

Media

- CBC/Radio-Canada undertook key Indigenous initiatives, such as creating additional Indigenous and Cree content.
- Local Indigenous staff in Yellowknife digitized and preserved decades of audio programming in 8 Indigenous languages: Dogrib, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, Chipewyan, North Slavey, South Slavey, Gwich'in, Cree.
- Canadian Heritage, with the support of the Indigenous Screen Office, is ensuring Indigenous Peoples can tell their own stories and see themselves reflected on-screen.

Sports

We re-launched the annual Tom Longboat Awards in 2017, a program honouring Indigenous athletes for their outstanding contributions to sport in Canada.

Sport Canada is reviewing the manner in which Indigenous groups were engaged during the planning and delivery phases of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Toronto 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games. This review will ensure that territorial protocols are respected for any event that Canada provides support to.

We invested \$47.5 million over five years and will invest \$9.5 million per year to expand the use of sport for social development in more than 300 Indigenous communities. This is based on a similar model developed by Right To Play. Nearly 90% of participants had a more positive attitude toward school and a greater sense of identity.

To ensure that Indigenous women and girls have access to meaningful sports activities through the Sport for Social Development in Indigenous Communities program, we are providing \$14.3 million.

Newcomers to Canada

Working closely with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council, as well as Indigenous historians, to update the text and photos of the citizenship guide and the wording of the Official Oath of Citizenship. Following the launch of the revised citizenship guide, a new citizenship test will be created that will encompass revisions made to the citizenship guide, including new questions related to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis history and perspectives.

Lifting Drinking Water Advisories in First Nations Communities

In November 2015, the federal government committed to ending all 105 long-term drinking water advisories affecting First Nations communities on reserve. Since then, 144 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted across the country. And a further 271 short-term drinking water advisories have been addressed before becoming long-term advisories. This has resulted in 94 per cent of First Nations communities now having clean water.

This has been possible because of the tireless work of First Nations community water operators and the more than \$6.3 billion invested by the federal government to build 130 new water and wastewater treatment plants and to repair or

upgrade 876 other systems. These investments have also provided resources to hire and train local technicians to support the effective management and maintenance of water systems.

First Nations have long called for effective, safe drinking water legislation and a national regulatory regime that meets their needs and ensures clean, safe, and reliable drinking water for future generations. This is why the government tabled Bill C-61, the First Nations Clean Water Act, which was developed with First Nations to affirm their inherent rights to self-government in relation to water, source water, drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on, in, and under First Nation lands.

The proposed bill further aims to recognize the importance of their stewardship over lands and waters and to lay the foundation for a First Nations-led water institution to support communities as they look to exercise jurisdiction to ensure they have clean drinking water for generations to come.

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Investing in a Brighter Future for Indigenous Peoples

The federal government must work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to ensure their members have access to opportunities to grow and reach their full potential. Indigenous Peoples are the fastest growing population in Canada, consistently, year-over-year. And, that very much includes young people, who make up a larger proportion of the Indigenous population than in the non-Indigenous population. Investing in their future success could not be more critical when it comes to investing in long-term outcomes for Indigenous communities.

The federal government is taking action in Budget 2024 to unlock opportunities for young people and equip them with the skills they need to succeed. By investing in education and in Indigenous youth, the federal government is investing in a brighter future for Indigenous communities and for Canada.

Key Ongoing Actions

- \$1.6 billion over two years, starting in 2023-24, to ensure First Nations children continue to receive the support they need through Jordan's Principle.
- \$1.3 billion over five years, starting in 2023-24, to support Canada's continued efforts to work with Indigenous communities to implement An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.

Education and Increasing Opportunities

Education and training are vital for jobs and growth. To build thriving communities, we are working with Indigenous partners to increase opportunities and give everyone a fair chance at building a better life. Proposed investments will also strengthen First Nations' control over elementary and secondary education on-reserve. Education is critical to a strong start in life. In 2019, the federal government implemented a new co-developed policy and funding approach to help ensure First Nations children living on reserve receive a high-quality education that meets their unique needs. Since then, First Nations education systems have benefited from more than \$3.8 billion in investments. These historic

new investments in education are creating and enhancing learning environments that are safe and healthy and achieving positive educational outcomes for First Nations students living on reserves. These include, but are not limited to:

- \$2.6 billion over five years for primary and secondary education on-reserve.
- Almost \$1 billion over five years for construction, maintenance, and repair of education facilities.
- A new, formula-based regional funding model co-developed with Indigenous partners.
- Providing new resources to support full-time kindergarten programs in every First Nations school for children aged four and five.
- First Nations schools are provided with \$1500 per student per year to support language and culture programming.
- \$815 million over ten years to support Indigenous post-secondary education. This will come in the form of direct support for students, the development of regional education strategies, and support for Inuit and Métis strategies.
- New, distinctions-based Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care framework, reflective of the unique cultures and needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and families across Canada.
- Replaced outdated proposal-based programs with improved access to predictable core funding. Moreover, we are ensuring base funding is comparable to provincial systems across the country while working towards additional funding agreements to better account for remoteness, school size, language, and socioeconomic conditions.
- Signed the BC Tripartite Education Agreement, which will benefit all First Nations students in BC and 200 First Nations, supporting students who attend any of the 131 on-reserve First Nations schools or public or off-reserve independent schools in BC.

