




Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

January 2009



CANADA SOCIAL REPORT



The [Caledon Institute of Social Policy](#) regularly scans provincial and territorial government websites in order to follow policy and program developments related to our core work and interests. A partial list includes: disability, education, health, housing, income security, poverty reduction, recreation, seniors and youth. This tracking is intended to inform our analysis of policy trends. Monitors can be searched on the Canada Social Report website by date, jurisdiction and category.

## Newfoundland and Labrador

### EDUCATION

"Jump Start Your Life" promotional campaign encourages female junior high students to register for skilled trades courses. Province investing \$11 million in new high school skilled trades program.

[www.jumpstartnl.ca](http://www.jumpstartnl.ca)

Adult learners supported through 25 scholarships valued at \$2,000 each for recent graduates of Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development or the Comprehensive Arts and Science College Transition program.

*The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

### YOUTH

\$2.29 million in combined federal and provincial funding to build 14 safe affordable housing units with on-site support, a basic literacy and math skill program, and an employment preparation program in St. John's.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/tw/0120n02.htm>

## Québec

### HOUSING

Owners of a principal residence or a 2- or 3-unit building whose owner occupies one of the units can get a refundable tax credit for home improvement and renovation. 170,000 households will be able to receive tax relief of \$250 million in 2009-10 at an average tax credit of \$1,470 per household.

[http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/communiqués/en/](http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/communiqués/en/COMEN_20090114-2.pdf)

[COMEN\\_20090114-2.pdf](http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/communiqués/en/COMEN_20090114-2.pdf)

### INCOME SECURITY

Child support amounts increased an average of 2.36 percent on January 2009 (amounts vary by number of children, family income, shared custody arrangements).

*The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

## Ontario

### HEALTH

Children in Need of Treatment expanded to provide emergency dental care to low-income children from birth to age 19 (formerly ended at 13). It will also provide out-of-hospital anesthetic coverage for children ages 5 to 17. Over the next two years, government, public health units, community health centres, dentists and dental hygienists will expand prevention and treatment services for low-income Ontarians, especially children.

<http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/en/healthy-communities/>



\$4.6 million to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario to set up the Ontario Perinatal Surveillance System as a resource to monitor, report and advise Ontarians on maternal-infant health outcomes.  
<http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2009/01/healthy-mothers-healthy-babies.html>

## Saskatchewan

### EDUCATION

\$1 million invested in the One Life Makes a Difference Foundation to help at-risk youth obtain a university education.  
*The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

### EMPLOYMENT

Effective January 14, minimum age of employment is lowered from 16 to 15 in hotels, restaurants, educational institutions, hospitals and nursing homes. There is no absolute minimum age of employment outside of the five sectors.  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/topics-sujets/pdf/topics-sujets/minimumwage-salairesminimum-2009-eng.pdf>

### FAMILIES

Ministry of Justice's "Parenting After Separation and Divorce" program that helps parents understand the effects of family legal disputes on their children is now mandatory in all Queen's Bench Court locations in Saskatchewan. Parents give the program a 90 per cent approval rating.  
<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/fl-lf/famil/ccjf-fdcae/p3a.html>

### HEALTH

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency will operate colo-rectal Screening Program for early detection. \$1.1 million is being spent on planning and implementation of the program's first phase in Five Hills Health Region.  
[http://www.cancerview.ca/idc/groups/public/documents/webcontent/ccs\\_performance\\_report.pdf](http://www.cancerview.ca/idc/groups/public/documents/webcontent/ccs_performance_report.pdf)

### SENIORS

9,000 seniors who did not previously qualify for Seniors Income Plan due to their income level now eligible to receive both financial and health benefits.  
<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2009/january/19/18000-saskatchewan-seniors-to-receive-enhanced-benefits>

\$1.5 million over two years to fund 15 beds that will provide health care on reserve in the Muskeg Lake Elders Care Home. The facility will continue to be licensed as a 30-bed personal care home under the authority of The Personal Care Homes Act for project duration.  
[Link](#)

43 new rental units opened in Saskatoon for seniors in need of low-cost housing. \$4.8 million cost, with \$2.9 million from Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and \$322,400 from the City. The funding balance was provided through mortgage financing, community fundraising, land and in-kind contributions.  
<http://shipweb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/SHIP-Guidebook-2010-Low-Res.pdf>

## Alberta

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

\$7 million for the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre Society's Sun Dial housing development featuring 81 one-bedroom and 38 two-bedroom units of which 8 will be barrier-free and wheelchair accessible. \$8 million for seniors' affordable housing development in St. Albert.  
<http://seniors.alberta.ca/housing/>

### COMMUNITIES

Until March 15, 2009, communities of less than 100,000 can apply to the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component. Nine categories of infrastructure are eligible for funding: water, wastewater, solid waste, local roads, culture, sports, connectivity, green energy and collaborative projects.  
[http://www.buildingcanadafundalberta-cc.ca/EN/docs/news/BCF-CC\\_Communities\\_Component\\_Jan30.pdf](http://www.buildingcanadafundalberta-cc.ca/EN/docs/news/BCF-CC_Communities_Component_Jan30.pdf)

### HOMELESSNESS

\$750,000 in operational funding for two homeless family centres in Calgary.  
*The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

### INCOME SUPPORT

Health care premiums eliminated, saving residents and businesses \$1 billion annually. Provincial tax credits increased; basic and spousal exemption amounts and other credits will increase 3.8 per cent to \$16,775 in 2009, up from \$16,161 in 2008. Other tax credits for caregivers, people with disabilities and low- and middle-income working families will be increased.  
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/rls/ne-rls-2009-03-23-ab-health-care.pdf>

