

FORWARD. FOR EVERYONE.

Fairness for workers and addressing labour shortage

Almost 40 per cent of Canadian businesses are having trouble finding the workers they need, meaning many will experience slower growth. In order to recover from the pandemic in a way that is fair and inclusive, we need to make sure more Canadians can join the workforce and find the right job for them.

A re-elected Liberal government will grow Canada's workforce and make life more fair for Canadian workers by:

- Moving forward with the Canada Workers Benefit expansion, of up to \$1,400 for low-income workers, to a million new workers, keeping more money in their pockets as an incentive to work;
- Putting up to \$1,650 back in the pockets of eligible seniors who choose to remain in the workforce past age 65;
- Moving forward with affordable child care for all Canadians, which grows participation in the workforce for women in particular;
- Moving forward with a responsible increase to Canada's immigration levels; and
- Helping workers access well-paying careers by increasing training opportunities and making them more accessible.

Putting more money in the pockets of low-income workers

All workers deserve to earn a salary they can live on. The Canada Workers Benefit provides low-income workers a benefit of up to \$1,400 to ensure workers keep a greater share of their income in their pockets. Budget 2021 expanded eligibility for this benefit to roughly 1 million more Canadian workers, lifting 100,000 Canadians out of poverty. A re-elected Liberal government will ensure that Canadians who qualify are automatically enrolled, and that the benefit is delivered on a quarterly basis.

This benefit provides an incentive to work, and Liberals are investing in it to ensure that more Canadians who earn roughly a full-time, minimum wage will have access to it. These enhancements let more workers keep a greater share of their income in their pocket.

Moving forward with \$10 a day child care

A Canada-wide \$10 a day child care system has the potential to be the biggest economic boost since the North American Free Trade Agreement. Affordable child care will not only allow more parents - particularly women - to participate in the workforce, it will also help grow our economy. In Quebec, women's participation in the labour force was four percentage points lower than the rest of Canada when child care was introduced. Today it is four percentage points higher. That's why the Liberal government already signed a \$6 billion agreement with Quebec to create an additional 37,000 child care spaces in the province. Canadian women must have the opportunity

to fully participate in the workforce, and affordable child care ensures that every child has the best possible start in life.

Helping seniors stay in the workforce longer

Many seniors, when they retire, want to find a job to stay active and earn extra money. To help working seniors keep more money in their pockets, we increased the GIS earnings exemption to allow seniors to earn up to \$5,000 without any reduction in benefits, and a partial exemption for the next \$10,000.

A re-elected Liberal government will introduce a Career Extension Tax Credit, which will let people 65 and over, who earn a working income of at least \$5,000, to eliminate tax payable on a portion of this income and receive a tax credit of up to \$1,650. This will create an incentive for more workers to stay in the workforce longer should they choose.

Growing our workforce through immigration

Our country relies on international talents to keep our economy growing. A Liberal government will deliver on its responsible plan to welcome immigrants at a rate of about one per cent of the population per year. The plan includes an increase in immigration over the next three years to make up for the shortfall created by COVID-19. An asymmetric agreement with Quebec was signed to ensure that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program meets the workforce needs of the province and makes it easier for employers to hire more international workers. These newcomers will play an important role in continuing to grow our workforce and our economy.

More training opportunities for workers

In order to access good, well-paying job opportunities, Canadians need the training necessary. The Union Training and Innovation Program provides \$25 million per year for union-led training projects in skilled trades. A re-elected Liberal government will double the annual funding to this program to help grow the number of qualified workers who are ready to work to rebuild our economy. This investment will complement the \$470 million investment from Budget 2021 to support 55,000 first year apprentices in construction and manufacturing through a new Apprenticeship Service. This will help more Canadians to start their careers and find well-paying jobs and allow employers to have access to more skilled workers.

Making training more accessible

A re-elected Liberal government will ensure that businesses offering sector-specific training make these opportunities more accessible to vulnerable populations by offering wrap-around supports. This could include transportation to and from the training program, computers, food, referral to counselling, housing, and legal support, support in finding child care, and mentoring or coaching.