

BEN CARR



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Member of Parliament Winnipeg South Centre



Spring Economic Update 2026



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Dear Constituents,

A few weeks ago, I rose in the House of Commons to speak about the Spring Economic Update. One question I was reflecting on beforehand, and that I return to often, is this: what builds a strong community? In large part, I feel it is about the connection between people and places. More specifically, about opportunity, belonging, and stability. The Spring Economic Update reflects our commitment to building those strong communities, seen through that lens.

With **\$755 million** invested to elevate participation and excellence in sport, we are helping improve both the mental and physical well-being of Canadians, in addition to strengthening the sense of belonging we all need to prosper and grow.

The **\$6 billion** commitment to supporting the creation of up to **100,000 skilled trade jobs** is critical to supporting our ambitious growth agenda. Financial incentives for both students and employers to educate, retain, and find placements for workers is key to the creation of opportunity.

We continue to confront significant challenges around mental health and addiction, coupled with higher numbers of unsheltered individuals living on the streets. We have announced an extension of the **\$125 million** investment to provide services to move people out of encampments and into stable living conditions with wraparound supports.

Our strong fiscal position allows Canada to help provide people with a boost today, as we build towards the future. This edition of my newsletter is meant to highlight some of the key areas of investment that will benefit Winnipeg South Centre and beyond.

The lead up to the Economic Update, much like the Budget, is a wonderful exercise in democracy. Many of you have shared your ideas and feedback with me, which in turn, I convey to my colleagues in Cabinet. Your guidance has helped shape our public policy.

Keep in touch, and I look forward to seeing many of you outdoors as the weather gets nicer and BBQ season gives us a chance to connect and celebrate the summer!

THE SPRING ECONOMIC UPDATE



With President Fred Meier and Faculty at Red River Polytech

WE'RE INVESTING **\$25 BILLION** IN MAJOR CANADIAN PROJECTS:



ENERGY



INFRASTRUCTURE



TECHNOLOGY



MINING



AGRICULTURE

TEAM CANADA STRONG

Canada's future depends on the people building it. Initiatives like **Team Canada Strong** are helping the next generation gain skills, confidence, and a strong start as we ramp up a heavy focus on domestic growth.

During a recent meeting with Red River College Polytech faculty, an important point was raised: there is still too much stigma surrounding careers in the skilled trades. In reality, these are meaningful, well-paying careers that are essential to Canada's economy. They deserve our support and require our attention.

Team Canada Strong is about making training more accessible and helping the next generation play a hands-on role in building Canada's future.

Launching **Team Canada Strong** to recruit, train, and hire **80,000 to 100,000 new Red Seal skilled trades** workers by 2030, aligned to Canada's housing, defence and infrastructure needs

Increasing apprenticeship and Red Seal training capacity, working with unions, employers, and national institutions to shorten timelines and improve outcomes

Introducing a new and redesigned **Apprenticeship Grant** that will provide a weekly income top-up of **\$400 per week** while they are attending in-class technical training for a total payment of **up to \$16,000**

MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR CANADIANS

The world is changing rapidly, creating new challenges and uncertainty for businesses and families alike. In response, we have chosen to focus on building a stronger, more resilient economy that helps lower costs for Canadians and creates greater stability for the future. At the same time, we remain committed to protecting and strengthening the social programs that Canadians rely on every day:



Travelling and exploring Canada will cost less this summer with the renewed **Canada Strong Pass**.



More than 12 million Canadians will receive the new *Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit* on June 5th.



We eliminated the GST on new homes below \$1 million for **first-time home buyers**, with additional relief on homes up to \$1.5 million.



Paused the Fuel Excise Tax – saving Canadians up to **10 cents/L** on gas, **4 cents/L** on diesel.



Launched Automatic Federal Benefits so **5.5 million low-income** Canadians automatically receive the benefits they qualify for by the 2028 tax year.



With executives from the Canadian Mental Health Association: MB Chapter

SUPPORTING THOSE MOST IN NEED

Stability is at the heart of a strong, healthy community, and in Winnipeg, that need is especially clear amid an ongoing mental health, addiction, and homelessness crisis. The additional **\$125-million investment in the Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampment Initiative** reflects a commitment not only to provide housing, but to ensure that housing is supportive, sustainable and coupled with wraparound services.

