



## Supporting Albertans

Alberta's economy has recovered strongly but many Albertans are still struggling to heat their homes and feed their families. Budget 2023 continues to provide relief through our Affordability Action Plan. Albertans continue to benefit from ongoing programs such as the fuel tax relief program, electricity rebates, natural gas rebates and monthly \$100 affordability payments for seniors, families and Albertans on certain benefit programs. For more information on the Affordability Action Plan and eligibility criteria, please visit [Alberta.ca/affordable](https://alberta.ca/affordable).

### Supporting post-secondary students

Budget 2023 is making life more affordable for Alberta's post-secondary students and graduates. We are making it easier to pay back student loans by:

- Reducing Alberta student loan interest rates to prime
- Increasing the Repayment Assistance Plan qualification criteria from \$25,000 to \$40,000 of income
- Extending the grace period repayments of Alberta student loans from six months to 12 months, making Alberta a leader in Canada regarding timing of student loan repayment obligations

We are making tuition more predictable by implementing a 2 per cent cap on increases for 2024–25 and future academic years.

### Supporting families

We are stepping up to support Alberta families struggling with the high cost of living.

Parents shouldn't have to choose between filling up the car and putting food on the table. Budget 2023 leaves more money in the pockets of Alberta families and ensures they have the supports they need by:

- Maintaining our commitment to make child care accessible and affordable for Alberta families, reaching \$15 per day in 2023–24 and \$10 per day by 2026.
- Indexing personal income tax brackets for the 2022 tax year, with tax bracket thresholds and credit amounts increasing by 2.3 per cent for 2022 and an additional 6 per cent for 2023. Many Albertans saw the benefit of indexation through lower tax withholdings on their first paycheques of 2023. Albertans will receive larger refunds or owe less tax when they file their 2022 tax returns in spring 2023.
- Providing \$361 million more over three years in support of the Affordability Action Plan to:
  - Index the Alberta Child and Family Benefit to inflation, increasing benefit amounts by six per cent in 2023
  - Provide \$100 per month for six months for children under 18 if their parents or guardians adjusted total household income is below \$180,000, based on the 2021 tax year.

## BUDGET 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Budget 2023 is supporting in-Alberta adoptions and helping parents grow or start their families with:

- \$12 million more over three years to support adoptions of children to family homes from government care. This includes:
  - Extending supplementary health benefits for children adopted from government care or through licensed adoption agencies
  - \$6,000 grant funding for prospective adoptive parents making less than \$180,000 a year.
- An increase of the provincial adoption expense tax credit to \$18,210 to match the federal threshold in 2023.

### Supporting seniors and other vulnerable Albertans

Budget 2023 is ensuring that seniors and vulnerable Albertans have the support they need to afford everyday necessities. We are:

- Increasing Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), Income Support and the Alberta Seniors benefits by six per cent in 2023, and then indexing them to keep pace with inflation
- Providing \$600 over six months to AISH, Income Support, and Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) clients along with seniors who have a household income below \$180,000, based on the 2021 tax year
- Providing a total of \$20 million over two years to food banks and civil society organizations working to provide food security for vulnerable Albertans, of which \$5 million in each year is to match private donations
- Investing a total of \$22 million over two years for low-income transit pass programs in more communities, including \$9 million to extend the Calgary and Edmonton low-income transit pass pilots an additional year
- Ramping up funding to provide 6,900 more households with an affordable place to call home
  - This funding—up \$187.5 million compared to the previous budget—delivers on our 10-year affordable housing strategy to support 25,000 more households by 2031

Budget 2023 includes \$102 million per year beginning in 2023–24 to increase wages for more than 20,000 workers in the social sector. This funding builds on the \$24 million the government provided to service providers in February to support wage increases retroactive to January 1, 2023. We are also providing \$8 million in 2023–24 for disability service providers to address increasing administrative costs.