

Federal Budget 2024-2025 Highlights and Reactions

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MUNISCOPE



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Budget 2024 Brief

On April 16, 2024, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland tabled the Government of Canada's 2024 budget titled *Fairness for Every Generation*. According to the Budget, the federal deficit is projected to be \$39.8 billion in 2024-25, \$38.9 billion in 2025-26, and declining over the three years following, to \$20 billion by 2028-29. The Budget estimates new total spending of \$52.9 billion over 5 years including \$8.5 billion in new housing spending. Budget 2024 projects that, in 2024-25, the debt-to-GDP ratio will be 41.9 percent, before declining to 39.0 per cent over the five-year forecast horizon. Outside of housing announcements, the most significant new component of Tuesday's budget is a new revenue stream: an increase in taxes on capital gains for individuals with more than \$250,000 in capital gains in a year where the rate will increase from one-half to two-thirds.

Infrastructure:

- CCBF/ICIP in 2024-25, an estimated \$8.3 billion in federal funding will be disbursed across the government's suite of infrastructure programs. Funding will continue to grow over the coming years, with a projected peak of \$11.3 billion in 2027-28. In total, the federal government expects to provide \$57.3 billion in support of infrastructure projects across the country from 2023-24 until 2028-29 (previously announced).

Housing

Budget 2024 and Canada's Housing Plan lay out the government's strategy to unlock 3.87 million new homes by 2031, which includes a minimum of 2 million net new homes on top of the 1.87 million homes expected to be built by 2031. Budget 2024 announces new action to support renters from steep rent increases and renovations.

- \$400 million top up for the Housing Accelerator Fund.
- \$500-million over five years to the Public Services and Procurement Department to purchase land from other orders of government.
- \$112.6-million for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to unlock more federal public lands for affordable housing providers.
- Budget 2024 announces that the government will consider introducing a new tax on residentially zoned vacant land. The government will launch consultations later this year.
- \$15 billion in new loan funding, starting in 2025-26, for the Apartment Construction Loan Program.
- Budget 2024 announces Canada Builds, the federal government's intention to leverage its \$55 billion Apartment Construction Loan Program to partner with provinces and territories to build more rental housing. To access federal financing, provinces and territories will be expected to meet the benchmarks set by BC Builds which include:
 - i) Complementing federal funds with provincial or territorial investments;*
 - ii) Building on government, non-profit, community-owned, and vacant lands;*
 - iii) Considering access to early learning and childcare, and the expansion of non-profit child care, in the development process;*
 - iv) Streamlining the process to cut development approval timelines to no longer than 12 to 18 months; and,*

v) *Meeting the criteria of the Apartment Construction Loan Program, including affordability requirements.*

- \$50 million over two years, beginning in 2024-25, on a cash basis, through Canada's Regional Development Agencies to support local housing, such as designing and upscaling of modular homes, the use of 3D printing, mass timber construction, and panelized construction.
- \$11.6 million in 2024-25 to support the development of its Housing Design Catalogue for up to 50 housing designs, such as modular housing, row housing, fourplexes, six-plexes, and accessory dwelling units, that provinces, territories, and municipalities could use to simplify and accelerate housing approvals and builds. This first phase of the catalogue will be published in fall 2024.
- \$409.6 million over four years, starting in 2025-26, to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to launch a new Canada Secondary Suite Loan Program, enabling homeowners to access up to \$40,000 in low-interest loans to add secondary suites to their homes. Details of this program will be announced in the coming months.
- Removing 100 per cent of GST from new rental housing projects, providing more low-cost financing and increase the capital cost allowance rate from 4 per cent to 10 per cent.
- 30-year mortgage amortizations for first-time home buyers purchasing newly constructed homes.
- \$50 million short-term rental enforcement fund to return short-term rental units to the housing market. The government is currently engaging with stakeholders to design a program and will announce further details later this year.
- \$976 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, and \$24 million in future years, to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to launch a new Rapid Housing stream under the Affordable Housing Fund to build affordable housing, supportive housing, and shelters.
- \$477.2 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, and \$147.8 million in future years, to launch a new \$1.5 billion Canada Rental Protection Fund, to be administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, to protect the stock of affordable housing in Canada.
- \$1.3 billion over four years, starting in 2024-25, to Infrastructure Canada for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

Housing Supportive Infrastructure

- \$6 billion over 10 years, starting in 2024-25, to Infrastructure Canada to launch a new Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund. The Fund will accelerate the construction and upgrading of housing-enabling water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste infrastructure that will enable new housing supply and help improve densification.
- \$ 1 billion available directly to municipalities to support infrastructure needs that will enable housing supply.
- \$5 billion for agreements with provinces and territories to support long-term priorities. Provinces and territories can only access this funding if they commit to key actions that increase housing supply:
 1. *Legalize more housing options by adopting zoning that allows four units as-of-right and that permits more "missing middle" homes, including duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, and small multi-unit apartments;*

2. *Implement a three-year freeze on increasing development charges from April 2, 2024, levels for municipalities with a population greater than 300,000;*
3. *Adopt forthcoming changes to the National Building Code to support more accessible, affordable, and climate-friendly housing options;*
4. *Provide pre-approval for construction of designs included in the government's upcoming Housing Design Catalogue; and,*
5. *Implement measures from the forthcoming Home Buyers' Bill of Rights and Renters' Bill of Rights.*

Provinces will have until January 1, 2025, to secure an agreement, and territories will have until April 1, 2025. If a province or territory does not secure an agreement by their respective deadlines, their funding allocation will be transferred to the municipal stream.