\$2 billion over five years and approximately \$408 million annually to create a new Indigenous Skills and Employment Training program. Extensive engagement with Indigenous partners from 2016-2017 led to this program. We are also creating new separate funding streams for First Nations, Métis Nation, Inuit, and urban/non-affiliated people.

Empowering Indigenous Youth

Call to Action 66 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls upon the federal government to establish multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation and establish a national network to share information and best practices.

Since 2019, the government has been working with Indigenous Youth Roots. This national youth-led organization collaborates with communities to provide grants and programming related to leadership, skills, and reconciliation for Indigenous youth.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide an additional \$12.5 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to support the Indigenous Youth Roots organization in identifying and partnering with Indigenous-led organizations. This will ensure the continued delivery of programming to empower Indigenous youth, as recommended in Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 66.

First Nations K-12 Education

A good education is one of the best ways to make sure that every child has a fair chance at the best life possible. High-quality, culturally appropriate education is critical if we want to ensure a brighter and more prosperous future for First Nations children, youth, and communities. With First Nations people among the youngest and fastest-growing populations in Canada, investing in their success means investing in Canada's success.

Budget 2024 proposes new investments in First Nations' kindergarten to grade 12 education programming and infrastructure, including:

- \$649.4 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to improve elementary and secondary education on reserve and ensure funding formulas meet the needs of growing communities; and,
- \$545.1 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, for K-12 infrastructure to build and renovate safe and healthy learning environments for First Nations students.

First Nation Post-Secondary Education

Unlocking pathways to post-secondary education is critical to ensuring that Indigenous students have opportunities to succeed and contribute to their full potential. In 2021, 45 per cent of First Nations people aged 25-64 had attained a post-secondary credential, in comparison to 68 per cent of non-Indigenous Canadians. Supporting the next generation of First Nations university, college, and post-secondary students will help build a brighter future for Indigenous communities and a Canada where everyone has a fair chance at success.

Budget 2024 proposes to increase support for First Nations post-secondary students:

- \$242.7 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, to increase access to post-secondary education for First Nations students through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program.

The federal government will continue to support Inuit and Métis post-secondary education through their Post-Secondary Education Strategies funded in Budget 2019, which invested \$487.5 million over ten years and \$61.8 million ongoing.

The Best Start for Every Indigenous Child

Through An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, more Indigenous communities are reclaiming jurisdiction over child and family services, ensuring that Indigenous children and youth grow up in their communities, tied to their cultural identities and achieve better outcomes. The federal government is committed to implementing the Act to support Indigenous communities on this path forward.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$1.8 billion over 11 years, starting in 2023-24, to support communities in exercising jurisdiction under An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families. This includes the first Inuit agreement to support community-led, prevention-based solutions to reduce the number of children in care.
- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$167.5 million over two years, starting in 2023-24, to ensure Inuit children can access the health, social, and educational services they need when they need them. The government continues to work with Inuit partners to advance the long-term vision of the Inuit Child First Initiative so that Inuit children will continue to receive timely, high-quality services.

The federal government is committed to removing systemic barriers that prevent Indigenous children and youth from accessing the services and support they need to thrive. The government is working to reach final agreements for the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle.

Promoting Indigenous Cultures

A better, fairer Canada is one where we are honest with our history, where we can work to know ourselves and our stories and enable creators to share them and be understood.

The federal government is committed to addressing the legacies of colonialism and racism, and an essential part of that work is making sure to support Indigenous-led efforts to reclaim, revitalize, and strengthen Indigenous cultures and languages. Restoring and promoting language and culture is an integral part of healing, reconciliation, and fostering a strong sense of identity and community.

To ensure the vibrancy of Indigenous cultures and languages for generations to come, Budget 2024 proposes to provide: \$225 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$45 million per year ongoing to Canadian Heritage for Indigenous languages and cultures programs, in support of the Indigenous Languages Act, which is set for its first five-year review in October 2025; and,

\$65 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$13 million per year ongoing to Canadian Heritage to permanently support the Indigenous Screen Office and ensure Indigenous Peoples can tell their own stories and see themselves reflected on screen.

Supporting Urban Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples, no matter where they reside, should have access to culture and services. Indigenous people in urban areas face unique challenges in accessing the services and cultural support they need.

This funding supports organizations in delivering effective, culturally appropriate programs and services, including housing support, to urban Indigenous Peoples in safe and accessible spaces and improving coordination with provincial and territorial services. Budget 2024 proposes to provide:

- \$60 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to support Friendship Centres across the country, which provide much-needed support and services to members of their communities across a range of areas, including health, housing, education, recreation, language, justice, employment, economic development, culture, and community wellness.

