




Canada Social Report
Provincial/Territorial
Policy Monitor

July 2016



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. 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

LABOUR MARKET

The federal and Newfoundland and Labrador governments signed a partnership agreement called the Foreign Qualification Recognition Agreement. An investment of \$800,000 will help internationally-trained professionals get access to occupation-specific information, online tools and programs to prepare for their licensure exams. Workers in targeted professions, such as nursing and engineering, will benefit from opportunities – e.g., mentorship and internship programs. The project will also help internationally-trained skilled trades workers to obtain certification and employment.

[Link](#)

New Brunswick

DISABILITY

The Youth in Action Atlantic Summit, being organized by Muscular Dystrophy Canada, will take place in Moncton in August. The event will create a dialogue on setting and achieving career goals with 85 youth with a disability, along with their families and caregivers. Key agenda highlights include career exploration, post-secondary supports and options, independent living, creating healthy relationship and successful transition to work. This effort will help dispel the myth that many persons with disabilities are not employable. The goal is for participants to begin developing their own career goals, along with a plan to achieve them.

[Link](#)

POVERTY REDUCTION

The provincial government has partnered with Rogers to make available its Connected for Success program, which will offer families, seniors and individuals living in public housing the opportunity to benefit from a low-cost Internet access. Rogers is investing in communities by expanding its Connected for Success program, which started in Toronto in 2013, to everywhere it provides Internet service. A recent Ipsos-Reid study found that while 91 percent of Canadians access the Internet at home; that number drops to 70 percent in households with an annual income of \$25,000 or less.

[Link](#)

Nova Scotia

LABOUR MARKET

The province is increasing support for living expenses, child care and dependent care for eligible participants of the Skills Development program for the 2016-17 school year. The program, provided through federal labour market funding, offers financial support to people who require additional skills in order to find long-term, meaningful employment. Specific changes include:

- \$300 per week in living allowance for single clients, up from \$200



- \$400 per week in living allowance for clients with dependents, up from \$350
- \$100 per week, per child or dependent, for care, up from \$100 per week per family.

[Link](#)

Prince Edward Island

HEALTH

Health PEI is creating a new Patient Navigator position and patient and family advisor opportunities to make it easier for patients to access services and move through the health care system. The navigator will work directly with patients, health care providers and other individuals or organizations that deliver patient services and supports. Health PEI has other patient navigators in place, including a cancer patient navigator and stroke patient navigator. Islanders will be able to access the new Health Patient Navigator without referral through a toll-free number.

[Link](#)

Québec

No updates this month.

Ontario

CAREGIVING

Ontario is investing approximately \$100 million in home and community care this year; \$80 million to enhance support for home care clients with high needs and \$20 million for caregiver respite. This will include:

- 350,000 additional hours of nursing care
- 1.3 million additional hours of personal support
- 600,000 additional hours of respite services for caregivers
- 100,000 additional hours of rehabilitation.

[Link](#)

COMMUNITIES

Ontario launched a *Culture Strategy*, which establishes goals and actions to promote participation in arts and culture, build on the sector's economic impact in communities across the province and help Ontarians tell their stories.

[Link](#)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Province and First Nations in Ontario, as represented by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, announced an agreement-in-principle for the Province to sell to First Nations up to approximately 15 million shares of Hydro One Limited (2.5 percent of the total current outstanding

common shares), depending on the level of First Nation participation. If ratified, this new arrangement is intended to provide opportunities for First Nations for collective wealth creation and economic development initiatives.

[Link](#)

LABOUR MARKET

Ontario is investing \$1.2 million to help Waterloo Region-based innovation hub Communitech expand to support more start-ups and high-growth companies. The expansion means Communitech will be able to offer additional services, including:

- an extended Start-up Services program, which currently provides mentorship, training and connections to more than 500 start-ups per year
- more work space for start-ups and small- to mid-sized businesses
- innovation zones to bring start-ups together with companies of all sizes to collaborate on projects
- more training programs aimed at mid-sized businesses
- expanded corporate innovation programming designed to help global brands increase the speed of bringing new products to market.

