




Canada Social Report  
Provincial/Territorial  
Policy Monitor

September 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

### FAMILIES

Cape Breton residents will get free legal advice on family law with the launch of an innovative pilot project. The province is using video-conferencing technology to connect summary advice lawyers with people who do not have a lawyer but need legal advice on family law issues including divorce, division of assets and debt, child and spousal support, and custody arrangements.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110919004>

### INCOME SECURITY

Minimum wage is increasing to \$10 per hour on October 1 (a 3.6 percent increase from the present rate of \$9.65). Beginning in April 2012, future increases will be indexed to the low income cut-off. Increases will be based on the national Consumer Price Index from the previous calendar year, affecting the 36,000 residents who make close to the minimum wage.

The province is investing an additional \$18.25 million in 2011 to help income assistance clients and low-income residents. These investments include a 22 percent increase per child per month to the Nova Scotia Child Benefit; a \$15 per month increase in the Income Assistance Personal Allowance; indexing the Affordable Living Tax Credit and the Poverty Reduction Credit to keep up with inflation; and allowing working income assistance clients to keep more money each month.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110926001>

### YOUTH

A crime prevention project developed in the US to help children and youth make good choices is being introduced in four Nova Scotian communities. Project LEAD will also encourage excellence and provide African Nova Scotian youth with the skills to make positive and healthy life choices.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20110914007>

## New Brunswick

### EDUCATION

\$4.4 million to address the persistent gaps in participation in post-secondary education among Aboriginals, persons with disabilities, low-income earners, rural youths and young people whose parents did not obtain post-secondary credentials. Publicly-funded universities and colleges were invited to submit proposals for innovative projects to address these challenges.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2011.09.0970.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.09.0970.html)



Schools will receive additional funding under a new teaching supplies fund. Teachers will receive \$125 for educational items in September 2010, with the goal of eventually increasing the annual amount to \$250 per classroom teacher.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2011.09.0990.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.09.0990.html)

#### INCOME SECURITY

The province has launched a review to ensure that public sector pension plans are affordable, sustainable and have secure benefits.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2011.09.1007.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.09.1007.html)

#### POVERTY REDUCTION

The first meeting of the province's 12 community inclusion networks was held in Fredericton, providing an opportunity for members to collaborate and share poverty reduction-focused ideas and projects. The network is the fulfillment of one of the commitments outlined in *Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan*.

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news\\_release.2011.09.1035.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.09.1035.html)

### Prince Edward Island

*No updates this month.*

### Québec

#### SENIORS

The official launch of Taking Charge, a pan-Canadian awareness project. Funded by the federal government's New Horizons for Seniors Program, in partnership with the Julius Richardson Foundation and the *Centre de santé et de services sociaux Cavendish* in Montreal, its goals are to educate seniors and the general public to the issue of elder abuse and to better equip volunteers and practitioners who work with seniors. The program is a community response to the problem, developed with input from a seniors roundtable, police, legal and community agencies.

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

[https://www.cssscavendish.qc.ca/fileadmin/csss\\_cvd/Salle\\_de\\_presse/COMMUNIQUE\\_-\\_prendre\\_en\\_charge\\_-\\_FR.pdf](https://www.cssscavendish.qc.ca/fileadmin/csss_cvd/Salle_de_presse/COMMUNIQUE_-_prendre_en_charge_-_FR.pdf)

### Ontario

*No updates this month.*

### Manitoba

#### INCOME SECURITY

The province's minimum wage will increase by 50 cents on October 1, 2011, to \$10 per hour from \$9.50.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2011-9-01&item=12343>

### Saskatchewan

#### COMMUNITY

Announcement of Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime, a new integrated approach that resulted from the collaboration of several ministries and the province's largest police services. The framework includes better integration of government services; building on the strengths of communities, individuals and families; continuing to support police officers and the victims of crime; and targeting services to individuals and families with the highest needs and those who are at risk of coming in conflict with the law.

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

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/plcng/cnmcs-plcng/ndx/dtls-eng.aspx?n=154>

#### EDUCATION

\$3 million in new funding for the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship program. There are two components: one that focuses on innovation and excellence and one that allows institutions to target scholarships that align with their strategic directions. Scholarships will be targeted toward students in new and emerging fields of study, or fields where innovative work is being done (e.g., mining, energy, agriculture/biotechnology). \$2.4 million (80 percent) of the annual funding will go to post-secondary institutions that undertake research activities or are entering into innovative partnerships with resource sectors in the province. The remaining 20 percent (\$600,000) will be allocated to regional colleges, the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission.