Advancing Indigenous Self-Determination

One of the principles of reconciliation is fairness in all the federal government's dealings with Indigenous partners. That starts with renewing Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government, and Inuit-Crown relationships so that they are based on respect and the recognition of rights—a priority since 2015. And that includes the right to self-determination and upholding our commitments to rights holders.

The federal government's ongoing work is supporting pathways to self-determination and greater well-being for Indigenous communities.

As part of this effort, the federal government has focused on building relationships with Indigenous partners by addressing past harms, increasing dialogue, supporting community capacity, and advancing a fairer fiscal relationship with Indigenous Peoples. Budget 2024 builds on this critical work.

Key Ongoing Actions

- Supporting communities to research, locate, and document burial sites at former residential schools, as well as to memorialize deaths of children and return their remains home.
- Ensuring the respectful and culturally appropriate treatment of unmarked graves and burial sites, including through the framework being developed by the Independent Special Interlocutor.

- Ensuring communities have access to information to support their efforts to identify, locate, and commemorate their missing children through the National Advisory Committee on Residential Schools Missing Children and Unmarked Burials.
- Educating Canadians on the harmful legacy of residential schools and preserving records that are key to honouring the truths of residential school Survivors through the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Creating innovative Recognition of Indigenous Rights and self-determination discussion tables where the Crown engages Indigenous partners to advance agreements and other constructive arrangements to recognize and implement Indigenous rights.
- Establishing permanent bilateral mechanisms with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation leaders and the Intergovernmental Leaders' Forum with Modern Treaty and Self-Governing Indigenous Government leaders to identify joint priorities, co-develop policy, and monitor progress.

Section 35 Negotiations

Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities and requires the federal government to work with partners to acknowledge and protect those rights. The federal government has been working with Indigenous communities to explore new ways to advance the recognition of Indigenous rights and to support unique visions for self-determination as defined by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments.

There are over 170 active discussion tables across the country where the federal government is working with Indigenous partners to conclude modern treaties, self-government agreements, and other constructive arrangements that support Indigenous Peoples to exercise their rights in areas such as education, child and family services, land and resource management, health, justice, and language and culture. Since 2017, Canada has signed 33 new rights-based reconciliation agreements with Indigenous partners, including:

- The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement (October 1, 2022), the first of its kind in Ontario, which recognizes Anishinabek control over the governance and law-making powers of signatory First Nations.
- A Self-Government Treaty Recognizing the Whitecap Dakota Nation / Wapaha Ska Dakota Oyate (May 2, 2023), which recognizes that Whitecap Dakota Nation has jurisdiction and law-making powers, facilitates the creation of economic opportunities, and improves community well-being for its members.
- The Nang K'úulaas Recognition Agreement (July 18, 2023), which recognizes the Haida Nation as the holder of Haida title and rights, and the Council of Haida Nation as the governing body of the Haida Nation

While these agreements take significant steps toward affirming and implementing Indigenous rights, there is still important work to do.

To advance rights-based discussions, Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$96.4 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. This funding would ensure that Indigenous communities can fully participate in the negotiation process.

Renewing First Nations Core Governance and New Fiscal Relationship Funding

First Nations governments and tribal councils require adequate resources and administrative capacity to deliver critical programs and services to their members. To continue to support First Nations governance and self-determination, Budget 2024 proposes to provide the following:

- \$275 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Indigenous Services Canada to maintain Indigenous Governance and Capacity programs and support governance capacity development.
- \$12.6 million, over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Indigenous Services Canada to continue implementing and advancing the New Fiscal Relationship with First Nations communities.

Fair Tax Jurisdiction for Indigenous Communities

A fair fiscal relationship means supporting an Indigenous tax jurisdiction that advances self-determination and builds strong fiscal relationships while generating significant revenues for community priorities. This is an essential part of reconciliation. The federal government proposes to expand opt-in tax jurisdiction frameworks, enabling Indigenous governments to better exercise their tax jurisdiction with more flexibility.

Following extensive collaboration with Indigenous organizations and interested Indigenous communities, Budget 2024 announces the government's intention to bring forward legislation for an opt-in Fuel, Alcohol, Cannabis, Tobacco, and Vaping (FACT) sales tax framework. The FACT framework would include appropriate sharing arrangements to meet the interests of both Indigenous governments and the federal government. The federal government will work with Indigenous partners over the coming months to finalize and implement the FACT framework.

The federal government will negotiate additional First Nations Goods and Services Tax agreements with interested Indigenous governments, and personal income tax arrangements with interested self-governing Indigenous governments, along with facilitating similar arrangements between interested Indigenous governments and provincial and territorial governments. The federal government is exploring the potential role of tax arrangements and other tools to enable Indigenous communities to meaningfully benefit from resource development.

