



Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

May 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

\$25,000 to the Transition to Work through Community Network, a 16-week collaborative project to address the challenges faced by persons with mental health issues in finding and retaining employment.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/hrle/0507n06.htm>

\$1,384,190 to deliver six projects under the Bridging the Gap program, employing 77 individuals throughout the province. Operated by Random North Development Association, Bridging the Gap connects unemployed individuals with rural businesses that have job opportunities but lack access to a trained workforce within their local area.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/hrle/0507n03.htm>

### HOUSING

\$12.2 million from the provincial and federal governments for renovation and retrofit work on 822 Newfoundland Labrador Housing units, and co-op and non-profit housing properties on the Avalon and Burin Peninsulas.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/tw/0507n04.htm>

\$1.7 million for 125 units in the Labrador region.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/tw/0514n07.htm>

\$3 million for 381 units in the central region.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/tw/0518n05.htm>

\$3.4 million for 244 units in the western region

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/tw/0525n05.htm>

## Nova Scotia

### DISABILITIES

Changes to the *Homes for Special Care Act* will allow additional abilities to repeal or suspend a facility's license if they are not in compliance with regulations. The changes come as a result of abuse or neglect in licensed residential homes for persons with disabilities from October 2007 to March 2010. Changes will apply to nursing homes, homes for aged and residential care homes.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100505001>

### HEALTH

A new five-year responsible gaming strategy will be developed for 2011-16.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100511002>

\$8.6 million in new community living units to help people recovering from mental illness make the transition from in-patient care to independent living. Four community-focused living units, consisting of 10



bedrooms and associated living space, will be built on the Nova Scotia Hospital property.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100507007>

#### HOUSING

\$14 million in provincial and federal funds for affordable housing in Halifax. \$11 million is to repair and renovate social housing around the city. \$3 million will be used to build a 21-unit building in Spryfield for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100510001>

### New Brunswick

#### HOUSING

\$2.84 million to repair and renovate 393 housing units for low-income seniors and families in northeastern New Brunswick.

<http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/fcs/2010e0745sd.htm>

### Prince Edward Island

#### DISABILITIES

Disability Action Council has identified 14 priority areas upon which it will focus over the next year to improve outcomes for Islanders with disabilities.

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/newsroom/index.php?number=news&dept=&newsnumber=7019&lang=E>

#### HOUSING

Shelter Allowance rates for social assistance clients will increase by two percent effective June 1, 2010. The increase represents a \$270,600 investment for 2010-11. Since 2007, the Social Assistance Shelter Rate has increased by 11 percent, matching the allowable rent increases approved by the Island Regulatory Appeals Commission.

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/newsroom/index.php?number=news&dept=&newsnumber=7024&lang=E>

\$8.4 million in federal and provincial funding for 12 projects providing housing to groups such as seniors and persons with disabilities.

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/newsroom/index.php?number=news&dept=&newsnumber=7035&lang=E>

### Québec

#### DISABILITIES

Province will cover the costs associated with guide dogs for the blind.

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

#### EMPLOYMENT

Employment statistics indicate that the province has regained 125 percent of the jobs lost during the 2008-09 recession.

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

#### POVERTY REDUCTION

\$500,000 for 17 projects aimed at social integration and inclusion.

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

#### SENIORS

\$2.6 million from the federal and provincial governments to build 67 community housing units for supportive housing for seniors in Thetford Mines.

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

\$11.7 million for the construction of a long-term care facility in Pont-Rouge.

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

### Ontario

#### EDUCATION

Ontario is helping more parents play a role in public education and get involved in their children's education through its Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grants.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2010/05/helping-more-parents-get-involved-in-education.html>

#### EMPLOYMENT

If passed, the proposed *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* would provide 46,000 not-for-profit corporations with a modern legal framework to: enhance corporate governance and accountability, simplify the incorporation process, give more rights to members, and better protect directors and officers from personal liability. Ontario's not-for-profit sector employs 16 percent of all employed Ontarians and generates \$50 billion in annual revenues.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mcs/en/2010/05/strengthening-ontarios-not-for-profit-sector.html>

#### HEALTH

14 new Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic applicants will be selected from groups or individuals from across the province such as registered non-profit organizations, local community-based organizations and nurse practitioners.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2010/05/new-nurse-practitioner-led-clinics.html>

#### INCOME SUPPORT

New legislation will provide an annual credit to low- to middle-income northern residents who are facing high energy costs. The annual Northern Ontario Energy Credit will provide about \$35 million in assistance to 250,000 families and single people (more than half of all northerners).

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2010/05/new-energy-credit-available-for-northern-residents.html>



## Manitoba

### CHILD CARE

Province introduces comprehensive safety plans and codes of conduct for its 1,105 licensed child-care facilities.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8385>

### COMMUNITY

\$2 million (through Manitoba's Community Services Council) for non-profit, volunteer, community-service, social-service, recreation and health-related organizations. (MCSC was established in 1984 and entrusted with the job of supporting volunteer organizations across the province.)

