In this Bulletin

- **Previously Announced measures ……page 1**
- **Apprentices……. page 2**
- **EI Premium …… page 4**
- **Immigration …… page 7**
- **TFW ……. Page 9**
- **RCIP ……. Page 9**
- **Budget Reactions …… Page 9**

Budget 2026 does not introduce major reforms to EI eligibility, benefits, premiums, or special benefits.

Previously Announced measures

Government had already announced the extension of several EI temporary measures the following temporary EI measures until October 9, 2027

- Waiver of the one-week waiting period for EI claimants.
- Suspension of the allocation of separation earnings (e.g., severance pay).
- Up to 20 additional weeks of regular benefits for long-tenured workers.
- Reviewing only the most recent reason for separation

Other initiatives previously announced that are paid for out of the EI account include

Workforce Alliances

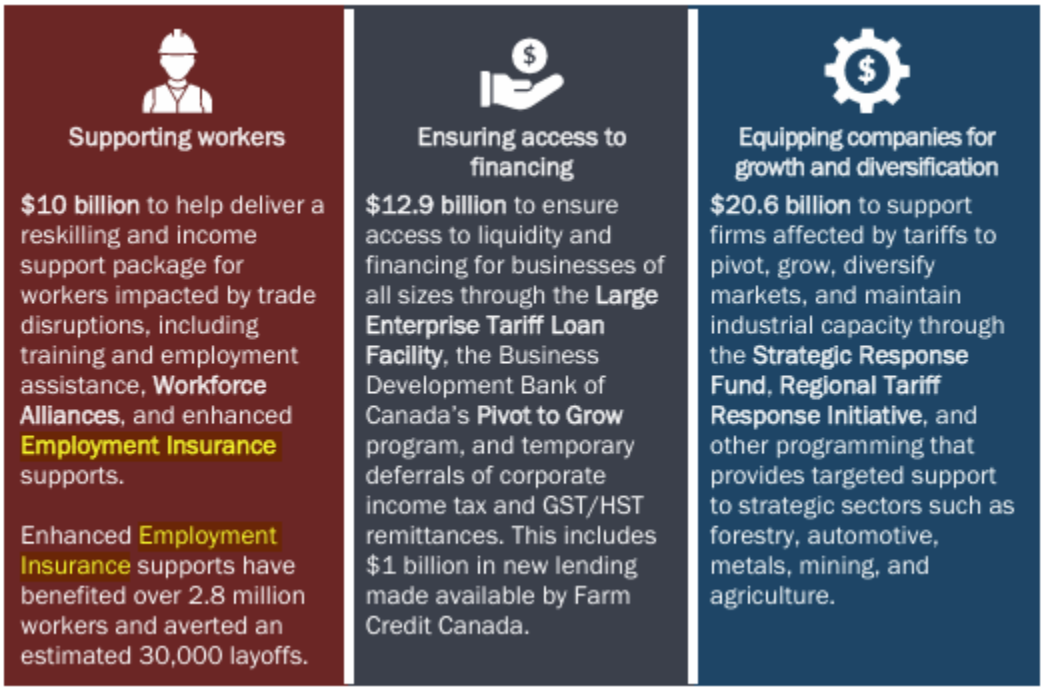
Minister Hajdu announces actions to grow and protect workers - Canada.ca

Backgrounder on Workforce Alliances - Canada.ca

LMDA

Government of Canada announces new $2-billion funding for provinces and territories under Team Canada Strong - Canada.ca

The Budget references tariff relief measures including enhanced EI supports



On page 177 this graphic is repeated in Table and additional text is added:

