

Media Statement

Build A Dream Responds To Budget 2024: Fairness For Every Generation

Windsor – April 16, 2024 – As Canada charts a course for economic recovery and future prosperity, Build a Dream commends the federal government's commitment to empowering the next generation through Budget 2024's investment in Canada's future workforce.

Nour Hachem, President and Founder of Build a Dream noted, "This budget recognizes the importance of equipping young Canadians with the skills and opportunities they need to succeed. By investing in youth job placements, apprenticeships, and mental health support, the government is laying the foundation for a more resilient and inclusive workforce."

Creating Pathways to Success in the Skilled Trades

Build a Dream applauds the government's focus on addressing the shortage of skilled trades workers, particularly in the construction sector. With over 60,000 workers projected to retire by 2032, initiatives like the \$90 million over two years to create placements through the Apprenticeship Service, and an additional \$10 million over two years to the Skilled Trades Awareness and Readiness Program are essential for bridging the gap in the skilled trades workforce.

Supporting Youth Mental Health and Well-being

Build a Dream also welcomes the government's commitment of \$500 million over five years to address youth mental health challenges with the establishment of the Youth Mental Health Fund. "Young Canadians face significant stress and mental health challenges, especially as they embark on their career journeys," stated **Hachem**. "By investing in mental health services and community supports, we can help ensure that every young person has the resources they need to thrive."

Looking Ahead

Budget 2024's emphasis on youth opportunities aligns with Build a Dream's mission to inspire the next generation of leaders and continued advocacy with decision-makers. "We are encouraged by the government's vision for a more inclusive and prosperous future," concluded **Hachem**. "Together, we can build a workforce that reflects the diversity of our nation and unlocks the full potential of Canada's youth."

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