



Canada Social Report

# Federal Policy Monitor

June 2014



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.

#### CAREGIVING

The Canadian Human Rights Commission released the *Guide to Balancing Work and Caregiving Obligations: Collaborative Approaches for a Supportive and Well-performing Workplace*. The online guide offers employers and employees practical tips on what to do when an employee's family caregiving and work responsibilities come into conflict.

[Guide Link](#)

[Story Link](#)

Statistics Canada releases "Receiving care at home," an analytical paper in Spotlight on Canadians: Results from the General Social Survey. The report uses data from the *2012 General Social Survey on Caregiving and Care Receiving* to examine Canadians who rely on care in the home, including the reason for care, the types of people providing help, and the nature and intensity of care. It also looks at the satisfaction with the care received. Some highlights include:

- In 2012, about 2.2 million Canadians with a long-term illness, disability or aging needs had received care in their own home in the last 12 months. This represented 8 percent of all Canadians aged 15 years or older.
- The proportion of Canadians receiving care was similar across the country. The only exceptions were Newfoundland and Labrador, where the proportion was higher at 9 percent, and Alberta, where it was lower at 5 percent.
- Overall, seniors ages 75 and older were the most common care receivers, accounting for one in four Canadians receiving help at home. Younger seniors, aged 65 to 74, represented 13 percent of care receivers, a proportion similar to that of Canadians ages 55 to 64.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140613/dq140613-eng.pdf>

The federal government announced the launch of the Canadian Employers for Caregivers Plan at the first meeting of its newly-established Employer Panel for Caregivers. The Panel is composed of industry leaders from small-, medium- and large-sized businesses, as well as expert advisors on caregiving. Panel members and employers will identify workplace practices that allow informal caregivers to participate in the labour market.

[Link](#)

#### COMMUNITIES

Statistics Canada released estimates of the number of census families as of July 1, 2013, for Canada, the provinces and territories. Estimates are broken down by family type (husband-wife or lone-parent). Data for the years 2006 to 2012 have been revised.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140617/dq140617-eng.pdf>



## DISABILITY

The Public Health Agency of Canada has partnered with Special Olympics Canada, the RBC Foundation and the Samuel Family Foundation to increase opportunities for children living with intellectual disabilities to participate in physical activity. Funding will help expand "Active Start" and "FUNdamentals," two initiatives operated by Special Olympics Canada, which provide children with an intellectual disability the opportunity to improve physical, social and cognitive abilities.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=858739&crtr.tp1D=1>

Statistics Canada announces that data from the *2012 Canadian Survey on Disability* are now available.

<http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&lang=en&db=imdb&adm=8&dis=2&SDDS=3251>

## EDUCATION

Consultations have begun on a strategy to improve the financial literacy of Canadians. The first phase of consultations will focus on seniors. Additional phases will follow with an emphasis on low-income Canadians, Aboriginal peoples, newcomers to Canada, and children, youth and adults. The proposed blueprint *Toward a National Strategy for Financial Literacy – Phase 1: Strengthening Seniors' Financial Literacy* invites comments from all Canadians on ways to bolster the financial literacy of seniors and those approaching this phase of their lives. Stakeholders from the public, private and non-profit sectors will take part in in-person sessions across the country. All Canadians are encouraged to submit comments on the blueprint by mail or e-mail by July 14, 2014.

<http://www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/eng/financialliteracy/financialliteracycanada/strategy/pages/home-accueil.aspx>

## EMPLOYMENT

Statistics Canada data shows that Canadian businesses reported 206,000 job vacancies in March, down 17,000 from the rate in March 2013. For every job vacancy, there were 6.8 unemployed people, up from 6.3 in March 2013, the result of fewer job vacancies.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140617/dq140617-eng.pdf>

The New Brunswick and federal governments signed the Canada-New Brunswick Job Fund in order to establish the Canada Job Grant. As part of the agreement, the province will receive an estimated \$11 million annually over six years. Both governments also signed a Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities (matched funds of \$5.9 million per year until 2018) and the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (matched funds of \$2.5 million per year until 2017) to help unemployed older workers in eligible communities re-enter the labour force.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2014.06.0738.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2014.06.0738.html)

## GOVERNANCE

The Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer released *2014-2015 Federal Transfers to Provinces and Territories*.

