



Budget 2019 Overview

On March 19, 2019, Minister of Finance Bill Morneau unveiled the Liberal government's 2019 budget. This is the last budget before the election in October of this year and it was titled Investing in the Middle Class and shows a deficit of \$19.8 billion. Of note, the Minister of Finance kicked off his budget speech by commenting on a recent visit to our very own Toronto Kiwanis Club, where he took questions from the kids. Our CEO, Owen Charters, was also invited by the Minister to be in the gallery to hear the speech.

In our pre-budget brief, BGCC called for recognition of the importance of after-school programming and we have been lobbying to get investment to help us complete a proper impact evaluation to prove the affect our programming has on children and youth. Neither of these issues appeared in the budget, which we anticipated would be the case and we will continue to talk about them as we meet with officials before the election.

There are several issues of note addressed in this budget and funding that BGCC is well positioned to tap into, though some of the programming is scheduled over the course of several years, despite the upcoming election. Highlights are as follows:

Wins

- A separate budget document outlining all of the youth-specific funding this government has announced over the last four years, indicating that youth will continue to be a priority through the election.
- Up to an additional \$314.8 million over five years, and \$83.8 million per year thereafter, to make Canada Service Corps Canada's signature national youth service program. Canada Service Corps supports BGCC's Lead Up! program.
- \$60 million over two years to support CanCode's ongoing work. CanCode helps to fund BGCC's Kid Tech Nation program.
- \$49.5 million over five years to launch a modernized Youth Employment Strategy informed by recommendations made by the Expert Panel on Youth Employment and extensive engagement with youth, including BGCC's own National Youth Council. This investment will include development of the Youth Digital Gateway, an online platform to help youth access federal supports.





Education, skills training and employment

- Continued investment in the Future Skills initiative, as announced in Budget 2017.
- \$5 million over five years to Employment and Social Development to develop a strategy to measure, monitor and address gender disparity and promote access of under-represented groups across skills programming.
- Interest rates on Canada Student Loans will be lowered and interest would not accumulate during the six-month grace period after a borrower leaves school. The government will also invest \$15 million to modernize the Canada Student Loans program and make it more accessible.
- \$6 million over two years starting in 2019-20 to promote skilled trades amongst youth and \$40 million over four years for Skills Canada, starting in 2020-21, as well as a new strategy to support apprentices and those employed in the skilled trades.
- \$38 million over five years to support Futurpreneur Canada, to be matched by other funding, to support the next generation of entrepreneurs.
- \$10 million over two years to support Let's Talk Science, engaging youth in hands-on STEM activities.

Health and Mental Health:

- An additional \$30.5 million over five years for targeted harm reduction measures, specifically access to a safe supply of prescription opioids and access to overdose response training and Naloxone.
- \$25 million over five years to support a pan-Canadian suicide prevention service, providing access to bilingual, 24/7 crisis support from trained responders via voice, text or chat.
- \$30 million over five years and \$6 million per year thereafter to enable Canadian sports organizations to promote accessible, ethical, equitable and safe sports meant to promote greater inclusion of women and girls in sport and increase participation in daily physical activity among young Canadians.

Inclusion:

- \$45 million over three years to support a new Anti-Racism Strategy to find ways to counter racism in all its forms and \$25 million over five years for projects to celebrate, share knowledge and build capacity in Black Canadian communities.



- \$20 million over two years to support capacity-building and community-level work being done by LGBTQ2+ service organizations.

Housing:

- An additional \$10 billion over nine years through the Rental Construction Financing Initiative to increase housing supply, allowing for 42,500 new housing units across Canada, particularly in areas with low rental supply. Further the government is investing \$5 million over two house for the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation to create housing supply modelling and data collection to ensure future investments are put to the best use.
- The budget indicates that this government will introduce legislation before the election to require the federal government to maintain a National Housing Strategy the prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable.
- A \$2.2 billion program to prevent and reduce homelessness will be introduced on April 1, 2019.

Reconciliation:

- \$327.5 million over five years to renew and expand the Post-Secondary Student Support Program for First Nations, \$125.5 million over 10 years for the development of an Inuit-led post-secondary education strategy and \$362 million over 10 years for a post-secondary strategy for Métis Nation students.
- \$9 million over three years for Indspire to provide additional bursaries and scholarships.
- Increased investment of \$4.5 billion over five years to continue efforts to close the gap between the living conditions of Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous.
- \$126.5 in 2020-21 to establish a National Council for Reconciliation.
- \$15.2 million over three years to Canadians Roots Exchange for an Indigenous youth pilot program, helping Indigenous youth inform government policies and programs.
- \$10 million over two years to support non-governmental and community organizations to hold events for the new National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- \$1.2 billion over three years to continue implementation of Jordan's Principle.
- \$220 million over five years to provide services to Inuit children.



Budget 2016 Overview

- \$60 million over five years to support capital infrastructure investments in Friendship Centres.

Worth noting:

- Establishment of a Canada Training Benefit to help Canadians with the cost of training fees and income support that will allow workers to take time off work to pursue new training. After four years, workers would have up to \$1,000 and four weeks for training. This benefit applies to working earning more than \$10,000 and less than \$150,000.
- An investment of \$2.2 billion to address short-term priorities in municipalities and First Nations communities (infrastructure investment).
- A commitment that 95 per cent of Canadian homes and businesses will have access to high-speed internet by 2026 and 100 per cent by 2030.
- The budget includes an announcement that the government intends to work with provinces and territories on the creation of a National School Food Program but there is no dollar amount attached.

Again, much of this funding is over three or five years and will depend on the next election, but this budget shows that the Liberals will continue their focus on youth during the campaign. This budget offers BGCC many points of entry to continue talking to government officials. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback please reach out to your Research and Public Policy Team.