



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

June 2017



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.

CHILDREN

The federal government announced an agreement on a Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework to enhance provincial and territorial early learning and child care systems. Investments from Budgets 2016 and 2017 totalling \$7.5 billion over 11 years will help create more high quality, affordable child care. In the coming months, the federal government will work with each province and territory to enter into three-year bilateral agreements. The Framework will complement the development of a separate Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework between the Government of Canada and Indigenous partners that will reflect the unique cultural needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children. [Link](#)

DISABILITY

The federal government granted \$750,000 to the Neil Squire Society to develop of a network of groups and people with technical skills to support the identification, development, testing, dissemination and deployment of open source assistive technologies (open AT). Through an online portal, "makers" will be matched to a specific person with a disability to assist with their specific accessibility requirement. Open AT will have a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities as it will allow for the production and delivery of innovative devices at the community level. Funding was awarded under the Social Development Partnerships Program-Disability Component (SDPP-D). [Link](#)

The federal government announced that it has joined the Global Action on Disability Network to exchange ideas, best practices and lessons on how to promote:

- the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development efforts
- efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
- humanitarian action.

In addition, Canada is endorsing the *Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action*. [Link](#)

EDUCATION

The federal government announced the launch of a \$50 million program to teach children coding and other digital skills. Over the next two years, 500,000 students from kindergarten to grade 12 will learn the in-demand skills that will prepare them for future jobs. [Link](#)

The Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund is a \$2-billion initiative designed to modernize research and commercialization facilities at Canadian universities, colleges and polytechnics. Through the



program, the Government of Canada is partnering with the provinces and territories to fund projects that:

- improve the scale or quality of facilities for research and innovation, including spaces for the commercialization of research
- improve the scale or quality of facilities for specialized training at colleges focused on industry needs
- improve the environmental sustainability of research and innovation-related facilities at universities and colleges.

[Link](#)

EMPLOYMENT

The number of regular Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries fell by 7,000 (-1.3 percent) to 541,200 in April, a sixth consecutive monthly decline.

The number of people receiving benefits decreased in four provinces, most notably in Alberta (-3.8 percent) and Ontario (-2.3 percent), followed by Manitoba (-1.4 percent) and Québec (-1.3 percent). Conversely, the number of beneficiaries increased in Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.3 percent), Saskatchewan (+1.6 percent) and Prince Edward Island (+1.3 percent).

There was little change in the remaining provinces.

On a year-over-year basis, the number of people receiving benefits in Canada edged down 3,400 (-0.6 percent) in April.

[Link](#)

FAMILIES

The initial findings from Statistics Canada's 2015 version of the Time Use Survey reported that the division of household labour has changed markedly over the past 30 years. While Canadian fathers are doing more, mothers still contribute the most time to unpaid housework and child care. The survey has been conducted six times since 1986.

[Link](#)

HEALTH

Statistics Canada released a new edition of *Health Indicators*. It includes updated health region estimates of population counts, dependency ratios and unemployment rates as well as provincial and territorial level estimates of low birth weight.

[Link](#)

Canada will contribute \$100 million over three fiscal years (between fiscal years 2017 to 2018 and 2019 to 2020) to the Global Polio Eradication Initiatives' Endgame Strategic Plan.

[Link](#)

The federal government announced more funding for Don't Change Much, a national initiative to help Canadian men make simple lifestyle changes that can result in long-term health benefits.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The federal government announced the launch of the Manitoba Métis Federation mobile outreach office, which will provide the Métis Nation in Manitoba with improved access to services, such as citizenship applications and training and education programs.

[Link](#)

The federal government announced that it is working with self-governing Indigenous governments on a new self-government fiscal policy framework. Funding reductions for self-governing Indigenous governments under Canada's own-source revenue policy will be suspended for up to three years while parties work toward a new self-government fiscal policy framework. While work is under way to develop a new policy, those bands with self-government agreements will be able to allocate all of their resources to the most pressing needs in their communities.

Under Canada's own-source revenue policy, federal transfers to support those bands with self-government agreements are offset by a portion of each of their own-source revenues. Own-source revenue is the revenue that a government raises by collecting taxes and resource revenues or by generating business and other income. Under self-government agreements, self-governing Indigenous governments use this revenue to contribute to the costs of their own operations, such as providing programs and services to their citizens.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/HEALTH

The federal government announced new funding for initiatives that will improve access to midwifery services in First Nations and Inuit communities. Budget 2017 included new investments totalling \$828 million over five years to improve the health outcomes of people in First Nations and Inuit communities. Of this total, more than \$83 million over five years is dedicated to maternal and child health, including \$6 million over five years to support culturally-safe midwifery in communities.

[Link](#)

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research are investing \$8 million to form a cross-country mentorship network for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples considering a career in health research.

[Link](#)

LABOUR MARKET

Statistics Canada reported that employment rose by 55,000 in May, spurred by an increase in full-time work (+77,000). At the same time,



the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to 6.6 percent, the result of more people participating in the labour market. Compared with 12 months earlier, there were 317,000 (+1.8 percent) more people employed, mostly the result of increases in full-time work. Over the same period, the total number of hours worked rose 0.7 percent.

[Link](#)

Statistics Canada released a new study “[The impact of aging on labour market participation rates](#),” based on Labour Force Survey data.

[Link](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

The federal government announced \$4.8 million for three new networks under the International Knowledge Translation Platforms initiative of the Networks of Centres of Excellence. This funding will support international collaborations for youth mental health and addiction services, prisoner mental health services and best practices in health care supply chains.

[Link](#)

SOCIAL FINANCE

The Government of Canada developing a Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy to unlock new innovative approaches that improve the well-being of Canadians. This commitment will support communities in addressing their most difficult problems and help their most vulnerable members contribute to and share in the prosperity of their community.

[Link](#)

WOMEN

Canada’s new Feminist International Assistance Policy aims to position Canada as a leader on gender equality in its aid programming. The policy applies a human rights approach in promoting six interlinked areas for action:

- gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
- human dignity
- growth that works for everyone
- environment and climate action
- inclusive governance
- peace and security.

Under the new Women’s Voice and Leadership Program, the government will allocate \$150 million over five years to respond to the needs of local women’s organizations in developing countries that are working to advance the rights of women and girls and promote gender equality.

[Link](#)

Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada is receiving \$898,468 for a 36-month project to engage men and boys as agents of change in reducing violence against women and girls across all four regions of Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homeland which consists of Inuvialuit (NWT), Nunatsiavut (Labrador), Nunavik (Québec) and Nunavut. Through this project, Pauktuutit will partner with women’s organizations, men’s groups, frontline service providers such as shelters, and other stakeholders to develop and implement targeted interventions that are culturally appropriate. They will work directly with men’s groups to help them take a leadership role against violence. A national role-model campaign will also be developed to encourage men, women and youth to speak out and take actions against gender-based violence.

[Link](#)