

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: UBCIC EXECUTIVE
FROM: UBCIC POLICY TEAM
DATE: APRIL 29, 2021
RE: 2021 FEDERAL BUDGET

PURPOSE

To provide the UBCIC Executive with an update and preliminary analysis of the 2021 federal budget and its implications for BC First Nations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. N/A

BACKGROUND

The first federal budget in over two years was tabled April 19, 2021 by Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland of the minority Liberal government. The 724-page document entitled "[A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth and Resilience](#)" proposes billions of dollars of government spending focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic, creating jobs, supporting businesses and economic recovery. Major highlights include a national childcare program for \$10 per day childcare by 2026, extension of pandemic relief programs, and investment in Indigenous communities. As the Liberals hold a slim minority, support for the budget is vital for determining whether or not the Party will face a re-election. On April 26, 2021, Trudeau's government survived the final vote of confidence on the budget and avoided the prospects of early elections after the House of Commons approved the general budgetary policy by a vote of 178-157.

CURRENT STATUS

The proposed budget includes a historic investment of \$18 billion over five years to "improve quality of life and create opportunities for Indigenous people." The government's focus on reconciliation aims to work with partners to close the gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Indigenous-specific investment is outlined in the areas of COVID-19, health outcomes, MMIWG2S, Child and Family welfare, Infrastructure, Early Learning and Childcare, Education, implementation of legislation on UNDRIP, and Pacific Salmon.

1. "Healthy & Vibrant Communities"

The 2021 budget's focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery is also at the heart of proposed investments in Indigenous communities, which center on public health, COVID-19 supports, mental health, children and families, and education throughout the pandemic.

Highlights include \$1.4 billion over five years forwards health care services, \$1.2 billion in 2021-2022 for COVID-19 supports, \$1 billion over five years to Indigenous children and families, and \$1.2 billion over five years for First Nations schools.

2. “Building Infrastructure and Economic Growth”

A lack of adequate and dignified infrastructure for Indigenous communities across the country, notably housing, schools, roads and clean drinking water, has been an area of particular concern for decades. Ending all boil water advisories was an election promise the current Liberal government failed to live up to in their last term. In Budget 2021 the government reaffirms its commitment to end all boil-water advisories and to support Indigenous businesses.

Notable investment includes \$6.0 billion over five years towards Indigenous Infrastructure.

3. “Responding to the Tragedy of MMIWG”

The 2021 budget references systemic socio-economic issues that create conditions of violence and insecurity for Indigenous women and girls. Loss of culture and languages, poverty and lack of access to housing, the need for community safety, food security, employment, education, healthcare, and infrastructure are all identified as areas which require reform. The government claims to be accelerating the National Action Plan and outlines their response to MMIWG by themes of culture, health and wellness, human security and safety, and justice.

Some highlights include \$2.2 billion over five years to build a safer, stronger and more inclusive society, \$275 million over five years to Canadian Heritage to support the efforts of Indigenous peoples in the reclamation, revitalization, and strengthening of Indigenous language and culture, and \$108.8 million over two years to reestablish Indigenous cultural spaces.

4. National Action Plan

The Calls for Justice identified the need for a robust and comprehensive strategy to address gender-based violence and MMIWG2S. In response to high rates of gender-based violence across the country, predominantly towards Indigenous women, Black women, women with disabilities, women of colour, gender non-binary and LGBTQ2S people, and those living in rural communities, the government is developing a National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated conditions that lead to higher incidences of gender-based violence and has only increased the urgency for meaningful change.

The government’s National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence proposes \$601.3 million dollars towards gender-based violence organizations, a gender-based violence program, the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence Secretariat, increased data collection, Indigenous communities, safer relationships, crisis hotlines, free legal advice, protections for women and children during divorce or separation, child exploitation, and support for newcomers.

5. “Walking the Path to Reconciliation and Self-Determination”

Budget 2021 asserts the government’s commitment to Indigenous self-determination and self-governance and seeks to address systemic racism and reconciliation with the implementation of federal UNDRIP legislation.

