



# EQUALITY GROWTH

## A Strong Middle Class



Canada's greatest strength is the diversity of our people. To succeed in a rapidly changing world, our diversity needs to be reflected in our economy, giving every Canadian a real and fair chance at success. Although Canadian women today are among the best educated in the world, they earn less than men, are less likely to participate in the labour market than men, and are more likely to work part time.

Closing these gaps and giving women equal opportunities to succeed won't just ensure strong economic growth—it will also encourage a more inclusive dialogue on the questions that will shape our future, and improve the quality of life of our families and communities. Simply put, when women have the support and opportunities to fully contribute to Canada's economy, the entire economy does better.

In Budget 2018, the Government is taking the next steps in its plan to create good, well-paying jobs, strengthen the middle class, and grow the economy. By promoting equality, providing greater opportunity for people working hard to succeed, equipping Canadians with the skills for tomorrow's economy, and promoting fundamental fairness for all Canadians, the Government is empowering everyone—women and men in all their diversity—to help build a stronger Canada that benefits us all.

### MEASURES

Because of the hard work, ingenuity and creativity of Canadians, unemployment is nearing record lows, the economy has created nearly 600,000 new jobs over the last two years, and last year Canada led the Group of Seven (G7) countries in economic growth. Through Budget 2018, the Government is building on this achievement with concrete measures that will create an even stronger economy—one where all Canadians have the opportunity to succeed and make the most of their talents.

### MORE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED IT

#### Introducing the New Canada Workers Benefit

Canadians working hard to join the middle class deserve to have their hard work rewarded with greater opportunities for success. In Budget 2018, the Government is introducing the new Canada Workers Benefit (CWB), a tax benefit that will allow low-income workers to keep more of their paycheque. Building on the former Working Income Tax Benefit, the new CWB

# EQUALITY + GROWTH

will encourage more people to join the workforce, and offer real help to more than two million Canadians who are working hard to join the middle class, raising around 70,000 Canadians out of poverty. Starting in 2019, the CWB will increase both maximum benefits and the income level at which the benefit is phased out. As a result, a low-income worker earning \$15,000 would receive up to almost \$500 more from the CWB in 2019 than in 2018 to invest in the things that are important to them. Everyone who can benefit from the new CWB will benefit when they file their taxes. As a result, an estimated 300,000 additional low-income workers will receive the new CWB for the 2019 tax year. Combined with previous enhancements, the Government is investing almost \$1 billion in new funding per year in helping low-income workers get ahead.

## **Strengthening the Canada Child Benefit**

By giving more help to the families that need it most, including a large number of families led by single mothers, the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is helping them invest in the things that give children a good start in life—like a safe place to live, healthy food, music lessons or sports camps. Over 3.3 million families are receiving more than \$23 billion in annual CCB payments. A single mom of two children aged 5 and 8 with a net income of \$35,000 in 2016 is receiving \$11,125 in tax-free CCB payments in the 2017–18 benefit year—\$3,535 more than she would have received under the previous child benefit system. Overall, single mothers are receiving roughly \$1.8 billion more in benefits annually under the CCB. With this support, the CCB has helped lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty. As announced in the 2017 Fall Economic Statement, the Government will strengthen the CCB to make sure it keeps up with the rising cost of living, starting in July 2018.

## **Improving Access to the Canada Child Benefit and Other Benefits for Indigenous Communities**

Through Budget 2018, the Government is taking action to help ensure that everyone who qualifies for support receives it. The Government recognizes that Indigenous communities—and in particular remote and northern Indigenous communities—face distinct barriers to accessing federal benefits such as the CCB. To close this gap, with Budget 2018 the Government will expand outreach efforts to all on-reserve, remote

and northern Indigenous communities, and pilot outreach activities for urban Indigenous communities, so that Indigenous Peoples are better able to access the full range of federal social benefits, including the CCB.

