



Our Government's Work on **AFFORDABILITY**



Jobs & the Economy



Families



Pharmacare



Child Care & Education



Seniors



Affordable Housing

Introduction

The global economy is facing serious challenges—challenges which have real world effects on Canadians at the local level. Families across Kanata—Carleton feel the effects when the price of gas or groceries rise. Small businesses across our riding are challenged by shortages and price hikes—symptoms of supply chains which haven't fully healed from the effects of a global pandemic. However, Canadians can have confidence that our economy faces these challenges from a position of economic strength. Our top priority is ensuring that Canadians are supported throughout turbulent global economic times. With the right policies, we are delivering historic progress and stable economic recovery.

Since the Liberal government took office in 2015, our priority has been making life more affordable for Canadians. We've focused on creating good-paying, sustainable jobs for Canadians, creating over 1,000,000 jobs between 2015 and 2020. Between August 2020 and July 2021, Canada recovered 112% of the jobs lost to the pandemic, compared to just 90 per cent in the United States. Our unemployment rate is down to just 5.5 per cent—close to the 5.4 per cent low in 2019 that was Canada's best in five decades. We're restoring employment to pre-pandemic levels and beyond.

We've made historic investments in housing through our \$55+ billion National Housing Strategy and our Rapid Housing Initiative. We've broken down barriers and created Canada's first-ever national early learning and childcare program.

We've targeted affordability for seniors by increasing Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement by up to \$2,100 per year, and we've created over \$11 billion in new funding for home care, palliative care, and mental health care.



On top of all that, we set ambitious targets to reduce poverty nation-wide. Initially, we set a target to reduce Canada's poverty rate by 20 percent by 2020. By 2017, we had already hit this target, three years ahead of schedule. To date, over 1.3 million Canadians, including 435,000 children & 45,000 seniors, have been lifted out of poverty since 2015—the largest poverty reduction and lowest poverty rate in Canadian history.

Pictured: Speaking in the House of Commons on local issues.

From helping Canadians find a safe place to call home, to lifting them out of poverty and into the workforce, decisions made on Parliament Hill affect each and every one of us.

Each day at Parliament, I work on your behalf to ensure that federal decisions reflect the diverse voices and needs of residents of Kanata—Carleton.

HIGHLIGHTS

Investing in the future of Canadians to make life better and provide more opportunities for future generations.



\$55+ BILLION NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY



1,000,000 JOBS CREATED BY CANADIANS



1,300,000 CANADIANS LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY



\$2,100 MORE IN OAS/GIS FOR SENIORS YEARLY

Jobs and the Economy

Canada has come roaring back from the pandemic. Jobs are on the rise, and unemployment is on the decline. However, snarled supply chains are driving prices higher at the checkout counter. Buying a house is out of reach for far too many Canadians. Inflation—a global phenomenon—is making things more expensive in Canada, too.

So now is the time for us to focus—with smart investments and a clarity of purpose—on growing our economy and tackling these new economic challenges. We also know that investments we make have to be done sustainably. That's why we are focused on keeping Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio and Canada's AAA credit rating in check.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS EFFECTS ON AFFORDABILITY

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, this strong fiscal footing put us in the position to be able to create over 75 unique support programs and provide \$322 billion to fight the virus and help Canadians. This has been one of the most ambitious COVID-19 relief plans in the world.

The results have kept thousands of businesses from closing, and kept food on the table for millions of Canadians. Canadian workers have been able to keep their jobs because of programs like the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, businesses have been able to remain solvent because of programs like the Canada Emergency Business Account and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, and those who have lost employment have been able to access assistance through programs like the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. Our actions have stabilized the economy, and helped recoup almost 80% of jobs lost at the outset of the pandemic.

As we continue to navigate the pandemic, we will keep focusing our fiscal firepower on creating jobs and getting people back to work. That means investing in areas that create jobs, and repositioning our economy for long term success and leadership in the economy of the 21st century.

