




Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

April 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

### FAMILIES

Budget 2009 provided \$583,000 for a 12-month pilot project: Family Violence Intervention Court in St. John's. Court places an emphasis on safety for victims and accountability for the offender while addressing root causes of family violence.

<http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2009/>

### DISABILITIES

Disability Policy Office is now open. Office will be a focal point for all of government, providing policy leadership to achieve full inclusion. It will also work to strengthen partnerships with community agencies, business and the public sector.

<http://www.swsd.gov.nl.ca/disabilities/>

### POVERTY REDUCTION

Labrador update: *Northern Strategic Plan*, released in April 2007, originally started with 145 commitments and a total expected investment of some \$300 million. As work begins in the plan's third year, commitments have grown to 191. Province anticipates spending \$430 million in Labrador over plan's five-year lifespan.

[http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/northern\\_strategic\\_plan/](http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa/northern_strategic_plan/)

### YOUTH

\$217,000 from province for a new youth centre in Petty Harbour-Mad-dox Cove. Further funding provided by the federal and municipal governments through the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. The center will provide recreational and athletic activities, social events and skills development.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/ma/0414n06.htm>

## Québec

### EDUCATION

Release of a common curriculum for adult education, which includes basic education standards and specific training requirements which assist workforce integration.

[http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site\\_web/documents/dpse/educ\\_adulte\\_action\\_commm/ComplementaryEducationalServices.pdf](http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site_web/documents/dpse/educ_adulte_action_commm/ComplementaryEducationalServices.pdf)

### FAMILIES

Provincial birth rate rises to 1.74 children per female (87,600 births) in 2008.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/hlth85b-eng.htm>

### HOUSING

*Rénovation Québec* – \$60-million partnership program with municipalities to renovate and repair housing and surroundings in run-down areas – to provide \$20 million over two years to restore housing in Québec



City. Funds will improve 2,800 buildings and employ 950 people. \$30 million will be invested in Montréal over two years to improve 8,500 buildings and create 3,600 jobs.

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

\$200 million for the City of Montréal to build 3,000 new social housing units.

[http://www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/publications/pdf/ADMIN\\_Plan\\_de\\_lutte\\_2010-2015\\_en.pdf](http://www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/publications/pdf/ADMIN_Plan_de_lutte_2010-2015_en.pdf)

\$278 million for the *Plan québécois des infrastructures* [Quebec infrastructure plan] to improve social housing in the province. 72,000 *habitations à loyer modique* (HLM) [low rent housing] valued at \$7.5 billion will be maintained and modernized.

[http://www.vgq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/fr\\_publications/fr\\_rapport-annuel/fr\\_2008-2009-T2/fr\\_Rapport2008-2009-TII-Chap05.pdf](http://www.vgq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/fr_publications/fr_rapport-annuel/fr_2008-2009-T2/fr_Rapport2008-2009-TII-Chap05.pdf)

## Ontario

### RECREATION

\$5 million increase in annual funding to the Ontario Arts Council to help develop arts organizations and artists, promote art and culture in communities across Ontario and increase its services to artists and creators.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mtc/en/2009/04/ontario-boosts-support-for-the-arts-1.html>

### YOUTH

Province partnering with *Collège Boréal* to support young business network Regroupement des jeunes gens d'affaires and to stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit in young francophones.

<http://www.ofa.gov.on.ca/en/news-090414.html>

## Saskatchewan

### ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Through the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund, the federal government is investing \$13.8 million in Saskatchewan over five years (2005-06-2009-10) to improve the health of 142,000 First Nations and Métis people living in seven communities.

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

### COMMUNITY

\$1.6 million for 30 new police positions and \$300,000 for three additional prosecutors. Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods program to receive additional \$600,000 funding and seven new positions. \$418,000 for Saskatchewan's participation in a Western Canada gang database.