## **ADDRESSING THE GENDER WAGE GAP**

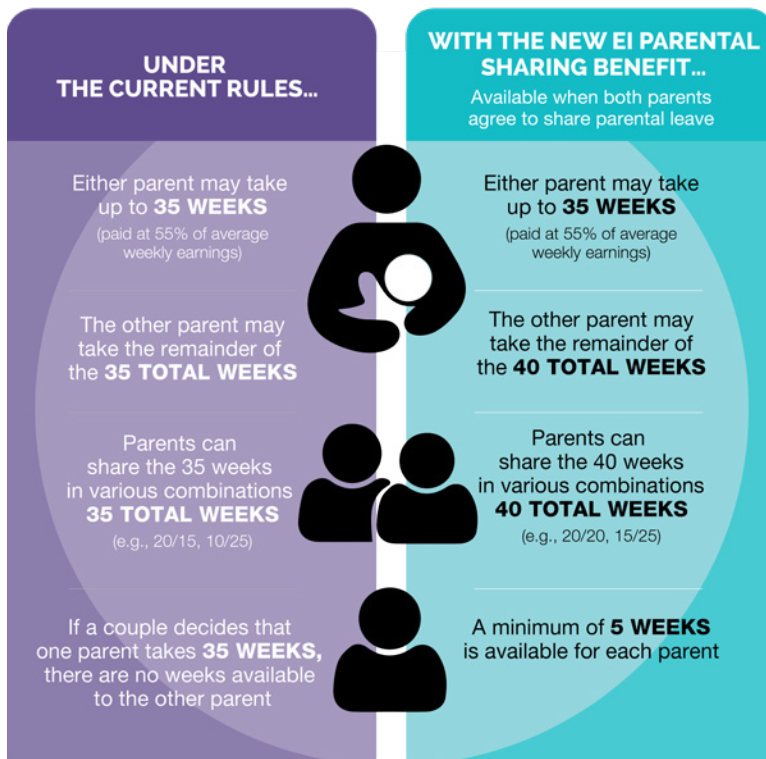
Today, women earn 31 per cent less than men on an annual basis, and on average about 12 per cent less in the hourly wage paid for full-time work. Studies show that by closing the wage gap between women and men, Canada's economic growth would jump significantly. Through Budget 2018, the Government of Canada is leading by example and putting in place measures to address the gender wage gap by shining a light on pay practices in the federally regulated sector and moving forward with a proactive pay equity regime that will be tabled later this fall. This robust pay equity regime will cover businesses and organizations operating within the federally regulated sector, applying to around 1.2 million individuals. It will include strong oversight and enforcement, require regular maintenance, and take an innovative approach to ensure that on average, women and men receive the same pay for work of equal value.

## **A NEW PARENTAL SHARING BENEFIT**

For many Canadians, being a parent and raising a family is the most important part of their lives. Employment Insurance (EI) maternity and parental benefits offer vital income support to parents during the critical period in early childhood when they need to take time off work to care for their children. Through Budget 2018, the Government is proposing a new EI Parental Sharing Benefit to support equality in the home and the workplace by providing an additional five weeks of benefits when both parents agree to share parental leave. This measure would also provide greater flexibility—particularly for mothers—to return to work sooner, if they so choose, knowing their family has the support they need.

# EQUALITY + GROWTH

## EI PARENTAL SHARING BENEFIT



### EXTENDED PARENTAL BENEFITS

Equivalent rules would apply to EI extended parental benefits with 61 weeks as the limit for one parent and up to 69 weeks available in total (paid at 33% of average weekly earnings).

## A NEW GENDER RESULTS FRAMEWORK

To better support equality of opportunity, the Government is introducing a new Gender Results Framework to guide future decision-making and to measure our progress in fostering an economy that works for everyone. The Framework has shaped a broad package of new investments in Budget 2018 that better support women and girls, remove barriers to their success and empower them with the skills, education and resources to fully realize their potential.

## SKILLS FOR TOMORROW'S ECONOMY

Canadians are adapting to our rapidly evolving economy by embracing learning as a lifelong commitment. The Government is supporting their efforts by ensuring they have the resources they need to prepare for, find and keep good jobs. Through Budget 2018, the Government is doubling

the work placements for youth through the Canada Summer Jobs program in 2019–20, providing new funding to modernize the Youth Employment Strategy, and introducing a new Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women, a five-year pilot project providing up to \$6,000 over two years to women entering male-dominated Red Seal trades. This, in combination with the Apprenticeship Completion Grant, will provide up to \$8,000 to women completing their apprenticeship training in those often better-paid trades. Underrepresented groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and newcomers, would also benefit from a new Pre-Apprenticeship Program that would help them explore the trades, gain work experience, make informed career choices and develop the skills needed to succeed.

## MAKING EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MORE RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE

The Employment Insurance (EI) program is an important source of support for Canadian workers, providing temporary income to people who have lost their job or have to be absent from work for an extended period of time. In addition to the new EI Parental Sharing Benefit, Budget 2018 proposes a number of measures to ensure EI is there to help Canadians when they need it most. The Government will extend Working While on Claim provisions to maternity and sickness benefits so that mothers and those dealing with an illness or injury have greater flexibility to stage their return to work and keep more of their EI benefits. The Government will also work with key provinces to help workers in seasonal industries most affected by fluctuations in eligibility for EI from year to year and who are unable to find alternative employment in between seasons. This will take the form of both short-term support starting in 2017–18, as well as pilot projects that will be developed and implemented in partnership with provinces over the next two years.



