



2026 Federal Pre-Budget Recommendations

Executive Summary

Canada's long-term economic competitiveness is under pressure due to weak productivity growth, constrained private investment, and infrastructure and labour bottlenecks. The Fraser Valley is one of British Columbia's fastest-growing regions and a critical hub for agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, and cross-border trade.

Budget 2026 must prioritize enabling conditions for private sector growth by improving infrastructure delivery, labour supply, investment competitiveness, regulatory efficiency, housing capacity, food security, and supply chain resilience.

Core Federal Asks

1. Strengthen food security as national security through protection of agricultural land, production capacity, and supply chain resilience in the Fraser Valley
2. Strengthen integrated trade, transportation, and supply chain infrastructure (Highway 1, rail, ports, border efficiency, and national trade corridor reliability)
3. Invest in climate resilience and flood protection in critical agricultural and trade corridors

About the Fraser Valley Economy

The Fraser Valley is a rapidly growing economic region and a strategic node in Canada's trade network. It connects agricultural production, food processing, logistics, manufacturing, and international trade corridors linking the Port of Vancouver, the Interior of British Columbia, and the United States border.

Population growth, infrastructure constraints, and limited industrial land availability are increasingly constraining business expansion and investment readiness.



About the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce represents the needs of Abbotsford's businesses and empowers economic development across the Fraser Valley region. For over 110 years, the Abbotsford Chamber has been the voice of business, working on behalf of over 800 members, investing in the next generation of entrepreneurs and young professionals, breaking down barriers to business development and trade, advocating for investments and policies to help businesses succeed, and building community and connections.

The Abbotsford Chamber is nationally accredited to meet standards of business excellence and provide benefits to its member organizations.

Economic Context

Businesses across Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley are facing significant cost pressures, labour shortages, infrastructure constraints, and regulatory complexity that are limiting growth and competitiveness.

The region continues to experience strong population growth, which is increasing demand on transportation infrastructure, housing supply, and public services. At the same time, Canada continues to face a national productivity challenge, with weak investment levels and slowing economic growth relative to peer economies.

Without targeted federal action, these pressures risk constraining the region's ability to contribute fully to Canada's economic growth and trade performance.

1. Food Security as National Security

The Fraser Valley is one of Canada's most important agricultural regions and a cornerstone of national food production and supply chain resilience.

Sumas Prairie alone generates approximately \$3.83 billion in annual economic activity and supports a significant share of regional employment, making it essential to Canada's domestic food supply and export capacity.

The catastrophic 2021 flooding event demonstrated the fragility of Canada's food and logistics systems when critical agricultural land and transportation corridors are disrupted. The event caused widespread agricultural losses and severed key supply chains, reinforcing that food production capacity is a matter of national security.



Protecting agricultural land, strengthening production capacity, and ensuring resilient distribution networks is essential to both domestic food security and Canada's global trade position.

2. Trade, Transportation, and Supply Chain Resilience

The Fraser Valley is a critical goods movement corridor for Western Canada and international trade, forming a key link between agriculture, manufacturing, ports, and the Canada/U.S. border.

The 2021 atmospheric river event demonstrated the national consequences of infrastructure disruption in this corridor, including Highway 1 closures, rail outages, border shutdowns, and temporary loss of access to the Port of Vancouver. These disruptions affected national supply chains moving approximately \$65 billion in goods annually through the region.

Canada's economy depends on reliable, integrated trade corridors that are resilient to climate, labour, and operational disruptions.

- Upgrade Highway 1 corridor capacity and congestion points
- Improve Canada-U.S. border infrastructure and commercial processing efficiency
- Develop a national trade corridor strategy integrating ports, rail, highways, and border infrastructure

Reliable trade corridors are essential to export competitiveness, economic stability, and national food and energy security.

3. Climate Resilience and Flood Protection

The Fraser Valley faces significant climate-related flood risk.

The 2021 atmospheric flooding caused widespread damage across farms, businesses, and transportation infrastructure, including rail disruptions, Highway 1 closures, border shutdowns, and temporary loss of access to the Port of Vancouver.

Protecting the region is essential not only for local resilience but for national supply chain continuity and food security.

- Holistically fund the \$3.9 billion in critical flood mitigation infrastructure to protect the Fraser Valley from future flooding events
- Invest in dike, drainage, and flood protection infrastructure
- Prioritize resilience of Highway 1 and rail corridors
- Integrate Fraser Valley into national climate adaptation planning



ABBOTSFORD
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Closing Position

Budget 2026 represents a critical opportunity to strengthen Canada's long-term economic foundation.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce urges the federal government to prioritize investment in infrastructure, food security, climate resilience, labour supply, regulatory efficiency, housing capacity, and integrated trade and supply chain resilience.

The Fraser Valley is positioned to be a major contributor to national economic growth, provided the enabling conditions for investment and productivity are in place.

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