



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

PATRICK WEILER

Member of Parliament

West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country



/PatrickBWeiler



@PatrickBWeiler



@PatrickBWeiler

Budget 2021

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

History was made on April 19th when Canada's first female Minister of Finance tabled Budget 2021: "A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience". Budget 2021 is focused on finishing the fight against COVID-19, creating jobs, ensuring our businesses come roaring back, and investing in long-term, inclusive and green growth. It responds directly to the concerns you shared with me, and helps address many of the vulnerabilities in our society that the pandemic laid bare.

While Canada's vaccination rates are among the top three in the G20, the fight against COVID-19 continues. Budget 2021 supports the health response and extends programs such as the wage and rent subsidies that have allowed businesses and non-profits to stay open and to keep workers employed.

The pandemic has had distinct impacts on various segments of our society, including the tragedy that befell seniors in long-term care, the jobs of young people vanishing, and women's labour force participation hitting a two-decade low. Budget 2021 takes targeted action to address all these issues and more. The signature investment is an accessible, affordable, and inclusive Canada-wide early learning and childcare system that will support families and give children the best possible start to life.

This Budget will directly create half a million training and job opportunities in high demand professions such as the trades. It also makes targeted investments in strategic growth areas of our economy in sectors such as digital tech, bio-tech/manufacturing and clean technology. For the first time ever, it creates a Regional Development Agency for BC to leverage the distinct economic opportunities found throughout our

province. It makes a historic investment of \$18 billion to close the infrastructure and service gaps that continue to hold back Indigenous peoples.

Budget 2021 ensures a green and blue recovery by resourcing our commitment to protect 25% of our lands and oceans by 2025. It provides a generational investment to restore iconic wild Pacific salmon to traditional levels of abundance. It will increase our climate action by focusing programs on reducing emissions from our largest point sources, as well as supporting you to make home energy retrofits.

This newsletter highlights some of the key measures of Budget 2021. I invite you to take a read and to access the full budget at www.budget.gc.ca to learn more.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weiler, MP
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky
Country



Getting vaccinated with my partner Nicole

CONTACT US

OTTAWA OFFICE

282, Confederation Building
229 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Tel. 613-947-4617
Fax. 613-947-4620

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

6367 Bruce Street
West Vancouver BC, V7W
2G5
Tel. 604-913-2660
Fax. 604-913-2664

✉ Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca

🌐 Patrickweiler.ca

Scan the QR code or
visit our website for our
Constituent Survey



We Want to Hear From You

Share your thoughts by
emailing us at
Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca or
sending a letter to the
Constituency Office at 6367
Bruce Street West
Vancouver, BC, V7W 2G5.
No postage required.

SUPPORTING CANADIANS, PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES



Ordering take out in support of restaurants and local small businesses, the heart of Canada's economy, Horseshoe Bay

The pandemic was largely experienced differently by Canadians based on their age, sex, race and income level. Young Canadians faced the brunt of this impact as entry level jobs largely vanished. To prevent long term scarring from the pandemic, Budget 2021 doubles Canada Student Grants and waives interest on Canada Student Loans for an additional year to provide relief. It also creates over 215,000 additional work placements to ensure that young Canadians are better placed to launch their careers.

To improve conditions for vulnerable workers, we are bringing in a \$15 minimum wage for federally regulated sectors, extending the Canada Recovery Benefit to a maximum of 50 weeks, and we are expanding the eligibility for the Canada Workers Benefit so that a million more low-income Canadians can access a sizeable tax refund of up to \$2,400.

The pandemic has also highlighted how important it is for Canadians to have access to sickness benefits when they are ill. That is why we are extending EI sickness benefits from 15 to 26 weeks while making further changes to EI regular and recovery benefits to make them more accessible for all Canadians.

Seniors and community organizations such as the Sunshine Coast Seniors Planning Table and West Vancouver Seniors' Activity Centre have uncovered the economic challenges seniors are under now more than ever. These challenges grow significantly with age. We are therefore providing another one-time payment of \$500 this August to seniors 75 or over while increasing regular Old Age Security payments for pensioners 75 and over by 10% as of July 2022.

The pandemic has also shone a light on systemic issues affecting long-term care facilities across the country and the urgent need for action. Budget 2021 provides \$3 billion over five years to support provinces and territories to make permanent changes in the way they deliver long term care so that seniors live in safe and dignified conditions.