Funding in these areas includes \$ 2.7 billion over 10 years to fund programs and services, \$104.8 million over two years towards the administrative capacity of First Nations governments, and \$31.5 million over two years towards the co-development of an Action plan to implement Bill C-15 (*United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*).

6. Environmental Protection

Budget 2021 proposes a \$17.6 billion dollar climate action plan. Aspects of this plan seek to address issues of climate change, as well as the need for environmental protection, clean energy industries, and the foundational relationship between Indigenous peoples and the land. The budget allocates \$2.3 billion over five years, \$100.5 million in remaining amortization, to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. These funds are intended to conserve land and inland waters, create jobs, support Indigenous Guardians, and protect endangered species.

Budget 2021 outlines Indigenous-specific funding to support sustainable energy projects in an attempt to provide clean power and reduce emissions from mining, particularly in Northern communities. Proposed funding includes \$40.4 million over three years towards planning of hydroelectricity and grid interconnection projects in the North, as well as \$36 million over three years through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative.

7. Pacific Salmon

Pacific wild salmon are integral to First Nations culture and livelihoods in BC. Currently 42% of commercial salmon licenses are Indigenous commercial communal licenses. Yet salmon stocks have declined by 93% since the early 1990s. The Liberal government proposes protective measures for sustainable aquaculture management, improved management of commercial fishing, new hatcheries, and habitat restoration and a commitment to further engage with First Nations and fish harvesters. Budget 2021 further outlines the government's plan to transition from open net-pen farming in BC by 2025 and proposes \$647.1 million over five years to stabilize and conserve wild Pacific salmon populations.

ANALYSIS

Like the provincial 2021 budget, the federal budget can be classified as a "post-pandemic stimulus budget" with key investments geared towards advancing socioeconomic recovery from COVID-19 and promoting "jobs, growth and resilience." With the COVID-19 recession having disproportionate and far-reaching impacts upon Indigenous peoples, investments that specifically target Indigenous welfare and safety are critical, such as the \$1.2 billion being allocated towards Indigenous communities' response to COVID-19 in 2021-22.

The 2021 federal budget includes some welcome proposals that will serve Indigenous communities in BC, notably the promise of \$10 per day childcare, and \$18 billion dollars proposed towards health outcomes, infrastructure, children and families, gender-based violence prevention, and protections for Pacific wild salmon. However, as with previous budgets, the federal budget lacks transparency and concrete details around investments, initiatives, and programs that target Indigenous peoples. Despite taking steps to address long-standing inequities between Canadians and Indigenous peoples, the budget falls short in the areas of land rights and specific claims, clear implementation of a National Action Plan on MMIWG2S, and support for children and families.

Overall, the budget lacks important details and firm commitments outlining how these investments will translate into equality, justice and the cultivation of healthy Indigenous communities. This lack of a clear roadmap is particularly significant when it comes to meaningful implementation of the UN Declaration, the *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (Bill C-92), and the National

Action Plan on Gender-based Violence. While the government has committed \$31.5 million over two years towards the co-development of an Action plan to implement Bill C-15 (*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*), it is unclear how this money will be allocated. UBCIC will need to work with its partners to ensure that Bill C-15 aligns with and supports BC's implementation of its own provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and that co-development of a Bill C-15 is a true bi-lateral process conducted with the full participation and guidance of Indigenous peoples.

Access to service plans would provide clarity on how the government plans to follow-through on the proposed investments and allow for greater transparency and accountability. It should also be noted that the budget is dependent on the Liberals gaining support from one majority party, without which the budget will become a campaign platform for the next election ([APTN](#)).

MMIWG and The National Action Plan

Progress on the National Action Plan in response to MMIWG2S has been unclear and cumbersome. The federal budget divides funds between MMIWG (\$2.2 billion) and the National Action Plan (\$601.3 million). The \$601.3 million is proposed "to advance towards a new National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence".

