

BUDGET 2021

StrongerBC *for everyone*



BUILDING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



Last year, we introduced Budget 2020, which included historic capital investments to sustain our growing province. In the days that followed, the world was turned upside down.

From the beginning, COVID-19 has challenged us all in ways we never could have imagined. I want to acknowledge and

share in the grief of British Columbians who have lost someone they love to this virus. While no one could have predicted the path this pandemic would take, B.C.'s solid fiscal foundation meant we were well prepared to respond to the crisis.

We know there have been many people and businesses that have been disproportionately affected by this pandemic – including women, young people, Indigenous communities, hospitality and tourism sectors.

The challenges of recent months, whether vaccine supply delays, or the risks of new variants, has made it clear that the fight against COVID-19 is not over – but there is hope on the horizon.

Budget 2021 will help keep people safe through the remainder of the pandemic, while building the bridge to economic recovery and the better days that are ahead.

We will continue to put people first by protecting the public services that all British Columbians rely on.

Budget 2021 addresses immediate challenges and builds the foundation for a strong recovery, with new investments in health and mental health services, business supports, affordable housing and child care, affordability measures for families, and record levels of job-creating community infrastructure.

Budget 2021 continues our practice of cautious growth assumptions and significant fiscal prudence.

B.C.'s recovery won't happen overnight, but by focusing on the things that matter most to people, we will build a better future together.

HONOURABLE SELINA ROBINSON
MINISTER OF FINANCE

SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND FAMILIES INTO THE FUTURE

During the pandemic, many people and families have experienced the stress of unexpected job loss and not everyone has been affected in the same way.

Budget 2021 includes new investments to support people by improving child care, making life more affordable, reducing poverty, advancing reconciliation and investing in the services people rely on.

BC RECOVERY BENEFIT

The BC Recovery Benefit has helped 2.5 million British Columbians while stimulating local economies. The benefit provides up to \$1,000 for eligible families and single parents, and up to \$500 for eligible individuals. Budget 2021 continues to fund the BC Recovery Benefit. People can apply until June 30, 2021.

AFFORDABLE, INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE

Over 35,000 B.C. families now have access to low-cost child care through historic investments over the last four years.

We will continue to create thousands of new spaces every year, and more families will have access to child care on school grounds with the expansion of the Seamless Day pilot program.

The current early childhood educator wage enhancement will be doubled to \$4 an hour, benefitting approx. 11,000 early childhood educators.

2,000 more families will have access to programs that improve inclusion in day to day activities for children with support needs.

\$20 million will support additional health and safety grants to child-care providers to ensure centres remain safe through increased cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment or space improvements.



Budget 2021 more than doubles the number of \$10-a-day child care spaces, which means 75 more child care centres and the thousands of families who rely on them will benefit from the program.

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR B.C.'S CHILDREN

Over 340,000 children, 12 and under, will ride public transportation for free in time for classes this September.

FAMILIES IN THE TRANSLINK AREA COULD SAVE UP TO \$672 A YEAR FOR EACH CHILD, WHILE FAMILIES IN BC TRANSIT COMMUNITIES COULD SAVE UP TO \$400 A YEAR.

CHILD OPPORTUNITY BENEFIT

Effective October 2020, nearly 300,000 families started receiving the Child Opportunity Benefit, which will continue until the child turns 18. Families with one child receive up to \$1,600 this year, with two children up to \$2,600, and with three children up to \$3,400.

INVESTING IN NEW TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

- » New funding to support post-secondary education, including new spaces to build training capacity in the health care sector.
- » \$32 million to continue training launched through the StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan, including:
 - \$17 million to partner with Indigenous communities and organizations to expand access to skills training.
 - \$5 million to expand micro-credential training for people looking to retrain and pursue new careers.
 - \$10 million for work-integrated learning opportunities and short-term skills training.
- » \$45 million for youth employment initiatives, creating 5,000 jobs when combined with StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan investments.

SUPPORTING B.C.'S YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

Significant funding investments are being made to support students. This year, in addition to ongoing funding increases, we are making investments to improve mental health supports in schools, and address racism and reconciliation so that the next generation can develop with the support they need to thrive. In addition, capital investments will continue to build new schools and upgrade existing ones in communities across B.C.



MEANINGFUL RECONCILIATION

RECONCILIATION IS MORE THAN A SINGLE DECISION, EVENT OR MOMENT. IT IS A SHARED AND ONGOING JOURNEY WE ARE ON TOGETHER.

Budget 2021 builds on the Fall 2020 StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan to advance reconciliation and build a more inclusive economy. It includes funding for work with Indigenous peoples to advance reconciliation, and ensure Indigenous peoples can fully participate in B.C.'s economic recovery.

