



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

August 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.

EMPLOYMENT

Statistics Canada reported that employment rose by 42,000 in July, the result of an increase in part-time work (+60,000). The unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage points to 7.0 percent. In the 12 months to July, employment increased by 157,000 or 0.9 percent, with most of the growth in part-time work. The total hours worked were up slightly (+0.3 percent) compared with July 2013.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140815/dq140815-eng.pdf>

GOVERNANCE

A report from the Parliamentary Budget Office, Analysis of Performance Budgeting during Recent Fiscal Consolidation, includes two key findings:

- For fiscal years 2010-11 through 2012-13, no consistent statistically significant relationship existed between a department's performance and its budget growth in the subsequent year.
- The performance data for 108 organizations does not suggest that financial resources have been reallocated from low-performing to high-performing programs. Rather, low-performing programs were somewhat more likely, on average, to receive budget increases in the subsequent year than programs that met targets or did not present measurable performance data.

The report also states that these findings are consistent with an earlier report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It concluded that performance budgeting data among member countries were "less influential" on decision-making during the fiscal consolidation that followed the Great Recession.

http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/files/files/Analysis%20of%20Performance%20Budgeting_EN.pdf

HEALTH

Statistics Canada released "Inuit health: Selected findings from the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey." Sample health indicator: Less than half of Inuit report excellent or very good health, Sample health behaviour: The proportion of Inuit who report smoking cigarettes on a daily basis declined between 2001 and 2012. Sample social determinant of health: Inuit face limited access to health care and are more likely to experience household food insecurity.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140826/dq140826-eng.pdf>

HOMELESSNESS

The federal government is investing \$4,600,000 in funding through the Regional Municipality of Peel as it implements Housing First, a proven, evidence-based approach to end homelessness.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr:page=5&nid=876789&ctr:tp1D=1>

The federal government committed \$2,200,000 in funding through the Regional Municipality of Waterloo as it implements Housing First.

[Link](#)

TAXES

The Department of Finance released for consultation draft legislative proposals that would implement tax measures from Economic Action Plan 2014.

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-113-eng.asp>