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

### HOUSING

\$326,525 from Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding will be used to purchase and develop a six-bedroom six-bedroom transitional

housing unit for homeless male youth, primarily of Aboriginal descent. *The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

\$3.2 million for a 24-unit affordable rental property for families in Yorkton. Funds also from Yorkton Parkland Housing Society (membership consists of six member bands in the Yorkton Tribal Council).

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

### YOUTH

Youth Economic Engagement Council created to provide recommendations to increase youth entrepreneurship and achieve higher levels of general economic engagement among youth through preparation for employment (apprenticeship and access to meaningful education and strategies).

<http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/PlanningAndReporting/2009-10/200910E-5AnnualReport.pdf>

## Alberta

### BUDGET

- \$23.2 billion over three years to build health facilities, schools and roads; includes funding for carbon capture and storage, and Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP)
- 3.7 percent increase in operating spending to address population growth and inflation
- priority areas of health, education, advanced education, seniors and children services account for 75 percent of the operating increase
- taxes remain lowest in Canada; tobacco tax increases and liquor markup is raised
- forecast \$36.4 billion in spending in 2009-10; \$31.7 billion in revenue
- \$4.7 billion deficit forecast for 2009-10; surplus forecast in 2012-13
- \$2 billion in fiscal corrective actions to be taken in 2010 if situation does not improve beyond forecast
- new fiscal framework allows for transfers from Sustainability Fund to offset deficits.

<http://finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2009/index.html>

### CHILD CARE

\$12.6 million to expand the child care accreditation program to licensed out-of-school care programs. Accreditation gives parents with children needing care before and after school an additional tool to help them identify programs with standards of excellence over and above Alberta's regulated requirements.

<http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/FCSS-2009-annual-over-view.pdf>



\$2.1-million for foster parents includes a 2.5 percent increase to basic maintenance rates for all age groups, and a 10 percent increase to the basic maintenance rate for infants (under age 2) in recognition of the increased costs associated with providing basic maintenance items for this age group, such as formula and diapers.

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

#### COMMUNITIES

Agriculture and Rural Development will work to build new relationships, strengthen existing partnerships, deliver targeted programming and better understand the needs of rural Albertans. Agricultural Service Boards and their respective municipalities will have a key contact and improved access to research and business development expertise.

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/csi12110/\\$-FILE/2009-Rural-Development-Strategy-Update.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/csi12110/$-FILE/2009-Rural-Development-Strategy-Update.pdf)

\$273 million to give Alberta farmers stable, bankable programs and to make key investments in innovation and marketing. The funding and programming is part of the new bilateral Growing Forward initiative, a \$1.3 billion commitment over five years.

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

#### DISABILITIES

Students with vision loss can access online resources, training and support through one window – the new Vision Education Alberta website at

<http://www.vision.alberta.ca/>

#### HEALTH

Proposed legislation that will enable government to implement announced changes to drug programs was introduced in the Legislature. Bill 34, the *Drug Program Act*, will provide a legislative framework for the initiatives identified in phase one of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy, including the recently revised seniors' drug plan.

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/pharmaceutical-strategy.html>

#### HOUSING

\$2 million for Calgary's McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Association to build 24 one-bedroom units for homeless and at-risk youth ages 16 to 24 years.

[http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/documents/2008\\_09\\_HUA\\_annualreport.pdf](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/documents/2008_09_HUA_annualreport.pdf)

Youth shelters in Edmonton (2), Calgary (2), Red Deer, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie and Medicine Hat, will each receive a one-time grant of \$25,000. The \$200,000 increase in funding brings total spending for youth emergency shelters to \$4 million in 2008-09.

[http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/documents/2008\\_09\\_HUA\\_annualreport.pdf](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/documents/2008_09_HUA_annualreport.pdf)

\$6 million for 67 low- to moderate-income homes to be built as a result of a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the Alberta government. Habitat will build new homes in Brooks, Camrose, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Olds and Red Deer.

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