




Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

October 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

EDUCATION

Nova Scotia Securities Commission is launching a new investor education program, Live Stock Adventure, to help teach safe investing and financial literacy skills to students in grades 6 to 8. The program was adapted from the Youth Outreach Project Group of the North American Securities Administrators Association.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20111006005>

HOUSING

A federal/provincial agreement will invest \$60 million in affordable housing over the next three years. Between 2009-11, Canada's Economic Action Plan invested \$128 million in affordable housing in Nova Scotia. The new agreement is more flexible, allowing the province to develop affordable housing options that are geared to the needs of low-income residents.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20111024001>

New Brunswick

DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities, community stakeholders and other interested parties are invited to complete The Survey on Service Issues for Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick. It will lead to the release of a new disability action plan during Disability Awareness Week in Spring 2012.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.10.1059.html

EDUCATION

Members of a task force selected to review the entry point of early French immersion were announced.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.10.1097.html

SENIORS

The provincial government has released a new, 35-page guide to give information to unpaid caregivers helping and supporting seniors. *Caregivers Guide: Practical information for caregivers of older adults* is intended to increase support to families, friends and volunteers to help them care for seniors. One chapter is devoted entirely to the needs of caregivers.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2011.10.1048.html

Prince Edward Island, Québec, Ontario

No updates this month.



Manitoba

EDUCATION

An oversight committee of parents, teachers, school administrators and trustees will work with government to implement a new initiative to limit class size to a maximum of 20 students for kindergarten to Grade 3 starting in 2012. Government will also work with school divisions to make available an online class size tracking system.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2011-10-01&item=12486>

THRONE SPEECH

The province will focus on improving health care access, employment and education. With respect to education, it will reduce class sizes to 20 students for kindergarten to Grade 3, upgrade school shop equipment and work with rural school divisions to expand broadband Internet access.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2011-10-01&item=12450>

YOUTH

New programs – Work2it, Youth Making a Difference Grant Programs and Manitoba Mentors – Connecting Learning and Work will help steer high school students and youth toward the path to success. These programs will complement another new initiative modelled on the successful Chicago After School Matters program in which government partner with businesses, professional associations and community organizations to provide high school students with after-school training and apprenticeship in fields like sports, performing arts, technology, communications and science.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=2011-10-01&item=12485>

Saskatchewan

No updates this month.

Alberta

HEALTH

Introduction of a Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction that will consist of experts in the field, community leaders and those with lived experience. It will work to reduce stigma related to mental illness and addiction, further public knowledge of the topic, highlight and encourage positive steps being taken to improve the lives of residents of all ages who are affected by all types of mental illness, and promote collaboration among various organizations and initiatives that deal with mental health and addiction.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=31343D4820476-EC88-AA37-619FB6BBF7A6F515>

British Columbia

EDUCATION

\$353 million for new schools to meet enrolment increases.

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

<http://blogs.vancouversun.com/2011/10/31/42296/>

INCOME SECURITY

BC's minimum wage will increase to \$9.50 on November 1, the second of three increases announced in March 2011. Minimum wage will be raised to \$10.25 by May 1, 2012.

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011L-CITZ0020-001380.htm

THRONE SPEECH

The province will focus on job creation, building stronger, safer communities and continuing to open up government for British Columbia families.

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2011/10/throne-speech-focus-es-on-creating-jobs-safer-communities.html>

Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

No updates this month.