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Moving Canada Forward



Photo credit: Ivan Hughes

Budget 2017 details the federal government's ambitious agenda to support middle class Canadians at every stage of their lives, transform our neighbourhoods and communities, and give every Canadian a real and fair chance at success.

Budget 2017 builds on the strong foundations laid out in Budget 2016 and is the next step in our government's long-term plan to create jobs and strengthen the middle class.

Canada is home to a well-educated and highly skilled workforce, but as the demands of the workplace change, so too must the **education and skills** that workers bring to their jobs. Budget 2017 places Canada's

skilled, talented and creative people at the heart of a more innovative economy. It makes smart investments to help adult workers retrain or upgrade their skills to adapt to changes in the new economy, and to help young people get the skills and work experience they need to start their careers.

To further help ensure that Canadians are able to access the **jobs of the future**, Budget 2017 helps connect companies on a global scale, takes an innovative and collaborative approach to solving modern challenges, and helps businesses get what they need to grow. This includes investments in green technologies, agricultural science and health sciences.

We will also help **build stronger communities** by improving access to early learning, child care and affordable housing. Budget 2017 takes concrete action to improve the quality of life of all Canadians, with more cultural and recreational centres, as well as safe and accessible public spaces.

Budget 2017 confirms our government's **historic health agreements** with 12 provinces and territories by investing in better home care and mental health initiatives that will help the families who need it most. This funding strengthens Canada's publicly funded, universal health care system, addresses key health care priorities over the long term and helps transform our health care system to respond to the needs of Canadians today and into the future.

There are also a number of very important measures to advance **reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples** through investments in infrastructure and First Nations and Inuit health, actions to strengthen Indigenous communities, funding to support education and training, and measures to promote language and culture revitalization.

The measures proposed in Budget 2017 are the result of recommendations that arose from the many consultations held across Canada, including my own pre-budget consultation held at Winakwa Community Club last November.

By taking action today—investing in the things that Canadians need to succeed now and well into the future—Budget 2017 will help deliver a growing economy that works for every Canadian.

For the full text of Budget 2017, visit:

www.budget.gc.ca

Budget 2017 Highlights

Budget 2017 gives Manitoba a major transfer of \$3.7 billion in 2017-18, up \$147.7 million from the previous year and the **largest year-over-year increase** since 2008-09

Creates the new **Canada Infrastructure Bank**, and builds on historic investments in public transit, social infrastructure (ex. housing, community centres) and green infrastructure (ex. climate resiliency, water and waste, green technologies)

Invests \$3.2 billion over the next eleven years to provinces and territories to support key priorities for **affordable housing** and \$5 billion over the next eleven years for the creation of a new National Housing Fund

Strengthens Canada's publicly-funded, universal health care system with \$6 billion over ten years for **home care** and \$5 billion over ten years to support **mental health** initiatives for provinces and territories that accepted the federal offer

Expands eligibility for **Canada Student Loans and Grants** for students in part-time studies to help even more students qualify for student financial assistance.

Supports stronger **Indigenous communities** by investing in health services, post-secondary education, infrastructure, housing and culture

Benefits families with \$7 billion over ten years for more high-quality, affordable **child care** spaces, the extension of EI **maternity benefits** from 8 weeks to 12 weeks, provisions allowing EI parental benefits to be taken over 18 months instead of 12 months, and a new EI **caregiving benefit** giving eligible caregivers up to 15 weeks of EI benefits while they are temporarily away from work

Significantly boosts **skills training and employment** supports for unemployed and underemployed Canadians under the Labour Market Transfer Agreements

Supports a clean growth economy by investing in **green infrastructure** that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, delivers clean air and safe drinking water, and promotes renewable power; invests in protection of the **Lake Winnipeg Basin**

In the community...



In February, I met Grade 9 students from Nelson McIntyre Collegiate at their 1st annual MACE - Mac's Agent of Change Exhibition. They had some inspiring and well-researched presentations on the theme of "How Canada should be Governed".

In March, I had a great time at École Varennes for *I Love to Read Month*! We read two books, "Don't Push the Button" and "Pourquoi j'aime le hockey". I was happy to donate these books to their school library.