Budget 2021 adds \$60 million in annual base funding to the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. This is dedicated funding to support Indigenous participation in land and resource activities, including negotiations, and engagement on legislation, policy and programs.

Budget 2021 also includes:

- » \$45 million to support culturally safe health services and more Indigenous liaisons in each regional health authority to improve health access and services for Indigenous peoples.
- » \$14 million for the First Nations Health Authority to deliver targeted mental health and addictions services to Indigenous peoples throughout B.C.
- » 400 more spaces in the Aboriginal Head Start program that provides culturally-relevant child care for Indigenous families.
- » Funding to partner with hundreds of Indigenous communities and organizations to expand access to skills training programs.

SUPPORTING B.C.'S VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE FUTURE

Budget 2021 includes programs and funding directed to vulnerable people. This includes the largest ever permanent increase to income and disability assistance in B.C.

A \$175 A MONTH INCREASE TO INCOME AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE RATES BUILDS ON TWO PREVIOUS INCREASES FOR A TOTAL INCREASE OF \$325 A MONTH SINCE 2017 FOR PEOPLE RECEIVING ASSISTANCE, UP TO A 53% INCREASE.

The Senior's Supplement will be doubled, benefitting up to 80,000 low-income seniors.

Additional funding is also available to support children in care or who have alternative care arrangements, as well as additional supports for programs that support children with a disability or medical needs.

Community Living BC will receive new funding to provide supports and services to over 24,000 adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

New investments in our justice system will help provide timely and equitable access to justice particularly for women, visible minorities, single parents, refugees, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQ+ community members and people with low incomes.

MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING



More than 26,000 new homes have been built or are underway since government launched its 10-year Homes for B.C. plan in 2018.

Budget 2021 will create even more affordable housing options for growing families, seniors, women and children leaving violence, students and Indigenous peoples. This includes supporting the creation of nearly 9,000 homes for middle income households and families through a new \$2-billion investment in the HousingHub.

Budget 2021 also continues to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness by maintaining more than 3,000 temporary emergency shelter and hotel spaces that provide a safe place with supports to go during the pandemic.

PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS

Budget 2021 continues to protect the health, mental health and safety of British Columbians and expands the services people rely on with \$4 billion in health care funding over the next three years, including funding to continue to deliver COVID-19 related health services.

COVID-19 HEALTH SUPPORTS TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

As more people are vaccinated, government is working hard to keep people safe. Budget 2021 allocates \$900 million in 2021/22 to support the Province's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- » COVID-19 vaccines for every British Columbian.
- » Testing and contact tracing, expanded flu immunization and improved access to health services for rural, remote and Indigenous communities.
- » Screening staff for COVID-19 at long-term care and assisted living facilities to keep seniors safe.

STRENGTHENING B.C. HEALTH CARE FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW

Budget 2021 includes significant investments to continue to strengthen B.C. health care so people know that help is there when they need it.

- » \$585 million to train and hire up to 3,000 people as health care workers.
- » \$45 million to help address systemic racism against Indigenous people in the health care system.
- » \$68 million to increase the number of care aides and community care providers to deliver quality home care to help seniors with daily living.
- » \$12 million to provide seniors with complex needs care from the comfort of their homes.



\$495 million to increase capacity in diagnostic imaging and surgery.

THE LARGEST MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT IN B.C. HISTORY

Through the largest investment ever made in British Columbians' mental health, Budget 2021 will continue the expansion of mental health and substance use supports to better connect people to culturally safe and effective care.

This includes \$500 million in new funding over the fiscal plan to expand mental health and addictions services.

- » \$61 million to improve access and quality of mental health services.
- » \$14 million for the First Nations Health Authority to deliver mental health and addictions services to Indigenous peoples.
- » \$330 million to provide a full spectrum of substance-use treatment and recovery services, including opioid treatment.
- » 195 new substance use treatment and recovery beds throughout the province to help more people get on a path to recovery.



\$97 million to build a better network of mental health supports for youth.

INVESTING IN NEW HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Budget 2021 continues to focus on building critical health infrastructure through \$7.8 billion in capital investments over the fiscal plan period. The investments will support new major construction projects and upgrading of health facilities, medical and diagnostic equipment and technology systems.

NEW HEALTH PROJECTS SUCH AS THE NEW SURREY HOSPITAL AND CANCER CENTRE ARE IN ADDITION TO PROJECTS LIKE THE NEW ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL AND NEW HOSPITALS IN THE COWICHAN DISTRICT, DAWSON CREEK AND DISTRICT, TERRACE AND STUART LAKE. INVESTMENTS ALSO INCLUDE NEW SPACES FOR PATIENTS IN THE BURNABY HOSPITAL, THE KAMLOOPS' ROYAL INLAND HOSPITAL, PENTICTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL AND THE CARIBOO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

HELPING B.C. BUSINESSES THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

B.C. businesses continue to have access to supports and services through Budget 2021, with additional targeted supports for those hit hardest by COVID-19.

