



April 22, 2021

### **Budget 2021: A historic investment in Canada's future**

This is a monumental week for Canadian children and families. On Monday, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland unveiled the government's long-awaited 2021 budget. Titled "[A recovery plan for jobs, growth and resilience](#)", Budget 2021 included a historical \$30 billion investment over five years to build a high-quality, affordable and accessible early learning and child care system across Canada.

I was incredibly pleased to see such an extraordinary commitment to Canada's children from this government. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a real and measurable difference in the lives of Canadian families. Increased funding for Canada-wide early learning and child care with a focus on quality will help us build back stronger and address the inequalities that have pushed the burdens of COVID-19 onto low-income families.

With a firm federal commitment and direction now set, we are looking forward to continuing our engagement with the responsible federal ministers and their provincial and territorial counterparts to make this commitment a reality. But we cannot do this without your support. There is still a lot of work to do, and with the budget being debated in the weeks to come, we need to make a strong case to all parties that this investment is worth every penny.

We've provided you with some of the key highlights from Monday's announcement below, but if you haven't already, I encourage you to take a closer look through the budget document. It is a testament to the fact that together, we can chart a more fair and equitable future for all Canadian families.

#### **2021 Budget Highlights:**

- Budget 2021 includes new investments totaling **up to \$30 billion over the next five years**, and \$8.3 billion ongoing, for early learning and child care and Indigenous early learning and child care.
- This investment includes up to \$27.2 billion over five years, starting in 2021-22, bringing the federal government's annual contribution for early learning and child care equal to that of the provinces and territories.

- Federal funding will enable:
  - **A 50 per cent reduction in the average fees** for regulated early learning and child care in all provinces outside of Quebec;
  - **An average of \$10 a day by 2025-26 for all regulated child care spaces** in Canada;
  - Ongoing annual growth in quality affordable child care spaces across the country;
  - **Improvements and the expansion of before- and after-school care** in order to provide more flexibility for working parents.
  - **Raised compensation and training opportunities** to support a professional early years' workforce.
- The Budget also mentions the government will proceed with an asymmetrical agreement with the province of Quebec that will allow for further improvements to its system.
- **\$1.4 billion is also being allocated over five years** – with \$385 million ongoing – to ensure that more Indigenous families have access to high-quality programming.

We will mark Budget 2021 as the time when Canada addressed one of its major challenges and took the opportunity to ensure success now and into the future. As we move into the all-important implementation phase, let your government know that you support joint federal/provincial/territorial action to build a strong system of high-quality early learning and child care for all children.



Hon. Margaret Norrie McCain

To learn more about universal, high-quality and publicly funded early childhood education visit:  
<https://earlyyearsstudy.ca/>