CREATING JOBS & INVESTING IN CANADA

The Wage Subsidy has helped more than 621,000 British Columbians keep their jobs, while the Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support have helped more than 50,000 organizations in BC with rent, mortgage, and other expenses. To ensure businesses are in a strong position to rebound, Budget 2021 will extend all three programs until September 25, 2021. These extensions will ensure our favourite businesses survive and help our economy come roaring back.

The new Canada Recovery Hiring Program will support organizations to hire or re-hire workers to facilitate a transition back to normal work levels. To help businesses with the economy's digital transformation, we are launching the Canada Digital Adoption Program, which will create 28,000 jobs for young Canadians to help 160,000 small and medium sized business adopt new digital technologies.

With one of the most distinct and diverse economies in Canada, BC has been driving Canada's economy for many years. Budget 2021 will assist this trend by making a \$553 million investment over five years to create, for the first time, the BC Regional Development Agency. This new organization will support businesses to start and scale to drive growth in different regions of our province and create the good, well-paying jobs that will support our communities in the future.

To ensure we have the skilled workforce to meet the current and future needs of our country, the federal government is

committed to creating one million jobs by the end of this year. Budget 2021 will directly provide half a million new training and work opportunities through contextually appropriate programming.

For example, apprenticeships are the bridge that help skilled workers, especially young people starting their careers, connect with businesses and find well-paying jobs. Budget 2021 provides \$470 million to establish a new Apprenticeship Service, which will help 55,000 first-year apprentices in construction and manufacturing Red Seal trades connect with opportunities at small and medium-sized employers.



Visiting C.C. Violin Patisserie & Café, West Vancouver

Now more than ever, the pandemic has highlighted the burden that childcare scarcity places on families, in particular for mothers, as well as our labour force overall. Families in our riding have let me know of the immense strain they have been under due to a lack of affordable and accessible childcare. For example, there are only 1,100 childcare spaces for over 5,100 children in the Sea to Sky region under 12 years old, and there are 10 children for every 1 before and after school spots. Wait-lists for childcare spaces throughout our region exceed two years, while the cost of childcare can be up to \$100 per day.

As a result, there is perhaps no more important program in Budget 2021 than the historic investment of up to \$30 billion over five years, with an ongoing \$8 billion per year, to ensure high-quality, affordable and accessible early learning and childcare across Canada. This will cut the fees for regulated early learning and childcare in half by the end of 2022, and down to \$10 a day on average within the next five years.

Budget 2021 will deliver on these goals by becoming 50/50 funding partners with the Province of BC so that they will deliver high-quality, affordable and accessible early learning and childcare. Childcare roundtables like the one I hosted in early May for the Sea to Sky Corridor solicited key input from constituents to inform negotiations on childcare needs in our community. Discussions like these will be crucial, as implementing affordable childcare requires a strong collaborative effort with all orders of government, local stakeholders, and community organizations.

Budget 2021's investments in childcare builds upon the Canada Child Benefit, which has helped lift 435,000 children out of poverty and helped millions of families across the country. Families will receive an up to \$1,200 top up per child under the age of six under Budget 2021.

INVESTING IN AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE



Visiting Shuang Music School, West Vancouver

A GREEN AND A BLUE RECOVERY

Canada is home to a fifth of the world's remaining wilderness, but many of the natural spaces and species we love are under threat. Although Canada has increased marine protected areas tenfold – and a land area the size of Nova Scotia – in the last 5 years, we have a ways to go to meet our ambitious commitment to protect 25% of our lands and waters by 2025 that experts are saying are critical to preserve biodiversity. Budget 2021 resources this with a historic commitment of nearly \$3.5 billion. This funding will conserve land and create marine protected areas, and create thousands of jobs, particularly with underrepresented groups and in rural areas, including by supporting much needed new Indigenous Guardians programs.

We share a special appreciation for the beautiful environment that we are fortunate to live in, and

understand the value that our natural environment provides intrinsically, economically and to our mental health. This is well recognized by our local governments. The District of West Vancouver has estimated the value of its natural assets at \$3.2 billion and the Town of Gibsons has a renowned natural infrastructure program that provides municipal services at a lower cost in a more resilient manner. The Government of Canada is supporting leading policies like these through the introduction of the \$200 million Natural Infrastructure Fund to support natural and hybrid infrastructure.

