



On March 22, 2017, Finance Minister, the Honourable Bill Morneau, unveiled the 2017 federal budget entitled: *Building A Strong Middle Class*. This budget defines the federal government's fiscal priorities for the coming year. Innovation is a prominent theme, with a focus on infrastructure, housing, skills, health, and gender balance. The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) has highlighted key aspects below, especially those related to health care and the dental hygiene profession.

Health Care

- Budget 2017 highlights the benefits of the new fiscal arrangement between Ottawa and the provinces for new long-term health funding agreements. *“Through this funding, Canadians can expect improved access to home, community and palliative care services.”*
- Invest \$108 million over four years to expand the Territorial Health Investment Fund to ensure northerners have access to the health care they need, including children's oral health
- Invest \$53 million over five years to address health data gaps, support improved decision-making and strengthen the reporting on health system performance
- \$140.3 million over five years, with \$18.2 million per year ongoing to improve access to prescription medications, lower drug prices and support appropriate prescribing

Indigenous Peoples

- \$828.2 million over five years to address immediate health priorities including mental health services, home and palliative care, primary care, infectious and chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health, and non-insured health benefits
- Undertake a comprehensive review with Indigenous partners of all current federal programs that support Indigenous students who wish to pursue post-secondary education to ensure that these programs meet the needs of individual students
- \$118.5 million over five years to support the Urban Indigenous Strategy projects relating to women (e.g. family violence programs, support for day care etc.)

Education and Skills Training

- Support adult-learners to pursue post-secondary education through changes to the Canada Student Loans and Grants
- Expand eligibility for Canada Student Loans and Grants for part-time students and for students with dependent children

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

