



Canada Social Report

# Federal Policy Monitor

February 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.

#### DISABILITY

The government announced support for people with disabilities at risk of homelessness in Calgary. The Community Kitchen Program will receive \$369,000 from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and \$238,000 from the Opportunities Fund for People with Disabilities. The support will enable people with disabilities who are at risk of homelessness to develop skills that will help them find work.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=722179&crtr.tp1D=1>

\$79,000 to the Regina branch of the Learning Disabilities Association of Saskatchewan. The provincial government will invest \$80,000 in the Provincial Training Allowance for individuals participating in the program, [Link](#)

#### EMPLOYMENT

The federal government is partnering with the forestry industry to connect youth with jobs in forestry and address skills shortages. Launched by the Forest Products Association of Canada, the Greenest Workforce initiative has two components. The first is a new website, TheGreenestWorkforce.ca, which provides information on career opportunities in Canada's forestry industry. The second is the Green Dream Internship, a video competition that will award paid internships with forest products companies to eight students across the country.

[Link](#)

The Alberta Chamber of Resources is receiving \$175,000 for a project to help Aboriginal youth overcome barriers to employment. The federal government is contributing \$95,000 through the Skills Link program, part of the Youth Employment Strategy (YES). The Alberta government will invest \$80,000 in the project through the Ministries of Aboriginal Relations and Human Services.

[Link](#)

Announcement of Skills Link funding to help youth overcome barriers to employment.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=718879>

#### GOVERNANCE

Trico Charitable Foundation is receiving \$1.5 million in federal government funding for its Enterprising Non-Profits Canada project. This project will test the ability of not-for-profit organizations to leverage non-federal government funding to address social challenges. Trico Charitable Foundation will support the development of the social enterprise sector by coordinating and pooling ideas and resources across the country.

[Link](#)

Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer: *Budget 2012 Monitoring Framework Updated to September 2012*. See February 19, 2013 [Link at http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/search/index/?recent=2431464](http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/search/index/?recent=2431464)



## HEALTH

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety will adopt the new National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace, which was unveiled on January 16, 2013. CCOHS will use the lessons learned from implementing its own internal mental health program to develop a case study, which will be available to Canadian employers who wish to implement the Standard in their own workplaces.

[Link](#)

Announcement of investment in two projects to address Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The first project, led by the Canada Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research Network, will update diagnostic guidelines to include new FASD research and recommendations on how to diagnose young children and adults. The second project, led by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, will study child development among elementary students to investigate the prevalence of FASD among the Canadian population. Key findings will highlight the impact of FASD in Canada and provide the evidence required to improve policy, programs and resources to address FASD.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=3&nid=721989&crtr.tp1D=1>

The Auditor General concluded that the Yukon Hospital Corporation did not fully assess the health care needs in Dawson City and Watson Lake before undertaking work to replace the existing health facilities in those two communities. Three capital projects – two hospitals and a staff residence – will cost more than \$72.5 million to build. The Corporation did not determine the incremental operating costs for the new hospitals until construction was well under way. The cost of operating the new facilities will increase significantly over that of the older facilities.

[http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/mr\\_20130226\\_e\\_37881.html](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/mr_20130226_e_37881.html)

## HOMELESSNESS

A new research study at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute in Ottawa will help to improve support services aimed at youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Its goal is to determine what really works to help youth achieve better housing and mental health outcomes. While a menu of services exists, researchers want to understand how to reduce access barriers to support services. The \$77,000 project will identify best practices for ending youth homelessness. Findings will be shared at the local level to enable communities to improve services and programs in order to better meet the needs of youth.

[Link](#)

\$80,000 in Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding will help The First Steps Housing Project Inc. in Saint John gain a better understanding of the effectiveness of its youth homelessness program. First Steps provides support to pregnant or parenting young women and their children who

are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. They will use the \$80,000 to assess the social and financial benefits of their youth homelessness program using a framework that they developed. Among the first of its kind in Canada, the evaluation may serve as a model for other service providers to determine the impact of their respective programs.

[Link](#)

## HOUSING

On February 27, MPs will vote on Bill C-400, *An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians*. If passed, it will allow coordinated action on affordable housing and homelessness from all partners – governments and non-government stakeholder alike.

[Link](#)

Moderation in economic and employment growth in the second half of 2012 has led to more modest housing demand. With continued moderation expected in the first half of 2013, total annual housing starts are expected to be lower in 2013 relative to 2012, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) first quarter 2013.

<https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/catalog/productList.cfm?-cat=63&lang=en&fr=1361537393375>

As fundamentals, including employment, economic growth and net migration are expected to gain momentum later in 2013 and in 2014, housing starts are expected to trend slightly higher next year.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/hero/here/2013/2013-02-22-0816.cfm>

The International Monetary Fund Staff Report for the 2012 Article IV consultation states that Canada's financial sector is healthy, noting that it "is well capitalized, has posted another year of strong profits, and continues to show low nonperforming loans [loans where orderly repayment is in jeopardy and losses are probable], also owing to high prudential standards and rigorous supervision." The Report supports measures taken by the Government to promote the long-term stability of Canada's housing market, concluding that "the authorities' gradual tightening of mortgage insurance rules was appropriate."

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n13/13-024-eng.asp>

## RECREATION

With support from the federal government The Air Miles Reward Program – via its AIR MILES for Social Change activities – will partner with the YMCA at 15 locations in Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick to enable families to earn AIR MILES reward miles in a variety of ways that encourage physical activity, such as registering their children for day camps, using participating fitness facilities or buying YMCA memberships. Five Calgary YMCAs are participating in this project.

<http://www.ymcacalgary.org/blog/air-miles-at-ymca/>



## WOMEN

Eastern Ontario Training Board in Cornwall, Ontario is receiving \$170,400 for a 24-month project that will provide young women ages 15-17 in Cornwall with opportunities in civic and community leadership development. Funding will come from the federal government's June 2012 call for proposals on the theme "Setting the Stage for Girls and Young Women to Succeed," which, to date, has issued \$4.8 million to organizations to carry out projects that promote leadership and economic prosperity among girls and young women.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=2&nid=722009&crtr.tp1D=1>

## YOUTH

Canada's labour ministers invite young filmmakers to submit videos to the "It's Your Job!" workplace safety video contest, until April 5, 2013. Every year, more than 48,000 young workers are injured seriously enough to require time off work. Last September, the federal, provincial and territorial ministers of labour agreed to directly engage youth about their workplace safety and rights, and jointly launched a national social media video contest. The contest aims to raise awareness by challenging secondary school students and young people from age 18 to 24 to create videos demonstrating the importance of workplace safety and employment rights.

[Link](#)