

TERRY BEECH

YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
BURNABY NORTH-SEYMOUR

How Our Government is

INVESTING IN YOUNG CANADIANS










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Introduction

Young Canadians are a positive influence to our community and our nation. As someone who was first elected as a City Councillor at the age of 18, it was a unique opportunity to show the positive impact that young leaders can have while giving young people a voice at the table. That is why we are committed to ensuring that young Canadians have the tools they need to build a successful and fulfilling life for themselves. This report will detail how our historic investments in youth make life more affordable, expand the job market, and ensure that young Canadians have their voices heard in our democracy. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at terry.beech@parl.gc.ca.

A Fair Chance for Millennials and Gen Z

Too many younger Canadians, particularly Millennials and Gen Z, feel like their hard work isn't paying off. They're not getting the same deal their parents and grandparents did. They don't feel like they're getting the same fair chance at success.

None of this is their fault. Institutions built by previous generations haven't kept up with changing times.

We must restore a fair chance for Millennials and Gen Z. If you stay in school and study hard, you should be able to afford college, university, or an apprenticeship, graduate into a good job, put a roof over your head, and build a good middle-class life.

We've made progress for younger Canadians. We're investing in skills, training, and work experience opportunities. Student and apprentice loans are now permanently interest-free and you don't have to start making full payments on those loans until you earn a middle-class income.

But not every younger Canadian has the money they need to go to school, so we're increasing student grants and loans, and now providing more rent support too. When you graduate, you deserve a pathway to a good job.

In Budget 2024, the government is helping to restore generational fairness for Millennials and Gen Z by unlocking access to post-secondary, including for the most vulnerable students and youth; and creating new opportunities for younger Canadians to get the skills they need to get good jobs.

Some key ongoing action items are:

- Eliminating interest on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans would reduce the burden of student debt, saving student loan borrowers an average of \$610 every year on interest payments and ensuring they do not need to make payments on their loans until they earn at least \$42,720 per year.
- In 2016, Canada Student Grants from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year for students from low-income households to help cover the cost of education without increasing student debt loads.
- In Budget 2023, the Canada Student Grants will be further increased from \$3,000 to \$4,200 for one year.
- Enhancing student loan forgiveness to up to \$60,000 for doctors and up to \$30,000 for nurses who choose to work in rural and remote communities.
- Introducing a flat-rate student contribution for financial assistance, allowing students to work and gain valuable labour market experience without worrying about a reduction in their federal support.
- In totality, the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program and Canada Summer Jobs served 141,262 youth in 2022-23 and provided them with supports such as skills development, training, and work experiences
- The Student Work Placement Program, which, in 2022-23, created 51,711 work-integrated placement opportunities (co-ops, internships) for post-secondary students related to their field of study.

Increasing Student Grants and Loans

Since 2016, the federal government has supported 638,000 post-secondary students per year, on average, with \$38.4 billion in up-front grants and interest-free loans—enabling young Canadians to pursue their education, regardless of their background. To ensure this support keeps up with the cost of an education, the government permanently increased Canada Student Grants by 50 percent to \$3,000 dollars. In 2020, when students faced challenges finding work and affording school, the government temporarily doubled Canada Student Grants to provide \$6,000 each year for three school years.

Even with increases in financial support for students and the permanent elimination of interest on student loans, many students still need more support to cover rising costs. Some provinces—British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador—are aligned with the federal government in making their student loans interest-free. The federal government is calling on the provinces and territories that still charge interest on student loans—Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories—to make their student loans interest-free.

- Budget 2024 announces the government's intention to extend for an additional year the increase in full-time Canada Student Grants from \$3,000 to \$4,200 per year and interest-free Canada Student Loans from \$210 to \$300 per week. Increased student grants and loans will be available for the 2024-2025 school year at an estimated total cost of \$1.1 billion in 2024-25. With this change, Canada Student Grants will have doubled in size since 2014.
- Grants for part-time students, students with disabilities, and students with dependants will also be increased proportionately.
- Increased grants will support 587,000 students, and increased interest-free loans will support 652,000 students, with a combined \$7.3 billion for the upcoming academic year.

Fair Access to Student Aid

The federal government will also propose changes to the designated educational institutions at which students can enrol to be eligible for Canada Student Financial Assistance.

To ensure students have access to the best education outcomes and limit the Crown's financial risk, Budget 2024 announces that the government will review the designated educational institution status of private learning institutions for the purposes of the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program. Further details on this review will be announced in the 2024 Fall Economic Statement.