Transit/Housing

- Budget 2024 announces that any community seeking to access long-term, predictable funding through the federal government's forthcoming permanent public transit fund will be required to take action that directly unlocks housing supply where it is needed most by:
 - *Eliminating all mandatory minimum parking requirements within 800 metres of a high-frequency transit line;*
 - *Allowing high-density housing within 800 metres of a high-frequency transit line; and,*
 - *Allowing high-density housing within 800 metres of post-secondary institutions.*
 - *Completing a Housing Needs Assessment for all communities with a population greater than 30,000.*

Tenant Protection

- \$15 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, for a new Tenant Protection Fund, which will provide funding to organizations that provide legal and informational services to tenants, as well as for tenants' rights advocacy organizations to raise awareness of renters' rights. Budget 2024 also proposes a new Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights, to be developed and implemented in partnership with provinces and territories, to protect renters from unfair practices, make leases simpler, and increase price transparency. The government intends to address renovictions, introduce a nationwide standard lease agreement, and require landlords to disclose historical rent prices of apartments.

Healthcare

- \$150 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, to Health Canada for an Emergency Treatment Fund, open to municipalities and Indigenous communities to help provide rapid responses related to the opioid crisis.

Climate

- \$500 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, to Infrastructure Canada to support more projects through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program.

- 6.9 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, with \$1.4 million ongoing for the Meteorological Service of Canada's early warning system for extreme weather events, with a focus on floods and storm surges.
- \$607.9 million over two years, starting in 2024-25, to Transport Canada to top-up the Incentives for Zero- Emission Vehicles program.

Indigenous communities

- \$918 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, to Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to accelerate work in narrowing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis housing and infrastructure gaps.
- \$9 million in 2023-24 to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to support Indigenous governments directly affected by the 2023 wildfires in the Northwest Territories;
- \$145.2 million over five years, starting in 2024-25, for Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to work with First Nations to develop greater climate resiliency and deploy structural mitigation strategies that protect communities, homes, and essential infrastructure from climate disasters, including \$10.4 million for Modern Treaty and Self-Governing First Nations; and,
- \$20.9 million over three years, starting in 2024-25, for Indigenous Services Canada to support the First Nations Fire Protection Strategy, 2023 to 2028 by distributing fire alarms and fire extinguishers to homes and community facilities on-reserve, as well as fire-related education programs.

Reference

Government of Canada. Budget 2024. [Fairness for Every Generation](#)

[Government of Canada. 2024. Backgrounder: Solving the housing crisis: Canada's Housing Plan.](#)

Reactions

Provincial and Territorial Governments

PT Governments	Reactions
Alberta Global News	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta’s Finance Minister Nate Horner responded to the budget by saying that the federal government “poured gasoline on the inflation crisis in Canada” by overspending, overtaxing and over-regulating Canadians. Horner also said tax increases and red tape will increase costs and further add to the affordability crisis. He pointed to the proposed housing reforms, saying the regulations tied to federal housing funding will make it difficult to increase housing supply in Alberta.• “We are seeing increasing intrusion into areas of provincial jurisdiction with red tape and strings attached to any kind of funding,”• Premier Danielle Smith said she is concerned about overtaxing, overspending, over-borrowing and over-interfering in provincial affairs. “In fact, if they stopped trying to dictate to the provinces what to do, they’d probably have enough money to take care of their areas of jurisdiction”.
Saskatchewan Global News	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe commented on the release of the federal budget Tuesday afternoon at the Legislature, saying the \$39.8-billion deficit projected for 2024-25 is more than the province can handle.• “It’s more than we are willing to bear and it’s very unfortunate that this is a government that won’t even try,” Moe said.• He said the Saskatchewan Party asked the federal government to deliver two things in the 2024-25 budget; more funding towards municipal infrastructure and for the carbon price to be removed.• “We see that actually increase,” Moe said. “A swing and a miss on both of those fronts I would say.” He suggested the money be moved from the housing funding portions of the budget and return it to municipal infrastructure funding. “A house being built without water or sewer services is not that valuable to a municipality,” he said.
Manitoba Winnipeg Free Press	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manitoba Finance Minister Adrien Sala said the province sees an opportunity to combine provincial and federal budget promises to help Manitobans access affordable housing. Sala applauded new clean energy tax credits, which will be available to Crown corporations, as the benefits will keep costs low for Manitobans. “By allowing us to meet our energy needs in a way that will minimize the costs associated with new generation... that will help us to deliver lower rates,” he said. However, the budget missed the mark on infrastructure funding.

