

# **Newfoundland and Labrador's Poverty Reduction Strategy**

## **Consultation Guide 2010**





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## Introduction

This consultation guide is designed to help people provide feedback that will help us fight poverty in this province. It does this in two ways. First, it provides an overview of the Poverty Reduction Strategy's (PRS) key directions and goals as outlined in the first four-year Action Plan, *Reducing Poverty: An Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador* (2006) (<http://www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle/poverty/poverty-reduction-strategy.pdf>). Second, it asks residents to share their views to inform the next four year action plan which will guide the direction of the Strategy.

People can share their views through several different means. Residents can e-mail, call the toll-free telephone line, use regular mail, or visit the consultation website. Contact information for this consultation process can be found in the back of this guide.

The Provincial Government wants to hear from you about what is happening in communities across the province. How can government and community work together to help make things better for people living in or vulnerable to poverty? What is making a difference? What can be done to support opportunities for residents with low income to get better connected to the programs and services they need?

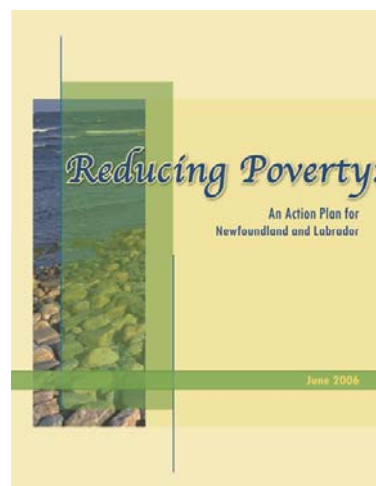
This is the third round of public consultations for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. In Budget 2010, the Provincial Government invested \$134 million to support more than 80 ongoing PRS initiatives. The Provincial Government is interested in hearing about the issues that are most important to residents now and in the future. An Action Plan is being developed to guide the Poverty Reduction Strategy to 2014. Building on work to date, this action plan is to be based on research, best practices and the input of residents.

## Background - The Strategy to 2010

The Provincial Government has publicly committed to take an active approach to preventing, reducing and alleviating poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador. It began a journey to find meaningful solutions to address the causes and consequences of poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador. Formally outlined as a key Provincial Government policy goal in the 2005 Speech from the Throne, research began across government to better understand the nature of the issue and to explore possible solutions. The Provincial Government took the view that a long term, comprehensive and integrated approach was necessary.

The vision statement of the Poverty Reduction Strategy speaks of a province where poverty has been eliminated. The vision is of a province that is a prosperous, diverse place where all individuals are valued, can develop to their full potential and have access to a range of supports necessary to participate fully in the social and economic benefits of Newfoundland and Labrador. In order to achieve this, the Provincial Government values an active partnership and dialogue with the broader community. Public engagement through consultation with residents and community groups supports a better understanding of the impact of poverty on individuals, families and society. The Provincial Government is looking for new ways and means to help people living in or vulnerable to poverty. It is committed to regularly reporting on the activities and progress being made.

To support this approach, the Provincial Government held a series of public consultation sessions in 2005 which resulted in the 2006 release of the first Action Plan, *Reducing Poverty: An Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador* (<http://www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle/poverty/poverty-reduction-strategy.pdf>). This plan would guide the PRS forward over the 2006-10 period. It supported three key directions: to reduce, prevent and alleviate poverty in the province.



In support of these key directions, the Action Plan outlined five main goals:

Goal 1 – Improved access and coordination of services for people with low incomes

Goal 2 – A stronger social safety net

Goal 3 – Improved earned incomes

Goal 4 – Increased emphasis on early childhood development

Goal 5 – A better educated population

Consultations were held again in 2008 to guide the overall direction of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The feedback and views of residents indicated that the Strategy was on the right track.

