




Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

October 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

HOUSING

\$95,000 for NF/L Housing and Homelessness Network (NLHHN), a new homelessness initiative comprising representatives from non-profit organizations, municipal, provincial and federal governments, the private sector and individuals who have experienced homelessness. Funds were made available through the Supportive Living Community Partnership Program (SLCPP), a \$1.2 million fund announced in Budget 2009.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/hrle/1005n01.htm>

New Oil Tank Replacement loan program to assist low-income homeowners (total annual income less than \$22,397) register their oil storage tank systems in accordance with the Heating Oil Storage Tank System regulations. Loans for replacing storage tanks will be available up to a maximum of \$1,200 for the island portion of the province and \$1,500 for Labrador per household. Loans will have a monthly repayment amount of \$25.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/hrle/1016n01.htm>

SENIORS

40,000 seniors will receive the Low Income Seniors' Benefit, up 10,000 from 2003. The qualifying income threshold has increased from \$14,000 in 2003 to \$25,983 in 2009. A single senior or couple can receive up to a maximum \$798 a year. A single senior or married couple with income up to \$32,827 is eligible for a partial benefit.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2009/fin/1005n04.htm>

Nova Scotia

CHILDREN

\$6 million in expansion loan funding to assist in the creation of an additional 300 child-care spaces across the province. Loans are available to full- and part-day licensed commercial or non-profit child-care centres, and family home day-care agencies. Funding can be used to replace existing facilities or add more child care spaces.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20091027001>

New Brunswick

DISABILITIES

The 26th edition of the *Directory of Services Offered to People with Disabilities in New Brunswick* was launched. It contains information on programs and services offered by government and community groups.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/misc/2009e1550mi.htm>

EDUCATION

New Brunswick Securities Commission releases *Make it Count: A Parent's Guide to Youth Money Management*, which shows parents and teachers how to model and teach behaviour that encourage positive financial habits. Make It Count interactive website and guide are available.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/sc/2009e1561sc.htm>



This is an adjunct to the Canada-wide "Make it Count/Faites que ça compte" financial literacy program announced by the Canadian Securities Administrators.

<http://www2.makeitcountonline.ca/csa/parents/>

HOUSING

\$1.8-million for 16 new accessible and seniors apartments will be available in Quispamsis.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2009e1575sd.htm>

POVERTY REDUCTION

\$550 Enhanced Emergency Fuel Benefit Program to help low-income New Brunswickers offset their energy costs. The enhanced benefit also removes the requirement that potential applicants deplete their assets to qualify for assistance. If an applicant requires the benefit in two consecutive years, their dwelling will automatically be prioritized for a low-income retrofit.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2009e1505sd.htm>

SENIORS

\$300,000 to expand friendly visiting and telephone reassurance services for seniors through a partnership between the province, Canadian Red Cross, New Brunswick Senior Citizens' Federation and l'Association acadienne et francophone des aînées et aînés du Nouveau-Brunswick.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/sha/2009e1620sd.htm>

\$50,000 from the Senior and Health Aging Secretariat Province to enhance rehabilitation counselling and outreach services to seniors with mobility-related conditions in Moncton, Bathurst, the Acadian Peninsula, Miramichi and rural areas. The Canadian Paraplegic Association (NB) Inc. will deliver services to help seniors get access to funding programs, community-based health services, transportation, housing, recreation and leisure, and volunteer work, and to network with other seniors facing similar challenges.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/sha/2009e1635sd.htm>

Prince Edward Island

COMMUNITIES

PEI Planning Decisions webpage with searchable databases will allow electronic access to appealable planning decisions from both provincial and municipal governments.

www.peiplanningdecisions.ca

POVERTY REDUCTION

A rise in income limits for energy efficiency programs aimed at low-income households. Household income threshold will increase from \$30,000 to \$35,000, adding 3,500 families. Programs include: PEI

ecoEnergy Audit Assistance Program, PEI Energy Efficiency Loan Program and PEI Home Energy Low-income Program (HELP).

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/news/index.php3?number=news&dept=&newsnumber=6622&lang=E>

Québec

BUDGET

Budget deficit for 2009-2010 at \$4.7 billion, up \$749 million from the Budget forecast.

http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/Communiqués/en/COMEN_20091027-2.pdf

CHILD CARE

First conference for community respite child care organizations (province provided \$315,000 in funding in 2009-10 to these centres).

