



Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

June 2013



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

SENIORS

Announcement of a \$1.3 million investment in an Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador Transportation Pilot Project. An initiative of the provincial Long-Term Care and Community Support Services Strategy, this project will provide seniors and those with mobility challenges affordable and reliable transportation for outings such as medical and banking appointments, social activities and grocery shopping.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2013/health/0610n02.htm>

YOUTH

Youth services clients under the care of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services will be offered additional help in preparing for adulthood. The province is investing \$401,600 to expand the Supporting Youth with Transitions pilot program.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2013/cyfs/0620n07.htm>

New Brunswick

CHILDREN

In Fall 2013, a \$6 million investment will extend full child care subsidies to families with an annual income less than \$27,000, up from \$25,000. The eligibility ceiling for the subsidy will rise to those with an annual family income of \$50,000, up from \$45,000. These increases will help more than 6,000 children and their families. In addition, the wage top-up program for early childhood educators with recognized training will be increased by 25 cents per hour, for a total of \$4.75 per hour. The improvements are part of the government's three-year, \$38-million Putting Children First action plan.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2013.06.0528.html

INCOME SECURITY

The financial assets of the province's public service, teachers' and judges' pension plans grew to more than \$10 billion by the end of 2012-13 in large part as a result of strong investment returns achieved by the New Brunswick Investment Management Corporation.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2013.06.0554.html

POVERTY REDUCTION

Release of the third annual report on the provincial poverty reduction and social inclusion plan, Overcoming Poverty Together, by the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation. Highlights include:

- 1,150 meetings organized by the 12 community inclusion networks and their partners; 9,100 residents involved
- \$1.3 million invested in activities and projects undertaken by the community inclusion networks, leveraging more than \$3 million by the communities



- the total value of all projects exceeded \$4.3 million.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2013.06.0560.html

SENIORS

The New Brunswick Securities Commission is working with the health-care sector to teach professionals about how to recognize and report financial abuse of seniors.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2013.06.0553.html

Nova Scotia

COMMUNITY

Announcement of more SkillsOnline NS courses to improve non-profit groups' access to web-based skills and training. Volunteers can also use the site to match skills with organizations in need. SkillsOnlineNS was originally launched in Fall 2012.

<http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20130621006>

EDUCATION

The province is testing a new online resource to help students and families improve learning and achieve greater success in math. 300 Grade 7 students from four school boards will participate in a research pilot that complements Nova Scotia's math curriculum, enhances teaching and develops technology skills. Students, their families and teachers will be given portable computers or devices, technical support and information on digital citizenship. A pilot lead will be assigned to provide guidance while collecting research data.

<http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20130625001>

HEALTH

The province commits to funding gender reassignment surgery for transgendered residents. Nova Scotia will be the eighth province to fund this surgery.

<http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20130612006>

Mental Health and Addictions Community Grants, part of the province's mental health and addictions strategy Together We Can, are available for a second year to community organizations offering programs that include:

- diverse communities including francophone; persons with disabilities; First Nations; lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered and intersex (LGBTI); and African residents
- children and youth
- mental health and addictions promotion
- community supports
- reduction of stigma and discrimination

- the workplace
- substance use and gambling.

The province will distribute \$1,000,000 in grants in 2013-14.

<http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20130612001>

INCOME SECURITY

Personal use allowance for people on income assistance and the property tax rebate for seniors will both increase in July 2013. The personal use allowance for those on income assistance will rise by \$17 a month, affecting more than 30,000 adults and their families. This is the third consecutive year that the province has increased the allowance, part of an overall 22 percent increase in income assistance since 2009. The Seniors Property Tax rebate will rise to \$800 from \$600. About 15,000 low-income seniors are currently benefiting from the program. Both investments were introduced in the 2014 Budget.

<http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20130628004>

SENIORS

The province is developing a Seniors Community Wheelchair Loan Program to ensure that seniors with mobility issues have better and more affordable access to wheelchairs. The program has a \$1.4 million annual budget and is expected to benefit 300 seniors in its first year.

<http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20130618005>

Prince Edward Island

No updates this month.

Québec

HEALTH

Filing of a bill for end-of-life care.

