



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

February 2015



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 announced that it will provide an additional \$11.1 million in funding for the Aboriginal Justice Strategy, a program that addresses the disproportionately high rates of victimization, crime and incarceration experienced by Aboriginal peoples.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=933169&tp=1>

CAREGIVING

Federal support in the amount of \$127,000 was announced for Saint Elizabeth Health Care in Markham, Ontario. The funding will support a project to assist health care providers working in homes and in long-term care facilities to improve the care experience of clients, residents and their families, especially those living with dementia. Working with the Alzheimer Society of Canada, Saint Elizabeth will develop training and educational supports for staff in three long-term care facilities in Alberta, Ontario and Nova Scotia, and three home care service delivery centres in Ontario and BC. The training will equip staff at all levels with the tools to implement person-centred care in these settings. Person-centred care is an approach that puts patients and their families at the heart of all decisions and actions related to the management of their own health and care. Training will also include a specific focus on dementia, supporting staff to better address the needs of those living with this illness, and their caregivers. Saint Elizabeth will develop an online toolkit to help other long-term care facilities and home care providers across Canada incorporate person-centred care practices at all levels of their organizations. Federal funding for this initiative is provided through the Health Care Policy Contribution Program.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=935699>

Statistics Canada released a study detailing senior care and the impact of housing type. In 2012, 5.4 million Canadians provided care to a senior family member or friend. This care was most often provided to a senior living in his or her own private residence, though the intensity of care was highest for caregivers who lived with their care recipient. Overall:

- 62 percent of caregivers helping seniors said that the care receiver lived in a private residence separate from their own
- 16 percent lived with their care recipient
- 14 percent provided help to a senior in a care facility (such as a hospital or a nursing home)
- 8 percent helped seniors in supportive housing.

The intensity of care was highest among those living with their care recipient, with more than half (56 percent) saying that they spent at least 10 hours a week providing care. Caregivers' weekly commitments were also elevated for those helping someone in a care facility, but to a lesser extent. About 22 percent of these caregivers spent 10 hours or more providing care to a senior in a care facility.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150225/dq150225-eng.pdf>



CHILDREN

The federal government announced \$225,000 in funding for the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation to explore the development of a Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC), the Umingmak Child and Youth Protection Centre, that would serve young victims and their families living in Nunavut. Funding will be used to identify the existing gaps in service delivery, gain a more in-depth understanding of the incidence of child abuse in the territory, and explore the unique cultural and practical requirements for a CYAC in Nunavut. The funding will also be used to determine the sustainability of a CYAC that would provide for coordinated intervention, investigation, prosecution and treatment to help children and youth who have been victimized or have witnessed a violent crime.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=938019&tp=1>

DEMOGRAPHICS

Statistics Canada population estimates show that on July 1, 2014, almost 7 in 10 Canadians, or 24,858,600 people, were living in a census metropolitan area (CMA). More than one in three Canadians (35.3 percent) made their home in Canada's three largest CMAs – Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150211/dq150211-eng.pdf>

DISABILITY

The YMCA of Greater Toronto is receiving more than \$331,000 from the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities to help 45 people with disabilities in the Greater Toronto Area overcome barriers to employment. Project participants will benefit from group workshops and one-on-one training to learn or improve employment skills, such as teamwork and effective communication, and assist them with career decision-making. They may also gain work experience with local employers in areas, such as office administration and the service industry.

[Link](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey reports that employment increased by 35,000 in January 2015, the result of more part-time work. The unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage points to 6.6 percent. In the 12 months to January, employment increased by 128,000 (+0.7 percent) with most of the growth in the second half of the period. In January, part-time employment increased by 47,000 and full-time was little changed. Compared with January 2014, full-time employment rose by 108,000 (+0.8 percent), while there was little change in part-time work. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked was up slightly (+0.3 percent).

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150206/dq150206-eng.pdf>

Statistics Canada reported that the number of people receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits totalled 495,300 in December, little changed (+0.7 percent) from the previous month. Compared with December 2013, the number of beneficiaries decreased by 24,500 or 4.7

percent. In December, there were more beneficiaries in New Brunswick and Manitoba compared with the previous month. Increases were posted in Alberta, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Quebec. There was a slight decline in beneficiaries for British Columbia, and little change in all other provinces. The change in the number of regular EI beneficiaries reflects various situations, including people becoming beneficiaries, people going back to work and people no longer receiving regular benefits.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150219/dq150219-eng.pdf>

