



Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

March 2011



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

### THRONE SPEECH

Social policy measures announced on child care, education, health, pay equity and poverty reduction.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2011/exec/0321n06.htm>

## Nova Scotia

### INCOME SECURITY

The province will refund the full amount of provincial income tax paid by seniors who received the GIS in 2010. Seniors do not have to apply for the refund. The Department of Finance will use 2010 tax returns to assess eligibility and process the refund. An estimated \$10 million will be returned to 18,000 seniors.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110308002>

### EMPLOYMENT

African Nova Scotians looking to return to school to get jobs training now have access to a new funding program. Skills Up is open to African Nova Scotians who have been out of school for more than a year and are having trouble finding work because of missing skills.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110325004>

### SENIORS

\$1.4 million to launch the Supportive Care Program. It will provide eligible people with cognitive impairment \$500 per month for home support services such as personal care, respite care, meal preparation and essential housekeeping. Clients may also be eligible to be reimbursed for snow removal services, up to \$495 per year. Starting April 1, the program will support 230 clients annually. Claimants must be 65 or older and have a net annual household income of \$18,785 or less if they are single, or \$35,570 or less if they are married.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110315002>

Launch of the Extended Care Paramedic (ECP) program, as part of the province's Better Care Sooner Plan. ECP offers seniors much of the same care they would receive in an emergency department, delivered by paramedics at their bedside. This service improves the level of comfort for the patient, and reduces the need for non-emergency hospital transports. Since the program began in February, 72 percent of patients have been successfully assessed and treated at nursing homes.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110316002>

### THRONE SPEECH

Provincial priorities: better health care, jobs and growing the economy, helping people make ends meet and ensuring government lives within its means.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110331007>



## New Brunswick

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The \$8.091-billion expenditure budget for 2011-12 represents a decline of 1.6 percent from revised 2010-11 estimates. Demand and cost pressures have been offset by managing spending and implementing program restraint and efficiencies.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2011.03.0341.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.03.0341.html)

### INCOME SECURITY

The minimum wage in New Brunswick will increase by 50 cents per hour to \$9.50 per hour on Friday, April 1.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2011.03.0333.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.03.0333.html)

## Prince Edward Island

*No updates this month.*

## Québec

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Social policy measures announced on the issues of education, poverty reduction, retirement income and university tuition.

[http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget/2011-2012/en/documents/Communique\\_1en.pdf](http://www.budget.finances.gouv.qc.ca/Budget/2011-2012/en/documents/Communique_1en.pdf)

## Ontario

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Social policy-related announced on education and health.

<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ontariobudgets/2011/budhi.html>

## Manitoba

*No updates this month.*

## Saskatchewan

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2011-12 Budget announced investments in affordable housing, income assistance and disability services.

<http://finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2011-12>

### DISABILITIES

A four-year, \$76.9 million commitment to eliminate the waitlist of 440 Saskatchewan people with intellectual disabilities who require programs and services was first announced in October 2008. An additional \$14 million was announced in 2011-12. New funding will help ensure that services are in place or in development for 373 people with intellectual disabilities (85 percent of the waitlist) by the end of 2011-12. Funding includes \$1.6 million to assist people with disabilities beyond the initial waitlist. More than 2,000 day program support assessments required

for the implementation of a new day program funding standard are now complete. A new respite subsidy program was introduced for Approved Private Service Home proprietors in January 2010 to assist in purchasing respite services. By the end of February 2011, the respite subsidy was being utilized for 287 clients living in 109 residential homes across the province.

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

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?media-aid=1387&PN=Shared>

### HEALTH

Saskatchewan commits \$4.3 million for a comprehensive five-year Saskatchewan-based initiative in partnership with the national Rick Hansen Institute.

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

<http://www.junedraude.ca/index.php?docID=483>

### INCOME SECURITY

Release of a report on possible indexation of the minimum wage in Saskatchewan. The board recommends indexation tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Currently, only Yukon indexes its minimum wage, which is linked to the CPI. The current minimum wage in Saskatchewan is \$9.25 an hour. The minimum wage has increased 16.3 percent since January 1, 2008.

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

<http://srv116.services.gc.ca/dimt-wid/sm-mw/rpt2.aspx?lang=eng&dec=5>

## Alberta

### HEALTH

The province has renewed its support for Calgary's Drug Treatment Court, a judicially-supervised pilot rehabilitation program pairing community supervision with treatment.

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

## British Columbia

### CHILDREN

The BC government is reinforcing that Success By 6 partnership through an investment of \$3.4 million for 2011-12.

[http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011CFD0010-000221.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011CFD0010-000221.htm)

### INCOME SECURITY

British Columbia's minimum wage will increase in three stages to \$10.25 by May 1, 2012 and the training wage will be eliminated, providing more support for BC workers and families in every region of the province. The general minimum wage will increase on May 1, 2011 to \$8.75 and be \$10.25 per hour by May 2012.

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

<http://srv116.services.gc.ca/dimt-wid/sm-mw/rpt2.aspx?lang=eng&dec=5>



## Yukon, Northwest Territories

*No updates this month.*

## Nunavut

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Budget includes an anticipated decrease in revenue of 2.5 percent in 2011-12 compared to the prior fiscal year. The government will run a deficit of \$50 million in 2011-12, while maintaining a reserve of \$89 million for contingency and supplemental needs. The territory will continue to focus on long-term goals of investment in education (\$18 million), social assistance (\$3 million) and health (\$32 million).

[http://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/files/Finance/Budgets/2011-12/2011-12\\_Budget\\_Highlights.pdf](http://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/files/Finance/Budgets/2011-12/2011-12_Budget_Highlights.pdf)