

BUDGET 2004

STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA:
GENDER EQUALITY REVIEW

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Table 1 - Spending and Revenue Initiatives: 2004 Budget

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	(millions of dollars)		
Importance of Health			
Canada Health and Social Transfer cash supplement	2,000		
Strengthening Canada's public health system	500	80	85
Inclusion of persons with disabilities		50.5	57.9
Total	2,500	131	143
Importance of Learning			
Caring for Canada's children		91	93
Helping families plan ahead for post-secondary education		105	302
Encouraging lifelong learning		25	40
Economic opportunities for Aboriginal Canadians		30	31
Total		251	466
Importance of Knowledge and Commercialization			
Building research foundations		170	115
Commercialization of research		20	20
Venture capital financing ¹		(255)	(15)
Investing in offshore development		7	7
Small business and entrepreneurship		1	24.5
Strengthening the Canadian tax advantage		95	200
Total		293	367
Importance of Communities			
New Deal for communities: first steps	100	605	655
The community-based and non-profit sector		15	15
Supporting the social economy		35	43
Environment and sustainable development		205	10
Other initiatives in support of communities		52.5	53
Total		913	776
Importance of Canada's Relationship to the World			
Defence		277	85
Security reserve		115	115
International assistance ²			248
Canada Corps		5	10
Total		397	458
Other			
Agriculture assistance	1,000		
Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing renewal		195	202
Other		37.5	100
Total	1,000	233	302
Total: spending and revenue initiatives of which:			
Spending initiatives	3,600	2,216	2,511
Revenue initiatives	3,500	1,486	1,621
	100	730	890

¹ Federal support will be in the form of an equity injection, i.e., the purchase of shares. As a result, there will be no budgetary impact.

² In the 2003 budget, the International Assistance Envelope was increased by 8% in both 2003-04 and 2004-05.

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<p>Unforeseen shocks such as SARS, blackouts, lower than anticipated growth, uncertainty about the impact of the rapid rise in the Canadian dollar and sustainability of US recovery require prudence.</p> <p>This Budget projects a 7th balanced budget for 2004-05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- maintains \$3 billion Contingency Reserve to go to paying down debt if not needed- \$1 billion economic prudence measure to go to priorities for Canadians if not used. <p>Previously approved spending levels for departments will be reduced by \$1 billion in 2004-05 and ongoing.</p> <p>Cabinet Committee on Expenditure Review to identify at least \$3 billion annually in savings within 4 years from departments across the board. The savings will be used for “new investments in the ever-evolving priorities of Canadians – in health care, learning and innovation, communities, Aboriginals, people with disabilities” (Speech, p. 5).</p> <p>New plan for better spending management and oversight, includes reestablishing an Office of the Comptroller General and strengthening departmental internal audits. (pgs. 10 and 56-58)</p>	<p>I will work with my colleagues, with a view to gender equality, to find new money for new investments that will improve the lives of Canadian women and their families and communities.</p> <p>I will work to establish priorities in my own department and will focus, within the larger framework of women’s equality, on solutions to the factors that still result in too many women and their dependants living in poverty. There are measures in this budget that will help but we must continue to determine what works best and build on them for the future.</p>

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MOVING FORWARD ON THE PRIORITIES FOR CANADIANS	
THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH - GROWING AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR CANADA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM	
<p>Confirms additional \$2 billion announced in January 2004 for the provinces and territories, bringing to \$36.8 billion the funding provided under the February 2003 First Ministers' Accord on Health Care Renewal.</p> <p>There will be a First Ministers Meeting this summer to develop a shared understanding of the issues related to sustainability.</p> <p>(pgs. 11, 89 – 96)</p>	<p>During this period of health system reform, it is critical that we continue to examine how changes to the health care system will affect Canadian women and their families.</p> <p>Not only are women the most frequent users of health services on behalf of themselves and their families, but women also comprise the majority of paid health care professionals and the providers of informal care.</p> <p>The announced funding and work with provincial and territorial partners will help to ensure a more effective public health system and one that meets the needs of women, men and children.</p>
MOVING FORWARD ON THE PRIORITIES FOR CANADIANS	
STRENGTHENING CANADA'S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM	
<p>Announces the new Canada Public Health Agency and other public health initiatives, in order to deal with public health emergencies.</p> <p>Includes enhanced public health capacity at the provincial and territorial levels including a Canada Health Infoway, and a national immunization strategy.</p> <p>(pgs. 11, 97-102, 105)</p>	<p>Measures to improve the public health system will benefit women in their role as caregivers, and as frequent users of health services on behalf of themselves and their families.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH - INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	