# EQUALITY + GROWTH

## ENHANCING TAX FAIRNESS

A fair tax system is the foundation for a stronger middle class and a growing economy, giving Canadians the confidence that their hard work will be rewarded and supporting investments in new and better opportunities that benefit everyone. The Government has taken decisive action towards a fairer tax system by raising taxes on the wealthiest one per cent while cutting taxes for the middle class, providing nine million Canadians with more money to save or spend on things they need. At the same time, Budget 2018 continues to advance efforts to crack down on overseas tax evasion.

## SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES WHILE ENSURING TAX FAIRNESS

Canadian small businesses have more money to invest and grow thanks to the Government's proposed reduction of the small business tax rate to 10 per cent, effective January 1, 2018, and to 9 per cent, effective January 1, 2019. This tax reduction will provide businesses with more money to invest, grow and create jobs. Budget 2018 takes the next steps to ensure that the low rate is working to help businesses grow, not give a tax advantage to a very small number of wealthy Canadians.

## STRENGTHENING TRADE

Middle class growth and economic success depend not only on the hard work of Canadians, but also on the opportunities created by strengthening our trade connections in an increasingly globalized world. Through Budget 2018, the Government is committed to deepening Canada's trade relationships with modern, progressive free trade agreements, including a firm commitment to advancing a new and modernized North American Free Trade Agreement, maximizing new opportunities offered by the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, the signing of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and the pursuit of new relationships with other large and emerging markets.



## + GROWTH

**"In Budget 2018, the Government is taking the next steps in its plan to create good, well-paying jobs, strengthen the middle class, and grow the economy."**



# + PROGRESS

## **PROGRESS: SUPPORTING CANADA'S RESEARCHERS TO BUILD A MORE INNOVATIVE ECONOMY**

### **Next Steps in the Innovation and Skills Plan**

The world is shifting to a knowledge-based global economy, driven by the creation of ideas and their translation into commercial value.

To support this transformation, the Government is making historic investments through Budget 2018 to support the next generation of researchers, and providing researchers with the cutting-edge equipment needed to make scientific breakthroughs and drive innovation. This includes strengthening scientific research in Canada in a way that reflects our diversity, including support for the next generation of women, members of visible minorities and Indigenous researchers.

Building on its Innovation and Skills Plan, the Government is transforming and re-tooling Canada's innovation programs, rules and regulations to better support Canada's innovators.

## **MEASURES**

### **Investing in Canadian Researchers**

We have always understood that better is possible, and time after time we have used curiosity, courage, creativity and collaboration to create positive change for ourselves—and the world. But progress does not happen without commitment and effort. Since the release of the recommendations of the Fundamental Science Review, the Government has heard the strong and united message from Canada's research community on the importance of investing in the future of Canadian research. With Budget 2018, the Government of Canada is making significant new investments to support Canada's researchers and innovators. These investments are not simply to enhance the status quo. In recognition of the historic opportunity for real change, investments made through Budget 2018 will be tied to clear objectives and conditions so that Canada's next generation of researchers is larger, more diverse and better supported.

### **Granting Councils**

Canada's three granting councils are arm's-length organizations that provide federal funding for the work of researchers at post-secondary institutions and research hospitals. In Budget 2018, the Government is proposing a historic investment to support this work—the largest amount of new funding for fundamental research through the granting councils in decades. This will provide increased support and training opportunities for about 21,000 researchers, students and high-quality personnel across Canada.

## **Canada Research Chairs**

To attract and retain leading researchers at post-secondary institutions across the country, the Government is proposing new funding for the Canada Research Chairs program. This funding will provide more flexibility to improve the program so that it better meets researchers' priorities. The investment will support early-career researchers, while increasing diversity, including increasing the number of women who are nominated for Canada Research Chairs.

## **Supporting Colleges and Polytechnics**

Colleges and polytechnics actively collaborate with small and medium-sized businesses in their communities to solve business challenges. Through Budget 2018, the Government will increase support for collaborative innovation projects involving businesses, colleges and polytechnics through the College and Community Innovation Program.

## **Investing in the Equipment Researchers Need**

To ensure that Canada's researchers have the tools they need to make scientific breakthroughs and drive innovation, the Government is taking a significant step to provide ongoing, stable funding to the Canada Foundation for Innovation with investments in research infrastructure. Better equipment and laboratories will allow Canadian researchers to make discoveries in areas like new composite materials for jets and cars, new diagnostic techniques for childhood diseases, and new methods for cracking the quantum computing challenge. This will include support for national science facilities that make international-calibre research possible in Canada.