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Octobre2009/21/c9081.html>

First child care facility for Aboriginals living off reserve in Montreal; 80 spaces, 10 for infants.

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Octobre2009/22/c9714.html>

DISABILITIES

Consultations on Law 56, Article 48 to protect the rights of people with disabilities from all forms of exploitations. Changes will also apply to children and adolescents in protective housing, including those receiving drug treatment.

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Octobre2009/22/c9708.html>

Implementation of 21 recommendations in the Ombudsman's report on government services for children with pervasive developmental disorders which include a spectrum of behavioural problems associated with autism.

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQE/Octobre2009/08/c5236.html>

EDUCATION

Canadian Supreme Court rules that immigrants to Québec must be given access to publicly funded English-language schooling.

<http://www.fil-information.gouv.qc.ca/Pages/Articles.aspx?aiguillage=ajd&type=1&idMenuItem=1>

HOUSING

\$820 million over two years by federal and provincial governments to build and renovate affordable housing.

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Octobre2009/26/c2591.html>



INCOME SECURITY

Nortel retirees in Québec will be covered by the provisions of Bill 1 if the company is liquidated.

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQE/Octobre2009/26/c2442.html>

INCOME SECURITY

\$3.7 million in additional funding to the Housing Allowance program (Allocation-Logement established in 1997). As of October 1, the maximum income for families and couples over age 55 is increased to \$22,304, allowing higher benefits to 3,200 new households and 10,000 households already registered with the program. 1,000 senior couples will see their pension and GIS amounts augmented by the housing allowance increase.

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Octobre2009/15/c7009.html>

POVERTY REDUCTION

Province holds regional consultations in the Outaouais as part of its strategy renewal process.

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Octobre2009/19/c8020.html>

Ontario

BUDGET

During 2008-09, Ontario's corporate tax revenues dropped by 48.1 per cent. Deficit of \$24.7 billion projected for 2009-10, decline of 3.5 per cent in Gross Domestic Product for 2009.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2009/10/fall-economic-statement-updates-ontarios-finances.html>

CHILDREN

Part of the poverty reduction strategy, the After-School Initiative launched in 270 sites in high-needs neighbourhoods to benefit 15,500 children from grades 1 to 12. Programs include healthy eating and nutrition education, physical activity, personal health and wellness education and other activities to address local priorities.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mhp/en/2009/10/expanding-opportunity-for-at-risk-youth.html>

EDUCATION

Full-day learning for 35,000 4- and 5-year-olds in September 2010 (one-sixth of the all Ontario children in that cohort). The goal is to have the program fully implemented in all schools by 2015-16. Subsidies will be available for families that need help with the cost of care before and after school hours.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2009/10/ontario-moves-forward-with-full-day-learning.html>

EMPLOYMENT

\$8.3 million to establish measures to help workers enter and complete apprenticeships. Supports and incentives include: grants of up to \$2,000 to apprentices and \$1,000 to employers when training is successfully completed; choice to complete in-school training up front if work placements are temporarily unavailable; grants of up to \$1,500 per term to help apprentices with cost of school if they are not eligible for Employment Insurance.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2009/10/training-for-tomorrows-skilled-jobs.html>

Legislation to protect foreign-born domestic workers employed in Ontario.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2009/10/ontario-helping-live-in-caregivers.html>

HOUSING

\$4.8 million to fund an affordable housing project for seniors, individuals, families and persons with disabilities in Owen Sound (part of the \$1.2-billion joint investment under the amended Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement).

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mah/en/2009/10/government-of-canada-and-ontario-celebrate-new-affordable-housing-in-owen-sound.html>

Affordable housing projects announced for York

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mah/en/2009/10/-normal-0-false-false.html>

Peterborough

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mah/en/2009/10/-normal-0-false-false.html>

London

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mah/en/2009/10/-normal-0-false-false.html>

Kingston

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mah/en/2009/10/kingston-celebrates-new-affordable-housing.html>

POVERTY REDUCTION

Release of a proposed Growth Plan for Northern Ontario designed to set the region's economy on a globally competitive footing. (hyperlink)

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2009/10/growth-plan-aims-to-strengthen-northern-economy.html>

Manitoba

CHILDREN

\$743,000 and working with community partners to build, rejuvenate and expand child-care centres to meet the needs of families in the North (Thompson and The Pas). \$60,000 for 13 other northern child-care



centres for equipment and renovations. (Funds are from "Family Choices," Manitoba's five-year initiative for early learning and child care, launched in April 2008.)

