



Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

August 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

### RECREATION

The province has released \$50.6 million for new recreational facilities in Conception Bay South, Paradise, Harbour Grace and Marystown.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2011/ma/0831n18.htm>

### SENIORS

The Seniors Community Recreation Grant Program is making \$178,000 available to provide physical activity and recreation opportunities for seniors. The program is a component of the province's 2007 recreation and sport strategy, Active, Healthy Newfoundland and Labrador. It provides funding to enable the delivery of new or enhanced recreational programs and services for older citizens.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2011/tcr/0824n08.htm>

## Nova Scotia

*No updates this month.*

## New Brunswick

### POVERTY REDUCTION

Efficiency NB will distribute more than 4,000 energy-saving light bulbs to households in Saint John's north end on Saturday, August 20, through community organizations ONE Change and Housing Alternatives.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2011.08.0899.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.08.0899.html)

### FAMILIES

The province is increasing back-to-school support for low-income families for the 2011-12 academic year, from \$50 to \$100 per child per child (funding increased from \$2 million to \$2.6 million). About 13,500 families will receive funding from the School Supplement Program.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2011.08.0849.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.08.0849.html)

## Prince Edward Island

### COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Launch of the Community Economic Development Business (CEDB) Program. Eligible businesses may obtain equity financing from fellow community members. The province provides a 35 percent personal income tax credit, the Community Development Equity Tax Credit, to the individuals investing in the approved CEDB. CEDB supports Goal 5 of the province's Rural Action Plan: to invest in community development efforts and capacity building.

[www.gov.pe.ca/cedb](http://www.gov.pe.ca/cedb)

## Québec

*No updates this month.*



## Ontario

### CAREGIVING

Ontarians are currently entitled to an eight-week unpaid leave of absence to take care of loved ones who are terminally ill. The new Family Caregiver Leave would build on the existing Family Medical Leave by allowing caregivers to spend more time with family members who cannot care for themselves because of serious injury or illness including cancer or stroke. The province is also calling on the federal government to extend Employment Insurance to those who take Family Caregiver Leave, just as they do when Ontarians take Family Medical Leave.

<http://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2011/08/helping-caregivers-spend-more-time-with-sick-family-members.html>

## Manitoba

*No updates this month.*

## Saskatchewan

### DISABILITIES

The Prince Albert and District Community Service Centre's Creating Self-Sufficiency project will receive more than \$46,000 in federal funding from the Enhanced Employment Assistance Services component of the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities. The funds will help 24 people with disabilities find jobs or go back to school. The organization will also receive close to \$28,000 in Skills Link funding for its Community Service Centre project. This initiative will help 15 young people overcome the barriers that prevent them from getting jobs or pursuing their education.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=620689>

### HOUSING

A component of the province's affordable housing program, Headstart on a Home will finance construction of 1,000 new, entry-level homes over the next five years. Builders and developers will be eligible for loans of 90 percent of the construction cost of the homes, including land, at an interest rate of four percent. Allowing people with modest incomes to buy their own homes, municipalities and community partners will ensure projects are tailored to meet each community's unique needs. The target price for the homes will be at or below the MLS average for the respective municipalities, likely ranging from \$180,000 to \$300,000.

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

<http://headstartonahome.ca/>

Release of *A Strong Foundation – The Housing Strategy for Saskatchewan 2011-12* and the *2011-12 Provincial Action Plan*, which outlines government's key activities for the strategy's first year of implementation. 350 stakeholder groups help set the priorities:

- increase the housing supply
- improve housing affordability

- support individuals and families in greatest housing need
- enhance strategic planning for housing
- collaborate, communicate and educate. ([hyperlink](#))

<http://headstartonahome.ca/news/item/?n=11>

### INCOME SECURITY

Reminder announced that the province's minimum wage will increase on September 1, 2011 from \$9.25 to \$9.50 per hour, which will also result in a corresponding increase to the minimum call-out pay to \$28.50.

*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

### HOMELESSNESS

A new project in Edmonton connects with women living in the city's urban inner core. A three-year, \$900,000 grant will fund the Supports for Homeless Pregnant Women project. Funded through Alberta's Safe Communities' three-year innovation fund, it creates a team of women with street experience, as well as professional staff, to connect with pregnant, homeless women living in Edmonton's inner-city core. Women targeted by the project may be exposed to risk factors such as addictions, poverty, victimization, communicable diseases, criminal activity and family violence. The project aims to reduce these factors, ultimately resulting in healthy births.

<http://www.aventa.org/pdfs/homelesspregnant.pdf>

## British Columbia

### HEALTH

Healthy Families BC Walking Challenge is a six-week contest where families can map their walks on-line for the chance to win prizes. It is offered in collaboration with the 2010 Legacies Now and is funded by the Provincial Health Service Authority as part of the Healthy Families BC initiative of the BC Ministry of Health.

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

<http://www.healthyfamiliesbcwalkingchallenge.ca/prizes/>

### INCOME SECURITY

The Province will reinstate the combined 12 percent PST and GST tax system following the referendum decision by British Columbians to withdraw the HST.

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

<http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/docs/Final%20Report%20as%20of%20September%202014,%202012.pdf>

## Yukon Territory

### HEALTH

Extension of Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative (THSSI)



funding until March 31, 2014. THSSI funding reflects the recognition that Canada's territorial governments face added costs and challenges in the delivery of all programs and services – especially in the areas of health care. Initiative funding will provide \$30 million per year divided among the three territories to undertake health system innovation and management, participate in pan-territorial health initiatives, and offset medical transportation expenses.

[http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/pdf/Territorial\\_Premiers\\_Welcome\\_Extension\\_of\\_THSSI.pdf](http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/pdf/Territorial_Premiers_Welcome_Extension_of_THSSI.pdf)

Health and Social Services is partnering with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Salvation Army to offer a weekly outreach clinic as part of an effort to increase home care services and promote better health for those who do not have a fixed address. The Home Care Clinic will serve those who are homeless or otherwise marginalized.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/11-117.html>

## Northwest Territories

### GOVERNANCE

Tabling of 20/20: A Brilliant North, the NWT Public Service Strategic Plan. Highlights include:

- establishing the Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee to increase representation of Aboriginal people within the public service
- establishing the Government of the Northwest Territories Advisory Committee on Employability to help increase representation of persons with disabilities within the public service
- reviewing and improving the business processes for pay and benefits services
- launching eRecruit to improve and streamline the staffing process
- launching an Associate Director/Superintendent Program which focuses on increasing the number of Aboriginal people in senior management positions.

<http://news.exec.gov.nt.ca/government-of-the-northwest-territories-public-service/>

### GOVERNANCE

Government of the Northwest Territories and Canadian Zinc Inc. signed a Socio- Economic Agreement for the proposed Prairie Creek Mine. The signing of this Agreement reflects the commitment of both parties to ensure that the development of northern resources occurs in a manner that is sensitive to social and cultural considerations and is economically sustainable.

<http://news.exec.gov.nt.ca/gnwt-and-canadian-zinc-sign-socio-economic-agreement/>

## Nunavut

*No updates this month.*