

A Plan to Grow Our Economy
and Make Life More Affordable



- ▶ The government is also proposing to introduce amendments to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* to allow Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to require the electronic submission of asylum claims. Claims can currently be submitted either digitally or on paper, making it difficult to keep track of all information relevant to a file and ultimately leading to processing delays. This reform will help modernize and streamline the asylum process and reduce wait times for claimants.

Supporting Legal Aid for Asylum Seekers

Each year, thousands fearing persecution seek refuge in Canada. After their arrival, asylum seekers have the right to a fair hearing to determine their legal status.

For those who cannot afford legal support, immigration and refugee legal aid can provide eligible asylum claimants with legal information, advice, and representation. These services, delivered in partnership with provinces, make the asylum system more efficient and help asylum seekers receive fair outcomes.

- ▶ Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$43.5 million in 2022-23 to maintain federal support for immigration and refugee legal aid services.

Improving Support Services for Immigrants and Visitors to Canada

As global demand to visit, study, and work in Canada increases—in addition to a growing number of permanent residents moving to Canada—so too must the government’s ability to provide accessible, timely, and responsive services.

- ▶ Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$187.3 million over five years, and \$37.2 million ongoing, for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to improve its capacity to respond to a growing volume of enquiries and to invest in the technology and tools required to better support people using their services.

Improving the Citizenship Program

Becoming a citizen allows new Canadians to fully participate in Canadian society, including through the ability to vote, to run for public office, and to travel under a Canadian passport.

To modernize the process of obtaining Canadian citizenship, the federal government recently launched new online services, which include the ability to submit applications electronically. However, current legislation limits the government’s ability to modernize the citizenship application process through digitization, meaning processing takes longer and online tools are limited.

- ▶ To further improve the experience of applicants and to enable the Citizenship Program to accommodate higher levels of applications, the government intends to introduce legislative amendments to the *Citizenship Act* to enable automated and machine-assisted processing and the safe and secure collection and use of biometric information.

- ▶ Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$13.2 million in 2022-23 to Public Safety Canada for the final federal payment through the Lac-Mégantic Contribution Program.
- ▶ Budget 2022 also proposes to provide \$237.2 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to Transport Canada to complete the construction of the Lac-Mégantic rail bypass. The federal government will continue to advance elements of the project while a cost-sharing agreement with the Government of Quebec is reached.

These investments will help the community to rebuild and recover from this tragic incident.

Increasing the Capacity of Superior Courts

Superior court delays can impede Canadians' access to justice and prevent timely resolutions. To address and prevent delays, the government is committed to both creating new judicial positions and to increasing the capacity of our superior courts.

- ▶ Budget 2022 proposes to amend the *Judges Act*, the *Federal Courts Act*, and the *Tax Court of Canada Act* to add 24 new superior court positions, including new Associate Chief Justices for the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan and for the Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick. This will mean more opportunities to appoint diverse candidates who can better represent the communities they serve.
- ▶ Budget 2022 also proposes to provide \$83.8 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, and \$17.8 million ongoing, for these 24 additional superior court positions.

Enhancing Legal Aid for Those Who Need It Most

All Canadians should have access to a fair justice process. The federal government helps fund criminal legal aid services, in partnership with provinces and territories, to support access to justice for Canadians who are unable to pay for legal support. In Canada, Indigenous peoples, Black and racialized Canadians, and those with mental health issues disproportionately go before criminal courts. In order to ensure that no one is disadvantaged before the courts and that every Canadian receives a fair hearing, more support is needed.

- ▶ Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$60 million in 2023-24 to increase the federal contribution to criminal legal aid services.