Addressing the Legacy of Residential Schools

Residential school denialism has severe impacts on Survivors and descendants of Survivors. Such denialism seeks to erase the ongoing trauma and harm that Indigenous Peoples continue to face because of the legacy of residential schools. It further burdens Survivors and their descendants, whose mental health, well-being, and economic opportunities are still hampered today by this shameful legacy.

The federal government is committed to addressing the legacy of residential schools. At the heart of this work is supporting survivors, their families, and their communities, along with educating all people about these truths to ensure that these wrongs are recognized and never happen again.

To work to correct the damaging legacy of residential schools, the government has compensated Survivors and made historic investments in child welfare, education, language and culture, health, justice, former residential school sites, and missing children and burial sites. The government remains committed to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action to address the painful legacy of residential schools.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$91 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to increase the support provided to communities to document, locate, and memorialize burial sites at former residential schools.
- Budget 2024 also proposes to provide \$5 million over three years, starting in 2025-26, to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to establish a program to combat Residential School denialism.

The government anticipates the Special Interlocutor's final report and recommendations in spring 2024. This report will support further action towards addressing the harmful legacy of residential schools through a framework relating to federal laws, regulations, policies, and practices surrounding unmarked graves and burials at former residential schools and associated sites. This will include addressing residential school denialism.

Advancing Economic Reconciliation

An economy that is fair for everyone is one where everyone is able to fully participate. That hasn't always been the case, especially for Indigenous Peoples. The history of discrimination faced in communities has meant that, for too long, Indigenous Peoples were left behind and could not fully participate in the Canadian economy. With Budget 2024, the government is taking action to ensure Indigenous communities are able to share in Canada's prosperity and benefit from the new opportunities ahead.

Economic reconciliation—whether through supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs, creating good jobs in Indigenous communities, or helping ensure Indigenous communities have access to the capital they need for equity in significant projects—is how we make sure we all benefit from Canada's prosperity

Key Ongoing Actions

- \$150 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to advance shovel-ready economic opportunities in Indigenous communities.
- \$65 million over five years, beginning in 2023-24, to co-develop a new First Nations-led land registry and support First Nations in building capacity to exercise jurisdiction over their lands, resources, and environment.
- \$21 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, to increase participation in environmental and regulatory assessments of significant projects.

Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program

Indigenous communities need to be able to share in the benefits of natural resource and energy projects in their territories and on their own terms. Due to the Indian Act and the legacy of colonialism, Indigenous communities have fewer options for securing capital or leveraging existing assets as collateral, leading to increased borrowing rates that create a barrier to equity investment in natural resource and energy projects.

The number of primary natural resource and energy projects with potential for Indigenous equity participation is anticipated to grow significantly, with the First Nations Major Projects Coalition's research expecting this potential to reach \$525 billion in capital investment over the next ten years. If Canada is to make sure that Indigenous communities are able to fully benefit from the opportunities ahead, they need fair access to affordable capital that meets their unique needs.

Building on the government's 2023 Fall Economic Statement commitment to help facilitate Indigenous equity ownership in significant projects, Budget 2024 proposes to launch the Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program with the following parameters:

- Up to \$5 billion in loan guarantees to unlock access to capital for Indigenous communities, creating economic opportunities and supporting their economic development priorities.
 - ◇ Applicant eligibility would recognize Indigenous governments and their wholly owned and controlled entities.
 - ◇ The program would be sector-agnostic for natural resource and energy projects to prioritize economic reconciliation and self-determination.
 - ◇ The program would support projects across the country and a range of project types to ensure that Indigenous communities across the country benefit from the program.
 - ◇ Natural Resources Canada would be responsible for intake and capacity building, and the Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV), a Crown corporation in the Department of Finance Canada portfolio, would create a new subsidiary to provide due diligence on the applications and administer the portfolio of loan guarantees.
- Budget 2024 also proposes to provide \$16.5 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Natural Resources Canada, including \$3.5 million over two years to support capacity funding for Indigenous communities and applicants and delivery of the Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program by CDEV. This investment will provide capacity-building support to assist eligible Indigenous communities in making applications for loans through the program.

Boosting Indigenous Economic Opportunity

Economic reconciliation is critical to Indigenous self-determination. Building on previous investments, including support for the development of an Economic Reconciliation Framework and a National Benefits-Sharing Framework, Budget 2024 proposes to provide:

- \$350 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, to renew Canada's commitment to Indigenous Financial Institutions, including \$30 million over five years for the Métis Capital Corporations which have, for decades, provided critical support to Métis entrepreneurs and businesses;
- \$2.5 million in 2024-25 to continue supporting the Indigenous tourism industry through the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada; and
- \$36 million, over three years, starting in 2024-25, to renew support for the Strategic Partnerships Initiatives' Clean Energy program to promote Indigenous participation in clean growth opportunities. To date, the federal government has invested more than \$136 million in the Strategic Partnerships Initiative, supporting over 50 large-scale initiatives and fostering the creation of more than 200 successful partnerships in clean energy, tourism, and fisheries. These efforts have benefitted over 400 Indigenous communities and organizations across the country.