The Provincial Government has worked in partnership with the community to develop a mix of policies to tackle poverty and to provide public money to support it. Overall, the Provincial Government has increased its commitment from more than \$30 million supporting 20 initiatives in 2006-07 to \$134 million for more than 80 ongoing initiatives in 2010-11.

### The 2009 Progress Report on the Poverty Reduction Strategy

In 2009, the Provincial Government released its first Progress Report on the Poverty Reduction Strategy, *Empowering People, Engaging Community, Enabling Success* (<http://www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle/publications/poverty/PRSPProgressReport.pdf>). It presented information from a series of key indicators and individual case studies that demonstrate that we are having success in the fight against poverty. The progress report also provided a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the Strategy.



## Highlights of What We Heard

Residents, over the past two rounds of public consultations, have shared their views on what needs to be done to address poverty. For example, they talked about the need:

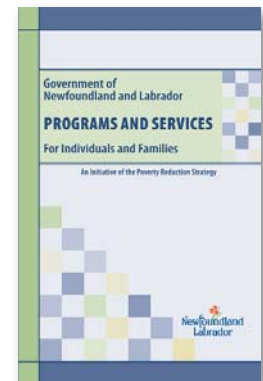
- To ensure government leadership and a commitment to comprehensive action on poverty reduction over the longer term.
- To improve access to and awareness of government programs and services.
- To improve access to necessities, including housing, child care, prescription drug coverage, and transportation.
- To strengthen and provide opportunities to participate in the labour market.
- To understand the role of the broader community, build capacity and work together with community members to effect change.
- To address gender-based issues related to women living in poverty.
- To provide supports for greater inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- To further invest in early childhood development.
- To focus on the education system at all levels so that education is accessible, affordable, relevant, and meets the needs of all learners.

## Putting Your Views into Action

Advice from residents informed the development of the Strategy. Public input also led the development of new initiatives that support the goals and objectives of the Strategy. The province has changed a lot over the past four years, so while reading through the examples below, ask yourself if these goals are still a priority moving forward to 2014.

### Goal 1 – Improved access and coordination of services for people with low incomes

The issue of a lack of awareness of and access to Provincial Government programs and services was a key theme in previous feedback that we received. People simply did not know about the programs available to them or where to go to get the help they needed. As a result, the Provincial Government created a *Guide to Programs and Services for Individuals and Families* (<http://www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle/poverty/guidebook/ProgramsServicesGuidebook.pdf>). This Guide provides residents with access to basic information on a wide array of programs and services in a convenient and easy to read document.



### Goal 2 – A stronger social safety net

Residents spoke of the need to strengthen the social safety net. Government heard from individuals and families in receipt of Income Support who were concerned over losing their prescription drug coverage if they went to work. As well, many individuals with low income had no prescription drug coverage. In response, the Department of Health and Community Services expanded eligibility to the prescription drug program. Further improvements were made and included coverage for high cost drugs and improved coverage by expanding eligible income levels.



### **Goal 3 – Improved earned incomes**

Residents suggested ways to improve overall income levels in the province. This included increasing access to jobs and removing the disincentives to work for individuals receiving Income Support. In support of this goal, Provincial Government initiatives include Low Income Tax Reduction to help workers earning lower income, enhanced earnings exemptions to enable Income Support clients to keep more of what they earn, and the Job Start Benefit to assist individuals making the transition to employment.

### **Goal 4 – Increased emphasis on early childhood development**

A need was identified to improve access to child care and provide further support for early childhood development. This advice resulted in significant new investments to support child care services, home-based early intervention services, family resources programs and healthy baby clubs.

### **Goal 5 – A better educated population**

Residents spoke of the need to improve access to education and training opportunities to support a better educated population from primary school to the post secondary level. Parents with low-income experienced a significant financial barrier in providing their children with the necessary supplies and core text books. In response, the Department of Education eliminated school fees and extended access to free core text books through to the high school grades.

Please refer to Appendix A for a brief description of the current level of investment in place to support more than 80 ongoing Poverty Reduction Strategy initiatives.