FAMILIES

Ottawa announced a 10-year, \$100 million investment to prevent, detect and combat family violence and child abuse. The investment will be administered through the Public Health Agency of Canada (\$7 million/year) and Health Canada (\$3 million/year), for a total of \$10 million annually for the next 10 years. The investment will support victims of violence and their children through a multifaceted approach that will:

- better equip health professionals with the information and training they need to safely support victims of domestic violence and child abuse
- improve the health and well-being of victims of violence in their communities
- enable access to mental health counselling for victims of violence
- support and enhance organizations and partnerships that provide integrated services to victims of violence.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=index&ctr.page=1&nid=936429>

GOVERNANCE

The Parliamentary Budget Officer released Supplementary Estimates (C), 2014–2015. This report provides information to support the Government's request for Parliament to approve \$1.78 billion in voted appropriations for 41 federal organizations. So far this fiscal year, government spending presented in voted budgetary estimates through the Main Estimates and Supplementary Estimates (A), (B), and (C) total \$93.4 billion. This continues a four-year decline in spending.

http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/files/files/Publications/SuppsC_2014-15_EN.pdf

The Finance Department released the 2014 Tax Expenditures and Evaluations report. This report provides estimates and projections of the revenue impacts of federal tax measures designed to ensure the proper functioning of the federal tax system and support the economic and social priorities of the Government of Canada.

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/taxexp-depfisc/2014/taxexp14-eng.asp>

The government released the Fiscal Monitor for December 2014. It reported a budgetary surplus of \$2.4 billion in December 2014, compared with a surplus of \$1.2 billion in December 2013. The transfer of



General Motors common shares to Ontario raised the budgetary surplus by \$0.9 billion. Revenues increased by \$1.0 billion, or 4.3 percent, as increases in corporate income tax revenues and other revenues were partially offset by a reduction in personal income tax revenues. Program expenses decreased by \$0.2 billion, or 1.2 percent, largely reflecting a drop in direct program expenses, offset in part by an increase in major transfers to other levels of government. Public debt charges increased by \$32 million, or 1.5 percent.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=4&nid=940909&ctr.tp1D=1>

HEALTH

The federal government is advancing regulations that will require manufacturers to publicly report drug shortages. Alerts will allow Canadians to work with their health care professionals to find alternative treatment options.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do;jsessionid=?mthd=index&ctr.page=1&nid=930039>

HOMELESSNESS

The City of Toronto is receiving more than \$86 million in funding over five years to support its implementation of Housing First, a proven, evidence-based approach to end homelessness. The Housing First approach came into effect on April 1, 2014, and is being introduced gradually across the country over the next two years with specified funding targets, taking into account varying capacity and resources across communities.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=6&nid=932349&ctr.tp1D=1>

HOUSING

According to CMHC's first quarter 2015 Housing Market Outlook, Canada Edition, housing starts in 2015 will remain similar to levels observed in 2014, and broadly in line with economic and demographic trends. By 2016, slight moderation is expected.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/hero/here/2015/2015-02-06-0816.cfm>

INCOME SECURITY

Statistics Canada released data on the number of Canadians investing in Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) based on tax returns filed for 2013. Contributions totalled \$37.4 billion in 2013. Just under 6 million taxfilers contributed to an RRSP in 2013, virtually unchanged from 2012. The percentage of taxfilers who contributed to an RRSP edged down from 23.7 percent in 2012 to 23.4 percent in 2013.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150213/dq150213-eng.pdf>

The Parliamentary Budget Officer released a report and PowerPoint detailing the impact of Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA). It concludes that TFSA benefits, currently balanced across wealth groups will become increasingly skewed toward high wealth households over time. By 2060,

gains for high wealth households project to be twice the median and ten times that of low-wealth households.

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

Report: http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/files/files/TFSA_2015_EN.pdf

RECREATION

A National Health and Fitness Day Roundtable brought together health and physical activity leaders from across all sectors including academia, non-government organizations, volunteer groups and the private sector. The roundtable was convened in recognition of the coming into force of Bill S-211, which proclaimed the first Saturday in June as National Health and Fitness Day.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=928399>

SENIORS

The federal government approved more than 1,850 New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) community-based projects across Canada. These projects, selected from the NHSP's 2014–2015 call for proposals, will help seniors to participate in a wide range of local programs and activities. The Government of Canada released the Government of Canada Action for Seniors report in September 2014. Budget 2014 increased funding for the NHSP by \$5 million per year, for a total of \$50 million provided to this program annually.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=3&nid=940339&ctr.tp1D=1>