



2021 Ontario Budget: Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.

On Wednesday, March 24th, The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board presented the 2021 Ontario Budget: Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.

The third budget from the Ford government, the biggest spending budget in Ontario history, includes \$186.1 billion in spending; a record, and up from last year's \$148.8 billion budget, but the projected deficit is expected to fall to \$33.1 billion, down from the record \$38.5 billion in 2020.

The Ontario Budget Website can be found at: <https://budget.ontario.ca/2021/index.html>

Fiscal:

- Ontario's real GDP is projected to rise 4.0 per cent in 2021, 4.3 per cent in 2022, 2.5 per cent in 2023 and 2.0 per cent in 2024. projected revenues
- Ontario's revenue outlook is forecast to increase from \$156.1 billion in 2019–20 to \$167.0 billion in 2023–24.
- Ontario's program expense outlook is expected to grow from \$152.3 billion in 2019–20 to \$171.1 billion in 2023–24.
- Ontario's revenue outlook is forecast to increase from \$156.1 billion in 2019–20 to \$167.0 billion in 2023–24.
- From 2019–20 to 2029–30, total program expense is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 2.1 per cent.
- Net debt-to-GDP for 2021–22 is projected to be 48.8 per cent and is projected to grow to 50.2 per cent by 2023–24.

Infrastructure

- A key element of the government's plan to create growth is investment in infrastructure, including strategic investments in transit, highways, schools, hospitals and broadband. Planned investments over the next 10 years total \$145.4 billion, including \$16.9 billion in 2021–22.
- \$2.8 billion for broadband infrastructure, ensuring that every region in the province has access to reliable broadband services by 2025.
- \$30.2 billion over the next 10 years, including an additional \$3 billion since the *2020 Budget*, in hospital infrastructure..
- \$61.6 billion over 10 years for public transit.
- More than \$21 billion over 10 years to support the planning and/or construction of highway expansion and rehabilitation projects across the province



Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship

- Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit for 2021. It would provide up to \$2,000 per recipient for 50 per cent of eligible expenses, for a total of an estimated \$260 million in support to about 230,000 people in 2021.
- \$39.6 million over three years, beginning in 2021–22, to expand the Specialist High Skills Major program. Building off an investment of \$42.4 million in 2020–21, this will result in approximately 75 new programs that provide more opportunities for students in Grades 11 and 12 to gain job-ready skills and explore opportunities in the skilled trades. Expanding OYAP to include a grade 10 summer camp
- Ontario is developing a new digital portal, that will enable secure, convenient access to online information and services for apprentices without the need for calling or visiting the local office.
- Successful Ontario Line proponent will negotiate apprenticeship training supports including voluntary targets and financial incentives with MLTSD

Other Investments

- To vaccinate every person in the province who wants to be vaccinated, Ontario has made more than \$1 billion available for a provincewide vaccination plan. Ontario is also making it safer to re-engage with our workplaces, businesses and communities with \$2.3 billion for testing and contact tracing.
- \$85.0 million to support the Skills Development Fund to help training and employment organizations assist workers during the province's economic recovery. The funded projects will give laid-off workers immediate access to training supports or new jobs, improve the quality of training, support traditionally underrepresented groups, increase apprentice registrations and completion, better serve local communities and support the talent needs of small businesses.
- To make progress on our collective efforts to address systemic racism, Ontario is making additional investments in key communities. This includes investments of \$1.6 million over two years to support the Anti-Racism and Anti-Hate Grant program, which will support community based anti-racism initiatives focusing on anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.
- To help the thousands of people struggling with mental health and addictions issues, Ontario is providing additional funding of \$175 million in 2021–22 as part of the investment of \$3.8 billion over 10 years, to provide more and better care for everyone who needs it.
- To assist survivors of domestic violence, Ontario is investing an additional \$2.1 million over three years to support victims of crime.