



Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

April 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

### EMPLOYMENT

\$1.2 million in 2010-11 and a total of \$2.5 million over the next three years to support the implementation of a new skilled trades mentoring program, Try the Trades.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/hrle/0430n01.htm>

### HOUSING

Budget 2010 puts \$27 million into housing infrastructure projects, affordable housing and increased maintenance funding over the coming fiscal year.

<http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2010/>

## Nova Scotia

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

As part of a four-year plan to pay down its \$222.1 million deficit, the province will reduce its civil service by 10 percent by 2013, limit government wage increases and institute an Expenditure Management Initiative to achieve savings. Sixty percent of government expenditures are payments to third parties to identify possible costs savings.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100406002>

### CHILD CARE

\$5 million in early learning and child care to cover 400 new child-care subsidies for qualifying families, the elimination of a fee for families and a new grant for child care providers.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100412001>

### HOUSING

\$4.9 million in the Residential Energy Affordability Program, which provides energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to homeowners.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100416002>

\$350,000 to support the construction of a new affordable housing development in Deer Lake, composed of 10 two-bedroom units including one unit for persons with disabilities. The federal and provincial governments are contributing equally to this investment of \$58 million under the amended Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Affordable Housing Program Agreement.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/tw/0420n02.htm>

### INCOME SECURITY

Minimum wage increased to \$9.20 on April 1. This is a 6.9 percent increase from the old rate of \$8.60.

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

### YOUTH

Budget allocates \$240,000 for community organizations involved in recreational educational and after-school programs for young people.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100416010>



## New Brunswick

### DISABILITIES

Persons with print disabilities will have improved access to library services through a six-month \$187,000 pilot project. Seven of 63 libraries will offer commercial audio books, large print books, electronic resources, adaptive workstations equipped with various hardware and software which offers services, such as the ability to magnify print text and read text aloud.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/pet/2010e0559pe.htm>

### EDUCATION

Wage Gap Action Plan scholarships available for residents who will be pursuing non-traditional training programs through NB community colleges. Created in 2006, the scholarships provide an incentive to students entering their first year at community college to explore careers in sectors where men and women have traditionally been under-represented.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/sw/2010e0628sw.htm>

### HEALTH

Legislative and administrative changes made to improve healthcare delivery for Francophone residents.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/he/2010e0494he.htm>

### HOUSING

As of April 1, roomers and boarders are now included in the *Residential Tenancies Act*, providing them with rights equivalent to those of tenants. There are still several cases when the Act does not apply, including when the owner shares a washroom or kitchen with the roomer or boarder.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/hrc/2010e0496hr.htm>

### INCOME SECURITY

Minimum wage increased by 25 cents an hour, rising to \$8.50 per hour from \$8.25 per hour.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/pet/2010e0465pe.htm>

### POVERTY REDUCTION

Community Perspectives 2010, the province's first summer institute, will provide a forum for non-profit groups, youth, government and private organizations to learn from each other and identify opportunities to strengthen the non-profit sector.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/np/2010e0579np.htm>

### SENIORS

The low-income seniors' benefit increased from \$300 to \$400 on April 1. 16-unit facility for low-income seniors in Quispamsis officially opened today. The accessible apartments received \$1 million in rent supplements from the province and \$480,000 under the federal Housing Trust Fund to offset construction costs.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2010e0647sd.htm>

## Prince Edward Island

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Budget will result in a deficit for the 2010-11 year of \$54.9 million – an improvement of over \$30 million from last year's Budget.

- an additional \$13.6 million will be invested in early learning and education to build opportunities for Island children
- as kindergarten moves into the public school system as a full-day program, government's investment will rise from \$3.2 million to \$10 million this fiscal year
- new funding of \$2.5 million plus additional kindergarten-related savings will be invested in the Early Childhood Sector, which will help to maintain child care spaces and improve services for children
- spending on home care will increase to a total of \$13 million
- funding for drug programs will increase by more than \$1.3 million and forecast savings of \$1.2 million from new generic drugs will be reinvested in the program
- \$938,000 will be invested in the new Provincial Stroke Care Model, which increases funding to an annual total of \$2.1 million
- \$1.5 million in programs to help make homes more energy efficient
- social supports for Islanders in need will increase, particularly through a \$270,000 increase in shelter allowances

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/budget/2010/index.php>

## Québec

### HOUSING

\$2.2 million for improvements to Montréal's NAHA Centre for homeless men.

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

### SENIORS

\$130,000 for Baluchons Alzheimer – a respite option for caregivers – to expand operations in four regions: Bas Saint-Laurent, Gaspé/Iles de la Madeleine, Outaouais and Cote-Nord.

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

<http://baluchonalzheimer.com/>

\$4.2 million from the federal and provincial governments to build 67 community housing units for supportive housing for seniors in Montreal.