Budget 2021 funds ongoing business supports initiated through the StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan to help B.C. businesses through the pandemic and help them prepare for recovery. Ongoing business supports includes:

- » \$150 million for the StrongerBC Increased Employment Incentive tax credit.
- » \$35 million to help B.C. farmers keep the temporary foreign workers supporting B.C.'s crop harvesting safe from COVID-19.
- » \$10 million to expand the Grow BC, Feed BC, Buy BC strategy to strengthen and expand the domestic market for B.C. products.
- » \$195 million in funding to continue the Small- and Medium-sized Business Recovery Grant program.

These investments build on the supports included in the Fall 2020 StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan:

- » An ongoing PST exemption on capital investments in select equipment and machinery to help businesses pivot or upgrade operations with an anticipated 110,000 incorporated B.C. businesses eligible.
- » \$44 million for Launch Online, connecting businesses with B.C. technology companies to create or improve their e-commerce and provide digital marketing training to help businesses boost their online sales.
- » \$10 million to increase value-added manufacturing in B.C. by supporting small- and medium-sized businesses to make their products more accessible to customers and an additional \$6 million in grants for businesses to help strengthen B.C.'s supply chain.
- » \$7.5 million to support B.C.'s growing agri-tech industry.
- » \$7 million to expand B.C.'s food hub network and support farm innovation and food processing.
- » An average 25% reduction in commercial property taxes 2020.



SUPPORTING B.C.'S HARDEST HIT SECTORS

Many different sectors have faced particular challenges over the course of the pandemic, and the Province has responded with supports that fit their unique needs.

We will continue to support the sectors that have been hardest-hit through the remainder of the pandemic and into recovery.

TOURISM

Tourism investments support the recovery of a sector in which groups that have been disproportionately affected represent a significant part of the workforce:

- » In Fall 2020, the StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan included over \$70 million in tourism relief and recovery measures, including investments to help municipalities build, adapt and diversify their tourism infrastructure and to help local Indigenous tourism businesses.
- » There is also \$100 million of the Small- and Medium-sized Business Grant funding announced in the Fall targeted at tourism operators.

To help the B.C. tourism sector prepare for a strong future, Budget 2021 will invest:

- » An additional \$20 million for community destination development grants that will help communities prepare for future visitors through new tourism infrastructure like trails and airport improvements.

\$100 MILLION TO SUPPORT TOURISM RECOVERY, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR MAJOR ANCHOR ATTRACTIONS THAT HELP MAKE BRITISH COLUMBIA SUCH A UNIQUE DESTINATION.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Government has worked closely with leaders in B.C.'s arts and entertainment communities to develop targeted recovery funding and has already invested \$22.5 million through AmplifyBC to support B.C.'s music industry over the next three years, and \$35 million to support arts and culture organizations.

Budget 2021 builds on these investments by doubling the budget for the Arts Infrastructure Program, which will provide \$6 million in capital improvement grants to support arts and culture organization recovery.

RESTAURANTS AND HOSPITALITY

Restaurants and the hospitality industry have continually adapted to the changing landscape of the pandemic, and updated Provincial Health Officer orders.

Government is supporting the restaurant and hospitality industry by:

- » Supporting 14,000 restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, gyms and fitness centres with more than \$50 million through Circuit Breaker Business Recovery Grants.
- » Issuing a temporary cap on fees charged to restaurants by food delivery companies to 15%.
- » Hiring hundreds of tourism and hospitality staff laid off through the pandemic to support with B.C.'s immunization plan as non-clinical staff.



BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESSES HAVE USED CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION TO RE-THINK AND RE-TOOL IN THE CONTINUALLY CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF COVID-19.

Government is here to support B.C. businesses who need it now and help all businesses move into a resilient future.

STRONG ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Budget 2021 continues to prioritize investments that help B.C. respond to the pandemic and to prepare for a strong recovery.

These investments build on the over \$10 billion that has been provided to support people, businesses and communities since the pandemic began.

THESE INVESTMENTS WILL HELP CREATE JOBS, SUPPORT RECOVERY, AND BUILD A MORE SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND EQUITABLE ECONOMY.

Budget 2021 will ensure the right infrastructure is in place by making critical upgrades to hospitals and health facilities, schools, and highway and transit projects.

BUDGET 2021 PROVIDES A RECORD \$26.4 BILLION IN TAXPAYER-SUPPORTED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS THAT ARE EXPECTED TO CREATE OVER 85,000 JOBS OVER THE THREE YEAR PLAN.