<http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/assemblee-nationale/40-1/journal-debats/20130612/85513.html>

Ontario

HEALTH

The province is partnering with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health on a Forensic Early Intervention Service. This program will support inmates in correctional facilities whose mental illness may put them at risk of being unfit to stand trial or who may have a defence of not criminally responsible available to them. The initiative will provide:

- quicker and better access to voluntary forensic mental health services for inmates with acute mental illness
- more efficient patient assessment and fewer delays in the court system
- improved chances of rehabilitation and decreased chances of recidivism



The new program will be launched at the Toronto South Detention Centre.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mcscs/en/2013/06/enhancing-public-safety-through-mental-health-services-for-inmates.html>

The province is providing \$360,000 in annual funding to mindyourmind, a province-wide mental health program of the Family Service Thames Valley. Mindyourmind works with youth ages 16 to 24 to develop resources and coping tools that help manage stress, crisis situations and mental health-related problems. The resources are designed to reduce the stigma of mental illness, and increase access to and use of both professional and peer-based community support. Established in 2004, the initiative has grown into a multifaceted, in-person and digital-based program.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2013/06/helping-youth-access-mental-health-resources.html>

INCOME SECURITY

The Ontario Child Benefit will increase in July 2013 to a maximum annual payment of \$1,210 for each child, and then to \$1,310 in July 2014. Some 510,000 families will receive an increase of up to \$110 and 24,000 families will become eligible for the Ontario Child Benefit for the first time. This additional support will help families with the cost of food, clothing, recreation and other necessities.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2013/06/increasing-support-for-nearly-one-million-children.html>

WOMEN

The province is supporting *Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes* as it expands its training for front-line francophone workers who counsel women who have experienced or are at-risk of domestic or sexual violence. The expanded professional development program includes legal training and increased focus on issues facing immigrant and Aboriginal women, and transgendered persons.

<http://news.ontario.ca/owd/en/2013/06/improving-supports-to-francophone-victims-of-violence.html>

YOUTH

Starting in September 2013, the government will partner with all Ontario universities and a third of the province's colleges to provide a grant of \$500 per month to help cover living costs for former Crown wards ages 21 to 24 who are enrolled in Ontario Student Assistance Program-eligible college and university programs. This partnership will also cover 100 percent of tuition fees, up to a maximum of \$6,000 per year, for former Crown wards and youth who are in and leaving care.

<http://news.ontario.ca/tcu/en/2013/06/tuition-for-crown-wards-and-youth-leaving-care.html>

Manitoba

HEALTH

A new CancerCare Manitoba program is helping more Manitobans get early diagnosis and treatment. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Cancer Control Program increases access to diagnosis, treatment and support for all those facing barriers to cancer services. In addition to helping individuals who have been diagnosed with cancer access treatment and support, staff also travel to First Nations and Métis gatherings around the province to share information about prevention, early warning signs and symptoms. The program will also assist new Canadians and other populations facing challenges in accessing cancer services due to factors such as language, geography or lack of knowledge about cancer screening, prevention and care options.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=month&item=17810>

YOUTH

Youth transitioning out of foster care will have access to mentors and professionals to help them with emotional support, money management and preparing for their first jobs as the result of a new partnership among the General Child and Family Services Authority and a number of youth-serving organizations. "Building Futures," a \$230,000 two-year pilot, will assist 200 people age 16 to 25. Participants will have access to money management and debt counselling, personal and general counselling, emotional support and employment preparation training, and mentors.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=month&item=17891>

Saskatchewan

HEALTH

\$500,000 to support a new tuberculosis strategy that focuses on five areas: clinical diagnosis and treatment; prevention and community engagement; training and education; epidemiology and surveillance; and quality improvement, program evaluation and research. TB is a significant health issue, particularly among First Nations and Métis populations.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=67505>

INCOME SECURITY

The government has amended the funding rules for most public sector defined benefit pension plans so that contribution levels are less erratic, while ensuring that accrued pensions are adequately funded.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=67705>

SENIORS

Announcement of a \$2 million investment in a new Home First Quick Response Home Care pilot project. It will provide seniors in Regina and area with services and supports to remain safely in their home longer. Beginning in Fall 2013, the project will help reduce unnecessary hospital



admissions, transition patients out of the hospital sooner and respond to crisis intervention in the community.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=67653>

YOUTH

Announcement of \$360,000 for the Justice Mental Health Community Support Program, a supervision and rehabilitation approach designed to assist offenders with chronic mental illness. The province is partnering with the Canadian Mental Health Association of Saskatchewan, which will supply direct and coordinated services for offenders with a history of serious violent offending and mental disorders.