Please refer to Appendix B for a brief description of other supporting government actions that help to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador.

# Questions for Consideration – The Strategy to 2014

Government recognizes that while significant progress has occurred over the past several years more work needs to be done. Please reflect on the following questions and share your thoughts and ideas through phone, mail or e-mail. Contact information is provided on page 11.

**Question 1:** What do you think contributes most to poverty in your community/region? Please comment.

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**Question 2:** What is the most important thing that needs to be done next to prevent, reduce or alleviate poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador? Please comment.

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**Question 3:** Do the five current action plan goals of the Poverty Reduction Strategy need to be changed to reflect your most important priority identified in Question 2? Please comment.

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**Question 4:** What can be done to reduce barriers, improve inclusion and enable everyone to participate more in their community? Please comment.

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**Question 5:** What can community groups, businesses and residents do to help prevent, reduce and alleviate poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador? Please comment.

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**Question 6:** Do you have any other thoughts, comments suggestions, etc. that you would like to provide?

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## How to contact us and share your thoughts and ideas

Poverty Reduction Strategy  
Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Toll-free: 1-866-883-6600  
TTY: 1-888-729-5440  
Email: [povertyreduction@gov.nl.ca](mailto:povertyreduction@gov.nl.ca)

Web site: <http://www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle/poverty/index.html>

This document is also available in braille and large print.

# Appendix A: Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Department	Initiative
Child, Youth and Family Services	Funding enhancement for Healthy Baby Clubs
Child, Youth and Family Services	Home Visiting Program
Child, Youth and Family Services	Supporting Youth with Transitions
Child, Youth and Family Services	Increase subsidy rates for children up to 12 years of age in regulated child care spaces
Child, Youth and Family Services	Strengthening and Expanding the Family Resource Centres
Education	Adult Basic Education
Education	Comprehensive Art & Science Transition Program
Education	Free Textbooks for all students from K-12
Education	High School Skilled Trades and Technology Program
Education	Increase instructional grant to schools & cover prescribed materials.
Education	Reconnect disengaged and at-risk youth to learning (Pilot Project)
Education	Implement school food guidelines
Education	Early Childhood Learning Framework, Learning From the Start
Finance	Increase first child rate of NLCB by \$5 per month
Finance	Increase Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement by \$15 per month
Finance	Low Income Tax Reduction
Health and Community Services	Expansion of the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP)

\* unless otherwise indicated

What it does	Budget
This funding will address wait lists and will support costs of providing healthy and fresh food.	\$400,000
An enhanced home visiting model that will give additional support for parenting and early childhood development.	\$700,000
A supportive board and lodging model to house and support youth at risk in Central NL.	\$401,600
This will reduce or eliminate any surcharge over and above the current subsidy rates to help families access regulated child care services.	\$1,300,000
Increase funding to strengthen existing family resource programs and support the start-up of new programs in Conception Bay South, Lewisporte and Happy Valley-Goose Bay.	\$1,810,000
Expansion of Adult Basic Education programs at campuses of the College of the North Atlantic.	\$1,200,000
Expansion of academic upgrading programs at the College of the North Atlantic.	\$650,000
All students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 now receive free textbooks.	\$1,200,000
Increased exposure to the skilled trades in high school.	\$600,000
Eliminate school fees for items commonly referred to as "school materials", including student IDs and photocopying fees.	\$6,300,000
Multi-phase pilot project aimed at reconnecting disengaged and at-risk youth to learning.	\$300,000
Complete the implementation of the school food guidelines.	PRS funding completed
Consultations and development of resource kits for children and families.	\$380,000
The NLCB rate for the first child has been increased by \$5 per month.	\$1,090,000
Increased support to help with the cost of nutritious food during pregnancy and infancy (postnatal component)	\$145,000
The low-income tax reduction threshold will be increased from \$13,511 to \$15,911 for individuals and from \$21,825 to \$26,625 for families.	\$12,500,000
Expanded eligibility of the NLPDP to include more low income families and individuals.	\$23,475,000