Supporting Small Businesses

One of the most important elements of making life more affordable is ensuring that Canadians have good jobs in a growing, sustainable economy. Part of that strategy includes a heavy focus on supporting the largest job creators in the country: small businesses. As a former Executive Director of the Kanata North Business Association, I've worked with small businesses and I know first-hand how much work goes into making a small business successful. As a government, we are listening to small business owners and making policy decisions that help them grow and thrive. That's exactly why we **lowered small business taxes from 11% to 9%**—the **lowest tax rate in the G7**. We have also negotiated with credit card companies to lower the fees they charge businesses when their customers use credit cards. These two initiatives alone are putting **up to \$15,000** back into the pockets of small business owners each year.

Canada Workers Benefit

Another policy that contributes to increased affordability is the new Canada Workers Benefit (CWB). This benefit provides low-income families **up to \$2,335 per year** (and to make it easy, if you qualify, you will automatically receive it when you file your taxes). The CWB allows low-income workers to take home more money while they work, which encourages more people to join and stay in the workforce. This program is helping **more than two million Canadians**, and by 2020, will have helped lift around **70,000 Canadians out of poverty**. This kind of investment is hugely impactful and gives families and workers the money they need to invest in their families and their futures. This is another reason why, in the last four years, Canada has seen the greatest reduction in poverty ever recorded.

Canada Training Benefit

Many individuals in our community have been wondering how they can get the training they need to keep their existing jobs or adapt to new jobs. In Budget 2019, we announced the Canada Training Benefit, which will give Canadians the opportunity to do four weeks of training every four years to adapt to the changing workplace. It will provide **up to \$1,000 to pay for training**, as well as additional income support to help with everyday expenses. When we invest in lifelong education, our community and our country is stronger and better equipped to prosper.

Canada Summer Jobs Program

The Canada Summer Jobs Program (CSJ) ensures that young Canadians get the experience they need to secure the good-paying jobs of the future. We doubled the number of students who received summer jobs through the CSJ, and created almost 70,000 jobs for youth in 2018, and again in 2019. In 2020, we expanded the program to create 80,000 jobs. This summer, we're aiming for a huge increase, and hoping to create over 120,000 jobs for youth.

Here in Kanata—Carleton, students can apply for work opportunities at the Diefenbunker, the Richcraft Recreation Complex, and a variety of local businesses. This program is a win-win for employers and students. It means that employers receive extra help during a busy season, and it means students can earn money to save for tuition.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

This year, the Canada Summer Jobs program has provided funding for **620+** summer jobs at **100+** local employers. That translates to **over 171,500 hours** of valuable work experience for students in Kanata—Carleton!

Families

Middle-Class Income Tax Cut and Canada Child Benefit

Increasing affordability for families is a major area of focus for our government. When we took office in 2015, we immediately announced two major policies that have since had a positive impact on making life more affordable in Kanata—Carleton. The first was a **middle-class tax cut**. Lowering income taxes for nine million middle class families means they have more money to invest in everything from housing to school supplies.

The other was the historic **Canada Child Benefit (CCB)**. The CCB has had the most profound impact on child poverty reduction of any government action in Canadian history. It is **lifting 300,000 kids out of poverty by providing 9 out of 10 families with more money** each month. Sometimes it's easy to get lost in the numbers, but it's important to consider the impact that this program has had on our community. This is the single largest reduction in child poverty in the history of Canada, and it is providing critical help to the families that need it most.

Through the CCB, **families in our community on average received \$5,080** during the first benefit year, tax-free. **Over 27,500 children** in our community benefit from the CCB.

Last summer, two years ahead of schedule, we boosted the CCB to match rising costs of living—and we're going to continue with annual increases moving forward.

The Canada Child Benefit is our government's way of showing that we believe in making sure every family, and every child, has a fair opportunity to achieve success.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

I've had countless discussions with families in our community who have shared how the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) has changed their lives. Almost **13,750 families** in Kanata—Carleton benefit from this program. They are receiving more money every month for everything from healthy groceries, to new clothes, to extracurriculars like playing hockey at the Kanata Recreation Complex. For many, these are things that they simply could not afford in the past, and the CCB is giving them more financial flexibility and peace of mind.