My recent conversation with executives from the **Canadian Mental Health Association's Manitoba Chapter** reinforced how essential this funding is for delivering comprehensive services, including addiction treatment, mental health care, and peer support. Addressing these complex issues means recognizing that stable housing must be paired with access to medical professionals and community welfare experts that help individuals rebuild their lives.

This investment also builds on broader commitments, including **\$5 billion in health infrastructure**, which is guided by close collaboration with local partners to ensure resources are directed where they are most needed. Together, these efforts aim to create a more coordinated, compassionate response that helps people move toward stability while strengthening the community as a whole.

CANADA'S STRONG FISCAL POSITION

In addition to a deficit that is \$11 billion lower than projected in Budget 2025, **Canada has the:**

**STRONGEST
CREDIT RATING
IN THE WORLD**

**MOST COMPETITIVE
LONG-TERM INTEREST
RATES IN THE G7**

**SECOND FASTEST
GROWING ECONOMY
IN THE G7**



With the Prime Minister

At a time of deep uncertainty and rapid change in the global economy, Canada is building on a strong economic foundation with a clear focus on growth, resilience, and opportunity for all Canadians. The Spring Economic Update 2026 highlights how our positive financial standing allows us to invest confidently in major infrastructure, housing, and long-term economic competitiveness.

The International Monetary Fund has stated that Canada holds the strongest fiscal position within the G7 due to the lowest net debt-to-GDP ratio. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Carney, the government is advancing investments that strengthen Canada's long-term economic stability while positioning itself to respond effectively to global economic shifts.

TRADE DIVERSIFICATION AND ATTRACTING INVESTMENT

Our government is on a mission to double non-U.S. exports in the next decade. In the last year, we have made significant progress in the diversification of our trade.

We struck **20 new partnerships on four continents** in a year – including unlocking more than **\$7 billion** in export markets from new strategic partnerships.

We are also concluding a new agreement with India this year to double two-way trade to **\$70 billion**.

The **Trade Diversification Strategy** provides targeted, practical support for exporters, while strengthening the systems that move Canadian goods efficiently and reliably to global markets.

Canada is using its strong fiscal position to invest confidently, strengthen the economy, and build a more resilient future – supporting Canadians today while creating long-term stability and prosperity for the future.



With South Korea's Minister of Industry

TRANSFORMING NATIONAL DEFENCE

Our government provided the **largest pay raise in a generation for CAF members** and saw recruitment at a 30 year high.

We also launched the **Defence Investment Agency**, including over half a trillion dollars in investments to:

 SUPPORT **125,000 HIGH PAYING CAREERS.**

 INCREASE DEFENCE EXPORTS BY **50%.**

 BOOST SHARE OF DEFENCE ACQUISITIONS AWARDED TO CANADIAN FIRMS TO **70%.**

 GROW CANADIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY REVENUES BY **240%.**

 Last June, we promised to achieve **NATO's 2% target this year – and in March, we delivered.**



With the Minister of Public Safety at an announcement for CCSP Funding

COMBATTING CRIME

\$75 million in new funding for the **Canada Community Security Program** will help cover security upgrades for religious, ethnic, and marginalised communities in response to rising hate-motivated incidents. This program helps ensure that people can gather, worship, learn and celebrate with peace of mind backed by trusted security measures.

The new **Financial Crimes Agency** is the first federal body focused on serious financial crimes, which will be complemented by Canada's first government-wide **National Anti-Fraud Strategy**, creating a multi-sector response to fraud.

CLIMATE COMPETITIVENESS

We are **protecting and conserving Canada's natural environment** for future generations while growing our economy.

A FORCE OF NATURE: CANADA'S STRATEGY TO PROTECT NATURE

Our plan to conserve **30% of lands and waters by 2030.**

We are launching a new **National Electricity Strategy** – a plan to double the capacity of Canada's grid by **2050** and deliver clean, reliable, affordable power.

This strategy will create good jobs, reduce emissions, and support energy-efficient home retrofits while building the grid Canadians need for the future.

UNITING CANADA THROUGH SPORT

We are investing **\$755 million** to expand access to sport across the country. **This will allow us to:**

HOST AND COMPETE WITH THE BEST

by bringing world-class sporting events to Canada.

SUPPORT ATHLETES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS

with enhanced training and competition opportunities.

GET MORE CANADIANS INVOLVED

by increasing support for national sport organizations.

We are making a **generational investment in sport** to put more Canadians on podiums.



With Secretary of State Adam Van Koeperden and Manitoba Coaches at the Canada Summer Games