

Rebuilding Canada: One Step At A Time



SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

TO OPEN
THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE
7th
PARLIAMENT
OF CANADA

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Canada 

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Members of the House of Commons,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address this first session of Canada's 7th Parliament.

I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people whose land we work, live and play on.

To the new members of this assembly, welcome. To the returning members of this assembly, welcome back.

Being a member of this prestigious assembly is both a privilege and a responsibility. Each of you has been elected to this assembly to represent a collective 38 million Canadians; of which comprises of different styles, cultures, and customs.

Canada is a diverse country from coast, to coast, to coast; and we see that reflected in our daily lives. We see the many different cultures that have come together to form one great society known as Canada. Though, with such a diverse country, there is bound to be differing opinions on matters that affect the everyday lives of Canadians.

On July 10th, 2020, Canadians elected a minority Parliament. This is the clear will of the people, and all parliamentarians present today must act on the will of the people. Canadians sent a clear signal to the political establishment on all sides that change is necessary; and that we need unified and pragmatic solutions to our modern day problems. To this end, it is incumbent on this Parliament and my Government to undertake certain policies which I will now outline, which may require the appropriation of funds.

The Government of Canada will ***spend and raise revenue wisely; and rebuild our economy***, a task of which is not easy to do.

In an effort to keep Canadians safe during the H5N1 pandemic, Canada needed to shut down. The H5N1 pandemic rolled our economy to a virtual standstill, which brought us into a period of economic hardship. The Government will ensure that businesses and our economy can get rolling again by stimulating hard hit sectors of the Canadian economy by directly investing into key programs that are part of the Investing in Canada program brought forward by the Government of Justin Trudeau in 2016; forgiving the debt, and/or other monies owed to the federal government, of small and medium-sized enterprises; and enacting measures, legislation, and policies in partnership with provinces that move Canada forward to an age of interprovincial free trade.

Our past financial situation is not what we hoped for it to be. As of today, previous governments have racked up \$35.6 billion in debt. The current government will begin the deed of paying off this deficit via a debt repayment plan into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, this will be reflected in the

first budget. The Government will be introducing a 10% luxury goods tax on items costing over \$100,000, the Government will be reviewing all previous spending and expenditures of past governments and budgets to ensure that the fiscal situation of Canada is sound and secure; this includes the reform of costly programs that are delivered under the private-public partnership model that has been utilized by previous governments.

The Government of Canada will ***secure our planet's future.***

Canada is one page in a 197-page story of nations. We must do our part in order to ensure that our world is safe and secure from environmental threats. The Government will be introducing a rebate that will provide \$3,000 for those purchasing electric and hydrogen vehicles; the Government will be introducing tax credits for those who use renewable energy to power their homes; and the Government of Canada will be setting the price on pollution at \$31/ton to which will gradually increase \$6 every year.

The Government understands that change is needed, that is why the ban on single-use products and plastics will be legislated within the coming weeks. It is time for action, not in-action. The Government of Canada will be providing an investment of no less than \$500 million dollars towards the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program. Immediately after the reading of this speech and upon return to the House of Commons, the Government of Canada will introduce a binding motion legislating the commitment to the Paris Accord, cementing the environmental work that is in store for this generation and the next.

The Government of Canada will ***bring prospective Canadians*** into our borders

As part of our previous commitments, the Government will continue the policy of taking in international refugees. Canada is a nation built on immigration, there is no need for the institution of divisive and anti-immigrant policies. The Government, working with fellow parliamentarians, will be making a wide variety of changes to the immigration system, specifically; reforming the Temporary Residence Visa program of which has huge flaws such as abuse of process and overflow of applications; fixing the Permanent Resident requirements to allow for international students to use their years in High School as applicable time towards getting their PR within Canada; and providing support to immigrants that are within our borders by increasing access to government services for them.

The Government knows that we must promote Canada abroad, that is why the Government is committed to expanding our marketing campaign in other countries in order to entice foreign workers and future citizens to come and live, work and play, here in Canada. The Government also knows that we must extend health care to to-be citizens of Canada. If you are contributing taxes and paying your fair share, you deserve the same benefits that a tax-paying citizen would receive with them paying their fair share tomorrow.

The Government of Canada will ***champion equality inside and outside of Canada.***

Equality and **social justice**, two very powerful words to which the Government stands by. In the previous Parliament, affirmative action laws were brought back. The Government will expand further on this by committing to an inclusive Canada for all Canadians. In this parliament, we will see a government providing a safe place to be for those who are LGBTQ2+ by instituting measures such as creating a taskforce that deals with LGBTQ2+ discrimination, and using the newly re-created Ministry of Equality. The Government also wishes to review current policies in regard to euthanasia that are in place, and bring them in line with the decision brought forward by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2015.

