



Canada Social Report

Federal Policy Monitor

October 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 and PEI governments announced \$216,350 for Child Protection Services of Prince Edward Island to train social workers and police in interviewing child victims of sexual assault in order to obtain accurate and reliable disclosures.

[Link](#)

COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

To reverse the trend of Indigenous over-representation in Canada's criminal justice system, and to help previously incarcerated Indigenous peoples heal, rehabilitate and find good jobs, the federal government is investing \$10 million over five years for the Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative. Funding will support approaches to community safety that are responsive to the concerns, priorities and unique circumstances of Indigenous communities.

[Link](#)

DEMOGRAPHICS

Statistics Canada released 2016 Census results which provide a new national statistical portrait of immigration and ethnocultural diversity in Canada. On Census Day, 21.9 percent of the population reported they were or had ever been a landed immigrant or permanent resident in Canada. This proportion is close to the 22.3 percent recorded during the 1921 Census, the highest level since Confederation.

In 2016, Canada had 1,212,075 new immigrants who had permanently settled in Canada from 2011 to 2016. These recent immigrants represented 3.5 percent of Canada's total population in 2016.

[Link](#)

DEMOGRAPHICS/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Statistics Canada released its first results on First Nations people, Métis and Inuit from the 2016 Census of Population. Past censuses have emphasized two key characteristics of the Aboriginal population: that Aboriginal peoples are both young in age and growing in number. The 2016 Census reaffirmed these trends. New data also reveal both the changing nature and the diversity of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit populations.

[Link](#)

EMPLOYMENT

The number of regular Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries decreased by 9,600 (-1.8 percent) to 524,200 in August. This decline continues a downward trend that began in October 2016. While the number of EI beneficiaries increased in Saskatchewan and was little changed in BC, the number of beneficiaries fell in the remaining eight provinces.

[Link](#)

GOVERNANCE

The Parliamentary Budget Officer published Fiscal Sustainability Report 2017. It concludes that medium-term budget plans are insufficient to evaluate the sustainability of current fiscal policy. The report also states



that, taken from the perspective of the government sector as a whole (i.e., federal and subnational governments and public pension plans combined), current fiscal policy in Canada is sustainable over the long term. However, this perspective masks unsustainable fiscal policy at the subnational level. While federal net debt is projected to be eliminated entirely in just over 40 years, PBO projects that subnational government net debt will rise from 28.0 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) to more than 100 percent of GDP within the next 75 years under current fiscal policy.

[Link](#)

The federal government has changed the definition of the age of dependants from “under 19” to “under 22.” This change will help more immigrant families stay together. The government has published a [web tool](#) to help families determine if their child qualifies as a dependant under the new regulations.

[Link](#)

The Parliamentary Budget Officer published Economic and Fiscal Outlook – October 2017. The report projects that, while the Canadian economy advanced at a robust pace in the first half of 2017, growth in consumer spending will moderate and residential investment will continue to decline in the second half as borrowing rates rise and disposable income gains diminish.

[Report Link](#)

[Release Link](#)

HOUSING

Statistics Canada published key results from the 2016 Census. Data indicate that the housing landscape in Canada has changed over the past decade, against a backdrop of record low interest rates since the 2008-09 recession, increased construction of condominiums and rising home prices. This census release describes key housing indicators, such as the rate of homeownership, the share of households living in condominiums and the share of households living in shelter not considered affordable.

[Link](#)

INCOME SECURITY

The federal government announced four key measures in the Fall Economic Statement. These include strengthening the Canada Child Benefit by making annual cost of living increases starting in July 2018, two years ahead of schedule and enhancing the Working Income Tax Benefit by an additional \$500 million per year, starting in 2019.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The federal government announced that an Agreement-in-Principle aimed at resolving Sixties Scoop litigation has been reached. It includes individual compensation and the establishment of a foundation that will focus on healing, wellness, language, culture and commemoration.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/CHILDREN

The federal government announced a contribution of \$800,000 to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) First Nations Family Advocate Office (FNFAO). The funding will be used to expand the advocacy role of the AMC FNFAO and to support families who have brought, or who are bringing, their children home after a period of time in child and family services care.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/EDUCATION

Canada’s Minister of Indigenous Services and representatives of the Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre celebrated the opening of the Manitoba First Nations School System. The new school system is a First Nations-led education transformation initiative. It will assist First Nations schools in addressing student outcomes including student retention, completion and graduation rates. The school system is the result of the Education Governance Agreement that was reached in December 2016.

[Link](#)

LABOUR MARKET

Employment was essentially unchanged in September (+10,000 or +0.1 percent). The unemployment rate remained at 6.2 percent, matching the low of October 2008. Gains in full-time employment (+112,000) in September were mostly offset by declines in part time (-102,000). In August, there was a decline in the number of people working full time and an increase in part time.

[Link](#)

WOMEN

As a means of advancing gender equality, Status of Women Canada is inviting organizations to apply for new funding totalling \$15 million. Through two new calls for proposals, organizations will receive financial support for projects that address institutional barriers that limit women’s economic security.

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