Pharmacare

Many of us need access to prescription drugs on a daily basis. As it stands today, Canada is the only country in the world with a universal public health care system that doesn't include access to prescription medication. We're changing that.

To ensure that no Canadian has to choose between the prescription drugs they need and putting food on the table, the federal government will also continue its ongoing work towards a universal national pharmacare program. This will include tabling a Canada Pharmacare bill and working to have it **passed by the end of 2023**.

Our work to lower prescription drug costs

- Joined the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) to increase public drug buying power.
- Investing \$544 million to lower the cost of prescription drugs and promote health care innovation, as part of an **\$11.5 billion** investment in home care, pharmaceuticals, and mental health care.
- We're designing a Canadian Drug Agency to save Canadians billions of dollars each year, and we are investing **\$1 billion** to help families with the high cost of drugs for rare diseases. This is the next step towards a National Pharmacare program, which would see universal access to prescription drugs.

Joining the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance



PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES
WORKING TOGETHER MEANS...
increased buying power together,
CREATING...
cost savings for you.

Dentalcare

Seeing a dentist is important for our health, but can be expensive. A third of Canadians do not have dental insurance, and in 2018, more than one in five Canadians reported avoiding dental care because of the cost.

Budget 2022 proposes to provide funding of \$5.3 billion over five years, starting in 2022-23, and \$1.7 billion ongoing, to Health Canada to provide dental care for Canadians. This will start with under 12-year-olds in 2022, and then expand to under 18-year-olds, seniors, and persons living with a disability in 2023, with full implementation by 2025. The program would be restricted to families with an income of less than \$90,000 annually, with no co-pays for those under \$70,000 annually in income.

Mental Healthcare & Addictions

In a typical year, 1 in 5 Canadians will experience a mental illness or addiction problem. And we know that over the last 18 months, nearly half of Canadians reported that their mental health worsened during the pandemic. Mental health is health.

In 2021, we committed \$100 million over the next three years to support the mental health of Canadians most affected by COVID-19, as well as \$45 million over the next two years to develop national standards for mental health care.

Additionally, the pandemic saw a sharp increase in opioid-related overdoses and deaths, which have had devastating impacts on communities across Canada. Budget 2022 provides \$100 million to Health Canada to carry out the Substance Use and Addictions Program to support harm reduction, treatment, and prevention at the community level.

Child Care and Education

Investing in affordable child care options is a huge pillar of our plan to increase affordability. Being a mom of three, I know how expensive it can be to find child care. For many families, the cost of child care can feel like a second mortgage – and that's if they can even find space. The high costs and the inability for some parents to go back to work has been a major contributor to poverty across Canada.

That's why we committed in our September 2020 Speech from the Throne to create the first-ever Canada-wide early learning and child care system. Affordable, inclusive, and high quality child care is absolutely essential to build back better.

We've taken steps in the right direction since then. We've signed early learning and childcare agreements with every province and territory in Canada.

In total, the Government of Canada is aiming to create approximately 250,000 new child care spaces through Canada-wide agreements with provinces and territories, and already achieved its goal of creating 40,000 more affordable child care spaces before 2020 through the 2017-18 and 2019-20 Early Learning and Child Care Agreements. These new spaces will be predominantly among licensed not-for-profit, public, and family-based child care providers.

Canada–Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

In March 2022, we signed the “Canada–Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement” which allocated \$13.2 billion over three years towards early learning and child care.

- This funding creates an estimated **86,000 new licensed early learning and child care spaces** across the province in areas of highest need. This will help support communities address their specific child care and early learning needs and will help parents access infant/toddler care.
- Through this agreement, Ontario will receive \$10.2 billion in federal funding through 2025-26 and an additional \$2.9 billion in 2026-27, as part of the annual and ongoing \$9.2 billion federal commitment from Budget 2021 for a **total of \$13.2 billion**.
- In addition to the federal contribution, Ontario will provide \$267 million under this new agreement in addition to the over \$2 billion the province currently invests in early learning and child care annually.



