



Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

August 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

\$17,863,384 over four years (2009–2013) in federal funding to support two official languages. This includes \$15,763,384 for minority language education and second language instruction and \$2.1 million for the delivery of French language services. Ottawa also provides annual funding of \$1,039,000 to organizations representing the province's Francophone community.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/edu/0811n04.htm>

Nova Scotia

No updates this month.

New Brunswick

HOUSING

As part of Hope is a Home (a five-year strategy to reduce poverty by making housing more affordable), the provincial and federal governments are investing in the construction and renovation of 825 affordable housing units for low-income seniors, families and persons with disabilities in 20 communities in southeastern New Brunswick.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.08.1410.html

Provincial and federal governments are investing in the renovation and repair of 41 affordable housing units throughout the province.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.08.1529.html

YOUTH

Release of the first edition of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate newsletter, coinciding with the start of the United Nations' International Year of Youth. The newsletter provides information and resources about local and international child and youth initiatives and updates regarding the work of the office in promoting and protecting the rights of children.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.08.1389.html

Prince Edward Island

CHILDREN

New literacy packages being given to parents of newborns through the Take :30 to Read With Me program. They contain high-quality baby books, family reading tips and information about family resource centres. Packages are distributed by a nurse at a hospital bedside within 24 hours of birth. The program offers bilingual materials as well as cultural-specific books.

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

<http://www.innovationpei.com/index.php3?number=news&newsnumber=7236&lang=E>



Québec

HEALTH

From August 5, 2010, all costs relating to artificial insemination and three cycles of in vitro fertilization (IVF) will be borne by the public system. The number of IVF cycles covered by the program will grow from 3,500 in 2010 to 7,000 in 2014-2015.

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

<http://sante.gouv.qc.ca/programmes-et-mesures-daide/programme-quebecois-de-procreation-assistee/>

SENIORS

Launch of the second phase of “Generation @” which provides information technology support to seniors. The second phase, operating in the Laval region, is testing technology solutions specifically designed to meet the needs of seniors.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Ontario

BUDGET UPDATE

Final deficit for the 2009-10 fiscal year is \$19.3 billion, \$5.4 billion lower than the initial forecast made in Fall 2009 and \$2 billion lower than the March 2010 Budget forecast.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2010/08/2009-10-public-accounts-released.html>

INCOME SECURITY

3.1 million eligible low- to middle-income families and individuals received the first of quarterly Ontario Sales Tax Credit payments that will provide up to \$260 annually for each adult and child. This is in addition to the existing federal GST credit. Ontario’s new tax plan includes permanent income tax cuts for families and businesses, the new permanent Ontario Sales Tax Credit and the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Province proposes reforms to strengthen pensions. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Commission on Pensions, it would:

- require sustainable funding of promised benefits and tougher funding standards for benefit improvements
- clarify pension surplus rules and provide a dispute resolution process to allow members, retirees and sponsors to reach agreements on how surplus should be shared on wind up
- provide a more sustainable Ontario’s Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund by implementing a strategy to build reserves, increase revenues, limit current exposure and reduce risk to taxpayers in future.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2010/08/further-strengthening-pensions.html>

SENIORS

Ontario is increasing funding for its Aging at Home program by \$143.4 million (to \$330.6 million) in 2010.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2010/08/aging-at-home-strategy-expands.html>

HST implementation includes a new refundable sales tax credit of up to \$260 per year, similar to the GST credit, will be provided for people – including seniors – with low incomes. Eligible low- and middle-income senior homeowners and tenants will also receive the new Ontario Property Tax Credit, providing seniors with up to \$1,025 annually.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/oss/en/2010/06/seniors-to-benefit-from-ontarios-tax-reforms.html>

Manitoba

DISABILITIES

\$16.7 million for a one-stop rehabilitation centre for children will co-locate other specialized services for children with disabilities to ease access to services.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-08-01&item=9485>

EDUCATION

Between 2009-13, the federal government will contribute \$49,260,800 to support the French-language instruction in Manitoba. The province has also committed to a significant contribution towards French first- and second-language education. Under a second agreement, Canada and Manitoba will each provide \$5.6 million for the delivery of provincial services in French and the provision of French-language services in bilingual Manitoba municipalities.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-08-01&item=9541>

HEALTH

Treatment options for serious medical conditions including cancer, diabetes, depression, hypertension, glaucoma, HIV and hepatitis B are now covered by the province’s pharmacare program.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-08-01&item=9383>

HOUSING

Homelessness Partnering Strategy will provide \$917,640 to the (Winnipeg) North End Women’s Centre for the construction of a transitional housing facility. It will contain six transitional housing units, kitchen and laundry facilities, a children’s play area, office space and a supportive programming area for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and are struggling with addiction, safety and chronic transience.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-08-01&item=9381>



Saskatchewan

DISABILITIES

\$2.5 million increase in funding was announced in the 2010-11 provincial Budget for people with autism spectrum disorders and their families. The funds will support a three-year pilot project to enhance frontline services for children and youth, respite care, seasonal programming and professional training. The money is in addition to \$3 million base annualized funding provided in the 2008-09 Budget.

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

YOUTH

\$70,000 for a new Youth Transitions Project that will provide training, client assessments and case management services to young people ages 15-30 who face employment barriers.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Alberta

BUDGET UPDATE

First quarter Fiscal Update forecasts a deficit of \$4.76 billion, \$7 million higher than forecast in the Budget at the start of the fiscal year.

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

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

HOUSING

Alberta won recognition at the 2010 Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) national awards ceremony for its work on homelessness (A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 years) and promoting Aboriginal economic development (First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative). The two initiatives are the first of their kind in Canada and set new standards for collaboration among funders, community leaders and service providers. For more information on Alberta's 10-year plan to end homelessness, visit www.housing.alberta.ca. For information on the First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative, visit www.aboriginal.alberta.ca. http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual_report_to_Minister_2010-11.pdf

YOUTH

Funding for two Safe Communities Innovation Fund pilot projects aimed at Aboriginal youth. \$383,772 over three years for Reclaiming Our Youth with Hope: A Hope-focused Service-learning Project. The goal is to cultivate hope among Aboriginals aged 13-16 living near Stony Plain as a foundation for increasing school engagement, self-esteem, leadership abilities, citizenship and career aspirations. \$75,000 for the one-year Comprehensive Community Feasibility Study and Needs Assessment on Crime Reduction. The Yellowhead Tribal Community Corrections Society,

Alexander First Nation and RCMP will develop a crime prevention strategy to address priority issues identified by the community.

https://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/safe/Documents/SCIF-Grant-Criteria.pdf

British Columbia

HOUSING

\$29 million in federal and \$33 million in provincial funding to build 404 housing units for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities across British Columbia.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0078-001001.html

Yukon Territory

DISABILITIES

\$281,725 in Labour Market Development Agreement funding for the Yukon Council on disABILITY will improve access to jobs. This new three-year funding will support activities such as hosting an international conference to increase community awareness and developing community and service provider skills, networks and protocols.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-152.html>

WOMEN

Nine organizations will receive close to \$900,000 over three years to advance women's equality. Established in 2007, Women's Equality Funding Program provides support for direct services and programs, research and policy development, education and social action, and capacity-building for women's organizations.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-143.html>

\$190,000 to help prevent violence against Aboriginal women.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-159.html>

Northwest Territories

No updates this month.

Nunavut

Tamapta Action Plan (territorial poverty reduction strategy).

http://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/files/Tamapta%20Action%20Plan_eng_small.pdf