<p>A new tax deduction that will allow expenses in respect of disability supports to be deducted from income if they are incurred for education or employment purposes. As a result, income used to pay for these expenses will not be taxed and will not affect income-tested benefits, as is currently the case (\$15 annually funded from amounts set aside in the 2003 budget).</p> <p>This budget also proposes to allow caregivers to claim more of the medical and disability-related expenses they incur on behalf of dependent relatives. The claim will be capped at \$5000 (\$20 million in 2004-05 and \$25 million in 2005-06).</p> <p>Participation and Action Limitation Survey (PALS) (\$0.5 million in 2004-05 and \$2.9 million in 2005-06)</p> <p>Multilateral Framework for Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities (\$30 in each of next two years)</p> <p>(pgs. 11, 102-105)</p>	<p>I am pleased that we are working in partnership to improve the employment situation of persons with disabilities and assistance to those who provide care for persons with disabilities. Disabled women face higher unemployment rates than men, and experience higher barriers to employment and education.</p> <p>I look forward to the new Participation and Action Limitation Survey (PALS) which will provide valuable new data, disaggregated by sex and other factors. This will help us in our future planning and our efforts to improve gender equality.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING - HELPING PLAN FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION	
<p>Canada learning bond (CLB), a new measure effective January 1, 2004 with first payment in January 2005, that provides children at birth whose families receive the national child benefit supplement (income up to about \$35,000) with a \$500 bond invested in a registered education savings plan (RESP), and \$100 per year in CLB instalments for 15 years as long as they qualify for the NCB supplement. If a child born this year becomes entitled to the NCB supplement in a subsequent year, they will also receive the \$100. Expected to benefit 120,000 newborns, it could be worth \$3000 at maturity.</p> <p>An enhanced Canada education savings grant (CESG) complements the CLB with assistance for low and middle-income families to save for their child's post-secondary education. It increases the government matching rate for low-income families from 20% to 40% and for middle-income families to 30% - it will be available to over 4.5 million children.</p> <p>Post-secondary education grants of up to \$3000 for the first year of study for low-income students and a new grant of up to \$2000 a year for students with disabilities.</p> <p>Enhanced Student Loans and Debt Management through increasing the loan ceiling from \$165 a week to \$210. Students with dependants can still access up to \$3000 in Canada Study Grants, even with the ceiling increase. For middle-income families, parental contributions will be reduced, allowing students to borrow more. Further assistance will be provided for borrowers who face financial difficulty in repayment. (pgs. 12, 116-125 and 131)</p>	<p>I am pleased to see these measures that will help low-income families, and especially lone-parent families, to save and to plan for their children's education.</p> <p>The new Post-secondary education grants will benefit low-income students. These grants may encourage female students from low-income families to access PSE opportunities, including in non-traditional occupations.</p> <p>It is important that we recognize the particular challenges faced by students with disabilities, especially women who face greater difficulty in the labour market. This new grant should help about 6000 new students each year.</p> <p>The enhanced Canada Student Loans Program may facilitate access to PSE for female students, including lone-mothers, who face disproportionate financial hardship after graduation.</p> <p>We must continue to recognize and address the needs of female lone-parents with dependents, who may not have sufficient resources to raise their children and also access higher education and training opportunities.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING - ENCOURAGING LIFELONG LEARNING	
<p>Enhancing the education tax credit – The current tax credit, which helps students (\$400 per month for full time students and \$120 per month for part time students) with non-tuition costs, such as textbooks, is not available to employees taking courses actually related to their employment. This discourages the upgrading of skills and limits opportunities for advancement. The budget proposes, as of January 1, 2004, to allow students to claim the education tax credit for education related to current employment, when the costs are not reimbursed by their employers. (p. 12 and p. 126)</p> <p>New Workplace Skills Strategy – It is now more important than ever that Canada’s labour force be made up of the highly skilled, knowledge workers. This means more emphasis on skills from, and acquired in, the workplace in addition to education. The Government is therefore developing a Workplace Skills Strategy in cooperation with its partners: provinces, labour unions, employers and sector councils. Key issues would include literacy training and essential skills upgrading.