

Provincial/Territorial Poverty Reduction Strategies

May 2015 (with an October 2015 addendum about Saskatchewan)

Note: blue items are hyperlinked.

Jurisdiction	Plan name (release date)	Priority areas	Metrics	Outcomes, progress reports	Updated plans, priorities, goals
Newfoundland and Labrador	Poverty Reduction: An Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador (June 2006, 4-year plan) Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador (April 2007)	Aspirational goal: to become the province with the lowest poverty rate by 2014. Others: 1. improved access and coordination of services for households with low incomes 2. a stronger social safety net 3. improved earned incomes 4. increased emphasis on early childhood development 5. a better educated population. Labrador plan goals: 1. improve infrastructure, 2. advance social programming 3. foster economic prosperity		Report #1, 2009 : 1. Incidence of low income dropped from 12.2% in 2003 to 6.5% in 2007, a decrease of 30,000 people. 2. Depth of poverty (avg. amount low-income households fall below the LICO) decreased from \$5,500 in 2003 to \$4,900 in 2007. 3. Income Support caseload went from 36,700 in 2003 to 31,323 in 2008. 4. More than 4,000 Income Support clients were reported to have started employment between 2006 and 2008.	Report #2, 2014 : 1. 50% drop in the number of persons living with low incomes occurred between 2003-2011, as measured by LICO 2. median family income increased by 26%, from \$47,900 in 2003 to \$60,300 in 2011 3. in 2013, 7% of residents received Income Support, the lowest level ever recorded 4. NL ranks as the most affordable jurisdiction on the Cost of Learning Index – a measure of the cost of postsecondary education.
Nova Scotia	Preventing Poverty, Promoting Prosperity (April 2009)	1. enable and reward work 2. invest in households in need 3. focus on children 4. coordinate and collaborate		Website detailing program and policy changes made since the plan's 2009 inception to the end of 2013, e.g.: · 24,000 low-income families helped by Child Tax Benefit · 240,000 people helped by Affordable Living Tax Credit · 250 new child care subsidies · 14,000 helped through Poverty Reduction Tax Credit · 14,500 seniors helped through Seniors Property Tax Rebate	In addition to a focus on poverty reduction, the province established the oneNS Coalition to develop a 10-year economic plan, due in Dec. 2015
Prince Edward Island	Social Action Plan to Reduce Poverty (May 2012, 3-year plan)	1. Increase access to affordable housing 2. Make improvements to the Social Assistance Program 3. Continue enhancing services for persons with disabilities and apply the disability lens to program planning 4. Continue enhancements to early learning 5. Improve literacy and support adult learning, training and work 6. Continue making increases to minimum wage; index increases to cost of living 7. Adjust tax policies to assist low-income Islanders 8. Improve access to needed prescription medications 9. Strengthen mental health and addiction services 10. Enhance family supports in such areas as justice services	Social Action Plan Working Group selected a set of measures and indicators related to social well-being.	Progress reports released in 2013 and 2014. The 2014 report includes a sampling of statistics aimed at defining the well-being of residents (e.g., labour force participation rates). It also outlines progress in the areas of housing, income support, early learning and education, employment, health, family supports, and social inclusion and participation.	Plans for the strategy's third year include: 1. implementing a new seniors home care modification program 2. initiating an Integrated Service Delivery pilot in an Island school 3. reviewing asset exemptions for social assistance 4. raising wages for early childhood educators 5. increasing minimum wage 6. covering supplies for children with type 1 diabetes 7. boosting rates for children in care.

