This series summarizes the poverty reduction strategies now in place or in development in provinces and territories across Canada.

Details were gathered from public documents made available by the profiled jurisdiction.

**PLAN**

Although a leader in developing long-term plans to address homelessness, Alberta came late to the establishment of a provincial poverty reduction strategy. Federal funding for homelessness initiatives in 2001 helped forge a seven-city partnership that grew to eight cities – Calgary, Canmore, Edmonton, Grand Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Municipal District of Wood Buffalo, and Red Deer and surrounding areas. Originally focusing on homelessness, group members broadened their efforts to devise local responses to poverty issues. This work, along with grassroots efforts to build support for a provincial poverty reduction strategy, influenced former Premier Alison Redford to make a pre-election promise in April 2012 to develop such a plan.

In June 2013, the provincial government released a discussion paper entitled *Together We Raise Tomorrow: Alberta Poverty Reduction Strategy*. Priority areas included reducing inequality, protecting vulnerable people, creating a person-centred system of high-quality services, and enabling collaboration and partnerships.

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While planning continues, two measures were announced to support working families. Beginning in July 2016:

- the enhanced Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit will provide an additional $25 million to working families. An 11 percent phase-in threshold was announced on working income over $2,760, up from eight percent. A higher phase-out threshold was established – $41,250 up from $36,778
- a new Alberta Working Family Supplement refundable tax credit on earnings up to $41,220; will deliver an estimated $85 million in support to about 75,000 working families.

In October 2015, the newly-elected Notley government delivered an updated 2015-16 Budget. With a deficit of $6.1 billion, the government nevertheless announced a number of poverty reduction-related spending commitments. The previously announced Alberta Working Family Supplement was re-introduced as the Alberta Child Benefit. All families earning less than $41,220 per year in net income, including those receiving Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped and Income Support, are eligible to receive the new benefit. The maximum annual benefit is $1,100 for families with one child, and up to $2,750 for families with four or more children.

Other actions aimed at reducing poverty and supporting vulnerable populations include:

**Caregiving**

- $90 million over two years starting in 2016-17 to expand public home care

**Communities**

- $25 million in new funding for Family and Community Support, which provides social services to 319 municipalities and Métis settlements

**Education**

- hiring of approximately 380 teachers and 150 support staff
- more support for students with special needs in the form of educational assistants and other classroom supports
- a new school nutrition program
- a $45 million annual investment to reduce the burden of school fees for families
- a two-year tuition freeze for post-secondary students
Families

- $297 million budgeted for child care programs; $175 million to ease access and affordability, moving toward $25 per day for child care
- more support for children in care, helping vulnerable families with new funding for the Family and Community Support Services program
- increased support for people with disabilities, child intervention, child care, and homeless and outreach supports
- an enhanced Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit to provide lower- and middle-income working families with additional support

Health

- $10 million annually to support mental health services

Seniors

- $120 million over two years starting in 2016-17 for new long-term care spaces
- increased funding for seniors’ health care, including drug, dental, optical and supplemental health benefits

Women

- new annual funding of $15 million to support women’s shelters.

Additional resources