

The Latest Buzz on the Hill ...



Our monthly report **Staying in touch with "News you can Use"**

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Important announcements ...

February 2024

Canadian Dental Care Plan Rollout

Following the announcement last year of the rollout of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) there are some important details on who is eligible and how to apply.

To be eligible for the CDCP, Canadian residents must:

- ✓ Not have access to any private dental benefits, including through employers, pensions or privately purchased plans
- ✓ Have an adjusted family net income of less than \$90,000;
- ✓ Be a Canadian resident for tax purposes; and
- ✓ Have filed their tax return in the previous year

Those who qualify are being invited by letter to apply to Service Canada. Each month Service Canada will contact a new group of seniors, based on age. Applications remain open for those 77 years or older and, as of February 1st, the CDCP expanded applications to seniors aged 72 and up. Seniors aged 70 to 71 will be eligible to apply in March 2024. **Each person's eligibility will be checked on an annual basis for all those enrolled in the CDCP.**

To learn more about the CDCP and applications visit:

Canada.ca/dental



Greener Homes Grant

Protection from climate change means helping Canadians make a switch to 'greener' homes. The Greener Homes Grant launched in 2020 with grants to evaluate homes and pay for upgrades. Since the program launched, we've received over half a million applicants, over 55,400 in BC alone.

This very successful program has ended, but there is now a new phase of Greener Homes that

will help lower income Canadians with supports that deliver cost savings to those who need them the most.

To learn more go to: www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-to-establish-next-phase-of-canada-greener-homes-initiative-to-help-more-canadians-save-on-their-energy-bills.html



AGING WITH DIGNITY

Every senior in Canada deserves to age in dignity, safety and comfort regardless of where they live. To help ensure this the government is making an investment close to \$200 billion for health care over the next decade. Part of this commitment includes \$5.4 billion tailored towards bilateral agreements with provinces and territories under the Aging with Dignity initiative.

To learn more go to: www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2024/02/canada-signs-733-million-bilateral-agreement-to-help-british-columbians-age-with-dignity.html

Through this agreement, the federal government is investing \$733 million over the next five years so that British Columbians can get the care they need. This funding will improve access to home and community care services and strengthen long-term care (LTC) facilities in the province.

This commitment builds upon the \$1.2 billion bilateral agreement previously announced with British Columbia in October 2023.



Canada Revenue Agency to invest in free TAX CLINICS

Last year free tax clinics made it possible for more than 649,000 Canadians with modest incomes to file their taxes. Everyone should file a tax return, even if they have no taxable income – that's how people last year received more than \$1.75 billion in benefits, credits, and refunds. More than 3,400 community organizations, composed of over 14,700 volunteers participated in the **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) in 2023.**

This year, the CRA is looking for more community partners to lend a helping hand in their communities by hosting free tax clinics.

Interested organizations can learn more at:

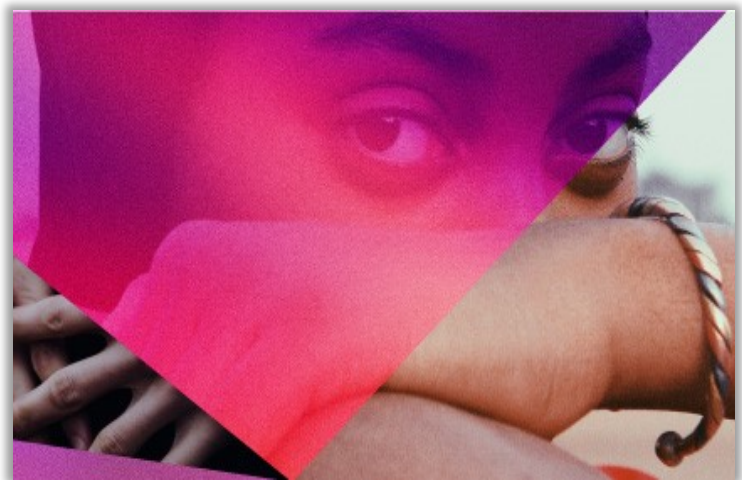
www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/cvitp-taxes-volunteers.html



National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

Too many people continue to experience violence every day because of their sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or perceived gender. This is referred to as gender-based violence (GBV), and it is one of the most pervasive, deadly, and deeply rooted human rights violations of our time.

The federal government has established a bilateral plan working with all provinces and territories to help reduce GBV with a \$539.3 million investments over five years to supplement and enhance services and supports.



To learn more about the National Action Plan: women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence/intergovernmental-collaboration/national-action-plan-end-gender-based-violence.html

Grow your BUSINESS ONLINE GET UP TO \$2400

The **Canada Digital Adoption Program (CDAP)** has been helping tens of thousands Canadian small- and medium-sized businesses grow their online presence and adopt digital technologies.

Our government has been committed to ensuring that all Canadian businesses benefit from the digital economy – whether it is a mom and pop shop creating their first website, or a manufacturing company integrating AI into their operations.

Businesses can apply for a micro-grant of up to \$2,400 through the Grow Your Business Online (GYBO) grant.

This means that businesses that want to expand their online activities, including adopting e-commerce, digital marketing and upgrading their cybersecurity are encouraged to apply under this stream.

To learn more go to: ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canada-digital-adoption-program/en/grow-your-business-online



Democracy in ACTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FREQUENTLY asked QUESTIONS from constituents this month.....

I support a Universal Basic Income for a fairer and faster economic recovery. **"Your constituents would like to know your position on Universal Basic Income for our national recovery"**.

Transit is an essential service that gives people affordable transportation, reduces green house gas emissions and prevents congestion by reducing the number of cars on the road. **"These projects won't be possible without funding from senior**

levels of government, how will the federal government support the expansion of transit in Metro Vancouver?"

The latest updates and expansion to medical assistance in dying (MAID) make it available to those suffering from mental illness. **"Considering this risk, will you oppose this expansion of MAID?"**

To see the answers, click on the FAQ tab on our website: kenhardie.libparl.ca



Government announces

NEW ACTIONS to make rent and groceries more affordable

As part of our efforts to fight housing shortages for Canadians, the government is providing a **\$98.6 million top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit (CHB) to support low-income Canadians by providing direct payments to help them with their rent.**

These contributions to the CHB go directly to renters through provincial and territorial rent programs. The government is also providing \$100 million in emergency winter funding as part of our Reaching Home strategy to reduce homelessness. This funding will help 85 communities across the country provide more shelter spaces, temporary rental assistance, warming spaces and meals to those struggling with homelessness.

To learn more on making housing more affordable: www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2024/02/government-announces-new-action-to-make-rent-and-groceries-more-affordable.html



To learn more on Reaching Home, our strategy to reduce homelessness : www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2023/12/helping-communities-respond-to-unsheltered-homelessness-this-winter.html



To access info about federal government services and benefits available to you, use your cell phone's camera to scan the code



SCAN ME