Together, these investments will support Indigenous entrepreneurs and Indigenous communities by helping to reduce systemic barriers, ensure support is in place for Indigenous people to participate fully in the economy, and contribute to Indigenous prosperity and success across generations.

Indigenous Labour Market Information

The Indigenous Labour Market Information Survey and Skills Inventory Initiative was first funded in 2015 to support timely, detailed, and community-specific labour market data. This initiative supports participating First Nations to collect information which helps them to identify workforce gaps and needs, and to better match their members with the right training and jobs.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$4.4 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to continue the Indigenous Labour Market Information Survey and Skills Inventory Initiative to support labor market participation and ensure prosperous communities.

Healthy Indigenous Communities

Everyone in Canada deserves to have the support they need to live a healthy and prosperous life. Due to the legacies of colonialism, access to opportunities and support can be further from reach in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. The federal government is committed to supporting Indigenous communities in building healthy communities.

Since 2015, the federal government has made significant investments to build more homes, deliver better health care, and ensure Indigenous communities have clean drinking water. Every Indigenous person deserves access to what they need to develop a healthy and vibrant life.

Budget 2024 is investing in better health care and critical infrastructure, co-developed and co-led with Indigenous communities, to ensure better health outcomes for all Indigenous Peoples.

Key Ongoing Actions

- \$4 billion over seven years, starting in 2024-25, to implement an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, currently under codevelopment with Indigenous partners.ᐃᓃᐃ
- \$2 billion over ten years, starting in 2024-25, for a distinctions-based Indigenous Health Equity Fund. This fund, currently being co-developed with Indigenous partners, will address the unique challenges Indigenous Peoples face when accessing health care services and support immediate and long-term Indigenous health priorities. \$811 million over five years, beginning in 2023-24, to help medical travel and to maintain medically necessary services through the Non-insured Health Benefits Program, including mental health services, dental and vision care, and medications.

- \$8.2 billion over ten years, starting in 2023-24, to renew the First Nations Health Authority Funding Agreement in British Columbia.
- \$1.6 billion over two years, starting in 2024-25, to ensure access to safe drinking water and treated wastewater in First Nations communities.

Indigenous Health

The Government of Canada recognizes that the current state of Indigenous health is a direct result of the shameful historical legacy of colonialist policies and interventions against the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and communities, including Indian residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, and other harmful practices. Meaningful improvements in Indigenous health outcomes will only be achieved if there are fundamental changes in the design, delivery, and control of health services. The goal is to address ongoing health and mental wellness challenges by ensuring continued access to culturally appropriate services that meet the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples and communities. Simply put, health systems have to be more responsive to community needs.

Since 2015, we've invested over \$5.5 billion and focused on taking positive steps forward with significant new investments for Indigenous health. These include, but are not limited to:

- \$69 million over three years for mental wellness teams and crisis stabilization.
- Roughly \$828 million over five years for communicable diseases, primary care transformation, mental wellness, children's oral health, and home and community care.
- \$200 million over five years, with \$40 million ongoing to address the needs of high-risk communities in the area of addictions.
- Making an escort, such as a family member, accessible to all First Nations and Inuit women who must leave their home community during their pregnancy. This is provided through the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Medical Transportation Policy Framework for First Nations and Inuit.
- We invested \$1.4 billion to ensure Indigenous Peoples can access high-quality health care. This plan includes:
 - ◇ Ensuring continued high-quality care through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, which supports First Nations and Inuit people with medically necessary services not otherwise covered, such as mental health services, medical travel, medications, and more.
 - ◇ Increasing the number of nurses and other medical professionals in remote and isolated First Nations communities and improving access to high-quality and culturally relevant health care for Indigenous Peoples.
- Since 2016, the government has made available almost \$2 billion to Jordan's Principle to improve access to lifesaving care and essential services. Jordan's Principle helps First Nations children access the products, services and support they need. Since July 2016, 717,000 products, services, and supports have been approved. These included speech therapy, educational support, medical equipment, mental health services, and more. Funding has also been used to respond to high rates of tuberculosis in Inuit communities, support the Métis Nation in gathering health data, and develop a health strategy to address their unique needs.
- Budget 2022 proposes to invest \$268 million in 2022-23 to continue to provide high-quality health care in remote and isolated First Nations communities.

First Nations and Inuit Health

The federal government is working with Indigenous partners to improve access to health care services. Co-developed essential health care reforms aim to ensure Indigenous people feel safe and heard while accessing health care services in Canada, no matter where they live.

To ensure First Nations and Inuit across the country have fair and equal access to the health care they deserve, Budget 2024 proposes to provide:

- \$562.5 million in 2024-25 to support medically necessary services through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, which supports a range of benefits for First Nations and Inuit people, including mental health services, medical travel, medications, and more;
- \$390.4 million over four years, starting in 2024-25, to build or renovate health facilities, including to support the Virtual Health Hub led by the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. This funding will also improve the safety of primary care workers in remote and isolated on-reserve First Nations communities;
- \$104.9 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, for health transformation initiatives to support First Nations self-determination in the design and delivery of health services in their communities; and,
- \$57.5 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, which builds on previous federal investments to construct a mercury care home in Grassy Narrows First Nation.

