



Memorandum

To: Gerry Hansen, Executive Director – IPAC Canada

From: Impact Public Affairs

Subject: Ontario Budget – March 2021

Date: March 24, 2021

General

Today, Ontario's Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy announced the 2021 Budget: "Protecting People's Health and our Economy," as a plan for restarting the economy and to compliment vaccination efforts. The Ontario Government is presenting this budget amidst different circumstances to the 2020 Budget, as they are now looking ahead to a period where COVID-19 will likely not be the defining feature of policy making. The 2021 Budget is also a statement of intent by Premier Ford as the government indicates its key priorities to Ontario voters moving into an election year in 2022.

To address the economic need for a rebuild after the impacts of the pandemic the government has committed a total of 39.6 billion in direct supports. This budget outlines the following key pillars:

1. Protecting Peoples Health – Urgent COVID-19 Response and healthcare investment
2. Protecting our Economy – protecting businesses and stimulating post pandemic economic growth

These targeted investments will greatly expand total healthcare spending, including a specific focus on vaccination efforts and long-term care facilities. Investment towards tourism and hospitality, vulnerable populations and infrastructure are highlights alongside tax credits to reduce childcare costs for families.

Highlights:

Key Highlights for IPAC Canada

- Building on a \$100 million investment over the pandemic, Ontario is investing **\$50 million in 2021–22 to ensure IPAC resources and expertise are available across the health system** including hospitals and public health units as well as other congregate settings. IPAC provides guidance to prevent the transmission of infections in health care and other congregate settings between residents, staff and other contacts.

This vital work protects patients, clients and staff from infectious diseases and viruses, including COVID-19.

Additional Health Care Highlights

- **Defeating COVID-19**
 - Committing \$1 billion to a province-wide vaccination plan.
 - Making it safer to re-engage with workplaces, businesses and communities with \$2.3 billion for testing and contact tracing.
 - \$1.4 billion for personal protective equipment, including more than 315 million masks and more than 1.2 billion gloves.
 - Additional \$5.1 billion to support hospitals since the pandemic began, creating more than 3,100 additional hospital beds. This includes \$1.8 billion in 2021–22 to continue providing care for COVID-19 patients, address surgical backlogs and keep pace with patient needs.

- **Fixing Long-Term Care**
 - Investing an additional \$933 million over four years, for a total of \$2.6 billion, to support building 30,000 new long-term care beds.
 - Investing \$246 million over the next four years to improve living conditions in existing homes.
 - Investing an additional \$650 million in 2021–22, bringing the total resources invested since the beginning of the pandemic to protect the most vulnerable to over \$2 billion.
 - Investing \$4.9 billion over four years to increase the average direct daily care to four hours a day in long-term care and hiring more than 27,000 new positions, including personal support workers (PSWs) and nurses.

- **Caring For People**
 - Investments to support historic hospital expansion and construction projects.
 - Providing additional funding of \$175 million in 2021–22 as part of the historic investment of \$3.8 billion over 10 years
 - To assist survivors of domestic Ontario is investing an additional \$2.1 million over three years to support victims of crime.