The Government understands that a liberal, and authoritarian regimes should not be catered to. That is why the Government is committed to push international bodies to promote world peace, equality and individual human rights. The Government also understands that nuclear weapons have no place in our untouched natural Arctic. That is why the Government will assert it's sovereign right over the arctic regions of our country, and we will ban nuclear weapons and nuclear testing in the Arctic.

The Government also makes a clear commitment to make it the policy of the government to firmly oppose the use of the notwithstanding clause of the Canadians Charter. The law of the land, is the law of the land. It will be the policies of the Government that laws brought into the force are to be consistent with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Government of Canada will **keep Canadians healthy**.

A key priority of this Government is to build a healthy and productive nation. That is why the Government commits to investing a minimum of \$6 billion over a 4 year period to build a stronger health care system for all Canadians; the Government commits to providing full coverage for the costs associated with Mental Health treatment that is provided by the provincial and territorial governments. Today, the Government also states that it is their pledge and their policy moving forward to never cut healthcare.

The Government of Canada will **keep their promises to Indigenous Canadians**.

In this address today, I state that the history of Canada's First Nations is tragic; it is filled with broken promises, violent atrocities, and destroyed societies. No one is denying this; and it is the job of this Government to repair the broken relationship. That is why the Government is increasing funding towards mental health and addiction treatment for Indigenous Canadians; that is why the Government will be reforming Indigenous government in order to allow for the benefit of local government first, this provides for a clear voice from the bottom up on how the government should increase funds and services for Indigenous peoples of Canada.

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The Government of Canada will ***Rebuild and Reinvest in Canada.***

The Government of Canada, in July's election, ran on a platform of increasing funds for key government programs that assist Canadians, and assisting provinces. That is why an additional \$62 billion dollars is to be injected into the Investing in Canada program. This means programs such as the National House Strategy, the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund, the Clean Water Wastewater Fund, the Municipal Asset Management Program, the Small Communities Fund, in addition to other programs, are all receiving additional funds in order to rebuild Canada ***one step at a time.***

If you are a daily commuter, you will see the product of a \$3 billion investment into public transit. If you are an educator, or a student; you will see lowered costs in universities, and in public schools; the Government is committed to work with the provincial and territorial governments in order to lower the burden on students' and teachers' lives. If you are a mayor of a small community, such as Churchill or Salmon Arm; you will see direct investment open up for your municipalities, enabling you to make the decisions you need to make without the worry of financial implications.

The Government of Canada will ***work with/respect Quebec, Francophones across Canada.***

In this Parliament, the Government believes that we must continue the policy that Quebec is a distinct society within Canada. Under the current Government, we will work with provincial partners and within departments in order to ensure that French services are available from coast, to coast, to coast; the Government believes that we must open the Constitution and consult with all Canadians in order to bring our constitution into the 21st century. The government will work with all parliamentarians to ensure that Quebec receives the consultation that has been neglected in the past. It is time to work together, not separately; and the Government commits to this.

The Government of Canada ***will work to keep your communities and Canada safe.***

Rehabilitative programs are proven to offer easier ways to help convicted persons in/out of prison; that is why the Government commits to financially support such programs within the Ministry of Public Safety and Corrections Service Canada. The Government will also put forward legislation, where reasonable, in order to ensure that convicts, who have been released from prison and are not a threat to anyone or anything in society, are not judged when hired or viewed in society.

The Government also makes clear that they have heard your calls for trust and accountability within our law enforcement. That is why the respective departments dealing with policing will create guidelines in order to rebuild trust in our law enforcement; that police are representative of the communities that they serve in; and that past and current abuses of power and abuses of procedure can be easily reported without fear of division and fear of retribution.

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And so in closing, Canadians are counting on you to deliver on your promises; counting on you to deliver on keeping our borders safe; and counting on you to pull us out of this period of economic hardship. The mandate given in this election, and this speech, is not the final word, but it is a starting point. Ideas from all Parliamentarians are worth exploring, especially in a minority parliament. In this Parliament, your work is crucial and vital for the success of this nation's fiscal recovery.

Members of the House of Commons: you will be asked to appropriate the funds to carry out the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament. As you carry out your duties and exercise your responsibilities, may you be guided by Divine Providence.