[Link](#)

MENTAL HEALTH

The province is investing \$550,000 annually in new training for health care providers to better support children and youth facing mental health challenges. The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) will facilitate a new 'ECHO' program which will see health care providers participate in regular videoconferencing sessions and in individual mentoring sessions with specialists from CHEO including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurse substance use specialists and system navigators with expertise in children and youth mental health. Over the next five years, more than 1,000 primary care providers from across Ontario will receive this specialized training from CHEO. The program will help foster a virtual community of practice for northern, rural and other underserved communities.

[Link](#)

Manitoba

LABOUR MARKET

Manitoba will be hosting four roundtables to ensure that federal workforce development funding transfers, valued at almost \$3 billion, are flexible and responsive to new and emerging labour markets. The four agreements under review are the Labour Market Development Agreements, Canada Job Fund Agreements, Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities and Targeted Initiative for Older Workers.

[Link](#)



Saskatchewan

HOUSING

Over the next two years, almost \$74.1 million will be jointly invested in Saskatchewan by the federal and provincial governments in various initiatives to support the housing needs of Saskatchewan citizens. As outlined in the federal government's 2016 Budget, it will supply greater access to more affordable housing, including doubling the current funding under the Investment in Affordable Housing initiative, supporting affordable housing for seniors, building and renovating shelters and transition houses for victims of family violence, making repairs, and improving the energy and water efficiency of existing social housing.

[Link](#)

Alberta

No updates this month.

British Columbia

FAMILIES

West Vancouver's North Shore Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) was opened, becoming the eighth DVU in BC. This unit is the first DVU in the province to staff a dedicated First Nations Justice Worker, the result of a unique partnership with the Squamish Nation, West Vancouver Police, North Vancouver RCMP, Hollyburn Family Services Society and Ministry of Children and Family Development. Since 2014, the Province has provided more than \$1.7 million in funding to support new and existing DVUs. In addition to these grants, the province allocates more than \$70 million annually for prevention and intervention services and programs to help families that are affected violence and other crimes. DVUs are a commitment under the government's three-year \$5.5 million Provincial Domestic Violence Plan.

[Link](#)

HOUSING

As part of Budget 2016, the BC government began collecting data to identify foreign purchasers, and better understand whether and to what extent foreign capital is having an effect on residential real estate prices. Updated data on foreign investment show more than \$885 million in foreign investment flowed into Metro Vancouver's residential real estate market in just five weeks, representing 86 percent of the capital invested in the sector by foreign purchasers throughout the province. Beginning August 2, 2016, an additional property transfer tax rate of 15 percent will apply in Metro Vancouver to purchasers of residential real estate who are foreign nationals or foreign-controlled corporations.

[Link](#)

Yukon Territory

GOVERNANCE

With the support of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Yukon government has proclaimed the *Land Titles Act, 2015* and enacted its accompanying regulations. The Act will protect the integrity of the land titles system, secure interests of property owners and provide new economic development options. It creates a mechanism for registering Settlement Land while safeguarding Aboriginal rights and title, preparing the way for new residential and commercial development opportunities. New provisions enable the Land Titles Office to keep pace with the volume and complexity of modern land dealings in Yukon and provide more accessible land titles information.

[Link](#)

HEALTH

A new agreement between the Government of Yukon and TELUS Health will extend home health monitoring to support chronic conditions for Yukon patients. The home health monitoring pilot project will launch in early September 2016 for up to 50 patients. During the first phase, the project will focus on patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It will improve access to care, reduce transportation costs and increase patients' awareness of their condition through self-management. Patients will be trained to use home health monitoring equipment and be provided with a tablet, enabling them to connect with a dedicated care provider.

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Northwest Territories

No updates this month.

Nunavut

No updates this month.