

Federal Budget 2021 Summary of Points of Interest from a Real Property Community Perspective

On April 19, 2021, the Minister of Finance tabled Budget 2021 “*A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience*”. The budget proposals contain numerous items of interest for the federal Real Property Community. These range from investments in real property assets/infrastructure, greening and supporting technologies/data to changes or enhancements in governance, policy, legislative initiatives, and human resources considerations.

This document summarizes relevant information for the RPIC Board of Directors to help inform future planning and programming for the Institute to deliver on its mission: “*To foster and enable professional development, knowledge exchange and lifelong learning across the federal government real property community. for the Real Property Community.*”

This report is divided into two sections for easy reference:

Section 1: Topics of interest by Chapter.

Section 2: Specific investments by Category of Interest.

Section 1: Topics of Interest by Chapter

1. Keeping Canadians Healthy and Safe:

- Investing in Research and Science – strengthening Canada's Bio manufacturing and Life Sciences Sector, includes investments in infrastructure
- Safe travel and continuing to protect travellers – investments at Airports

2. Seeing Canadians and Businesses Through to Recovery:

- Benefit programs

3. New Opportunities for Canadians:

- Women, Youth, Skills (new Skills for Success Program) Training (new Community Workforce Development Program) and Trades (new Apprenticeship Service for construction and manufacturing)

4. Helping Canadian Businesses Grow and Succeed:

- Funding to modernize federal procurement and create opportunities for specific communities by diversifying the federal supplier base
- Investments in physical and digital infrastructure and other measures to transform the borders
- New investments, that build on the Strategic Innovation Fund's existing resources, for the Net Zero Accelerator
- Investing in World-leading Research and Innovation
- Supporting a Digital Economy, including establishing a new Data Commissioner

5. A Healthy Environment for a Healthy Economy

- Growing the Net Zero Economy
- Charging and Fuelling Zero Emission Vehicles
- Federal Clean Electricity Fund – federal buildings
- First Federal Green Bond
- Investing in Clean Industry Future
- Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage, includes advancing related technologies
- Low-Carbon Fuel Procurement Program – Treasury Board Secretariat
- Investing in clean energy in Northern and Indigenous Communities
- Advancing and Steering Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan

- Integrating Climate into Federal Decisions
- Strengthening Public Related Climate Disclosures
- Building Green Homes and Communities
- Strengthening Climate Resiliency: Climate change impacts e.g., flooding, coastal erosion, permafrost thaw put Canada's infrastructure at significant risk
- Improving Wildfire Resilience and Preparedness
- Supporting Provincial and Territorial Disaster Response and Recovery
- Addressing Climate Change in the Yukon
- Historic Investments in Canada's Natural Legacy
- Creation of a Natural Investment Fund – natural and hybrid Infrastructure projects
- Conserving Canada's Oceans
- Developing Canada's Water Agency
- Canada's first-ever Census of the Environment.

6. Strengthening the Cities and Communities We Call Home

- National Housing Strategy
- Supporting the National Arts Centre – program integrity
- Protecting Canada's Historic Places – legislative considerations
- Investing in Canada's infrastructure – public transit etc
- First National Infrastructure Assessment
- National Capital Region Investments:
 - Funding to National Capital Commission – federal assets and green infrastructure
 - Interprovincial Bridge – dedicated joint project office PSPC/NCC
 - Interprovincial transit office – within the National Capital Commission
- Investing in Small Craft Harbours
- Support for National Museums and the National Battlefields Commission
- Granville Island Emergency Relief Fund Extension – CMHC

7. A More Equal Canada

- Action plan to increase diversity in hiring and appointments within the public service
- Enabling Accessibility Fund
- Construct eight plasma collection sites across the country

8. Strong Indigenous Communities

- Support continued action on infrastructure and clean water
- Indigenous Community Infrastructure Initiative
- Redesign the federal Additions to Reserve policy
- Advancing Specific Claims Settlements
- Renew and make permanent dedicated consultation and policy development funding
- Top up to Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to help Indigenous communities adapt to climate change
- Modernize federal procurement and create opportunities for specific communities by diversifying the federal supplier base – includes Indigenous peoples
- Repair, renovate, and replace policing facilities in First Nation and Inuit communities
- Co-development of an Action Plan with Indigenous partners to implement legislation on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Inuit and Metis will also benefit from: programs mentioned earlier e.g., clean energy

9. Protecting Our Shared Values

- Promoting official languages – amendments to the Official Languages Act
- Improve Canadians' access to information
- Ensure the timely delivery of defence and marine procurement projects

