



Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

July 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

No updates this month.

Nova Scotia

COMMUNITIES

The province signed a memorandum of understanding with Cisco Canada to improve economic, social and environmental sustainability. This non-binding three-year agreement will encourage the adoption of new technology and solutions, mentoring and collaboration, entrepreneurship and commercialization. Cisco's Smart+Connected Community solutions provide communities with tools to help in the areas of utilities, safety and security, real estate, transportation, health care, education, sports and entertainment venues, and government services.

http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/cssl_povertyred.pdf

New Brunswick

INCOME SECURITY

The provincial government is proposing to postpone the September 1 minimum wage increase until April 1, 2012. Small- and medium-sized businesses report that they need time to adjust to the recent successive minimum wage hikes. The minimum wage rose to \$9.50 per hour in 2011 from \$8 per hour in April 2009, an increase of nearly 19 percent in two years. With the proposed amendment, minimum wage will reach \$10 per hour on April 1, 2012.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.07.0802.html

Prince Edward Island

POVERTY REDUCTION

Residents are being asked to help shape a strategy to prevent and reduce poverty. The government released a paper with information on trends, impacts, programs and questions for the public to consider when providing input on how to reduce poverty in the province. A Social Action Plan is expected to be ready in early 2012.

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

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/news/index.php3?dept=&month=8+&year=2009&keyword=&lang=E&submit=Search>

Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan

No updates this month.

Alberta

HOUSING

A \$90 million federal-provincial investment will provide low-income and homeless residents better access to affordable housing. The 12 projects receiving grants will create more than 800 new housing units that will



benefit an estimated 1,600 families, individuals, seniors and persons with disabilities.

<http://www.alberta.ca/acn/201107/309644D14725E-F807-E569-9D63F37BC063DAFD.html>

To assist with staff recruitment and retention, the province will provide the human services sector with additional funding in 2011-12 and 2012-13. Agencies contracted by Children and Youth Services to serve children, youth and families and by Seniors and Community Supports to serve adults with disabilities will receive two lump sums of \$1,500 per full-time equivalent employee, with prorated amounts for part-time employees.

<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/corp/nero/here/2011/2011-07-21-1300.cfm>

British Columbia

CHILD CARE

To align with the implementation of full-day kindergarten this fall and ensure consistency for all school-aged children, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is adjusting child care subsidy rates. It will increase the maximum monthly subsidy rate for parents requiring care before and after school, on non-instructional days and during school closures. The province has invested \$296 million in child care this year and \$154 million in subsidies (which assists 54,000 children).

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/child-care-subsidy-rates-adjusted-for-full-day-k>

Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

No updates this month.