To ensure federal funding does not flow to institutions that are subject to international sanctions, Budget 2024 also announces the government's intention to ensure that, beginning on August 1, 2024, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be ineligible to receive Canada Student Financial Assistance while studying at Russian post-secondary institutions. This step emphasizes the importance of international law and reaffirms Canada's unwavering stance against Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Rent Support for Students

Students should not have to choose between focusing on school and affording rent and groceries each month. Although federal student grants and loans are intended to help cover the cost of shelter, the formula used to estimate students' housing costs has not been updated since 1998.

- To reflect the true rental housing costs faced by most post-secondary students, Budget 2024 proposes to modernize the shelter allowances used by the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program when determining financial need, at an estimated cost of \$154.6 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, and \$32.3 million per year ongoing.
- This new approach will provide additional student aid to approximately 79,000 students each year.

Helping People Return to School

Currently, adults hoping to return to post-secondary school face barriers if they have a low credit score. For example, a mature student who has a poor credit history because of common life circumstances, such as unplanned major health expenses or the costs of raising children, faces a cumbersome review process before they can receive federal student aid.

Whether enrolling to pursue their dreams or to find a better-paying job, credit screening can be an unfair barrier, especially for those with low incomes. For Canada to succeed, everyone should be able to reach their full potential.

To reduce barriers for adults returning to school, Budget 2024 proposes to permanently eliminate the credit screening requirement for mature students applying for Canada Student Grants and Loans for the first time. This measure is estimated to cost \$18.9 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$4 million per year ongoing.

This will allow up to an additional 1,000 students per year to benefit from federal student aid.

Helping Students Gain Work Experience

Work-integrated learning opportunities, such as co-ops and internships, are a proven way for post-secondary students to gain valuable skills and get a foot in the door of their future careers. For businesses, the government's work-integrated learning programs help them identify and recruit skilled and trained individuals, addressing a significant challenge for employers: finding the right talent.

That's why the government supports practical, hands-on learning and connections with employers through the Student Work Placement Program. The program has already created over 192,000 work opportunities for post-secondary students since 2017-18. These work experience opportunities help young Canadians gain the skills, education, and real-life experience necessary to get good-paying jobs in important and growing fields.

To create more work-integrated learning opportunities for post-secondary students, Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$207.6 million in 2025-26 to Employment and Social Development Canada for the Student Work Placement Program.

Jobs and Skills Training for Gen Z

Canada's success depends on the success of its youngest generations. Gen Z is a diverse group, from those who are starting to think about their future career years from now to those just starting their first full-time job. They have a lifetime of opportunity ahead, and we are empowering them to aim high.

Lifting up Gen Z by ensuring they have good opportunities to launch their career will be critical to Canada's economic growth potential in the years to come. As baby boomers are increasingly reaching retirement age, our younger workforce must be equipped with opportunities to build their skills and gain meaningful work experience. Gen Z needs the confidence of knowing they will find a good job that will help them get ahead.

To help younger Canadians pursue and achieve their dreams, the government is investing to create more youth job opportunities and ensure hard work pays off for the next generation.

- To create 90,000 youth job placements and employment support opportunities, Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$351.2 million in 2025-26 for the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. These investments in youth job opportunities include:
- \$200.5 million in 2025-26 for Canada Summer Jobs to provide well-paying summer job opportunities, including in sectors facing critical labour shortages, such as housing construction
- \$150.7 million in 2025-26 for the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program to provide job placements and employment support to youth.

Young Canadians are eager to be part of the fight against climate change and to protect our natural environment. The government intends to launch consultations on the development of a Youth Climate Corps program that will equip young people with jobs that work to address climate change.

Launching a New Youth Mental Health Fund

Young Canadians are facing high levels of stress and mental health challenges, including depression and anxiety. Many of them are still in school or just starting their careers and are struggling with the costs of private mental health care. The rising cost of living has further exacerbated this issue. Our government remains committed to ensuring that future generations have the access they need to mental health support so that they can have a healthy start to adulthood.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$500 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, for the creation of a new Youth Mental Health Fund, which will help younger Canadians access the mental health care they need.

The new Youth Mental Health Fund will help community health organizations provide more care for younger Canadians and better equip these organizations to refer youth to other mental health services within their networks and partnerships.

It is critical that youth have what they need to build a happy, healthy start in their adulthood. Mental health care is an essential part of ensuring every young Canadian can reach their full potential, and that helps Canada’s economy reach its full potential, too.