## **Big Data**

Big data has become an essential tool for scientific progress, underpinning world-class research across all disciplines. It provides the information that can lead to new ways of addressing scientific challenges like medical researchers in genomics using advanced research computing to analyze genetic sequences to look for DNA-related changes that might cause cancer or dementia. Through Budget 2018, the Government is providing funding in support of a Digital Research Infrastructure Strategy to deliver more open and equitable access to advanced computing and big data resources for researchers across Canada.

## **STRONGER AND MORE COLLABORATIVE FEDERAL SCIENCE**

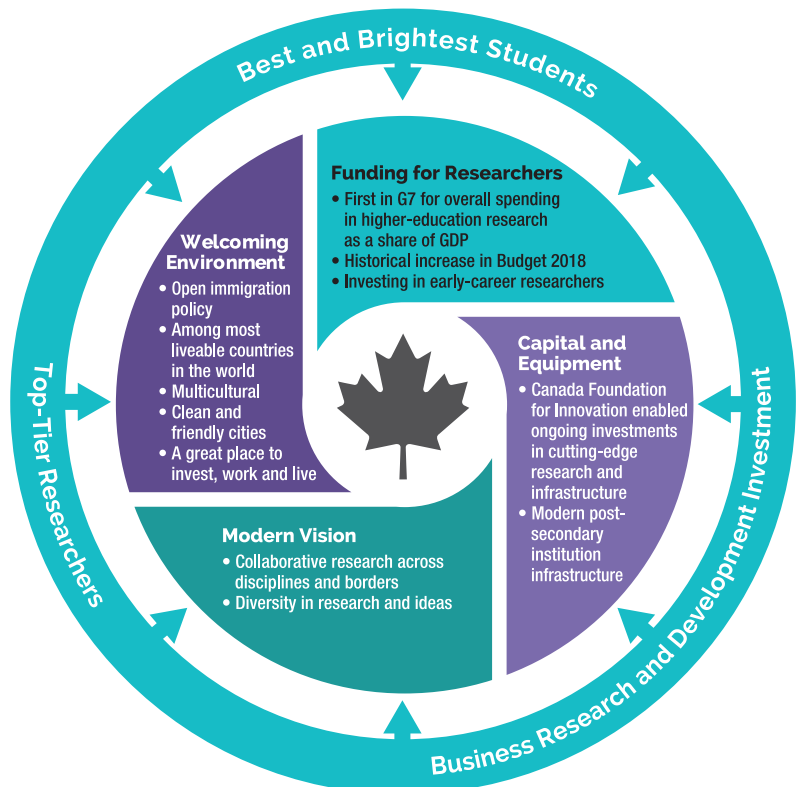
### **Helping Businesses and Academics Work Together**

The National Research Council's (NRC's) world-class scientists help advance Canadian businesses through cutting-edge innovation and reinforce Canada's research capabilities and strengths. Their facilities, expertise and networks help convene strategic, large-scale national teams committed to innovation. Budget 2018 will help to lower the cost of partnering with the NRC so more small and medium-sized enterprises, colleges and universities are able to make use of its services. The Government will also create more opportunities for NRC researchers to collaborate with innovators on multi-party research and development programs, and to pursue breakthrough research.

### **Supporting Federal Science and Technology Facilities**

Thousands of scientists and a network of federal laboratories reinforce Canada's research capabilities

## **CANADA IS A BEACON TO RESEARCHERS AROUND THE WORLD**



and strengths, including through collaborations with post-secondary institutions and businesses. Through Budget 2018, the Government is supporting the renewal of federal science by launching the first phase in an ambitious plan to rebuild federal laboratories. These coordinated investments will create greater opportunity for collaboration across government and within the wider research system.

## **A MORE RELIABLE PARTNER FOR BUSINESS**

The Innovation and Skills Plan launched a review of all innovation programs that serve the business community, in an effort to make the services more responsive to their needs, more efficient and better able to promote business growth. Through Budget 2018, the Government is announcing the next steps in a historic reform of business innovation programs to create a simpler suite that is easy to navigate and will further strengthen the one-stop shop for Canadian businesses—Innovation Canada—to get the information they need to grow, create jobs and drive our economy forward. While total overall funding for innovation programming will increase, the total number of business innovation programs will be streamlined by up to two-thirds. Additional funding will also be provided to regional development agencies in order to help businesses scale up and take advantage of growth opportunities.

### **Women Entrepreneurs**

To face today's challenges and grow our economy in a way that benefits everyone, Canada must fully access the talents, energies and creativity of all Canadians. With a new strategy for women entrepreneurs focused on skills and access to mentorship, capital and networking opportunities, Budget 2018 will empower women to more fully contribute to, and benefit from, a growing economy. These investments will help more

women-owned companies grow into world-class businesses to continue driving economic growth that benefits all. As part of this strategy, the Government will set an objective of increasing the participation of women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in federal procurement so that they constitute at least 15 per cent of SMEs supplying the Government of Canada.