Taché Promenade



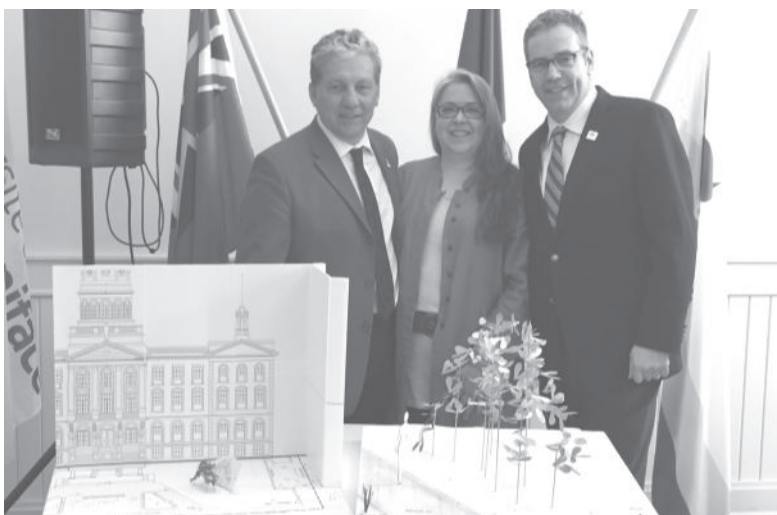
Western Economic Diversification (WD), through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP), is providing \$500,000 to Entreprises Riel for their Taché Promenade Renewal project. The project will include much needed riverbank stabilisation and will transform the Taché riverwalk into a major tourist attraction, leaving a lasting legacy for our community.

The Forks Reconciliation Walk

Another \$500,000 was provided through WD and the Canada 150 CIP to The Forks for the conversion of 240 meter long gravel pathway on its South Point. The new Reconciliation Walk will be a paved all-season, active transportation pathway with design elements by Indigenous artists. With the above Taché Promenade project, there will now be a complete 2.5 km loop between St. Boniface and The Forks.



Université de Saint-Boniface



Canadian Heritage's Canada 150 Fund has provided \$150,000 to the Université de Saint-Boniface to assist in their celebrations on the eve of the university's 200th anniversary. Two major projects are underway: public art by local artist Madeleine Vrignon and a 'street party' on September 15, 2017 celebrating Manitoba's multicultural heritage.



CANADA 150

What do you believe the government should focus on? (check all that apply)

- Early childhood
- The environment
- Health care
- Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples
- Infrastructure
- Science
- Seniors
- Small businesses
- Youth / Students
- Other: _____

Comment:

Investing in Infrastructure

As you know, infrastructure is a top priority for me. As a former city councillor, I have seen the growing need for infrastructure investments. There are a number of projects that a municipality considers when deciding where to allocate funds: roads, bridges, public transportation, social infrastructure (community centres, parks, housing), water and waste... Now, municipalities must also factor in climate resiliency to deal with issues such as increases in spring floods and winter freeze/thaw cycles.

To expand on the historic infrastructure investments made in Budget 2016 and the 2016 Fall Economic Statement, Budget 2017 will:

- ⇒ Invest in faster, more efficient **public transit** systems;
- ⇒ Help **communities** to become cleaner and less reliant on sources of energy that pollute the air, harm the environment, and compromise our health;
- ⇒ Build more **cultural and recreational centres**, as well as improve access to public spaces that contribute to vibrant and healthier communities; and
- ⇒ Make it easier for hard-working Canadians to find safe, adequate, and **affordable housing** – with quality and **affordable child care**, and better support as they age.

In addition, Budget 2017 proposes to create the new Canada Infrastructure Bank, working with provincial, territorial, municipal, Indigenous, and private-sector and institutional investors to build large, transformational projects that will create good, well-paying jobs, strengthen Canadian communities, and grow our economy over the long term.

The investments in infrastructure we make today will pay dividends for years to come: delivering clean, sustained economic growth; building stronger, more inclusive communities; and creating more jobs for Canadians.

My article on the benefits of infrastructure investments: www.danvandal.ca/infrastructure

In the community...



As often as possible, I visit residences throughout the riding to hear what issues are important to you.
Thank you for the great conversations!

During Festival du Voyageur, I joined a great team of volunteers to serve a pancake breakfast at the Norwood Legion.



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