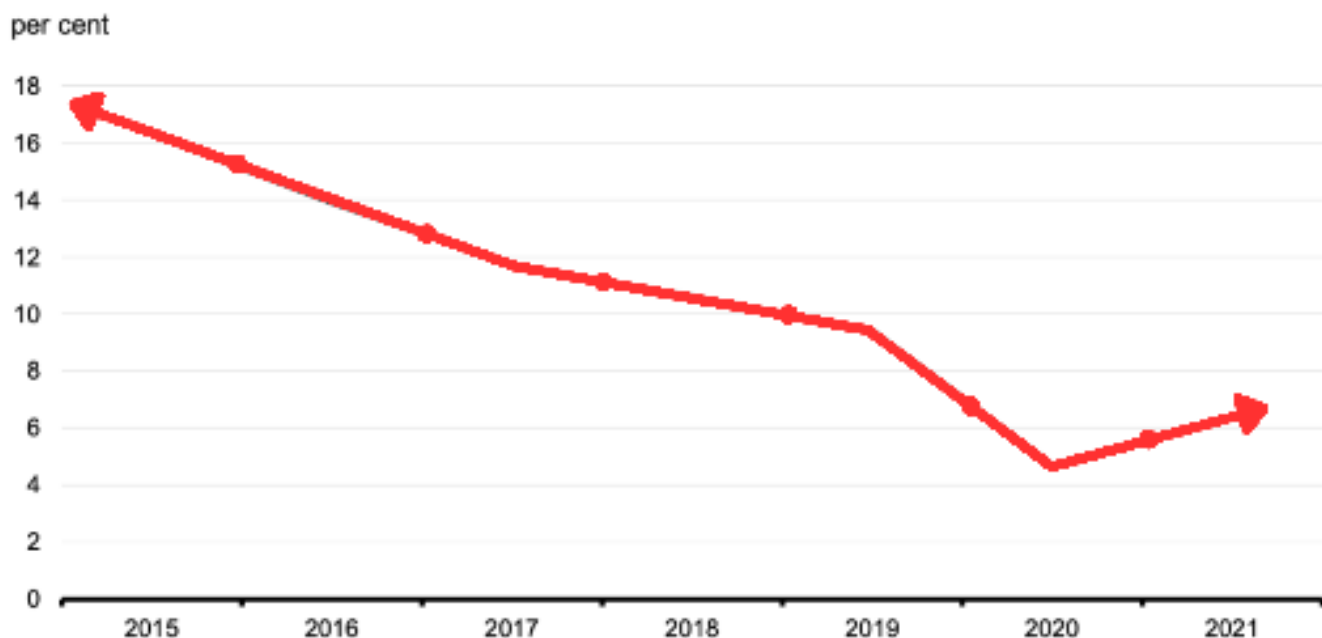
Childcare and Education

As part of the government’s generational investments in the care economy, we have worked with all provinces and territories to build a Canada-wide early learning and childcare system that is saving young families, many led by Millennials, thousands of dollars every year. Affordable child care is unlocking new opportunities for parents—particularly mothers—to fully participate in the workforce and build a fulfilling and profitable career. It levels the playing field for parents and families.

This builds on efforts since 2015 that are providing real support to families, including the Canada Child Benefit, which is providing nearly \$8,000 per child to families this year.

Since the Canada Child Benefit was introduced in 2016, child poverty in Canada has dropped from 16.3 percent in 2015 to 6.4 percent in 2021. That’s 650,000 children lifted out of poverty in just six years

Reducing Child Poverty from 16.3 percent to 6.4 percent, 2015-2021



Source: Statistics Canada.

Note: Poverty rate based on Market Basket Measure, 2018. Emergency pandemic benefits dramatically reduced poverty rates in 2020 and also reduced rates in 2021

Some key ongoing action items are:

- Providing over \$25 billion in support to about 3.5 million families with children annually through the tax-free Canada Child Benefit, with eligible families receiving up to \$7,787 per child in 2024-25.
- We are building a Canada-wide system of early learning and child care, which is delivering \$10-a-day child care in eight provinces and territories. All other provinces are already cutting fees by 50 percent and remaining on track to deliver \$10-a-day child care by March 2026, significantly ahead of schedule.
- We are launching the Canada Dental Benefit to provide eligible parents or guardians with direct, up-front, tax-free payments of up to \$1,300 over two years to cover the cost of dental care for their children under 12 years old.

A National School Food Program

Every child in Canada deserves to have the best start in life. However, higher grocery prices are making it more difficult for moms and dads to afford the food their kids need.

Nearly one in four children do not get enough food, and that has a real impact on their opportunities to learn and grow. According to the Toronto District School Board, students who regularly ate breakfast were 17 percentage points more likely to be on track to graduate compared to students who did not have access to breakfast.

The federal government is taking decisive action to launch a new National School Food Program to help ensure that children have the food they need to get a fair start in life, regardless of their family's circumstances.

