

## Response to 2019 Federal Budget Announcement

The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF-FCA) is the *Centre of Excellence for Apprenticeship Research and Innovation*. Our multi-stakeholder network looks to us to provide up-to-the-minute and relevant research data and insights to inform their work in the apprenticeship and skilled trades sectors. Our value proposition to Canada is that we bring the entire apprenticeship community together to share best practices, identify trends, and facilitate conversations around innovation and the modernization of our world-class apprenticeship system.

On March 19, 2019, the Government of Canada announced the 2019 Budget. CAF-FCA is extremely pleased to see proposed investments in promoting the skilled trades and ensuring that Canada has a strong and viable apprenticeship pathway.

Among the most prominent items, the 2019 Budget proposes to invest \$40 million over four years, starting in 2020-21, and \$10 million per year ongoing in Skills/Compétences Canada, in order for them to continue to promote the skilled trades through their skills competitions and programs. In addition, the Government proposes to invest \$6 million over two years, starting in 2019–20, to create a national campaign to promote the skilled trades as a first-choice career for young people. The campaign will work to change the perception of careers in the skilled trades to parents, youth and educators.

Budget 2019 proposes the development of a new strategy to support apprentices and those employed in the skilled trades. This new Apprenticeship Strategy will ensure that existing supports and programs—including the *Apprenticeship Incentive* and *Completion Grants*—address the barriers to entry and progression for those who want to work in the skilled trades in the most effective way, and support employers who face challenges in hiring and retaining apprentices.

CAF-FCA continues to provide world-class research and leadership in apprenticeship innovation, and we look forward to working with the federal government and other partners to see these proposals activated.