



Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

September 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

Literacy programming is being delivered online in two regions that do not have access to the provincial Adult Basic Education program designed to give adults an opportunity to achieve high school equivalency.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/edu/0914n04.htm>

### EMPLOYMENT

NF/LA Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE), with support from Status of Women Canada (Women's Program Community Fund) and the provincial Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, is offering the Business Beginnings program. This six-month training program is tailored to the needs of aspiring entrepreneurs and will be delivered in three communities.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/index.html>

### SENIORS

Four new Protective Community Residences designed to accommodate 40 individuals with various forms of dementia were opened in Corner Brook. These residences are the first of their kind in Eastern Canada. The province contributed \$68.5 million to construct the residences as well as a 236-bed long-term care home at a separate site in Corner Brook scheduled to open in Spring 2010.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/health/0921n12.htm>

## Nova Scotia

### BUDGET

Budget announced with a deficit of \$592.1 million for 2009-2010.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20090924006>

### EDUCATION

Atlantic ministers of education and training demonstrated their commitment to improving literacy by supporting the objectives in the Atlantic Canadian Literacy Action Plan that work to address and promote literacy at all levels, from early childhood to adult education.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20090925010>

## New Brunswick

### INCOME SECURITY

Minimum wage increased to \$8.25 per hour on September 1, up 25 cents per hour. This is the second increase since April 2009, raising minimum wage from \$7.75 to \$8.25 per hour.

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news.html>



## Prince Edward Island

### EDUCATION

Creation of a new 52-week Public Internship Program for recent graduates of post-secondary education programs to help get mentoring and work experience to secure full-time jobs.

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/newsroom/>

## Québec

*No updates this month.*

## Ontario

### ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Two First Nations are developing a community-based land use plan to generate job opportunities, improve social well-being, foster skills among community members and enhance their ability to attract business.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2009/09/two-far-north-first-nations-tackle-land-use-planning.html>

### COMMUNITIES

Starting this month, 150 Ontario schools will give not-for-profit groups free access to schools after hours.

<http://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2009/09/free-space-in-schools-for-community-groups.html>

### HEALTH

Ontario filed a \$50 billion lawsuit against tobacco companies, seeking damages for past and ongoing health care costs linked to tobacco-related illness.

[http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/tobacco\\_litigation.asp](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/tobacco_litigation.asp)

### HOUSING

Ontario is developing a long-term affordable housing strategy and is inviting community groups and professionals in local housing sectors in outlying communities (e.g., Thunder Bay, Kawartha Lakes) to participate in consultations.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mah/en/2009/09/thunder-bay-residents-invited-to-share-affordable-housing-insights.html>

## Manitoba

### BUDGET

Public accounts for 2008-09 indicate the province complied with balanced budget legislation.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-09-01&item=6697>

### COMMUNITIES

New Gang Awareness for Parents pilot project and support for the Winnipeg Police Service's Project Restore initiative are the first of several enhancements to the province's anti-gang strategy. Project Restore, will focus resources to enforce court-ordered bail and probation conditions of certain high-risk adult offenders. Gang Awareness for Parents is a one-year pilot project to help parents, caregivers and other adults identify signs of gang involvement, de-glamorize the gang lifestyle and link people with resources to help children who are at risk of or involved in gang activity.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html>

### EMPLOYMENT

\$4.5 million for the Business Skills Suite launched under the Growing Forward partnership between the Governments of Canada and Manitoba. Funds are being invested in programs designed to expand farm management and agri-product business skills.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-09-01&item=6624>

### WOMEN

The province is partnering with Aboriginal organizations and front-line agencies to form the Manitoba Action Group on Exploited and Vulnerable Women. The group will provide strategic advice to the province as it develops new policies to address the crisis of abused and exploited women.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-09-01&item=6634>

## Saskatchewan

*No updates this month.*

## Alberta

### COMMUNITIES

Alberta communities that wish to develop crime reduction and prevention pilot projects at the grassroots level are invited to apply for funding in the second year of the Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF).

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

\$1.47 million over for three years for Multi-Agency School Support Team. This new pilot project operating in Calgary brings together police, schools and social workers to support children showing risk factors of future criminal behaviour or victimization. Part of the province's Safe Communities (SafeCom) initiative.

[http://justice.alberta.ca/programs\\_services/safe/Documents/ThreeYear-ProgressReport-2008-2011.pdf](http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/safe/Documents/ThreeYear-ProgressReport-2008-2011.pdf)



## EDUCATION

Seven new outreach programs will enable more Alberta youth to stay in school. The new programs will be offered by school boards in Athabasca, Medicine Hat, Lloydminster, Taber, Okotoks and two in Calgary, for a total of 134 approved outreach programs now operating in the province. Typically, those attending outreach programs are working students, teen parents and other students who are at risk of dropping out of school. *The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

## HEALTH

Amendments to provincial mental health legislation will provide more support and treatment for those with mental health disorders. Proclamation of the *Mental Health Amendment Act 2007* is occurring in two parts (September 30, 2009 and early 2010). September 30 amendments:

- broaden the criteria for involuntary admission so that individuals can be provided with treatment and support sooner
- ensure a discharge summary and recommendations for ongoing treatment are sent to the individual's family physician so that appropriate care can continue to be provided when an individual returns to the community.

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

## INCOME SECURITY

On September 1, consumer protection rules take effect for payday loan companies to limit borrowing costs, ban rollover loans and give borrowers a cooling-off period.

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

## YOUTH

\$750,000 (from Safe Communities Initiative) over three years for a new Armoury Youth Centre located in Edmonton's Old Strathcona area. The Armoury will serve homeless youth and those at-risk of becoming homeless by addressing addiction and substance abuse, and health and mental health issues.

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

# British Columbia

## BUDGET

Budget Update contains revised deficit forecasts of \$2.8 billion in 2009-10, \$1.7 billion in 2010-11, and \$945 million in 2011-12.

[http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2009\\_Sept\\_Update/default.htm](http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2009_Sept_Update/default.htm)

## EDUCATION

Skills Development Apprenticeship Program will be enhanced by an additional \$15 million in federal funding for a total of \$21 million.

Enhancements to the Skills Development Apprentices program include:

- full tuition support for apprentices during the economic downturn

- expanded eligibility to include apprentices who had established an EI claim within the past 36 months
- basic living expenses
- increases to incremental supports (may include child care, transportation, living away from home).

<http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2006/bfp/Part1ThreeYearFiscalPlan3.htm>

\$5.2 million in training programs to help nearly 1,000 unemployed British Columbians acquire skills to transition back to the labour force or into further education.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2009ALMD0029-000317.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009ALMD0029-000317.htm)

\$2.4 million for 67 programs funded through the Community Adult Literacy Program, delivered through partnerships between community groups and BC's public post-secondary institutions. Literacy BC will also receive support to provide training and resources to assist community program delivery.

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/>

# Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

*No updates this month.*