



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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Dear Friends & Neighbours,

As we welcome the Year of the Rabbit and look forward to Nowruz celebrations in March, we also mark a new 2023 parliamentary sitting. In the 2022 fall sitting, my colleagues and I introduced, studied, and passed significant new legislation to make life more affordable for Canadians, grow our economy, and protect our environment. What follows are some highlights of legislation passed and what we are currently working on.

The Fall Economic Statement: Supporting Canadians

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland introduced the 2022 Fall Economic Statement (FES) which works like a mid-year update to the federal budget. This FES addresses the housing shortage, tackles the rising cost of living and global inflation while setting the stage for Canada to be a leader in the clean economy of the future. This important legislation has been passed through both the House and Senate and has received Royal Assent, which means that the following measures are heading your way.



Doubling the GST Tax Credit for Low-Income Canadians

We doubled the GST tax credit for six months for 11 million low and modest-income Canadians, providing an extra payment of up to \$234 for single Canadians, \$467 for families, and an average of \$225 for seniors.

Eliminating Student Loan Interest & Supporting Students

Over the course of the last seven years, we doubled the amount of Canada Student Grants and ensured that students no longer have to start repaying their student loans until they are making at least \$40k a year. The FES goes a step further and permanently eliminates interest on all Canada Student Loans and apprenticeships altogether, a move that helps hundreds of thousands of students have a clear runway to start their careers without the baggage of snowballing student debt.



Photo: Constituency Office Open House

Lowering Credit Card Fees

To help support small businesses and lower the cost of goods for all Canadians, we are negotiating with the credit card industry to lower credit card transaction fees. If industry is not able to come to an agreed solution, we will move forward with legislation to regulate and ensure that credit card companies reduce their transaction fees.

Making Housing More Affordable

The new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account will open in mid-2023 and will allow prospective first-time homebuyers to save up to \$40,000 tax-free toward their first home. We are also doubling the First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit to provide up to \$1,500 in direct support to home buyers and are cracking down on house flipping by ensuring profits from real estate held for less than 12 months are fully taxed. As of January 1, 2023, new foreign ownership of real estate is banned for two years in West Vancouver, Lions Bay, Bowen Island and Squamish.

Supporting Canada's Clean Energy Future

Our Canada Growth Fund will help attract billions of dollars in new private capital and provide new tax credits to create good-paying jobs and support Canada's economic transition to a lower carbon future. To ensure that workers are ready for these jobs, the Sustainable Jobs Training Centre and Union Training and Innovation Program is helping at least 35,000 workers upgrade or gain new skills in the clean economy.

C-31, COST OF LIVING RELIEF ACT (DENTAL CARE & HOUSING BENEFIT)

On November 17th, Bill C-31 received Royal Assent and officially became law. It includes the Canada Dental Benefit, which allows each child under 12 from a family with an income of less than \$90,000 to access direct payments of up to \$650 per year. This ensures that children get the care they need, as we continue to roll out Canada's National Dental Care Program. Visit canada.ca/dental to apply.

C-31 also enacts the Rental Housing Benefit Act, a top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit that provides a one-time \$500 payment to eligible individuals with incomes under \$20,000 and families with family net incomes under \$35,000. This tax-free payment is expected to help 1.8 million low-income renters who are struggling with the cost of housing. Visit canada.ca/one-time-housing-benefit for more information.



C-27, THE DIGITAL CHARTER

Bill C-27 will create a Digital Charter to help protect Canadians' personal data and privacy online. This is long overdue given our current privacy law was last updated over 20 years ago, long before social media and the digital data-driven economy existed.

Bill C-27 will ensure that Canadians have first class privacy and data protection and that companies that break the rules face severe consequences with some of the steepest fines in the world. It will also hold organizations to a higher standard, especially when it comes to protecting the personal information of minors. This will move us beyond our outdated privacy laws and ensure that Canadians have control over their data.

C-22, THE CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT

Bill C-22, the Canada Disability Benefit Act, was passed by the House of Commons, with a view of creating the new Canada Disability Benefit for Canadians living with disabilities. This direct benefit will work in conjunction with (rather than subject from) existing benefits and become an important part of Canada's social safety net, alongside Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Canada Child Benefit. As the cornerstone of our Disability Inclusion Action Plan, it has the potential to significantly reduce poverty for hundreds of thousands of Canadians with disabilities.

Eligibility criteria and other details will be set out soon, and I look forward to sharing those details as soon as they are available.

S-5, THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

Having completed review in the Senate, Bill S-5, the new and stronger Canadian Environmental Protection Act, has been referred to the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee, of which I am a member. For the first time in Canada, Bill S-5 recognizes a right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and ensures that the government has a duty and obligation to protect that right. Our committee is currently voting on potential amendments that will help strengthen the bill and ensure that Canada's most important environmental legislation is best able to protect Canadians and the environment from toxic substances.