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8401>

Renovations to the Manitoba Children's Museum and the construction of community centres, water and spray parks are among the hundreds of initiatives receiving funding under the Community Places Program. Budget 2010 invests \$4.5 million through the program, which is expected to leverage \$67 million in community-based construction projects for the upgrade of existing facilities or create new ones.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8500>

### DISABILITIES

May 30 to June 5 was declared Manitoba Access Awareness Week. Projects highlighted:

- In 2010-11, the Community Places Program will fund 25 projects directly related to disability accommodation totalling \$374,000. These grants will be used to leverage total construction costs of more than \$2.374 million.
- Accessibility improvements to provincial parks and campgrounds.
- Expansion of the Portable Housing Benefit, a rent supplement that supports Manitobans with mental-health issues, to all regions of the province. This benefit reflects the government's commitment to the housing first principle that housing is an essential component of healthy living. The benefit provides a rent supplement of up to \$200 per month to low-income individuals who require assistance in finding accommodations. It is accompanied by services to support a stable tenancy.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8674>

### EMPLOYMENT

\$356,102 in federal and provincial dollars to fund a job training and work experience project for youth and low-income individuals and immigrants

who face barriers to employment.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8645>

### POVERTY REDUCTION

Creation of a 29-member Premier's Advisory Council on Education, Poverty and Citizenship. This group of community leaders has a mandate to find the best ways to ensure more Manitobans complete education and training that leads to jobs and economic opportunity. Based on the successful Premier's Economic Advisory Council, the council will provide direct advice to the premier and is the latest component of the province's ALL Aboard Poverty Reduction Strategy.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8665>

Neighbourhoods Alive!, one of the province's key community economic development initiatives, is being expanded to the Elmwood area in Winnipeg with \$90,000 in funding. (Since 2000, NA! programs have been established in Thompson, Brandon, Flin Flon, The Pas, Selkirk, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie and inner-city communities throughout Winnipeg.)

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8663>

### SENIORS

\$170,000 for five projects aimed at strengthening connections between seniors and their communities.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8384>

### YOUTH

\$974,965 over three years for 36 youth initiatives – e.g., summer camps, leadership training and video projects.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8386>

\$1.7 million in suicide prevention initiatives, including \$220,000 in renewed funding to support the ongoing development and implementation of regional and community-based youth suicide-prevention activities; \$100,000 to expand school-based Roots of Empathy programs; \$130,000 for Signs of Suicide (school-based prevention); \$127,500 to Communities That Care; and \$57,000 to deliver training workshops for service providers.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-05-01&item=8391>

## Saskatchewan

### COMMUNITIES

\$5.2 million in 2010-11 to continue funding agreements with more than 12 community-based organizations that assist persons with disabilities,



vulnerable women and children, people struggling with homelessness and others in need.

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

\$4.3 million in 2010-11 for continued funding agreements with nearly 20 community-based organizations and four northern villages that provide services to vulnerable women, children, families and other Saskatchewan people in need.

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

#### DISABILITIES

\$540,000 in funding toward the construction of a group home and an adult day-program facility.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=61541>

#### EMPLOYMENT

Funding increase of \$1.95 million to the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (2011-11 investment total of \$19.7 million in apprenticeship training). This year's Budget increase includes \$400,000 for a targeted initiative to bolster Aboriginal participation and success in apprenticeship training.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=61564>

#### HOUSING

Federal and provincial funds help build 20 new units of affordable rental housing for families in La Ronge.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=61543>

#### YOUTH

A new affordable rental housing project in Yorkton for youth at risk of becoming homeless. Two six-bedroom buildings which will house a total of ten youth. Each building will also house a mentor to support and coach the residents.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=61563>

## Alberta

#### COMMUNITY

\$1.9 million for three new projects aimed at preventing and reducing crime in Edmonton will focus on youth mentoring and community integration for new Canadians.

[http://justice.alberta.ca/programs\\_services/safe/Pages/NewsArchive.aspx](http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/safe/Pages/NewsArchive.aspx)

#### HOUSING

\$29 million for seven Edmonton-based organizations that will partner with the Alberta government to develop 314 more housing units for the homeless.

[http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual\\_report\\_to\\_Minister\\_2010-11.pdf](http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual_report_to_Minister_2010-11.pdf)

\$32 million for ten Calgary-based organizations that will partner with the Alberta government to develop 297 more housing units for the homeless.

[http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual\\_report\\_to\\_Minister\\_2010-11.pdf](http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual_report_to_Minister_2010-11.pdf)

\$5.4 million to a Grande Prairie development to create 60 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom rental units in a project that will include commercial space for organizations delivering supports and services needed to break the cycle of homelessness.

