




Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

September 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

DISABILITIES

The province has announced consultations to develop a strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Direct input is also invited through written submissions, phone and TTY. A discussion paper is available from the Disability Policy Office or its website (disability.policy.office@gov.nl.ca).
<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/hrle/0902n01.htm>

EDUCATION

The Department of Education is holding public consultations to seek input on the development of a strategy for early childhood learning.
<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/edu/0927n02.htm>

POVERTY REDUCTION

Public consultations are being held to inform the next four-year Action Plan. The provincial poverty reduction strategy was launched in 2006 with more than \$30 million to support 20 initiatives aimed at preventing, reducing, and alleviating poverty. Budget 2010: The Right Investments – For Our Children and Our Future allocated \$134 million to the strategy to support more than 80 ongoing initiatives. The current process marks the third set of poverty consultations, with previous consultations informing the first Action Plan and the first Progress Report.
<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/hrle/0927n05.htm>

Nova Scotia

DISABILITIES

The Emergency Management Office and the Emergency Preparedness Committee for Persons with Disabilities have teamed up to offer training to address the crisis readiness needs of persons with disabilities.
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100927004>

HEALTH

The province is gathering input from community pharmacies, doctors, medical staff at district health authorities, seniors groups and drug manufacturers on a plan to get fair prescription drug prices for seniors' and others who get help with drug costs through Pharmacare programs. Without measures to contain drug costs, they are expected to grow by seven percent in 2010-11, to more than \$300 million.
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100920001>

New Brunswick

DISABILITIES

Beginning in mid-October 2010, children and youth with complex needs, their parents, stakeholders and experts will be consulted on the development of the province's first centre of excellence for children and youth with complex needs.
http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.09.1600.html



The 27th edition of the Directory of Services Offered to Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick was released by the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.09.1586.html

INCOME SECURITY

The minimum wage increased by 50 cents an hour to \$9 per hour on September 1. There are two more steps to reach \$10 an hour by September 2011:

- April 1: an increase of 50 cents to \$9.50 per hour
- Sept. 1: an increase of 50 cents to \$10 per hour.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.08.1418.html

Prince Edward Island, Québec

No updates this month.

Ontario

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Passage of the *Far North Act, 2010* to help with economic development and environmental protection issues. First Nations' approval of land use plans is now required by law. First Nations' communities will identify and approve the areas in the Far North that require protection as well as those areas suitable for economic development.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mnr/en/2010/09/far-north-act-passes.html>

CHILDREN

New refundable tax credit proposed – similar to the federal program for sports – to allow parents to claim arts and sports activity fees for children. Under the proposed tax credit, parents would be able to claim up to \$500 of eligible expenses per child. They would receive a refundable tax credit worth up to \$50 per child, or up to \$100 for a child with a disability.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2010/09/helping-children-be-healthy-and-active.html>

EMPLOYMENT

Since June 2008, Second Career has helped almost 36,000 laid-off workers go to school and train for a new job in a high-demand sector. A program survey conducted in January and August 2010 found that: 93 percent of participants completed training; 61 percent of graduates found new jobs; and 86 percent of graduates were satisfied or very satisfied with the government's Second Career program. The average length of training was nine months with average funding approximately \$17,500.

<http://news.ontario.ca/tcu/en/2010/09/the-second-career-program.html>

HOUSING

Because of the Northern Ontario's unique climate and geography, residents often face higher energy costs than other Ontarians. The new Northern Ontario Energy Credit will provide a yearly credit of up to \$130 for a single person and up to \$200 for a family.

<http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2010/09/mcguinity-government-helping-with-energy-costs-in-the-north.html>

Manitoba

COMMUNITIES

Neighbourhoods Alive! celebrated its tenth anniversary with arts and culture grants, youth grants. The initiative is based on a community-led model where neighbourhood organizations, residents, local businesses and other community stakeholders participate in the revitalization of their neighbourhood

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-9-01&item=9640>

HEALTH

Announcement of Project CHOICES, the newest element in the provincial Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder strategy. A new FASD strategy document is now available and it can be found at www.manitoba.ca/healthy-child/fasd/index.html

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-9-01&item=9620>

HOUSING

The Governments of Canada and Manitoba announced \$102 million in joint funding for new social housing units and improvements to existing social housing units throughout the province. The approved work for 9,724 units at 163 projects will enhance housing quality and accessibility.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-9-01&item=9645>

Saskatchewan

DISABILITIES

\$1.1 million will fund the development of four new group homes – three in Regina and one in Melfort. The Saskatchewan Abilities Council will receive \$400,000 for the completion of 2,100 support assessments for people with intellectual disabilities who attend Ministry-funded day programs.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Alberta

HOMELESSNESS

Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness presented its 2009-10 Report to the Minister. The report highlights progress made in the first year of the 10-year plan, and sets out recommendations for future strategies and solutions.

http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/Annual_report_to_Minister_2010-11.pdf



YOUTH

Up to 18 youth (ages 15 to 22) will be selected to serve on the 2010-11 Youth Advisory Panel. Since its inception in 2000, the panel has contributed recommendations and feedback for provincial initiatives, programs and public awareness campaigns.

<http://www.speakout.alberta.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=WXnfDz-vT58A%3D&staid=236>

British Columbia

EMPLOYMENT

\$5.2 million for the second year of the Employment Skills Access Program, to help 1,000 unemployed and low-skilled people acquire skills to transition back to the labour force, get a better job or further their education. The program has expanded to include low-skilled, employed individuals as well as individuals who are unemployed but not Employment Insurance (EI) clients.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010ALMD0037-001010.htm

HOMELESSNESS

\$3.5-million building providing 28 suites of supportive housing, officially opened today to house people at risk of homelessness and with mental health issues in Salmon Arm.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0083-001049.htm

\$2.5 million invested in two former motels to provide more affordable housing for people in Victoria who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010HSD0082-001025.htm

Yukon Territory

DISABILITIES

Community Development Fund is awarding \$812,985 to various community projects. Examples include \$47,000 for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society of Yukon to host a symposium; Yukon Council on disABILITY was awarded \$74,100 to design and organize an international conference entitled Six Steps to Success on good practice related to employing people with disabilities.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Northwest Territories

COMMUNITY

Volunteer Organization Development Fund has been increased from \$20,000 to \$70,000 annually. The Volunteer Organization Development Fund is available to assist volunteer organizations in the Northwest Territories with training, development and other associated investments in volunteer capacity.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

Nunavut

INCOME SECURITY

Territorial government is conducting a Social Services Review in order to develop a new *Child and Family Services Act* to ensure that children are protected and families are better supported by their government and their community.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.