Government of Canada - Throne Speech

Opened 43rd Parliament on Sept 23, 2020.

Transcript: <https://www.macleans.ca/news/throne-speech-2020-governor-general-julie-payette-transcript/>

# 4 Foundations:

i. Fight pandemic – save lives;

ii. Support people and businesses throughout COVID;

iii. Build back better a stronger resilient country and safer communities; and

iv. Stand up for who we are as Canadians.

# 10 Highlights:

1. **EMPLOYMENT GOAL** - Plan to create one million jobs and restore employment to its pre-pandemic levels using a “range of tools” to try and bring those jobs back, including direct investments in the social sector and infrastructure, “immediate” training to “scale up” workers, and incentives for employers to hire and retain workers; also CRA Training Benefit includes 4 parts: the Canada Training Credit, EI Training Support Benefit, EI Small Business Premium Rate, and new leave provisions for workers; and other government funding support programs.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/training-agreements/workforce-development-agreements.html>

<https://www.mentorworks.ca/blog/business-consulting/canada-training-benefit/>

**Note:** The government is providing an Ontario Tools Grant of $2.5 million in 2020-21 and $7.5 million in 2021-22 and ongoing. <https://www.eoss.tcu.gov.on.ca/AOL/grants/tools_grant/start>

1. **CEWS** - Feds to cover up to 75% of wages for eligible businesses who have lost revenue during the crisis. Program will be extended until next summer - retroactive to March 15, 2020. Applications for claim period 7 (Aug 30-Sept 26, 2020) will open September 30, 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

Media Release: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/08/government-announces-greater-flexibility-and-extension-of-canada-emergency-business-account.html>

1. **CEBA** – Government expanding the Canada Emergency Business Account - extended to Oct 31, 2020 ($29.96 Billion loaned to date). CEBA is intended to support businesses by providing financing for their expenses that cannot be avoided or deferred as they take steps to safely navigate a period of shutdown, thereby helping to position businesses for successful relaunch when the economy reopens. Administered by [Export Development Canada (EDC)](https://www.edc.ca/en/covid-19-business-resources.html), which is working closely with Canadian financial institutions to deliver the loans to their existing business banking customers. <https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

Media Release: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/08/government-announces-greater-flexibility-and-extension-of-canada-emergency-business-account.html>

1. **BCAP** - EDC Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) Guarantee - government to improve program to help with cash flow to cover business operating costs i.e. rent, payroll, or other operating costs during COVID by working with your financial institution. EDC and BDC will continue to work with lenders to support access to capital for Canadian businesses of all sizes in all sectors and regions. BCAP extended to June 2021. The Business Credit Availability Program is comprised of [BDC’s Co-lending Program for SMEs](https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/co-lending-program.aspx), and its [Mid Market Financing Program](https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/mid-market-financing-program.aspx), and [EDC’s Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises](https://www.edc.ca/en/solutions/working-capital/bcap-guarantee.html) (SMEs), as well as its Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program which will be launching soon.

Media Release: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/08/government-announces-greater-flexibility-and-extension-of-canada-emergency-business-account.html>

