



Caledon Institute of Social Policy: Federal Policy Monitor

May 2013

The Caledon Institute (www.caledoninst.org) regularly scans for the release of federal government policies that impact areas of interest, including income security, disabilities, health, housing, poverty reduction, recreation, seniors and youth.

NOTE: The PDF reader built into Google Chrome has some difficulty correctly displaying the links to the PDF files in this document.

Aboriginals

The Auditor General's report concluded that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada have been unable to cooperate in the creation of a historical record of the Indian residential school system and its legacy. Disagreements about the scope of the project have resulted in a situation in which no one knows what is required to create the historical record, what remains to be done, and how much time and how many resources it will take to complete the work. The Commission has selected an organization to host the national research centre and identified an approach to transfer its documents and assets to this organization. However, the audit found that it has yet to develop a detailed plan to resolve significant issues relating to this transfer, including privacy protection.
http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/mr_20130430_e_38305.html

Families

\$2.6 million in funding for the Newcomers who participate in the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) Program. The program helps parents to be a child's first educator by improving their own literacy skills and fostering active participation of new Canadian families in society. Developed in Israel in 1969 as an evidence-based, community-driven program and established in Canada in 1999, HIPPPY has expanded to 15 communities and assisted across more than 6,000 newcomers as well as Aboriginal and other Canadian families.

[Link](#)

Governance

Release of *Harnessing the Power of Social Finance*. The report profiles 15 concepts that drawn from a range of proposals received to date and includes information on national and international perspectives. Many of the proposals support at-risk youth, the unemployed, people with disabilities and seniors. Various financial tools are described, including social impact bonds, pay-for-performance contracts, investment funds and social enterprises.

[Link](#)

Establishment of a First-Time Donor's Super Credit for those wishing to contribute to a charitable organization. The credit will apply on cash donations of up to \$1,000, claimed in any one taxation year from 2013 to 2017. It will increase the value of the existing Charitable Donations Tax Credit by 25 percentage points, if neither the taxpayer nor spouse has claimed the credit since 2007.

[Link](#)

The Parliamentary Budget Office reports that, due to insufficient responses from the government, it is unable to complete an analysis of the impact of Budget 2012 savings initiatives, as requested by the Member of Parliament for Outremont. The office will continue to pursue the requested information from the government and report in due course.

http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/news?news_id=103&myID=1

Health

\$1.4 million in funding under the Healthy Living Fund for community-based projects across the country. These projects will promote physical activity for children, seniors, persons with disabilities, and Aboriginal Canadians by developing support for those who work closely with these groups. Community health intermediaries, educators and recreation workers will be provided with tools to help them build awareness and encourage students or clients to improve their lives and overall health outcomes.

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2013/2013_0524-eng.php

Announcement of a new public database of Health Canada-authorized drug clinical trials involving patients as well as the completion of a joint project to develop new standards for research ethics boards that oversee clinical trials. Health Canada is also publishing guidance on the inclusion of women in clinical trials, a new "It's Your Health" educational piece for patients considering participating in trials, and is providing updated general guidance for clinical trial sponsors.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/_2013/2013-70-eng.php

Housing

Release of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's 2012 Annual Report, *Passion Professionalism Performance*.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2013/2013-05-06-0815.cfm>

Housing starts in Canada were trending at 182,754 units in April compared to 188,369 in March, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The trend is a six-month moving average of the monthly seasonally adjusted annual rates (SAAR) of housing starts.

The standalone monthly SAAR was 174,858 units in April, down from 181,146 in March. The SAAR of urban starts decreased by 2.5 percent in April to 153,528 units, led by a 3.5 percent decline in multiple urban starts to 93,469 units. Single urban starts remained relatively unchanged from March at 60,059 units in April.

April's seasonally adjusted annual rates of urban starts decreased in Atlantic Canada (-40.8 percent), Ontario (-14.9 percent) and British Columbia (-5.6 percent). Urban starts increased in Quebec (14.8 percent) and the Prairies (9.3 percent).

Rural starts were estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 21,330 units in April.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2013/2013-05-08-0816.cfm>

Highlights of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation results for the first quarter of 2013.

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2013/2013-05-30-0900.cfm>

Income Security

Announcement of the formulation of a new Social Security Tribunal (SST). The SST is a single decision-making body that consolidates the work previously done by four separate Human Resources and Skills Development Canada tribunals. Offering one point of contact for submitting an appeal, the tribunal is designed to simplify the appeal processes while ensuring continued access to administrative justice for appellants. The SST is composed of two levels: the General Division includes an Employment Insurance (EI) Section for EI appeals, and an Income Security Section for Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS) appeals.

[Link](#)

Seniors

Announcement of the newly revamped website, seniors.gc.ca, a source of information for seniors, their families and caregivers. With input from provincial/territorial, municipal and other partners

the site now features an Information for Seniors section that provides an interactive map with quick links to programs, benefits and services. It includes 2-1-1 services where available.

[Link](#)

Links:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1356706270032/1356706322070>

Auditor General – reports in the Fall (Oct) & Spring (June)

http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/mr_lp_e_1455.html

Canada News Centre (news.gc.ca)

<http://news.gc.ca/web/dsptch-dstrbr-eng.do?mthd=tp&crtr.tp1D=1>

CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation)

<http://www.schl.ca/en/corp/hero/here/index.cfm>

Department of Justice

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/index.html>

Finance Canada

<https://www.fin.gc.ca/news-nouvelles/nr-nc-eng.asp>

Health Canada

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/current-courant-eng.php>

HRSDC (Human Resources and Skills Development Canada)

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/corporate/newsroom/index.shtml>

Parliamentary Budget Office

<http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/news?filter-news-all=View+All>

Public Health Agency of Canada

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/index-eng.php>