<p>Ontario</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Bethlenfalvy, Ontario’s Minister of Finance – “We were glad to see that the budget responded to Ontario’s call for more housing-enabling infrastructure funding to support getting more homes built. We look forward to working with our federal partners and municipalities to ensure that this funding supports our shared goal of building homes for people to own that also reflects unique needs of local municipalities. • However, we are disappointed by the lack of dedicated funding to expand two-way, all-day GO train service to Milton. Our government recently announced the largest expansion of GO train service in more than a decade and we urge the federal government to work with us to help commuters in Ontario get where they need to go faster. Our government is ready to invest. • We are encouraged that the budget recognized the importance of Canada’s end-to-end electric vehicle battery supply chain and the benefits it will bring to remote, Northern and Indigenous communities, including through the new electric vehicle supply chain investment tax credit. We urge the federal government to help fully realize the potential of the billions of dollars in investment we have attracted to the electric vehicle and battery sectors by matching the more than \$1 billion Ontario has dedicated to build all-season roads to the Ring of Fire region and by working with us to eliminate duplicative reviews and processes that are slowing down this nationally significant project, as we have recently done in the case of Highway 413.”
<p>Québec</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le ministre québécois des Finances, Eric Girard, est resté sur sa faim à propos du budget fédéral déposé mardi, qu’il juge dépensier, mais trop peu généreux pour le Québec sur plusieurs plans. • Selon lui, il s’agit d’un budget dépensier, ce qui est une « erreur » dans le contexte actuel, où on espère une baisse des taux d’intérêt. • Et malgré ces nombreuses dépenses, dit-il, le Québec n’obtient pas assez, notamment pour le transport en commun et les demandeurs d’asile. • Sur l’enjeu primordial du logement, selon lui, les sommes ne sont pas assez importantes « pour faire une différence ». • Quebec Finance Minister Eric Girard said on Wednesday he is unimpressed with the federal budget tabled on Tuesday, saying that while it was full of overspending it still managed to shortchange Quebec in many areas. • But he was quick to add that the spendthrift nature of the budget was a “mistake” in the current context where there is hope for a drop in interest rates. • And despite all that spending, Quebec did not receive sufficient financing for public transit or asylum seekers, Girard said, adding that the sums announced to deal with the front-and-centre issue of housing are not enough “to make a difference.”

<p>New Brunswick</p> <p>CBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs attacked federal spending plans on Tuesday, alleging they were out of control and unlikely to get results. "This government is obsessed with spending taxpayer dollars in the name of improving the working conditions and the affordability for all Canadians," Higgs said to reporters after the federal budget was introduced in the House of Commons. "It absolutely has not worked. It will not work and every Canadian is seen failing it." • When asked about federal housing money, Higgs said announcements about funding were merely headlines and would not actually help create housing. • Higgs also complained that Ottawa was forcing more programs into provincial jurisdiction, citing funding for daycares that does not have a long-term outlook and a health-care system "that needs more and more all the time." "So again, in dumping things into the provincial jurisdiction without thought, without any sort of real understanding and expecting the province just to take it."
<p>Nova Scotia</p> <p>CBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nova Scotia government's initial response to the federal budget introduced Tuesday in Ottawa was almost entirely positive, but the province's finance minister said officials in his department would need more time to study the Trudeau government's plans in detail. • "We're optimistic the investments they spoke about today will bear fruit in our province," Allan MacMaster told reporters Tuesday evening. "A renewed infrastructure fund — that is something we can make use of in the province." MacMaster said many municipalities across the province need to grow, and money set out in the budget could help them do just that. • "They need that funding to help grow the infrastructure to increase housing in their local areas, so we're happy to see that," said MacMaster, who added he was anxious to see how federal funds would dovetail with the plans he laid out in his spring budget.
<p>Prince Edward Island</p> <p>CBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Finance Minister Jill Burridge, while welcoming the funding, also expressed concern about a lack of skilled labour to build new housing. • In advance of the budget, there had been some hope from the provinces of news of new funding for workforce training programs. • "A lot of the provinces were looking for... a labour market transfer agreement top-up that we had in play. That's not there. So, a little bit disappointed in that," said Burridge. • "People and labour is what's underpinning a lot of the challenges that are before us." • Burridge is also looking for more details on how federal infrastructure funding will work. • The focus of infrastructure funding will work for larger communities, she said, but the Island's rural municipalities may find themselves left out.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We were hoping for more flexibility," said Burrige. "It's very much centred around water — wastewater, storm water — which we need, but how does a Belfast see benefit out of that?"
Yukon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "As affordability remains a top concern for Yukoners and all Canadians, we are encouraged that the Government of Canada has made housing a priority in this budget. • We also recognize the Government of Canada's commitment to create a Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights, which aligns with our government's efforts to review and update the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, and will be sure to make the Yukon's voice heard as these principles are developed. • "Our government looks forward to discussions with the Government of Canada about how new federal initiatives will be implemented in the Yukon. It is critical that the design and delivery of these programs reflects the distinct circumstances of the territory, including high construction costs, a short construction season and limited labour markets. • "Investments in housing and housing-enabling infrastructure are welcome, but the absence of a comprehensive community infrastructure program is concerning.
Northwest Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I was pleased to see Canada's recent announcement of investments in Arctic security. Protecting the Arctic is about making sure even Canada's most northern and remote communities have robust infrastructure to support emergency response, transportation, and communication needs. Working collaboratively with the federal government to close our infrastructure gaps will help ensure that our efforts to protect the Arctic are holistic, sustainable, and effective. • "Sufficient, accessible, and affordable housing is essential to building safe communities. In the NWT, we need to work together to achieve this, and we are optimistic about announcements around the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund. We look forward to working with Indigenous governments and the Government of Canada to improve housing options for NWT residents.

