



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

September 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

Launch of the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System, a web-based information system intended to map out the location of Aboriginal communities across Canada and to display information pertaining to their potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights.

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1379946768833/1379946872365>

CAREGIVING

Statistics Canada released two reports on caregiving in Canada, both based on new data from the 2012 General Social Survey on Caregiving and Care Receiving. Similar data were last collected in 2007. The first article, *Portrait of Caregivers, 2012*, presents the number of caregivers and their characteristics, along with the types of help provided, the number of hours of care, the impacts of providing care, and financial support for caregivers. The second article, *Family caregiving: What are the consequences?* discusses the psychological, physical and financial consequences of providing care, with a focus on the relationship between the caregiver and receiver.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130910/dq130910-eng.pdf>

DISABILITY

People with disabilities will gain better access to workplaces and services in their communities as a result of the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF). Since its launch in 2007, the EAF has supported more than 1,000 projects across the country. In Budget 2013, the federal government pledged to extend the EAF on an ongoing basis at \$15 million per year to improve accessibility to facilities across Canada, including workplaces.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=2&nid=769309&crtr.tp1D=1>

EDUCATION

Canadian full-time students in undergraduate programs paid 3.3 percent more on average in tuition fees for the 2013-14 academic year this fall than they did a year earlier. This follows a 4.2 percent increase in 2012-13. In comparison, inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index was 1.3 percent between July 2012 and July 2013. On average, undergraduate students paid \$5,772 in tuition fees in 2013-14 compared with \$5,586 a year earlier. Tuition fees rose in all but two provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130912/dq130912-eng.pdf>

EMPLOYMENT

Release of Statistics Canada's August 2013 Labour Force Survey. Employment increased by 59,000 in August, mainly in part-time work, and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage points to 7.1 percent. Over the six months to August, employment gains averaged 12,000 per month, lower than the average of 29,000 observed during the preceding six-month period. Since August 2012, employment has increased by 1.4 percent (246,000). At the same time, the number of hours worked has



grown by 1.3 percent. Provincially, employment increased in Ontario and Alberta, and declined in Manitoba.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130906/dq130906-eng.pdf>

GOVERNANCE

Release of *Fiscal Sustainability Report 2013*. This report provides the Parliamentary Budget Officer's assessment of the long-term sustainability of government finances for three government sub-sectors: the federal government; other levels of government consisting of provinces, territories, local, and aboriginal governments; and the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans. PBO also will be providing an update of the medium-term fiscal outlook for the federal government in October 2013.

http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/files/files/FSR_2013.pdf

HEALTH

Release of the Canadian Community Health Survey: Mental Health, 2012. The survey found that in 2012, approximately 2.8 million people, or 10.1 percent of Canadians aged 15 and older, reported symptoms consistent with at least one of six mental or substance use disorders in the past 12 months. The six disorders measured by the survey were major depressive episode, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and abuse of or dependence on alcohol, cannabis or other drugs. In 2012, 17 percent of Canadians ages 15 and older, approximately 4.9 million individuals, perceived themselves as having had a need for mental health care in the past 12 months. Among these people, two-thirds (67 percent) had their needs met, while 12 percent reported needs that were unmet. The remaining 21 percent had partially met needs, as they received some mental health care, but perceived a need for more.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130918/dq130918-eng.pdf>

INCOME SECURITY

Further to the government's announcement that it will freeze the Employment Insurance (EI) premium rate for employees at the 2013 level of \$1.88 per \$100 of insurable earnings for 2014, and additionally that the rate will be set no higher than \$1.88 for 2015 and 2016, the Canada Employment Insurance Commission announced that the EI Maximum Insurable Earnings (MIE) for 2014 will increase to \$48,600 from \$47,400 in 2013. In accordance with the Employment Insurance Act, the MIE is indexed on an annual basis and represents the ceiling up to which EI premiums are collected and the maximum amount considered in applications for EI benefits.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=770229>

Following little change in June 2013 the number of regular Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries fell 2.1 percent (-10,900) in July 2013 to 503,900. This decline brings the number of beneficiaries to a level similar to that observed before the start of the labour-market downturn in 2008. Compared with July 2012, the number of people receiving regular benefits declined 5.7 percent in July 2013. The number of beneficiaries fell in most provinces, with notable declines in Quebec, Manitoba,

Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Saskatchewan. There were also declines in Nova Scotia, Alberta and New Brunswick, while there was a slight increase in Prince Edward Island. There was little change in Ontario and British Columbia.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130919/dq130919-eng.pdf>

Announcement of the quarterly benefit amounts for Old Age Security (OAS) for October to December 2013. The basic OAS pension benefit paid for to people 65 years of age and older for the fourth quarter will increase by 0.2 percent over the previous quarter (July through September) – from \$549.89 to \$550.99 per month for the maximum benefit. Payments under the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), the Allowance and the Allowance for the Survivor will also increase by the same percentage. The Old Age Security Act guarantees that OAS benefits never go down, even when there is a decrease in the Consumer Price Index set by Statistics Canada. If the average CPI surpasses the previous level in the future, OAS benefits will go up again. However, if the average CPI goes down, OAS benefits will remain the same.

[Link](#)

YOUTH

The federal government announced that \$390,000 is available through the Youth Justice Fund to support provinces and territories in addressing cyberbullying among youth. This call for proposals is part of the Government's Plan for Safe Streets and Communities, one of four priorities identified by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in January 2013. This Plan focuses on tackling crime, enhancing victims' rights, and increasing the efficiency of the justice system.

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/fund-fina/cj-jp/yj-jj/pd-dp/1213.html>