10. Responsible Government

- Canadian Digital Service renew and expand capacity (TBS)
- Reducing Government travel (savings)
- Modernizing Critical IT Infrastructure
- Advancing Public Service Job Classification
- Improving Federal Asset Management – Fixed Asset Review Recommendations
- Procurement Workforce
- Supporting Chief Information Officer
- Supporting Efficient, Stable Digital Applications
- Public Services and Procurement Canada Program Integrity
- Employment and Social Development Canada Rent Price Adjustment
- Supporting the Public Service Occupational Health Program
- Renewing funding for the Office of Public Service Accessibility

Section 2: Specific Investments and/or Initiatives by Category of Interest

The following highlights specific investments or initiatives by category of interest. It should be noted that these are excerpts from the 2021 Budget and are provided to demonstrate the magnitude of investment in these areas of interest. Many of these investments, particularly infrastructure related investments, build on the investments or initiatives announced earlier in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement or mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. The budget includes notes to indicate that some funds are sourced from existing departmental resources.

Also note, some investments may apply to more than one category. They were included in the primary category of interest.

1. Infrastructure: Federal Assets

- **Airports:**
 - provide \$82.5 million in 2021-22 to Transport Canada to support major Canadian airports in making investments in COVID19 testing infrastructure
 - provide \$6.7 million in 2021-22 to the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority to acquire and operate sanitization equipment
 - provide \$271.1 million in 2021-22 to CATSA to maintain operations and enhanced screening services at the 89 airports
- **Borders:** provide \$656.1 million over five years, beginning in 2021-22, and \$123.8 million ongoing, to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to modernize our borders. Among other things, this will help protect the integrity of our border infrastructure.
- **National Research Council:** provide \$90 million over five years on a cash basis, starting in 2021-22, to the National Research Council to retool and modernize the aging Canadian Photonics Fabrication Centre.
- **Space based Earth Observation:** \$80.2 million over eleven years, starting in 2021-22, with \$14.9 million in remaining amortization and \$6.2 million per year ongoing, to Natural Resources Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada to replace and expand critical but aging ground-based infrastructure to receive satellite data.
- **High frequency rail Quebec City to Toronto:** continued funding for joint project office (Transport Canada/Via Rail) and provide \$491.2 million over six years, starting in 2021-22, to VIA Rail Canada for infrastructure investments that would support the overall success of the high frequency rail project.
- **Bonaventure Expressway** – partially owned by Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated, a federal Crown corporation. Through this budget, the government is announcing its intention to work with the City of Montréal to redevelop the Bonaventure Expressway, including exploring the merits of divesting the federal portion of the Bonaventure Expressway.
- **National Capital Region:**
 - provide \$35 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, to the National Capital Commission (NCC) to support the acquisition and upkeep of federal assets, green infrastructure, and spaces in the National Capital Region.
 - a dedicated project office responsible for addressing the need for an additional NCR crossing will be established at Public Services and Procurement Canada, jointly with the NCC.

- create an interprovincial transit project office within the NCC. The project office will work to study and plan for potential interprovincial tramway connections between Ottawa and Gatineau.
- **Small Craft Harbours:** provide \$300 million, on a cash basis, over the next two years, to Fisheries and Oceans Canada to repair, renew, and replace small craft harbours.
- **National Museums and the National Battlefields Commission** - funding proposed:
 - for Canada's six national museums and the National Battlefields Commission to address financial pressures caused by COVID-19 and program integrity issues.
 - for the RCMP Heritage Centre as it begins the process of transitioning to a new national museum,
 - to support the completion of the National Museum of Science and Technology's Ingenium Centre.
 - for the Canadian Museum of History to support the purchase of the collection of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame
- **National Film Board:** funding proposed for the National Film Board to address immediate funding pressures and ensure that it can continue its production and distribution activities and maintain its capital investments.
- **Granville Island:** funding to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to extend emergency relief for Granville Island, BC to sustain its operations in 2021-2022 and support its tenants.
- **Support for Canadian Blood Services:** provide \$20 million over three years, beginning in 2021-22, to Health Canada to construct eight plasma collection sites across the country. These sites will be operated by Canadian Blood Services.

