

BUDGET 2022

Stronger Together

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Over the last few years, British Columbians have been challenged in ways we've never imagined. We feel the heavy weight of two ongoing health crises: the poisoned drug supply and the COVID-19 pandemic. We've also witnessed the destructive consequences of climate change, as

communities scorched by heat and wildfires in the summer faced flooding and mudslides only months later.

The investments our government has already made in people — like health care, child care, connectivity, and housing — are important building blocks that continue to support British Columbians through these challenges.

These investments made us stronger and more resilient. Strength doesn't just happen — strength is built. Budget 2022 builds on these strengths by investing in a Stronger BC for everyone — socially, environmentally, and economically. The scale of the challenges we face, from the global pandemic to fighting climate change, require government leadership and collective action — we are at our best when we work together and look out for each other.

Building a strong province is about making life better for people now and preparing for the future. Right now, climate change, economic shifts, and strengthening the public services people rely on are intertwined. The global transition to climate action and a low-carbon future will create new opportunities, and by making investments now we can make sure people, businesses and communities across B.C. are poised to benefit.

The past year has also shown us the value of being prepared for the unanticipated, and so *Budget 2022* continues our practice of significant prudence and responsible fiscal management. There is a long road ahead, as we work together to rebuild and repair the damage left by a difficult year.

We will reach better days by continuing to build on B.C.'s environmental, social, and economic strengths, and together we will discover the opportunities that tomorrow holds.

HONOURABLE SELINA ROBINSON
MINISTER OF FINANCE

MEANINGFUL RECONCILIATION



The Province is working to bring its laws into harmony with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The new budget supports this work with funding to create a new Declaration Act Secretariat.

THE DECLARATION ACT SECRETARIAT WILL GUIDE AND ASSIST GOVERNMENT TO MEET ITS OBLIGATION TO ENSURE LEGISLATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE UN DECLARATION, AND IS DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

While many of the investments we are making will benefit all people in our province, including Indigenous people, *Budget 2022* includes a range of investments to support Indigenous people and communities:

- » Working in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority to continue creating up to 15 First Nations Primary Care Centres throughout the province.
- » Supporting Aboriginal Head Start, which provides culturally-based inclusive child care, early learning and family bonding opportunities for Indigenous children.
- » Funding for Indigenous-led emergency management in First Nations communities.
- » Increased access to justice for Indigenous people through a virtual Indigenous Justice Centre.
- » Connecting First Nations communities to high-speed internet and cell service.
- » Expanding the Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy Program to include a new Accelerator Program, which will help Indigenous partners commercialize and scale-up innovative forest-based products.

BUILDING A STRONGER SOCIETY BY PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Services people rely on like health care, child care and housing have supported British Columbians through the pandemic and recent climate-related disasters. *Budget 2022* builds on these strengths and holds steady to what is right: putting people first.

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY CHILD CARE



Since launching the ChildCareBC plan in *Budget 2018*, we've been working to establish child care as a core service that's available to any family that wants it, when they need it, at a price they can afford.

MORE SPACES

The investments we've made since *Budget 2018* have funded 26,000 new child care spaces across the province. Now we're building on those investments.

Through an agreement with the federal government last fall, we are creating 40,000 new licensed child care spaces for children under the age of 6 in the next seven years.

Budget 2022 further invests to create more before and after school spaces through the New Spaces Fund and increasing the number of school districts offering the Seamless Day program from 24 to 44.