The threats to our natural environment are felt no more clearly in our province than with respect to iconic wild pacific salmon, where some stocks have declined by as much as 93% since the 1990s from a multitude of causes. Salmon are a keystone species that is integral to our marine ecosystems, integral to Indigenous cultures, and to sustain our blue economy. Budget 2021 makes a generational investment of \$647 million over five years to stabilize and restore wild pacific salmon populations through habitat restoration, new hatchery facilities, targeted research, and improved commercial and recreational fishing management. These programs will be able to support and leverage the amazing work being done by our committed local non-profit societies, such as streamkeepers, the Squamish River Watershed Society, and the Sunshine Coast Salmonid Enhancement Society to restore ecological integrity, rebuild our salmon stocks and assist future generations to inherit the marine abundance that we have enjoyed in the past.



Sockeye salmon display, Squamish River

CLIMATE AND GREEN GROWTH



Talking to Ministers Wilkinson & Guilbeault about Canada's new 2030 climate target on Earth Day 2021

On Earth Day 2021, Canada increased our emissions reduction target to 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030, building on the comprehensive "A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy" plan announced in December. The rubber hits the road with Budget 2021 with pivotal programs that both address our hardest to eliminate emissions as well as those that will allow each household to lower their emissions.

Budget 2021 will cut corporate and small business income tax rates in half for businesses that manufacture zero-emission technologies. An \$8 billion Net Zero Accelerator Fund will help build and secure Canada's clean industrial advantage by investing in decarbonizing large emitters in areas such as steel and cement, transforming key sectors like the automotive industry and accelerating the adoption of clean technology across the economy.

The federal government's past support helped Squamish-based Carbon Engineering become the top clean tech company in North America last year, and to help more Canadian companies become future leaders in this important field, we are investing an additional \$1 billion in clean tech funding. In partnership with the BC government, we are providing a combined \$95 million to establish the Centre for Innovation and Clean Energy to advance the scale-up and commercialization of clean technologies.

Budget 2021 will assist homeowners to save money, reduce their carbon footprint and create local jobs, by supporting them to complete deep home energy retrofits through interest-free loans worth up to \$40,000. I invite you to reach out to a qualified EnerGuide Energy Advisor to get your home assessed with existing \$5,000 grants and then to access the no interest loan which will launch this summer.

Climate-related disasters, such as flooding, wildfires, sea-level rise and coastal erosion are becoming more frequent and severe, and we need to prepare and ensure our communities are resilient to these risks. Budget 2021 therefore expands the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to support projects that will keep our communities safe.

SUPPORTING ARTS, CULTURE & TOURISM

This past year has hit businesses hard, and our riding knows all too well that certain sectors have been disproportionately impacted. The tourism, arts and cultural sectors were partially or completely ground to a halt by public health restrictions that were necessary to keep us safe. Budget 2021 will help this sector recover once the pandemic is over through an investment of \$1 billion.

As one of the biggest economic drivers in our riding, this support will be crucial for many businesses and organizations in the tourism industry that rely on local and international visitors. Areas like Whistler have suffered significant losses. To promote their recovery, our government is investing \$500 million into the Tourism Relief Fund, which will be administered by our regional development

agencies. This funding will help sustain the tourism industry until it is safe to full-heartedly welcome visitors back into our communities.

To support our arts and cultural sector, Budget 2021 invests \$200 million to support events like local festivals, local museums, and amateur sport events. We are also investing \$200 million through our regional development agencies to support major festivals across the country. This will help sustain events such as the Squamish Wind Festival for the Arts and Writers Fest.

From mountain biking events like Crankworx to Harmony Arts in West Vancouver, we are determined to revive these much beloved events, welcoming back visitors from across the country and all over the world.



Gibsons Public Market, 2019

CANADA'S FISCAL POSITION

For those that are concerned about the level of expenditure and the economic stimulus found in this Budget, I would like to assure you that Canada's fiscal situation remains strong. We recently had our AAA credit rating reaffirmed, we are paying less to service our debt in proportion to GDP today than at any point in the last century, and we retain the lowest debt-to-GDP ratio in the G7. We have committed to steadily decreasing the deficit in the next couple of years, enacting fiscal guardrails that will enable us to do so responsibly and in a way that does not cut services.

With the jobless rate the lowest since February 2020, a higher labour force participation rate than any G7 country and an economy that grew faster than the United States in Q1, Canada's economy is on a very strong fiscal track to recover and thrive.