2. Infrastructure Funding Programs (other levels of government, Indigenous Infrastructure, and other communities)

- **National Housing Strategy Programs and Housing in the North:**
The federal government announced Canada's first ever National Housing Strategy in 2017 - a ten-year plan to help improve the affordability, availability, and quality of housing for Canadians. In addition to investments from 2017 to 2020, budget 2021 proposes to provide an additional \$2.5 billion over seven years, starting in 2021-22, to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This new funding will add a minimum of 4,500 new affordable units to Canada's housing supply, building on the 4,700 units already funded in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement through its \$1 billion investment.
 - \$600 million over seven years, starting in 2021-22, to renew and expand the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund, which encourages new funding models and innovative building techniques in the affordable housing sector. This new funding will support the creation of up to 12,700 more units, bringing the total to over 30,000 units.
 - *Summary:* The Government of Canada is currently on track to deliver over \$70 billion by 2027-28 to help more Canadians find a place to call home. Of the overall \$70 billion in National Housing Strategy funding, over \$25 billion has been committed as of December 2020.
- **The North:**
 - provide \$25 million, in 2021-22, to the Government of the Northwest Territories to address housing priorities. Funding will support the construction of 30 new public housing units across the Territory.
 - to provide \$25 million, in 2021-22, to the Government of Nunavut to support the Territory's short-term housing and infrastructure needs including priority redevelopment and refurbishment projects resulting in approximately 100 new housing units
- **Indigenous Infrastructure:** proposes distinctions-based investments of \$6.0 billion over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$388.9 million ongoing, to support infrastructure in Indigenous communities, including:
 - \$4.3 billion over four years, starting in 2021-22, for the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund, a distinctions-based fund to support immediate demands, as prioritized by Indigenous partners, with shovel ready infrastructure projects in First Nations, including with modern treaty and self-governing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities.
 - \$1.7 billion over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$388.9 million ongoing, to cover the operations and maintenance costs of community infrastructure in First Nations communities on reserve.
 - provide \$108.8 million over two years, beginning in 2021-22, to re-establish and revitalize Indigenous cultural spaces.
 - \$108.6 million over five years, beginning in 2021-22, to repair, renovate, and replace policing facilities in First Nation and Inuit communities.
- **Bio-science capital and infrastructure funding:** \$500 million over four years, starting in 2021-22, for the Canada Foundation for Innovation to support the bio-science capital and infrastructure needs of post-secondary institutions and research hospitals.

- **Public Transit Fund:** announced \$14.9 billion over eight years, starting in 2021-22, for public transit projects across Canada. This included new permanent funding of \$3 billion per year for communities across Canada, beginning in 2026-27.
- **Natural Infrastructure Fund:** provide \$200 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, to Infrastructure Canada to establish a Natural Infrastructure Fund to support natural and hybrid infrastructure projects. This would help to improve well-being, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and prevent costly natural disasters. Examples of Cities' strategies are included in the budget document.
- **Canada Community Building Fund:** To help communities keep infrastructure projects on track, the government tabled legislation on March 25, 2021, that proposes a one-time investment of \$2.2 billion to address infrastructure priorities in municipalities and First Nations communities. The legislation also proposes to rename the Gas Tax Fund as the Canada Community-Building Fund.
- **Canada Community Revitalization Fund:** provide \$500 million over two years, starting in 2021-22, to the regional development agencies for community infrastructure.
- **Communities at Risk Infrastructure Program:** provide \$2 million in 2021-22 to Public Safety Canada to enhance its Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Program.
- **Enabling Accessibility Fund:** provide additional funding of \$100 million over two years, starting in 2021-22, to Employment and Social Development Canada to triple funding for the Enabling Accessibility Fund. This would help offset the costs of renovations, retrofits, and accessible technologies in workplaces.
- **Official Language Minority Communities:** provide \$81.8 million over two years, starting in 2021-22, to Canadian Heritage to support the construction, renovation, and expansion of the educational and community spaces that serve official language minority communities.

