




Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

February 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

Release of social studies curriculum and resources specifically designed for Innu Kindergarten students.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/edu/0203n02.htm>

### YOUTH

Expansion of Community Youth Network to Gander and surrounding area.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/hrle/0226n05.htm>

## Québec

### HOUSING

Maximum withdrawal limit under the Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) will be raised from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

<http://www.revenuquebec.ca/en/salle-de-presse/nouvelles-fiscales/default.aspx?F=2009-02&FP=DateRevision%3Ayyyy-MM&T=1291>

## Ontario

### EDUCATION

\$51.6 million for 3,300 new graduate spaces over the next three years to allow more students to study in high-demand sectors (e.g., engineering; environmental studies). Part of the \$6.2-billion Reaching Higher postsecondary plan.

[http://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/2009/02/27/ontario\\_to\\_create\\_almost\\_3300\\_new\\_graduate\\_spaces.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/ontario/2009/02/27/ontario_to_create_almost_3300_new_graduate_spaces.html)

### HOUSING

\$15,373,890 from Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program for affordable rental units and down payment assistance for designated communities across the province.

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

### POVERTY REDUCTION

Legislation introduced – the *Poverty Reduction Act* would:

- require successive governments to report annually on key indicators of opportunity – including income levels, school success, health care and housing
- mandate future governments to consult widely before developing future strategies, including consultation with those living in poverty
- require Ontario to develop a new strategy at least every five years
- require future governments to set a specific poverty reduction target every five years.

As of March 1, 2009, Ontario will begin to implement the social assistance rule changes announced in the poverty reduction strategy that will help recipients pursue educational and employment opportunities.

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2147&-detailPage=bills\\_detail\\_related](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2147&-detailPage=bills_detail_related)



## Saskatchewan

### CHILDREN

Province will adopt the Children's Advocate's Office "Children and Youth First Principles" as part of the plan to strengthen its child welfare system.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxgetmedia.aspx?mediaid=722&pn=shared>

### EDUCATION

The government will spend \$26.4 million for four post-secondary institutions. \$142 million will be made available for 102 schools in 63 communities to undertake maintenance, repairs and new school construction.

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

### HOUSING

\$12 million for renovation of a 140-unit apartment building in south-central Regina. Part of the Ministry of Social Service's \$30 million acceleration in infrastructure spending for students, seniors, low-income households and people with intellectual disabilities (economic "booster shot" funding). The \$29.9 million includes: \$15 million for student housing at the U of S, \$12 million for affordable housing in Regina, \$2.3 million for 12 affordable housing units for seniors in Prince Albert and \$600,000 for improvements to activity centres and group living homes that will benefit people with intellectual disabilities in Maidstone, Yorkton and Langenburg.

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

### SENIORS

\$152.8 million to build 13 new long-term care facilities to replace 13 outdated facilities throughout Saskatchewan.

<http://www.jimreiter.ca/index.php?docID=166>

## Alberta

### HOUSING

\$3.2 million for affordable housing for low- to moderate-income individuals working in the hospitality sector in Jasper.

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