



Canada Social Report

# Federal Policy Monitor

January 2013



CANADA SOCIAL REPORT



The [Caledon Institute of Social Policy](#) regularly scans for the release of federal government policies and programs that impact areas of interest, including income security, disabilities, health, housing, poverty reduction, recreation, seniors and youth.

Monitors can be searched on the Canada Social Report website by date and category.

#### ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

\$330.8 million over two years to sustain progress on building and renovating water and wastewater infrastructure on reserve and to support the development of a long-term strategy to improve water quality in First Nation communities. This investment builds on the estimated annual \$197.5 million for water and wastewater programs in First Nation communities.

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1358080285654/1358080429083>

\$3 million to support the process for eight more First Nations to sign onto the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management (FNLN). As new signatories to the Framework Agreement, these First Nations will opt out of 34 land-related sections of the Indian Act and develop their own land code to manage their reserve land, environment and resources. A total of 69 First Nations will soon be operating or developing land codes under the FNLN Regime.

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1357912235317/1357912385110>

Through the Skills and Partnership Fund, the federal and Saskatchewan governments will help 800 Aboriginal people to find jobs. Ottawa will invest \$7.9 million in Northern Career Quest for its training to employment project in the mining industry. The Government of Saskatchewan will invest \$1.5 million in the project. Northern Career Quest will provide Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan with classroom and on-site training and work experience in the mining industry. Over two years, 800 participants will be trained in high-demand positions, such as mine technicians, heavy equipment operators, welders and office administrators.

[Link](#)

#### CHILDREN

Funding announced for a project to provide a culturally enriched pre-school readiness program for urban Aboriginal children between ages 3 and 5 years living in Lethbridge. The project is funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada's Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) program. The program provides annual funding to community-based projects focused on early childhood development for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and their families living in urban and northern communities across Canada. Each year, AHSUNC reaches 4,800 children who attend one of the 131 Aboriginal Head Start sites across Canada.

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hp-ps/dca-dea/prog-ini/ahsunc-papacun/index-eng.php>

\$185,000 in funding for the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse (CSICA). The funding will support the organization as it works toward implementing a voluntary national certification program for forensic child interviewers, and will also be used to help cover the organization's operational expenses. CSICA was formed in 1985 in response to a growing need for a coordinated, professional approach to child abuse investigations. The voluntary national certification program proposed



by the society would make the organization the first in Canada to offer formal certification in the area of forensic child interviewing.

<http://www.marketwired.com/press-release/government-of-canada-funds-programs-to-help-victims-of-child-abuse-1748394.htm>

## COMMUNITY

Through its Victims Fund, the Department of Justice has made \$600,000 available to Yukon to improve programs and services to residents who have been victims of crime. The funding will be used by Yukon to:

- enhance services for victims of crime, particularly victims in rural communities
- develop policy and research capacity to enhance responses to victims of crime
- deliver a Victims of Crime Emergency Fund
- support the development of collaborative services for child and youth victims and witnesses of crime.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&ctr.page=1&nid=832599>

## DISABILITY

The West Nova Inclusive Employment Society is receiving \$185,000 through the Skills Link program to help youth with disabilities overcome barriers to employment. Participants will attend workshops to develop life and employability skills, including effective computer use, job search and budgeting. They will also gain valuable work experience through placements with local employers. Their improved abilities will prepare them to enter the workforce or return to school.

[Link](#)

Release of *Rethinking disAbility in the Private Sector*, the report of the Panel on Labour Market Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The report highlights actions employers can take to accommodate people with disabilities in their workplaces, as well as the benefits to both individuals and businesses. It also recognizes the need for business leadership and effective community partnerships.

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n13/13-005-eng.asp>

The Coalition for Persons with Disabilities in Dufferin County, Ontario, is receiving \$98,000 through the federal Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities to provide participants with work placements in the retail, hospitality, manufacturing and administrative sectors. This experience will help them obtain the skills required to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment or return to school.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=2&nid=716269&ctr.tp1D=1>

Career Services of Brockville is receiving more than \$120,000 through the federal Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities for two projects. Through its Pathways to Employment project, participants will develop work action plans and benefit from job coaching sessions that will enable them to better prepare for and obtain jobs. Through its recruitABLE project, the organization will host one-day networking events for employers in Brockville and surrounding areas to increase awareness of the labour market potential of persons with disabilities.

[Link](#)

## EMPLOYMENT

Launch of a new Job Alerts system that will provide job posting e-mails from a variety of sources, including Job Bank and other recruitment systems. See: [WorkinginCanada.gc.ca/JobAlerts](http://WorkinginCanada.gc.ca/JobAlerts)

[Link](#)

Launch of Canada Summer Jobs 2013, which will create up to 36,000 job opportunities for students across the country. Funding will be available for not-for-profit organizations, public sector employers and small businesses to create high-quality summer job opportunities for young people from ages 15 to 30 who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year.

[Link](#)

## GOVERNANCE

Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) Strategic Operating Review results:

- federal departments have been asked to submit proposals to find budget reductions of 5 and 10 percent. Parliamentary organizations have been asked to participate voluntarily. The Library of Parliament has asked PBO for a proposal to reduce its budget by 5 and 10 percent and to assess the impact of each of these proposals.
- PBO has adopted the government's strategic review assessment model, which involves an assessment of the resources and activities used to deliver an organization's legislated mandate.
- PBO's activities focus exclusively on the requirements of its enabling legislation. There are no extraneous activities.
- PBO delivers on a mandate that is as broad as or broader than comparable offices in other countries, and does so with fewer resources than its peers. PBO uses its resources efficiently to deliver on its mandate largely by leveraging technology-based information, communication and publishing strategy.
- savings are possible but can only be obtained by changing the enabling legislation.
- legislative change is strictly within the purview of Parliament – PBO is not able to make any recommendation in this regard.