3. Addressing Climate Change

- **Federal Clean Electricity Fund:** To support the Government of Canada's commitment to power federal buildings with 100 per cent clean electricity by 2022, the budget proposes to provide \$14.9 million over 4 years, starting in 2022-23, with \$77.9 million in future years, to Public Services and Procurement Canada for a Federal Clean Electricity Fund to purchase renewable energy certificates for all federal government buildings.
- **Federal Green Bond:** The government will publish a green bond framework in the coming months in advance of issuing its inaugural federal green bond in 2021-22, with an issuance target of \$5 billion, subject to market conditions. This would be the first of many green bond issuances. The framework will provide details on how, through green bonds, investors will have opportunities to finance Canada's work to fight climate change and protect the environment. Possible projects these green bonds could fund include green infrastructure, clean tech innovations, nature conservation, and other efforts to address climate change and protect the environment. The Department of Finance Canada will co-lead the development of Canada's green bond framework with Environment and Climate Change Canada, in co-development with other departments including Natural Resources Canada; Infrastructure Canada; Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada; Transport Canada; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Public Safety Canada; as well as related Crown corporations.
- **Advancing Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Technologies:** provide \$319 million over seven years, starting in 2021-22, with \$1.5 million in remaining amortization, to Natural Resources Canada to support research, development, and demonstrations that would improve the commercial viability of carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies.
- **Low Carbon Fuel Procurement Program:** To support the long-term development of low-emission marine and aviation fuels, provide \$227.9 million over eight years, starting in 2023-24, to the Treasury Board Secretariat to implement a Low-Carbon Fuel Procurement Program within the Greening Government Fund. The government will also continue to use and expand federal procurement to support the Greening Government Strategy so that public dollars prioritize the use of lower carbon materials, fuels, and processes.
- **Investing in Clean Energy in Northern and Indigenous Communities:** Budget 2021 proposes to invest \$40.4 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, to support feasibility and planning of hydroelectricity and grid interconnection projects in the North. This funding could advance projects, such as the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project in Yukon and the Kivalliq Hydro Fibre Link Project in Nunavut. Projects will provide clean power to northern communities and help reduce emissions from mining projects. Also proposes to invest \$36 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative, to build capacity for local, economically sustainable clean energy projects in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and support economic development.
- **Integrating Climate into Federal Decisions:** provide \$36.2 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, to Environment and Climate Change Canada to develop and apply a climate lens that ensures climate

considerations are integrated throughout federal government decision-making. This includes resources to increase economic and emissions modelling capacity.

- **Steering Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan:** provide \$94.4 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, to Environment and Climate Change Canada to increase domestic and international capacity and action to address climate change, enhance clean tech policy capacity, including in support of the Clean Growth Hub, and to fund reporting requirements under the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act.
- **Climate Related Disclosure.** In addition to public organizations responsibilities for reporting, Canada's large Crown corporations (entities with over \$1 billion in assets) will report on their climate-related financial risks for their financial years, starting in calendar year 2022 at the latest. Crown corporations with less than \$1 billion in assets will be expected to start reporting on their climate-related financial risks for their financial years beginning in calendar year 2024 at the latest.
- **Strengthening Climate Resiliency:** provide \$1.4 billion over 12 years, starting in 2021-22, to Infrastructure Canada to top up the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, to support projects such as wildfire mitigation activities, rehabilitation of storm water systems, and restoration of wetlands and shorelines.
 - Floods: provide \$63.8 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, to Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Public Safety Canada to work with provinces and territories to complete flood maps for higher-risk areas.
 - Wildfire: provide \$100.6 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$4.7 million in remaining amortization, to the Parks Canada Agency to enhance wildfire preparedness in Canada's National Parks.
 - Mapping: provide \$28.7 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$0.6 million in remaining amortization, to Natural Resources Canada to support increased mapping of areas in Northern Canada at risk of wildfires. This funding would also enhance the capacity of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, which is jointly funded in partnership with provinces and territories.
- **Standards:** proposes to invest \$11.7 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, through Infrastructure Canada to renew the Standards to Support Resilience in Infrastructure Program, so that the Standards Council of Canada can continue updating standards and guidance in priority areas such as flood mapping and building in the North.

4. Indigenous Engagement:

- **Engagement with Indigenous Peoples:** provide \$50 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$10 million ongoing, to renew and make permanent dedicated consultation and policy development funding.
- **Parks Canada Capacity for Indigenous Engagement:** Funding proposed for Parks Canada to support the Agency's capacity to engage at Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination discussion tables. This measure will support the government's commitment to negotiating workable arrangements with Indigenous groups to define how each group will exercise its Aboriginal rights.
- **Supporting Indigenous Partners for Meaningful Crown Consultation and Engagement:** Funding proposed for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to negotiate and implement Consultation Protocols. This measure will support the government's commitment to meaningful engagement and consultation with Indigenous people on projects or changes that could impact their traditional territories and Aboriginal and treaty rights.