Municipal Associations

Municipal Associations	Reactions
FCM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) welcomes the focus on solving the housing and homelessness crises, including through investments in housing enabling infrastructure, offered in Budget 2024. These investments are a promising step toward addressing immediate challenges, however, more will need to be done to address the country's rapid and significant growth for the longer term. Cities and communities will redouble efforts to advance an

	<p>intergovernmental conversation on a new funding model for municipalities to make life better for the Canadians who call them home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “FCM has been clear that for every new home built, there must be a corresponding investment in infrastructure. Ottawa has heard us on this front. We will work in collaboration with the federal government to discuss the details of the funding and how we can deliver these important immediate investments to Canadians in parallel with fixing our funding model for the long term,” said FCM President Scott Pearce.
<p>Association of Manitoba Municipalities Winnipeg Free Press</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “(The AMM) welcomes the new \$6-billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund, which includes \$1 billion available directly to municipalities to support urgent infrastructure needs that will directly enable housing supply,” Blight said in a statement. • “Furthermore, as Manitoba municipalities grapple with a billion-dollar water and wastewater deficit, we appreciate the federal government’s commitment to funding essential infrastructure... to continue growing our communities.” • Kam Blight (AMM President) said the budget falls short of addressing escalating crime rates and public-safety challenges.
<p>Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • « Nous déplorons que plusieurs mesures présentées par le gouvernement fédéral empiètent dans les champs de compétences municipaux. Que ce soit en matière de transport, d’habitation et d’infrastructures, l’ajout de condition ralentit le déploiement des mesures et ne prend pas en compte les réalités locales. Par exemple, l’attente pour le renouvellement de la TECQ nuit à la réalisation de projets d’infrastructures. Il est grand temps que le gouvernement fédéral renonce à l’ajout de nouvelles conditions et qu’il s’entende avec le gouvernement du Québec. »
<p>Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L’Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFMNB) accueille le budget fédéral de 2024 avec un enthousiasme nuancé. L’AFMNB reconnaît la volonté du gouvernement fédéral d’aborder des problèmes nationaux critiques, tels que la crise du logement et les changements climatiques, mais exprime également ses préoccupations quant au manque de précisions pour évaluer les impacts directs de ces initiatives sur les municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick. • Les annonces récentes en lien avec la création de nouveaux logements sont accueillies favorablement. • L’AFMNB espérait trouver dans le budget des mentions plus importantes de l’immigration francophone à la suite de l’annonce, le mois dernier, de nouveaux programmes pilotes d’immigration dans les communautés rurales et francophones, dans le cadre de la Politique d’immigration francophone.
<p>Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While many details on plan elements are still to come, the new federal housing plan is significant in its scope and the scale of investment. The plan broadly addresses the core components of UBCM’s Housing Strategy, with a strong focus on rental housing and

	<p>homelessness, and shows a recognition of the important federal role in the funding and delivery of housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A primary concern is the condition for a three-year freeze on increasing development charges in order to access \$5 billion in infrastructure funding for provinces and territories (that would apply to communities larger than 300,000 people). The plan similarly refers to a variety of commitments that could be made by provinces, territories, and local governments, including “limiting increases to development charges and restricting their usage to growth related costs,” and the waiving of planning application fees and development charges for affordable housing projects.
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Municipalities

Municipalities	Reactions
Edmonton Global News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi said that the 2024 federal budget reflects the priorities that Edmontonians have asked the city to focus on. Sohi said this includes funding for public safety, housing support and economic development. “I am hopeful the federal budget can provide resources to support Edmonton’s growing population, and these resources can flow to Edmonton without undue delay.”
Calgary Global News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Mayor Jyoti Gondek told reporters on Tuesday that the budget seems to be focused on housing and the federal government is seemingly investing in infrastructure that is needed to grow existing communities. • However, she is disappointed that there is no mention of a permanent solution to how the federal government funds municipalities, which was a big ask from Calgary. • “I would really like to see some sort (of) process where provinces and municipalities can be engaged with the federal government to find a permanent funding solution,” Gondek said. • The Calgary mayor said she is pleased that the federal government is unlocking five federal parcels of land to be leased to housing providers. That includes Currie, a southwest community in Calgary, and an estimated 100 homes will be built in that area.
Saskatoon Globo News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark said the \$6-billion housing and infrastructure program promised for the city is a welcome initiative. • “There will be infrastructure dollars that will be going to help the need for housing but also the infrastructure around housing,” Clark said, saying that the city is working hard to increase high-density housing in Saskatoon’s main corridors. He added he has concerns around the conditions attached to the dollars including agreements that must be made between the province and federal government to unlock the funds. Clark also said some of the funds should be