</p> <p>A three-year Training Centre Infrastructure Fund pilot project with funding of \$15 M over the first two years will match employer and union investment in new machinery for replacement of equipment in selected training centers with a focus on trades that have undergone significant technological change or whose scope has broadened or have new curricula. (pgs. 126, 127)</p>	<p>To meet the challenges of the new economy, Canada’s workers must have the opportunity to upgrade their skills and move on to the path of lifelong learning. I hope employers will support women in their efforts for skills upgrading</p> <p>We will work with our partners in provincial and territorial governments, as well as unions and employers and others, to improve training programs to better reflect the realities of work in the 21st century.</p> <p>I would encourage all partners to ensure that women are enabled to take advantage of training opportunities.</p> <p>And, I would also encourage Canadian women to get involved with the partners in making sure that training programs meet their needs.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING - ENCOURAGING LIFELONG LEARNING	
<p>Enhancing language training for immigrants - An important dimension of lifelong learning for new immigrants is the need to acquire and perfect their language skills. In 2003, the federal government provided \$5 million per year for pilot projects under which community-based partners deliver labour market language training at more advanced levels.</p> <p>The Government is working with some provinces and employers to set up the pilot projects. To expand the program and reach more new immigrants, Budget 2004 proposes to invest an additional \$15 million a year. The focus will be on language training at advanced levels that is custom-designed for the immigrant and his or her potential job.(p. 127)</p> <p>Foreign credential recognition - “This budget sets aside an additional \$5 million per year beginning in 2005-06 to further enhance the work of sector councils in raising awareness about the integration of skilled immigrants and in assessing and recognizing the credentials of internationally trained workers.” (p.128)</p>	<p>This budget will expand on the existing Labour Market Language Training pilots to reach even more people in need of more advanced language training by investing an additional \$15 million annually.</p> <p>With a focus on locally-based labour market information and on the immigrant’s area of expertise, these pilots will continue to assist skilled women and men immigrants to better access the Canadian labour market, and help avoid under-employment and low-wage work.</p> <p>This budget sets aside additional money to enhance the work of sector councils to raise awareness about the integration of skilled immigrants and to assess and recognize the credentials of internationally trained workers.</p> <p>The recognition of credentials earned abroad can greatly benefit immigrant women and their families with the necessary conditions to ensure their economic autonomy and integration into life in Canada.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING - CARING FOR CANADA'S CHILDREN	
<p>Accelerating the Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) by \$77 million in each of 2004-05 and 2005-06 (\$2 million of this is for First Nations children on reserve as part of a \$10 million over 4 year increase). This brings total funding under the ELCC framework to \$150 million the first year and \$225 in the second year (funding of \$500 million per year under the 2000 Early Childhood Development Agreement remains the same). Funds will be delivered through the new Canada Social Transfer (CST).</p> <p>It is anticipated that the combined funding of \$375 over two years could fund up to 48,000 new spaces or provide up to 70,000 subsidized spaces for low-income families.</p> <p>Additional funding of \$14 million over two years is also provided to extend the Understanding Early Years research pilot project involving 12 communities, to reach 100 communities over the next 7 years.</p> <p>Building on the new 2002 legal framework which added provisions to address misuse of the Internet, \$8 million a year is proposed in this Budget to launch a national strategy to counter the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet. Some funding will aid RCMP in gathering evidence and prosecuting, some will be for public awareness. (pgs. 12, 112-115)</p>	<p>I am pleased that this budget recognizes that support to child care services is essential to further the development of Canada's children, and to support parents in the workforce and in education and training.</p> <p>The increased funding, in partnership with provinces and territories, could benefit low-income families by providing up to 70,000 fully subsidized child care spaces. Access to high quality, affordable child care is vital for lone parent families led by women, a group that has great difficulty meeting the care and income needs of their families.</p> <p>I welcome the new measures and national strategy to fight the sexual exploitation of children via the Internet.</p> <p>The continuing sexual exploitation of girls and women reflect the continuing gender inequalities in our society and efforts must continue to stop such actions.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING - OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABORIGINAL CANADIANS	
