

2009 Federal Budget Highlights Housing

Included in the 2009 – 2010 federal budget were a number of important housing initiatives that will encourage Canadians to purchase a home and make improvements to existing housing.

For example, the RRSP Home Buyers Plan was increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000 after a concerted lobby effort from REALTORS®,

Additionally, there is a temporary tax credit for first time home buyers of up to \$750.00 designed to offset closing costs as well as a Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) of up to \$1350.00 for homes, cottages or condominiums. The HRTC expires February 1, 2010. Overall Budget 2009 provides up to \$7.8 billion for housing construction and renovation.

This includes:

- The temporary Home Renovation Tax Credit of up to \$1,350 for eligible home renovations and alterations.
- An increase to the Home Buyers' Plan withdrawal limit to \$25,000 from \$20,000 to help Canadians buy a first home.
- A new First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit that will provide up to \$750 in tax relief when purchasing a first home.
- \$300 million over two years to the ecoENERGY Retrofit program.
- \$1 billion over two years for renovation and energy retrofits to social housing.
- \$400 million over two years to build housing for low-income seniors.
- \$75 million over two years to build social housing for persons with disabilities.
- \$200 million over two years to support social housing in the North.
- \$2 billion over two years in low-cost loans to municipalities to improve housing-related infrastructure.

To read more about these housing initiatives and other measures in the Government of Canada's 2009 budget, visit this page:

www.budget.gc.ca/2009/home-accueil-eng.asp

From OREA's Queens Park Plus