	<p>connected to recreational facilities and other buildings in downtown Saskatoon to support the area’s revitalization.</p>
<p>Toronto CP24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow welcomed the federal government’s housing-focused budget but was disappointed that there was no money for the TTC Line 2’s subway cars. • “There’s quite a lot in here,” Chow said about the budget at a press conference on Tuesday. “Which means, for Torontonians, we can start building housing -- and some percentage of it will be affordable.” • “What’s encouraging is addressing homelessness [and] encampments,” Chow said. • “Topping up the housing accelerated funds, we already received quite a bit of that, close to half a billion. The new Canada housing fund is about 13 million, and so they are different programs, making it easier to own or rent a home [...] they are looking at building skills workers, trying to train skills workers because we need them, there’s a housing affordable fund coming in which is about 100 million.” • Chow said she will continue to negotiate with Ottawa to find funding for the subway cars. “Feds are perhaps looking to repurpose the infrastructure funds, because there’s \$20 billion for Ontario in 2024-25, so perhaps some of it can be reallocated. I don’t know. That requires some negotiation, and perhaps they are looking at other sources of funding,” she said.
<p>Ontario’s Big City Mayors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We applaud the federal government for their commitment in today’s budget to invest billions of dollars to get more homes built across Canada. They have listened to municipalities and understand how important investments in critical infrastructure are, so we can do our part to enable shovels in the ground faster in our communities,” said Marianne Meed Ward, Mayor of Burlington and Chair of Ontario’s Big City Mayors. “Ontario’s Big City Mayors are committed to working with all levels of government on our key priorities: housing and housing enabling infrastructure, a new financial deal for municipalities and the mental health, addictions and homelessness crisis. When we work together we can do great things and build safe, affordable and thriving communities for years to come.”
<p>Big City Caucus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality and Chair of Big City Mayors’ Caucus Mike Savage intends to build on this success and continue the efforts to adapt the municipal funding model to the realities of the 21st century. • “We are undergoing tremendous growth and are excited about the future. The investments in Budget 2024 will help narrow an immediate funding gap in the municipal infrastructure required to improve the quality of life in communities, though a serious gap remains. Municipalities are hubs for critical services and infrastructure: receiving 8 to 12 cents for every tax dollar just isn’t cutting it. We need new funding tools so that we can continue supporting necessary growth,” said Mayor Savage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality also noted that missing from this budget are additional investments in the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund which helps municipalities protect Canadians severely impacted by the rising effects of climate changes.
Kitchener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Today's budget is making significant investments in Canadians and the cities and communities we live in, striking a balance between affordability measures important to our residents while also investing in infrastructure that is critical to meeting our mutual housing goals," said Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbanovic." • "As a municipal partner, Kitchener is already moving in this direction by exploring opportunities to use community lands for housing purposes," added Mayor Vrbanovic. "We are grateful that through this federal initiative and the Housing Accelerator Fund, Kitchener will have further opportunities to leverage this approach to get more of the housing built that our community needs. • "It is critical, now more than ever, to invest in our fast-growing community and in the process, ensure that nobody is left behind," said Mayor Vrbanovic. "Investments such as those above, together with commitments to solving our housing crisis like we have seen with \$42.4 million in funding through the Housing Accelerator Funding(HAF), as well as Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) funding made available through our partners for Kitchener projects, like the two, YW Kitchener-Waterloo Block Line projects and the Working Centre's 97 Victoria Street Making Home project, will make a real difference in getting more housing built."
Winnipeg Winnipeg Free Press	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham said in a statement while he's pleased to see a focus on housing, he remains disappointed there's been no movement toward a permanent funding model among the federal, provincial and municipal governments so dollars can be better accessed for projects such as the upgrades promised for the North End Water Pollution Control Centre. • "I have asked the federal government before that they permit some flexibility when it comes to funding so that any new envelope of funding that they would roll out could be used to stack on previous funding granted," he said. "That's something all cities need."
Kitchener-Waterloo CBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments in housing, homelessness and artificial intelligence announced in Tuesday's federal budget are being applauded by politicians and business leaders in Waterloo region. • Waterloo Mayor Dorothy McCabe said she thought the budget showed the federal government is "fully back with both feet in" when it comes to housing.

Organizations

Organizations	Reactions
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The feds are acting boldly on housing while the provinces dither on—if not outright oppose—much-needed action,” says David Macdonald, a senior economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. “Unfortunately, the major payoffs of these measures won’t be for two to three years, well after the next election, but at least there’s movement forward.” • Ricardo Tranjan, political economist at the CCPA Ontario office, agrees. “This government has done more for housing than previous, more recent federal governments, and its current level of resolve outpaces that of most provincial governments.” “The new fund is a good start,” Tranjan says, “but it needs to roll out of the door fast and be an ongoing program, not a one-off.” • For Macdonald, this budget should be understood as one in which “federal action is finally beginning to match the scale of the housing crisis.” However, he says, the types of new funding announced in this budget won’t pay off for years. And they still don’t speak to two big blocks to ensure more affordable housing. “The truth is that there are two things that will bring down housing costs fast—lower interest rates and rent controls,” Macdonald says. “The Bank of Canada controls one and no one wants to broach the other, so the closest we’ll come will be a relatively limited program for non-market housing construction. • Macdonald warns that non-marketing housing still isn’t getting its due. “By contrast, the Construction Loans Program for private developers just got 10 times more money from the feds, even though it has only managed to get half of its previous government money to build more housing out the door.”
Canadian Urban Transit Association / Association Canadienne de Transport Urbain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federal government missed an opportunity to support Canadian communities and improve affordability in budget 2024. • The federal government is waiting until 2026 to introduce the much-needed permanent public transit fund. CUTA urged the government to introduce a component of the fund in the 2024 budget and open intake and funding commitments for the remainder of the fund. • Funding for transit safety and security on transit was also missing from the budget.
Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) CJWW Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Canadian Federation of Independent Business is pleased to see that small and medium sized businesses will be receiving \$2.5 billion in carbon tax rebates that were promised back in 2019. Previous to the budget reveal, the CFIB had called for this measure to be implemented as a form of relief for small firms feeling the pinch. • Dan Kelly, CFIB president, says the big surprise for small business in the budget was a series of changes to capital gains taxation. The budget proposes to increase the taxable portion of capital gains above \$250,000 from half to two-thirds. They say this will only affect 0.1% of

