

2019 FEDERAL BUDGET

Investing in the Middle Class

CANADA TRAINING BENEFIT

Intended to help workers pay to upgrade their skills by providing a non-taxable credit and supporting workers in training through a new Employment Insurance (EI) Training Support Benefit.



ANALYSIS

The government's proposed Canada Training Benefit is intended to provide income support while workers keep their skills relevant. This will potentially mean employees taking more time away from work to upgrade their skills. To offset the increased costs resulting from EI premiums, the government proposes to introduce an EI Small Business Premium Rebate.



SKILLED TRADES

The Budget proposes a number of investments to encourage more young people to consider skilled trades and expand the number of work-integrated learning opportunities, with an aim to create 40,000 work placements for students by 2023-24.

ANALYSIS

The Ontario Chamber Network welcomes the government's proposal to invest in a coordinated approach to promoting skilled trades and technologies through a new apprenticeship strategy and the creation of a national campaign to promote skilled trades.

ENERGY AND ELECTRICITY

Budget 2019 proposes investments to support the manufacturing and purchase of zero-emissions vehicles, expand hydroelectricity and electrical connectivity infrastructure through the Canada Infrastructure Bank, and incent energy-efficiency retrofits to residential and commercial buildings.



ANALYSIS

Measures that support business investment in zero-emissions vehicles will reduce their energy costs while supporting innovation and competitiveness of Ontario's auto sector. Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings will also help reduce long-term electricity costs.

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BROADBAND

Budget 2019 sets a national target for broadband expansion: 95 percent of Canadian homes and businesses will have access to internet at speeds of at least 50/10 Mbps by 2026 and 100 percent by 2030. The Budget commits to \$5-6 billion in funding for rural broadband over the next 10 years



ANALYSIS

Communities rely on broadband to attract businesses and talent, innovate and modernize, educate their populace, and engage with the rest of the world. Commitments to set a national target and leverage private sector investment are necessary to drive regional economic development in Ontario. Under the current definition of coverage, many homes and businesses continue to lack adequate access to high-quality networks.



REGULATION

Budget 2019 introduces the first three “Regulatory Roadmaps” to address stakeholder issues and irritants in agri-food and aquaculture, health and bio-sciences, and transportation and infrastructure.

ANALYSIS

The Ontario Chamber Network is pleased to see the federal government’s continued commitment to regulatory modernization and cutting red tape, as well as the government taking a leadership role in regulatory harmonization between the provinces and between other countries.

TAXES

To further combat tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance, Budget 2019 proposes to invest an additional \$150.8 million over the next five years, so that the CRA can hire additional auditors and examiners, and extend programs aimed at fighting non-compliance.



ANALYSIS

Tax evasion and tax avoidance limits fair collection of government revenues. Budget 2019 brings welcome investments that will ideally result in increased revenue for government without burdening law-abiding taxpayers.