




Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

December 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

EDUCATION

The *Adult Learning Act* was tabled to formalize the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning into law, providing governing and accountability measures that will ensure the continued quality and effectiveness of adult learning. \$9.8 million has been allocated for adult learning programs in 2010-11. There are more than 140 programs at 68 sites across the province. Programs are tuition-free and offered in both English and French.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20101202008>

New Brunswick

EDUCATION

\$98.3 million for 13 major capital projects, several facility improvement projects and new equipment in 2011-12.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2010.12.1885.html

Prince Edward Island

INCOME SECURITY

A proposed *Pension Benefits Act* would oblige employers with pension plans to register those plans and to make financial disclosure on a regular basis. It also establishes the circumstances in which employees may access their retirement funds.

The original link to this item is no longer operational.

<http://www.cba.org/Dev/CBA/submissions/pdf/11-05-eng.pdf>

Québec

INCOME SECURITY

The Act respecting supplemental pension plans allows a retiree or eligible worker to request that their pension be administered and paid by the *Régie des rentes du Québec* for a period of five years, when their plan's assets are insufficient and their pension is reduced.

The original link to this item is no longer operational.

http://www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/www.rrq.gouv.qc/Francais/publications/regie/rapports_annuels/RA_2012/003-RRQ-2012-04.pdf

Ontario

EDUCATION

In spring 2011, some 8,000 children with Autism Spectrum Disorder will benefit annually from new Applied Behaviour Analysis-based services, which will help them develop communication, social and daily living skills



and manage better in school. This program is in addition to the intensive therapy already benefiting 1,446 children and youth under Ontario's Autism Intervention Program.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2010/12/ontario-helping-more-kids-with-autism-and-their-families.html>

POVERTY REDUCTION

Release of the second annual report of the *Breaking the Cycle* strategy.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2010/12/poverty-reduction-strategy-helping-ontario-families.html>

RECREATION

The new Children's Activity Tax Credit allows parents to claim up to \$500 in eligible expenses and get a refundable tax credit of up to \$50 for each child under the age of 16, and up to \$100 per child under the age of 18 who has a disability.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2010/12/making-kids-activities-a-little-more-affordable.html>

SENIORS

Passage of Bill 120, the *Securing Pension Benefits Now and For the Future Act, 2010*. This fulfills the government's 2010 Budget commitment to build on recommendations of the Expert Commission on Pensions.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2010/12/ontario-passes-bill-to-further-pension-reform.html>

YOUTH

The government will partner with established community-based non-profit organizations to deliver the Youth Opportunities Program aimed at youth aged 16-24 to enhance their skills and community involvement. The program will focus on newcomers and culturally diverse youth, offering mentoring and leadership training in their communities.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2010/12/mcguinty-government-partners-with-communities-to-help-youth-succeed.html>

Manitoba

DISABILITIES

\$10.7 million in federal, provincial and municipal funding for a new 37-unit affordable housing project for families and people with disabilities in Winnipeg.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-12-01&item=10307>

EDUCATION

A new "Seeds of Empathy" program will bring the Roots of Empathy model to 3-to-5-year-olds in child care, nursery school and preschool Aboriginal Head Start programs.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-12-01&item=10401>

HOUSING

The federal and provincial governments are providing \$9 million to renovate and reconfigure existing Manitoba Housing properties into family accommodation for newcomers to Canada. The buildings will be managed by the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2010-12-01&item=10461>

Saskatchewan

DISABILITIES

People with disabilities who are clients of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program and the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) will benefit from an increase to earnings exemptions, effective February 1, 2011.

The original link to this item is no longer operational.

http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications_Centre/SocialServices/From-Dependence-to-Independence-2012.pdf

SENIORS

Release of draft legislative amendments to accommodate changes to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan, as outlined in the 2010 provincial Budget.

The original link to this item is no longer operational.

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n10/10-118-eng.asp>

Alberta

HEALTH

Passage of the *Alberta Health Act 2010*.

<http://www.alberta.ca/acn/201012/29585A2669659-CA9B-8B66-7896FC4D02612836.html>

\$19 million in school-based mental health programs to promote mental health and help prevent mental illness among children and families.

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3241.asp>

British Columbia

INCOME SECURITY

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty will be promoting a new private-sector plan allowing small firms, employees and the self-employed to pool resources on new, low-cost pensions. British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Ontario called on the federal government to keep a modest CPP enhancement on the table as part of a package of reforms that would make saving for retirement easier, more affordable and more secure for Canadians.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010FIN0074-001591.htm



Yukon Territory

POVERTY REDUCTION

Two reports released: the *Whitehorse Housing Adequacy Study* and *Dimensions of Social Inclusion and Social Exclusion in Yukon 2010*, as part of the creation of the Yukon Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Strategy. The second report is a compilation of data such as personal and community assets, access to necessities and participation in society. It provides the foundation of information and evidence needed to develop the strategy. Both reports are at:

www.hss.gov.yk.ca

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2010/10-229.html>

Northwest Territories

YOUTH

Active After School funding will create new opportunities after school for youth to be active.

The original link to this item is no longer operational.

<http://activeafterschool.ca/program/nwt-active-after-school-program-funding>

Nunavut

INCOME SECURITY

Nunavut's minimum wage will increase to \$11 per hour from \$10 per hour on January 1, 2011.

The original link to this item is no longer operational.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/labmgt/wages/minwage.html>