- Budget 2024 announces the creation of a National School Food Program, which will provide \$1 billion over five years to Employment and Social Development Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and Indigenous Services Canada, starting in 2024-25, to work with provinces, territories, and Indigenous partners to expand access to school food programs. This includes investments for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities as well as Self-Governing and Modern Treaty Partners, many of whom have some of the highest rates of food insecurity in Canada.

The National School Food Program is expected to provide meals for more than 400,000 kids each year. And for families who manage to put enough food on the table but struggle to pay for it, this program is expected to save the average participating family with two children as much as \$800 per year in grocery costs, with lower-income families benefitting the most.

The federal government will work with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to deliver the National School Food Program, with support beginning as early as the 2024-25 school year.

Canada-wide Affordable Childcare System

The government launched a Canada-wide affordable childcare system in 2021. This program is saving Canadian families thousands of dollars every year. Already, eight provinces and territories have reached \$10 a day, and the rest have cut fees by 50 percent. All provinces and territories are on track to offer \$10-a-day child care.

Affordable child care helps more moms return to the workforce, helping our economy reach its full potential. These supply-side investments are working.

In September 2023, the labour force participation rate of prime working-aged women reached a record high of 85.7 percent. That means more families are earning more income, and more people working means more economic growth. This is good social policy, good economic policy, and good feminist policy.

But there still aren't enough childcare spaces. We need to build more spaces to give every child the best start in life, help every family save thousands of dollars on child care, and ensure the next generation of parents doesn't have to choose between having a family or a career. That is why the federal government is helping build more childcare spaces.

- To launch a \$1 billion Child Care Expansion Loan Program, Budget 2024 proposes to provide the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation with \$179.4 million over five years, starting in 2024-25 and \$5.7 million in future years.
- The Child Care Expansion Loan Program will offer \$1 billion in low-cost loans and \$60 million in non-repayable contributions to public and not-for-profit childcare providers to build more childcare spaces and renovate their existing centres.
- The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's expertise in financing capital projects will result in a fast roll-out of the program and enable synergies between childcare infrastructure and housing development.
- Budget 2024 also proposes to reallocate up to \$41.5 million over four years, starting in 2025-26, and up to \$15 million ongoing from within Employment and Social Development Canada to establish a new capacity building program to help providers apply for funding through the Child Care Expansion Loan Program, and to support Early Learning and Child Care research initiatives.

Helping Early Childhood Educators

Early childhood educators are critical to the success of the early learning and childcare system. They help our children learn and grow. That's why the federal government has made fair wages for these educators a cornerstone of its plan and is pushing provinces and territories to raise their wages.

Every community needs more educators, and the government is working to put the right incentives in place to make sure that happens. To increase access to early learning and child care in rural and remote communities and increase training for early childhood educators nationwide:

- Budget 2024 announces the government's intent to introduce legislative amendments to the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act and the Canada Student Loans Act to expand the reach of the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program to early childhood educators who work in rural and remote communities. The cost of these measures is estimated to be \$48 million over four years, starting in 2025-26, and \$15.8 million ongoing.
- Student loan forgiveness will increase the longer an early childhood educator stays in the profession in a rural or remote area. This builds on enhanced student loan forgiveness provided to attract more doctors and nurses to rural and remote communities.
- This is expected to benefit over 3,000 early childhood educators who work in rural and remote communities annually on an ongoing basis.
- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$10 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Employment and Social Development Canada's Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program to increase training for early childhood educators.

Canada-wide \$10-a-Day Childcare

Since its launch in Budget 2021, the federal government's Canada-wide system of C10 affordable early learning and child care has delivered real results for middle-class families and hit key milestones:

- As of April 1, 2024, eight provinces and territories are providing regulated child care for an average of \$10 a day or less, significantly ahead of schedule, and all other provinces have already reduced fees by 50 percent.
- Quebec has been a leader in affordable child care since 1997, and federal investments are creating more than 30,000 new spaces.

- Alongside provinces and territories, we have announced over 100,000 new spaces, well on our way to reaching our goal of creating 250,000 new spaces by March 2026.
- Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care is already reaching 35,000 children in 463 childcare sites in First Nations and Inuit communities, 341 Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve programs, and 134 Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities programs.
- This progress has been made possible by the federal government’s generational investments: In Budgets 2016 and 2017, the federal government invested \$7.5 billion over 11 years, starting in 2017–18, to begin work on establishing an early learning and childcare system to support and create more high-quality, affordable child care spaces across the country, including for Indigenous children living on and off reserve. This funding was made permanent through the 2020 Fall Economic Statement.
- In Budget 2021, the federal government made a historic and transformative investment of \$30 billion over five years and \$8.3 billion ongoing in early learning and child care, including Indigenous early learning and child care.
- In Budget 2022, the federal government provided an additional \$625 million over four years to Employment and Social Development Canada for provinces and territories for an Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund.