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly says what worries him “the most about the capital gains changes is the potential to demotivate Canadians from getting into business in the first place or working hard to grow a small business to a medium-sized business.”
Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The measures introduced today, if implemented, will alleviate the housing crisis and lead to reductions in homelessness,” said Tim Richter, President and CEO of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. “But it will take time to deliver all this housing and I worry about those Canadians who are struggling to pay their rent today and may find themselves homeless tomorrow.”
Canadian Housing and Renewal Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We applaud the government for including the measures for which CHRA and our members have tirelessly advocated – they are an excellent step towards solving Canada’s housing challenges. We simultaneously emphasize the importance of the federal government continuing to work in partnership with the community housing sector to roll out these measures and build our collective momentum to end Canada’s housing supply shortfalls. • While CHRA is pleased with the housing measures included in the new housing plan, we emphasize the importance that the federal government must place on ensuring continuous investment in housing for Indigenous peoples living in urban, rural, and northern areas beyond the \$4.3 billion invested in Budgets 2022 and 2023. It is imperative that the federal government provide additional investment in this area on an ongoing basis.
Le Front d’action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le Front d’action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU) se réjouit que le logement soit enfin la priorité d’un budget, celui déposé par la ministre fédérale des Finances Chrystia Freeland. Selon le regroupement de défense du droit au logement, le budget amorce un nécessaire virage dans l’affectation des fonds publics réservés au logement avec une certaine reconnaissance de l’importance de réserver des fonds pour le secteur sans but lucratif et les populations les plus vulnérables. • Le Front d’action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU) se réjouit que le logement soit enfin la priorité d’un budget, celui déposé par la ministre fédérale des Finances Chrystia Freeland. Selon le regroupement de défense du droit au logement, le budget amorce un nécessaire virage dans l’affectation des fonds publics réservés au logement avec une certaine reconnaissance de l’importance de réserver des fonds pour le secteur sans but lucratif et les populations les plus vulnérables.
Canadian Chamber of Commerce BNN Bloomberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today’s budget contains few surprises. Most of the major new spending was announced by the government over the last few weeks, and the government’s projections for the deficit are largely in line with previous predictions. Instead of using a revenue windfall to reduce the deficit more quickly, the government chose to use it along with changes to the capital gains tax, to fund this new spending.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's still missing is a clear plan to promote productivity and restore economic growth in Canada. Canada continues to slip further behind our competitors in both of these categories. • Our lagging productivity and stalled GDP growth means Canadians are becoming collectively poorer and working harder to just remain where they are today. Among the positive announcements in today's Budget, we're happy to see a focus on streamlining internal trade. Strengthening our internal trade could elevate GDP growth by up to 8% and fortify Canada's economic foundation. It shouldn't be easier to trade with Europe than it is within our own country. • Perrin Beatty, President and CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
<p>Public Service Alliance of Canada</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Canadians grapple with an affordability crisis, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) welcomes strong support for those most impacted – especially young workers – with major investments in housing, post-secondary education, and a National Food Plan for students. • However, PSAC is concerned about the plan to cut 5,000 federal public service jobs through attrition. When the \$15 billion in spending cuts were announced last year, Treasury Board President Anita Anand promised Canadians public service workers wouldn't be asked to do more with less and that there would be no job losses.
<p>Canadian Taxpayers Federation</p> <p>CJWW Radio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franco Terrazzano and the CTF are denouncing the federal government for hiking taxes, increasing spending and allowing debt interest charges to take up \$54 billion of the 2024-25 budget. Terrazzano says debt interest charges are costing taxpayers more than a billion dollars every week. He adds that large deficits mean interest charges will cost taxpayers more than the federal government will send to the provinces in health transfers this year.
<p>Canadian Climate Institute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Smith, President of the Canadian Climate Institute - "This budget commits the federal government to implement a low-cost national flood insurance program within the next 12 months and invests \$175 million over five years in First Nations emergency preparedness for wildfires and other climate disasters. These commitments will boost capacity to address acute climate-related threats to communities across the country. • "Yet helping communities prepare for escalating climate damages requires sustained focus and investment. Unfortunately, this budget continues a trend of under-investing in crucial preventative measures, such as delivering on federal responsibilities under the National Adaptation Strategy. And despite the significant funding committed to addressing Canada's housing crisis, this budget misses an opportunity to ensure new homes are built to be more resilient to climate hazards, which will drive up the costs of home ownership over time as climate-fuelled disasters escalate."
<p>Fraser Institute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In advance of the Trudeau government's 2024 budget released on Tuesday, many called for the government to finally address Canada's