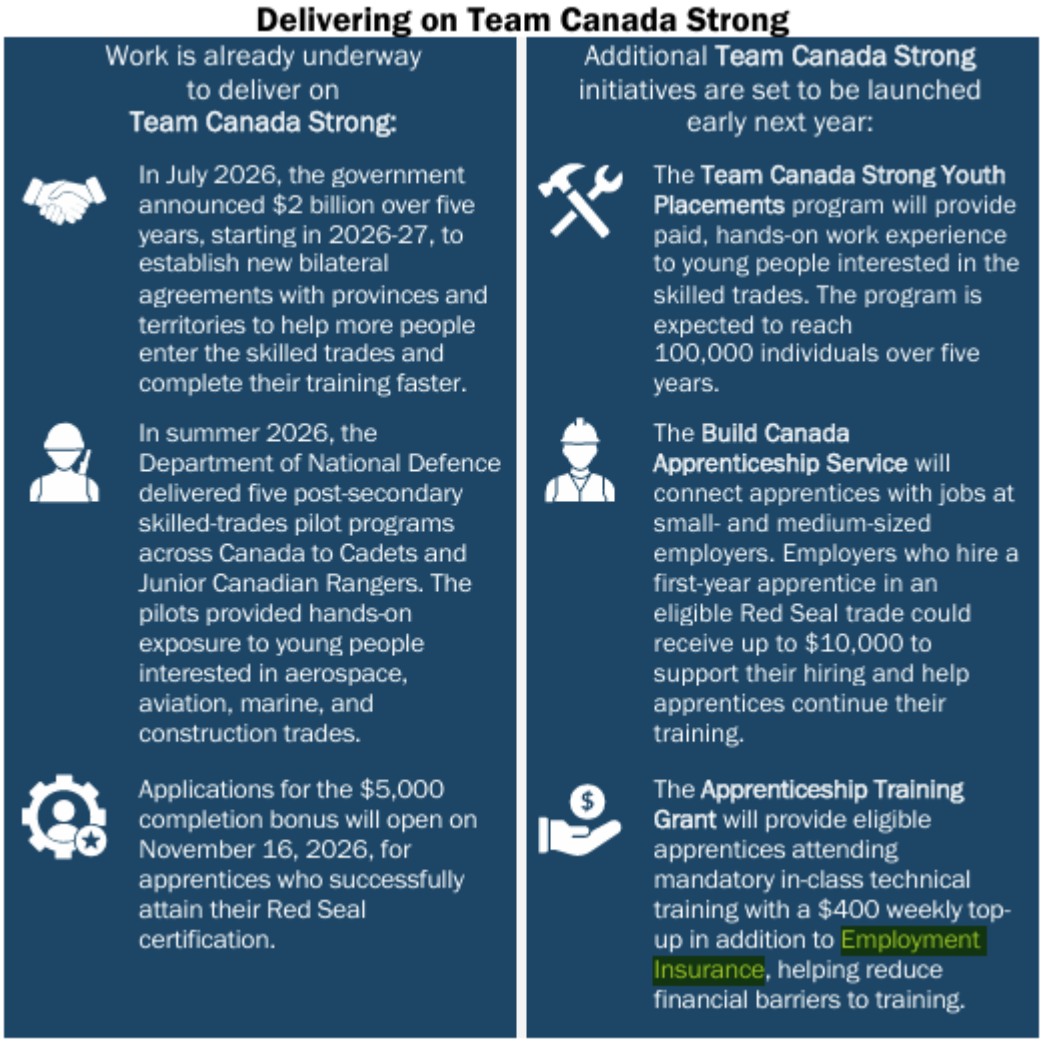
> A new $3.5 billion package of Rapid Response Supports for Workers and Employers to help Canadians affected by tariffs. These include help to access income support through more flexible Employment Insurance rules and extended benefits for eligible workers, as well as improvements to JobBank.gc.ca, which helps workers find new opportunities. Employers can also access support through the new Workforce Retention and Retraining Program to help keep workers on the job and provide training during difficult periods

Apprentices

To help ensure apprentices have income support throughout their training, we are also taking action to align Employment Insurance benefits with recently announced apprenticeship supports:

- Budget 2026 announces the government's intention to amend the
- Employment Insurance Act to temporarily increase the minimum number of Employment Insurance regular benefit weeks from 14 to 18 weeks for apprentices who take full-time training, at an estimated cost of $5 million over four years, starting in 2027-28, and $1.1 million in future years.