There are concerns that this funding is administrative in nature, only considers an initial organizing strategy, and lacks the weight needed to make systemic change. The budget for the National Action Plan does not clearly outline how funds will be allocated to partners or provide a much-needed timeline for implementation nationally, or within the provinces and territories. The Coalition on MMIWG2S has criticized the government for failing to meaningfully consult or include Indigenous women in the formation of a National Action Plan or its working groups, as well as failing to provide transparent, accessible information around their priority actions and timeline. The federal budget is no exception and signals that the process remains vague and a largely a government-led approach without a clear plan to move forward.

First Nations Land and Environmental Protection

Notably absent from the budget is a strong commitment to addressing issues of First Nation's land, specific claims, and what funding will specifically go to the BC Treaty Commission process (which UBCIC continues to oppose) or other types of agreements. The unique reality of BC's unceded territories is not considered in the federal budget. The Liberals propose 43 million dollars over three years to work with Indigenous partners to redesign the federal Additions to Reserve policy, and promise to top up the specific land claims settlement fund in 2022, yet they fail to commit to a dollar amount.

Canada continues to frame its commitment to resolve specific claims in relation to its own metrics of economic development, social welfare and community wellness. These are in fact unfulfilled lawful obligations and duties that Canada owes to rights holders. The budget's lack of clarity and commitment to specific claims reflects its continued conflict of interest in assessing claims against itself. An independent specific claims resolution centre is a way forward to remove this conflict. Such an independent process must be based on key principles that include upholding The Honour of the Crown, independence of all aspects of claims resolution, full integration of Indigenous laws and no arbitrary limits on compensation.

The question of environmental protection cannot be addressed without meaningful recognition of First Nations as Title holders and stewards of the land. Environmental degradation and climate change at the

hands of government-backed industry is having devastating impacts to our lands and waters and Indigenous peoples' way of life. The overall funding allocated to Indigenous peoples for environment and climate change initiatives is but a fraction of the total \$17.6 billion committed by Budget 2021 towards climate change action and building a green economy.

As to be expected, Budget 2021 also does not mention the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) or any major energy projects that pose significant risks to Indigenous peoples' welfare and Title and Rights. As the SCC dismissed BC's bid to regulate the interprovincial transportation of oil and resources in January 2020, thereby removing a potential hurdle for the completion of the TMX project, it is imperative that future federal budgets reflect the need for environmental protocols and safety measures to mitigate the risks of oils spills or other environmental disasters, as well as the need for stronger legal clarity around provincial-federal energy jurisdiction.

Despite providing limited funding for Indigenous-specific clean energy projects, Canada's goal of meeting its emissions targets is hard pressed due to its continued backing of the financially draining TMX project. A recent study reports that Canada is on track to lose \$11.9 billion to the TMX project and researchers recommend shelving the project entirely ([CBC](#)).

Canada's dismal climate pollution record is the [worst among G7 Nations](#) and Budget 2021 falls short of turning around the state of the climate emergency. While the budget aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 36 percent by 2030, climate scientists argue "Canada will need to cut emissions by at least 50-60 percent by 2030 in order to be on the right track" ([Canadian Dimension](#)). Investment in clean energy projects for Northern Indigenous communities alone is not transformative and if the Liberal government is serious about the health of the environment and Indigenous communities it will require further investment and abandonment of projects like TMX.

Children and Families

Budget 2021 signals support for children and families including 1 billion dollars over the next five years, with an additional 73.6 million in 2021-2022 which is dedicated to implementing the *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Children, Youth, and Families* (Bill C-92). However, it is unclear if a more detailed breakdown of how funds will be distributed to the provinces and territories will be forthcoming. The lack of detail is significant due to the unique landscape for children and families in BC, and our 204 First Nations communities. The AFN requested funding in the amount of \$3.5 billion, over the course of five years, to support the implementation of Bill C-92 for First Nations governments. The \$73.6 million dollar commitment, based on a distinctions-based model, is substantially less than what First Nations have been calling for both regionally and federally. Also included is \$118.7 million towards Canada's legal obligation to provide needs-based and equitable funding to First Nations child and family service agencies (DAA's) under the CHRT rulings. The 2018 federal budget committed \$1.1 billion to funding the FNCFS program and the 2019 budget committed \$1.2 billion to support the ongoing implementation of Jordan's Principle. While it is positive to see specific commitments related to the implementation of C-92, when compared to prior year budgets, the commitment to First Nations child and family services, including First Nations self-determination over children and families, does not meet the fiscal needs identified by First Nations.

