



2011 Federal Budget Summary Update

Highlights of today's budget

- Total spending of \$281.4 billion (includes \$33 billion in debt payments), up 3.6 per cent from 2010-11.
- Total debt of \$585.4 billion, up \$32.3 billion from 2010-11.
- Projected deficit of \$32.3 billion, \$2.7 billion higher than forecast in March.
- Projected deficit for 2010-11 of \$36.2 billion, \$4.3 billion better than forecast in March.
- Plans to balance the budget by 2015-16.

New measures

- \$2.2 billion set aside for a deal with Quebec on sales-tax harmonization.
- Phasing out of the per-vote subsidy for political parties, making parties almost fully reliant on private donations.

Reintroduced measures from the March 22 budget

- \$400 million to extend the ecoENERGY Retrofit-Homes program for one year. The program offers rebates to help make homes more energy efficient.
- A top-up benefit of up to \$600 for single, low-income seniors and up to \$840 for couples through the Guaranteed Income Supplement. Expected to cost more than \$300 million a year.
- A Family Caregiver Tax Credit which would save about \$300 a year for people caring for sick or disabled relatives.
- A Children's Arts Tax Credit for children's arts, culture, recreation and developmental activities which would save parents about \$75 a year per child.
- An initiative to attract health-care workers to rural and remote communities by forgiving up to \$40,000 in student loans for doctors and \$20,000 for nurses.
- A temporary Hiring Credit for Small Business of up to \$1,000 against the increase in 2011 EI premiums to encourage hiring.
- Legislation to make the \$2-billion Gas Tax Fund permanent to provide predictable infrastructure funding for municipalities.

Source: The Canadian Press