

Provincial (and Municipal) Policy Updates July 2008

Newfoundland and Labrador

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Program

Aboriginal groups will receive \$95,000 to support initiatives that safeguard Aboriginal traditions and cultures as part of a one-year Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Program pilot.

Career Work Centres

Career Work Centres will expand to Gander, Placentia, Marystown, Lewisporte, Springdale and St. Anthony. CWCs provide access to career and employment services, including information on emerging labour market trends.

Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador

\$632,274 in enhancements to support the Air Foodlift Subsidy program and provide for two projects that help preserve the region's culture and heritage. The plan is in its second year of a five-year mandate during which more than \$300 million will be invested.

Personal income taxes

One percentage point reduction in each personal income tax rate takes effect July 1.

Poverty reduction

Additional \$2 million in benefits under the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Rate increases to health benefits for income support clients including eye exams, eyeglasses, dentures and special diets. The differential rate paid to clients living with a relative has been eliminated, enabling all clients to pay the same amount of rent regardless of where they are renting.

Social housing

Newfoundland Labrador Housing received \$10 million over five years for new Interior Retrofit Program for renovations of existing social housing.

Additional Funds for Youth Sport and Recreation Program

\$100,000 is being invested in the community-based Canadian Tire JumpStart program which assists thousands of young people across the province. This brings the total annual government commitment to \$350,000.

Québec

Voluntary sector fund

Le Réseau de l'action bénévole du Québec – provincial volunteer action network – received \$800,000 in grants over three years to build up volunteer numbers.

Ontario

Child care

\$25 million to assist an additional 3,000 children access child care through subsidy support for low-income families.

Job Growth Fund

New fund to grow the economy in Eastern Ontario will provide \$80 million over four years to help businesses create jobs and invest in new technologies, equipment or skills training.

Ontario Child Benefit

Some 465,000 families with 960,000 children received the first monthly Ontario Child Benefit. The new monthly payment of up to \$600 this year and increasing to \$1,100 a year by 2011 will help eligible low-income families with the cost of raising children ([hyperlink](#)).

Training for New Careers

Up to 4,000 new student spaces created in George Brown College to help meet growing demand for workers in health sciences and skilled trades. Funding is part of the three-year \$1.5-billion Skills to Jobs Action Plan.

Hamilton

Child care

Hamilton receives approximately \$900,000 in funding which will support priority families from the Child Care Wait list to access subsidy support for child care.

Saskatchewan

Children's Drug Plan

New Children's Drug Plan will ensure that families with children aged 14 and under pay for only \$15 of their children's prescriptions listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary and those approved under Exception Drug Status. No application is required.

Child welfare

\$104.8 million in new federal funding to the Saskatchewan child and family services framework over five years. The investment provides First Nations agencies with resources to identify family needs before a child is removed from the home.

Internationally Educated Health Professionals

First phase of an on-line portal for internationally educated health professionals at www.immigration.gov.sk.ca/iehp includes information on employment in health care system and a roadmap for licensing processes.

Seniors' Drug Plan

Under the new Seniors' Drug Plan program that takes effect July 1, eligible seniors must apply to receive their formulary prescriptions for \$15.

Alberta

Alberta Income for the Severely Handicapped

AISH beneficiaries can now earn more money and remain eligible for financial assistance. Upper limit of the employment exemption formula was increased by \$500 to \$1,500 per month for single AISH clients and to \$2,500 per month for households with children.

Climate Change Action Plan

Plan based on three areas: carbon capture and storage; energy conservation and efficiency; and green energy production. Two new funds announced: \$2 billion invested in carbon capture and storage, and \$2 billion for public transit. Green Transit Incentives Program (Green TRIP) will promote public transit.

Health Restructuring

Alberta Health Services, the new provincial system with accountability for health delivery, announced a restructuring plan to create a coordinated, unified operation.

Seniors Needs

Information gathered from a survey of seniors' needs will assist in the development of an Aging Population Policy Framework to guide government decisions on seniors' programs and policies.

Where to check for further updates:

www.alberta.ca

www.gov.nf.ca

www.gov.sk.ca

www.gouv.qc.ca

www.gov.on.ca http://ogov.newswire.ca/getorg_e.html?okey=34573