In total, since 2021, the federal government has committed more than \$34.2 billion over five years starting in 2021-22, and \$9.2 billion ongoing for affordable child care. Now it’s time for provinces and territories to deliver on their end of the deal.

Savings on Childcare in BC

Progress Towards \$10-a-day	Estimated Federal Funding 2021-22 and 2025-26	Number of New Spaces to be created by March 31, 2026	Estimated Annual Savings per Child in 2024 (Gross)
50 percent on average reduction as of December 2022	\$3.21 billion	30,000 (40,000) by March 31st, 2026	Up to \$6,600

Making it Easier to Save for Your Child’s Education

Helping your child pursue post-secondary education is one of the best investments you can make. But saving enough isn’t easy. To help low-income families afford this, the government created the Canada Learning Bond in 2004. The Canada Learning Bond provides up to \$2,000—without any family contribution necessary.

The only requirement is that you enroll your child. However, many families are simply not aware that their child is entitled to these benefits, and for those who do know, the onus of enrollment can be challenging while raising a family. We don’t think it is fair that families and children are missing out on this support that they are entitled to. Every child should have all the help they can get to pursue a post-secondary education.

- Budget 2024 announces the government’s intention to amend the Canada Education Savings Act to introduce automatic enrolment in the Canada Learning Bond for eligible children who do not have a Registered Education Savings Plan opened for them by the time the child turns four.
- Starting in 2028-29, all eligible children born in 2024 or later would have a Registered Education Savings Plan automatically opened for them and the eligible Canada Learning Bond payments would be auto-deposited in these accounts.
- To ensure that all children can benefit from this simplified process, starting in 2028-29, caregivers of eligible

children born before 2024 would also be able to request that Employment and Social Development Canada open a Registered Education Savings Plan for their child and auto-deposit the eligible Canada Learning Bond payments.

- This will ensure that 130,000 additional children receive the Canada Learning Bond each year through automatic enrolment.
- Budget 2024 also announces the government’s intention to introduce changes to the Canada Education Savings Act to extend the age from 20 to 30 years to retroactively claim the Canada Learning Bond. This would provide those who start their post-secondary education later to benefit from the government’s contribution to their education savings. These measures are expected to cost \$161.9 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$148.8 million ongoing.

The government’s recent efforts to expand automatic tax-filing initiatives will help ensure that more low-income Canadians are able to receive the benefits to which they are entitled, including the Canada Learning Bond.

Adjusted Family Income and Eligibility for the Canadian Learning Bond

Number of Children	Adjusted Income Level
One to three children	Less than and equal to \$53,359
Four children	Less than \$60,205
Five children	Less than \$67,079

Note: Income eligibility threshold for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

After-School Learning

The government’s recent efforts to expand automatic tax-filing initiatives will help ensure that more low-income Canadians are able to receive the benefits to which they are entitled, including the Canada Learning Bond

After-school learning and support, such as mentorship and academic assistance, play an important role in helping students succeed in their academic pursuits, especially for at-risk students. These supports help young people do their best in school and set them up for success in post-secondary, priming them for success in whatever career they may choose.

To help all Canadian students reach their full potential, the government is enhancing financial support for after-school learning so all young Canadians have a fair chance at success, regardless of their background.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$67.5 million over three years to Employment and Social Development Canada, as follows:
- \$9.5 million to Pathways to Education Canada in 2024-25 to support youth in low-income communities helping them graduate from high school and build a successful future.
- \$8 million to Indspire in 2024-25 to continue investing in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people for the long-term benefit of their families and communities.
- \$50 million over two years, starting in 2025-26, for the Supports for Student Learning Program to make sure students have the support they need in their education to help guide them towards their future success.

Coding Skills for Kids

To succeed in the increasingly digital global economy, kids need digital skills. Learning to code from a young age can set kids up for success, particularly as jobs in technology are set to grow exponentially over the coming years and decades. This gives them a fair chance in the economy of the future.

CanCode is a federal program that, since its launch, has helped over 4.5 million students—from kindergarten through grade 12—develop coding and digital skills, priming them for success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. CanCode's programming has also equipped over 200,000 teachers with the tools they need to help their students learn to code.

Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$39.2 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to advance the next phase of CanCode.

Boosting Research, Innovation and Productivity

- \$2.4 billion to support access to computing power and investment in Canada's computing infrastructure to ensure Canadian researchers and AI start-ups and scale-ups have the resources they need to grow in Canada. These investments would also support AI adoption, safety, and skills training.
- \$3.5 billion in strategic research infrastructure and federal research support to ensure Canada's researchers can reach their potential, strengthen Canada's fundamental research capacity, and develop a new generation of talent.
- Increasing financial support for graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, as well as developing ways to help researchers obtain jobs with businesses that need specialized talent to ensure Canada's top science talents play a critical role in shaping Canada's research and industrial capacity for years to come.
- Reviewing ways to modernize the Scientific Research & Experimental Development tax incentives and further capitalizing the program with \$600 million over four years and \$150 million per year ongoing to boost research and innovation.