Department	Initiative
Health and Community Services	Improvements to the Access Plan (NLPDP)
Health and Community Services	New financial assessment process for home support
Health and Community Services	Improving Access to Early Intervention Services
Health and Community Services	Establish a new Iris Kirby transition house in Carbonear
Health and Community Services	Increase funding for Kids Eat Smart
Health and Community Services	Family Board and Lodging Supplement
Health and Community Services	Increase access to the Special Child Welfare Allowance Program
Health and Community Services	Revised NL Dental Health Plan (Children and Youth component)
Health and Community Services	Youth Addiction Prevention and Early Intervention
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Eliminate the renting from relatives Income Support rates
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Increased Labour Market Participation of Persons with Disabilities
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Community supports for clients with complex needs
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Continued Infrastructure for Poverty Reduction Strategy
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Earning Exemption for Persons with Disabilities
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Earning Exemptions and Overlapping Benefits
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Employment Transitions

\* unless otherwise indicated



What it does	Budget
Increases the income thresholds for eligibility for the Access Plan.	\$2,500,000
This new process will help eliminate financial inequities when determining the contribution individuals are required to pay.	\$15,300,000
Early intervention services for pre-school children at risk of, or who have, a developmental delay or disability.	\$1,160,500
Will provide short-term residential services as well as programming for women and children in crisis.	\$816,200
To support the Kids Eat Smart Foundation and enable the further expansion of the breakfast program to more children in schools across the province.	\$1,200,000
Adults with disabilities living with family will now receive the same board and lodging supplement as those living with non-relatives.	\$6,500,000
Remove RESPs and RRSPs from the calculation of assets.	\$100,000
Expanded eligibility so that 13-17 year olds in low income families receive the same coverage as families receiving Income Support.	\$100,000
Outreach and early intervention programs for youth.	\$1,270,000
The renting from relatives rates have been eliminated.	\$444,000
Increased access to student summer employment opportunities and disability-related supports in the workplace.	\$1,135,000
Increased investment to support community-based groups who provide services to clients with complex needs.	\$250,000
Increased investment to support the co-ordination, consultation and research capacity of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Division within government.	\$398,000
Increase the earnings exemption for Income Support clients with disabilities from the current \$95 (\$190 for families) per month to \$150 (\$250 for families) per month.	\$100,000
Overlap of Income Support and benefits for a full 30 days from the start date of work.	\$1,430,000
Expand the successful Employment Transitions Program for single parents.	\$128,000

Department	Initiative
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Further expansion of Employment Transitions
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Enhance Health Benefits for Income Support Clients
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Expand Community Youth Networks
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Further enhancement and Expansion of the Community Youth Network
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Expanded eligibility for Northern Allowance for Income Support Clients in Coastal Labrador
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Funding for Jumpstart program
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Supportive Living Community Partnership Program
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Funding to host a Council of the Federation Symposium
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Improvement to Income Support Study
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Increase high school incentive allowance to families
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Increase Income Support “additional assistance for shelter” rate
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Increase Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement by \$15 per month
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Community Collaboration Facilitator for Corner Brook
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Increase private child care rates by \$75 per month
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Index Income Support Rates
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Promote support trusts for persons with disabilities