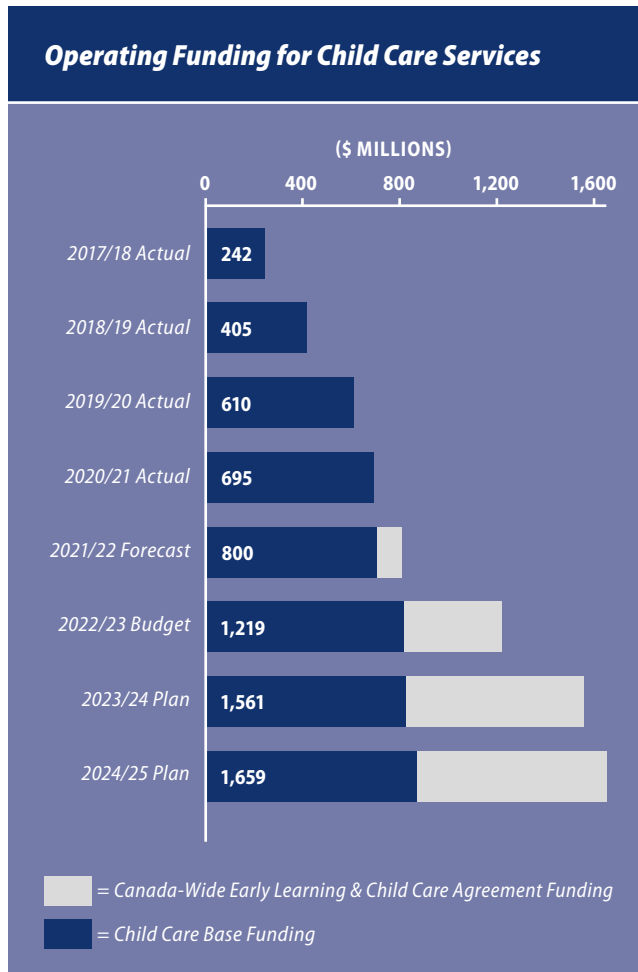
LOWER FEES

Budget 2022 brings parents closer than ever to our planned \$10/day child care.

WE WILL BE REDUCING FEES FOR FULL-DAY INFANT AND TODDLER CARE BY 50% TO AN AVERAGE OF APPROXIMATELY \$20/DAY BY THE END OF 2022. BUDGET 2022 BUILDS ON THAT INVESTMENT BY CUTTING AVERAGE FEES FOR PRESCHOOL AND BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE TO LESS THAN \$20 A DAY FOR THE 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR.

QUALITY CARE

The Province is also investing in the child care workforce, ensuring people are well-trained and fairly compensated by training an additional 130 early childhood educators in each of the next three years and expanding ECE wage enhancements to thousands more workers.



STRENGTHENING HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Improving the quality of physical and mental health care services and keeping British Columbians safe from the COVID-19 pandemic remains our highest priority.

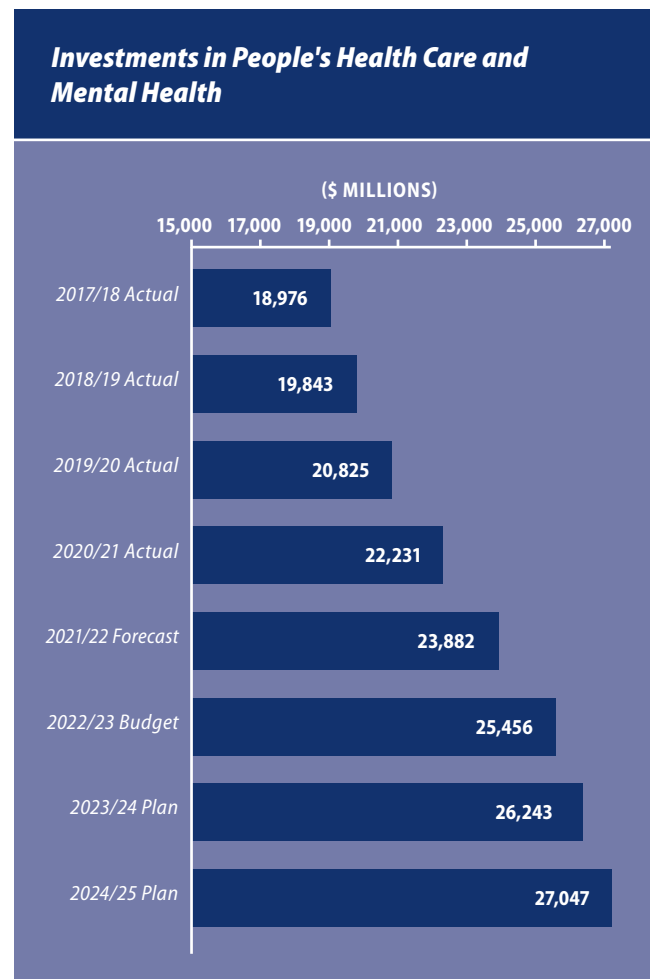
Budget 2022 invests to improve the physical and mental health care services people rely on, including by:

- » Adding new Urgent and Primary Care Centres throughout the province.
- » Supporting up to 15 First Nations Primary Health Care Centres.

- » Reducing wait times for surgery and diagnostic imaging.
- » Speeding up emergency response times by hiring more paramedics and dispatchers.
- » Continuing to invest in the Pathway to Hope, with year two of *Budget 2021*'s \$500 million investment to improve mental health and addictions care.