<p>Renew the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (due to expire in March 2004) by providing \$125 million over five years (\$5 million / year). (p.129)</p>	<p>The Government of Canada is committed to working with Aboriginal Canadians and other partners to address the issues that affect the daily lives of Aboriginal people, including women and children.</p> <p>Our efforts aim to improve the socio-economic conditions of all Aboriginal people, as well as increase their participation in the social and economic life of Canada.</p> <p>A key focus of our effort is to help improve the education and skills development opportunities available to Aboriginal people. We must also ensure that such opportunities are accessible and meaningful to the realities of the lives of Aboriginal women in particular, by providing services such as quality childcare so that they can pursue education, training and employment. The additional funds this Budget proposes for early learning and child care, including on-reserve, will complement the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy.</p> <p>The Government of Canada is acting to ensure that Aboriginal women and men living in our cities can more fully contribute to shaping our country today and in the future.</p>
<p>The budget proposes to extend the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) to 2006-07 and to double its total budget from \$25 million to \$50 million'. (p.130)</p>	<p>Through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, the Government of Canada is committed to working with partners to develop innovative solutions to address local urban Aboriginal priorities, including those affecting women and children.</p> <p>My provincial and territorial counterparts and I have all expressed our concerns regarding the situation of Aboriginal women and hope that through joint work within our FPT Forum, we can address some of the challenges they face.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITIES – A NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES	
<p>\$7 billion in GST/HST relief for municipalities of all sizes over the next 10 years and \$1 billion over the next 5 years instead of 10 years for infrastructure.</p> <p>The New Deal for Communities promises a stronger voice for municipalities in the federal decisions affecting them.</p> <p>Funding for the Urban Aboriginal Strategy and Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (as explained under Learning section).</p> <p>New funding related to the environment.</p> <p>(pgs. 14, 161-174 and 189)</p>	<p>I am very encouraged by the potential that greater support for municipalities – and improved partnerships among levels of government – can mean for the lives of women, if differences between men and women are taken into account.</p> <p>But women and women’s organizations must be involved. It is people who make up communities and often women who pick up the slack if services in their communities cannot meet their families’ needs.</p> <p>My department, Status of Women Canada, has been providing funding, gender-based analysis and policy support to a Gender and Poverty Project, which is part of the larger Vibrant Communities multisectoral initiative to reduce poverty. The learning from this project can benefit many communities and I hope it will be widely used.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITIES – THE COMMUNITY BASED AND NON-PROFIT SECTOR	
<p>Budget 2004 responds to the recommendations of the Joint Regulatory Table of the Voluntary Sector Initiative by proposing: a new compliance regime, a more accessible appeals regime, improved transparency, more accessible information and improvements to the rules governing charities under the Income Tax Act, such as the Disbursement Quota Rules.</p> <p>The Government will invest \$12 million a year to implement these reforms and create a new Charities Advisory Committee that will be advising the Minister of National Revenue.</p> <p>A Not-for-Profit Corporations Act that will reduce the regulatory burden, improve financial accountability, clarify the roles and responsibilities of directors and officers and enhance and protect the rights of members.</p> <p>A Bank for the Charitable Sector: The Government welcomes the opportunity to explore the concept of a bank targeted at the unique challenges of the charitable sector.</p> <p>Budget 2004 provides \$6 million over the next two years to advance the VSI by strengthening the sector's capacity to collaborate and innovate.</p> <p>(pgs. 14, 175-181)</p>	<p>The Government of Canada recognizes that the voluntary sector is a reflection of our values as a society and of our commitment as citizens. .</p> <p>Women who are the backbone of the voluntary sector continue to play a significant role. Each year, my department provides support to some 200 local, regional and national groups who carry out initiatives of social change.</p> <p>The provisions made in this budget to invest in the voluntary sector, to build the capacity of charitable organizations, to lighten the regulatory burden, to respond to some of the recommendations of the Joint Regulatory Table will bring about positive changes.</p> <p>This budget will respond to the day-to-day and practical issues women's organizations face in fulfilling their mandate.</p> <p>However, it will not solve all the problems. I will continue the dialogue with women's groups, consult with my colleagues and ensure that we continue to address the common challenges of women's organizations and the voluntary sector.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITIES – SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL ECONOMY	
