

MP's REPORT

By Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

On March 22, our government announced the Federal Budget for 2016.

The budget addresses short term, medium term and long term priorities. To support short term priorities, middle-income families have already received an income tax cut. Towards the medium term, investments will be made in 'shovel-ready' infrastructure projects as well as planning for longer term projects. Finally, investing in innovation research, education and training and easing student debt obligations will position the country for long-term diverse growth.

Infrastructure Investments

Budget 2016 proposes to invest more than \$120 billion in public transit, green infrastructure and social infrastructure over 10 years. To help communities right away, Phase 1 of our Government's infrastructure plan will invest \$11.9 billion over five years to modernize and upgrade public transit, improve water and wastewater systems, expand affordable housing, and protect infrastructure systems from the effects of climate change. These investments will transform Canadian communities and revitalize Canada's economy. Investing in infrastructure creates good, well-paying jobs that can help the middle class grow and prosper today. By making it easier to move people and products, well-planned infrastructure can deliver sustained economic growth and productivity for years to come.

Helping Students

Budget 2016 will ensure no student graduating from college or university has to start paying back their student loans until they make at least \$25,000 in annual income. This budget also boosts grants to low and middle-income college and university students by as much as \$1,000 per year. This measure will put more money in the pockets of 360,000 students a year. Not only are we helping students with the cost of their education, but other aspects of the budget focus on job opportunities after they graduate.

Supporting More Seniors

We will roll back the age in which seniors can access their OAS/GIS from 67 to 65 and we will also boost the GIS for 900,000 low-income seniors.

Canada Child Benefit

With the Canada Child Benefit, nine out of ten Canadian families will receive higher monthly benefits, and lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty. This will give Canadian families more help with the high cost of raising children.

Post-Budget Event with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in Aurora

On April 1, I joined my fellow MP Kyle Peterson and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce in an open discussion about the 2016 Federal Budget. I was inspired to have so many in our community engage in a meaningful and constructive discussion on the state of the economy and the future of our country.

There were concerns raised about the impact on small businesses and I want to emphasize that this budget will have ripple effects throughout our community which will strengthen our economy, small businesses included. With investments in infrastructure, more jobs, families receiving more money from the Canada Child Benefit, and significant investments in innovation and research and development, there are many ways that small businesses and our country will benefit. People will have more money in their pocket to put back into the economy and this will drive growth.

For more information, you can call (905) 773-8358, email: Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca, or visit my website: LeonaAlleslevMP.ca. I look forward to meeting you!