Indigenous Treatment in Hospitals and Our Health Care System

Indigenous Services Canada included cultural competency training for new registered nurses and nurse practitioners employed by its First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.

We are taking serious steps to improve mental health services for Indigenous Peoples. Joyce Echaquan, a 37-year-old mother of seven children from the Atikamekw de Manawan, died at the Joliette Hospital after receiving degrading insults from two hospital staff. Joyce's Principle aims to guarantee to all Indigenous Peoples the right of equitable access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services and the right to enjoy the best possible physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. In Budget 2021, we made plans to provide \$126.7 million to take action to foster health systems free from racism and discrimination where Indigenous Peoples are respected and safe. Addressing the unique and deeply rooted traumas of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities—which include intergenerational trauma, overt and systemic racism and discrimination, and social and economic inequality—requires a distinctions-based approach to mental health and wellness that is developed and delivered by Indigenous Peoples.

- Created a national network of 45 treatment centers that provide a range of mainstream and culturally relevant services for Indigenous youth, adults, and families experiencing issues with substance use.
- Invested \$200 million toward delivering culturally appropriate substance use treatment and prevention services.
- Invested \$118.2 million to support additional capacity for essential mental health services, including on-the-land activities and culture-as-medicine.
- Invested in 176 health infrastructure projects. These projects include building or repairing nursing stations, health centers, drug and alcohol treatment centers, and Aboriginal Head Start on-reserve facilities in 164 First Nation communities.

Supporting Indigenous Mental Health

Mental health is health. Due to the legacy of colonialism, Indigenous Peoples face their own unique challenges when it comes to mental health and wellbeing, which may lead to post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use, and depression.

A high proportion of Indigenous youth are diagnosed with mood and anxiety disorders, as well as chronic health conditions. First Nations youth living on reserve reported low mental health nearly twice as often as non-Indigenous youth. Indigenous youth struggle to access health care due to long transportation times and costs from missing school or work.

Supporting Indigenous people's access to mental health doesn't just mean increasing access to care, it also means ensuring services respect, value, and use cultural knowledge, approaches, languages, and ways of knowing. These investments aim to end the legacies of intergenerational trauma and build up healthier, stronger, and more resilient future generations.

The National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy has been implemented by and for Inuit people. In addition to these significant investments in Indigenous-designed and implemented health and wellness initiatives, the Government of Canada is actively supporting Indigenous Peoples to take control over their health services.

The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program can also provide access to elders, traditional healers, and other community-based cultural and emotional supports or professional mental health counselling. Survivors and family members can access the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line when in need. This line has been set up to provide emotional and crisis referral services to former residential school students. It's available 24 hours a day at 1-866-925-4419.

The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program can also provide access to elders, traditional healers, and other community-based cultural and emotional supports or professional mental health counselling.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$630.2 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to support Indigenous people's access to mental health services, including through distinctions-based mental wellness strategies.
- In 2021, we announced a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy with Indigenous Peoples, including continuing support for former residential school students and their families. This \$597.6 million program will build on existing strengths, help address gaps, and respond to current, emerging, and future needs.
- We funded \$235 million to work with First Nations partners to transform First Nations health systems by expanding successful models of self-determination so that health programs and services are developed, delivered, and controlled by and for First Nations.

Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Health Care

Anti-Indigenous racism has tragic consequences for Indigenous Peoples seeking health care. In 2020, tragic circumstances contributed to the death of Joyce Echaquan at the Centre Hospitalier régional De Lanaudière in Quebec, near the Atikamekw community of Manawan. In memory of her death, Joyce's Principle was created, which aims to guarantee all Indigenous people the right to equitable access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services. It also includes the right to enjoy the best possible physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

Recognizing and respecting Indigenous Peoples' traditional and living knowledge in all aspects of health is essential to fulfilling Joyce's Principle. This measure aims to help foster health systems free from racism and discrimination where Indigenous Peoples are respected and safe by supporting patient advocates, health system navigators, midwives, and birth support workers, as well as initiatives to increase Indigenous representation in the health profession.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$167.6 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, to combat anti-Indigenous racism in health care to help ensure Indigenous Peoples are treated with the respect and safety they deserve

Strengthening Access to Culturally Important Foods

Indigenous Peoples suffer higher rates of food insecurity than the rest of Canada. Traditional foods obtained through harvesting are an essential part of Indigenous communities' diet and culture, making access to such foods critically important. As part of the government's work to eradicate food insecurity, Budget 2024 proposes to provide:

- \$14.9 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, to renew and expand the Northern Isolated Community Initiatives Fund to all regions of Inuit Nunangat to support local and Indigenous food production systems, including innovative northern food businesses, which contribute to food security in the North.
- \$25.1 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, on a cash basis, to expand the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program to assist Indigenous communities to safely access shellfish harvest for food, as well as social and ceremonial purposes.