Page 213 contains this graphic



Page 214

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EI Premium

Budget 2026 forecasts (page 323)

> Revenues generated from Employment Insurance (EI) premiums are projected to be higher in 2026-27, mostly driven by growth in insurable earnings. Over the remainder of the horizon, premium revenues are projected to be lower by $0.5 billion annually on average, due to a lower forecasted premium rate, before new measures introduced in this budget.

The budget also anticipates that the number of claimants will be down (pp 323-324)

> Employment Insurance benefits are anticipated to be lower than forecast in the SEU 2026 as a result of a lower number of beneficiaries driven by a lower unemployment rate forecast.

EI revenues are forecast to grow over the next 5 years primarily due to wage and labour force participation growth. See table A.19 page 327.

Outlook for budgetary revenues

Table A1.9 provides projected budgetary revenues by major component in the fiscal framework.

Table A1.9
The revenue outlook
billions of dollars

	Projection					
	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031
Income tax revenues						
Personal income tax	247.7	258.7	270.8	283.7	297.0	309.3
Corporate income tax	104.2	102.7	97.1	97.1	100.6	100.2
Non-resident income tax	14.5	14.8	15.0	15.3	15.5	15.8
Total	366.5	376.1	382.9	396.1	413.1	425.2
Excise tax and duty revenues						
Goods and Services Tax	51.8	51.5	57.4	59.4	62.1	65.1
Customs import duties	10.3	11.1	13.4	8.1	8.4	8.7
Other excise taxes/duties	13.1	7.7	12.9	13.0	13.0	13.1
Total	75.1	70.2	83.7	80.6	83.5	86.9
Other taxes	0.0	2.7	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1
Total tax revenues	**441.6**	**449.1**	**468.5**	**478.7**	**498.7**	**514.2**
Employment Insurance premium revenues	32.5	34.3	35.5	36.7	38.2	39.7
Other revenues						
Enterprise Crown corporations	13.1	13.0	16.0	20.7	23.5	26.1
Other programs [1]	32.9	37.0	36.3	37.4	39.1	40.5
Net foreign exchange revenues and return on investments	6.2	6.9	7.9	8.0	8.2	8.6
Total	52.3	56.9	60.2	66.1	70.8	75.2
Total budgetary revenues	**526.4**	**540.3**	**564.2**	**581.5**	**607.7**	**629.1**
% of GDP						
Total tax revenues	13.6	13.1	13.2	13.0	13.0	12.9
Employment Insurance premium revenues	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Other revenues	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9
Total budgetary revenues	16.2	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.9	15.8