http://sk.cmha.ca/programs_services/justice-community-support-program/#.VafKzflVhHw

Alberta

CAREGIVING

\$68.3 million for the building of 920 new supportive living spaces for seniors and persons with disabilities in Calgary, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, Valleyview and Slave Lake. These communities have been identified as having some of the highest needs for supportive living spaces and services.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=34287152B-B10A-CFC1-691D-7F5E043CC7AEB509>

CHILDREN

The province is launching the *Together We Raise Tomorrow* public engagement to ensure the province is doing everything it can to put children first. The consultations will inform the creation of a Children's Charter and strategies around eliminating child poverty and improving early childhood development. The Charter will further focus the values and principles of Alberta's Social Policy Framework. It will promote a longer-term discussion about supports for children and families, breaking down barriers and helping to create positive outcomes for children.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=343665D-64DC2E-90C8-FA3F-27F93CADF34184E5>

GOVERNANCE

Government approves \$1 billion as part of the first phase of emergency recovery and reconstruction funding for southern Alberta families and communities.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=344137766E0BF-A7CD-B199-874D69FABED2753F>

HEALTH

24 communities will soon have better access to primary health care as the government rolls out the next wave of Family Care Clinics (FCC). FCCs provide non-emergency primary health care services, such as diagnosis and treatment of illness, screening, immunization, health promotion, chronic disease prevention and management, and links to other health and community agencies. Each is expected to offer extended

hours of service, same-day appointments and access to the most appropriate member of the care team. The province has budgeted \$50 million this year to support development of FCCs.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=342760FB6A27B-B36F-D7BE-DF-C56EF0B48FDE46>

To help victims of the recent flooding cope with the emotional and psychological consequences of this disaster, Alberta is consolidating mental health resources under the responsibility of a new Chief Mental Health Officer.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=344608B3C29E0-C38A-8BD4-74A46617E6A6C95B>

British Columbia

ABORIGINALS

Eleven post-secondary institutions have received a total of \$4.4 million to support Aboriginal Service Plans. The funds will help support their work with Aboriginal communities, organizations and institutes to develop and deliver culturally relevant supports, programs and courses that bolster Aboriginal learners' education and employment goals.

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2013/06/bc-schools-planning-on-aboriginal-students-success.html>

Yukon Territory

RECREATION

\$876,000 in Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee grants and more than \$525,400 in funding for athlete and coaching initiatives will be awarded under the Yukon Sport for Life, High Performance and Elite Athlete programs.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/13-153.html>

WOMEN

Eight women's organizations will receive \$900,000 in funding over three years to support important work towards advancing women's equality in the territory. The Government of Yukon Women's Equality Fund was initiated in 2007 to assist organizations advance women's equality. The funding made available during 2007 to 2010 was \$175,000 annually and increased to \$300,000 per year for 2010-13.

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/13-154.html>

Northwest Territories

CHILDREN

Tabling of *Right From the Start: Early Childhood Development Framework*, a renewed strategy based on best practices and national and international research.

http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/files/publications/ece_framework_-_web_sept_2013.pdf



EDUCATION

The Territory will launch the NWT Elders in Schools pilot program in September 2013 to strengthen and increase Elder involvement in schools. While a number of Elders are already involved in many schools, this program seeks to enhance and formalize Elder involvement within the school system. The pilot program will run in all schools across the territory for the 2013-14 school year.

<http://news.exec.gov.nt.ca/minister-lafferty-elders-in-schools-pilot/>

POVERTY REDUCTION

Release of *Building on the Strengths of Northerners*, a strategic framework for the elimination of poverty. It identifies five action priorities:

1. Children and Family Support
2. Healthy Living and Reaching Our Potential
3. Safe and Affordable Housing
4. Sustainable Communities
5. Integrated Continuum of Services

The territorial government will now develop an action plan to address these priorities in partnership with community and regional agencies.

<http://news.exec.gov.nt.ca/strategic-framework-sets-priorities-for-the-elimination-of-poverty-in-the-nwt/>

Nunavut

POVERTY REDUCTION

The Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction has agreed on a framework for the Makimaniq five-year Poverty Reduction Action Plan. The plan will be finalized this Fall and start in 2014.

<http://www.makiliqta.ca/en/makimaniq-plan>