- \$2.8 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) Action Plan Measures to bolster the policy and engagement capacity among Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Inuit Treaty Organizations to co-develop legislative and policy options to facilitate the production, sale, and trade of traditional and country food.

Climate Change and the Environment

Working alongside Indigenous communities across Canada is crucial if we are going to truly combat climate change. Traditional knowledge is vital to understanding climate impacts and adaptation measures and is essential for Indigenous infrastructure development. Some of the investments we've made and initiatives we've taken on with Indigenous communities and leaders regarding climate change include:

- Investing \$2 billion over 11 years to support a broad range of infrastructure projects to meet rural and northern communities' unique needs, with a significant focus on sustainability.
- Creating an Arctic Energy Fund to address energy security for communities north of the 60th parallel, including Indigenous communities, and providing it with \$400 million.
- Investing \$83 million to integrate Indigenous knowledge into community resilience and infrastructure planning.
- Launching a \$25 million pilot Indigenous Guardians Program, which empowers communities to manage ancestral lands according to traditional laws and values.
- Providing \$21.4 million over four years to support renewable energy projects in Indigenous and northern communities that rely on diesel for electricity and heating.
- Providing \$18 million for a climate change and health adaptation program for First Nations and Inuit communities.

Safe Indigenous Communities

The legacy of colonialism has meant that Indigenous communities have long been without Indigenous-led policing and justice. To correct past wrongs, it is essential that better Indigenous-led policing, justice, and emergency services are developed, guided by input from communities on what they need.

Indigenous Peoples have been underrepresented in policing, which has meant policing is not culturally appropriate. Law enforcement must be tailored to the unique needs of Indigenous communities to ensure it works for them. The federal government is committed to doing this work with Indigenous communities to ensure a brighter, safer future. Budget 2024 takes action to strengthen Indigenous oversight and development of policing.

With Indigenous communities often located in remote areas, where there is a higher risk of natural disasters, it is essential to invest in their emergency management response and recovery resources. The legacy of colonialism has meant that Indigenous emergency response resources have been underfunded and are ill-equipped to fight wildfires and other disasters, which are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change.

Budget 2024 is investing in better community safety, with a commitment to partnership and Indigenous control, so that services truly meet the unique needs of communities.

Key Ongoing Actions

- \$260 million in 2023-24 for emergency management response and recovery activities on reserve.
- \$861 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$145 million per year ongoing, to enhance funding for policing and community safety in Indigenous communities.
- \$74.8 million over three years, beginning in 2021-22, to improve access to justice for Indigenous people and support the development of an Indigenous justice strategy to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system.

First Nations Emergency Management and Preparedness

Canada's 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive on record, resulting in the evacuation of more than 95 Indigenous communities. That number is more than the four previous years combined. To support wildfire responses and recovery activities in First Nations communities, the 2023 Fall Economic Statement provided \$260 million. However, the growing frequency and intensity of these events demand further proactive investment in mitigation and adaptation efforts to save lives and minimize damage and disruption in Indigenous communities.

Budget 2024 proposes to provide:

- \$9 million in 2023-24 to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to support Indigenous governments directly affected by the 2023 wildfires in the Northwest Territories;
- \$145.2 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, for Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to work with First Nations to develop more excellent climate resiliency and deploy structural mitigation strategies that protect communities, homes, and essential infrastructure from climate disasters, including \$10.4 million for Modern Treaty and Self-Governing First Nations; and,
- \$20.9 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, for Indigenous Services Canada to support the First Nations Fire Protection Strategy, 2023 to 2028, by distributing fire alarms and fire extinguishers to homes and community facilities on-reserve, as well as fire-related education programs.

Red Dress Alert

In Budget 2021, the government committed \$2.2 billion over five years to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

In Budget 2023, the government invested in launching a Red Dress Alert. A Red Dress Alert would notify the public when an Indigenous woman, girl, or two-spirit person goes missing. It is part of the federal government's work to advance the National Action Plan to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. But this work is not done.

Since Budget 2023, the government has engaged with Indigenous partners, provinces, and territories to co-develop the Red Dress Alert. The government heard the need for specific, regionally tailored approaches to meet the diverse needs of Indigenous communities nationwide.

To help keep Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people safe, Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$1.3 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, to co-develop with Indigenous partners on a priority first phase, a regional Red Dress Alert system.

Support for Indigenous Justice Programming

The federal government is committed to addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system and discrimination within it. Advancing reconciliation requires supporting Indigenous-led, culturally appropriate, and community-based justice services and ensuring policies are informed by the lived experiences of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

Last year, the government tabled the inaugural five-year United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan, through which the government committed to 181 Action Plan Measures, including finalizing an Indigenous Justice Strategy, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Partners, provinces, and territories. The Indigenous Justice Strategy will be an essential step towards addressing systemic representation and overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the Canadian justice system.