[http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual\\_report\\_to\\_Minister\\_2010-11.pdf](http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual_report_to_Minister_2010-11.pdf)

\$90 million in federal and provincial funds to renovate social housing across the province.

[http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual\\_report\\_to\\_Minister\\_2010-11.pdf](http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual_report_to_Minister_2010-11.pdf)

\$70 million in federal and provincial funds for 19 projects to build more affordable housing for low-income families, individuals, seniors and persons with disabilities. Funds will allow the construction of seven initiatives in Calgary, four in Edmonton and eight in other Alberta communities for a total of 886 new affordable housing units.

[http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual\\_report\\_to\\_Minister\\_2010-11.pdf](http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual_report_to_Minister_2010-11.pdf)

#### SENIORS

\$10 million to build 100 new affordable accommodation spaces for seniors in Red Deer.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=2828368DD4042-BAF7-2C47-D7D-2B2107EAA89AD>

#### YOUTH

Three Edmonton projects announced:

- \$1.48 million to the City of Edmonton to increase the accessibility of critical services by connecting parents and families to the school hub during evening and weekend hours
- \$100,000 to iHuman Youth Society to engage high risk youth in urban art and sporting events, while at the same time providing education and employment opportunities
- \$680,000 to the Alberta Conflict Transformation Society and Edmonton Police Service Southeast Division to address crime and community safety through restorative justice, which will allow youth to be accountable for their actions and supported in contributing positively to their community.

<https://www.solgps.alberta.ca/newsroom/Pages/NewprojectsinEdmonton-toimprovecommunitysafety.aspx>



## British Columbia

### CHILD CARE

A new StrongStart BC Outreach program to serve families and pre-schoolers in Edgewood. Other programs announced in Surrey, Nelson, Crescent Valley, Cowichan Valley, Kelowna Lake, Central Okanagan and Kelowna. The province has invested \$43 million to expand the initiative, with more than 310 programs now operating across the province. StrongStart BC centres help fulfill government's commitment to use underutilized school district space to deliver early learning services.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010EDUC0049-000530.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010EDUC0049-000530.htm)

Chawathil First Nation is celebrating the opening of its first 20 space, on-reserve child-care centre near Hope.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010CFD0011-000554.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010CFD0011-000554.htm)

### EMPLOYMENT

Hundreds of older residents will gain skills and employment opportunities with 23 new projects offered through the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers (TIOW) program. Operating since 2008, TIOW is a federal-provincial/territorial program to help unemployed workers, primarily those aged 55 to 64 and living in communities affected by high unemployment. New projects will operate in 30 communities and assist 800 people.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010ALMD0019-000608.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010ALMD0019-000608.htm)

### HOUSING

An Olympic legacy housing project will provide 36 affordable rental apartments with support services for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Saanich.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0049-000519.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0049-000519.htm)

An Olympic legacy housing project will provide 15 affordable rental apartments for low-income seniors in Enderby.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0048-000517.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0048-000517.htm)

\$7.3 million to construct a supportive housing building with 49 apartments to tackle homelessness in Kelowna.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0053-000575.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0053-000575.htm)

The province, City of Vancouver and the Streethome Foundation are partnering to provide supportive housing for 1,000 people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Six projects previously announced

will see another 569 apartments for a total of 1,575 new units and an investment of \$333.4 million.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010PREM0114-000621.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010PREM0114-000621.htm)

Opening of more than 200 affordable rental apartments for singles, families and people with disabilities at the new Woodward's development in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Woodward's is a \$400-million renewal project partnership involving three orders of government and the private sector.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010PREM0116-000633.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010PREM0116-000633.htm)

## Yukon Territory

### COMMUNITY

Funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Natural Resources Canada and the Development Assessment Branch paid for a new socio-economic web portal that features valuable data about Yukon communities. Information is organized by place and, in some cases, by region. The data can be combined and interpreted to gain new insights into the social and economic issues of Yukon's communities. Visit [www.sewp.gov.yk.ca](http://www.sewp.gov.yk.ca).

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-094.html>

## Northwest Territories

### COMMUNITY

The Territory is updating and revising its Volunteer Sector Initiative to improve training opportunities for volunteers, with an emphasis on community capacity building; promoting the social and health benefits of volunteering to all residents; engaging youth as new volunteers; and supporting the development of resources to complement these activities.

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

33 communities have completed their Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSP) as part of the Canada-Northwest Territories Gas Tax Fund Agreement. ICSPs provide communities with a framework under which community development plans are formalized and adopted, taking into account the economic, environmental, social, cultural and governance implications.

<http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/media/news-nouvelles/2010/20100518yellowknife-eng.html>

## Nunavut

*No updates this month.*