<http://www.cmhc.ca/fr/inso/sapr/co/2010/2010-04-30-1130a.cfm>

## Ontario

### DISABILITIES

\$9 million per year will allow 3,600 more children with disabilities and special needs to benefit from improved services and lower wait times at 20 children's treatment centres across Ontario. Centres provide rehabili-



tation, physiotherapy and speech language therapy to children and youth with conditions, such as cerebral palsy and Down syndrome. The centres also support children with special needs, such as autism and learning disorders.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2010/04/more-support-for-kids-with-special-needs.html>

## EDUCATION

20,000 new spaces for college and university students will be created this year.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2010/04/investing-in-jobs-today-and-more-student-spaces-tomorrow.html>

Passage of *Full-Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010*. The legislation clarifies the roles of teachers and early childhood educators in full-day early learning classrooms.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2010/04/ontario-passes-full-day-learning-act.html>

## HEALTH

Reforms to the provincial prescription drug system include: lowering the cost of generic drugs by at least 50 percent, to 25 percent of the cost of the original brand name drug; eliminating abuse of the system by ending so-called 'professional allowances'; increasing dispensing fees and paying for additional services provided to patients; and supporting access with new dedicated funding to pharmacy services in rural communities and under-serviced areas.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2010/04/expanding-access-to-affordable-drugs.html>

## POVERTY REDUCTION

The province will develop a comprehensive and long-term strategic action plan for its partnership with the not-for-profit sector. In collaboration with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the government will conduct a series of discussions with the not-for-profit, private and public sectors on how to make government more responsive to not-for-profit and volunteer organizations.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mci/en/2010/04/building-a-strong-partnership-with-the-not-for-profit-sector.html>

## YOUTH

Summer Company 2010 provides hands-on business training and mentoring, and up to \$3,000 in funding to help enterprising students (aged 15 to 29) start up and run their own summer business.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/medt/en/2010/04/supporting-youth-entrepreneurship.html>

# Manitoba

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

\$60 million in 2010-11 to create 400 additional social housing units as part of the government's commitment to build 1,500 units in the province over the next five years.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8121>

\$19 million more in Budget 2010 for new child care centres, hundreds more spaces, the phasing in of a centralized online wait list and a pension plan for a child care workers.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8143>

Continued poverty reduction work includes \$950 million for more than 30 new initiatives and program enhancements including:

- launching the province's HOMEWorks! low-income housing strategy, which includes a homeless and mental health housing component
- enhancing the Rewarding Work strategy, including Rebound to help those affected by the recession, to help more Manitobans leave welfare
- introducing a higher minimum wage
- launching the Opening Doors Disability strategy
- adding help for rent payments
- expanding child care under the Family Choices five-year strategy
- launching Service Link to make existing low-income services more understandable and accessible.

The province will introduce a suite of measures in 2011 to assess progress under the four pillars of the ALL Aboard poverty reduction strategy.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8141>

## DISABILITIES

\$342,000 for new respite day camps called Stepping Out on Saturdays – Manitoba for children and families affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson and Little Grand Rapids. Camps will be offered one Saturday a month for children aged three to 12 to provide respite for parents. 72 children a year will attend the camps.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8281>



## HOUSING

\$6.5 million for a 24-unit affordable family housing project in Brandon (part of the five-year commitment to add 1,500 new social housing units over the next five years).

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8089>

40 new housing units for low-income seniors in Virden. \$327 million for social housing, to create 1,500 more affordable homes over the next five years. In addition, 1,500 households will benefit from home renovations and 12,000 households will benefit from building improvements.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8260>

Creation of 150 affordable housing units, part of a five-year strategy to add 1,500 affordable housing units throughout the province.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8264>

Three orders of government are providing \$6.16 million for the development of 42 units of supportive housing in Winnipeg. The housing complex with support services will assist those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8315>

\$10 million from the federal government to fund 34 Winnipeg organizations for the delivery of supports and services to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8317>

## INCOME SECURITY

Citizens with mental health problems now have access to a rent supplement that will support them in their search to find and keep appropriate housing. The Portable Housing Benefit provides a rent supplement of up to \$200 per month to low-income individuals who require assistance in finding accommodations. The benefit is accompanied by services to support and assure a stable tenancy.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8127>

Proposed legislation would take further steps to make sure Manitoba children benefit from financial support ordered by the courts. Amendments proposed would support the use of a new computer system and enhance enforcement tools and options available to the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8341>

Minimum wage will increase by 50 cents to \$9.50 an hour on October 1, 2011.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-04-01&item=8124>

## Saskatchewan

### HEALTH

Saskatchewan Government Insurance, the province's self-sustaining auto insurance fund, is encouraging vehicle owners who are permanently unable to drive for medical reasons to apply for a 20 percent non-driver medical discount.

