



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

July 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.

CHILDREN

\$350,000 in funding for the further development of Sophie's Place, a Child Advocacy Centre (CAC), to support child victims of abuse in Surrey. CACs provide a safe, child-friendly environment where a collaborative, coordinated team of professionals work together to help child or youth victims or witnesses navigate the criminal justice system. \$10 million has been allocated since 2010 for the establishment or enhancement of Child Advocacy Centres in more than 20 cities and municipalities across Canada.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

GOVERNANCE

The Parliamentary Budget Office announces that expenditure data for the last quarter of 2012-13 has been uploaded to the Integrated Monitoring Database.

http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/news?news_id=105&myID=1

The Parliamentary Budget Office published a list of compliance with the office's request to government departments and agencies to supply information necessary to undertake analysis of the 2012 federal Budget. Of the 65 organizations contacted, 24 provided data (or reported no impact), 35 did not provide data, 5 provided an ambiguous response, one is listed as "to be determined."

http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/files/files/IR113_Compliance_Chart_20130725_EN.pdf

For the first two months of the 2013-14 fiscal year (April and May), there was a budgetary deficit of \$2.7 billion, compared with a deficit of \$1.8 billion reported in the same period last year. Broken down by month, there was a deficit of \$0.3 billion in April and a deficit of \$2.4 billion in May. For the two months combined, revenues increased by \$0.6 billion, or 1.4 percent, reflecting increases in income tax revenues and other revenues partially offset by a decrease in total excise taxes and duties. Program expenses were up \$1.4 billion, or 3.6 percent, mainly reflecting higher transfer payments. Public debt charges rose by \$0.1 billion, or 2.0 percent, reflecting higher Consumer Price Index adjustments on real return bonds.

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n13/13-099-eng.asp>

INCOME SECURITY

Effective July 2, seniors can choose to delay receiving the Old Age Security (OAS) pension for up to five years, allowing them to receive a higher monthly amount in the future. As part of Budget 2012, the federal government announced the new voluntary deferral option for the OAS, which will give more flexibility and choice in retirement planning to Canadians. The OAS is funded through general tax revenues and is indexed to the Consumer Price Index. In 2012-13, it provided 5.2 million seniors with an estimated \$40.4 billion in benefits.

[Link](#)



The number of regular Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries fell by 2.4 percent (-12,300) to 508,500 in May, continuing the most recent downward trend. Compared with May 2012, the number of people receiving regular EI benefits was down 7.4 percent. While most provinces saw reductions in the number of beneficiaries in May, there was little change in Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and Alberta.
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130718/dq130718-eng.pdf>

Payroll employment, earnings and hours statistics for May 2013 are available at:
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130725/dq130725-eng.pdf>

YOUTH

Release of a federal, provincial and territorial report on cyberbullying and the non-consensual distribution of intimate images. The report recommends creating a new law against non-consensual distribution of intimate images and enhancing current criminal law responses to bullying, including cyberbullying. In addition, the report proposes modernizing investigative powers in the Criminal Code to facilitate the investigation of criminal activity involving electronic communications. The report also recommends that all levels of government continue to build on initiatives to address the issue of cyberbullying including prevention, education and awareness-raising activities.
<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/cndii-cdncii/pdf/cndii-cdncii-eng.pdf>