These investments build on the already historic investments government has made toward critical infrastructure. It focuses on both existing projects so that people can get back to work right away and supporting the foundation of long-term recovery through new investments in the transportation, health and education sectors.

Budget 2021 also invests:

- » \$40 million to provide high-speed internet and cellular coverage for more rural and remote communities, including Indigenous communities.
- » \$83 million in operating and capital funding for BC Parks to expand and improve trails and backcountry infrastructure, add new campsites, purchase new land to expand parks, improve the Discover Camping reservation system, and support existing park infrastructure.
- » \$30 million to support initiatives to mark B.C.'s 150th anniversary of entry into confederation.

BUDGET 2021 INCLUDES \$500 MILLION IN FINANCING OVER THREE YEARS FOR THE INBC STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND TO ATTRACT AND ANCHOR HIGH-GROWTH BUSINESSES, TALENT AND GOOD JOBS IN B.C.

PREPARING B.C. FOR A GREENER RECOVERY WITH CLEANBC

Budget 2021 builds on the progress we've made creating a cleaner, stronger economy by investing an additional \$506 million to reduce emissions, invest in clean energy and cleantech, and prepare for climate change. Through the StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan, we invested \$190 million in climate change projects to support jobs and a cleaner, more resilient economic recovery.



These investments will reduce emissions in transportation, support low-carbon innovation, restore and protect critical watersheds and habitat, and tackle climate change while preparing for its impacts.

Funding added in Budget 2021 brings the total CleanBC allocation, including StrongerBC, to nearly \$2.2 billion since 2019/20.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Continued investments in the transition to cleaner vehicles with \$130 million to support incentives for zero emissions vehicles, electric charging stations, technological development, and the electrification of school buses, ferries and government fleets, including:

- » \$94 million in the Go Electric program, which provides rebates for purchases of zero-emissions vehicles, charging stations and supports the commercialization of heavy-duty vehicles.
- » \$18 million to support active transportation infrastructure like bike lanes, sidewalks, and multi-use pathways.
- » A PST exemption on electric bikes that will save British Columbians an estimated \$7 million annually.
- » \$10 million to further develop policy on reducing the carbon intensity of fuel and developing the hydrogen economy here in B.C.



BETTER BUILDINGS, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Budget 2021 is supporting cleaner, stronger communities with increased funding for energy efficiency in buildings, better city planning, and the reduction of diesel-use in remote and Indigenous communities.

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY AND CLEANTECH

- » \$96 million for the CleanBC Program for Industry to reduce emissions, further expand British Columbia's clean tech sector and support global competitiveness in the clean economy.
- » \$60 million to support the Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy and for cleantech investments to expand partnership opportunities with the federal government.
 - The Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy will support the development and commercialization of clean technology in B.C. – creating good jobs and accelerating technology development to help transition to a low-carbon future.
- » \$4 million to allow the Climate Action Secretariat to help develop climate action measures that support clean, inclusive economic growth.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND PREPAREDNESS

The Province continues to invest in forward-looking initiatives to support climate preparedness and adaptation with \$6 million to support the first phase of B.C.'s Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy to better respond to climate risk and reduce the impact of climate change over time.

HELPING TO MAKE LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

A central commitment of government is to make life more affordable for people.

Many families and individuals are seeing ongoing savings as a result of measures introduced in Budget 2021, as well as others put in place over the last four years.

	FAMILY OF FOUR IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$100K Child 1 (Age 12) Child 2 (Age 5 in Daycare)	FAMILY OF FOUR IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$80K Child 1 (Age 12) Child 2 (Age 5 in Daycare)	SINGLE PARENT IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$60K With One Child (Age 5 in Daycare)	UNATTACHED INDIVIDUAL IN VANCOUVER EARNING \$30K
POTENTIAL ONGOING SAVINGS				
New B.C. Access Grant for Students	1,333	2,667	-	4,000
MSP Elimination	1,800	1,800	1,800	900
Eliminating Student Loan Interest	230	230	230	230
Affordable Child Care Benefit	2,316	4,800	4,800	-
Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative	1,440	1,440	1,440	-
Eliminating Port Mann and Golden Ears Tolls	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit	598	1,380	700	-
Transforming ICBC	400	400	400	400
Free Transit for Kids	1,344	1,344	672	-

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL SAVINGS

ONE-TIME REBATES

Save up to \$3,000 on a zero-emission vehicle.

Save up to \$3,000 on a heat pump.

PST exemption on e-bikes can save you an av. of \$280.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Budget 2021 Details: www.bcbudget.ca
Ministry of Finance: www.gov.bc.ca/fin



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