The pandemic is still with us today and along with investments in health and mental health services, *Budget 2022* includes funding for:

- » COVID-19 vaccinations.
- » Personal protective equipment for healthcare workers.
- » Enhanced measures to limit the risk of COVID-19 for vulnerable residents in long-term care and assisted living facilities.
- » Increased mental health supports for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- » Funding for the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.



PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS



We're expanding services and improving the ways we prevent and respond to homelessness by shifting from a reactive to proactive approach:

- » Addressing the increased risk of homelessness faced by former youth in care by improving how we support the thousands of young adults aging out of government care, up to age 27.
- » Housing more than 3,000 people through new rent supplements with integrated supports.
- » Expanding the new first-of-its-kind Complex Care housing model to at least 20 more sites across B.C. to help up to 500 people with severe mental health, substance use issues, or traumatic and acquired brain injuries who are homeless or unstably housed.
- » Supporting the up to 3,000 people who were temporarily housed in leased or purchased hotel and other spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic through a transition to permanent housing.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL BENEFIT FROM A NEW, CROSS-GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO BOTH PREVENT HOMELESSNESS AND RESPOND QUICKLY TO ASSIST PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS TO BECOME STABLY HOUSED.

BEGINNING THE TRANSITION TO IMPROVED SERVICES FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SUPPORT NEEDS



Budget 2022 starts the transition to more accessible and inclusive services for children and youth with support needs by establishing family connections centres throughout the province.

Two early implementation areas — in the Northwest and Central Okanagan — will support local families based on their needs, regardless of whether their child has a diagnosis. Findings from these pilots will inform the development and implementation of the province-wide system, to be in place in 2025.

SUPPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS



Budget 2022 invests to support survivors of sexual assault by providing core funding to more than 50 sexual assault service centres, undoing cuts that were made to these services in 2002.

These centres will receive dedicated, ongoing funding to provide critical crisis response, counselling, preventative medication, forensic exams, mechanisms to report to the police and child protection services.

BUILDING A STRONGER ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR FUTURE

Climate-related disasters, including wildfires, floods and extreme heat, have challenged British Columbians in recent years.

These events have reinforced the need for collective action to secure a low-carbon future for B.C.

BUDGET 2022 IS MAKING STRONG INVESTMENTS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, BUILD BACK BETTER FROM RECENT DISASTERS, AND MAKE SURE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS B.C. ARE PROTECTED FROM FUTURE CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS.

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH CLEANBC



Three years ago, our government introduced CleanBC — the most progressive climate plan in North America.

Budget 2022 builds on the \$2.3 billion in funding allocated for CleanBC to date and invests in the fight against climate change with over \$1 billion in new funding for CleanBC and the Roadmap to 2030, including:

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

- » Removing PST on used Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) and increasing the luxury tax threshold on new ZEVs.
- » Rebates for ZEV charging infrastructure and ZEVs.
- » Grants for communities to build more bike lanes, multi-use pathways and other transportation infrastructure.
- » Motor vehicle fuel tax exemption for use of hydrogen in internal combustion engines.

CLEAN INDUSTRY

- » Funding for clean industry and innovation, including enhancing the CleanBC Program for Industry.
- » Increased equity tax credit to improve access to venture capital for cleantech investments for small businesses.
- » Support Low Carbon Energy by expanding the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and developing a new emissions cap on natural gas utilities.

CLEAN BUILDINGS

- » PST exemption for heat pumps, paired with increase in PST for fossil fuel heating equipment, will help fund the cost of a new incentive to make heat pumps more affordable for rural and northern communities.
- » Continued incentives for energy efficiency measures
- » 5% Clean Buildings Tax Credit for multi-unit residential and commercial buildings.

CLEAN COMMUNITIES AND LAND BASED ACTIVITIES

- » Helping local governments take action to reduce their emissions with a new Local Government Climate Action program.
- » Investing in sustainability upgrades for farms, strengthening B.C.'s forests and expanding the Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy Program.

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FROM CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS



We are investing \$2.1 billion to build back better from fires and floods and to protect people and communities from future climate-related disasters.

That includes \$1.5 billion in funding to rebuild from last year's floods and wildfires, and more than \$600 million to strengthen our readiness and respond to future wildfires, floods, and extreme weather events.

WITH SIGNIFICANT NEW FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC AND THE BC WILDFIRE SERVICE, BUDGET 2022 FUNDS NEW FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS AND SUPPORTS A PROACTIVE, YEAR-ROUND SERVICE MODEL FOR THE BC WILDFIRE SERVICE.

