



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

DAN VANDAL

Member of Parliament
Saint Boniface—Saint Vital



/danvandalforstboniface



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Spring 2023

CANADIAN DENTAL CARE PLAN

Every Canadian deserves good oral health care, yet one-third of Canadians are unable to visit a dentist because they do not have insurance.

CURRENTLY...

To address this shortcoming, our government introduced the interim *Canada Dental Benefit* late last year. The benefit provides payments up to \$650 per eligible child under 12 years of age, per year for two years, if the family's adjusted net income is under \$90,000. For example, if the family's adjusted net income is between

- \$80,000 and \$89,999, they will receive \$260;
- between \$70,000 and \$79,999, they will receive \$390; and
- under \$70,000, they will receive \$650.

We are making great progress on the enrollment for the interim Canada Dental Benefit for eligible children under 12. The Benefit has helped **over 250,000 children** in Canada get brighter and healthier smiles! In Saint Boniface—Saint Vital, close to 1,000 children have benefited from this program.

Parents can apply for dental care received by their eligible child back to October 1, 2022, so long as their child was still under 12 on December 1. For the second period, parents can apply starting July 1, 2023. To receive the *Canada Dental Benefit*, you need to make sure you have filed last year's tax return. For more information, visit www.canada.ca/dental or call 1-800-715-8836.

This program is but a first step. In the 2023 Budget, presented by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland in the House of Commons on March 28, we are expanding access to dental care.

COMING SOON...

The *Canadian Dental Care Plan* aims to cover Canadians:

- under 18 years of age
- seniors and
- persons with disabilities

who meet the income criteria

- family income of less than \$90,000, with no co-pays for those with family incomes under \$70,000 and
- do not have pre-existing coverage.

The Plan will further expand in 2025 to include **all** uninsured Canadians with family income under \$90,000.00.

Eventually, the dental care program will **help up to nine million uninsured Canadians get the dental care they need**, and they won't have to choose between taking care of their teeth and paying their bills.

INFO

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U.S. PRESIDENT BIDEN'S VISIT TO CANADA

The Prime Minister welcomed U.S. President Biden to Canada earlier this spring. On a two-day official visit to Canada, President Biden made a joint address to Parliament. A series of new funding initiatives were announced during his visit, including:

- Increasing investments to up to \$250 million in the Canadian semi-conductor industry;
- Addressing irregular migration by expanding the Safe Third Country Agreement to unofficial ports of entry;
- Investing \$100 million in additional equipment and support for the Haitian National Police to support peace and security in Haiti; and
- Investing \$7.3 billion in infrastructure to support the arrival of our F-35 fighter jets, from our \$38.6 billion NORAD modernization plan, and confirming Southern Ontario will be the location for one of Canada's early warning and threat tracking systems.

Canada and the United States share the longest and most secure border in the world, where approximately \$3.4 billion worth of goods and services crossed daily in 2022. We will continue building on our historic partnership and close friendship to make life better for people on both sides of our shared border.



FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR

In February, the Festival du Voyageur, the largest winter festival in Western Canada and a signature event in our riding, celebrated its 54th edition. This year was particularly special: it was the first time since the pandemic began three years ago that we gathered in person for this celebration. It was a pleasure to meet with fellow citizens

and speak to constituents from all walks of life about issues of concern to them.

The Festival du Voyageur is recognized beyond our borders as an annual gathering in the middle of winter that celebrates our joie de vivre and the Francophonie. Inspired by the era of the "voyageurs," it showcases Franco-

phone, Métis and Indigenous culture through music, dance, sculpture, visual arts and cooking. Visitors and artists from all corners of Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada -- even beyond Canadian borders -- joined us as we celebrated our community as a winter city. The Government of Canada is a proud partner of the Festival du Voyageur.



Meeting with residents of the Riverside Lions Seniors Residence on Worthington Avenue in St. Vital at the pancake breakfast event.



The 2023 official Voyageur Family Gab-Riel Turenne and his wife, Julie, with their three children: Annika, Martin, and Natasha.



Participating in the parade of flags event with Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham and Paulette Duguay, President, Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph.

