

Survey: 2021 Budget consultations

The government's *2020 Budget* laid out the government's \$45 billion response to COVID-19. The 2021 Budget will build on this plan – but we need your feedback. How has COVID-19 affected your priorities? How can the Ontario government support your family or business? What can we do to ensure a strong recovery?

Closing date: February 12, 2021

This survey has 11 questions and should take less than 20 minutes to complete.

1. The provincial budget needs to balance many priorities. Please choose the top 5 priorities that you feel are the most important.

- Helping Ontario's economy recover
- Supporting people struggling due to COVID-19
- Supporting businesses struggling due to COVID-19
- Outlining a plan to return to a more sustainable fiscal path after COVID-19 is behind us
- Improving health care
- Improving long-term care
- Improving education for students
- Building more hospitals and schools
- Lowering taxes
- Making streets safer
- Making government more efficient
- Protecting the environment
- Providing more affordable housing
- Supporting the most vulnerable
- Bringing broadband to underserved areas
- Building infrastructure (such as public transit, highways, and bridges)

2. The 2020 Budget provided resources to protect frontline health care across the province. What more could the government do to protect people's health, including our loved ones in long-term care? Write up to 500 words.

3. COVID-19 has affected people in Ontario in different ways – and some communities more than others. What support should the government provide in your community as people continue dealing with the second wave of COVID-19? Write up to 500 words.

4. The 2020 Budget provided a range of supports for small businesses facing pressure as a result of COVID-19. What further supports do you think small businesses in Ontario need? Please rank the following actions in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

- Lower taxes
- Incentives for employers to hire more employees
- Help with personal protective equipment (PPE) costs
- Help with creating and maintaining online presence

5. The 2020 Budget makes important investments in skills training and job creation. What more would you like to see the provincial government do to help people find a good job? Choose all that apply.

- Create incentives for employers to rehire employees laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Create more opportunities in the skilled trades and apprenticeships
- Work with the postsecondary sector to ensure programs are preparing students for the jobs of today and the future
- Increase access to child care and increase affordability for more families
- Other

6. Everyone in Ontario has had a different experience with the COVID-19 pandemic. As you think about the time since the COVID-19 pandemic began, how helpful do you think each of these actions could be in 2021?

Helpful at all, Not so helpful, Somewhat helpful, Helpful, Very helpful

- Lowering taxes for individuals
- Providing direct financial support
- Helping workers learn new skills
- Additional support for postsecondary students
- Additional support for parents and students
- Additional support for low-income individuals and families
- Building infrastructure faster (such as accelerating the construction of critical highway, transit and broadband infrastructure)

7. Do you have any other ideas for how the government can support workers and families during the COVID-19 pandemic? Write up to 500 words.

8. The government released an action plan to make government services simpler, easier to use, more convenient and accessible during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. What further actions should we take to make government services more digitally accessible, responsive and easier to use? Write up to 500 words.

9. The government is committed to fiscal transparency and responsibility. Recognizing the continued uncertainty of the global pandemic, how soon do you think the government should return to a balanced budget?

10. Getting people back to work, creating more jobs and attracting investment are important priorities to help Ontario's economy recover after the pandemic. How should the government continue to make Ontario a more attractive destination for people to invest, work and grow a business?

Please rank the following actions in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important.

- Eliminating unnecessary red tape for businesses
- Lowering taxes for businesses
- Creating additional grants and financial support for businesses
- Making it easier for businesses to access the money they need to grow (for example, from banks, private equity, venture capitalists)

- Promoting Ontario-made products
- Building infrastructure faster
- Improving Ontario's global standing as a good place to do business by getting tougher on tax evasion, fraud, money laundering and other financial crimes

11. Do you have any additional ideas on how the government can continue to make Ontario a more attractive place for people to invest, work and grow a business? Please share your ideas below. Write up to 500 words