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=7114>

\$1 million will support the construction or renovation of five centres in Brandon and create 197 child care spaces under the Family Choices initiative.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=7116>

SOCIAL ECONOMY

Province signs an MOU with Cooperative Association (MCA) and the Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (CDEM), formalizing their partnership and launching the Manitoba Co-operative Strategy. [In 2008, the province committed \$1.25 million over five years to fund the Co-operative Development Assistance Program.]

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=6996>

Two surveys on co-operative enterprises in Manitoba have been completed and can be used as planning tools to guide future co-op development.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=6994>

HOUSING

\$3.7-million, 25-unit apartment complex located in downtown Winnipeg for new Canadians. Funding comes from municipal, provincial and federal governments.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=6976>

\$2.7 million in federal funding for a new rental complex in Grunthal. 42 housing units, including 12 supportive housing units and 30 one-bedroom assisted living units for low-to-moderate income seniors. Total estimated cost is \$4.5 million.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=7018>

INCOME SECURITY

The hourly minimum wage increased by 25 cents to \$9.00 on October 1.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-9-01&item=6816>

SENIORS

\$215,000 for expansion of SafetyAid Program, a seniors home security program in which experienced tradespeople conduct home safety audits in the homes of low-income seniors and install safety devices. The program consists of a SafetyAid team and SafetyAid forgivable loans of up to \$3,500.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=6915>

Free 2010 Protect Yourself calendar. Topics include investment resources, dealing with fraud, problem gambling, home safety, landlord and tenant issues, signing a contract, frauds and scams, charitable donations and important contacts.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=6975>

70 communities now engaged in Age-Friendly Manitoba Initiative (begun in 2007), developed to support seniors in leading active, independent lives.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=month&item=6837>

\$21 million Aboriginal 80-bed personal care home, the first of its kind in the Winnipeg health region.

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

YOUTH

StreetReach Winnipeg is expanding and strengthening the safety net for youth who have been sexually exploited or are at high risk of being victimized. \$660,000 for more staffing and a coordinator. StreetReach is a key component of Tracia's Trust, the province's \$2.4-million strategy to combat child sexual exploitation.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2009-10-01&item=6894>

Saskatchewan

DISABILITIES

Three new group homes (11 spaces) opened in Weyburn, part of the four-year, \$76.9 million initiative (announced in 2008) to eliminate the wait list for specialized, residential and day program services for people with intellectual disabilities.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=5ae3c397-d0f4-4073-b51e-574e36864303>

\$500,000 for the construction of a new 15-person facility in Saskatoon. The province has committed to more than \$750,000 in annual operational funding.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=9961a157-c549-4557-930b-155ff473d84c>



HOUSING

\$2.8 million in municipal, provincial and federal funds invested in Saskatoon to build 12 homes for low-income families, including persons with disabilities.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=5a16d89c-826d-492c-932f-2fe973e3fa22>

\$2 million in federal and provincial funds to create 20 new affordable housing units for low-income families in La Ronge.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=de9d9bef-3972-4df2-88ee-b6cceb-f1afa3>

\$724,016 in provincial and federal funds to the YWCA of Regina for the purchase and renovation of a 20-bed transitional home for homeless women and children. Federal funds are from Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=eb29883c-756a-47ea-9df1-4b12838041dc>

SENIORS

\$2.8 million from federal, provincial and municipal funding partnership to open a 56-unit affordable rental housing complex for low- and moderate-income seniors in Saskatoon.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=5582e077-26ae-4634-806d-b6eadd88f616>

\$648,000 from federal, provincial and municipal funding partnership for 12 new affordable rental units in the Town of Hanley.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=af6ab710-34b1-48bf-8fd6-a2c254a1749a>

\$300,000 in federal and provincial funds to build a new rental housing project for low- to moderate-income seniors in Pinehouse.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=91634868-73cf-4e08-9cae-057d2e516437>

YOUTH

\$1 million for construction of an emergency shelter in Regina that will serve up to 15 high-risk youth between ages 15 and 18. The province will provide annual operational funding.

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=e82f58cd-4457-4fb8-a3e3-18fc-7b0cd4df>

Alberta

BUDGET

Province plans to return to surplus budgets within three years by: reinstating Alberta Capital Bonds; trimming spending, including a two-year wage freeze for civil service managers; using cash reserves – the \$17-billion Sustainability Fund – to cover three-quarters of the revenue shortfall and protect key programs during the downturn; continuing to in-

vest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that the energy sector and other industries are globally competitive and continue to attract investment. <http://alberta.ca/news.cfm>

EDUCATION

First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) leaders are collaborating with the provincial government to establish a First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Partnership Council to guide the future direction of FNMI education in Alberta. The Council's creation stems from discussions at the Summit on Aboriginal Education hosted by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada earlier this year.