OUR INVESTMENTS IN CHILD CARE

Over the next four years, our childcare plan will:

- Reduce licensed childcare fees for children under six years old on average by **25 per cent** as of April 1, 2022, saving Ontario families an average of about \$2,200 per child.
- Further lower fees by the end of 2022, and by then, families will see a total reduction of **50 per cent** on average, saving them an average of about \$6,000 per child per year.
- Deliver on average \$10-a-day child care for Ontario families by the end of March 2026.

- Establishing a Canada-wide early learning and child care system will create jobs and economic growth, increase women's participation in the workforce, and offer each child in Canada a better start in life.
- Investments in child care will benefit everyone across Canada. Studies show that for every dollar invested in early childhood education, the broader economy receives between \$1.50 and \$2.80 in return.

Rest assured, child care is a huge priority for our government. It's also one where we've taken the approach of working closely with our provincial and municipal partners to ensure that we come up with the best solutions for families. We know how much of an impact affordable child care can have on raising Canadians out of poverty.

COVID-19 has brutally exposed something women have long known: Without child care, parents—usually mothers—can't work. The closing of our schools and child care drove women's participation in the labour force down to its lowest level in more than two decades. National child care and early learning is social infrastructure that will drive jobs and growth.

New Parental Sharing Benefit

We've introduced a new Employment Insurance Parental Sharing Benefit to encourage both parents in two-parent families to share equally in the work of raising their children.

The new Parental Sharing Benefit means up to five more weeks of EI benefits when parents—including adoptive and same-sex parents—agree to share parental benefits. Parents also have the option of accessing an additional eight weeks if they choose to spread their EI benefits over a longer period. This is an evidence-based approach that provides greater flexibility—particularly for mothers—to return to work sooner, if they so choose, so they can continue to contribute to Canada's growing economy.

Post-Secondary Affordability

As children get older and prepare for their next steps in life, a barrier they often face is the high cost of post-secondary education. To make a difference, we've **increased Canada Students Grants by 50%**, helping over **490,000 students** this year alone. This means that far more students in our community, regardless of socio-economic status, will have the opportunity to access post-secondary education.

We've also taken steps to lower student loan costs by lowering the floating and fixed interest rates, and amending the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act so that loans will not accumulate interest during the six month "grace period" after a loan borrower finishes their program. Furthermore, **students will not be required to start paying back their student loans until they are earning at least \$25,000 a year.**



Left: We are committed to investing in early learning and child care to increase affordability and ensure our kids are set up for success.

Right: Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, announcing the federal government's \$10-a-day childcare agreement with the Province of Ontario.

Seniors

I connect with seniors in our community as much as possible. Whether it's through my former municipal work on the Mayor's Seniors Council, or speaking to seniors who email and reach out to me often, I've built a good understanding of the issues important to seniors. Because seniors disproportionately face affordability challenges compared to other Canadian age demographics, one of the core aspects of our plan to increase affordability is focused on seniors.

OAS and GIS Expansions

One of those key steps was something we did when we first took office in 2015. We bolstered Old Age Security (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), and Canada Pension Plan (CPP). Age of eligibility to receive OAS, GIS, and CPP was **moved back to 65**, after the previous government decided to raise it to 67.

As far as the CPP is concerned, along with the provinces, we are raising the maximum CPP retirement benefit by up to 50% over time. This translates to an increase in the current maximum retirement benefit of **more than \$7,000**. We also started targeted outreach to seniors, raising the uptake of OAS and GIS. This will ensure more Canadians receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

Many seniors are living longer and relying on monthly benefits to afford retirement. And some seniors continue to be at heightened risk of living with a low income. In Budget 2019, we introduced another set of positive steps to support seniors; one of which is a higher GIS exemption. This change will mean that working seniors can earn up to just under \$30,000 before the GIS benefits are fully rolled back. This is up from around \$20,000 just last year. It represents a \$1.76 billion investment in Canadian seniors.