## **MAKING IT EASIER FOR INNOVATORS AND ENTREPRENEURS TO DO BUSINESS**

### **Protecting Canadian Intellectual Property**

In a knowledge-based economy, the Government must help to protect the ideas of Canadian innovators and entrepreneurs. Ensuring Canadian intellectual property rules are up to date and reflect the world we live in is fundamental to creating and retaining wealth generated from Canada's research, development, talent and training. In Budget 2018, the Government is announcing elements of a new intellectual property strategy to help Canadian companies better protect and access ideas to grow and succeed. The Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development will announce details of the strategy in the coming months.

### **Simpler and Better Procurement**

As one of the biggest customers for Canadian businesses, companies have long asked the federal government to improve its relationship with suppliers—to make opportunities easier to find, simpler to navigate and faster to award, with less administrative burden. Government procurement is heavily paper-based and offers limited self-serve options for suppliers. The Government, through Budget 2018, will establish a new electronic procurement platform to help Canadian small and medium-sized companies better access opportunities to do business with the Government.



## **SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS TO BUILD A MORE INNOVATIVE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

As innovators, Canadians seek answers to difficult questions, and look for new ways to apply what we've learned. The desire to understand how the human heart works led to pioneering efforts in open-heart surgery, and the invention of the artificial pacemaker. Curiosity about how we learn and think led to breakthroughs in machine learning and artificial intelligence—discoveries that help us to navigate traffic with the help of our smartphones today, and will help us get to work and school in self-driving cars in the future.

This spirit of innovation that Canadians share helped to create the industries and jobs that strengthened and grew Canada's middle class. Today, that same drive to innovate creates new jobs and export opportunities in growing industries as it transforms jobs in existing ones. That means new and exciting job prospects for workers, and better opportunities for our children.

In Budget 2017, the Government launched the Innovation and Skills Plan—an ambitious effort to make Canada a world-leading centre for innovation—to help create more good, well-paying jobs and help strengthen and grow the middle class.

In Budget 2018, the Government is taking the next steps in transforming Canada's innovation programs—making them easier to access and to use, and expanding support for Canadian companies that want to scale up and take their innovations to markets around the world.



## **+ PROGRESS**

**“Building on its Innovation and Skills Plan, the Government is transforming and re-tooling Canada’s innovation programs, rules and regulations to better support Canada’s innovators.”**





# **+ RECONCILIATION**

## **ADVANCING RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

It is unacceptable that anyone living in Canada should not be able to safely drink the water that comes out of their taps. No person should be forced to live in overcrowded and unsafe homes, and no young person should have to move far from home to get a good education. Yet, all over Canada, these are exactly the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples, non-Indigenous Canadians and the Government agree that this must change. Together, Canada and Indigenous Peoples are forging a new relationship, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.

### **MEASURES**

#### **Clean and Safe Drinking Water**

The Government is committed to eliminating all long-term drinking water advisories on public water systems on reserve by March 2021. As of February 12, 2018, 52 long-term drinking water advisories on public water systems have been lifted. Through Budget 2018, the Government is building on investments of previous budgets, with new funding to accelerate the construction of new water systems and renovate existing ones. With these investments, the Government will ensure that more affected water systems will become functional earlier than 2021. New investments would also support efforts to recruit and train water operators—as well as establish innovative First Nations-led service delivery models.

#### **Ensuring That Indigenous Children Are Safe and Supported**

Indigenous children under the age of 14 make up less than eight per cent of all children in Canada, yet they represent more than half of the children living in foster care in private homes in the country. This needs to change. The Government is committed to helping Indigenous children and families to be safe and

supported within their communities. With Budget 2018, the Government is proposing to increase support for First Nations service providers and support prevention, well-being, and family preservation efforts within communities.

#### **Distinctions-Based Housing**

Safe, adequate and affordable housing is essential, but for too many Indigenous Peoples, this remains out of reach. Nearly one in five Indigenous people live in housing that is in need of major repairs, and one in five also live in housing that is overcrowded. Indigenous leaders have told the Government that when it comes to housing in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities, the best approach is one that respects the distinct needs of each Indigenous group. The Government agrees. To address these issues, the Government is providing new, distinctions-based support through Budget 2018 for a First Nations-led housing strategy, an Inuit-led housing plan and the Métis Nation's housing strategy.

#### **Healthier Communities**

There are significant gaps in health between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Infant mortality rates for First Nations and Inuit children are

# + RECONCILIATION

up to three times higher than in the Canadian population. Suicide rates among First Nations youth is up to seven times higher. And the prevalence of tuberculosis in the Inuit population was 270 times the rate for the Canadian-born, non-Indigenous population in 2015. We must bridge these gaps. The Government, through Budget 2018, is enhancing the delivery of culturally appropriate addictions treatment and prevention services in communities with high needs, responding to high rates of tuberculosis in Inuit communities, and supporting access to First Nations-controlled quality health care, all of which would lead to improved Indigenous health.

