



Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

July 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

### INCOME SECURITY

July 1, 2010, the provincial minimum wage will increase by 50 cents to \$10.00 per hour. The increase represents the final step of the Provincial Government's 2007 Blueprint commitment of achieving a minimum wage of \$10 per hour by 2010.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/hrle/0630n02.htm>

Budget 2010 tax measures came into effect on July 1, 2010:

- provincial personal income tax rate on income between \$31,278 and \$62,556 was lowered to 12.5 percent (from 12.8 percent)
- tax rate for the top income tax bracket (more than \$62,556) will decrease to 13.3 percent (from 15.5 percent)
- Dividend Tax Credit rate on eligible dividends will increase to 11 percent, making the province more competitive in this area and encouraging investment activity
- Non-refundable Age Amount tax credit for individuals aged 65 years or older increases from \$3,681 to \$5,000. The income level at which taxpayers become eligible for the credit moves from \$51,940 to \$60,733. Those who claim the Age Amount will receive a benefit of up to \$102 through a reduction in their provincial tax payable.
- The maximum amount under the Low-Income Seniors' Benefit Program will increase from \$803 to \$900, providing up to an additional \$97 for eligible seniors
- The Low-Income Seniors' Benefit is available to seniors with a family net income under \$33,884 (42,500 seniors will be eligible). The maximum amount under the Low-Income Seniors' Benefit Program will increase from \$803 to \$900, providing up to \$97 for eligible seniors. The Low-Income Seniors' Benefit is available to seniors with a family net income under \$33,884. Approximately 42,500 seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador will be eligible for this increase.

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

## Nova Scotia

### INCOME SECURITY

To help offset the impact of the HST restoration the province is offering other new rebates and credits including:

- point-of-sale rebates on certain essential items including children's clothing, footwear, and diapers, and feminine hygiene products
- tax reduction for low-income seniors
- tax credit for those living in poverty (the Affordable Living Tax Credit).

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100630009>



## New Brunswick

### YOUTH

\$200,000 over five years to Partners for Youth Inc. to develop local youth-in-care networks in anglophone and francophone communities as well as a bilingual, provincial network. This network of peers will provide a positive influence, support and guidance for youth-in-care.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2010.07.1259.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.07.1259.html)

## Prince Edward Island

### CHILDREN

More than half of the province's early childhood centres have indicated they would like to transition to an Early Years Centre and be part of the Preschool Excellence Initiative.

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/news/index.php3?number=news&dept=&newsnumber=7194&lang=E>

## Québec

### HEALTH

\$117 million to create 500 nurse practitioner positions in facilities throughout the province. The amount augments the \$41.2 million to train 115 people, announced in June 2008.

<http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Juil-let2010/14/c4341.html>

## Ontario

### COMMUNITY

New, \$50-million Community Capital Fund (administered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation) will support infrastructure projects that help nonprofit organizations deliver services to diverse cultural communities (e.g., newcomer settlement services, multi-service community centres, performance venues and cultural activity centres).

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mcl/en/2010/07/building-on-non-profit-infrastructure-projects.html>

### POVERTY REDUCTION

Northern Training Partnership Fund program provides northern communities with access to skills training opportunities, leading to jobs in energy, mining, and forestry. Eligible projects must involve a collaboration between industry and Aboriginal or northern communities or organizations.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/maa/en/2010/07/creating-jobs-and-developing-skills-in-the-north.html>

## Manitoba

### COMMUNITIES

The province and the City of Winnipeg are each contributing \$5 million to a new Building Communities Initiative (BCI). BCI will fund local

infrastructure and housing exterior improvements that will benefit older neighbourhoods and contribute to the vitality, safety and health of communities throughout the city.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-07-01&item=9140>

## Saskatchewan

### DISABILITIES

The Program Implementation Advisory Team for the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program has been renewed for a second one-year term to June 30, 2011. SAID was launched last fall so that people with significant, long-term disabilities no longer have to rely on social assistance. More than 2,600 Saskatchewan people are currently enrolled in SAID. The Ministry of Social Services is developing options for the next steps of the program with the help of the Advisory Team.

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

[http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications\\_Centre/SocialServices/From-Dependence-to-Independence-2012.pdf](http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications_Centre/SocialServices/From-Dependence-to-Independence-2012.pdf)

### EDUCATION

\$500,000 in one-time funding for three school divisions to partner with Frontier College to deliver summer literacy camps for students in 16 communities.

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

<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/newsreleases-2010>

### HEALTH

Expanded prescribing authority for Saskatchewan pharmacists. Amendments to the Pharmacy Act will authorize pharmacists to provide services such as extending refills during a physician's absence and providing emergency supplies of prescribed medications. This enhanced prescribing authority sets the foundation for future expansion; in collaboration with physicians, pharmacists who acquire additional training, will have the authority to alter dosages or formulas, or prescribe certain medications for minor ailments.

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

### HOUSING

Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding of \$347,280 and \$300,000 in capital funding from the province will be used for the construction of two buildings, which will create 10 new transitional beds in Saskatoon. The facility will assist female youth between the ages of 12 and 15, primarily of Aboriginal ancestry, who are homeless or vulnerable to homelessness.

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

[http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications\\_Centre/SocialServices/From-Dependence-to-Independence-2012.pdf](http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications_Centre/SocialServices/From-Dependence-to-Independence-2012.pdf)



## Alberta

### HOUSING

\$188-million partnership with municipalities, nonprofit groups and the private sector to build homes for low- to moderate-income and homeless Albertans (fourth project year in a drive to build 11,000 affordable housing units by 2010). 8,700 units are now in development or available; 940 have been developed to provide permanent housing for the homeless.

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

<http://housing.alberta.ca/housingstartshere/201012-AccessToAffordable-Housing.pdf>

### YOUTH

\$350,000 in provincial grants for youth justice committees that provide an alternative to the formal court process for youth ages 12 to 17 who come into contact with the criminal justice system. More than 1,500 volunteers contribute 144,000 volunteer hours per year while working on 126 youth justice committees.

<http://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=-28848F585AADE-BC94-4317-E29A6EBEF69DA351>

## British Columbia

### HOUSING

\$1.4 million for newly renovated Jubilee Place, providing 33 suites with integrated support services for individuals at risk of homelessness in Williams Lake.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010HSD0068-000886.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0068-000886.htm)

### POVERTY REDUCTION

The cities of Vancouver and Victoria are the most recent municipalities to join the BC Government and Service Employees' Union and others in calling on the provincial government to implement a comprehensive and accountable poverty reduction plan for British Columbia.

[http://www.bcgeu.bc.ca/BC\\_municipalities\\_join\\_growing\\_call\\_for\\_provincial\\_poverty\\_reduction\\_plan](http://www.bcgeu.bc.ca/BC_municipalities_join_growing_call_for_provincial_poverty_reduction_plan)

## Yukon Territory

### YOUTH

New Youth Directory website connects youth and people who work with them to services, programs, funds, activities and events.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-132.html>

## Northwest Territories

### COMMUNITY

Premier launches "Creating Our Future Together," a collective effort by elected leaders to identify a common vision for the territory's future.

[http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/\\_live/documents/content/Creating\\_our\\_Future.pdf](http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/Creating_our_Future.pdf)

## Nunavut

*No updates this month.*