Building More Student Housing

As universities and colleges expand and attract more students, the demand for student housing is going up. Not every campus is equipped, and that means some students are struggling to afford local rents. Student demand puts pressure on locals. Building more student housing is good for young people and ensures a fair rental market for everyone.

To encourage the construction of a wide variety of much-needed long-term rental housing that meets Canadians' needs, the federal government removed 100 percent of GST from new rental housing built specifically for long-term rental accommodation. However, student residences, given their typically shorter-term and transient nature, may not currently meet the conditions for this rebate.

- Budget 2024 announces that the eligibility conditions for the removal of GST on new student residences will be relaxed for not-for-profit universities, public colleges, and school authorities. This will incentivize Canada's educational institutions to build more student housing by ensuring they benefit from the removal of GST on new student residences. This measure is expected to cost \$19 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, and \$5 million per year ongoing.
- The relaxed eligibility will apply to new student residences that begin construction on or after September 14, 2023, and before 2031 and that complete construction before 2036. Private institutions will not be eligible for this support.

This measure builds on the government's new reform to allow on- and off-campus student housing projects to access the \$55 billion Apartment Construction Loan Program.

Housing Support for Youth

Stabilizing International Student Intake to Alleviate Housing Pressures

To ensure every Canadian student can find an affordable place to live while pursuing their education, the federal government is taking action to stabilize international student intake across the country. By better aligning temporary immigration pressures to a moderate pace, Canada can ensure a better capacity to welcome newcomers.

In January 2024, the government announced a new cap on the number of study permit applications, which is expected to decrease approved study permits by up to 28 percent in 2024 for the groups included under the cap. The government also announced new eligibility criteria for the Post-Graduation Work Permit. This will help ease housing demand growth while also protecting international students from fraudulent institutions and unsafe living conditions.

This builds on the government's announcement last fall to reform the International Student Program. As committed in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement, by Fall 2024, the government will launch a new Recognized Institutions Framework to reward post-secondary institutions with high standards around selecting, supporting—including by providing access to housing—and retaining international students.

Taken together, the measures aim to ensure post-secondary students receive the support they need for success and balance the pressures on student housing by aligning the number of students arriving in Canada with the number of available homes. By alleviating student housing pressures, generations of Canadians and international students today and tomorrow will have a more affordable pathway to getting a good education.

Credit for Paying Rent

Every month, millions of Canadian renters pay their rent in full and on time. The government thinks that should count towards their credit worthiness when applying for their first mortgage, seeking to refinance a mortgage, and in many other situations that require credit evaluations. For young Canadians and newcomers to Canada, this is even more important as they have a more difficult time establishing credit history.

More Gen Z and Millennials are renting today than the generations that came before them. Over 54 percent of people between 25 and 34 years old are renters—and that number jumps to 81 percent for people under 24 years old. In comparison, 25 percent of Canadians between 55 and 64 years old are renters today. By making renters' payments count, we can help younger Canadians get ahead.

In Budget 2024, the government is setting a firm expectation with lenders, through its strengthened Canadian Mortgage Charter, to take a renter's on-time payment history into account when performing credit evaluations for mortgage applications.

- Budget 2024 announces that the government is calling on banks, fintechs, and credit bureaus to prioritize launching tools that allow renters to opt-in to reporting their rent payment history to credit bureaus, strengthening their credit scores and unlocking pathways for more renters to become homeowners.

Protecting Renters' Rights

Renters face unique challenges in ensuring that their homes are properly maintained and that their landlords follow provincial laws. Renters can have a hard time navigating different provincial laws and lack resources to fight disputes with landlords—whether it concerns faulty heating, an illegal rent increase, or an illegal eviction. Tenant organizing and legal services can help renters.

When renters' rights are upheld, it gives people stability and housing security. They can stay in their homes and in their community—taking their kids to the same schools, being close to the same parks, and staying in the same job. It also

gives them bargaining power, helping them keep their rent affordable.

The federal government is committed to protecting tenant rights and ensuring that renting a home is fair, open, and transparent.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$15 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, for a new Tenant Protection Fund, which will provide funding to organizations that provide legal and informational services to tenants, as well as for tenants' rights advocacy organizations to raise awareness of renters' rights.
- Budget 2024 also proposes a new Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights to be developed and implemented in partnership with provinces and territories to protect renters from unfair practices, make leases simpler, and increase price transparency. The government intends to crack down on renovations, introduce a nationwide standard lease agreement, and require landlords to disclose historical rent prices of apartments.