## Skills and Employment

Indigenous Peoples are less likely to be employed than non-Indigenous Canadians, and typically earn less. These ongoing employment gaps must be addressed to improve the potential for Indigenous Peoples to fully participate in the economy and strengthen their communities. The Government has consulted with Indigenous leadership and recognizes the importance of a distinctions-based approach. To this end, the Government is announcing through Budget 2018 the creation of a new Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program, which would provide distinctions-based support for First Nations, the Métis Nation and Inuit, as well as urban and non-affiliated Indigenous Peoples. These investments will support Indigenous Peoples to develop employment skills and pursue training for lasting employment.

## Supporting the Recognition of Rights

Canada has advanced a number of modern treaties and agreements since the 1970s, but in many cases, the pace of progress has been slow. Negotiations can take a decade or more, and Indigenous communities are forced to take on debt in order to participate. Through Budget 2018, the Government is taking new steps to increase the number of modern treaties and self-determination agreements, in a manner that reflects a recognition of rights approach. As part of this new approach, the Government will replace the use of loans with non-repayable contributions to fund Indigenous participation in the negotiation of modern treaties. Furthermore,

the Government will engage with affected Indigenous groups on how best to address past and present negotiation loans, including forgiveness of loans.

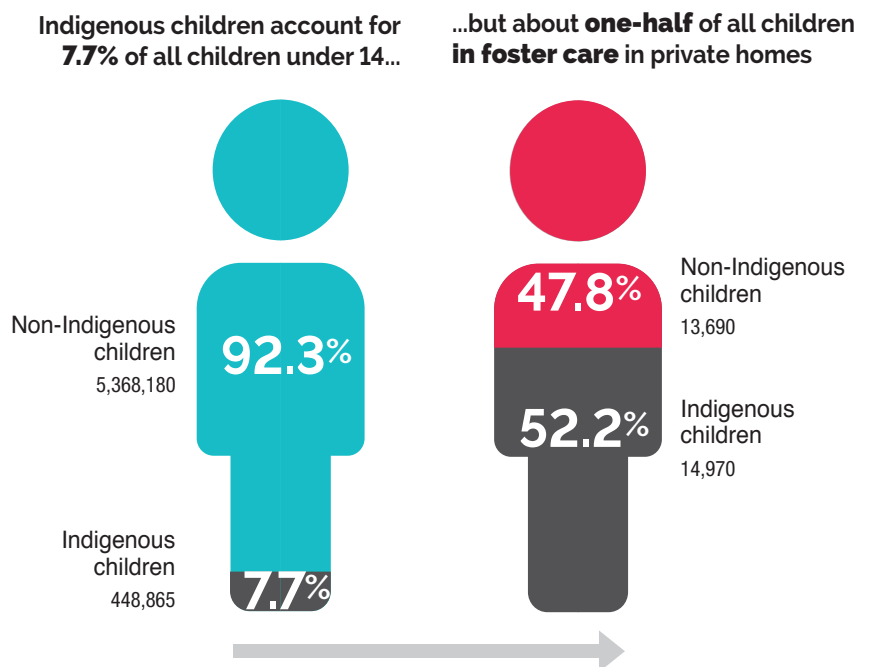
## Helping Indigenous Nations Reconstitute

Indigenous groups are seeking to rebuild their nations in a manner that responds to their priorities and the unique needs of their communities. The Government supports this vital work. Budget 2018 provides new capacity development for Indigenous peoples, to support activities that facilitate their own path to reconstituting their nations.

## Permanent Bilateral Mechanisms

To better serve Indigenous Peoples engaged in the important work of advancing self-government and greater self-determination, the Government created Permanent Bilateral Mechanisms with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation to enable Crown-Indigenous cooperation on annual priority-setting and joint policy development. Through Budget 2018, the Government is proposing increased and ongoing support for

## OVERREPRESENTATION OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE IN PRIVATE HOMES



# RECONCILIATION

the Permanent Bilateral Mechanisms. This will enable the Bilateral Mechanisms to move beyond the first year of initial engagement and allow First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation to work on their own priority projects.

## **New Fiscal Relationship**









The Government recognizes that in order to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and facilitate greater self determination—including self-government—a new fiscal relationship is needed. As a part of this, Budget 2018 provides new funding to better support First Nations communities, to support strong Indigenous institutions and to advance the new fiscal relationship with First Nations. The Government, with First Nations partners, will also conduct a

comprehensive and collaborative review of current federal government programs and funding that support First Nations governance.