NEXT STEPS:

1. N/A

APPENDICES

1.1 High Level Budget Breakdown of First Nations' Priorities (p. 265)

Budget 2021 proposes significant investments for First Nations to advance initiatives across a number of priority areas. Here is a summary of those investments:

- \$2.5 billion over five years to build on the existing distinctions-based approach to Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care, with a long-term investment in Indigenous-led programming that parallels the government's commitment to provinces and territories. This includes \$515 million for before- and after-school care on reserve, plus additional support for First Nations programming and capacity-building.
- \$1.4 billion to see Indigenous communities and businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic, including distinctions-based funding under the Indigenous Community Support Fund and the Indigenous Community Business Fund, funding to maintain the public health response in First Nations communities, and support for the First Nations Finance Authority.
- \$1 billion to increase funding under the First Nations Child and Family Services Program.
- More than \$2.4 billion over five years to improve essential health, education, and social services on reserve, including health services in remote and isolated communities and transforming health systems, elementary and secondary education, and on-reserve income assistance.
- \$775 million over five years to maintain medically necessary services provided through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.
- \$598 million over three years to support a Distinctions-Based Mental Wellness Strategy.
- \$177 million over two years to support Indigenous post-secondary students and institutions during COVID-19.
- \$1.7 billion over five years to cover operations and maintenance costs of on reserve community infrastructure in First Nations communities. First Nations will also have access to the \$4.3 billion distinctions-based Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund to support immediate demands, as prioritized by Indigenous partners, with shovel-ready projects in their communities.
- \$64 million to help Indigenous entrepreneurs, including Indigenous women, access capital and business supports to start and grow their businesses.
- Funding for a range of measures to end the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, anchored in the four interconnected thematic areas of culture, health and wellness, human security and safety, and justice.
- \$584 million over five years to co-develop a legislative framework for First Nations policing that recognizes it as an essential service, and to stabilize and expand the First Nations Policing Program.
- \$109 million over five years to repair, renovate, and replace policing facilities in First Nation and Inuit communities.

- More than \$165 million over five years to enhance Indigenous-led crime prevention strategies and community safety services.
- More than \$460 million over five years to support language reclamation and revitalization, Indigenous cultural spaces, sport programming for Indigenous women and girls, events to commemorate the legacy of residential schools, and preserve Indigenous heritage.
- \$31 million over two years to support the co-development of an Action Plan with Indigenous partners to implement legislation on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- \$2.7 billion over 10 years to escalate the 10-year grants to address key cost drivers such as changes in inflation and population in First Nations communities.
- More than \$373 million over five years to support First Nations governance, support Additions to Reserve, and further a First Nations Data Governance Strategy.

First Nations will also benefit from:

- Access to \$36 million over three years in investments to help build capacity and create jobs in Indigenous communities through clean energy projects.
- \$163 million over three years to support food security in isolated northern communities.
- Access to \$138 million for Indigenous recipients through a \$1.4 billion top-up to Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to help Indigenous communities adapt to climate change.
- \$23 million over five years to engage on developing a plan to transition from open net-pen salmon farming in British Columbia's waters by 2025, and collaborate with Indigenous communities to pilot area-based management approaches to managing aquaculture activities in priority areas of British Columbia
- \$647 million over five years to stabilize and conserve wild Pacific salmon populations, including funding to engage with First Nations and fish harvesters.
- \$10 million to extend the Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Program to support projects from applicants, including Indigenous communities and organizations, that retrieve and dispose of fishing related plastic waste, test new fishing technology and support international efforts to decrease discarded or abandoned gear.
- Extending the Indigenous Business Initiative to June 30, 2021 to support Indigenous businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation businesses.
- \$87 million over five years to modernize federal procurement and create opportunities for specific communities by diversifying the federal supplier base. This will in part, support efforts to meet Canada's target of 5 per cent of federal contracts being awarded to businesses managed and led by Indigenous people. (265-267)

