

Federal Government August 2008

Aboriginal issues

Engagement process launched around new federal framework for Aboriginal economic development. *Toward a New Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development* discussion guide available online.

Arts and cultural programs

Major cuts to arts and cultural programs ([hyperlink](#)).

Literacy

\$950,188 investment in ABC Canada Literacy Foundation for Family Literacy Day, Look Under LEARN and private sector initiatives to address adult and workplace literacy.

Newcomers

Citizenship and Immigration to host two roundtables with business, industry, labour and voluntary organizations on occupational priorities for immigration purposes.

Citizenship and Immigration to announce Canadian Experience Class – proposed new immigration avenue for certain temporary foreign workers and student graduates.

Announcements expected in support of newcomers in Regina, Saskatoon and Scarborough. New funding announced for enhanced language training and bridge-to-work programs for internationally trained professionals in Toronto.

Persons with Disabilities

\$44,249 under the *Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities* for employment assistance for South East Grey Support Services in Flesherton, Ontario ([hyperlink](#)).

Seniors

Announcements in Quebec and in Newfoundland and Labrador of July increase from \$500 to \$3,500 for the GIS earnings exemption. Single pensioners earning \$3,500 or more can keep up to an additional \$1,500 in annual GIS benefits.

Student Assistance

2008 federal Budget changes to *student assistance* announced at Kitchener's Pathways to Education Program ([hyperlink](#)).

Temporary Foreign Workers

Federal and Saskatchewan governments to improve Temporary Foreign Worker Program by strengthening protections for temporary foreign workers and improving outreach with employers and workers.

Wage Protection

Wage Earner Protection Program now in force. Provides guaranteed payment of unpaid wages and vacation pay to eligible workers whose employers go bankrupt.

Reports

HRSDC issues [Review of Registered Education Savings Plan \(RESP\) Industry Practices](#).

Chief Public Health Officer's report on the [State of Public Health in Canada 2008](#) includes a discussion of social and health inequalities. Report highlights *Santropol Roulant* work in ensuring access to nutritious meals and social supports.