If you, or anyone in your family needs help getting access to the benefits you deserve, contact my office and we will be happy to help. When seniors have the support they need, they can be lifted out of poverty. That's our goal as a government.

In July 2022, we're **increasing Old Age Security pensions by 10%** for seniors over 75.

THIS MEANS

Improved financial stability for seniors in need.

More of Our Work to Make Life More Affordable for Seniors

- Investing \$28.7 billion in public transit so that seniors have increased ability to have transportation independence.
- A historic investment of \$11 billion in home care, palliative care, and mental health care.
- Establishing dental care for seniors.
- Enhancements to the CPP, along with the provinces, to raise the maximum CPP retirement benefit by up to 50% over time. This translates into an increase in the current maximum retirement benefit of more than \$7,000.
- Building 12,000 new affordable housing units specifically for seniors, and 60,000 affordable units overall, through a new National Housing Co-Investment Fund.
- Enhanced the CPP to increase the maximum level of pension earnings to 14% as of 2025.
- Implemented a ten per cent increase to the maximum GIS benefit for single seniors.
- Expanded auto-enrollment to include GIS benefits, ensuring more Canadians automatically receive the benefits to which they are entitled.
- Investing \$20 million in community-based projects that support Canadians living with dementia and their families.
- Introducing a Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit, which would provide up to \$7,500 in support for constructing a secondary suite for a senior or an adult with a disability.

Housing

One of the biggest contributors to unaffordability in Canada, especially here in Kanata—Carleton, is the high cost of housing. Rents and mortgages are high, and the constituents I speak with on the doorstep always raise housing affordability as a top priority. Having an affordable, consistent place to live has life changing impacts — it can lift families out of poverty, give parents the freedom to pursue a career, and free up the extra resources families need to provide for their kids.

Canada's National Housing Strategy

One of the core pillars of our movement to increase affordability is the **\$55+ billion National Housing Strategy**. This is the first significant federal investment in housing in over 50 years.

We're investing in housing across the entire continuum — from homelessness, to supportive housing, social housing, and rental housing.

The key aspects of the National Housing Strategy include:

- A reduction of homelessness by 50%.
- The removal of housing strains on more than 530,000 households.
- The creation of 100,000 new housing units: four times more than the previous government.
- The repair and renewal of more than 300,000 housing units: three times more than the previous government.
- The protection of an additional 385,000 households from losing an affordable place to live.
- The new National Housing Council, which will provide recommendations on how to make housing a human right.

To learn more about the National Housing Strategy or the First-Time Home Buyer incentive, visit www.placetocallhome.ca

Increasing Housing Supply

Over the next ten years, we will double the number of new homes we build. This must become a great national effort, and it will demand a new spirit of collaboration—provinces and territories; cities and towns; the private sector and non-profits all working together with us to build the homes that Canadians need. We will invest in building more homes and in bringing down the barriers that keep them from being built. We will invest in the rental housing that so many count on.

First-Time Home Buyer Incentive

For many members of our community, homeownership is something that seems out of reach. In Budget 2019, we took a big step forward by introducing the First-Time Home Buyer Incentive. This program will make it easier for middle-income Canadians to fulfill their dream of homeownership. It will provide first-time homebuyers with an incentive of **up to 10% of the house price**, lowering the amount of the mortgage as well as the monthly mortgage payments. This is a huge deal for individuals and families in our community looking to get into the housing market.

Making the Housing Market Fairer

There is concern that foreign investment, property flipping and speculation, and illegal activity are driving up the cost of housing in Canada. The government has an important role to play in tackling these issues. We will prevent foreign buyers from parking their money in Canada by buying up homes. We will make sure that houses are being used as homes, rather than as commodities to be traded.

Housing [cont.]

Housing is a basic human need, but it is also an economic imperative. Our economy is built by people, and people need homes in which to live. But Canada does not have enough homes. We need more of them, fast.

There are a number of factors that are making housing more expensive, but the biggest issue is supply. Put simply, Canada is facing a housing shortage—we have a lower number of homes per person than many OECD countries. Our latest budget outlines perhaps the most ambitious plan that Canada has ever had to solve that fundamental problem.