- To advance the Indigenous Justice Strategy, Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$87 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, and \$11.3 million per year ongoing, to the Department of Justice for Indigenous justice programming, including:
 - ◇ \$56.4 million over five years and \$11.3 million per year ongoing for the Indigenous Justice Program and the Indigenous Courtwork Program; \$5.5 million over three years to continue work on the revitalization of Indigenous laws and legal systems;
 - ◇ \$5.5 million over three years to continue work on the revitalization of Indigenous laws and legal systems;
 - ◇ \$25.1 million over three years to renew funding for capacity building and engagement throughout the development and initial implementation of the Indigenous Justice Strategy.

On January 11, 2019, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada issued the Directive on Civil Litigation Involving Indigenous Peoples. The directive guides the Government of Canada's legal approaches, positions, and decisions made in civil litigation involving Aboriginal and treaty rights, as well as the Crown's obligation towards Indigenous Peoples. This has resulted in fewer issues in dispute and signals our respect and recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights. Further, in several cases, the decision was made not to appeal or seek judicial review. This acknowledges the Government of Canada's responsibility to redress past wrongs.

The Government of Canada has committed to resolving Indigenous Childhood Claims Litigation outside of the courts.

This includes:

- Expanding the use of culturally relevant and effective processes within Indigenous communities, like restorative justice.
- Introducing a more transparent process for choosing federally appointed judges and establishing a more diverse judicial bench, so as to build confidence in our institutions.
- On June 21, 2019, our government passed Bill C-75, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.
- This requires that particular consideration be given to the unique circumstances of members of vulnerable populations when imposing bail conditions, encourages the use of alternatives to charges for justice offences, and limits the use of custodial sentences.
- The Correctional Service of Canada has increased the number of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers to better respond to Indigenous needs.
- To improve Indigenous Peoples' access to justice to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous People in the justice system, we are providing \$74.8 million in funding to enable Justice Canada to provide help and support to Indigenous families as they navigate the family justice system and access community-based family mediation services. In addition, this funding will enable Justice Canada to support engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations on the development of legislation and initiatives that address systemic barriers in the criminal justice system.
- Through the Justice Canada Federal Victims Strategy, our government partners with provincial and territorial governments, community agencies and organizations to increase access to justice for victims and survivors of crime and give them a more effective voice in the criminal justice system.
- Exonerated the six Tsilhqot'in Chiefs, who died defending their lands, their people, and their way of life.

Support for Indigenous-led Data Strategies

Indigenous-led data strategies can further self-determination by providing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation governments and organizations with the data they need to support their communities. We will invest \$81.5 million to continue working

towards developing and implementing a First Nations Data Governance Strategy and supporting the development of distinctions-based Inuit and Métis Nation data strategies.

In collaboration with federal, provincial, and territorial partners, Statistics Canada has developed a comprehensive data strategy to collect and publish information on the victimization of Indigenous Peoples. Understanding the nature and extent of victimization of Indigenous Peoples is critical to responding to issues related to safety and well-being. To modernize Canada's justice system, support evidence-based policies, and ensure accountability within the criminal justice system, we are providing \$6.7 million to Justice Canada and Statistics Canada to improve the collection and use of disaggregated data. This is part of ongoing efforts to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples and racialized groups in the justice system.

First Nations and Inuit-led Policing

First Nations and Inuit people face unique challenges—whether it's the remoteness of communities or the need for policing that is culturally appropriate.

Currently, the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program provides support for communities to administer their own police force or receive enhanced policing services from the RCMP or another standing police force. These agreements are cost-shared between the federal and provincial or territorial governments.

Through Budget 2021, the government has committed \$861 million over five years and \$145 million per year ongoing for policing and community safety in Indigenous communities. Of this, \$43.7 million was committed to co-develop a legislative framework for First Nations policing that recognizes First Nations policing as an essential service. To further address policing needs identified by Indigenous communities, Budget 2024 proposes to provide:

- \$267.5 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, and \$92.5 million per year ongoing to Public Safety Canada for the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program and to support the work of Public Safety Canada's Indigenous Secretariat; and
- \$200 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, to repair, renovate and replace policing facilities in First Nations and Inuit communities.

The federal government is continuing to co-develop legislation with First Nations partners to recognize First Nations policing as an essential service.

Public Safety

Like all communities in Canada, Indigenous communities should be places where people and families feel safe and secure. A well-funded, culturally sensitive, and respectful police service is essential for community safety and well-being. Budget 2022 also proposes \$5.1 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to Public Safety Canada to ensure the Royal Canadian Mounted Police can support community-led responses to unmarked burial sites.

We will provide \$861 million to support culturally responsive policing and community safety services in Indigenous communities. This includes:

- Co-developing a legislative framework for First Nations policing that recognizes First Nations policing as an essential service.
- Supporting Indigenous communities currently served under the First Nations Policing Program and expanding the program to new Indigenous communities.
- Enhance Indigenous-led crime prevention strategies and community safety services.