1.2 Detailed Breakdown of Indigenous Funding by Category

“Healthy & Vibrant Communities”

- 1.2 billion in 2021-2022 towards Indigenous communities’ response to COVID-19, particularly towards the public health response and 760.8 million for the *Indigenous Community Support Fund*.
- 1.4 billion over five years to maintain essential health care services for First Nations and Inuit, continue work to transform First Nations health systems, and respond to the health impacts of climate change
- 597.6 million over three years for a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy to fund the Indian Residential Schools Health Supports Program and Crisis Line, increase community-based supports and substance use treatment and prevention.
- 1 billion over five years to Indigenous Children and Families with 118.7 million ongoing to increase funding under the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. This proposed funding is designed to; support First Nations communities not served by a delegated First Nation agency and seeks to keep First Nations children and families together and in their communities through the Community Well-being and Jurisdiction Initiative; implement orders from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal; and support First Nations youth who age out of care for two additional years to transition to independence. Importantly, the budget signals the support of the *Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families* with 73.6 million over four years to support the implementation of the Act and a commitment to support Indigenous communities to develop their own child and family service models.
- 1.2 billion over five years for PPE, laptops, teachers and staff on reserve, transportation, funding for First Nations schools and expanded access to adult high school education.
- 150.6 million over two years to support Indigenous students through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and the Inuit and Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategies and offset costs of tuition, books, housing and living expenses.
- 618.4 million over two years for on-reserve income assistance to address basic needs and employment supports.

“Building Infrastructure and Economic Growth”

- 6.0 billion over five years including 4.3 billion over four years into the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund and 1.7 billion over five years for operations and maintenance costs of community infrastructure in First Nations communities on reserve.
- 117 million in 2021-22 to renew the Indigenous Community Business Fund and 33.4 million in 2021-22 to support the First Nations Finance Authority.
- 42 million over three years to expand the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program; \$2.4 million in 2021-22 to the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada; and 22 million over three years to support the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association’s (NACCA) Indigenous Women’s Entrepreneurship Initiative.

- 43 million over three years to work with Indigenous partners and other stakeholders to redesign the federal Additions to Reserve policy and to accelerate work on existing requests from First Nations across the country.

“Responding to the Tragedy of MMIWG”

- 2.2 billion over five years to build a safer, stronger and more inclusive society.
- 275 million over five years to Canadian Heritage, to support the efforts of Indigenous peoples in the reclamation, revitalization, and strengthening of Indigenous language and culture.
- 14.9 million over four years to support the preservation of Indigenous heritage through Library and Archives Canada.
- 108.8 million over two years to reestablish and revitalize Indigenous cultural spaces in response to the call from the Final Report on MMIWG for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people to be provided with safe, no- barrier, permanent, and meaningful access to their cultures and language.
- 40.1 million over three years to Canadian Heritage to support the Indigenous Screen Office and ensure Indigenous peoples can tell their own stories and see themselves reflected on-screen.
- 14.3 million over five years to support sports programming for Indigenous women and girls.
- 126.7 million over three years to address anti-Indigenous racism in the healthcare system. This funding will support patient advocates, health system navigators, and cultural safety training for medical professionals. The budget introduces *Joyce’s Principle* (in the name of Joyce Echaquan) which aims to guarantee the right of Indigenous people to equitable access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services, as well as the right to enjoy the best possible physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.
- 861 million over five years to support culturally responsive policing and community safety services in Indigenous communities including a legislative framework for First Nations policing. This investment seeks to address the Calls for Justice and to advance the National Action Plan.
- 74.8 million over three years to improve access to justice for Indigenous people and support the development of an Indigenous justice strategy to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system. Efforts will focus on helping families navigate the family justice system and engage with Indigenous community organizations to address systemic barriers in the criminal justice system.
- 36.3 million over five years to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, to enhance support for Indigenous women’s and 2SLGBTQQIA+ organizations, in response to the MMIWG Call for Justice 1.8.
- 20.3 million over five years to work with Indigenous partners to ensure monitoring mechanisms are in place to measure progress and to keep the government accountable.

