



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

August 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

The Government of Canada, the Government of Manitoba and Sioux Valley Dakota Nation signed the first-ever self-government agreements in the Prairies. Once in effect, the agreements remove Sioux Valley Dakota Nation from under portions of the *Indian Act* by giving them greater control over decisions that include economic development, land management, education, housing and water, and by providing the mechanisms for good governance. The agreements will give also Sioux Valley Dakota Nation authority to make new laws affecting its community in more than 50 subject areas, including governance, economic and social development, education, housing and more. Governance agreements will be harmonized with existing federal and provincial laws within the Canadian constitutional framework. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation has approximately 2,450 members with about 56 percent living on reserve. The First Nation is located 50 kilometers west of Brandon, Manitoba.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2013-8-01&item=18717>

EMPLOYMENT

Announcement of reforms to strengthen and improve the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). The Government of Canada has now implemented a user fee for employers applying for labour market opinions along with new language and advertising requirements for the TFWP.

[Link](#)

Announcement of continued funding – \$24 million over six years – for new training initiatives in a variety of research areas, including genomics, climate change in the Arctic, clean combustion engines and wireless technology. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) initiative to help science and engineering graduates add valuable job skills. Funded networks will be led by teams of Canadian university researchers who will help students develop leadership, entrepreneurship, communication and project management skills. Established in 2006, CREATE also promotes student mobility between universities and other sectors nationally and internationally.

[Link](#)

Average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees were \$919 in June, up 0.2 percent from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, earnings increased 2.6 percent. The increase in weekly earnings during the 12 months to June reflected a number of factors including wage growth and changes in composition of employment by industry, occupation and level of job experience as well as average hours worked per week. In June, non-farm payroll employees worked an average of 32.9 hours per week, down from 33.1 hours per week recorded both the month before as well as in June 2012.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130828/dq130828-eng.pdf>



GOVERNANCE

Announcement of online consultations inviting Canadians to share their views on the Government of Canada's progress to meet the first-year commitments in its Open Government Action Plan. The consultation will be open for three weeks (August 19 to September 9, 2013) on www.data.gc.ca. The results of this consultation will help develop the Government of Canada's Report on implementing the Action Plan's Year 1 commitments.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=765029&crtr.tp1D=1>

HOUSING

Release of a New Housing Price Index showed a rise of 0.1 percent in May. This increase continued a series of similar gains over the past 15 months.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130808/dq130808-eng.pdf>

SENIORS

The National Seniors Council's priority for 2013-2014 will be to assess how social isolation affects seniors and explore ways to prevent and reduce the social isolation of seniors in Canada.

[Link](#)