*The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*



## HEALTH

Provinces and territories will be working together through a coordinated approach to price setting for six widely used generic drugs, which represent approximately 20 percent of the public spending on generic drugs in Canada. This joint approach will result in the lowest generic prices achieved to date in Canada, and will be consistent with the price for these drugs on the international market.

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/newsroom/index.php?number=news&newsnumber=8777&dept=&lang=E>

## HOMELESSNESS

\$64,000 from the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy will be used by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo for a study on family homelessness. The project's goal is to identify effective approaches to tackle homelessness among families in the Waterloo region. Findings will be shared with communities across Canada to help improve services and programs to better meet families' housing needs in their respective region.

[Link](#)

## HOUSING

December's seasonally adjusted annual rates of urban starts decreased in the Prairies (-23.9 per cent), Quebec (-11.8 per cent) and British Columbia (-8.2 per cent). Urban starts remained relatively unchanged in Atlantic Canada (-1.6 per cent) and increased in Ontario (+33.4 per cent).

[Link](#)

Changes were announced to CMHC's lending programs that support existing social housing projects. Effective immediately, for eligible existing social housing projects that require capital repairs and renovations, the federal government will be accepting the prepayment of closed CMHC mortgages with a yield maintenance prepayment penalty consistent with private lending institutions. These changes will allow non-profit and co-operative housing sponsor groups to refinance in order to undertake needed capital repairs and renovations and extend the life of their projects.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/hero/here/2013/2013-01-29-1100.cfm>

## INCOME SECURITY

The new Federal Income Support for Parents of Murdered or Missing Children grant will be available as of January 1, 2013. The grant is expected to support an estimated 1,000 families annually. It will provide \$350 per week in income support for up to 35 weeks. To receive the benefit, affected parents need to earn a minimum \$6,500 in the previous 52 weeks and take leave from their employment. In addition, through the Helping Families in Need Act, the Canada Labour Code has been amended to allow for unpaid leave and to protect the jobs of parents whose child dies or disappears as a result of a probable Criminal Code offence.

[Link](#)

Release of the *Fiscal Monitor, November 2012*. Highlights:

- November 2012: Budgetary deficit of \$1.9 billion - There was a budgetary deficit of \$1.9 billion in November 2012, compared to a deficit of \$1.6 billion in November 2011. Revenues decreased by \$0.1 billion, or 0.3 percent, reflecting decreases in excise taxes and duties and other revenues, offset by increases in income tax revenues. Program expenses increased by \$0.3 billion, or 1.6 percent, reflecting increases in major transfers to persons and direct program expenses. Public debt charges decreased by \$0.1 billion, or 5.4 percent.
- April to November 2012: Budgetary deficit of \$12.4 billion - For the first eight months of the 2012-13 fiscal year, the budgetary deficit stood at \$12.4 billion, compared to a deficit of \$15.5 billion reported in the same period of 2011-12. Revenues were up \$4.8 billion, or 3.1 percent, reflecting higher income tax revenues, excise taxes and duties, and Employment Insurance premium revenues. Program expenses were up \$3.0 billion, or 2.0 percent, reflecting increases in major transfers to persons and other levels of government and direct program expenses. Public debt charges were down \$1.3 billion, or 6.0 percent.

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n13/13-012-eng.asp>

## RECREATION

The federal government is investing in two projects to reduce the number of sports- and recreation-related injuries among children and youth in the Yukon. Yukon First Nations Youth – Back to the Land and Active and Safe Yukon – Building Multi-sectoral Collaboration in Recreational Snow Sports for Children and Youth focus on reviewing best practices related to injury prevention and on helping children and youth learn ways to play so they can avoid injury.

[http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/inj-bles/fs-fr/2013\\_0121-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/inj-bles/fs-fr/2013_0121-eng.php)

## SENIORS

The *Protecting Canada's Seniors Act* is now in effect, better protecting seniors by ensuring tougher sentences for those who take advantage of elderly Canadians. Under the amendments to the Criminal Code, evidence that an offence had a significant impact on the victims due to their age – and other personal circumstances such as their health or financial situation – will now be considered an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes. More information about elder abuse can be found at [www.seniors.gc.ca](http://www.seniors.gc.ca).

<https://www.lawlibrary.ab.ca/staycurrent/2013/01/15/bill-c-36-protecting-canadas-seniors-act-in-force-january-13-2013/>

## WOMEN

\$1.2 million over three years in funding for the *Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent* in Montréal to undertake projects that will serve victims of sexual abuse. The funding comes from the Department of Justice Canada and from Status of Women Canada. Funds will provide:



- more and improved services to young children in Montréal and the surrounding area who have experienced sexual abuse
- support for women whose daughters have been victimized
- a stronger knowledge base of Aboriginal service providers so they can better address the issue of the sexual assault of girls.

*The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

#### YOUTH

The Youth Education Arts and Health Foundation (YEAH) in the Durham, ON area is receiving \$91,000 from the Skills Link program to help youth overcome barriers to employment.

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