

**Key messages – Speech from the Throne
To open the second session of the
Forty-third Parliament of Canada**

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- To overcome a pandemic requires the work and resolve of every order of government, every community, and every one of us.
- We trust science to lead the fight until a safe and effective vaccine becomes available. But until then, we must keep our guard up, using the tools that are available to us now – such as testing, treatments and physical distancing measures.
- This pandemic is the most serious public health crisis Canada has ever faced.
- The Government’s approach will have four foundations.
 - The first foundation of this plan is to fight the pandemic and save lives.
 - The second foundation of the Government’s plan is supporting people and businesses through this crisis as long as it lasts, whatever it takes. Effectively dealing with the health crisis is the best thing we can do for the economy. Government action has already helped Canadians stay safe and buffered the worst economic impacts.
 - The third foundation is to build back better to create a stronger, more resilient Canada. To do this, we must keep strengthening the middle class and helping people working hard to join it, and continue creating jobs and building long-term competitiveness with clean growth. We must also keep building safer communities for everyone.
 - The fourth and final foundation of this plan is to stand up for who we are as Canadians. We cannot forget what has made us a country that is welcoming. A country that celebrates two official languages. That achieves progress on gender equality, walks the road of reconciliation and fights discrimination of every kind.

Protecting Canadians from COVID-19 – Health Canada and PHAC

- The first foundation of the Government’s approach is protecting Canadians from COVID-19.
- The Government will have Canadians’ backs, just as Canadians have each other’s backs.
- The Government will be there to help provinces increase their testing capacity.
- The Government is pursuing every technology and every option for faster tests for Canadians from coast to coast to coast. As soon as tests are approved for safe use in Canada, the Government will do everything it can so see them deployed. The Government will also create a federal Testing Assistance Response Team to quickly meet surge testing needs, including in remote and isolated communities.
- The Government will also continue to work on getting Canadians the PPE they need.
- The Government will continue building that domestic capacity, while securing supply chains to keep Canadians safe and create jobs.

Vaccine efforts – Health Canada, ISED and PHAC

- In the long run, the best way to end this pandemic is with a safe and effective vaccine.
- Canada’s vaccine strategy is all about ensuring that Canadians will be able to get a vaccine once it is ready.
- There are many types of potential candidates. Canada is exploring the full range of options. The Government has already secured access to vaccine candidates and therapeutics, while investing in manufacturing here at home. And to get the vaccines out to Canadians once they are ready, the Government has made further investments in our capacity for vaccine distribution.

Helping Canadians through the pandemic – ESDC, Finance, CRA

- The medical and scientific fight against this virus is crucial. And so are the livelihoods of every single Canadian, worker, and family.
- Canada entered this crisis in the best fiscal position of its peers. And the Government is using that fiscal firepower, on things like the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, so that Canadians, businesses, and our entire economy have the support needed to weather the storm.

Creating jobs – ESDC, Finance, CRA

- People losing their jobs is perhaps the clearest consequence of the global economic shock that Canadians – like those in other countries – have faced.
- Women, racialized Canadians, and young people have borne the brunt of job losses.
- The Government will launch a campaign to create over one million jobs, restoring unemployment to previous levels. This will be done by using a range of tools, including direct investments in the social sector and infrastructure, immediate training to quickly skill up workers, and incentives for employers to hire and retain workers.
- One way the Government will create these jobs is by extending the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy right through to next summer.
- Another example of how the Government will create jobs is by significantly scaling up the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, to provide more paid work experiences next year for young Canadians.

Supporting workers and their families – ESDC, Finance, CRA

- With the job losses that Canadians have faced, it became clear early on that many people would need help until they could find work once again. But existing income support systems were not designed to handle this unprecedented situation.
- That is why the Government moved quickly to create the Canada Emergency Response Benefit as a temporary program to help millions of Canadians get through a very difficult time.
- With the economic restart now well underway, CERB recipients should instead be supported by the Employment Insurance system. For people who would not traditionally qualify for EI, the Government will create the transitional Canada Recovery Benefit.

Women in the economy – WAGE, Finance, ESDC

- Women – and in particular, low-income women – have been hit hardest by COVID-19.
- The Government will create an Action Plan for Women in the Economy to help more women get back into the workforce and to ensure a feminist, intersectional response to this pandemic and recovery. This plan will be guided by a task force of experts whose diverse voices will power a whole-of-government approach.
- We have long understood that Canada cannot succeed if half of the population is held back. Canadians need more accessible, affordable, inclusive, and high-quality childcare.
- Recognizing the urgency of this challenge, the Government will make a significant, long-term, sustained investment to create a Canada-wide early learning and childcare system.
- The Government also remains committed to subsidizing before- and after-school program costs. With the way that this pandemic has affected parents and families, flexible care options for primary school children are more important than ever.

Support for businesses – ESDC, Finance, CRA

- Small businesses are the lifeblood of communities and the backbone of the economy.
- COVID-19 has caused businesses across the country, both large and small, to rethink their approaches. Entrepreneurs and owners are looking at more digital options, more creative solutions, and more climate-friendly investments.
- The Government will help businesses adapt for the future and thrive.

Fiscal sustainability - Finance

- The Government will preserve Canada's fiscal advantage and continue to be guided by values of sustainability and prudence.
- This fall, the Government will release an update to Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. This will outline the Government's economic and fiscal position, provide fiscal projections, and set out new measures to implement this Throne Speech.
- This update will make clear that the strength of the middle class, and the wellbeing of all Canadians, remain Canada's key measures of success.

