



Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

October 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

No updates this month.

Nova Scotia

COMMUNITY

The province's 5,800 voluntary sector organizations have been shifted to the Department of Labour and Workforce Development, with an expanded focus to better include the voluntary sector as a whole. With more than 24,000 employees in 5,800 organizations, the voluntary sector is a significant employer in the province.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20101025006>

INCOME SECURITY

Minimum wage in Nova Scotia increased to \$9.65 per hour on October 1, a 4.9 percent increase from \$9.20. The increase brings a full-time minimum wage worker to the low income cut-off for a single individual.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20100930005>

\$1 million investment in the Employment Support and Income Assistance Program. Changes affect shelter benefits, income assistance for couples, allowable savings levels and more.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20101026003>

New Brunswick

COMMUNITY

Gignoo Transition House, NB's only Aboriginal transition house, and the Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick released new resources to prevent family violence in Aboriginal communities.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.10.1682.html

DISABILITIES

An expert panel will be appointed to consult residents on how private pensions can be protected and sustained over the long term.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.10.1690.html

POVERTY REDUCTION

Establishment of a Citizen Engagement Unit responsible for coordinating citizen engagement initiatives across government departments and agencies, and for providing advice, coaching, training and best practices information.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.10.1664.html

The Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation is accepting applications for the establishment of 12 community inclusion networks across the province. The boundaries are based on the traditional relationships



between communities and the Department of Social Development's regional boundaries. The application deadline is December 22, 2010. http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.10.1686.html

Prince Edward Island

INCOME SECURITY

The second stage of a minimum wage increase became effective on October 1, raising the minimum wage from \$8.70 to \$9.00 per hour. *The original internet link to this item is no longer operational.* <http://www.gov.pe.ca/labour/index.php3?number=1022458&lang=e>

Québec

DISABILITY

120 educational partners met to discuss the integration of students with handicaps, social adjustment problems and learning difficulties. By June 2011, a plan will be in place to foster the success of the 163,000 students with disabilities who attend Québec schools. *The internet link to this item is no longer operational.*

SENIORS

Three regional support hubs for caregivers have been established, with funding the Sojecci Ltd. II company. Established in 2009 by Québec and the Lucie and André Chagnon family, the company's mandate is to manage \$200 million over 10 years to support 300,000 Québécois who provide volunteer care for relatives with persistent or significant disability. Caregiver support hubs will be established in six other regions in 2011 and nine in 2012. *The original internet link to this item is no longer operational.* <http://www4.gouv.qc.ca/FR/Portail/Citoyens/Evenements/aines/Pages/ser-vice-soutien-domicile.aspx>

Ontario

INCOME SECURITY

Introduction of *Securing Pension Benefits Now and for the Future Act, 2010* which builds on the first phase of reforms passed in spring 2010. The province continues to call for a modest and gradual expansion of the Canada Pension Plan and is advocating for pension innovation. <http://www.news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2010/10/further-improvements-to-pensions-for-ontarians.html>

Manitoba

CHILDREN

Child care workers in Manitoba will be eligible for a pension plan starting December 1, as part of a Workforce Stability Strategy. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-10-01&item=9880>

HEALTH

The province is seeking advice from experts and youth on the best ways to prevent the early use of alcohol among young people. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-10-01&item=9975>

More physicians will be able to make use of electronic medical records to better manage patient information with the support of a new funding program. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-10-01&item=10022>

INCOME SECURITY

On October 1, hourly minimum wage was increased by 50 cents to \$9.50 an hour. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-9-01&item=9820>

Amendments to the Consumer Protection Act that effectively ban negative-option billing came into effect and penalties for breaches of the act have been increased. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-10-01&item=9866>

The new maximum rate that can be charged for a payday loan is \$17 per \$100. The maximum amount of a loan can be only 30 percent of a person's next net pay. Manitoba's rate is the lowest among provinces that allow payday loans. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-07-01&item=9269>

POVERTY REDUCTION

The province is six months ahead of schedule in its two-year commitment to provide funding for 600 homes to people in need of affordable housing. The two-year commitment is part of a five-year strategy (HOMEWorks!) to add 1,500 affordable housing units and 1,500 social housing units throughout the province. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-10-01&item=9974>

Saskatchewan

No updates this month.

Alberta

COMMUNITY

12 community leaders from across the province were brought together to form the new Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Citizens' Advisory



Committee. It will provide advice to the government on issues facing the nonprofit/voluntary sector.

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

<http://culture.alberta.ca/community/albertas-voluntary-sector/nonprofit-voluntary-sector-initiative/>

SENIORS

The province's long-term care facility operators will adjust accommodation fees effective February 1, 2011, limiting increases to three percent. About 8,100 of the 14,700 Albertans in long-term care facilities receive financial assistance through the Alberta Seniors Benefit and Assured Income for Severely Handicapped programs. Alberta's maximum fees for long-term care accommodations will continue to be among the lowest in Canada. In the last decade, the province has invested \$520 million towards developing and upgrading 10,000 affordable continuing care spaces.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.

YOUTH

Up to 18 youth (age 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 of provincial initiatives, programs and public awareness campaigns.

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

<http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/family-community/15637.html>

British Columbia

INCOME SECURITY

Premier announces a 15 percent reduction in personal income tax rates, for the first \$72,000 of personal income for all British Columbians.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010PREM0193-001340.htm

Yukon Territory

COMMUNITIES

Led by the Municipal Fiscal Framework Review Committee, mayors and councillors participated in the first meeting of the territory-wide Our Towns, Our Future review. The initiative was launched in response to municipal government concerns about funding levels, infrastructure deficits, and recruitment and retention.

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

http://www.community.gov.yk.ca/community_affairs/OTOF_home.html

Nunavut

HOUSING

The Nunavut Household Needs Survey, released October 29, reports that one in two homes are below standard, overcrowded and in need of repair.

http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/29886_nunavummiut_live_in_overcrowded_poor_housing_survey_confirms/

INCOME SECURITY

The territorial government is conducting a Social Services Review in order to develop a new Child and Family Services Act. The Act will ensure that children are protected and families are better supported by the government and the community.

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

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/family-services/information/amendments-child-family-services-act-cfsa>

POVERTY REDUCTION

A public engagement process was launched to help create the territory's first anti-poverty strategy.

http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/98789_gn_inuit_orgs_launch_nunavut_anti-poverty_effort/

Northwest Territories

HEALTH

The 2007 Policy on Supplementary Health Benefits will be withdrawn. Efforts are under way to ensure that existing extended health benefits programs are fairly and consistently administered. Changes will include an updated pharmaceutical strategy, the elimination of the 2004 grandfathering of Extended Health Benefits, and the amendment of the Extended Health Benefits and Métis Health Benefits programs. These last will require the use of third-party insurance as the first option, and will be adjusted to ensure parity with the Federal Non-Insured Health Benefits program.

The internet link to this item is no longer operational.