In a given year, Canada constructs about 200,000 new housing units—standalone houses, individual condos, and other types of homes alike. **Over the next ten years, we will double the average number of new homes we build each year.**

That means:

- Incentivize cities to build more homes and create denser, more sustainable neighbourhoods.
- Creating a new generation of co-op housing through the largest investment in new co-op housing in more than 30 years.
- Leveraging municipal transit funding to build more homes with access to public transit.
- Accelerate retrofits and build more net-zero homes in communities across Canada so that people can save on energy bills.
- Using federal infrastructure funding to encourage more home construction.

Rising housing costs have put a tight squeeze on middle class Canadians and young people are worried about ever owning a home.

The goal of homeownership—one that was taken as a given for previous generations—is increasingly out of reach for far too many Canadians. Young people cannot imagine being able to afford the house they grew up in. Foreign investors and speculators are buying up homes that should be for Canadians to own. Rents in our major cities continue to climb, pushing people further and further away from where they work. We need housing that is affordable for everyone, and a system where an entire generation is not priced out of owning a home.

That's why we're **introducing a Tax-Free First Home Savings Account**. Like an RRSP/TFSA, this new savings account would give prospective first-time home buyers the ability to **save up to \$40,000, tax-free**. Contributions would be tax-deductible, and withdrawals to purchase a first home—including investment income—would be non-taxable. Tax-free in, tax-free out.

FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS' TAX CREDIT



Significant closing costs associated with purchasing a home can be a hurdle for first-time home buyers.

The First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit is intended to provide support to Canadians buying their first home.

Budget 2022 proposes to **double the First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit amount to \$10,000**. The enhanced credit would provide up to \$1,500 in direct support to home buyers.

This measure would apply to homes purchased on or after January 1, 2022.

Unfair practices like blind bidding or asking buyers to waive their right to a home inspection can make the process of buying a home even more stressful for too many Canadians.

Our government is developing and implementing a Home Buyers' Bill of Rights and bring forward a national plan to end blind bidding. Among other things, the Home Buyers Bill of Rights could also include ensuring a legal right to a home inspection and ensuring transparency on the history of sales prices on title searches.

We will ban foreign investment in Canadian housing for two years.

For years, foreign money has been coming into Canada to buy residential real estate. This has fueled concerns about the impact on costs in cities like Vancouver and Toronto and worries about Canadians being priced out of the housing market in cities and towns across the country.

To make sure that housing is owned by Canadians instead of foreign investors, we will implement restrictions that would prohibit foreign commercial enterprises and people who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents from acquiring nonrecreational, residential property in Canada for a period of two years.

Additionally, non-resident, non-Canadians who own homes that are being underused or left vacant would be subject to the Underused Housing Tax once it is in effect.

Property flipping—buying a house and selling it for much more than what was paid for it just a short time prior—can unfairly lead to higher housing prices.

Some people who engage in property flipping may be improperly reporting their profits to pay less tax. We are introducing new rules to ensure profits from flipping properties are taxed fully and fairly. Specifically, any person who sells a property they have held for less than 12 months would be considered to be flipping properties and would be subject to full taxation on their profits as business income. Exemptions would apply for Canadians who sell their home due to certain life circumstances, such as a death, disability, the birth of a child, a new job, or a divorce.

➤ Since the pandemic began, we have implemented over 75 unique programs to support Canadians. These programs have been lifelines for Canadians in communities across the country.

To read more about these programs, as well as what our government's doing for the environment, economy, seniors, housing, and the major investments we've made to improve life in Canada, visit my website at JennaSuddsMP.ca/news.



Left: We're taking steps to make life more affordable for seniors. With new increases to OAS and GIS, seniors are now receiving up to \$2,100 more per year.

Right: Lowering taxes for small businesses from 11% to 9%, and negotiating lower credit card fees means small businesses like Eldon's Pantry in Carp are saving up to \$15,000 per year.

Do you have ideas on how to help improve affordability in Canada?

Share your thoughts at JennaSuddsMP.ca/contact.