	<p>stagnant economic growth. But despite the growing consensus that this issue represents a national crisis, the Trudeau government simply continued with the same approach that helped get us to this point in the first place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada’s GDP growth in recent years has been driven almost entirely by the labour supply, as the country has experienced historically high population growth. However, although GDP in aggregate has been growing, GDP per person (a common indicator of living standards) has been declining at an alarming rate. Since the second quarter of 2022 (when it peaked post-COVID), inflation-adjusted GDP per person has fallen from \$60,178 to \$58,111 in the fourth quarter of 2023—and has declined during five of those six quarters, and now sits below where it was at the end of 2014. • Labour productivity, which is the amount of output (GDP) produced per hour worked, has seen a similar decline. • The consequence of both declining GDP per person and lower productivity, as Carolyn Rogers warned, is a lower standard of living for Canadians. To reverse this crisis, the Trudeau government must address the cause of Canada’s weak economic growth—a severe lack of business investment.
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Media

Media	Reactions
<p>La Presse (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Il y avait de tout pour tous les goûts, mais en particulier pour les milléniaux – la cohorte la plus nombreuse de la population canadienne depuis 2023 – et pour leurs benjamins de la génération Z dont une bonne partie est désormais en âge de voter. • Ottawa pile allègrement dans les champs de compétence des provinces, faisant probablement le pari que les électeurs qui veulent des résultats lui pardonneront cette intrusion, alors que certains gouvernements provinciaux se traînent les pieds. • Si personne ne se réjouit d’une augmentation d’impôt, la méthode choisie est quand même bien ficelée. Mais on aurait préféré davantage de discipline. Moins de gaspillage à la ArriveCAN, plus de retenues dans la bureaucratie. • Depuis que les libéraux sont arrivés au pouvoir en 2015, les dépenses du gouvernement ont grimpé de 14,1 % du PIB à 17,5 %. Et la fonction publique a gonflé de 100 000 employés, quoique le fédéral s’engage maintenant à réduire son effectif de 5000 travailleurs. • Aujourd’hui, ce sont les plus riches qui paient pour l’interventionnisme sans cesse grandissant d’Ottawa.
<p>La Presse (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ne cherchez pas les grosses compressions de dépenses. La ministre prévoit réduire la fonction publique, certes, mais ce sera

	<p>seulement à partir de l’an prochain, et encore, d’un maigre 1,4 % sur quatre ans, par attrition. Cette année, son niveau de dépenses atteint 17,9 % du PIB, un sommet inégalé depuis 28 ans, exclusion faite des deux années pandémiques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le budget ajoute 11,6 milliards de nouvelles dépenses à l’année courante (2024-2025). Il y a de l’argent pour les autochtones (3,0 milliards), pour le logement (1,6 milliard), pour les prêts et bourses aux étudiants (1,1 milliard), pour stimuler la productivité (1,1 milliard) et pour subventionner les véhicules électriques (0,6 milliard), entre autres. • Hors de contrôle, les finances d’Ottawa ? Pas si l’on se fie aux cibles précises fixées l’automne dernier, lors de l’énoncé économique, et que réclamaient la plupart des experts. • Selon cet ancrage budgétaire, le déficit de l’année qui s’est terminée le 31 mars 2024 ne devait pas dépasser 40,1 milliards. Et par la suite, le déficit exprimé en pourcentage du PIB devait reculer jusqu’à tomber sous la barre de 1 % du PIB en 2026-2027, dans deux ans. • Or, les chiffres présentés mardi laissent croire que ces cibles seront atteintes. D’abord, le déficit de 2023-2024 est de 40 milliards (1,4 % du PIB), un cheveu sous les 40,1 milliards maximum promis.
<p>Le Devoir</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Les superlatifs ne manquent pas : buffet ouvert, de tout pour tous les goûts, plateforme électoraliste, oeuvre d’un « pompier pyromane »... Ce budget n’inspire pas, en dépit de ses promesses « transformatrices » pour améliorer le sort des jeunes Canadiens, nouvelle source de préoccupation des libéraux après la proverbiale classe moyenne des cycles budgétaires précédents. • Les libéraux démontrent encore une fois qu’ils n’ont aucun intérêt ni plan pour retrouver un jour l’équilibre budgétaire. Le ratio de la dette par rapport au PIB, qui sera de 41,9 %, la comparaison avantageuse du Canada par rapport aux autres pays du G7 et la cote de crédit enviable du Canada (AAA) suffisent à transformer cet enjeu de responsabilité fiscale en un débat abscons pour économistes en mal d’attention. • À 54 milliards de dollars, le service de la dette équivaut maintenant à la totalité des sommes perçues en TPS dans une année. • En l’absence d’une stratégie pour reprendre la mainmise sur les finances publiques, il devient de plus en plus difficile d’accepter ces explications avec sérénité d’esprit. • À tant dépenser, c’est à se demander ce qu’il restera à promettre pour les libéraux lors de la prochaine campagne, sinon que des illusions ou des lendemains qui déchantent.
<p>Le Journal de Québec/Montréal (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ce budget cible trois principaux segments d’électeurs. 1) Happés par la crise de l’habitation, les jeunes adultes séduits par Pierre Poilievre ont droit entre autres à plusieurs milliards d’investissements pour la construction de nouvelles unités et une meilleure protection des locataires.

