

Highlights of 2021 Federal Budget

On April 19, 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland tabled the 2021 Federal Budget in the House of Commons. This was the first official budget since the COVID-19 pandemic. Budget 2021 was historic in both in size and scope. With more than \$650B in expenditures against \$296B in revenue, the net result is a projected \$354B deficit.

Federal Budget Highlights *Potentially* Impacting CRD & Member Municipalities

1. COVID Response

- \$553M over five years to create BC economic development agency with ongoing support **[specific to BC! economic development, local impacts]**
- \$500M Tourism Relief Fund supporting local business' adaption to meet public health measures **[economic development, local impacts]**
- \$400M to create Community Services Recovery Fund for non-profits to adapt, modernize, and support economic recovery **[non-profit entities, economic development, local impacts]**
- \$500M over two years to regional development agencies for community infrastructure **[local impacts]**
- \$595M for a new Canada Recovery Hiring Program; employers experiencing declining revenue related to COVID, available June 6th to November 20th, 2021 **[business and non-profit entities]**

2. Affordable Housing

- New 1% tax foreign owned vacant or underused residential real estate **[to fund affordable housing initiatives, CRHC, grants]**
- Incremental \$2.5B over seven years to CMHC, including \$1.5 billion for the Rapid Housing Initiative **[CRHC, grants]**
- Incremental \$567M over two years started in 2022 the Reaching Home Program **[CRHC, grants]**
- \$1.9B to extend the Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support until September 25, 2021 **[COVID response, affordable housing]**

3. Environment

- Incremental \$5B over seven years for the Net Zero Accelerator program, supporting projects that reduce GHGs **[Grants, various services across the CRD, climate]**
- In partnership with BC, \$35M to establish the Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy, scale-up and commercialization of clean technologies **[specific to BC!, advocacy partnership opportunities]**
- Creation of the Federal Green Bond with \$5B target to fund green projects **[financing, climate, advocacy]**
- \$67.2M for the Clean Fuel Standard for biofuel producers **[RTF? core service?]**

- \$4.4B in interest-free loans for home energy retrofits **[Grants, various outreach and education programs across the CRD, climate]**
- \$200M over three years to establish a Natural Infrastructure Fund to support natural and hybrid infrastructure projects TO mitigate impacts of climate change **[various services across the CRD, climate]**
- \$10M increase, to Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Program and the Ghost Gear Fund at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to retrieve, dispose of plastic waste, test new technology, etc **[climate, waste]**
- \$1.9B over four years to the National Trade Corridors Fund to spur investments to roads, rail, and shipping routes **[E&N rail if trade/transport route?]**
- \$2.3B to conserve land and inland waters, accelerate new protected areas, and protect priority species at imminent risk **[environment, parks?]**
- Regional Relief and Recovery Fund and the Indigenous Business Initiative programs have been extended to June 30th, 2021 **[FNR, COVID response]**
- \$6B over five years with \$388.9M ongoing invested to support infrastructure in Indigenous communities **[FNR, economic development, capacity building]**
 - \$4.3B over four years for the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund to support shovel-ready infrastructure projects
 - \$1.7B over five years to cover the operations and maintenance costs of community infrastructure **[core sewer?]**

4. *Emergency Management*

- \$1.4B over 12 years to top up the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to support wildfire mitigation, rehabilitation of stormwater systems, and restoration of wetlands and shorelines **[emergency management]**

5. *Support Services*

- Incremental \$27.2B over five years for child care – to be delivered by way of provincial agreement in 50-50 cost sharing **[recreation?]**
- \$3B over five years, starting in 2022 to revamp standards in long-term care homes **[health?]**
- \$10B to extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy until September 25, 2021 **[COVID response, local economic impacts, SMBs]**
- Incremental \$708M over five years to MITACS to create 85,000 work integrated learning providing on-the-job learning **[HR learning & development]**
- Incremental \$100M over 2 years to Enabling Accessibility Fund to enhance accessibility **[health, all CRD facilities]**
- \$470M over three years to Employment and Social Development Canada for a new Apprenticeship Service in construction, manufacturing, Red Seal trades. Employers would be eligible to receive up to \$5,000 for all first-year apprenticeships **[IWS?]**
- \$960M over three years to Employment and Social Development Canada for a new Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program to design and deliver training on how to recruit and retain a diverse workforce **[HR learning & development, ODP, EDI]**

6. *Other Budget Items of Interest*

- \$100M over three years to support innovative mental health interventions **[health]**
- \$50M over two years to support COVID-19 trauma and PTSD programming **[COVID Response, health]**
- \$1.4B over four years for the new Canada Digital Adoption Program to adopt new digital technologies **[COVID Response, economic development]**
- \$2.6B over four years to the Business Development Bank of Canada to help businesses finance technology adoption **[COVID Response]**
- Incremental \$60M over two years to support the Innovation Superclusters Initiative **[COVID Response, economic development]**