



## **FEDERAL BUDGET 2016**

### ***Canadian Dental Hygienists Association***

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#### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Federal Budget, presented on March 22, 2016 by Finance Minister Bill Morneau, posts a \$29.4B deficit for this fiscal year which is expected to grow yearly over the next 4 years, until 2021.

#### **KEY THEMES:**

- Strengthening the middle class
- An Innovative and Clean Economy
- An Inclusive and Fair Canada
- Canada in the World
- Open and Transparent Government

#### **RELEVANT ITEMS:**

- **Health:** The federal government is committed to working in partnership with provinces and territories to negotiate a new multi-year health accord that will improve health care in Canada and boost health outcomes for all Canadians. Budget 2016 may better meet the needs of patients by supporting the delivery of care into homes and communities.
- **Increasing Access for First Nations:** To address critically needed health infrastructure for First Nations communities, Budget 2016 proposes to invest \$270 million over five years to support the construction, renovation and repair of nursing stations, residences for health care workers, and health offices that provide health information on reserve.
- **Eliminating Child Tax Credits:** Budget 2016 proposes to reduce the maximum eligible expenses for the Children's Fitness Tax Credit by half for 2016, and to eliminate as of 2017. However, the federal government's measures for families with children, combined with the middle class tax cut, will provide these families with additional net after-tax benefits of approximately \$14 billion during the 2015-16 to 2020-21 period.
- **Incentives to Attract Health Care Professionals:** To help draw skilled labour to northern and isolated communities, Budget 2016 proposes to increase the maximum daily residency deduction to \$22 from \$16.50, estimated to reduce federal revenues by about \$255 million over the 2015-16 to 2020-21 period. Budget 2016 proposes to increase the loan repayment threshold under the Canada Student Loans Program's Repayment Assistance Plan to ensure that no student will have to repay their Canada Student Loan until they are earning at least \$25,000 per year.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

With the federal government's commitment to work more with the provinces on health care issues, CDHA is optimistic that we can find opportunities to tie our advocacy objectives into their initiatives.

**CDHA remains committed to working with all levels of government on these and other key initiatives in the years ahead!**

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES