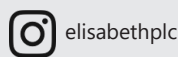
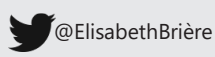
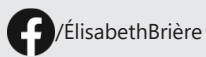




# BUDGET 2023

## Élisabeth Brière Member of Parliament for Sherbrooke



### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Dear Sherbrooke residents,

That's a wrap! We released the budget on March 28. I'm especially pleased because the budget will help us sustain the economic recovery and continue to address the needs of Sherbrooke residents. Inflation and the high cost of living are no doubt making it even tougher to make ends meet. That's why for those Canadians who need it most, our government is introducing new targeted inflation relief: improved public health care, including dental care for millions of Canadians; significant investments to build Canada's clean economy, create good middle class careers and help usher in a new era of economic prosperity for Canadians; and a responsible fiscal plan that will see Canada maintain the lowest deficit and the lowest net debt-to-GDP ratio in the G7. We'll also continue to fund housing and food security programs.

I really believe that we live in the greatest country and the most beautiful city in the world! In this challenging period for all of us, let's continue to work together to build a stronger, more sustainable, and more secure Sherbrooke—for everyone.

Have a wonderful spring!

Élisabeth

### DOUBLING THE GST CREDIT

Groceries cost more these days, and for many Canadians, higher prices on the essentials are causing a lot of stress. In Budget 2023, the federal government is providing new, targeted inflation relief to the Canadians who need it most.

For 11 million low- and modest-income Canadians and families, the Grocery Rebate will provide eligible couples with two children with up to an extra \$467; single Canadians without children with up to an extra \$234; and seniors with an extra \$225 on average. This assistance will be provided through the Goods and Services Tax Credit.

By targeting the Grocery Rebate to the Canadians who need it most, the government will be able to provide substantial relief without making inflation worse.



#### Example

Brandon makes \$32,000 per year working at a gym. With rent, car payments and groceries going up, he's having a tough time making it to the end of the month. The Grocery Rebate will provide him with \$234, on top of the enhanced Canada Workers Benefit and the GST Credit.

## Stronger public health care and dental care

Reducing backlogs, shorter wait times, and creating a new Canadian Dental Care Plan



## DENTAL CARE FOR ALL

It isn't just children who need affordable dental care. Across Canada, millions of Canadians are avoiding the dental care they need because it costs too much—and nobody should have to choose between taking care of their teeth and being able to pay their bills at the end of the month.

Budget 2023 proposes to provide Health Canada with \$13.0 billion over five years, starting in 2023-2024, and \$4.4 billion each year after that for the Canadian Dental Care Plan. The plan will provide dental coverage for uninsured Canadians with annual family incomes of less than \$90,000, with no co-pays for those with family incomes under \$70,000. The plan would begin providing coverage by the end of 2023 and will be administered by Health Canada, with support from a third-party benefits administrator. Details on eligible coverage will be available later this year.

## Common Chargers for Your Devices

Every time Canadians purchase new devices, they need to buy new chargers to go along with them, which drives up costs and increases electronic waste. The federal government will work with international partners and other stakeholders to explore implementing a standard charging port in Canada, with the aim of lowering costs for Canadians and reducing electronic waste.



## Cracking Down on Junk Fees

Budget 2023 announces the government's intention to work with regulatory agencies, provinces, and territories to reduce junk fees for Canadians. This could include higher telecom roaming charges, event and concert fees, excessive baggage fees, and unjustified shipping and freight fees.



## POWERING OUR GREEN ECONOMY

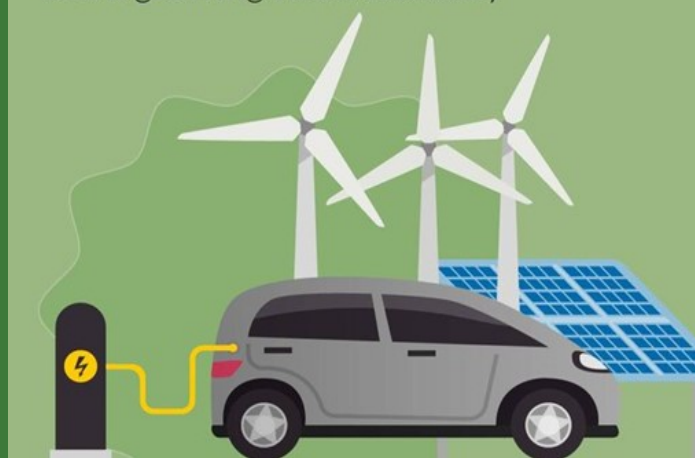
Today, the world's major economies are moving at an unprecedented pace to fight climate change, retool their economies, and build the net-zero industries of tomorrow. Budget 2023 investments in abundant and low-cost clean electricity will underpin other investments needed to create hundreds of thousands of middle class jobs, provide the energy that will power our daily lives and the entire Canadian economy, and provide more affordable energy to millions of Canadian households.

Our made-in-Canada plan is supported by a new federal toolkit for investing in the clean economy: a set of clear and predictable investment tax credits, low-cost strategic financing, and targeted investments and programs, where necessary, to respond to the unique needs of sectors or projects of national economic significance.

By making significant investments to ensure that Canada does not fall behind at this moment of profound global economic upheaval—and opportunity—Budget 2023 is ensuring that a clean Canadian economy can deliver prosperity, middle-class jobs, and more vibrant communities across Canada.

## A made-in-Canada plan

Affordable energy, good jobs, and a growing clean economy



## Lowering Credit Card Transaction Fees for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses

In Budget 2023, the government is announcing that it has secured commitments from Visa and Mastercard to lower fees for small businesses, while also protecting reward points for Canadian consumers offered by Canada's largest banks. A small business with \$300,000 in annual credit card sales is expected to see interchange savings of \$1,080 per year.

## Launching the New Tax-Free First Home Savings Account

Over the past several years, as house prices have continued to climb, the cost of a down payment has become increasingly out of reach for far too many young people. In Budget 2022, the federal government committed to introducing a Tax-Free First Home Savings Account—a new registered plan to give prospective first-time home buyers the ability to save \$40,000 on a tax-free basis. Like a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), contributions will be tax-deductible, and withdrawals to purchase a first home—including from investment income—will be non-taxable, like a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA). Tax-free in; tax-free out.

In Budget 2023, the government is delivering on this commitment. Financial institutions will be able to start offering the Tax-Free First Home Savings Account to Canadians right away.



## THE BUDGET BY THE NUMBERS

**\$37.3B**

Quebec's share in the federal health plan for 10 years, on top of the current health transfer payments.

**44.5%**

Debt as a percentage of GDP. Canada continues to have the lowest debt-to-GDP ratio in the G7 and maintain a AAA credit rating.

**\$7.1B**

Billions of dollars in reduced spending in public service administration for the next five years.

**\$14B**

Equalization transfer to Quebec for 2023–2024.

## Improving Registered Education Savings Plans

The cost of a post-secondary education has gone up in recent years. Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) are an important part of saving for post-secondary education. In a typical year, nearly 500,000 students withdraw funds from an RESP to support their education. However, the withdrawal limits for RESPs have not increased in 25 years. In Budget 2023, the federal government is taking steps to improve these plans for students and help them afford the costs of getting an education.

Budget 2023 proposes to increase limits on certain RESP withdrawals from \$5,000 to \$8,000 for full-time students, and from \$2,500 to \$4,000 for part-time students. Budget 2023 also proposes to allow divorced or separated parents to open a joint RESP for their children, which will make it easier and more affordable for parents to save for their children's education.

## Supporting Official Languages

In a changing and interconnected world, Canada's official languages are not on equal footing. The relative size of francophone minority communities has been declining. Even in Quebec, the demographic weight of francophones is in decline. The *Action Plan for Official Languages, 2023–28* will implement the federal government's commitments to ensure the equality of English and French, help increase the demographic weight of francophones and restore the size of francophone communities, expand bilingualism, and better support official language minority communities. Budget 2023 proposes to provide \$373.7 million under the Action Plan to support francophone immigration and community organizations in official language minority communities.

Number of children in Sherbrooke who have received the Canada Dental Benefit since December 1, 2022.

**520**

## Supporting the Growth of Canada's Tourism Sector

Following consultations, the government will present a new Federal Tourism Growth Strategy to chart a course for growth, investment, and stability in Canada's tourism sector. Budget 2023 proposes to provide \$108 million over three years, on a cash basis, starting in 2023–24, to support organizations in developing local projects and events.

For more details on budget measures, go to [elisabethbriere.libparl.ca/budget](https://elisabethbriere.libparl.ca/budget)

## WORKING FOR SHERBROOKE

### PERFORMANCE VENUE LAUNCHED

We've had discussions, negotiations and submissions since the performance venue was first proposed. In November 2022, Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Quebec Lieutenant, announced further funding to double our initial \$2.7 million investment, bringing it to \$5.4 million. I must say that I wasn't the only person lining up to get more funding from Pablo! Due to cost overruns, budgets for several projects had to be revised, and demand for additional funding skyrocketed. I'm therefore very pleased that I managed to draw attention to Sherbrooke. I'd like to thank and congratulate Ms. Bergeron and the entire Côté Scène team for their leadership over the past few years. The performance venue will be an important addition to our cultural offerings and will give us a new way to experience the arts.



### PROACTIVE FOR OUR ARMOURIES

In December 2022, the Minister of National Defence announced plans on the future of the Colonel-Gaëtan-Côté armoury (on Belvédère Street) and the William Street armoury. The Department of National Defence (DND) will renovate the Belvédère Street armoury and restore the one on William Street. DND consulted the municipality and organizations to learn more about expectations associated with the project.

The project as a whole will be tendered in summer 2023 so that the contract can be awarded next fall. DND will continue to consult the community on the project. Construction and renovation will start in 2027, once the required government approvals have been issued.

### Project timeline

**December 2022** – Formal commitment made to restore the William Street armoury in Sherbrooke and to renovate the Belvédère Street armoury.

**Fall 2023** – Start of the study phase

**Spring 2025** – Start of the design phase.

**2027** – Start of the construction and renovation phase

Our researchers and professionals at the Université de Sherbrooke are once again demonstrating their world-class expertise and their ability to partner with the private sector in order to deliver sustainable and effective solutions. They make our digital environment more reliable despite evolving threats. The Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety, joined me for an opportunity to meet researchers from the Université de Sherbrooke. In an increasingly interconnected world, cyber security is a top priority for our government.



Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Heritage and Quebec Lieutenant, paid us a visit to make two wonderful announcements on Sherbrooke cultural heritage at the Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke and Théâtre Granada. We also took this opportunity to hold a consultative roundtable with several economic and social stakeholders.

I was joined by my colleague Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Sport and Minister for the Regions of Quebec, to announce a \$6.7 million partnership between Canada's Ocean Cluster and Oneka Technologies, a proudly Sherbrooke company that is perfectly aligned with our environmental values. Oneka's technology harnesses wave power to desalinate and produce fresh water at a very low cost and with zero carbon emissions.



We had another inspiring meeting at the Université de Sherbrooke with Professor Alexandre Cabral, Department of Civil and Building Engineering (GCBA) and his group of research students. Professor Cabral and his team have received \$192,000 in funding from our government and are working on using industrial waste as geotechnical materials. Their fields of study include industrial and urban land contamination, underground water and water tables, geotechnology, and clean technologies.



### Sherbrooke Office

1650 King Street West

Suite M10 (entrance off Marchant Street)

Tel.: 819-564-4200

[Elisabeth.Briere@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Elisabeth.Briere@parl.gc.ca)

[www.elisabethbriere.libparl.ca](http://www.elisabethbriere.libparl.ca)

