



Memorandum

To: IPAC Canada

From: Impact Public Affairs

Subject: 2022 Federal Budget Memorandum

Date: April 8, 2022

General:

Yesterday, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland introduced the first comprehensive budget in several years not to focus mainly on the COVID-19 pandemic and related relief/support measures. The budget reflects the recent confidence and supply agreement between the government Liberals and opposition New Democratic Party, including key planks to that agreement such as a national dental care program.

Recognizing it as a top issue on the minds of Canadian voters, housing measures are a priority component of Budget 2022. This includes a host of programs that invest in building affordable housing, retrofit existing housing stock, create new mechanisms for Canadians to buy a home, and limit the impact of foreign buyers in Canada's housing market.

Another key focus is on increasing defence spending and the modernization of Canada's readiness to combat foreign threats in 2022. This policy focus also includes a number of measures to support Ukraine in its ongoing defence against the Russian invasion, and new pathways to bring Ukrainian immigrants into Canada.

The environment and climate figure prominently in several major new investments, such as a new investment tax credit for carbon capture, utilization, and storage, zero emissions vehicles and related infrastructure, a top-up for the low carbon economy fund, and major new funding for the government's Ocean Protection Plan.

Budget 2022 includes new investments in a number of specific industries and infrastructure priorities for the Trudeau government. Central to this is a new, \$15 billion Canada Growth Fund to attract private sector investment in Canada. Other key announcements are the development of a new R&D investment agency, funding to bolster critical minerals developments, and investments to provide further stability to Canada's supply chains.

Highlights:

IPAC Public Health Measures

- To ensure Canada is better prepared to detect and act on public health threats, Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$436.2 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, with \$15.5 million in remaining amortization, to the Public Health Agency of Canada, to strengthen key surveillance and risk assessment capacities within the Agency. This will include supporting the real-time tracking of the evolution of viruses, monitoring the longer-term health impacts of COVID-19, and expanding risk assessment capacity and research networks for new strains of flu, emerging respiratory infections, and vaccine safety and effectiveness.
- \$50 million in 2022-23 to the Public Health Agency of Canada to support the operations of the National Emergency Strategic Stockpile. Funding will be used to maintain and diversify key medical supply holdings, including personal protective equipment, to ensure that Canada can continue to quickly respond to public health events and other emergencies.

Rural and Remote Health

- Rural Health - \$26.2 million over four years, starting in 2023-24, and \$7 million ongoing, to increase the maximum amount of forgivable Canada Student Loans by 50 per cent. This will mean up to \$30,000 in loan forgiveness for nurses and up to \$60,000 in loan forgiveness for doctors working in underserved rural or remote communities.
- The federal government will expand the current list of eligible professionals under the program, with details to be announced in the coming year. The government is also undertaking a review to ensure that the definition of rural communities under the program does not leave out certain communities in need.

Research

- \$20 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to support additional research on the long-term effects of COVID-19 infections on Canadians, as well as the wider impacts of COVID-19 on health and health care systems.
- \$30 million over three years, starting in 2022-23, to the Public Health Agency of Canada, for the Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation to help accelerate innovations in brain health and aging.

Health Transfers

- The Canada Health Transfer will provide provinces and territories with \$45.2 billion in support—an increase of 4.8 per cent over the baseline for 2021-22. The Canada Health Transfer is projected to provide provinces and territories with \$12 billion more in funding over the next five years than what was expected prior to the pandemic.

Indigenous Health

- \$268 million in 2022-23 to provide high-quality health care in remote and isolated First Nations communities on-reserve.

- \$190.5 million in 2022-23 to Indigenous Services Canada for the Indigenous Community Support Fund to help Indigenous communities and organizations mitigate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

Mental Health

- \$140 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to Health Canada for the Wellness Together Canada portal so it can continue to provide Canadians with tools and services to support their mental health and well-being.
- \$3.7 million over four years, starting in 2022-23, to the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat for Black-led engagement, design, and implementation of a Mental Health Fund for Black federal public servants.
- \$227.6 million over two years, starting in 2022-23, to maintain trauma-informed, culturally-appropriate, Indigenous-led services to improve mental wellness, and to support efforts initiated through Budget 2021 to co-develop distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategies.

Substance Use and Addiction

- \$100 million over three years, starting in 2022-23 to Health Canada for the Substance Use and Addictions Program to support harm reduction, treatment, and prevention at the community level.

Pharmacare

- Commitment to table a Canada Pharmacare bill and work to have it passed by the end of 2023, and then tasking the Canadian Drug Agency to develop a national formulary of essential medicines and bulk purchasing plan.
- An investment of \$35 million over four years for Prince Edward Island to advance the implementation of universal national pharmacare.

Dental Care

- \$5.3 billion over five years, starting in 2022-23, and \$1.7 billion ongoing, to Health Canada to provide dental care for Canadians. This will start with under 12-year-olds in 2022, and then expand to under 18-year-olds, seniors, and persons living with a disability in 2023, with full implementation by 2025. The program would be restricted to families with an income of less than \$90,000 annually, with no co-pays for those under \$70,000 annually in income.