




Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

February 2010



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

\$95,000 for Memorial University's Students in Free Enterprise and Junior Achievement of NF and LA to enhance entrepreneurship and improve financial literacy among young people. The funding is provided under the recently launched Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

HOUSING

\$1.54 million in federal and provincial funding toward the construction of six new affordable housing projects for seniors, persons with disabilities, families, and individuals throughout the province. These new developments will make 44 new homes available for seniors and persons with disabilities.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/tw/0219n07.htm>

SENIORS

Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador (AFNL) Grants Program is designed to provide funding to incorporated municipalities, Inuit community governments and reserves, and seniors' organizations throughout the province to support planning for an aging population. Ten communities will receive \$10,000 each and 10 to 20 seniors' organizations will receive between \$5,000 and \$10,000 each. The AFNL grants will serve, in part, to fulfill commitments made under the Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/health/0211n08.htm>

Nova Scotia

EMPLOYMENT

Target 100 – a new partnership between the province and Nova Scotia Cooperative Council will recruit, train and employ 100 Department of Community Services clients over the next two to three years for jobs at co-op businesses around the province. Positions include customer service to marketing, management, skilled trades and administration and pay between \$10.50 and \$15.50 per hour. Jobs will also come with medical and dental benefits, pensions, co-op shares, training and the opportunity for loans at reduced rates.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100224001>

INCOME SECURITY

Minimum wage increase to \$9.20 on April 1, a 6.9 percent increase from the current rate of \$8.60.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100215002>

SENIORS

Seniors and their families will no longer be required to pay security deposits before entering nursing homes. Charges could range from \$900 to \$4,700, depending on the client's daily accommodation rate.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100210008>



New Brunswick

EDUCATION

\$120,000 for the Beaverbrook Cambiata Centre, the prototype for Sistema New Brunswick's bilingual music program. The centre provides musical instruments and music lessons to children regardless of their ability to play or pay. Based on a highly successful Venezuelan music program, Sistema New Brunswick was created to inspire children and youth to achieve their full potential by instilling a sense of hope and joy while fostering discipline, teamwork, confidence and self-esteem.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/rdc/2010e0247rd.htm>

EMPLOYMENT

Community Energy Policy provides the opportunity for interested communities and First Nations to participate in developing renewable energy while contributing to environmental sustainability. First phase projects must not be larger than 15 MW in capacity. They must be majority-owned by First Nations, municipalities, co-operatives, not-for-profit organizations or institutions. NB-based private corporations and investors may be minority partners.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/ene/2010e0178en.htm>

FAMILIES

\$350,000 for a family law pilot project that will provide access to public information, forms and other assistance for self-represented litigants; prioritize family law clients to ensure efficient streaming of cases; offer a mediation service; better manage cases in the court system; and make better use of settlement conferences.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/jus/2010e0190ju.htm>

HOUSING

\$4 million provincial and federal investments to build and renovate 252 housing units for low-income seniors, families and persons with disabilities in Fredericton.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2010e0214sd.htm>

\$3.5 million provincial and federal investment to repair and retrofit 450 housing units for low-income seniors, families and persons with disabilities in southwestern New Brunswick.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2010e0218sd.htm>

POVERTY REDUCTION

A new 20-year plan recommends a five-phase approach to the redevelopment of Crescent Valley (a priority Saint John neighbourhood). The plan addresses social isolation by changing Crescent Valley from a social housing community to a mixed income community. Green spaces and structured areas will encourage active living and promote a sense of belonging and ownership.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2010e0228sd.htm>

Improvements made to the Household Income Policy. Since January 1, 2010 clients in non-spousal relationships have been able to share accommodation with clients or non-clients and receive separate social assistance cheques. Clients in spousal relationships will continue to receive one cheque for the household. The new policy, which only applies to clients who were in receipt of assistance as of January 1, represents a \$5-million investment this year. It is an interim measure until Social Assistance Reform, including a significant overhaul of the Household Income Policy, is complete in mid-2011.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2010e0232sd.htm>

SENIORS

\$22.5-million, 75-bed nursing home will be built to replace Mill Cove Nursing Home.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2010e0240sd.htm>

\$600,000, three-year service-delivery contract to Canadian Red Cross to help seniors living in public housing. Employees will visit all tenants at least once a year. Additional visits may be carried out with recommendations for further supports.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/sha/2010e0277sd.htm>

Prince Edward Island

HOUSING

\$108,000 to the Salvation Army Home Heating Assistance Program.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Québec

DISABILITIES

\$400,000 cut to disability support program for guide dog expenses; 300 people affected.

<http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/csss-39-1/journal-debats/CSSS-100505.html>

Ontario

CHILDREN

\$26.9 million to Children's Aid Societies with the most immediate financial challenges. The Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare will work with the child welfare sector and government to strengthen service delivery, promote financial sustainability and improve outcomes for child protection services. Funding includes \$2.5 million for Aboriginal CASs.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2010/02/protecting-critical-services-at-childrens-aid-societies.html>

EDUCATION

Extension of full-day programming for 4- and 5-year old children. Legislation will mandate all school boards to offer full-day learning for 4- and 5-year-olds, including integrated extended-day programs.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2010/02/ontarios-next-step-for-full->



[day-early-learning.html](#)

HOUSING

\$5.2 million for construction of new 20-bed shelter, the first in Toronto for francophone women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mcss/en/2010/02/first-francophone-women-shelter-for-toronto.html>

SENIORS

Province is re-building 4,183 existing beds and updating facilities at 37 long-term care homes. This is part of a plan to redevelop 35,000 beds over 10 years to improve access to long-term.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2010/02/increasing-access-to-modern-long-term-care-homes.html>

Manitoba

No updates this month.