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

### HOUSING

\$1 million to help Habitat for Humanity Saskatchewan affiliates build safe, affordable, quality homes for 20 lower-income families in select communities across the province. The province is also establishing a new program in the upcoming year to help eligible low-income families purchase their own home.

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

\$23 million in joint federal and provincial funding for improvements to more than 219 projects in 84 communities in central and northern locations.

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

[http://www.saskatoonhomepage.ca/social-housing-renovations-announced/itemid\\_21](http://www.saskatoonhomepage.ca/social-housing-renovations-announced/itemid_21)

\$31 million in combined federal and provincial funding for improvements to more than 247 projects in 97 communities in southern locations of Saskatchewan.

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

\$3.2 million from Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and \$1.8 million from the Yorkton Parkland Housing Society for a 24-unit affordable rental housing project for families. The project consists of three eight-unit, two-storey apartment buildings, each containing four two-bedroom and four three-bedroom units. One of the two-bedroom units in each building is accessible for persons with a disability.

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

### SENIORS

For the month of May, seniors 60+ will be able to ride anywhere within the Saskatchewan Transportation Company's network for \$10 one-way. STC reaches 290 communities with passenger and freight services. A similar promotion for seniors in September 2009 resulted in a 227 percent increase in senior ridership. Overall ridership rose by 40 percent.

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



## Alberta

### CHILD CARE

A new province-wide, five-year research project will examine factors influencing healthy childhood development. The Early Child Development Mapping Initiative will provide a better understanding of the relationships between children's development and the support and resources available in their communities.

<http://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=282354A4F-BEC1-D02C-A7FA-F9C9F10A40D5BC60>

### COMMUNITY

Under Alberta's Safe Communities initiative, more police, prosecutors and probation officers have been hired. More addiction treatment beds have been opened and funding made available for community-based crime prevention programs. Alberta has also introduced legislation to seize criminal profits of crime, ban body armour and illegally armoured vehicles, launch a witness security program and require emergency health care workers to notify police when patients arrive for treatment of gunshot or stab wounds.

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

[https://justice.alberta.ca/PROGRAMS\\_SERVICES/SAFE/Pages/NewsArchive.aspx](https://justice.alberta.ca/PROGRAMS_SERVICES/SAFE/Pages/NewsArchive.aspx)

Community Spirit Program will help 1,741 non-profit and charitable organizations by building on Albertans' private donations. The goal is to increase individual donations to Alberta's non-profit and charitable organizations. Organizations apply for a proportional grant based on the value of individual donations received. The program is donor-driven, meaning it recognizes and encourages Albertans to make cash donations.

<http://culture.alberta.ca/about/annual-report/2010/Annual-Report.pdf>

### HEALTH

Effective April 1, the price of currently available or existing generic drugs will be reduced from 75 to 56 percent of the price of comparable brand name drugs. Existing generic drugs are generic drugs already included on the Alberta Drug Benefit List as of October 1, 2009.

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

### HOUSING

\$7 million for 70 new affordable housing spaces for seniors in Spruce Grove. New provincial funding comes from Alberta Capital Bonds and the Affordable Supportive Living Initiative.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=282193FE-336DA-0F3B-F1AD-A992A201E6E9A1C0>

### SENIORS

Grande Prairie Care Centre (opening fall 2011) will double the number of care centre beds in the community, providing new options to support wellness and independence for 120 seniors. \$6.6 million through the capital grant Rural Affordable Supportive Living program will help build

60 affordable supportive living spaces in the centre; 60 more continuing care beds will replace the existing beds at the Grande Prairie Care Centre. *The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

\$10 million for 100 new affordable living spaces in a senior's care facility in Didsbury. Living accommodations will feature private suites, common areas for dining, social or recreational activities, meal and housekeeping services, and 24-hour staff on site.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=28133FD13702A-F1F4-6E4B-D14644D7953023C8>

## British Columbia

### CHILD CARE

\$50,000 to open a StrongStart Centre in Cache Creek

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010EDUC0037-000387.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010EDUC0037-000387.htm)

\$50,000 to open a StrongStart Centre in Kelowna.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010EDUC0047-000490.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010EDUC0047-000490.htm)

### EDUCATION

1.8 million in grants through the School Community Connections program to encourage greater utilization of school facilities and support Neighbourhood Learning Centres. School districts, in partnership with local governments, can submit up to three applications – totalling \$30,000 – for grant funding.