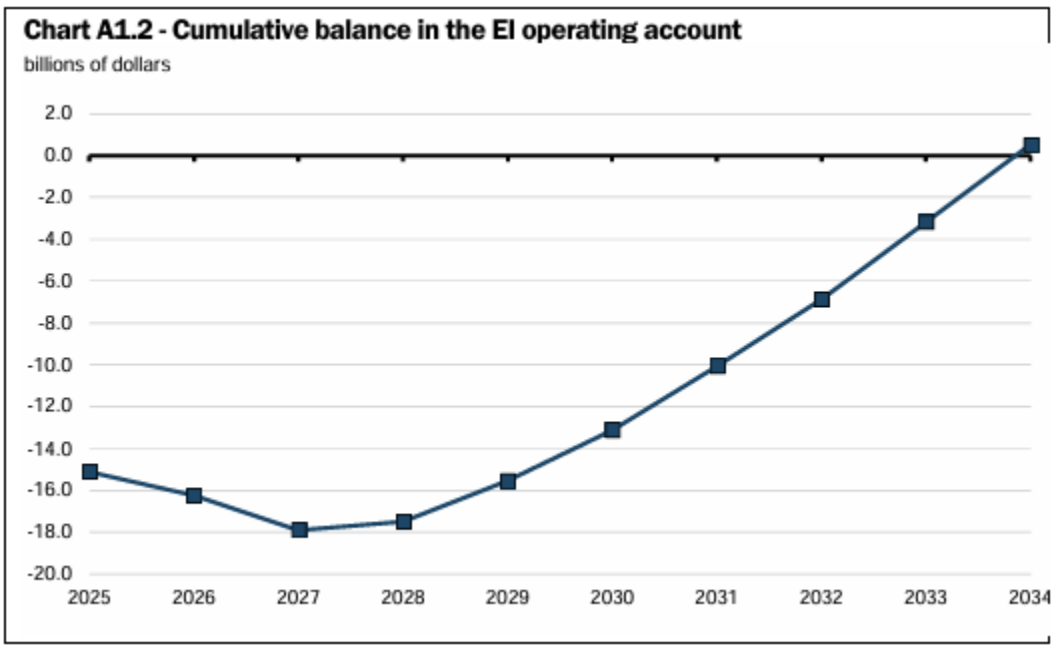
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.
[1] Other programs includes pollution pricing proceeds to be returned to Canadians following the cessation of the federal fuel charge effective April 1, 2025. The federal Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) remains in place, with associated proceeds averaging $14.3 million per year over the forecast horizon reflected in other programs forecast.

Page 328

Employment Insurance premium revenues Employment Insurance (EI) premium revenues are forecasted to increase by 5.6% in 2026-27, supported by stronger wage and insurable earnings growth. Over the remainder of the forecast horizon, EI premium revenues are projected to grow by an average of 3.7% annually, reflecting steady gains in insurable earnings and labour force participation trends embedded in the economic outlook.

In addition to economic drivers, the EI operating account is impacted by policy measures introduced to support workers like supporting Canadian workers and businesses - the rapid response supports for workers and employers, launching Team Canada Strong, helping workers build skills for the jobs of tomorrow, and helping workers affected by tariffs gain new skills, detailed in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3. These measures are expected to result in $3.9 billion in incremental costs over five years, placing upward pressure on the EI premium rate and influencing the pace at which the account is balanced.

The EI operating account2 is expected to start recording annual surpluses in 2028 and to achieve cumulative balance in 2034.



On September 14, 2026, the Canada Employment Insurance Commission announced the EI premium rate for 2027 is $1.64. It is projected to decline to $1.63 per $100 of insurable earnings in 2028. The actual premium rate for 2028 will be set in the fall of 2027, incorporating the recommendation of the Commission based on projections provided by the Office of the Chief Actuary.

Immigration Measures

Building a more responsive and resilient immigration system

Immigration has been fundamental to who we are as a country and will be important to how we build for our future. Immigrants have built and shaped our past, from helping to settle communities to building leading businesses and advancing scientific discovery. They continue to strengthen our communities, economy, and culture. In exchange for benefiting from the talent, ideas, and entrepreneurship that newcomers bring to our country, Canada has a responsibility to ensure that the people we welcome as our workers and neighbours can build successful, productive lives here. A well-managed immigration system does both.

Our plan to take back control of immigration is working:

- New international student arrivals between January and August 2026 were 71% (156,440) lower than during the same period in 2024.

- New worker arrivals between January and August 2026 were 57% (170,455) lower than during the same period in 2024.

- New asylum claims between January and August 2026 were 68% lower than during the same period in 2024.

Canada's ambitious growth agenda needs targeted, sustainable immigration to help bolster and complement the skills of Canadian workers. At the same time, balance is needed: our immigration system must be responsive to regional and sectoral needs while keeping overall immigration at sustainable levels. This means balancing temporary immigration that responds to immediate workforce pressures with permanent immigration that addresses longer-term economic needs and structural gaps in the labour market.