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New Brunswick	<p>2009: Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan</p> <p>2014: Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Inclusion Plan, 2014-2019</p>	<p>Twin goals: to reduce income poverty in the province by 25 percent and deep income poverty by 50 percent by 2015.</p> <p>Priorities areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunities for Well-Being: Reform Social Assistance 2. Opportunities for Becoming: Early Learning, Literacy, Childcare 3. Opportunities for Belonging: Affordable Housing, Social Enterprise, Employment, Education. <p>Ongoing collaboration among business, government and people with lived experience achieved through a Crown corporation and the establishment of a 12-member community economic and social inclusion network (CINs).</p>	<p>The plan does not place a priority on statistical measures of poverty. Instead, it maintains a focus on building inclusion and achieving measures which increase well-being, economic and social participation and belonging. As stated in the updated plan, “The first incarnation of the plan in 2009 was innovative and bold, with realistic and achievable goals. In concrete terms, it contained 22 priority measures, the majority of which have been completed.”</p>	<p>Highlighted actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. vision and dental care for low-income families (“Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision”) 2. extended health coverage for income assistance recipients 3. pharmacare for all uninsured residents, introduced December 2013, amended December 2014 4. implemented Early Learning and Childcare Act (April 2010) 5. reformed social assistance 6. tuition freezes imposed for post-secondary education <p>June 2015, Plan 1 Impact report Crown Corporation invested \$1.3 million in projects and activities, leveraging \$3 million from communities (\$4.3 million total)</p>	<p>Plan 2, 2014: Four pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. community empowerment – includes actions addressing community development, communication and networking, and volunteerism 2. learning – includes actions addressing child and youth education and adult education, training and preparation for work 3. economic inclusion – includes actions addressing participation in the labour market and business activity 4. social inclusion – includes actions addressing food security and healthy food availability, housing and transportation. <p>Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation website</p>
Québec	<p>2004-10 Poverty Action Plan designed to meet the objectives of the <i>Act to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion</i> (2002)</p> <p>2010: Government Action Plan for Inclusion and Solidarity: 2010-15</p>	<p>2004 Goal: that by 2013, QC would be among the industrialized nations with the least number of people living in poverty</p> <p>4 objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. improving the well-being of people living in poverty 2. developing citizen potential 3. involving society as a whole 4. ensuring consistent, coherent action 	<p>2005: QC Child Assistance measure instituted.</p> <p>2005: Work Premium (refundable tax credit) replaced Parental Wage Assistance Program.</p> <p>2005: Participation Premium set up to encourage people on social assistance back into the workforce.</p> <p>2004-10: Min.Wage rose from \$7.45 in 2004 to \$9.50 in 2010.</p> <p>2010: Adapted Work Premium (for those with severely limited capacity to work), Supplement to the Work Premium</p>	<p>2004-09: \$4.5 billion invested, 208,000 fewer people reported to be living on low incomes. Social assistance caseloads dropped to lowest levels since 1976.</p> <p>1999-2009: overall poverty rate dropped 40% (improvement may be largely credited to economic growth)</p> <p>November 2011: Auditor General’s report notes lack of specificity of reporting, achievement of objectives, follow-up measures and results reporting.</p>	<p>Plan 2, 2010: \$7 billion for initiatives aimed at placing a higher value on work, protecting purchasing power of low-income earners.</p> <p>Voluntary sector investment in housing and employment support was seen as an important addition.</p>
Ontario	<p>Plan #1: Growing Stronger Together: Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Plan (2008-13).</p> <p>Plan #2: Realizing Our Potential: Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy 2014-19</p>	<p>Plan #1: Reducing the number of children living in poverty by 25% by 2013, Ontario Child Benefit, Education And Early Learning, Building Stronger Communities, Smarter Government, A Long-Term Commitment, Collective effort.</p> <p>Plan #2: Recommits to reducing children poverty by 25%.</p>	<p>2008-14: 8 key indicators (birth weights, school readiness, educational progress, high school grad. rate, Low Income Measures (LIM 50), Depth of Poverty (LIM 40), Ontario Housing Measure, Standard of Living.</p> <p>3 more indicators to be developed over time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not in Education, Employment or Training 2. Long-Term Unemployment 3. Poverty Rates of Vulnerable Populations. <p>PLUS: Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness to establish a target to measure homelessness.</p>	<p>Available annually, 2008-15. March 2014 Annual Report: Some reported numbers: Between 2008-11, 47,000 children and their families were “lifted out of poverty”; 61,000 children and their families were “prevented from falling into poverty.” Other improvements noted in: birth weights, school readiness, Grades 3&6 testing, high school graduation, Low Income Measure (including depth of poverty), ON Housing Measure.</p>	<p>Plan #2: Other investments: \$42 million for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative; 1,000 new supportive housing spaces; raising the maximum annual benefit for the Ontario Child Benefit to \$1,310 per child as of July 2014; committing to provide health benefits for children and youth in low-income families; \$50 million over five years for a Local Poverty Reduction Fund</p>

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Manitoba	ALL ABOARD: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy (April 2012, 4-year)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building Blocks for Employment (Sustainable Employment & a Stronger Labour Market) 2. Targeted Supports for Those Most In Need 3. Food Security 4. Housing 5. Closing the Gap for Aboriginal Peoples in Manitoba 6. Creating Opportunities for Youth 7. Early Childhood Development and Parenting Supports 	21 regulated indicators that correspond to the strategy's four pillars: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe & Affordable Housing in Supportive Communities 2. Education, Jobs & Income Support 3. Strong, Healthy Families 4. Accessible, Coordinated Services 	Feb. 2013 , two statistics from 2000-10 show 19% decrease in low income rate, 28% decrease in low income rate for children. Sept. 2014 , 2 nd annual report showed progress of 15/21 indicators.	Feb. 2015 two new initiatives launched: Starting Early , Starting Strong: Manitoba's Five-Year Plan for Early Childhood Development (supports pillar 3) The Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy (supports pillar 4)
Saskatchewan	December 2014, creation of an 11-member Advisory Group on Poverty Reduction. October 19, 2015 update on activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. income security 2. housing and homelessness 3. early childhood development 4. education and training 5. employment and health 6. food security 			
Alberta	Budget 2015-16 announces the development of an Alberta Poverty Reduction Action Plan			In the interim: i) the AB Family Employment Tax Credit will be enhanced, ii) a new AB Working Family Supplement refundable tax credit will be established (both by July 2016)	
British Columbia	No plan to date.				
Yukon	A Better Yukon for All (Dec. 2012)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. improve access to services 2. reduce inequities 3. strengthen community vitality 4. develop success measures 			April 2015 Budget of \$1.367 billion, the largest in Yukon's history. It includes the largest capital budget in Yukon's history at \$312.8 million and promised action on many of the plan's areas.
Northwest Territories	Building on the Strength of Northerners (June 2013)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	49 commitments were defined; responsible gov't. department was identified. Success measures were not defined; this remains an area for further work.	Action Plan released, Feb. 2014 August 2014, 14 organizations had received Anti-Poverty funding. No other outcomes have been reported to date.	
Nunavut	The Makimaniq Plan: A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction (Feb. 2012, 18-month plan)	<p>Top priority: draft poverty reduction legislation, which would develop policies and ensure long-term progress on the plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaboration and Community Participation 2. Healing and Well-being 3. Education and Skills Development 4. Food Security 5. Housing and income support 6. Community and Economic Development 7. Delivery and Accountability 8. Evaluation and Monitoring. 		May 2014, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition released the Nunavut Food Security Strategy and Action Plan	In November 2014, the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction held a fall 2014 gathering, and participants reviewed the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan. The plan was to be reviewed in detail with communities and approved in early 2015. The final Round Table report was tabled in the February/March Session of the 17 th Legislative Assembly.