Cracking Down on Short-Term Rentals

Homes are for Canadians to live in, not speculative assets for investors. The short-term rentals listed on platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO are keeping 18,900 homes off the market in Montréal, Toronto, and Vancouver alone, based on estimates from 2020, meaning families, students, workers, and seniors are having to compete for fewer homes.

In the 2023 Fall Economic Statement, the federal government proposed tax changes to unlock Canada's housing supply for Canadians to live in. These changes would incentivize the return of non-compliant short-term rentals to the long-term market and support the work of provinces and territories that have restricted short-term rentals.

These changes would apply as of January 1, 2024, to deny income tax deductions on income earned from short-term rentals that do not comply with the relevant provincial or municipal laws. By denying income tax deductions, the government is removing the profit incentive for short-term rental operators.

Provinces, including Quebec and British Columbia, and municipalities such as Toronto, Montréal, and Vancouver, have already taken action to return short-term rentals to the long-term market for Canadians to live in. To support municipalities' work to unlock homes for Canadians, the federal government is committed to launching a \$50 million short-term rental enforcement fund. The government is currently engaging with stakeholders to design a program that will be responsive to municipal needs and will announce further details later this year.

Converting Underused Federal Offices Into Homes

Like many organizations in Canada and around the world, the federal government shifted to hybrid work sparked by the pandemic. Today, Public Services and Procurement Canada has over 6 million square metres of office space, of which an estimated 50 percent is underused or entirely vacant. This is not an effective use of resources, particularly at a time when Canada is facing a shortage of homes.

The federal government is moving forward with a significant disposal effort to reduce its office footprint. This would enable more office buildings, particularly in urban areas, to be converted into homes for Canadians while also ensuring the responsible use of government resources.

Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$1.1 billion over ten years, starting in 2024-25, to Public Services and Procurement Canada to reduce its office portfolio by 50 percent. This funding, which is expected to be fully recovered through substantial short—and long-term cost savings, will help to accelerate the ending of leases and disposal of underused federal properties and address deferred maintenance. Where applicable, the government will prioritize student and non-market housing in the unlocking of federal office properties.

Reducing the federal office footprint will generate substantial savings, expected to reach \$3.9 billion over the next ten years and \$0.9 billion per year.

Building Apartments, Bringing Rents Down

Building rental homes requires significant investment, even more so when interest rates and land prices are high, as in recent years. Access to low-cost financing can help homebuilders move a rental project from being financially unfeasible to feasible. To help more apartment buildings break ground, the government is investing heavily in its low-cost construction financing programs, ensuring homebuilders have the financing needed to keep building.

The Apartment Construction Loan Program plays a crucial role in filling Canada's housing supply shortage by providing developers with the necessary capital to build rental homes. This support accelerates the development of apartments in neighbourhoods where people want to live and work. This is good for people, good for communities, and good for our economy.

- To build more rental apartments faster, Budget 2024 announces an additional \$15 billion in new loan funding, starting in 2025-26, for the Apartment Construction Loan Program, bringing the program's total to over \$55 billion. This investment will help build more than 30,000 additional new homes across Canada, bringing the program's total contribution to over 131,000 new homes supported by 2031-32.
 - Of this amount, at least \$100 million will be used to build homes above existing shops and businesses, especially in big cities where land is scarce and where density is key.
- To increase access to the program and make it easier for builders to build, Budget 2024 announces new reforms to the Apartment Construction Loan Program. These reforms include:
 - Extending the terms of the loans offered;
 - Extending access to financing to include housing projects for students and seniors;
 - Introducing a portfolio approach so builders can move forward on multiple projects at once;
 - Providing additional flexibility on affordability, energy efficiency, and accessibility requirements; and,
 - Launching a new frequent builder stream to fast-track the application process for proven home builders.

These measures will make it easier, cheaper, and faster to build homes in Canada. For students, it will mean getting the keys to their first home and living close to campus. For young families, it will mean getting a good home near work, opportunity, and in a vibrant neighbourhood. And for seniors, it will mean an affordable place where you can downsize with security and dignity.

Federal financing is complemented by the government's community-building funding, from more early learning and child care spaces to housing-enabling infrastructure funding. This is how we build more affordable, liveable communities.

Mental Health

Kids Help Phone

The mental health challenges facing young people, particularly Gen Z, have only grown more complex in recent years, whether it is from problems at home, online, or at school. Their emotional and mental health needs require a competent, understanding, and sympathetic ear.