Saskatchewan

DISABILITIES

\$800,000 for improved access to residential and day programs for people with intellectual disabilities in Yorkton, Rosthern and Saskatoon. \$100,000 was approved for the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres for a staff training initiative for community organizations that serve clients with intellectual disabilities.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

EDUCATION

\$5.2 million withdrawn from First Nations University effective April 1, 2010.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

EMPLOYMENT

Businesses that have taken advantage of a government program that assists employers to share ownership with employees have seen a 30 to 50 percent jump in employee performance and productivity. Under the Employee Investment Program, the government is encouraging employees to invest in their workplaces by registering an employee fund. They will receive a 20 percent provincial tax credit and 15 percent federal tax credit on the first \$5,000 they contribute each year.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

HOUSING

\$1-million in federal and provincial funding for a 10-unit rental housing project in Saskatoon for low-income singles and families.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Alberta

BUDGET

Highlights:

\$1.3 billion in savings found through cross-ministry spending review.

Cost savings re-invested in and new money added to priority areas:

- \$1.7 billion increase for ongoing health programs; Alberta Health Services deficit paid off
- \$250 million increase for school boards
- benefit levels maintained for Alberta Seniors Benefit and Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped
- funding remains at \$597 million for Persons with Developmental Disabilities program

Four Safe Communities Innovation projects announced:

- Connect Family and Sexual Abuse Network (formerly Calgary Collaborative Services Centre): \$1.45 million for services for domestic violence and sexual assault
- Mental Health Supported Housing Initiative: \$1.35 million for a supported mental health housing program in Edmonton for individuals in the criminal justice system with a serious mental illness or addiction
- Assessment Support Intervention Success Team: \$540,000 for intervention services to Grades 7-12 students in Edmonton Catholic Schools with risk factors for criminal behaviour
- Bamboo Shield: \$670,000 to help criminal behaviour among high-risk Aboriginal and immigrant youth in two Edmonton junior high schools.

<http://finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/>

EDUCATION

The Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta and the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs in Alberta signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on education, providing a common vision for strengthening learning and educational success for First Nations. Key highlights of the MOU include:

- the establishment of an Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom Centre which will create a centre of education expertise for all First Nations in the three Treaty organizations
- commitment to develop a long-term strategic plan for First Nations education to improve student outcomes
- creation of the Alberta First Nations Education Circle composed of senior officials from all parties to oversee the implementation of the MOU.

<http://www.aboriginal.alberta.ca/Education-Initiatives.cfm>



HEALTH

The province has accepted the recommendations from the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health report in four key areas:

- articulate a set of principles that must be sustained and maintained throughout Alberta's health system
- legislate an *Alberta Health Act* for the future;
- ensure ongoing citizen engagement in the development of legislation, regulation and policy including the development of a patient charter
- develop clear directions to guide legislative, regulatory, policy and program delivery changes across the health system

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/MACH-Final-Report-2010-01-20.pdf>

FAMILIES

Expansion of Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) to 45 Parent Link Centres. Triple P offers advice and resources to parents. Services include offering general information, tip sheets, parenting advice and workshops to offering more advanced support to help parents experiencing significant behavioural problems with their children. Triple P is offered from Parent Link Centres free-of-charge.

<http://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=-27821C37A0E3B-D783-645D-DB47D31A1D1D94BD>

British Columbia

DISABILITIES

February 1, 2010 – more adults with complex needs can apply for and receive Community Living BC services through a three-year provincial investment of \$23.2 million.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0019-000109.htm

HEALTH

44 beds for adults with severe mental illness and substance use disorders will be opened in Coquitlam to provide transitional, long-term supportive housing.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSE RV0005-000122.htm

Four-year, \$48-million Seek and Treat pilot project will expand access to HIV/AIDS medications among hard-to-reach populations in Vancouver, including sex trade workers, injection drug users and men who have sex with men.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSE RV0006-000123.htm

INCOME SECURITY

Through an online pension consultation paper, British Columbians are being asked for their views on anticipated shortfalls in Canada's retirement income system. At present, three in four private sector workers are not covered by an employer-sponsored pension plan.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010FIN0004-000119.htm

THRONE SPEECH

Speech outlined government plans to create jobs, improve the environment and support families with children.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010PR EM0024-000143.htm

Yukon Territory

SENIORS

Seniors, elders and those planning to retire can participate in an Aging Well Expo to help government gather information to design an aging strategy.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-025.html>

Nunavut

No updates this month.

Northwest Territories

INCOME SECURITY

The minimum wage rate will increase to \$9.00 an hour and \$10.00 an hour, effective April 2010 and 2011, respectively.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-001-x/topics-sujets/minimum-wage-salaireminimum/minimumwage-salaireminimum-2009-eng.htm>

YOUTH

Launch of Proud2bNWT, a website for youth in the NWT.

This website is no longer operational.

18 projects are a part of the new Active After School Program. The projects aimed at getting NWT youth more physically active.

Original link to this item is no longer available.

<http://www.nwtrpa.org/downloads/advocacy-after-school-programs-in-the-nwt-2011.pdf>