\* unless otherwise indicated

What it does	Budget
Expand the successful Employment Transitions Program for single parents.	\$142,000
Increase the rates paid for health services such as eye exams, eyeglasses, dentures and special diet allowance.	\$1,100,000
Increased funding and expansion to ten new areas in the province.	\$1,180,000
Increased funding and expansion to new three areas in the province.	\$380,000
Allowance has been extended to all Income Support cases maintaining a residence in coastal Labrador communities.	\$200,000
Helps children in financial need participate in organized sport and recreation activities such as hockey, soccer and swimming.	\$350,000
Supports community-based initiatives that enable individuals with complex needs overcome homelessness.	\$2,400,000
This symposium brought together experts to share knowledge and improve labour market participation. The symposium also profiled best practices contained within Newfoundland and Labrador's Poverty Reduction Strategy.	PRS Funding Completed
Research the basic Income Support rate structure.	PRS Funding Completed
Increased rates for this allowance to offset the loss of the federal and provincial child benefits that these families experience when the child turns 18.	\$60,000
Provides additional support on a case by case basis to respond to specific needs.	\$2,741,000
Increased support to help with the cost of nutritious food during pregnancy and infancy (prenatal component)	\$75,000
Establish a community collaboration co-coordinator to increase access to career, employment and other services in Corner Brook at the Dunfield Park Community Centre.	\$100,000
Private child care rates have been increased to support working Income Support clients for whom approved child care (day care) is not available.	\$300,000
Ties Income Support rates to the Newfoundland and Labrador Consumer Price Index.	\$9,700,000
A contract was awarded to the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living to promote support trusts.	PRS Funding Completed

Department	Initiative
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Raise Income Support Rates by 5 percent
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Research transportation needs
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Linking Victims of Violence to Employment Supports
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Support for Income Support clients who leave IS for work - Job Start Benefit
Human Resources, Labour and Employment; Health and Community Services; Newfoundland and Labrador Housing; and the Department of Justice	Collaborative Support Service Delivery for Shared Clients
Industry, Trade and Rural Development	Bridging the Gap: From Education to Employment Project
Industry, Trade and Rural Development	Community Capacity Building Program
Industry, Trade and Rural Development	Micro-lending Program (2 yr. Pilot Program)
Justice	Civil Legal Aid – Child Youth and Family Service extension to Western Region
Justice	Enhance Civil Legal Aid Services
Justice	Expansion of mental health project (assist with civil law arrangements)
Justice	Family Violence Treatment Court (Pilot Project)
Justice	Adult Alternative Justice Program
Justice	Sex Offender and Spousal Abuse Treatment Program
Justice	Offender Employment Skills Program

\* unless otherwise indicated

What it does	Budget
Income support rates were increase by 5% on July 1, 2006	\$7,312,000
Conduct a study of the transportation needs of persons with low income throughout the province.	PRS Funding Completed
Increase in support to develop a fast track targeted approach to helping women gain financial independence through training and employment.	\$164,000
Provides financial help to Income Support Clients with the cost of starting work.	\$370,000
This initiative will coordinate a comprehensive assessment of services for individuals requiring housing and integrated support services from HRLE, HCS, Justice and NLHC.	\$85,000
Bridging the Gap provides participants with essential, practical, workplace, and personal development skill sets to work with partnering private businesses.	\$266,000
Expand the Community Capacity Building program to the not-for-profit sector.	\$140,000
The program combines one-on-one service with a do-it-yourself group approach (peer lending group) designed to help make business ideas a reality.	PRS Funding Completed
Establish a Child Youth and Family Services Project office in Corner Brook to serve the Western region of the province.	\$240,000
Increased support for early intervention in family law cases and for additional resources to support family law services.	\$500,000
Expand the coverage of the Mental Health Project to include representation for persons with mental health problems interacting with the justice system.	\$125,000
The court will address matters of domestic dispute by adopting a holistic approach with a focus on victim safety and offender accountability.	\$519,000
This program provides a range of opportunities for victims and offenders to resolve disputes through various non-adversarial mechanisms.	PRS Funding Completed
Funding to expand treatment options to Central Newfoundland and Labrador.	PRS Funding Completed
Funding to expand employment skills programs for offenders to Central Newfoundland and Labrador.	\$47,000