<http://alberta.ca/news.cfm>

HEALTH

Phase 2 of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy announced: prices for new generic drugs now reduced from 75 per cent of brand name price to 45 percent, and an expanded advice and counselling role for pharmacists. Phase 1 (announced December 2008) included a drug program for people with rare diseases, improvements to the approval process, a new drug plan for seniors, revised premiums for non-group coverage and a consolidated government-sponsored drug program.

<http://alberta.ca/news.cfm>

SENIORS

Seniors and vulnerable adults *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* replaces the 30-year *Dependent Adults Act*. Highlights include: more options for people who need assistance to make decisions; new process to screen potential co-decision makers, trustees and guardians; enabling the Office of the Public Guardian and the Office of the Public Trustee to investigate complaints about co-decision makers, trustees and guardians; and a more standard process to assess an individual's capacity to make decisions.

<http://alberta.ca/news.cfm>

YOUTH

\$1,228,000 over three years (through the Safe Communities Innovation Fund) for new integrated police response team and a youth intervention program in Grand Prairie.

<http://alberta.ca/news.cfm>

British Columbia

CHILDREN

Release of the *Foster Parent Rights* document which defines the entitlements and expectations of foster parents.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009CFD0011-000549.htm

CHILDREN

StrongStart centres open in Osoyoos, Windermere, North Vancouver, Abbotsford, Peace River, Crawford Bay. StrongStart BC is a free early



learning program for preschool-aged children accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009EDUC0015-000472.htm

\$1.6 million increase in funding for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). \$5 million in funding for the Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention Program in seven communities serving 70 children has been reallocated to increase financial support to more than 800 children under age 6 diagnosed with ASD. Changes will enable access to services in rural areas through a provincial outreach program.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009CFD0009-000482.htm

EMPLOYMENT

\$2 million additional funding to SkillsPlus Program, providing support to mid-sized businesses (50 to 500 employees) for essential skills training.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009ALMD0037-000499.htm

HOUSING

\$177 million over two years for 101 renovation and retrofit projects in Vancouver under the Housing Renovation Partnership, a jointly-funded program to renovate and retrofit social housing.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009PREM0050-000481.htm

\$10.9-million development to provide 25 units of affordable housing for Aboriginal seniors and families in Dawson Creek.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009HSD0053-000460.htm

\$22 million in municipal, provincial and federal funds for 92 units of supportive housing opens at the Lux in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009HSD0055-000467.htm

\$8.1-million, 30-unit apartment building opens in Prince George providing housing and support services for adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with mental health and addiction issues.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009HSD0058-000501.htm

\$3.98-million development providing nine units of second-stage housing for women in Burnaby.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009HSD0061-000522.htm

CAREGIVING

New residential care regulation to provide increased protection for the health, safety and dignity of persons in care.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009HLS0025-000425.htm

New Residents' Bill of Rights will be publicly displayed inside all residential care facilities to ensure that residents know their rights.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009HLS0029-000517.htm

Yukon Territory

EMPLOYMENT

\$300,000 from the Canada-Yukon Labour Market Agreement for the Young Workers Employment Program. It will provide an 80 percent wage subsidy, to a maximum of \$12 per hour, for employers offering workplace training and full-time work placements for 420 to 700 hours to rural unemployed youth ages 18 to 25, regardless of whether they qualify for EI.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2009/09-240.html>

POVERTY REDUCTION

Health and Social Services will work with partner departments and non-government organizations to develop a social inclusion strategy.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2009/09-242.html>

SENIORS

Yukon Liquor Corporation has released Alcohol as We Age, a booklet aimed at helping seniors, families and caregivers understand risks related to aging and alcohol consumption.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2009/09-254.html>

WOMEN

The Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund has doubled to \$200,000 yearly for programs developed by Aboriginal women.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2009/09-236.html>

Nunavut

No updates this month.

Northwest Territories

EDUCATION

Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is dedicated to closing the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Pilot projects in each region focus on developing partnerships between schools and community members to increase attendance amongst Aboriginal students.

<http://news.exec.gov.nt.ca/>