



2018 FEDERAL BUDGET: EQUALITY AND GROWTH

On Tuesday, February 27, Finance Minister Bill Morneau unveiled Budget 2018 in the House of Commons. This budget defines the federal government's fiscal priorities for the coming year. The following summary highlights key investments in areas that relate to or have implications for health and dental hygiene practice. To read the full budget, [click here](#).

In Budget 2018, the government proposes to:

Health

- Provide \$38.6 billion to the provinces and territories under the Canada Health Transfer, as well as \$11 billion over 10 years to support home care and mental health
- Create an Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare chaired by former Ontario Health Minister Eric Hoskins
- Invest \$20 million over five years to support community-based dementia projects
- Work with provinces and territories to tackle issues that affect the health of Canadians and to improve the responsiveness of our health care system

Indigenous Health

- Invest \$490 million over two years to maintain access to medically necessary health benefits and services through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program
- Invest \$235 million in transforming First Nations health systems, in collaboration with First Nations partners, so that health programs and services are developed, delivered, and controlled by First Nations peoples
- Invest \$6 million over five years to support the Métis Nation in gathering health data and developing a health strategy
- Invest \$82 million over 10 years, with \$6 million per year ongoing, for the co-creation of a permanent Inuit Health Survey

Tobacco Control

- Invest \$80.5 million over five years and \$17.7 million per year ongoing to renew and enhance the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy, including targeted actions to prevent tobacco use and promote tobacco cessation
- Increase by \$1 per carton the excise duty on cigarettes

Cannabis

- Invest \$62.5 million over five years for public education initiatives around cannabis use
- Invest approximately \$20 million in studying cannabis' effects on mental health and addiction

Research and Innovation

- Invest \$3.2 billion over five years in science and research, including increased funding for physical, life, and social sciences and health research, upgrading laboratory facilities, harnessing the power of "Big Data," and encouraging more female entrepreneurs; this investment represents an historic 25% increase in funding for research

Gender Equality

- Invest \$34.9 million over five years to support the implementation of Bill C-65, which will require stricter anti-harassment policies in federally mandated workplaces
- Spend more than \$50.4 million to address sexual harassment in Canadian workplaces
- Provide an additional \$86 million over five years to expand the strategy to address gender-based violence, which will support anti-bullying policies and enforcement by police
- Increase support for women-owned businesses by making available \$1.65 billion over three years in new financing for women entrepreneurs through the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada
- Provide \$115 million over five years as part of a Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy that will comprehensively address barriers faced by women entrepreneurs when starting and growing businesses, particularly in high-growth areas of the economy

Canada Student Grants and Loans

- Expand eligibility for part-time students, as well as full- and part-time students with children
- Introduce a three-year pilot project that will provide adults returning to school on a full-time basis after several years in the workforce with an additional \$1,600 in grant money starting Aug 1, 2018.

CDHA remains committed to working with all levels of government on these and other key initiatives in the years ahead. We will continue to keep CDHA members informed of health policy matters and identify opportunities to influence public policy.

**For further information, please contact Paula Benbow
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