

## Budget 2023 helps students, homebuyers

This spring, our government introduced Budget 2023 with the goal of making life more affordable, supporting stronger public health, and growing a green economy for the benefit of all Canadians. I would like to highlight two measures in our budget:

- **Making life more affordable for students** — A 40 per cent increase to Canada Student Grants will provide fulltime students up to \$4,200 for the 2023 school year and an increase in the interest-free Canada Student Loan limit from \$210 to \$300 per week.

The requirement for mature students aged 22 or older to undergo credit screening in order to access student grants and loans will also be waived for the coming year.

In Manitoba, approximately 19,800 post-secondary students with financial needs will be eligible to receive up to \$14,400 in the 2023 school year (August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024) as a result of this enhanced support.

- **The new tax-free first home savings account** — Effective April 1, financial institutions were able to start offering the First Home Savings Account (FHSA) to Canadians.

The FHSA is a new registered plan to allow Canadians the ability to save \$40,000 on a tax-free basis to help buy their first home. Like a Registered Retirement Savings Plan, contributions will be tax-deductible, and withdrawals to purchase a first home—including from investment income — will be non-taxable, like a tax-free savings account.

You may read and learn more about these measures as well as other initiatives from our budget at [www.budget.gc.ca](http://www.budget.gc.ca) As Minister of Northern

Affairs, I travel extensively in the north. I was recently in Nunavut to discuss the priorities of its citizens and our newly released budget, but was glad to be back home in Winnipeg, where I had the pleasure of attending the 35th annual Sons and Daughters of Italy Gala on March 18 and bring greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The gala recognized and supported a cause and an organization well known in our riding — the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation's Women's Heart Health initiative.

An amazing \$270,000 was raised! This generous support will help establish a dedicated research program in women's heart health, make a difference in our understanding of heart disease and ultimately save lives.



**Dan Vandal ST. BONIFACE ST. VITAL MP  
CONSTITUENCY REPORT**



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Dreamstime

