

Century Initiative's New *National Scorecard on Canada's Growth and Prosperity* Key Findings

The *National Scorecard on Canada's Growth and Prosperity* is an innovative new tool for policy and decision-makers to use to track Canada's progress toward a target of 100 million people by 2100, which is critical to supporting and sustaining the prosperity we aspire to.

It provides a strategic window into where we are leading, on track, in need of attention, or falling behind on the issues and factors that will influence Canada's future. In doing so, the *Scorecard* provides a policy road map to build a more prosperous, equitable, diverse, and resilient Canada. If we measure our progress, we can manage it, and make the strategic decisions we need to propel Canada forward.

For more information, view the *National Scorecard* here: [CI National Scorecard 2021](#)

Following are some of the *National Scorecard's* key findings.

The Bottom Line

- Our findings show that while Canada is performing well in key areas, there are others where attention and action are needed.
- Strengths:
 - We remain among the top countries in the world when it comes to our international reputation enhancing our ability to attract people to Canada;
 - We have a strong entrepreneurship ecosystem;
 - We are leaders when it comes to high school performance in reading, math and science, and in the proportion of our population with post-secondary education;
 - We are making some progress in reducing child poverty, but Covid-19 could have negative impacts; and
 - We have expanded broadband access across the country.
- Areas for action:
 - Build our talent pool by doing more to attract immigrants with the right skills to Canada;
 - Do a better job of matching immigrants to labour market needs and providing supports so they can more fully contribute to our economy
 - Enhance productivity and increase spending on business R&D; low levels of productivity are threatening future growth and prosperity;
 - Increasing educational and employment opportunities and addressing socioeconomic gaps for Indigenous communities can support increased economic participation and is vital to Canada's success;
 - Increase investments from public and private sources for employee training programs;
 - Nurture the development of our homegrown firms and make them globally competitive – while we have a strong entrepreneurship ecosystem, we don't take advantage of it. We need to increase investments in technology, capital, economics of scale, and skills development. Investments like these would lead to the growth of globally competitive firms;
 - Move forward with federal commitments to develop a national childcare program. This can improve child well-being, labour participation for parents, particularly mothers, and



- Continue to renew investments in infrastructure and urban development including housing; and affordable access to high quality broadband internet: COVID-19 has shown us that access to high quality internet is critical for work, school and maintaining social and family connections, yet Canada remains among the lowest in the OECD when it comes to high quality fibre connections; and
- Prioritize progress on environmental sustainability.

On Growing to 100 million

- Growing our population to 100 million by 2100 would reduce the burden on government revenues to fund health care, old age security, and other services. It would also mean more skilled workers, innovation, and dynamism in the Canadian economy.
- However, our population is aging and our workforce is shrinking.
- Covid-19 is making things worse. Recent reporting by Stats Canada shows that our population growth is at its lowest in over 100 years.
 - Canada's Indigenous population is younger, on average, than the rest of our population, and growing at a faster rate. Increasing educational and employment opportunities to close the socioeconomic gap is vital to Canada's success.
 - Population growth alone isn't enough. We must *grow well* into the future. Broadly, this means we must ensure that the benefits of growth are shared among all Canadians. Growth must also be pursued in collaboration with Canada's provinces, territories, cities, towns, and with Indigenous communities, and with a commitment to environmental sustainability.
 - 100 million by 2100 is not just a number. It's a vision for the Canada we want to build for future generations.

Immigration

- Canada remains an attractive destination for immigrants around the world and is a leader in accepting newcomers, most of whom report high levels of life satisfaction.
- However, too many immigrants still face systemic racism, discrimination, and challenges integrating into the labour market.
- The income gap between immigrants and non-immigrants suggests that immigrants' skills are not being effectively matched to labour market needs, preventing them from fully participating in Canada's economy.

Economy, Employment & Entrepreneurship

- While Canada has a strong ecosystem for entrepreneurship, business spending on R&D is falling behind other countries which can undermine innovation.
- Canada's productivity is declining, and household debt levels are "bottom performing" compared to OECD countries, putting our economic growth, and Canadians' well-being and quality of life, at risk.
- The healthy innovation ecosystem is not matched by productivity enhancing investments like technology, capital, economics of scale, and skills development. Investments like these would lead to the growth of globally competitive firms.
- Improving access to education, training, and economic opportunities for Indigenous peoples could boost Canada's economy by \$27.7 billion per year, according to the National Indigenous

Education & Training

- Canada remains a global leader when it comes to the proportion of our population with post-secondary education, and the academic performance of high-school students.
- To stay on top, we need to act by increasing public spending on education and closing gaps in education funding for Indigenous students.
- Our job training system could benefit from greater investments in employee training by both the public and private sectors.

Support for Children & Families

- While Canada is making some progress in reducing child poverty, rates among Indigenous children, racialized Canadians and recent immigrants remain particularly high.
- Development of a national childcare system, along with robust parental leave policies will help improve child well-being and labour participation for parents, particularly mothers, and could support families to have more children.
- Move forward with recent federal commitments to develop a national childcare system to improve Canada's performance.

Infrastructure & Urban Development

- A more prosperous Canada requires a bigger population, and the infrastructure – including digital infrastructure – to support it.
- Despite renewed federal commitments to invest in infrastructure and urban development, including housing commitments and permanent transit funding, more attention is required to grow our population sustainably, and in a manner consistent with a high standard of living.
- Specifically, we need to focus attention on increasing affordable housing stock, and on improving access to high quality digital infrastructure to help Canadians connect with one another and with economic opportunities. As well as a broad range of physical infrastructure needs like transit.

On Growing Well

- Population growth will be a critical pillar of Canada's long-term prosperity, but if mismanaged it will strain public services and infrastructure, undermine our sustainability efforts, and contribute to social tensions.
- Done right, population growth can help address those challenges, and propel us forward.
- We must continue the efforts that have made us global leaders in social progress and freedom and accelerate our efforts to improve performance in the areas of environmental sustainability, competitiveness, income inequality, and life expectancy.
- Now is our opportunity to think longer term and work together toward ensuring all Canadians benefit from future growth and prosperity. We must seize it.