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

Funding for two Chilliwack schools to make necessary renovations to become neighbourhood learning centres.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010EDUC0045-000431.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010EDUC0045-000431.htm)

### EMPLOYMENT

\$4 million to build skills and training for more than 600 Aboriginal people in communities across BC. The Aboriginal Training for Employment Program will deliver job-related training in essential skills and introductory trades training, coupled with mentoring and coaching through public, private and Aboriginal-controlled training organizations around the province. 17 Aboriginal organizations have partnered with industry education and training providers to deliver services in more than 60 communities.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010ALMD0015-000450.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010ALMD0015-000450.htm)

### HEALTH

\$250 million over the next two years to launch its patient-focused funding model to the 23 largest hospitals across the province. Patient-focused funding will be gradually expanded, and by 2012-13, some 20 percent of eligible acute care spending will be funded through this



approach. The current block funding model does not attach funds to specific targets or priorities. Under a patient-focused funding approach, hospitals receive financial incentives for delivering acute care services for a competitive, set price. The strategy may expand to eventually include providing incentives for health authorities to better manage frailty, chronic disease and mental illness through community care rather than in a hospital or residential care setting.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSE RV0020-000403.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSE RV0020-000403.htm)

\$7.4 million to provide increased access to travel and accommodation support for families with children needing medical care or treatment at BC Children's Hospital. The Family Residence Program will provide a per-night subsidy for up to 30 days per stay. Hope Air and the Shriners of British Columbia and Yukon will each receive annual grants of \$500,000 to build on existing ground and air transportation assistance programs.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010PR EM0082-000419.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010PR EM0082-000419.htm)

## HOUSING

Eight temporary modular homes from the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Village in Whistler are being turned into permanent affordable rental homes on the Sunshine Coast. These units will provide stable, supportive housing for people living with mental health issues who are at risk of homelessness. A \$3.7-million investment by the province and community partners will be used to reconfigure the modular homes into a two-storey building with eight apartments, provide a clubhouse and deliver support services and programs.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0037-000386.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0037-000386.htm)

\$4.4 million to redevelop 23 Prince Rupert apartments of second-stage transition housing for women and children fleeing domestic abuse, and women in need of supportive recovery.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0036-000384.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0036-000384.htm)

\$8 million in municipal funding to three cold-weather shelters (serving 300 people per night) in Vancouver so they can remain open until new supportive housing apartments become available.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0040-000434.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0040-000434.htm)

First phase of a \$17.9-million supportive housing centre opens in Surrey for pregnant women and their children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The centre provides support services, including counselling, health care, and employment and life skills training. It includes a prenatal and postnatal care clinic for at-risk pregnant women and 12 short-term stay beds. The province provided a \$500,000 grant and

\$11.9 million in the form of mortgage financing toward the capital. In addition, the Ministry of Children and Family Development provided a \$1.6-million grant toward the capital cost of the day care.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0041-000460.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0041-000460.htm)

\$9.4-million, 20-bed mental health rehabilitation facility in Coquitlam that is providing residential specialized care in a supportive, community-like setting.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSE RV0022-000414.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSE RV0022-000414.htm)

## SENIORS

\$3.1 million for 12 apartments with integrated support services for low-income seniors in Chetwynd. The building is a result of an agreement between the province and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, to reconfigure 320 temporary modular housing units from the Olympic and Paralympic Village at Whistler. The units will be relocated and converted into 156 permanent, affordable apartments in six communities across the province.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0035-000370.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0035-000370.htm)

\$3,278,000 million for 22 affordable Seniors' Rental Housing units, part of a 58-unit housing development for seniors and persons with disabilities in Penticton.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0038-000402.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0038-000402.htm)

\$1.5-million grant to renovate 25 apartments for seniors at Heritage Manor in Burns Lake. The province will also pay \$58,220 in annual operating funding for support services to 12 of the apartments, which includes 24-hour on-site staff, light housekeeping, meals, and social and recreational activities.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0042-000466.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0042-000466.htm)

\$33.7-million building to provide residential care beds for Surrey seniors.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0047-000501.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0047-000501.htm)

## Yukon Territory

### CHILDREN

The new *Child and Family Services Act* is now in effect and replaces the 26 year-old *Children's Act*. One significant change is the mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-075.html>



## COMMUNITY

Community Services Minister Archie Lang committed to work in partnership to review funding, program and service delivery, recruitment and retention, and to address issues of importance to Yukon municipal governments.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-067.html>

## Northwest Territories

### DISABILITIES

A new committee will work to increase the representation of persons with disabilities in the government workforce. Composed of representatives from government and community groups, the committee will recommend actions that the government can take to support persons with disabilities and increase the opportunities for meaningful work in the public service.

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

### INCOME SECURITY

Effective April 1, the minimum wage rate increased to \$9.00 an hour.

Effective April 1, 2011, the rate will increase to \$10.00 an hour.

<http://srv116.services.gc.ca/dimt-wid/sm-mw/rpt2.aspx?lang=eng&dec=5>

## Nunavut

*No updates this month.*