



## Social and Economic Well-Being: What is Being Done

The Provincial Government is already doing work within each of the identified components. Much of this work is coordinated with a range of federal programs, benefits and services, and often in partnership or collaboratively with community-based organizations and Indigenous Governments. This is a high level overview of some of this work.

### Early Years:

- The Provincial Government provides core funding to 31 Family Resource Centres throughout the province to deliver programs that promote positive parent-child contact intended to support healthy child development, as well as the Healthy Baby Club, which supports healthy nutrition during the pregnancy and early post-natal period and to promote healthy pregnancy and newborn outcomes.
- The Provincial Government and the Innu Nation formally launched the Inquiry into the Treatment, Experiences and Outcomes of Innu in the Child Protection System. The Inquiry aims to examine the treatment, experiences and outcomes of Innu children, youth and families in the child protection system and identify recommendations for change.
- The Provincial Government reduced child care fees to \$15.00 a day from \$25.00 a day, as a result of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. This will be further reduced to \$10.00 a day in 2023.
- The Provincial Government's Early Learning and Childcare Action Plan aims to increase the affordability, increase access and enhance the quality of early childhood learning and child care.
- The Provincial Government's Child Care Subsidy Program is an income tested program designed to assist families with the cost of child care fees at regulated child care services.
- The Provincial Government provides parent resource kits to parents of newborns and toddlers and include a variety of items to help learning at home.
- The Regional Health Authorities offer parent and child health programs that promote healthy pregnancy, birth and infancy, improve parenting and family supports and strengthen early childhood development. These include prenatal education and support, the Healthy Beginnings postnatal follow-up program, and child health clinics.



## Education:

- The provincial Education Action Plan aims to improve educational outcomes in the province.
- The provincial Student Aid Program provides a combination of grants and forgivable loans for low income students who attend post-secondary education.
- The Provincial Government, in collaboration with the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, is committed to ensuring Indigenous students see their culture reflected in the provincial curriculum and resources; revised curriculum is infused with the history, traditions and contemporary culture of Indigenous peoples.
- The provincial Literacy Action Plan aims to build a more educated province so people can: reach their potential, take part in training; and find and keep jobs.
- The provincial Skills Development Program provides financial support to eligible individuals who are seeking full-time post-secondary training at a public or private training institution.
- The provincial Adult Basic Education Program supports adult learners in achieving a high school equivalency diploma.

## Income and Benefits:

- The Provincial Government recently announced an increase in minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by October 1, 2023.
- The provincial Income Support Program provides supports and services to eligible people without financial resources to meet basic daily living expenses. This program is currently undergoing a three-year review that aims to improve benefits and ease of access, and strengthen supports for self-reliance.
- Provincial financial benefits available to support individuals living in low income, delivered through the tax system, including:
  - The Newfoundland and Labrador Income Supplement helps low income individuals, seniors, families and persons with disabilities.
  - The Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors' Benefit helps seniors in low income.
  - The Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit is a provincial tax credit for low income families with children under 18.
  - The Low Income Tax Reduction is a personal income tax deduction for low income individuals and families.
  - The Pre-natal Infant Nutrition Supplement assists low income parents with the extra cost of food during pregnancy and infancy.

- Provincial health-related benefits to support low income individuals, including:
  - The Newfoundland and Labrador Drug Prescription Program covers 100 per cent of eligible prescription drugs for Income Support clients and subsidized clients of the Long-Term Care and Community Support Services System. In addition, financial assistance is available for the purchase of prescription medications for individuals in low income and those with high drug costs relative to income.
  - The Provincial Dental Health Plan provides access to eligible dental services for children, as well as individuals and families in low income.
  - The Income Support Medical Transportation Assistance Program covers 100 per cent of eligible expenses for Income Support clients to access medical services.
- Provincial programs aimed at removing barriers and improving incentives for employment, including:
  - The Labour Market Partnership Program provides funding for labour market strategies and activities.
  - The JobsNL Wage Subsidy Program is designed to connect employers and employees by providing funding to employers to create long-term employment or seasonal/short term employment.
  - The Job Creation Partnerships Program provides support to community-based, not-for-profit projects to provide eligible participants with opportunities to gain work experience to improve their employment options.
  - The Employment Enhancement Program provides funding to employers to create long-term or seasonal employment. A training allowance is provided to support new employees.
  - The School Transitions to Work Program supports high school students with intellectual disabilities in supported employment during evenings, weekends, or during the summer.
  - The Provincial Government requires Women's Employment Plans for outside resource development projects, infrastructure projects and proponents of mid-size commercial projects in order to ensure that women benefit from all project employment opportunities.

### Food Security:

- The Provincial Government provides funding for:
  - Food First NL, an organization that works with communities to ensure everyone has access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.
  - School Lunch Association, an organization that provides hot, nutritious lunches to school students.
  - Kids Eat Smart, an organization that operates the Breakfast Club program in schools.
  - A Community Garden Support Program that provides funding for the creation and improvement of community gardens.

### Housing:

- Provincial programs to address housing and homelessness needs along the full continuum, including:
  - The Rental Housing Program for low income households.
  - The Home Energy Savings Program assists low income households in making energy efficient retrofits to their home.
  - The Home Modification Program provides funding to low income homeowners who require accessibility changes to their homes.
  - The Provincial Home Repair Program assists low income households in improving privately-owned households.
  - Partner-Managed Housing Program supports social housing actions in partnership with non-profit housing groups.
  - The Supportive Living Program that provides core funding to non-profit organizations to prevent and end homelessness.
  - Emergency shelter services for individuals experiencing homelessness.
  - The Transition House program for women and children fleeing intimate partner violence.
- The 2022 Federal Budget outlined \$300 million over five years, beginning in 2022-23, to launch an urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing strategy, along with \$845 million over seven years to further support housing across Inuit Nunangat.

## Community:

- The Provincial Government provides approximately \$70 million in core funding to community-based organizations annually. Additionally, various project grants are available, such as:
  - The Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador Communities Program assists communities with the development of policies, plans and projects that enable us to age in place, and supporting the creation of age-friendly communities.
  - The Accessible Vehicle Funding Program aims to reduce costs associated with disability and provide an accessible transportation option to individuals and families.
  - The Accessible Taxi Funding Program seeks to expand the availability of accessible transportation.
  - The Capacity Grant Program aims to enable persons with disabilities to become fully engaged in their community.
  - The Inclusion Grants Funding Program provides grants to eligible community-based and non-profit organizations to help them create more accessible and inclusive facilities and events.
  - The Indigenous Violence Prevention Grants Program supports Newfoundland and Labrador's Indigenous governments and organizations in their efforts to prevent violence against Indigenous women and children and to engage Indigenous men and boys in the prevention of violence.
  - The Newfoundland and Labrador Community Transportation Program supports alternate transportation services for individuals who experience barriers to accessible, affordable and inclusive transportation.
  - The Seniors' Social Inclusion Initiative supports seniors organizations across Newfoundland and Labrador to organize and promote activities and programs that support social inclusion, healthy aging, mental wellness, and overall well-being.
  - The Newfoundland and Labrador Multiculturalism Grant Program helps communities celebrate the cultural diversity that exists throughout the province.
- The Ministerial Committee on Anti-Racism consults with the public, community and private sectors, labour, academia and other areas regarding longstanding and emerging issues related to racism, and opportunities to address them.
- The Premier's Roundtable on Gender Equity provides an opportunity to identify gender equity issues, provide context and help shape solutions that create and foster inclusion and respect.