Investing in our postsecondary institutions with \$5.3 million for l'Université de Saint-Boniface

On Monday, February 27, I was pleased that the Government of Canada and the Université de Saint-Boniface, with the support of the Government of Manitoba, announced an investment of \$5.3 million to help the Université de Saint-Boniface modernize its digital infrastructure and attract Francophone students from Manitoba, Canada and throughout the world. With this support, the University will be able to modernize its operations and data management.

It will also be in a better position among post-secondary institutions to remain competitive and attractive to Francophones and Francophiles in Manitoba, Canada and internationally.

The university continues its educational and social role, which is essential to the development of Francophone communities in Manitoba and the Prairies.

The French language has existed in Manitoba for hundreds of years. To ensure its survival, we must continue to invest in the institutions that are at the very heart of our communities.

This is why it is so important that we keep investing in the top-quality French-language postsecondary programs offered right here by the Université de Saint-Boniface and by other institutions across Canada, so that all young Francophones have access to the resources they need to succeed in their mother tongue.



With Sophie Bouffard, president of l'Université de Saint-Boniface

Canada as a member of the Arctic Council

On March 9, 2023, our government hosted the Foreign Minister of Norway, Anniken Huitfeldt, in Ottawa to discuss issues of common concern and expanded cooperation between our two countries. During her visit we were giv-

en a tour of the National Gallery of Canada. Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs will chair the Arctic Council on May 11, 2023. Established in 1996, the Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting coopera-

tion, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.



From left to right: Angela Cassie, Vice-President of Strategic Transformation and Inclusion, National Gallery of Canada; Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Anniken Huitfeldt, Foreign Minister of Norway; Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs.

SUBMIT A PHOTO

In past years, I invited youth under 18 from the Saint Boniface—Saint Vital riding to submit a drawing that was showcased in my yearly calendar.

For the **2024 calendar**, I am inviting residents/constituents of all ages to send me a photograph (in JPEG digital format) they have captured of a natural landscape, a sporting or significant event, an architectural landmark, etc, that is representative of Saint Boniface—Saint Vital in all of our wonderful seasons.

A committee will select twenty-eight (28) photos from the submissions, and they will appear in the **2024 calendar**, which will be sent to every household in the riding at the end of 2023.

Please send your photographs by email to dan.vandal@parl.gc.ca by Friday, November 24 at the latest. Include *Photo submission for 2024 calendar* in the subject line, and provide your full name and identify the location or subject of the photograph. The photos must have a resolution of at least 300 pixels for a sharp image that will be suitable for printing.

Don't forget to provide your contact information as well so that we can be in touch.



Prime Minister's Youth Council

Congratulations to Jordan Reimer, the newest member of the Prime Minister's Youth Council (PMYC), who hails from the Saint Boniface—Saint Vital electoral district.



The Council is a group of young Canadians who provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on issues of importance to them and to all Canadians. It is one mechanism to support the Government's commitment to listen to young people in Canada and engage them in this dialogue.

Jordan -- "Jordy" for short -- studies history and anthropology at the University of Manitoba. She dedicates herself to improving her community for herself and others. Jordy was a leader in her high school, focused on helping fellow LGBTQ students and now strives to help all Canadians. Her term will be from February 2023 to March 2025.

Here is what the 2023 Federal Budget means to you:

Canada has made a remarkable recovery from the COVID recession. 830,000 more Canadians are employed than before the pandemic, including 19,300 more jobs in Manitoba.

Our unemployment rate is near its record low, and labour force participation rate for Canadian women in their prime working years is at a record high: 85.7%.

This is in good part thanks to our Canada-wide system of affordable early learning and child care.

Budget 2023 responds to the challenges and opportunities we face. It delivers:

- Stronger universal public health care, by investing \$7.031 billion over 10 years in Manitoba to reduce health care backlogs, expand access to family health services, and ensure provinces and territories can provide high quality and timely health care.
- Transformative investments to build Canada's clean economy, fight climate change, and create new opportunities for Canadian businesses and workers.

It is a challenging time in a challenging world, but there is no better place to be than Canada.

For more information on these and other initiatives, visit www.budget.gc.ca