We are also providing \$210 million to help local governments and First Nations plan for and reduce disaster risk, including through investments in the FireSmart program, the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and support for Indigenous-led emergency management priorities.

And to ensure we are ready for the effects of the changing climate, *Budget 2022* invests to start implementing B.C.'s Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy that will:

- » Expand climate monitoring networks.
- » Lead climate resilience initiatives with local and Indigenous governments.
- » Develop an extreme heat response framework.
- » Expand the River Forecast Centre and provincial floodplain mapping program.
- » Build data collection and expertise to better understand where and how to mitigate climate risks.

BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMY FOR EVERYONE

Our government has a vision for British Columbia's economic future: an inclusive, sustainable and innovative economy that works for everyone.

Budget 2022 is making strong investments to ensure people across B.C. are poised to benefit from sustainable economic and resource development, today and into the future.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



Since 2017, we've connected 500 communities to high-speed internet, unlocking new opportunities for people in every corner of British Columbia.

BUDGET 2022 INVESTS TO CONNECT ANOTHER 280 FIRST NATIONS, RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET. WITH THIS INVESTMENT, 82% OF RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES AND 92% OF FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL BE CONNECTED TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET.

This will open doors for people in these communities to access digital health care, educational and employment opportunities and to reach new markets.

This funding will significantly accelerate the province's commitment to close the digital divide and will help rural, forest-dependent communities and workers transitioning to new diversified economic opportunities under the Old Growth Strategy.

INVESTING IN GROWING SECTORS



Budget 2022 provides \$50 million to support implementation of the *Stronger BC Economic Plan: A Plan for Today, A Vision for Tomorrow*.

These investments will work to grow British Columbia's life sciences, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors, continue our commitment to Environmental, Social and Governance values and support reconciliation through economic development.

For example, funding of \$200 million has been provided this year in grants to Genome BC and Michael Smith Health Research BC. This will create new scientific discoveries and economic opportunities with a significant increase in grants for a growing life sciences sector that now includes more than 2,000 companies and employs 18,000 people in B.C.

Budget 2022 also delivers funding to support the continued growth of the mining sector, after 2021 saw more than \$600 million in mining exploration. This is a 50% increase over the previous year and the highest level in a decade, with growing demand around the world for the minerals that will play a key role in our low-carbon future.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



Budget 2022 is supporting sustainable resource development through this funding to support a growing, safe and thriving mining sector in British Columbia.

A NEW MINISTRY OF LAND, WATER AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP, WILL SUPPORT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

The budget delivers support for forestry workers, businesses and communities impacted by old growth logging deferrals by connecting people to skills training and short-term employment opportunities, supporting older workers and contractors to transition to retirement through investment in the Bridging to Retirement program, and working to create jobs through diversified economies and infrastructure projects.

SUPPORTING SECTORS THROUGH PANDEMIC RECOVERY



Budget 2022 earmarks \$25 million in funding to support the tourism sector’s continuing recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional funding is also being provided to support non-profit organizations affected by the pandemic and the recovery of the arts, culture and music sectors through the Arts Impacts and Amplify BC programs.

BUILDING THE LABOUR FORCE NOW



The *StrongerBC Economic Plan* takes action to close B.C.’s skills and talent gap with a generational commitment to accelerate talent and development and skills training across the province.

Budget 2022 invests to help today’s workers upgrade their skills and train for new jobs, with new skilled trades certifications, and more training seats for much-needed workers in the care economy.

This includes ECEs for our growing child care system and Health Care Assistants to address staffing shortages in the long-term care, assisted living and home care sectors.

RECORD INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS WILL ALSO DELIVER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL WORKERS AND UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS, BY EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE THROUGH COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS FOR KEY CAPITAL PROJECTS.