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

#### HOUSING

Announcement of a combined federal and provincial investment of more than \$55 million under a new affordable housing agreement. The Investment in Affordable Housing 2011-2014 Framework Agreement recognizes the diversity of affordable housing requirements and that a range of solutions – from existing programs to new approaches – is most effective in meeting local needs and priorities. Under this Framework, provinces and territories have responsibility for the design and delivery of affordable housing programs in order to address the specific housing needs and priorities in their jurisdictions. Both orders of government will report annually to the public regarding the progress toward achieving the intended outcomes of the initiative.

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

<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2011-09-06-1530.cfm>

#### SENIORS

Launch of a \$500,000 six-month pilot program in Prince Albert aimed at improving the security of the homes of low-income seniors. The Seniors Home Security Program will provide free home security devices to single senior citizens who earn \$20,000 or less a year; senior couples who earn



\$30,000 or less a year; or to seniors who have been victims of a break-in. If the pilot phase proves successful, the program will be implemented province-wide.

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

[http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications\\_Centre/SocialServices/From-Dependence-to-Independence-2012.pdf](http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/Publications_Centre/SocialServices/From-Dependence-to-Independence-2012.pdf)

## Alberta

### FAMILIES

A new project in Red Deer will address the long-term treatment needs of adult female victims of family violence. The Central Alberta Women's Outreach Society will receive one-time grant funding of \$75,000 for the Comprehensive Family Violence Treatment Program. The project's objective is to reduce the risk of future victimization in intimate partner relationships.

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

[https://www.solgps.alberta.ca/programs\\_and\\_services/victim\\_services/](https://www.solgps.alberta.ca/programs_and_services/victim_services/)

A new project in Edmonton connects with women living in the city's urban inner core. \$900,000 over three years will fund the Supports for Homeless Pregnant Women project. Funded through Alberta's Safe Communities' three-year innovation fund, the project 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.

[http://justice.alberta.ca/programs\\_services/safe/Pages/scif.aspx](http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/safe/Pages/scif.aspx)

### HEALTH

A comprehensive new Alberta government strategy will help reduce addiction and mental illness in the province. Creating Connections: Alberta's Addiction and Mental Health Strategy will create a more seamless system to ensure the best quality assessment, treatment and support services. The development of the strategy was co-led by Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Health Services. It involved 16 Government of Alberta ministries in recognition of the fact that many people with addiction and mental health issues are served by many government departments.

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/5694.asp>

## British Columbia

### COMMUNITIES

Work has begun to expand connectivity in rural British Columbia under a 10-year strategic telecommunications services contract signed by the province and TELUS. Currently, 93 percent of residents have access to broadband Internet; the goal is to expand high-speed connectivity to 100 percent in the next 10 years.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/work-to-connect-rural-bc-underway>

### DISABILITIES

The province and Community Living BC (CLBC) are investing an additional \$8.9 million to help provide priority services to adults with develop-

mental disabilities and their families. The \$8.9 million in funding – a \$6-million increase from the province and \$2.9 million from deferred CLBC Personalized Supports Initiative funding – will provide new and additional supports and services to about 540 people. Priority will be given to those who have urgent health and safety needs, including transitioning youth and others who are eligible but not yet receiving services.

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

[http://www.sd.gov.bc.ca/pwd/docs/Improving\\_Services\\_to\\_People\\_with\\_Developmental\\_Disabilities\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sd.gov.bc.ca/pwd/docs/Improving_Services_to_People_with_Developmental_Disabilities_Report_FINAL.pdf)

### HEALTH

The province is partnering with communities in a grassroots effort to help families live healthier lifestyles and prevent chronic disease. Comprehensive consultations will take place with local governments over the next few months with the intent to launch Healthy Families BC Communities in early 2012. Provincial health authorities will work with communities to develop plans to make their city or town healthier. Planning can take place in areas such as physical activity, healthy eating, tobacco reduction, healthy-built environments and priority populations.

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

[Link](#)

### RECREATION

\$30 million to communities to give families greater access to recreation facilities. Eligible recreation projects will include sports facilities, community recreation spaces, fitness facilities, trails, bike paths, walkways, playgrounds and other indoor or outdoor recreational centres. Priority will be given to small communities, many of which lack the capacity to fund infrastructure.

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

### YOUTH

\$1.4 million this year to fuel BC's Youth Education Assistance Fund, a program that supports post-secondary education and training for youth 19 to 24 who are no longer in permanent care. This year, eligible students can receive bursary awards of \$5,500 for tuition, books, fees or living expenses at designated post-secondary and vocational institutions. Since the fund was created in 2002, the bursaries have helped more than 900 youth pursue their post-secondary and vocational goals.

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

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/yeaf/>

## Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

*No updates this month.*