5. Heritage and Canada's Natural Legacy:

- **Historic Places:** provide \$28.7 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$5.8 million ongoing, for the Parks Canada Agency to implement new legislation that, if enacted, would provide for a transparent designation framework as well as the sustainable protection of the over 300 federally owned Historic Places.
- **HMS Erebus and HMS Terror:** provide \$15 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, to accelerate archaeological and conservation work of these artifacts of international importance.
- **Protection of Canada's Natural Legacy:** provide \$2.3 billion over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$100.5 million in remaining amortization, to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to:
 - Conserve up to 1 million square kilometres more land and inland waters to achieve Canada's 25 per cent protected area by 2025 target, including through national wildlife areas, and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
 - Create thousands of jobs in nature conservation and management.
 - Accelerate new provincial and territorial protected areas.
 - Support Indigenous Guardians.
 - Take action to prevent priority species at imminent risk of disappearing, including through partnerships with Indigenous peoples.

- Taken together with funding provided for the Nature Legacy Initiative announced in Budget 2018, this represents the largest investment in nature conservation in Canada's history.
- **Conserving Canada's Oceans:** provide \$976.8 million over five years, starting in 2021–22, with \$80.0 million in remaining amortization, to help Canada reach its 25 per cent by 2025 target to protect the health of our oceans, commercial fishing stocks, and Canadians' quality of life, especially in coastal communities.
- **Preserving Wild Pacific Salmon:** includes funding to Fisheries and Oceans for new hatchery facilities and habitat restoration.

6. Data, Information Management and Technology, Security and Reporting Initiatives:

- **Supporting the Office of the Chief Information Officer:** funding proposed for the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat to ensure that the Office of the Chief Information Officer has the necessary resources to provide strategic direction and leadership in the areas of information management, information technology, security, privacy, and access to information across the Government of Canada.
- **New Data Commissioner:** provide \$17.6 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$3.4 million per year ongoing, to create a Data Commissioner. The Data Commissioner would inform government and business approaches to data-driven issues to help protect people's personal data and to encourage innovation in the digital marketplace.
- **Cyber Security:** provide \$4.1 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$1.0 million ongoing, for Public Safety Canada to continue the cyber security and cybercrime survey program.
 - provide \$456.3 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$60.7 million in remaining amortization and \$62.2 million ongoing, to Shared Services Canada and the Communications Security Establishment
- **First Census of the Environment:** provide \$25.6 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$5.8 million per year ongoing to Statistics Canada, and \$1.9 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$0.3 million per year ongoing to Environment and Climate Change Canada to create a Census of the Environment to help monitor environmental trends and better inform decision making.
- **Renewing the Clean Growth Hub and Clean Technology Data Strategy:** Funding proposed for Innovation, Science and Economic Development and Natural Resources Canada to renew Canada's single source window to streamline client services and improve federal program coordination and reporting on clean technology results across government.
- **National Infrastructure Assessment:** Provide \$22.6 million over four years, starting in 2021-22, to Infrastructure Canada to conduct Canada's first ever National Infrastructure Assessment. The assessment would help identify needs and priorities for Canada's built environment. This measure would improve infrastructure planning and help all orders of government make informed decisions about infrastructure projects.
- **Modernizing the Department of National Defence's Information Systems:** funding to upgrade the critical information systems it relies on to manage its assets, finances, and human resources.
- **Canadian Digital Service:** provide \$88 million over four years, starting in 2022-23, and \$25.8 million ongoing, to the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat to renew and expand the capacity of the Canadian Digital Service.
- **Measuring What Matters:**
 - provide \$7.7 million over five years, and \$1.6 million ongoing, to enable Statistics Canada to improve quality of life measures and address key data gaps.
 - provide \$6.1 million over five years, and \$0.6 million ongoing, to enable Statistics Canada to bring together key economic, social, and environmental datasets and develop a user interface to better support decision-making and budgeting
- **Critical IT Infrastructure:** provide \$300 million on a cash basis to Shared Services Canada over the next three years, starting in 2021-22, to continue work to repair and replace critical IT infrastructure.

7. Federal Procurement:

- **Modernize Federal Procurement:** provide Public Services and Procurement Canada \$87.4 million over five years starting in 2021-22, and \$18.6 million ongoing. This funding will be used to modernize federal procurement and create opportunities for specific communities by diversifying the federal supplier base. Specifically, Public Services and Procurement Canada would:
 - implement a program focused on procuring from Black-owned businesses
 - continue work to meet Canada's target of 5 per cent of federal contracts being awarded to businesses managed and led by Indigenous peoples
 - improve data capture, analytics, and reporting

- incorporate accessibility considerations into federal procurement, ensuring goods and services are accessible by design. Public Services and Procurement Canada will develop new tools, guidance, awareness, and training for federal departments.
- **Defence and Marine Procurement:** provide \$70.8 million over 10 years, starting in 2021-22, to ensure the timely delivery of defence and marine procurement projects.
- **Procurement Workforce:** funding proposed for Public Services and Procurement Canada to continue to deliver procurement services to client departments and agencies, negotiate increasingly complex high value contracts, and develop and implement a vendor performance management framework.
- **Low Carbon Fuel Procurement Program** – see Climate Change paragraph 2 above.