National Action Plan

601.3 million over five years to advance towards a new National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence including:

- 200 million over two years for the Department for Women and Gender Equality to support gender-based violence organizations;
- 105 million over five years for the Department for Women and Gender Equality to enhance its Gender-Based Violence Program. Funding would go to initiatives that engage men and boys and towards stopping human trafficking and supporting at-risk populations and survivors;
- 14 million over five years for the Department for Women and Gender Equality;
- 11 million over five years for the Department for Women and Gender Equality for gender-based violence research and knowledge mobilization, with funding supporting community research models, working with Statistics Canada to develop a national femicide database, and enhancing the sample size of national gender-based violence surveys;
- 55 million over five years for the Department for Women and Gender Equality to bolster the capacity of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQA+ organizations to provide gender-based violence prevention programming aimed at addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people. These investments are in addition to those outlined in Chapter 8 to address the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls;
- 50 million over five years for the Public Health Agency of Canada to design and deliver interventions that promote safe relationships and prevent family violence, including intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, and elder abuse;
- 30 million over five years for the Department for Women and Gender Equality so that crisis hotlines can serve the urgent needs of more Canadians and offer more robust services, resources, and supports;
- 85.3 million over five years for Justice Canada. Funding would support a national program for independent legal advice and independent legal representation for victims of sexual assault, as well as to support pilot projects for victims of intimate partner violence;
- 28.4 million over five years for Justice Canada to protect the safety and well-being of children and families;

“Walking the Path to Reconciliation and Self-Determination”

- 31.5 million over two years to support the co-development of an Action Plan with Indigenous partners to implement Bill C-15 legislation, the *United Nations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.
- 2.7 billion over 10 years to ensure that funding for core programs and services provided through the 10-year grants addresses key cost drivers.
- 104.8 million over two years to support the administrative capacity of First Nations governments and other organizations that deliver critical programs and services as well as \$151.4 million over

five years to provide wrap-around supports for First Nations with the greatest community development needs.

- Budget 2021 will replenish the Specific Claims Settlement Fund in 2022-23 to provide timely payment of negotiated settlements of specific claims.
- 13.4 million over five years to Canadian Heritage for events to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools, and to honour survivors, their families and communities.
- 73.5 million over three years to continue work towards the development and implementation of a First Nations Data Governance Strategy.
- 50 million over five years to renew and make permanent dedicated consultation and policy development funding.
- The budget includes the government's intention to explore agreements that would enable interested Indigenous governments to implement a fuel, alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis sales tax within their reserves or settlement lands.

Environmental Protection

- Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$17.6 billion towards a green recovery to create jobs, build a clean economy, and fight and protect against climate change including;
- \$2.3 billion over five years, starting in 2021-22, with \$100.5 million in remaining amortization, to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to: Conserve up to 1 million square kilometers more land and inland waters to achieve Canada's 25 per cent protected area by 2025 target, including through national wildlife areas, and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. Create thousands of jobs in nature conservation and management. Accelerate new provincial and territorial protected areas. Support Indigenous Guardians. Take action to prevent priority species at imminent risk of disappearing, including through partnerships with Indigenous peoples.
- Budget 2021 proposes to invest \$40.4 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, to support feasibility and planning of hydroelectricity and grid interconnection projects in the North. This funding could advance projects, such as the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project in Yukon and the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project in Nunavut. Projects will provide clean power to northern communities and help reduce emissions from mining projects.
- Budget 2021 also proposes to invest \$36 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative, to build capacity for local, economically-sustainable clean energy projects in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and support economic development opportunities.

Pacific Salmon

- 647.1 million over five years to stabilize and conserve wild Pacific salmon populations through research, new hatchery facilities, and habitat restoration. These funds would also create a

Pacific Salmon Secretariat and Restoration Centre of Expertise, and support improved management of commercial and recreational fisheries.

- 20 million over two years to Fisheries and Oceans Canada to expand engagement with the Province of British Columbia, Indigenous communities, industry, scientists, and other stakeholders. This consultation would inform the development of a responsible plan to transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025.

References

“Budget 2021” (Government of Canada)

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