



Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

August 2014



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

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

The province is seeking project proposals to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal women and children through the Aboriginal Women's Violence Prevention Grants Program.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2014/exec/0827n04.aspx>

CHILDREN

The province will increase the toddler rate under the Child Care Services Subsidy Program. Effective September 1, 2014, the regulated child care services rate for children ages 24 months to under 36 months will increase from \$30 to \$33 per day. The increase reflects the higher costs associated with providing regulated child care to toddlers compared to preschool-aged children.

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2014/cyfs/0819n06.aspx>

New Brunswick

EMPLOYMENT

The government will amend its Staffing Policy Manual to grant preference in the competitive hiring process to individuals registered with the Equal Employment Opportunity program. It is also launching a new Workplace Equity and Diversity Policy, which provides a framework to promote a workplace that is inclusive and respectful of the many diverse groups.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2014.08.1016.html

The governments of New Brunswick and British Columbia have signed an agreement that will allow apprentices to seamlessly train in their trade and work in either province.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2014.08.1114.html

HEALTH

The province releases a renewed wellness strategy (New Brunswick's Wellness Strategy 2014-2021) that allows communities, schools, workplaces, organizations, families and individuals to see how their goals, activities or mandates are supported by improved wellness and how they can contribute to enhancing wellness within the province. The renewed strategy supports action on all dimensions of wellness and determinants of health, encourages a comprehensive approach and focuses on inclusiveness and equity. The renewed framework also promotes a mental fitness approach to wellness, which is critical to motivation and engagement.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2014.08.0980.html

RECREATION

As a result of the provincial budget increase for sport and recreation, the province will offer funding to regional service commissions that intend to carry out recreation planning. Commissions will be able to use the funds



for asset mapping, recreational needs assessments, master planning or feasibility studies. Assistance will be based on the demonstrated needs of commissions and will support up to 75 percent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$75,000. The department will also soon launch a web-based application on GeoNB that will assist in planning the province's sport and recreation infrastructure. The Recreation Infrastructure Planning Tool will be able to identify appropriate locations for sport and recreation facilities by analyzing data on population health, demographics, funding, and the proximity of other sport and recreation facilities.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2014.08.0984.html

SENIORS

A legal toolkit designed to help protect seniors from abuse and fraud was released by the Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick.

http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2014.08.1042.html

Nova Scotia

DISABILITY

The province is investing \$412,990 under the Accessible Transportation Assistance Program.

<http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20140801001>

EMPLOYMENT

Alberta and Nova Scotia have signed an agreement in principle to ensure apprenticeship training is transferable between both provinces.

<http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20140828004>

Prince Edward Island

No updates this month.

Québec

No updates this month.

Ontario

CHILDREN

The province is investing an additional \$5 million annually in children's treatment centres to expand access to physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech language therapy for up to an additional 2,000 children annually across Ontario. The province is also investing an extra \$1.25 million in one-time funding to help children's treatment centres reduce waitlists for assessments.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mcys/en/2014/08/helping-children-and-youth-with-special-needs-achieve-their-goals.html>

EDUCATION

The province has signed strategic mandate agreements with its 45 publicly assisted colleges and universities. These will guide future growth by encouraging more focus on unique strengths, while avoiding or limiting expansion in academic areas in which programs already exist.

The agreements make sure institutions are connected to various levels of the economy – from local to global – so students can gain experience through opportunities such as co-op programs and applied research, helping them create new businesses or find work in high-skill areas.

<http://news.ontario.ca/tcu/en/2014/08/building-a-stronger-postsecondary-education-system.html>

TAXES

Beginning September 1, 2014, administrative changes will be in place affecting those with taxable incomes over \$150,000 (less than two percent of the population). As announced in Budget 2014, new Ontario personal income tax (PIT) rates and thresholds were passed into law on July 24, 2014, and affect all taxable income for the 2014 calendar year:

- a new PIT rate of 12.16 percent on income from \$150,000 and up to \$220,000
- a new threshold of \$220,000 for the 13.16 percent top PIT rate.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2014/08/new-ontario-personal-income-tax-rates-and-thresholds-for-2014.html>

Manitoba

CAREGIVING

The province is enhancing funding in 2014 for support worker wages at agencies that offer residential services for adults with intellectual disabilities. The fund will permit residential agencies to raise starting wages in each of the next three years to between \$13 and \$14 an hour by 2017.

<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=32128&post-ed=2014-08-07>

Saskatchewan

HOUSING

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announced an additional combined investment of \$92 million over five years to help more individuals and families in need access affordable housing. The funding will be delivered through an extension to the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) Agreement. Under the IAH, the Government of Saskatchewan has the flexibility to design and deliver a range of affordable housing programs to address local housing needs and priorities.

<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2014/august/26/iah-agreement-for-housing>



Alberta

CHILDREN

Alberta is inviting local agencies to participate in a \$20 million program to help end child abuse, family violence, sexual assault and bullying, and to support children's mental health. The Family and Community Safety program, a grant funding initiative, will support community-led projects that address these and other issues that affect the safety of families and communities. The fund will build on community efforts and strengthen it by supporting new and innovative programs.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=36998BF7D3987-0648-7BFD-C63271FE30BD6B61>

GOVERNANCE

The province released *Building Corporate Relationships – A Toolkit for Nonprofits*. Nonprofit and voluntary sector stakeholders and corporate community investment representatives worked with government to present a five-step process that helps small and mid-sized nonprofits achieve common goals and discover new opportunities.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=36993881CD1DB-050B-A117-9F4F-75C6FDC29A43>

INCOME SECURITY

Alberta's minimum wage increases to \$10.20 September 1. The liquor server minimum wage will rise from \$9.05 to \$9.20 per hour. A \$1 per hour differential between the two wages will now be maintained to recognize that liquor servers typically earn tips. The increases are based on a formula introduced in 2011 that links changes to the general minimum wage to increases in Average Weekly Earnings and the Consumer Price Index in Alberta.

<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=3701623D214E9-BAB0-9719-11B1AA09A578095C>

British Columbia

HEALTH

The province announced a \$3-million investment to expand and support a provincial addiction medicine education and research training program for clinicians. Funding will help develop a new BC addiction medicine diploma program to improve clinical addiction care as well as the establishment of a rapid-access addiction medicine program. It also will support various addiction clinical trials, including a study recently funded by the US National Institute on Drug Abuse using a new medication called Vivitrol, a monthly intramuscular injection that blocks the effects of alcohol or heroin, and is already available in the US to treat opioid and alcohol dependence.

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2014/08/3-million-to-help-health-professionals-treat-addiction.html>

Yukon Territory

HEALTH

The Mental Health Commission of Canada launched the *Mental Health First Aid Canada for Northern Peoples* course. While the newly adapted three-day course is based on the standard course, it also highlights the challenges of living in remote and isolated communities. By looking at the main elements of health, course participants will be taught to identify and temporarily deal with someone who is exhibiting mental health symptoms or experiencing a mental health crisis until a higher level of help can be obtained.

http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/14-187.html#.U_UN8vldXWE

Northwest Territories

POVERTY REDUCTION

Fourteen organizations have been selected to receive Anti-Poverty funding in the NWT. The Government of the Northwest Territories' Anti-Poverty Action Plan received \$500,000 to provide organizations with funding for projects and initiatives to reduce poverty at the community, regional and territorial levels.

<http://news.exec.gov.nt.ca/anti-poverty-projects-selected-for-funding/>

Nunavut

No updates this month.