This will help ensure that these programs provide communities with sufficient resources to hire and retain the appropriate financial and administrative staff to support good governance, plan for the future and advance their vision of self determination. Through Budget 2018, the Government is also providing support to begin the implementation of new fiscal policy reforms that have been co-developed with self-governing Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This funding will go to support key priorities, including the closing of socio-economic gaps, infrastructure, data collection and governance.

## **WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE CLEAN AND SAFE DRINKING WATER**

**With Budget 2018, the Government is taking further steps towards reconciliation between Canada and Indigenous Peoples. Investments will lead to:**

-  Long-term drinking water advisories on reserve being lifted
-  Communities having access to clean drinking water
-  Indigenous children and families being safe and supported within their communities
-  Better housing for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities
-  Indigenous Peoples receiving the skills training they need to participate in the economy
-  First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation leaders having a permanent forum for joint priority-setting with the Government of Canada
-  Strong Indigenous institutions that play a leading role in the delivery of public services to Indigenous Peoples
-  Sustainable and sufficient health resources available in each community



# + ADVANCEMENT

## ADVANCING OUR SHARED VALUES

Canadians have always worked hard to build a more prosperous future for themselves, their children and their grandchildren. They value Canada's leadership in building a more just world. They understand that their quality of life today—and their economic success tomorrow—rests on the commitments we make to protect Canada's nature, parks and wild spaces, while preserving a clean environment for future generations of Canadians. They are proud of our history of helping vulnerable people around the world, because they know that a safer, more prosperous world means a safer and more prosperous Canada. In Budget 2018, the Government is taking a more focused approach to international assistance, by supporting the full empowerment of women and girls in order to change the world for the better.

## MEASURES

### A Clean Environment for Future Generations

We all want to ensure that our children and grandchildren can continue to hike in our majestic forests and swim in our beautiful lakes, rivers and streams. Budget 2018 proposes one of the largest investments in nature conservation in Canadian history—in order to protect our ecosystems, landscapes and biodiversity, including species at risk. Working in partnership with provinces, territories and Indigenous peoples, this plan will help to conserve 17 per cent of our land and inland waters.

### A Sustainable and Clean Economy That Works for Everyone

A clean environment and a strong economy go hand in hand. Pollution has a real cost and puts stress on the health of communities, the economy, and on Canadians themselves. A central part of Canada's plan to address climate change and grow the economy is the Pan-Canadian Approach to Pricing Carbon Pollution. To ensure that a price on carbon pollution is

in place Canada-wide, Budget 2018 provides funding to support the federal carbon pollution pricing system that would apply in provinces and territories that do not have a carbon pricing policy that meets the federal standard.

### Advancing Gender Equality Around the World

In Budget 2018, the Government is strengthening the impact of Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policy, and advancing Canada's international leadership in key areas. By making major new investments that focus on gender equality and the full empowerment of women and girls, the Government is helping bring about the change we need for a more equitable, prosperous world.

### Protecting Vulnerable Women and Girls

Canada is a global leader when it comes to welcoming newcomers who have fled war or persecution in their home countries. Women and girls represent half of the world's refugee population and face increased risks due to their gender. Many have suffered from sexual violence and exploitation. Through Budget 2018, the



## CANADA'S FEMINIST INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE POLICY



Government is taking action to ensure that Canada welcomes more refugee women and girls from various conflict zones and that we continue to show leadership when providing international assistance to the world's displaced people.

### Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Canada

The Government recognizes that Canada is in the midst of an opioid crisis. In 2016 alone, more than 2,800 Canadian lives were lost to apparent opioid overdoses. The impact of the crisis is being felt in many communities across the country—in inner cities, suburbs, northern and rural communities, as well as in Indigenous communities. Through Budget 2018, the Government provides significant new funding to assist provinces and territories with providing better access to evidence-based treatment services, launches a public education campaign to address stigma that creates barriers for those seeking treatment, and prevents the illegal import of substances.

### Pharmacare: Helping Canadians Get the Medicine They Need

Every year, almost one million Canadians give up food and heat to afford the medicine they need. Those Canadians who can pay for their prescriptions face some of the highest costs among the world's most advanced countries. The high cost of prescription medication means that sometimes sick Canadians must do without. This reality leads to Canadians being

less healthy, and significantly higher health care costs for us all. As part of Budget 2018, the Government is creating an Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare, which will recommend options on how best to move forward together on this important issue to ensure every Canadian has access to the medicine they need. This builds on significant actions taken over the past two years to make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible.