Department	Initiative
Justice	Unified Family Court Expansion – Family Justice Services
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs	Increase air food lift subsidy
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Adjust Rent Geared to Income scale for tenants with employment earnings
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Adjusted RGI Scale from 30% to 25% of income for those aged 55+
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Education Incentive Program
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Increased financial support for Community Centres
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Rent geared to income for other non-profit housing
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Rent Supplementation Program
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Additional increased financial support for Community Centres
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Adjusted the Rent Geared to Income scale to a flat 25% of income for NLHC tenants
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Implement a Provincial Homelessness Fund
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Planning for smaller social housing units
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	New Affordable Housing Program

\* unless otherwise indicated

What it does	Budget
This initiative would provide more family law support resources throughout the province.	\$927,400
This increase helps residents purchase nutritious food at a more reasonable price.	PRS Funding Completed
NLHC will calculate rents based on net pay to enable tenants to retain a greater portion of earned incomes	\$750,000
For tenants aged 55 and older the Rent Geared to Income scale will be reduced from 30 per cent to 25 per cent of income.	\$350,000
A \$50 monthly incentive for every child while attending school in grades seven through twelve and adult tenant while in full-time attendance in adult basic education or post-secondary studies.	\$400,000
Community Centres provide NLHC tenants with opportunities to engage in employment, social, educational, recreational, employment and career development, and health and wellness programs.	\$192,000
Helps reduce rents in community-based volunteer housing.	\$350,000
Will reduce the wait list for social housing by increasing the number of available rent supplement homes by 500.	\$2,000,000
Community Centres provide NLHC tenants with opportunities to engage in employment, social, educational, recreational, employment and career development, and health and wellness programs.	\$400,000
Lowers the rental rate for Newfoundland Labrador Housing tenants by reducing the rent geared to income calculation from 30 to 25 per cent of household income.	\$350,000
Supports non-profit organizations through the establishment of a Provincial Homelessness Fund. Administered by Newfoundland Labrador Housing, this fund complements the Supportive Living Community Partnership Program.	\$1,000,000
To fund the engineering design and site preparation for new, smaller social housing units to meet the demands of 80 per cent of applicants who require one or two bedroom accommodations.	PRS Funding Completed
Provides funding to both private and non-profit housing groups to assist them in constructing suitable housing for people with low income.	\$2,770,000

Department	Initiative
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Renovations and Energy Retrofits for Social Housing
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Affordable Housing Program - Construction of social housing units for seniors
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Affordable Housing Program - Construction of social housing units for persons with disabilities
Pubic Service Secretariat	Opening Doors for Crown Corporations
Tourism, Culture and Recreation	Funding for the Kidsport program
Women's Policy Office	Gender lens to Low Income Guide for Government Programs and Services
Women's Policy Office	Increase funding to Women's Centres (additional increase 2008)
Women's Policy Office	Capacity Building for Inuit Women
Women's Policy Office	Increased funding to the Aboriginal Women's Network
Women's Policy Office	Linking Victims of Violence to Employment Supports
Total	

\* unless otherwise indicated



What it does	Budget
For renovations and energy retrofits for social housing as part of a modernization and improvement program – upgrading for windows, siding, doors and roofs.	\$5,600,000
Increase access to social housing units for seniors with low-incomes.	\$3,400,000
Increase access to social housing units for persons with disabilities with low-incomes.	\$650,000
Expand the Provincial Government’s Opening Doors Program to Crown corporations.	\$300,000
Helps children in financial need participate in organized sport and recreation activities.	\$25,000
Ensure that a gender lens is applied to the Guide to Government Programs and Services.	PRS Funding Completed
Centres provide counseling, support and education services to women throughout the province.	\$406,000
Help Aboriginal women in Labrador develop and deliver a series of capacity-building workshops in the five Inuit communities on the North Coast.	\$125,000
To address issues in their communities such as poverty and violence, in ways that are culturally-sensitive	\$100,000
Increase in support to develop a fast track targeted approach to helping women gain financial independence through training and employment.	\$80,000
	\$133,954,700

