



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

December 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.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

The overall employment rate for the Métis population was similar to that of the total Canadian population in 2012. According to data from the 2012 Labour Force Survey, the employment rate of the Métis population was 60.7 percent compared with 61.8 percent for the Canadian population. The *2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey* shows that Métis employment rates were highest in Canada's western provinces, with Alberta (68.1 percent), Manitoba (67.6 percent), British Columbia (66.1 percent) and Saskatchewan (65.9 percent) all above the national average.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141209/dq141209-eng.pdf>

CHILDREN

In March 2015, Bill C-13 the newly-enacted *Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act* will:

- prohibit the non-consensual distribution of intimate images
- empower a court to order the removal of intimate images from the Internet
- permit the court to order forfeiture of the computer, cell phone or other device used in the offence
- provide for reimbursement to victims for costs incurred in removing the intimate image from the Internet
- empower the court to make an order to prevent someone from distributing intimate images.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&ctrl.page=1&nid=913359>

COMMUNITIES

Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act came into force on December 6, 2014. The new criminal law provisions, together with new funding of \$20 million to support programming for those who want to leave prostitution, provides a comprehensive approach to assisting victims of sexual exploitation and protecting Canadians from the harms of prostitution.

[Link](#)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Canada's population was estimated at 35,675,800 on October 1, 2014, up 135,400 (+0.4 percent) from July 1, 2014, according to preliminary population estimates. Population growth in the third quarter was similar to that recorded for the same period in 2013 and was driven mainly by international migration, which accounted for 69.1 percent of the increase.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141217/dq141217-eng.pdf>

DISABILITY

The government announced reforms to the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities to better connect these Canadians with jobs. The fund is being strengthened to better support youth, increase the amount



of practical, hands-on work experience that comes from these projects and better target in-demand jobs.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=910669>

Statistics Canada reported that the employment rate of Canadians ages 25 to 64 with disabilities was 49 percent in 2011, compared with 79 percent for Canadians without a disability. Among those with a 'very severe' disability, the employment rate was 26 percent. The department released two facts sheets as part of the Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012: "Mental health-related disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years and older, 2012" and "Learning disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years and older, 2012."

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141203/dq141203-eng.pdf>

Statistics Canada announced that data on the labour force status of adults with disabilities, by disability type, sex and age group for Canada and the provinces and territories are now available for 2012.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141218/dq141218-eng.pdf>

EDUCATION

Statistics Canada reports that almost 9 out of 10 Canadians (89 percent) ages 25 to 64 had completed at least high school in 2012, higher than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average of 75 percent. In 2012, almost two-thirds (65 percent) of Canadians ages 25 to 64 had completed a postsecondary education. Overall, the proportion of individuals who had a university degree (bachelor's to PhD) was 28 percent, ranking eighth among OECD countries. Those attaining a postsecondary education at the college, trade, vocational or university certificate below bachelor's level accounted for 37 percent of Canadians ages 25 to 64. This is partly a reflection of Canada's extensive network of colleges, one not seen in most other OECD countries.

Canada compares favourably to the OECD average in terms of literacy. In Canada, nationally, and for most of the provinces and territories, the percentage of those who performed at the highest level of literacy was at or above the OECD average in 2012. The percentage of Canadians performing at the highest level of numeracy was at or above the OECD average in roughly half of the jurisdictions and in Canada overall. However, Canada had a slightly higher proportion of adults performing at the lowest numeracy level; 23 percent versus the OECD average of 20 percent.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141215/dq141215-eng.pdf>

EMPLOYMENT

Statistics Canada reported that, following two months of notable gains, employment was little changed in November. The unemployment rate increased 0.1 percentage points to 6.6 percent. Compared with November 2013, employment increased by 146,000 (+0.8 percent), with part-time and full-time work up 1.9 percent and 0.6 percent respectively. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked was little

changed (+0.1 percent). In the six months to November, employment grew by an average of 21,300 per month, compared with an average of 3,000 per month for December 2013 to May 2014.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141205/dq141205-eng.pdf>

The federal government will contribute \$4 million to two job creation programs in Prince Edward Island. The Career Prep Program is jointly funded with the private sector and will receive \$3 million in federal funding. It will offer work experience in local small- to medium-sized enterprises to more than 400 post-secondary students. The second program, Building Bridges for Immigrants, will receive nearly \$1 million to help internationally trained professionals have their credentials recognized and secure jobs in their fields.

