



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

July 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.

EMPLOYMENT

As announced in Budget 2017, the federal government's Innovation and Skills Plan will support the growth of small- and medium-sized businesses by encouraging the public and private sectors to collaborate in bringing more early-stage research to market. Specifically, the government is investing in:

- the \$1.2-billion [Strategic Innovation Fund](#) and \$950-million [Innovation Superclusters Initiative](#) to increase business investment in research and development
- faster access to top talent from around the world, under the [Global Skills Strategy](#), which will support the scale up of high-growth Canadian companies and keep the jobs they create in this country
- a program that supports small businesses interested in having the federal government as a first buyer and early adopter of their innovations
- venture capital funding for high-growth firms
- better access to business innovation programs administered by the federal government.

[Link](#)

Statistics Canada reported that in May, 2017, 525,300 people received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, down 12,800 (-2.4 percent) from April. This continues a downward trend that began in late autumn 2016, reflecting the relative strength observed in the economy.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The federal government released a set of *Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*. The Principles will guide the review of laws, policies and operational practices and form a foundation for transforming how the federal government partners with and supports Indigenous peoples and governments. The Principles are rooted in Section 35 of the Constitution and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and informed by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

[Link](#)

The Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee took a major step towards reconciliation with the signing of the Agreement on Cree Nation Governance.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/CHILDREN

Representatives of the Government of Canada and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), signed a Letter of Accord confirming their partnership to reform child and family services for First Nations in



Saskatchewan. Canada is providing \$441,176 to FSIN to begin its work with communities.

FSIN represents First Nations in Saskatchewan, and through this funding will facilitate engagement and consensus-building in matters affecting child and family services for First Nations in the province. Their findings will contribute to long-term strategic planning and the redesign of how child and family services are delivered to First Nations.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/EDUCATION

The federal government released \$5 million for two initiatives that will help First Nations students pursue and complete their post-secondary studies.

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) will receive \$2 million through the Government of Canada's Post-Secondary Partnerships Program each year, for two years, starting in 2017-2018. This funding will serve as a pilot project to determine how longer-term sustainable funding provides lasting benefits for Indigenous students and the Institute. This initiative marks the first step in the Government of Canada's Comprehensive Review of Post-Secondary Education, undertaken in collaboration with Indigenous partners. The review will ensure that the current federal programs supporting Indigenous students' pursuit of post-secondary education meet their actual needs.

\$3 million will be provided to First Nations University of Canada to develop a National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/HEALTH

The federal and Ontario governments committed working together with Nishnawbe Aski Nation – representing 49 First Nations in Northern Ontario – on health transformation by signing the Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in Nishnawbe Aski Nation Territory.

[Link](#)

The Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and their partners signed an agreement with the Tlicho Government to provide \$24.9 million in funding and in-kind contributions to establish a NWT Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (SUPPORT) Unit – Hotii ts'eeda.

Hotii ts'eeda means working together for good health. The vision for the Unit is to support health research and training that is rooted in Dene, Inuvialuit and Métis knowledge – research that is relevant and responds to the needs of patients, communities and governments to build capacity, creating a culturally competent health system and improved health. It aims to facilitate information-sharing to ensure patient-centered and culturally appropriate approaches.

Hotii ts'eeda responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action through its governance approach, which integrates Indigenous knowledge holders, researchers, and the health and social services system and residents of the NWT. With this announcement, SPOR SUPPORT Units have now been established in all provinces and the NWT.

[Link](#)

LABOUR MARKET

Statistics Canada's June 2017 *Labour Force Survey* reported that employment rose by 45,000 in June, mostly in part-time work. The unemployment rate was 6.5 percent, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous month. Compared with 12 months earlier, there were 351,000 (+1.9 percent) more people employed. Most of the growth was in full-time work (+248,000 or +1.7 percent), while part-time employment was also up (+103,000 or +3.0 percent). The total number of hours worked increased 1.4 percent over this period.

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