BUILDING MORE AFFORDABLE HOMES

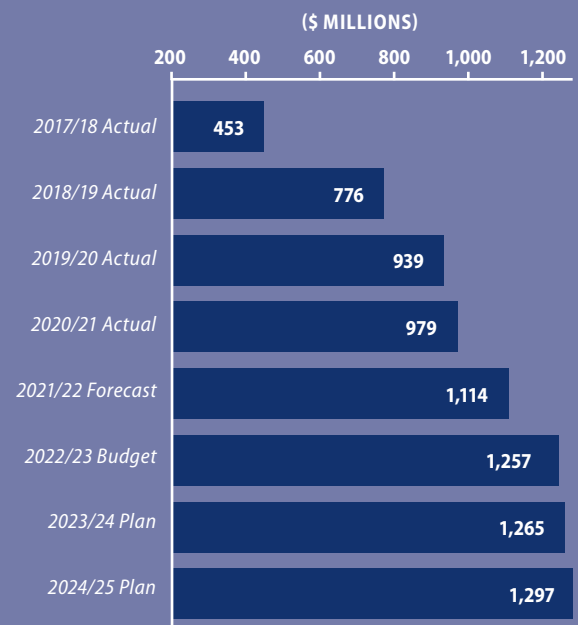


British Columbia is the place to be, with thousands of people moving here every month. To keep up with our growing population, and ensure businesses can find the workers they need, we need to keep investing in more homes people can afford.

BUDGET 2022 CONTINUES FUNDING THE 10-YEAR PLAN, HOMES FOR BC, LAUNCHED IN 2018, WITH ANNUAL FUNDING FOR HOUSING OF MORE THAN \$1.2 BILLION EACH YEAR. SO FAR, THROUGH THIS PLAN NEARLY 32,000 HOMES ARE COMPLETE OR UNDERWAY IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE.

Budget 2022 builds on these investments with funding to accelerate the construction of mixed-income housing through BCHousing’s Community Housing Fund, and with new resources for the HousingHub to keep up with demand for the \$2 billion low-cost financing program launched in 2021 to give middle-income British Columbians more affordable rental and homeownership opportunities.

Investments in Housing Affordability and Homelessness Supports*



*Does not include time-limited funding initiatives related to pandemic response and economic recovery.

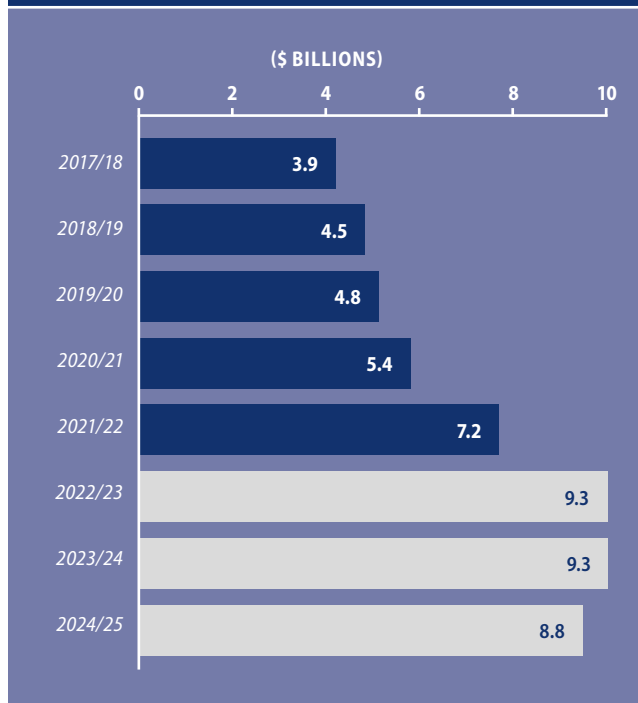
BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A GROWING PROVINCE



Budget 2022 invests a total of \$27.4 billion in building important infrastructure like schools, hospitals, affordable housing, rapid transit, highways and bridges to help people and communities recover and build B.C.'s economic resilience.

THIS RECORD LEVEL OF CAPITAL SPENDING WILL SUPPORT 100,000 JOBS IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

Taxpayer Supported Capital Spending



The Cowichan, Dawson Creek, Richmond, Burnaby and new Surrey hospital projects are underway, including a new state-of-the-art cancer care centre in Surrey.

More cancer care centres are being planned for Kamloops and Nanaimo.

Major infrastructure projects, including the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain and widening Highway 1 from 264th to Whatcom Rd. are in planning stages, with building on the Highway 99 Tunnel Program, Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project and the Broadway Subway Project currently underway.

Budget 2022 invests \$3.1 billion over the next three years for new schools, expansions, seismic upgrades and property purchases for future schools. A total of 126 school capital projects have been announced since 2017, totalling \$2.5 billion.

By building environmental, social, and economic planning directly into capital investments, we're supporting future opportunities for all British Columbians.

Whether it means more affordable child care spaces, more accessible green transportation options or inclusive opportunities in the trades, investments into B.C. infrastructure are working to build a stronger British Columbia.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Budget 2022 Details: www.bcbudget.ca

Ministry of Finance: www.gov.bc.ca/fin



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