

Government of Canada Budget 2017: Investments in Indigenous Issues

Notes:

1. All figures below are in addition to the \$8.4 billion announced in Budget 2016 which included \$2.041 Billion for fiscal year 2017-18.
2. Except where noted, investments are to begin in fiscal year 2017-18.
3. References to page numbers in the Budget Plan can be viewed at <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2017/docs/plan/toc-tdm-en.html>

Totals: The investments in Indigenous issues from Budget 2017 reach \$3.4 billion over the next 5 years. Added to investments from Budget 2016, this amounts to \$11.8 billion over 6 years.

Health: \$828.2 million over 5 years, including \$138 million in 2017-18, for chronic and infectious diseases (\$50.2m/5 yrs), maternal and child health (\$83.2m/5 yrs), primary care (\$72.1m/5 yrs) home and palliative care (\$184.6m/5yrs), non-insured health benefits (\$305m/5 yrs) and a drug strategy with harm reduction measures (\$15m/5 yrs). See page 164 of the Budget Plan for further details.

Housing, water and infrastructure: \$4 billion over 10 years, beginning in 2018-19. This includes green and social infrastructure investments (\$275m/year for 2018 through 2020 escalating afterward). There are also investments of \$300 million in northern housing, including \$24 million for the Yukon, \$36 million for the Northwest Territories and \$250 million for Nunavut. See pages 146 and 134 of the Budget Plan for more details on each of these.

Education: \$90 million over 2 years (\$45 million per year) for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, beginning in 2017-18. Also, \$25 million over 5 years (\$5million per year) for scholarships and bursaries through Indspire, providing that organization can provide matching funds of \$15 million (\$3 million per year). See page 65 of the Budget Plan for more details.

Skills training: The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy will be continued for 2017-18 with \$50 million. There is investment of \$39.3 million in 2017-18 for case management for unemployed Indigenous youth and \$14.7 million over 3 years for Northern Adult Basic Education. See Page 66 in the Budget Plan for details on each of these. There is also \$29.5 million over 5 years available for a digital literacy program that includes Indigenous people. Some detail is available at page 230 of the Budget Plan.

Economic Development: Fisheries programming will receive continued support in the amount of \$250 million over 5 years. See page 170 of the Budget Plan for details. In addition, there is \$8.6 million over 4 years available to support Indigenous tourism. See page 91 of the Budget Plan for details.

Environment and Climate Change: There will be \$21.4 million provided over 4 years, beginning in 2018-19 to continue the program to reduce reliance on diesel fuel in First Nations (page 127 of the Budget Plan). The Indigenous Guardians Pilot project will receive \$25 million over 5 years (page 170), the Arctic Energy Fund will receive \$40 million per year beginning in 2018-19 (page 129). There will be \$18 million to expand a program on climate change and health to areas south of the 60th parallel (page 129). \$83.8 million will be invested over 5 years to integrate traditional knowledge in climate change analysis (page 129) and \$26.4 million over 5 years will assist Indigenous people to collaborate on climate change adaptation planning (page 130).

Indigenous languages and culture: \$89.9 million will be invested over the next 3 years for Indigenous languages, including \$69.9 million for the Aboriginal Languages Initiative, \$14.9 million for Library and Archives Canada to digitize materials and \$6 million for the National Research Council to develop means to preserve oral histories. See page 167 of the Budget Plan for details.

Justice issues: There will be 81.6 million over 4 years, starting in 2018-19 to support First Nations policing programs. See page 169 of the Budget Plan. There will also be \$11.1 million ongoing to support the Aboriginal Justice Strategy and \$65.2 million over 5 years to help rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders into society. Details for these investments are at pages 168 and 169 of the Budget Plan.

Specific Claims: \$24 million per year, ongoing, will be provided to support the Specific Claims process, however AFN has been informed that this funding will not be used to support claims research (page 166 of the Budget Plan), an area in urgent need of investment.

Youth and sport: There will be \$18.9 million over 5 years to support sport programming for Indigenous youth. Page 168 of the Budget Plan has further details.

Urban Aboriginal Strategy: \$118 million over 5 years will continue the UAS. Details are at page 170 of the Budget Plan.

Early Learning and Child Care: Following dialogue on a framework for Indigenous early learning and child care, the plan developed will see “a portion” of the \$7 billion to be provided by the federal government over the next 10 years. Further information is at page 131 of the Budget Plan.