<p>Budget 2004 increases support for the social economy sector by confirming that it will become eligible for a wide range of programs currently offered to small business.</p> <p>Budget 2004 also provides new funding through pilot programs focused on strengthening existing support in areas that social economy and community economic development organizations have identified as their highest priorities, namely capacity building, financing and research.</p> <p>Capacity-building - \$17 million over the next two years to Industry Canada for a targeted pilot program in support of strategic planning and capacity building of community economic development organizations.</p> <p>Financing - \$100 million in the next five years in support of financing initiatives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support a competitive process resulting in government investments in up to four regional patient capital funds; - increase lending to social economy enterprises. <p>Community-University Research Alliance program- \$3 million annually over five years starting in 2005-6 to support community-based research on the social economy.</p> <p><i>New Horizons for Seniors</i> - \$8 million in 2004-05 and \$10 million annually thereafter to fund a New Horizons for Seniors Program to enable seniors to participate in social activities, pursue an active life and contribute to their community.</p> <p>(p.179-181)</p>	<p>This Government has made a commitment to support new approaches to community development – to what is called the “social economy”.</p> <p>The concept of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises is one that also has great potential to contribute to gender equality. Women have traditionally been at the forefront of efforts to improve the social conditions of their communities. They have also too often been among those who face poverty and economic barriers. With additional access to tools and resources, they can add to success stories in turning around individual lives and distressed neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Status of Women Canada is currently supporting a Gender and Poverty Project within the larger Vibrant Communities Initiative – a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder community-based poverty reduction initiative in many communities across Canada.</p> <p>I am confident that the Gender and Poverty Project can contribute to a strong and vibrant social economy that meets the diverse needs of women, men and children.</p> <p>Because women make up the majority of seniors, the re-establishment of the very successful New Horizons program is a real benefit to enable them to lead active lives and contribute to their communities.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITIES - NORTHERN STRATEGY	
<p>“This budget will provide \$90 million over five years to support a Northern Strategy for economic development.” (p.186)</p> <p>“This budget provides \$3.5 billion over 10 years to accelerate ongoing clean up of contaminated sites for which federal departments are responsible....more than 60 % of these expenditures are expected to occur in the North, contributing to improved environment, economic development and employment opportunities for Aboriginal communities and Northerners”.... (p.183)</p> <p>“Budget 2004 provides \$75 million over three years to increase federal and regional environmental assessment capacity to streamline the regulatory process [for pipeline and oil and gas development in the Northwest Territories].” (p. 186)</p>	<p>Aboriginal women and their communities have continually raised social, economic, environmental and political concerns regarding the often unintended, but negative consequences of development projects in the North.</p> <p>Strong environmental protection policies will benefit Aboriginal women and their communities who live in the North. It is essential that Aboriginal women are included as stakeholders in consultations and environmental assessments relating to the Northern Strategy as well as the processes for cleaning up contaminated sites.</p> <p>Aboriginal women have continued to raise concerns about projects aimed at ‘economic development’ that have had serious impacts on animal habitat, the environment, their children’s health, their traditional means of living, as well as economic, social and political self determination.</p> <p>It is important that Northern development policies, activities and products promote and support self-reliance and equality for Aboriginal women.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITIES - OTHER INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITIES – INDEPENDENT CENTRE FOR FIRST NATIONS GOVERNMENT - AND RELATIONSHIP WITH METIS COMMUNITY	