[Link](#)

FAMILIES

Public Health Agency of Canada has launched "Stop Family Violence," a web-based resource for health professionals and the public.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=2&nid=914419&crtr.tp1D=1>

GOVERNANCE

Major federal transfers to provinces and territories will total \$67.9 billion in 2015-16, an increase of more than \$3 billion from the current year, and almost 63 percent since 2005-06.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=3&nid=914349&crtr.tp1D=1>

HEALTH

Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) announced a five-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) between CSC and the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group's Brockville Mental Health Centre. The agreement provides guaranteed access to two in-patient beds, strengthening CSC's capacity to address the unique needs of women federal offenders with the most complex mental health needs. Services will include forensic psychiatry and psychology, nursing, social work and vocational therapy. Women offenders with all forms of complex mental disorders may be considered for admission to the Brockville Mental Health Centre. The MOU builds on the Mental Health Action Plan for Federal Offenders, launched on May 1, 2014.

[Link](#)

The Canadian Human Rights Commission regrets the decision by Correctional Services Canada to reject changes to the practice of solitary confinement, contrary to recommendations of the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Ashley Smith. Solitary confinement, known in the correctional system as "administrative segregation," has been described by the United Nations and by the Canadian Medical Association Journal as "cruel and unusual punishment." It is inconsistent with human rights law, particularly when mental illness is involved. The Canadian Human Rights



Commission joins the Correctional Investigator of Canada in calling for greater limits on the use of solitary confinement, including an absolute ban on its use on inmates who are suicidal, self-harming or have other significant mental health problems.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=3&nid=913999&ctr.tp1D=1>

According to results from the *2012 Canadian Community Health Survey – Mental Health*, 12 percent of Canadians ages 15 to 24 reported that, in the previous year, they had seen or talked on the telephone to a health professional about problems with their emotions, mental health or use of alcohol or drugs. More than twice as many (27 percent) had consulted informal sources including friends and family about such problems.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141217/dq141217-eng.pdf>

Nine new research projects will investigate the relationship between inflammation and chronic disease, including arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma and cardiovascular disease. The projects will be supported with federal government funding of \$21.9 million over five years through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and its partners – The Arthritis Society and Crohn's and Colitis Canada. The projects were funded under CIHR's Roamap Signature Initiative on Inflammation in Chronic Disease.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=2&nid=916409&ctr.tp1D=1>

HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding from 2014-2019 now extends to all regions of Manitoba. This funding includes resources directed to prevent and reduce homelessness in rural and remote communities and among Aboriginal peoples.

[Link](#)

HOUSING

On a year-over-year basis, the New Housing Price Index rose 1.6 percent in October. Annual price movements at the national level have ranged from gains of 1.3 percent to 1.6 percent since September 2013.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141211/dq141211-eng.pdf>

INCOME SECURITY

Statistics Canada used data from the *2012 Longitudinal and International Study of Adults* to examine the pension coverage of employed Canadians ages 25 to 54. The study group included individuals who worked during the reference week or in the 12 months preceding the survey and who had positive employment income in the previous year. In 2012, one-third of employed women and one-quarter of employed men ages 25 to 54 were covered by a defined benefit pension plan. Women had higher coverage rates mostly because they were more likely than men to be employed in sectors with higher rates of pension coverage. These sectors included educational services, health care and social assistance, and

public administration, which, in 2012, employed 42 percent of women and 17 percent of men.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141218/dq141218-eng.pdf>

The federal government announced that Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits will increase by 1.8 percent for those already receiving CPP benefits. For 2015, the maximum CPP retirement benefit for new recipients age 65 will be \$1,065.00 per month. This increase is calculated on the average yearly maximum pensionable earnings for the last five years. The new CPP rates will be in effect until December 31, 2015. CPP benefits are revised once a year, in January, based on changes over the 12-month period (November 2013 to October 2014) in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is the cost-of-living measure used by Statistics Canada.

Old Age Security (OAS) benefits, which consist of the basic OAS pension, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and the Allowances, will remain the same for the first quarter of 2015 (January to March). As of January 1, 2015, the basic OAS pension will stay at \$563.74 per month. OAS benefits are also based on the CPI, but are reviewed quarterly (in January, April, July and October) and revised as required to reflect increases in the cost of living as measured by the CPI. Although OAS and CPP benefits are not indexed at the same time, they are both adjusted to the cost of living over a given year.

[Link](#)

Statistics Canada reported that average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees were \$942 in October, little changed from \$939 the previous month. Average weekly earnings have hovered around \$940 since July. Compared with 12 months earlier, weekly earnings increased by 2.8 percent.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/141222/dq141222-eng.pdf>