## Appendix B: Other Supporting Government Actions

The initiatives in Appendix B, while not a part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, support the goals and objectives of the Strategy with respect to preventing, reducing and alleviating poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Department	Initiative	What it Does
Child, Youth and Family Services	Increased funding for early learning and child care	Increased support over the past several years by implementing a number of incremental investments on regulated child care services that increase spaces and improve accessibility, affordability, and recruitment and retention.
Child, Youth and Family Services	10-Year Early Learning and Child Care Strategy	The Department of Child, Youth and Family Services will be proceeding with the development of a 10-year Early Learning and Child Care Strategy
Child, Youth and Family Services	Legislative change to Youth Services Agreement	The Department of Child, Youth and Family Services will be extending the ability of youth to continue on a Youth Services Agreement from 18 to 19 years of age, if they are enrolled in full time high school or an equivalent program. The legislative change will allow youth (who have been determined to be in need of protection and cannot live at home with their parent/guardian), to receive continued support from the department while they are working on completing their high school education.
Education	Early Childhood Learning Framework	Funding to commence extensive consultations to develop an Early Childhood Learning Framework.
Education	Curriculum and learning resources to help maintain and revitalize Innu culture	The Department of Education, together with the Innu communities, have developed curriculum and learning resources which help to maintain and revitalize Innu culture and language. It broadens and deepens understanding of Innu tradition and culture for both Innu and non-Aboriginal learners. A series of social studies books for Kindergarten prepared in both Innu-aimun and English have been launched.

Department	Initiative	What it Does
Education	Development of the Innu Education Board	The province, federal government, Innu Nation and Bands worked to create the Innu Education Board which has responsibility for the delivery of education in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish.
Education	Career Development 2201	New mandatory Career Development 2201 career education course that gives students high-quality information and experiences in a broad range of career options.
Education	Adult Basic Education Level I Pilot Project	Pilots the delivery of the provincial Adult Basic Education Level I program online to provide greater access and flexibility to individuals interested in improving their literacy skills by accommodating their family lives and work schedules.
Education	Tuition freeze	Government froze post-secondary education tuition starting in 2005 for all public institutions in Newfoundland and Labrador.
Education	Eliminated the interest on the provincial portion of student assistance	Government eliminated the interest on the provincial portion of student assistance. It is currently benefiting people who are repaying their student assistance and will benefit all students who will repay student assistance in the future.
Education	Increased grants	Increased the amount of financial assistance that students can access in up-front, non-repayable, needs-based grants and decreased the amount of spousal contributions, to give married students greater access to assistance.
Education	Fellowships for Graduate Students	Additional funding to the School of Graduate Studies at Memorial University for fellowships
Education	Mentorship and apprentices for women	To promote the hiring of female apprentices in the non-traditional trade areas.
Education	Strategic Adult Literacy Plan	Commence implementation of a new strategic adult literacy plan.

Department	Initiative	What it Does
Finance	Home Heating Rebate	Assist individuals and families with the high cost of heating their homes. The program is available to all residents with a family net income of \$40,000 or less, regardless of the primary source of heat.
Finance	Energy rebate for isolated communities in Labrador	Energy rebate to reduce the cost of basic electricity consumption needs for residential customers in Labrador's rural isolated communities and the Labrador Straits to a level on par with the Labrador Interconnected Rates
Finance	Progressive Family Growth Benefit	The Progressive Family Growth Benefit (PFGB) provides \$1,000 tax-free to residents of the province whose child was born or placed with them for adoption on or after January 1, 2008.
Finance	Parental Support Benefit	The Parental Support Benefit (PSB) is an additional support that provides parents with an additional \$100 per month for a 12 month period for each child born or adopted.
Finance	Enhanced Seniors Benefit	Enhanced the Seniors Benefit for senior couples by raising the income thresholds. Further enhanced the benefit for single seniors, including widows and widowers, and more equitably reflects that their cost of living is not substantially different from that of a senior couple. The benefit amount has been increased for all eligible seniors.
Health and Community Services	Enhanced Medical Transportation Assistance Program	Enhanced the Medical Transportation Assistance Program to allow for reimbursement of mileage for private vehicle use when total use over a 12 month period is more than 5,000 kilometers
Health and Community Services	Improvements to the Medical Transportation Assistance Program for residents of Labrador	Residents of Labrador are now reimbursed the first \$1,000 for eligible travel expenses during a 12-month period. This is compared to \$500 before the changes, resulting in a savings of \$500 for individuals. The daily rate for registered accommodations has been increased to \$125 (up from \$75).