### Getting Ready for the Legalization of Cannabis

The Government has committed to legalize and strictly regulate and restrict access to cannabis, to keep it out of the hands of Canadian children and to keep profits away from criminals and organized crime. To this end, the Government is taking additional steps in preparation for legalization. Through Budget 2018, the Government will ensure that taxes on cannabis products remain low. To help those who rely on medical cannabis, the Government will exempt from excise duties low-THC products, including low-THC cannabidiol oils, which are sometimes used by children facing certain medical conditions, and prescription pharmaceutical products that are derived from cannabis. The Government will also examine options to provide retroactive reimbursement for duties imposed on equivalent products prior to them being given a Drug Identification Number. The Government will also provide additional funding to support community-based organizations and Indigenous organizations that are educating the public on the risks associated with cannabis use.

### Increased Support for Canada's Official Languages

Preserving and protecting Canada's official languages are an important part of what it means to be Canadian. Official language minority communities hold an important shared history and identity. In 2019 Canada will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Official Languages Act. The Government understands the challenges that official language minority communities are facing to maintain and grow their place in Canada. To help meet these challenges, Budget 2018 provides additional funding for the following key initiatives: more vital and sustainable community organizations; the attraction and retention of teachers serving official language communities; improving the quality and accessibility of early learning and child care for families in these communities; enhanced cultural, artistic and heritage activities; supporting French- and English-language minority community radio stations and newspapers; the development of an interactive

application to make it easy to learn English or French as a second language, and improved access to services in English for English-speaking communities of Quebec. Budget 2018 also supports greater access to legal information and services in both official languages.

## **Improving Services at the Canada Revenue Agency**

The Government recognizes that Canadians have been frustrated by frequent busy signals, dropped calls and long wait times at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). To improve telephone services, Budget 2018 proposes funding to hire more agents, monitor feedback from Canadians to improve service, and provide more training to staff so information is more accurate. This will ensure Canadians receive the information they need, when they need it. Furthermore, Budget 2018 proposes to strengthen digital services in order to deliver a more user-friendly experience, as well as expand tax preparation clinics so more Canadians are able to get access to the benefits they are entitled to. The Government will also undertake a comprehensive review of the CRA to ensure that services are delivered in a client-centred way, and that Canadians interacting with the CRA feel like valued clients, not just taxpayers.

## **Protecting Canadians from cyber attacks**

Digital technologies have changed the way Canadians live and how our institutions function. But cyber-attacks are also changing, becoming ever more sophisticated and effective, and have the potential to expose the private information of Canadians and cost Canadian businesses millions of dollars. To help improve the cyber resilience of Canadians when they use digital technologies, and to bolster Canada's cyber security posture, Budget 2018 proposes significant investments. This includes support for Canada's first comprehensive cyber security plan—the National Cyber Security Strategy—and the creation of the Canadian Centre for

Cyber Security and a National Cybercrime Coordination Unit. These investments will help Canadian businesses better prepare for cyber-attacks, and promote better coordination in response to cyber incidents. The Government will work alongside trusted partners in Canada and around the world to proactively address mutual cyber issues and raise the cyber security bar for all Canadians

## **Support for public safety and the women and men who keep Canadians safe**

Canada is an ideal place to raise families and grow businesses. Public confidence in Canadians' safety, security and well-being is vital for an inclusive and peaceful society and a growing economy. Budget 2018 proposes various investments in our public safety institutions to help continue keeping Canadians safe. This includes investments in front-line policing operations, radio equipment for police officers and support for border operations. The Government is also committed to supporting the mental health of public safety officers. Budget 2018 provides support for research on post-traumatic stress injuries among public safety officers, as well as targeted supports for federal police officers.

## **Encouraging safe cross-border economic activity**

As an open and welcoming country and as a trading nation, Canada's borders must be managed in a way that protects Canadians while encouraging cross-border trade and the free flow of goods and people. Budget 2018 maintains this balance by proposing investments that will aid legitimate cross-border traffic, while stopping people and goods posing a threat from entering Canada. The Government is also taking steps to better manage the processing of asylum claimants at the Canada-U.S. border.

## **WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE**

**Through Budget 2018, the Government is making investments that will improve the delivery of services to Canadians, and enhance the security of our country. This will allow:**

- + A clean environment for future generations
- + Progressive Canadian leadership on the world stage
- + A safe and restricted access to cannabis once it is legalized
- + Quicker, more accurate and improved service at the Canadian Revenue Agency
- + Support for Canada's safety and security institutions, and for public safety officers, who keep Canadians safe
- + Smarter borders that allow legitimate travel and commerce, and keep potential threats away
- + Enhanced cyber security for Canadians and Canadian businesses

## **+ ADVANCEMENT**

**"In Budget 2018, the Government is taking a more focused approach to international assistance, by supporting the full empowerment of women and girls in order to change the world for the better."**