[http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/files/files/TransferPayments\\_EN.pdf](http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/files/files/TransferPayments_EN.pdf)

## HEALTH

Statistics Canada reports that the *2013 Canadian Health Survey* data show that one in five youths ages 12 to 17 reported height and weight that classified them as overweight or obese.

The survey results also show shifts in the health and behaviour of the Canadian population. For example, 55.2 percent of Canadians ages 12 and older in 2013 (16.1 million) reported that they were at least "moderately active" during their leisure time, a level equivalent to a 30-minute daily walk or taking an hour-long exercise class, at least three times a week. This was an increase from 53.9 percent in 2012.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140612/dq140612-eng.pdf>

The Canadian Human Rights Commission launched *Accommodation Works! A user-friendly guide to working together on health issues in the workplace*. The guide is an interactive web-based tool designed to achieve a common understanding of the accommodation of health issues in the workplace.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=855689&crtr.tp1D=1>

Statistics Canada reported that Health Indicators (82-221-X) have been updated to include information on unemployment, population estimates and the dependency ratio as well as the latest annual data from the *Canadian Community Health Survey*.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140612/dq140612-eng.pdf>

Transformational Research in Adolescent Mental Health, a partnership of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Graham Boeckh Foundation, announced the launch of ACCESS Canada, a research network. ACCESS Canada's five-year goal is to use research evidence to improve the way Canada cares for young people with mental illness.

[Link](#)

## HOMELESSNESS

The federal government announced a five-year \$2.4 million funding arrangement with the Alberta Rural Development Network to combat homelessness in rural and remote areas across Alberta.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=2&nid=859149&crtr.tp1D=1>



## HOUSING

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) rose 0.2 percent in April, following identical increases in both February and March. On a year-over-year basis, the NHPI rose 1.6 percent in April.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140612/dq140612-eng.pdf>

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation launched a Housing Market Information Portal.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/hero/here/2014/2014-06-16-0816.cfm>

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation released the *Seniors Housing Report – Canada Highlights*. It reported that the vacancy rate for standard spaces – which dominate seniors' residences in Canada – decreased slightly over the past year, reaching 9.7 percent in 2014, compared to 10.3 percent in 2013. A standard space is one that is occupied by a resident paying market rent and who receives care of 1.5 hours or less per day. A non-standard space is one in which the residents receive at least 1.5 hours of care per day, spaces being used for respite and non-market spaces.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/hero/here/2014/2014-06-19-0816.cfm>

## INCOME SECURITY

Statistics Canada reports that about 5.2 million Canadian workers had pension assets managed by trustee pension funds in 2012, up 2.7 percent from 2010. The Census of Trustee Pension Funds, conducted every two years, tracks the number of funds, membership and financial information of trustee pension funds. Data are available by sector (public or private), type of plan and contributory status. The number of trustee pension funds in Canada reached 8,875 in 2012, up 12.8 percent from 2010. The overall membership numbers were split between public sector pension funds, which reported 3.1 million members (a 2.3 percent increase over 2010), and private sector pension funds with 2.1 million members (a 3.2 percent increase).

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140603/dq140603-eng.pdf>

Statistics Canada reports that the number of people receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits totalled 517,100 in April, up slightly (+1.1 percent or +5,600) from March. The number of beneficiaries has been relatively unchanged for almost a year, following a long-term downward trend that began in the summer of 2009. Québec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick saw increases in the number of beneficiaries, while Newfoundland and Labrador posted a decline. There was little change in the other provinces.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140619/dq140619-eng.pdf>