The 2027-2029 Immigration Levels Plan will continue to seek a balance between the needs of Canada's employers, industries, and communities and our ability to meet the needs of newcomers, while avoiding undue pressures on housing, health care, and social services. The Plan will also support pathways for people already living and working in Canada to continue contributing to our shared economic future.

To that end, Budget 2026 proposes to:

- Implement the 2027-2029 Immigration Levels Plan. The Plan sets targets of 370,000 new temporary resident arrivals and 380,000 permanent resident admissions in each of 2027, 2028, and 2029. Budget 2026 proposes to provide Immigration, Refugees and

Citizenship Canada with $56.9 million over four years, starting in 2027-28, with $205.4 million in future years to implement the Plan.

- Help transition the many longstanding temporary residents to permanent residency. Up to 200,000 temporary residents already in Canada would have the opportunity to become permanent residents by the end of 2027. Through collaboration with provinces and territories, this measure would transition 100,000 workers eligible for Express Entry or the Provincial Nominee Program, increasing provincial and territorial share of permanent economic immigration and providing greater flexibility to respond to regional labour market needs. Budget 2026 proposes $302.3 million over four years, starting in 2027-28, with $90.6 million in future years, to support implementation.

- Reform the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to better align with regional labour market needs, in collaboration with provinces and territories, while improving processing time and strengthening employer compliance. Budget 2026 proposes to provide $151.5 million over five years, starting in 2026-27, to Employment and Social Development Canada to implement these reforms.

Additional details on the 2027-2029 Immigration Levels Plan will be provided when the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship tables the 2026 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration.

Attracting the talent Canada needs

Canada's economic success has long been supported by a welcoming approach to international talent, helping businesses grow, fuelling entrepreneurship, and bringing new skills and expertise to our economy. A well-managed system for attracting talent helps Canada meet its economic needs while supporting sustainable growth for all.

To help Canadian businesses and industries meet strategic labour market needs, Budget 2025 announced the $1.7 billion International Talent Attraction Strategy and Action Plan. The Action Plan helps businesses access the talent they need while respecting sustainable immigration targets. The Action Plan has helped bring highly skilled workers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and innovators from around the world to Canada, where they are already contributing to economic growth.

Progress includes:

• The appointment of the first 64 Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs hired under the Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative. These appointments include world-leading researchers from 13 countries and dozens of Canadians choosing to continue their cutting-edge research at home.

• Providing employers in strategic sectors with expedited access to highly skilled workers through the Temporary Foreign Worker Program's Global Talent Stream, with Labour Market Impact Assessment processing in as few as 10 business days.

• Ongoing efforts to modernise the Express Entry system for economic immigration to better select people with the skills and expertise needed to fill critical gaps and support innovation.

• The development of a new high-impact startup pilot to attract entrepreneurs and innovators with the potential to create jobs and commercialise innovation in Canada.

TFW Program

Government of Canada announces targeted reforms to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to respond to labour market needs - Canada.ca

RCIP

Canada creates a permanent immigration pathway to help rural communities attract and retain talent - Canada.ca

Reactions

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CERC

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cerc.ca/resource/resmgr/news/2026/2026_budget__immigration_.pdf

Michelle Rempel Garner, Conservative MP

- "Today, Mark Carney had a chance to change course. Instead, he tabled immigration intake numbers that continue to benefit wealthy corporate interests, at the expense of Canadian and newcomer workers alike. The Liberals' plan sets permanent resident admissions at 380,000, and 370,000 new temporary residents in 2026. These are still among the highest levels in Canadian history, after the out-of-control years of 2022 to 2024 left the country no time to recover. Canadians were told to expect a sustainable plan. But based on today's numbers, what Mr. Carney meant by 'sustainable' is sustainable for corporate profit models, not for workers or Canada's social infrastructure." (National Newswatch, November 5, 2026)