<p>This budget proposes to provide \$5.5 million over the next two years and up to \$5 million a year thereafter to establish and operate the Independent Centre for First Nations Government. “This amount would be in addition to funds that may be allocated by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for this Initiative.” (p. 188)</p> <p>“This budget sets aside \$20.5 million over the next year to enable the federal government to work with Métis leadership as well as provinces and territories to properly address Métis Aboriginal harvesting issues and work towards assessing the implications and possible approaches to implementing the <i>Powley</i> decision (Supreme Court ruling that the members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community have an Aboriginal right to hunt food)...” (p. 188)</p>	<p>The Independent Centre for First Nations Government will encourage more transparent, accountable and effective Band governance.</p> <p>It will be important to encourage the political participation of Aboriginal women in the development and implementation of the Centre to ensure that Aboriginal women have a voice within First Nations governance.</p> <p>The Government’s engagement with Métis leadership and other levels of government, including follow-up to the <i>Powley</i> decision, provides an excellent opportunity to engage Métis women in discussions on policy options affecting them and their communities.</p> <p>Their involvement will help ensure that potential gender implications are considered and addressed throughout the decision-making processes.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND COMMERCIALIZATION	
<p>Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) “In this budget the Government is taking additional steps to enhance access to venture capital for promising Canadian firms, through new venture capital investments totalling \$270 million” (p.142). “This money will seed promising new enterprises, with priority given to those involved in the life sciences and biotechnology, information and communication technologies, environmental technologies, medical devices and nanotechnology” (Budget Speech, p.12).</p> <p>\$250 million of these investments will be set aside for venture capital financing by the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) (p.143). An additional \$20 million will be provided to Farm Credit Canada (p.143).</p> <p>Other measures will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acceleration by one year, from 2006 to 2005, of the increase in the small business deduction limit to \$300,000 (p.132); - an increase in the capital cost allowance rate for computer and data network infrastructure equipment (p.132). <p>“The government will seek the advice of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance to identify the best options for future support of small business, taking into account limited fiscal resources” (Budget Fact Sheet on Small-and Medium-Sized Enterprises)</p>	<p>Women entrepreneurs make an important contribution to Canada’s economy and its efforts to sustain its competitive edge in the global marketplace.</p> <p>As identified in the report of the Prime Minister’s Task Force on Women Entrepreneurs released last year, women entrepreneurs face many challenges, including access to information, capital, training and benefits.</p> <p>The Government of Canada has already taken steps to address some of these challenges. For example, we have extended the Women’s Enterprise Initiative and developed a business planning guide to help Aboriginal women entrepreneurs.</p> <p>By enhancing access to venture capital, the Government can help to address some of the additional challenges women entrepreneurs face, especially in the important early stages of company development.</p> <p>Through the Women in International Business Development committee, Status of Women Canada is committed to working with other government departments and stakeholders to take steps to further ensure that women entrepreneurs have the tools to succeed in today’s global economy.</p>

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THE IMPORTANCE OF CANADA'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD	
<p>“Canada has a proud history of responding to threats to global security and contributing to peacekeeping efforts around the globe...Budget 2004 provides an additional \$250 million over two years to cover the costs of Canada’s participation in peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan and the fight against terrorism...and an additional \$50 million for Canada’s participation in the peacekeeping force in Haiti.” (p. 190-192)</p> <p>“To continue to meet current needs and provide for new security priorities, Budget 2004 provides an additional \$605 million over five years to the security contingency reserve. These funds will be used to address security priorities such as intelligence, border protection, marine and cyber security, and enhanced coordination of systems, information, threat assessments and emergency response.” (p. 195)</p> <p>“Despite greater prosperity in many emerging economies, serious development challenges remain in most of the poorest countries and regions of the world. Canada must maintain its commitment to developing nations and those recovering from conflict by continuing to provide much-needed international assistance.</p> <p>This budget builds upon the 8 percent increase in international assistance already provided for 2004–05 in the 2003 budget, by providing an additional \$248 million, or an 8-per-cent increase, for 2005–06.” (p. 197)</p> <p>(pgs. 15, 190-200)</p>	<p>Increasing Canada’s international assistance can advance our efforts to reduce global poverty and to strengthen democracy, justice and social stability, all of which will contribute to improving the situation of women in developing countries and countries in transition.</p>