

April 20, 2021

Budget 2021 Increases Canadian Investment in STEM

Key Highlights for Pinnguaq Partners and the IT Sector

Pinnguaq Association welcomes the increase to Canada's funding for Science, Technology, Education, Art, and Math (STEAM) programs and Workforce Development as announced yesterday in the 2021 federal budget: *A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience*.

For almost a decade, the Pinnguaq Association has delivered unrivaled programs that inspire those in rural and remote communities to cultivate digital skills through innovative technology, art, and play. We have been inspiring STEAM learning in Nunavut, and now rural Ontario, to nurture vibrant, connected communities where everyone can achieve their full potential.

As a beneficiary of the past CanCode investment for our coding and STEAM-based programs and resources, we have seen an acceleration in our delivery of key youth programs, including our work in all 25 communities of Nunavut; the communities of Nunavik, Labrador, NWT and the Yukon the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society; The Nunavut Literacy Council; the Boys and Girls Club of Kawartha Lakes; the Kawartha Lakes Libraries; the Lindsay Makerspace; Curve Lake First Nation; Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre Coding Camps, and more. As part of the Federal government's investments in students, we have contributed throughout Nunavut, and now Central East Ontario, in reaching thousands of students and hundreds of teachers.

These STEAM investments by the Government of Canada showcase an ambitious plan for jobs and growth to permanently strengthen Canada's economy. The Pinnguaq Association is prepared to support the Government of Canada in an approach built on respect and partnership that aligns with our deeply held value of community-led development. It is through these commitments that Pinnguaq Association believes all communities can achieve equity and accessibility of access to digital technologies and skills; and this is why we prioritize building relationships with rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

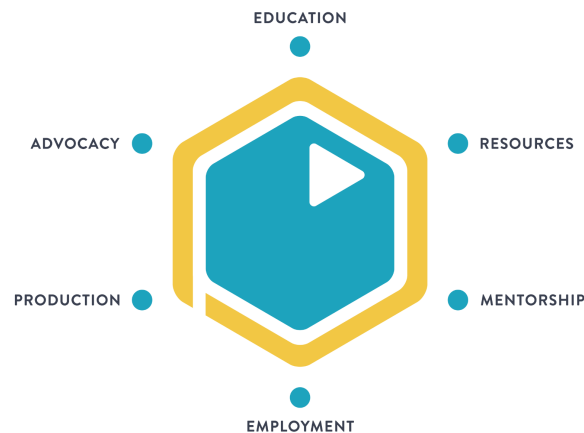
Focus on Indigenous Communities

In response to COVID-19 increase in unemployment levels, disproportionately affecting Indigenous communities, the 2021 federal budget promises to create 500,000 new training and work opportunities over the next five years, and sets aside billions in new spending aimed at fostering innovation. There are several streams through which the government intends to meet this goal, such as student placements, apprenticeships, skills training or re-tooling, and other workforce programs, with a priority on urban Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities.

COVID-19 has also highlighted the health vulnerabilities Indigenous peoples face and the challenges of delivering front-line health services in many Indigenous communities. The budget aims to address the gap in health outcomes faced by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, beyond COVID-19, means taking a broader approach to health and well-being including addressing colonization, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the digital divide and improving broadband connectivity to the North.

Highlights of How Budget 2021 Connects with the Pinnguaq Lifecycle:

Through promoting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) learning and teaching kids to code, Pinnguaq has been able to support and contribute to the development of a student's learning journey. We support learners from their first coding lesson to their first job, to their first release of a digital project and resource supports:



- EDUCATION
 - The CanCode program helps young people gain coding and digital skills needed to succeed in a 21st century economy. It provides training support for their teachers, and has a special focus on reaching young people who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM, such as girls and Indigenous youth. Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$80 million over three years, starting in 2021-22 to help CanCode reach 3 million more students—with an even greater focus on underrepresented groups—and 120,000 more teachers.

- RESOURCES
 - To fuel the recovery, jobs, and growth, the government is launching the Canada Digital Adoption Program, which will create jobs for young Canadians and help as many as 160,000 small and medium-sized businesses adopt new digital technologies.
 - Create training and work opportunities for as many as 28,000 young people to help small and medium-sized businesses across Canada adopt new technology.

- EMPLOYMENT
 - To ensure youth and students can access valuable job skills and experience, Budget 2021 is proposing to invest \$721 million over the next two years to help connect them with employers and provide them with over 100,000 new, quality job opportunities, through:
 - Student Work Placement Program: 50,000 (an increase of 20,000); work-integrated learning opportunities for post-secondary students;
 - Youth Employment and Skills Strategy: over 7,000 additional job placements;
 - Canada Summer Jobs: approximately 94,000 additional job placements.
 - Budget 2021 proposes to invest \$109.3 million in 2022-23 for the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy to better meet the needs of vulnerable youth facing multiple barriers to employment, while also supporting over 7,000 additional job placements for youth. This builds on funding announced in the 2020 *Fall Economic Statement*, which is expected to result in over 30,600 new placements in 2021-22. This will make it easier for young people to get good jobs.
 - Budget 2021 proposes to invest \$298 million over three years, beginning in 2021-22, through Employment and Social Development Canada, in a new Skills for Success program that would help Canadians at all skills levels improve their foundational and transferable skills.

- MENTORSHIP
 - Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$708 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, to create at least 85,000 work-integrated learning placements that provide on-the-job learning and provide businesses with support to develop talent and grow.
 - It also proposes to provide \$470 million over three years, beginning in 2021-22, to establish a new Apprenticeship Services, and provide an extra incentive for employers to hire women, racialized Canadians, and persons with disabilities.
 - Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$55 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, to Employment and Social Development Canada for a Community Workforce Development Program. The program will support communities to develop local plans that identify high potential growth organizations and connect these employers with training providers to develop and deliver training and work placements to upskill and reskill jobseekers to fill jobs in demand.

- PRODUCTION
 - Earmarking \$214 million in the next year, as part of an overall allocation of \$921 million over the next five years to help entrepreneurs, including dedicated funding for women and racialized entrepreneurs.
 - Making \$50 million available on a cash basis over the next five years for entrepreneurs to have increased access to venture capital.

About Pinnguaq

[Pinnguaq Association](#), a non-profit organization, incorporates STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) into unique learning applications that promote storytelling, health, wellness, and growth with rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. At its core, Pinnguaq is an equity and Indigenous-supporting organization, guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action; we embrace diversity and create opportunities in order to empower all people.

For more information on Pinnguaq's Life Cycle, please contact:

Lisa Clarke, Director of Strategic Communications at lisa@pinnguaq.com and 705-931-4701