1. **Travel-Tourism** - Bring in further supports for hard-hit industries including travel and tourism, and the arts. (Border remains closed to Oct 21, 2020)
	* + The National Airlines Council of Canada says federal authorities need to "immediately come forward with a coherent and concrete plan to support the industry and allow its recovery.” The governing Liberals pledged in the throne speech "to support regional routes for airlines" in particular. But the address, which outlines the government's priorities for the new session of Parliament, made no explicit mention of larger carriers.
		+ The Tourism Industry Association of Canada said it was "thrilled" that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government had circled the sector as a priority in the wake of hundreds of thousands of layoffs across the country.”; "In fact, travel and tourism was among the only industries directly mentioned in the speech as a sector in need of further support," the association said in statement. In addition, is extensions of the wage subsidy, business loans and business credit programs, Trudeau promised specific support for travel and tourism, hospitality and cultural industries.
			- $25 million loan supporting Niagara Region towards NPC to redevelop the historic Canadian Niagara Power Generating Station into a one of a kind, made in Ontario attraction.
			- $1.5 million through the new Tourism Recovery and Economic Development Fund and providing promotional incentive for provincial attractions to help the province’s tourism industry and welcome visitors back in the wake of COVID pandemic.
			- $100,000 for Culinary Tourism Alliance (not for profit food tourism development organization)
* Over $110 million was allocated to support Canadian Tourism:
	+ - * $30 million, originally intended to attract foreign visitors through the federal tourism marketing agency Destination Canada, was used as domestic marketing/travel to help Canadians discover their own backyard.
			* $40 million for tourism agencies in Northern/Southern Ontario and Western Canada supported to help adapt their operations to the pandemic with an entire movement across the country to shop locally.
			* [People Outside Safely Together (POST) Promise program](http://www.postpromise.com/), an initiative launched by Canadian private sector organizations helped businesses across the country reopen safely.
			* $29 million (Canada-Ontario) supporting 2021(2) Canada Games
* G20 Summit all agreed that, for a while, we will be supporting local tourism and eventually regional tourism, and then eventually national tourism and then eventually international tourism. (The hospitality and tourism is a $100 billion dollar business and employs about 1 in 11 or 1.8 million Canadians. In Ontario supporting more than 400k jobs and generating over $36 billion in spending; Niagara contributes to over 40k jobs and is a $2.4 billion industry).
1. **Accessible EI Program** (sole delivery mechanism for Employment Benefits - phase out CERB (set to expire Sept 27) and transfer to EI; Expand EI program to include all Canadians keeping the minimum unemployment rate of 13.1% for all EI economic regions to lower the hours required to qualify for EI regular benefits; adding new the Canada Recovery Benefit that pays a new amount increased $100 from $400 to $500/week for up to 26 weeks; as well as the Sickness Benefit and Caregiving Benefit - <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/supporting-canadians-through-the-next-phase-of-the-economy-re-opening-increased-access-to-ei-and-recovery-benefits.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/notice-covid-19.html>

1. **Canada-wide Early Learning and Childcare System** - Fed-ON agreement for $147 million in 2020-2021 funding operating costs of eligible licensed child care providers and EarlyON centres. Plus, $625 million to address the reduced availability of child care and unique needs from the pandemic across Canada with the Safe Restart Agreement - this year Fed will invest nearly $1.2 billion in total in early learning and child care across Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/the-government-of-canada-and-the-government-of-ontario-announce-additional-support-for-quality-early-learning-and-child-care-across-the-province.html>
2. **Tax the Super Wealthy** - limit the stock option deduction for wealthy individuals at large, established corporations, and take on “corporate tax avoidance by digital giants; and to ensure revenue is shared more fairly with creators and media on this side of the border and ensure digital giants “contribute to the creation, production, and distribution” of Canadian stories.
3. **Criminal Code Amendments** - to explicitly penalize those who neglect seniors under their care. Also, Liberals say they will also work with provinces and territories to set new national standards for long-term care and “further targeted measures for personal support workers.” The feds reached a deal with the provinces and territories in May to top up the pay of essential workers in long-term care centres. Noted: National Universal Pharmacare Program - Government taking accelerate steps with the provinces to achieve the system by establishing a national formulary to keep drug prices low and a rare-disease strategy that will help Canadians save on expensive drugs; and will address systemic racism over anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and modernize training for Police Standards.
4. **Canada's 2030 Climate Goal** - Liberals have promised to create thousands of jobs retrofitting homes and buildings and to make zero-emissions vehicles more affordable. The government is promising a fund to attract investments in zero-emissions products and “cut the corporate tax rate in half” for companies seeking to make Canada a leader in clean technology. Though Canada committed in the Paris climate agreement to cut its greenhouse gas emissions to 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, the government isn’t currently on pace to hit that goal.