Kids Help Phone is Canada's only 24/7 e-mental health service, offering free, confidential support to young people in English, French, and 100 other languages. Because every child deserves the best start in life, the government is investing to ensure Kids Help Phone is there for any younger Canadian who needs it.

Launching a New Youth Mental Health Fund

Young Canadians are facing high levels of stress and mental health challenges, including depression and anxiety. Many of them are still in school or just starting their careers and are struggling with the costs of private mental health care. The rising cost of living has further exacerbated this issue. Our government remains committed to ensuring that future generations have the access they need for mental health support so that they can have a healthy start to adulthood.

- Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$500 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, to create a new Youth Mental Health Fund to help younger Canadians access the mental health care they need.

The new Youth Mental Health Fund will help community health organizations provide more care for younger Canadians and better equip these organizations to refer youth to other mental health services within their networks and partnerships. Youth must have what they need to build a happy, healthy adult start. Mental health care is an essential part of ensuring every young Canadian can reach their full potential, which also helps Canada's economy reach its full potential.

Work Placement

The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program

The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy's programs (Canada Summer Jobs and the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program) served 141,262 youth in 2022-23 and supported them such as skills development, training, and work experiences.

In our community, organizations like the Camp Jubilee, the Down Syndrome Research Foundation and the Burnaby Neighbourhood House have received funding to create jobs for young students in our community. These programs are 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 1200 jobs for students in the last few years around Burnaby and North Vancouver.

The Student Work Placement Program

The Student Work Placement Program, which in 2022-23 created 51,711 work-integrated placement opportunities (co-ops, internships) for post-secondary students related to their field of study.

Protecting Children from Online Harm

Social media is simply a fact of life today; it is with us in our pockets wherever we go. While online platforms offer connection, they are also becoming increasingly filled with hate and risks of harm. Our children are spending more and more time online.

Social media and other online platforms need to do more to keep our children safe from being deceived, exploited, and taken advantage of by those with malicious motives. No child should ever fall victim to bullying, threats, or predators, but online platforms are failing to protect our children from known harms that exist online. Online platforms are failing to protect our most vulnerable and must do more to ensure harmful content is not being prioritized and served to our children. We must ensure online platforms are safe places that enable the participation, connection, and freedom of expression of all Canadians, particularly the youngest generations.

Budget 2024 proposes to provide \$52 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$2.1 million in remaining amortization, to Canadian Heritage and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to protect children and all Canadians by subjecting large online platforms to a duty to act responsibly, ensuring that the platforms are reducing a user's exposure to harmful content online and by creating a Digital Safety Commission to ensure this duty is being adequately met. The government will also establish a Digital Safety Ombudsperson to be a resource and advocate for users and victims of online harm.

Budget 2024 also proposes to provide \$2.5 million in 2024-25 to Public Safety Canada to support the important work of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection in preventing and responding to online child sexual exploitation. Of this, \$1.5 million will be sourced from existing resources.

Canada Child Benefit for Grieving Families

Grieving families should not be worried about their finances during the most difficult of life circumstances. However, some families who have lost a child may currently receive correspondence from the government requiring them to repay any Canada Child Benefit amount received after their child's death.

To support parents who have lost a child, the government is providing new support through the Canada Child Benefit to ensure they can focus on what matters most—healing.

- In recognition of the burdens on grieving parents, Budget 2024 announces the government's intention to amend the Income Tax Act to continue to pay the Canada Child Benefit for six months after a child's death, as of January 2025.

This proposed change is expected to cost \$15 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, and \$4 million per year ongoing.

Get Involved Youth Council

Hearing the input of young Canadians is a top priority for us because knowing your priorities is the only way we can deliver for you. That is why the Prime Minister, Members of the Cabinet, and our office have each created Youth Councils. These councils allow young Canadians to speak directly with national leaders about the policies and issues they care about the most. Individuals between the ages of 15 and 25 are encouraged to join, as it is a wonderful way to add your voice to our national conversation. At our youth council, we have connected our members with leaders such as Premier David Eby, Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley, and Federal Housing Minister Ahmed Hussen. To be eligible to apply, you must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or protected person between 16 and 24 on the closing day of the recruitment campaign.

Making it Easier for Youth to Participate in our Democracy

Young people's participation is central to the health of our democracy. That is why we supported the Elections Modernization Act, which facilitated Elections Canada's ability to hire youth aged 16-17. Our government also established the Register of Future Electors in 2019, so any Canadian over the age of 14 can pre-register to vote, which removes the most significant barrier to first-time voters.



Our Constituency Youth Council is formed at the beginning of each academic year to bring the ideas of 15 to 25-year-olds directly to us. We are always interested in having new members join, so don't hesitate to contact our office if you want to contribute.