Building back better – a resiliency agenda for the middle class

- Around the world, advanced economies are realizing that things should not go back to business as usual. COVID-19 has exposed the vulnerabilities in our societies.
- The Government will create a resiliency agenda for the middle class and people working hard to join it. This will include addressing the gaps in our social systems, investing in health care, and creating jobs. It will also include fighting climate change and maintaining a commitment to fiscal sustainability and economic growth as the foundation of a strong and vibrant society.

Addressing gaps in our social systems – Justice, ESDC, Health Canada, ISED, ISC, CIRNA

- Elders deserve to be safe, respected and live in dignity.
- Although long-term care falls under provincial and territorial jurisdiction, the federal government will take any action it can to support seniors while working alongside the provinces and territories.
- The Government will ensure that everyone – including in rural and remote areas – has access to a family doctor or a primary care team. COVID-19 has also shown that our system needs to be more flexible and able to reach people at home.
- All Canadians should have the care they need, when they need it. We will all be stronger for it.
- The same goes for access to the medicine that keeps people healthy. Many Canadians who had drug plans through work lost this coverage when they were laid off because of the pandemic.
- The Government remains committed to a national, universal pharmacare program and will accelerate steps to achieve this system.
- To keep building strong communities, over the next two years the Government will also invest in all types of infrastructure, including public transit, energy efficient retrofits, clean energy, rural broadband, and affordable housing, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and northern communities.
- In the last six months, many more people have worked from home, done classes from the kitchen table, shopped online, and accessed government services remotely. So, it has become more important than ever that all Canadians have access to the Internet.

- The Government will accelerate the connectivity timelines and ambitions of the Universal Broadband Fund to ensure that all Canadians, no matter where they live, have access to high-speed Internet.
- No one should be without a place to stay during a pandemic, or for that matter, a Canadian winter. The Government will make substantial investments in housing for all Canadians.
- The Government will continue to work with partners – including directly with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation partners – to address food insecurity in Canada. The Government will also strengthen local food supply chains here in Canada.

A stronger workforce

- This pandemic has revealed gaps in health, housing, and food supply. And it has also laid bare inequalities Canadians face in the workforce. We have an opportunity to not just support Canadians, but to grow their potential.
- Working with the provinces and territories, the Government will make the largest investment in Canadian history in training for workers.
- The Government will make generational investments in updating outdated IT systems to modernize the way that Government serves Canadians, from the elderly to the young, from people looking for work to those living with a disability. The Government will also work to introduce free, automatic tax filing for simple returns to ensure citizens receive the benefits they need.

Taking action on extreme risks from climate change - ECCC, ISEE, NRCAN, POC

- Climate action will be a cornerstone of our plan to support and create a million jobs across the country.
- Canadians know that climate change threatens their health, way of life, and planet. They want climate action now, and that is what the Government will continue to deliver.
- The Government will immediately bring forward a plan to exceed Canada's 2030 climate goal. The Government will also legislate Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.
- The Government will launch a new fund to attract investments in making zero-emissions products and cut the corporate tax rate in half for these companies to create jobs and make Canada a world leader in clean technology. The Government will ensure Canada is the most competitive jurisdiction in the world for clean technology companies.
- The Government will continue to put a price on pollution, while putting that money back in the pockets of Canadians.
- The Government will continue to grow Canada's ocean economy to create opportunities for fishers and coastal communities, while advancing reconciliation and conservation objectives. Investing in the Blue Economy will help Canada prosper.

The Canada we're fighting for

- Canada must continue to stand up for the values that define this country, whether that is welcoming newcomers, celebrating with pride the contributions of LGBTQ2 communities, or embracing two official languages. There is work still to be done, including on the road to reconciliation, and in addressing systemic racism.

Reconciliation – ISC, CIRNA

- Throughout the pandemic, the Government has made it a priority to support Indigenous communities, which has helped contain the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safe. That is something the Government will continue to do.
- The Government will walk the shared path of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and remain focused on implementing the commitments made in 2019.

Addressing systemic racism - DIY, PCH, PS, Justice

- For too many Canadians, systemic racism is a lived reality. We know that racism did not take a pause during the pandemic. On the contrary, COVID-19 has hit racialized Canadians especially hard.
- The Government pledged to address systemic racism, and committed to do so in a way informed by the lived experiences of racialized communities and Indigenous Peoples.
- Progress must also be made throughout the policing and justice systems. All Canadians must have the confidence that the justice system is there to protect them, not to harm them.
- The Government will take steps to ensure that the strong hand of criminal justice is used where it is needed and to keep people safe, but not where it would be discriminatory or counterproductive.

Protecting two official languages - PCH

- The defence of the rights of Francophones outside Quebec, and the defence of the rights of the Anglophone minority within Quebec, is a priority for the Government.
- 51 years after the passage of the *Official Languages Act*, the Government is committed to strengthening this legislation among other things, taking into consideration the unique reality of French.

A welcoming Canada - IRCC

- Immigration remains a driver of Canada's economic growth. With other countries rejecting global talent that could help their economy, Canada has an opportunity as we recover to become the world's top destination for talent, capital, and jobs.
- The Government will continue to bring in newcomers and support family reunification. We know that there is an economic and human advantage to having families together.

Canada in the world - GAC

- COVID-19 has accelerated the existing trends toward a more fragmented global order. It remains in Canada's interest to create and maintain bilateral and multilateral relationships to advance peace and economic prosperity.
- The Government will invest more in international development while supporting developing countries on their economic recoveries and resilience. Canada will also support work to ensure that people around the world have access to a vaccine. We cannot eliminate this pandemic in Canada unless we end it everywhere.
- The Government will also continue to stand up for human rights and the rule of law. It is unacceptable that any citizen be arbitrarily detained.
- The Government will continue to fight for free trade, including by leading the Ottawa Group to reform the World Trade Organization.