8. Other Governance, Structure, Policy, Legislative and Human Resources Initiatives:

- **Improving Federal Asset Management:** funding proposed (\$5M 2021/22-2023/24) for the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat to implement recommendations from its **Fixed Asset Review** and to help departments respond to real property use changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This will help ensure the Government's real property portfolio is modern, agile, and right-sized, as well as financially and environmentally sustainable.
- **Interim Capital Asset Program Capacity Funding for Parks Canada:** funding proposed for the Parks Canada Agency (22/23) to maintain its internal capacity to manage its capital assets.
- **Development of Canada's Water Agency:** provide \$17.4 million over two years, starting in 2021-22, to Environment and Climate Change Canada to support work with the provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, and key stakeholders on the scope of the agency's mandate, including identifying opportunities to build and support more resilient water and irrigation infrastructure. The Agency will be headquartered outside the National Capital Region
- **New Regional Development Agency for BC:** create a new agency for British Columbia and to provide \$553.1 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$110.6 million ongoing, to support the new agency and ensure businesses in B.C. can grow and create good jobs for British Columbians. Existing core program funding from Western Economic Diversification will remain to support the Prairies.
- **Public Service Employment Act:** proposes amendments to the Public Service Employment Act to affirm the importance of a diverse and inclusive workforce and avoid biases and barriers in hiring.
- **Redesigning the Additions to Reserve Policy:** provide \$43 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, to work with Indigenous partners and other stakeholders to redesign the federal Additions to Reserve policy and to accelerate work on existing requests from First Nations across the country.
- **Advancing Specific Claims Settlements:** will replenish the Specific Claims Settlement Fund in 2022-23.
- **Bill C-15, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act:** provide \$31.5 million over two years, starting in 2021-22, to support the co-development of an Action Plan with Indigenous partners to implement this legislation and to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.
- **Modernizing Official Languages Act:** provide \$6.4 million to Canadian Heritage and \$2.3 million to the Treasury Board Secretariat, over two years, starting in 2021-22, to move forward with modernizing the Official Languages Act.
- **Access to Information:** provide an additional \$12.8 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, to the Treasury Board Secretariat, to support further improvements to the online Access to Information and Personal Information Request Service.
- **Reducing Government Travel:** reduce the operating budgets of the departments and agencies with the highest historical travel costs, resulting in combined savings of \$1.1 billion over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$222.5 million per year ongoing.
- **Stabilizing Human Resources, Pay, and Pension:** Funding proposed for the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat to ensure that the Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer has the capacity necessary to address human resources, pay, and pension policy matters on behalf of the Government.
- **Advancing Public Service Job Classification** Funding proposed for the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat to support the Classification Program, which ensures that the relative value of work is recognized and compensated appropriately across the core public administration.
- **Public Services and Procurement Canada Program Integrity:** Funding proposed to Public Services and Procurement Canada to continue service delivery to federal departments and agencies, maintain federal employee salaries, and to support employee safety during the pandemic.
- **Employment and Social Development Canada Rent Price Adjustment:** Funding proposed for Employment and Social Development Canada to cover rent increases related to its national network of service centres and offices.

- **Supporting the Public Service Occupational Health Program:** proposed funding would allow the program to continue to play this function for departments by addressing program integrity pressures.
- **Renewing funding for the Office of Public Service Accessibility:** Funding proposed for the Treasury Board Secretariat to continue its work to improve accessibility in the federal government, including strengthening capacity for implementing an Accessibility Strategy for the Public Service and supporting departments in fulfilling legislative obligations under the Accessible Canada Act.

Source: “2021 Federal Budget” <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>.

This document is provided for information only. Excerpts were taken from the 2021 Budget Plan and re-organized for easy reference by the RPIC Board.

For additional reference, the 2020 Fall Economic Statement Summary of Points of Interest for the RPIC Board of Directors can be found at http://www.rpic-ibic.ca/images/the-institute/others/2020_Fall_Economic_Statement_Points_of_Interest_ENG.pdf