	<p>2) Les électeurs néo-démocrates y trouvent une panoplie de mesures progressistes inspirées du NPD, dont une hausse justifiée de l'impôt sur les gains en capital pour les mieux nantis.</p> <p>3) Les électeurs libéraux fatigués de Justin Trudeau, mais craintifs d'un Pierre Poilievre nettement trop à droite sur l'échiquier idéologique.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frôlant les 40 milliards \$, sauf pour les apôtres du déficit zéro à tout prix, même le déficit est raisonnable. • Électoraliste, le budget Freeland, avec son florilège d'investissements de nature plus sociale, est ouvertement interventionniste. • Bref, sur le plan politique, l'effet de contraste avec les conservateurs de Pierre Poilievre est non seulement frappant, il est bien réel. • Même si le budget empiète sur quelques juridictions provinciales, son plus grand test sera celui de l'habitation. La vraie crise, la plus dure, est celle-là.
<p>Le Journal de Québec/Montréal (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La dette du Canada avait doublé depuis l'arrivée au pouvoir de Justin Trudeau. Oui, autant de dettes accumulées en huit ans que dans le siècle et demi précédent. Ça, c'était le portrait avant le budget d'hier. Et on continue à emprunter à un rythme effréné. • Le déficit annoncé hier s'inscrit dans la foulée de l'approche Trudeau. Il faut s'endetter pour «investir» pour notre population. La comptabilité créative a permis de ne pas dépasser les 40 milliards prévus. Mais les paiements d'intérêts sur la dette, à 54 milliards par an, nous font constater le prix des déficits à répétition. L'argent de toute la TPS y passe
<p>The Toronto Star (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday's federal budget is an attempt by the Liberals to tackle two problems. • The first is the cost-of-living strains felt by many Canadians, from grocery bills to rent to out-of-reach home prices. And in tackling that crisis, Liberals are hoping to tackle the other problem — their sagging popularity. • As we've written, it's vital that Ottawa is more engaged on the housing file. For social and affordable housing especially, the federal government has the deepest pocket. • The budget focus speaks to a government that is mindful of the calendar – and its place in the polls. • In 2015, Trudeau stressed helping the middle class but now focused on a demographic of younger Canadians. Will the strategy deliver electoral success? That depends on whether Millennial and Gen Z voters see the Liberals as the problem or the solution.
<p>The Toronto Star (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No matter who one wants to win the next election, there is a sense that this current government is winding down to some kind of conclusion. It is impossible to view this eighth budget from Trudeau's government through any other lens. Granted, this may not be the last budget before a 2025 election, but it begs the question: what, if anything, will last?

<p>The Globe and Mail (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Freeland’s recounting of the budget’s basic bargain was pretty much that simple: “The new revenues will make life cost less for millions of Canadians, particularly millennials and Gen Z,” she told reporters in a news conference. • Someone has to pay and that’s going to be the people no one feels sympathy for: investors and corporations making a lot of money off capital gains on their assets. It will add up to a useful chunk of change – including an expected bump of \$6.5-billion in 2024 driven largely by investors selling assets in the next two months, before the stiffer tax treatment takes effect in June. • In political terms, these tax revenues are cost-free money for a government that believes there’s always a need for more government. • But the tax hikes are a signal that discourages the private investment Canada is struggling to attract. They clash with government’s pledge to encourage economic growth and productivity, which, according to Ms. Freeland’s own budget, are key to creating future prosperity for Canadians – and for the millennials and Gen Zers that the Liberals are trying to woo.
<p>The Globe and Mail (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For nearly a decade, the Liberals have been a borrow-and-spend government, going so far as to preach the absolute virtue of debt financing. • But the party of borrow and spend is no more, with the government venturing in the 2024 budget that “it would be irresponsible and unfair to pass on more debt to the next generations.” • Unfortunately for Canadians, the upshot of that thought is not a move to restrain federal spending in order to limit the rise in debt. • Instead, Ottawa’s spending spree will continue – but will now be financed with hefty new taxes, totalling \$21.9-billion over five years.
<p>The National Post (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Dodge hazarded a guess on Monday night that the 2024 budget was “likely to be the worst budget since the MacEachen budget of 1982.”
<p>The National Post (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This, remember, is a government that has run deficits every year since it was elected in 2015 and doubled the national debt in the process. • It’s a bit late — now that Ottawa spends more on interest payments than it does on health care — to claim to be squeamish about intergenerational fairness. • It smacks of “hero syndrome,” like the firefighter who commits arson or the cop who “discovers” a bomb that he planted himself. • The Conservatives successfully mobilized opposition by saying convenience-store owners and farmers were being branded “tax cheats.” The Liberals were forced to backtrack, eventually offering a small business corporate tax cut that cost more than the \$3 billion they were trying to raise in the first place. • A pre-budget report by Scotiabank economist Rebekah Young noted that corporate taxes have doubled in real terms over the



	<p>past decade. In that same period, real GDP has grown by just 17 per cent, while program spending and the public sector have increased by 40 per cent. Spending on Indigenous programs has risen by 181 per cent since 2015 to over \$30 billion a year, according to the budget.</p>
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