



Prime Minister of Canada
Stephen Harper

PM ANNOUNCES TAX CUTS, INCREASED BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES



Prime Minister Stephen Harper greets the crowd at the Schwartz/Reisman Community Centre prior to announcing new measures to help make life more affordable for Canadian families.

Vaughan, Ontario

30 October 2014

Introduction

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced new measures to help make life more affordable for Canadian families. He was joined by Joe Oliver, Minister of Finance, Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs, Candice Bergen, Minister of State (Social Development), and Stella Ambler, Member of Parliament for Mississauga South.

The proposed new measures include:

- The Family Tax Cut, a federal tax credit that will allow a higher-income spouse to transfer up to \$50,000 of taxable income to a spouse in a lower tax bracket. The credit will provide tax relief – capped at \$2,000 – for couples with children under the age of 18, effective for the 2014 tax year. Income splitting is helping seniors across the country, which is why the Government is now proposing similar relief for families.
- Increasing the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) for children under age six. As of January 1, 2015, parents will receive a benefit of \$160 per month for each child under the age of six – up from \$100 per month. In a year, parents will receive up to \$1,920 per child.
- Expanding the UCCB to children aged six through 17. As of January 1, 2015, under the expanded UCCB, parents will receive a benefit of \$60 per month for children aged six through 17. In a year, parents will receive up to \$720 per child.
- Increasing the Child Care Expense Deduction dollar limits by \$1,000, effective for the 2015 tax year. The maximum amounts that can be claimed will increase to \$8,000 from \$7,000 for children under age seven, to \$5,000 from \$4,000 for children aged seven through 16, and to \$11,000 from \$10,000 for children who are eligible for the Disability Tax Credit.

Families can claim the Family Tax Cut in the spring of 2015 when they file their 2014 tax returns. They will begin to receive payments under the enhanced UCCB in July 2015. The July UCCB payment will include up to six months of benefits to cover the period from January through June 2015.

The enhanced UCCB will replace the existing Child Tax Credit for the 2015 and subsequent taxation years.

Quick Facts

- All families with children will benefit from the new measures introduced by our Government. The average tax relief and benefits for these families will be \$1,140 in 2015.
- Low and middle-income families will receive two-thirds of the overall benefits provided by the package.
- The Family Tax Cut will eliminate or significantly reduce the difference in the federal tax payable by a one-earner couple relative to a two-earner couple with a similar family income.
- Earlier this month, the Government announced its intention to double the Children's Fitness Tax Credit and make it refundable. The maximum amount of expenses that may be claimed under the credit will be doubled from its current limit to \$1,000 for the 2014 tax year and subsequent tax years, and the credit will be made refundable effective for the 2015 and subsequent tax years.
- Canadians at all income levels are benefiting from federal tax relief measures introduced since 2006, with low and middle-income Canadians receiving proportionately greater relief.
- Previous tax-relief measures introduced by the Government since 2006 have resulted in a tax reduction of approximately \$3,400 in 2014 for an average two-earner family with two children.

Quotes

"Our Government is focused on helping hard-working Canadian families make ends meet, by making important priorities like child care and after-school sports more affordable. Under this plan, every family with children will have more money in their pockets, to spend on their priorities as a family." – *Prime Minister Stephen Harper*

"Our Government is fulfilling its promise to balance the federal budget. We are now in a position to fulfill our promise to help Canadian families balance theirs." – *Prime Minister Stephen Harper*

Related Product

- [Supporting Canadian Families](http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/10/30/supporting-canadian-families)(<http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/10/30/supporting-canadian-families>)