




Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

May 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

\$15,000 in grants from the Department of Education's Safe and Caring Schools Special Project Fund; each school receiving a maximum of \$500. A Safe and Caring Schools handbook will be released this fall.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/edu/0512n03.htm>

HOUSING

Signing of amendment to the Canada-NF/LA Affordable Housing Program Agreement and extension of Housing Renovation Program Agreement. \$93 million over next two years (province \$50 million, federal \$43 million).

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/tw/0522n06.htm>

Québec

POVERTY REDUCTION

Solidarité 2009 – provincial, regional and on-line series of consultations to establish goals for the updated action plan on poverty reduction and social exclusion will be held June 15. Four themes will be explored: employment, income and training; living conditions among every age group; social inclusion and democratic participation; regional interventions aimed at poverty and social exclusion.

<http://www.mess.gouv.qc.ca/rendez-vous/>

Ontario

CHILDREN

\$18 million in 2010-11 to support 8,500 child care spaces. In 2006, federal government provided a one-time payment of \$254 million to Ontario after cancelling the federal-provincial child care agreements. The province has used that funding to sustain about 8,500 child care spaces over the last four years. That funding ends next year. The new provincial investment will help municipalities plan and maintain child care spaces throughout the next school year and into the summer. This funding will provide stability in the child care sector while the province continues to press the federal government to restore full funding for child care.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

HOUSING

Ontario is doubling its investment in the Home Energy Savings Program. Rebates for changes like fixing insulation and upgrading leaky windows and doors are increasing by 25 percent or more.

<http://news.ontario.ca/archive/en/2009/05/22/Ontario-Helps-Homeowners-Save-On-Energy-Costs.html>

POVERTY REDUCTION

Poverty Reduction Act 2009 passed and will:

- require successive governments to report annually on their initiatives to reduce poverty and on key indicators of opportunity such as income



levels, education, health and housing

- require Ontario to develop a new strategy at least every five years
- mandate future governments to consult before developing these strategies, including consultation with those living in poverty
- require future governments to set a specific poverty reduction target at least every five years.

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2147&detailPage=bills_detail_related

RECREATION

Recreational community sites eligible to receive funding for upgrades and repairs through the new Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIc) program and Ontario Recreation program (Ontario REC). Projects must be completed before March 2011.

<http://news.ontario.ca/archive/en/2009/05/11/Governments-Of-Canada-And-Ontario-Act-To-Renew-Recreational-Facilities-In-Ontario.html>

SENIORS

Expansion of the Aging at Home program: \$272 million to help seniors receive needed health services.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2009/05/ontario-transforming-home-and-community-care-for-seniors.html>

Saskatchewan

CHILDREN

\$4.22 million for 1,000 new child care spaces, bringing the total number of licensed spaces to 11,400 by the end of 2009-10.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

DISABILITIES

Expanded hiring in the Saskatchewan public service for persons with cognitive disabilities. Based on successes with 19 employees in two ministries, the Public Service Commission is working to expand the initiative to all public service ministries.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=60626>

New income support program for persons with disabilities to replace social assistance: On October 1, 2009, the first group of 3,000 recipients will be enrolled and begin to receive benefits. The initial group will be individuals currently on social assistance with long-standing and well-documented disabilities. Over time, enrollment in the new program is expected to reach between 8,000 and 10,000 people.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=60591>

EMPLOYMENT

Bridges and Foundations for Aboriginal Development, a three-year agreement developed under the Government of Canada's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP), will provide approximately 400

First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan with training and work experience related to the construction of affordable housing.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=60568>

HOUSING

Federal and provincial government signed amendment to the Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Program Agreement and extension to the Canada-Saskatchewan Housing Renovation Program Agreement.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=60576>

INCOME SECURITY

Minimum wage will increase from \$8.60 per hour to \$9.25 per hour effective May, 2009. The increase is the third of three stages that raised the minimum wage from \$7.95 to \$9.25 between January 2008 and May 2009. The minimum call-out pay, which is three times the level of the minimum wage, also increases to \$27.75. There are approximately 12,000 minimum wage earners in Saskatchewan.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

YOUTH

\$4 million to provide 20 new spaces at a facility for at-risk youth in Saskatoon area – funds will provide 11 short-term emergency receiving beds and nine assessment and stabilization beds.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Alberta

EMPLOYMENT

\$101 million in employment and training programs under agreement between the federal and provincial governments (Canada-Alberta Labour Market Development Agreement). New federal investment will create 10,100 more job opportunities through skills development.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

GOVERNANCE

Government reaffirms commitment to work with leaders of nonprofit and voluntary sector through Alberta Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector Initiative (ANVSI) Collaboration Committee:

- government will continue to make grant funding decisions for all of its community investment programs until new criteria are established for the Community Initiatives Program (CIP) and Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP)
 - government and the sector will work together on changes to criteria for these grant programs
- Minister of Culture and Community Spirit will meet with members of ANVSI or other members of the non-profit and voluntary sector every six weeks.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.