Department	Initiative	What it Does
Health and Community Services	Aboriginal Health Liaison	The creation of the new position of Aboriginal Health Liaison to help develop a holistic and collaborative Provincial Aboriginal Health Policy Framework.
Health and Community Services	Increased Home Support Hourly Subsidy Rate	Increased the home support hourly subsidy rate by an additionally 75 cents.
Health and Community Service	Increased Personal Care Home Subsidy Rate	Increased the personal care home subsidy rate and approved 100 new portable subsidies to address the current waitlist.
Health and Community Service	Enhanced Provincial Wellness Grants Program	Additional funding provided to the Provincial Wellness Grants Program for community-based agencies.
Health and Community Service	Community-based projects focused on mental health and addictions	Support for new community-based projects with a focus on mental health, addictions and other issues.
Health and Community Service	Transition House Pilot Project	A pilot project to review the safety and security issues within transition houses throughout the province.
Health and Community Service/Women's Policy Office	Funding emergency services in Labrador	Funding for the Transition House Program in Nain and Rigolet. This will enhance the program, which offers safe refuge to women and their children escaping violence.
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Labour Market Development Agreement	Under a devolved LMDA the Provincial Government assumes responsibility for the design and delivery of Employment Insurance-funded Employment Benefits and Support Measures.
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Labour Market Agreement	A new Labour Market Agreement (LMA) has been negotiated that will provide federal funds to support vulnerable individuals in our province: people who are not Employment Insurance-eligible, have low skill levels, or are affected by the current economic downturn. The new LMA will provide these individuals with specific programming to meet their needs.

Department	Initiative	What it Does
Human Resources, Labour and Employment/ Education	Career Development Liaison Officers	HRLE hired ten career development liaison officers to provide information on careers and labour market trends to students, and supportive services to teachers and guidance counselors. Their primary focus is on students in grades seven to 12.
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs	Northern Strategic Plan (NSP)	The NSP supports social and economic development within Labrador. It sets out a new, comprehensive course toward a stronger and more prosperous future for all Labradorians.
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs	Suicide and Detrimental Lifestyles Grants Program	Funding to Aboriginal organizations to develop innovative programs that are targeted at improving the health, circumstances and well being of Aboriginal youth through out the province.
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs	Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreements	Funding for continued implementation of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA) which consists primarily of funding for the provincial contribution to the operational costs of a number of the boards and committees established under the LILCA.
Natural Resources	Focusing Our Energy (Energy Plan)	The Energy Plan charts a course for the management and development of Newfoundland and Labrador's energy resources to 2041.
Natural Resources	Subsidies to defer electricity rate increases for diesel-powered communities	Additional subsidies to defer electricity rate increases for isolated diesel-powered communities on the island and the Labrador coast.
Natural Resources (NALCOR)	Energy efficiency pilot project	Community pilot project on energy efficiency in Port Home Simpson and Hopedale to help residential and commercial customers manage energy costs.
Natural Resources (NALCOR)	Alternate Energy Study	An alternate energy study is being conducted in seven coastal Labrador communities to assess the potential for complementing existing diesel-generation systems with alternative energy sources.

Department	Initiative	What it Does
Newfoundland Labrador Housing/Natural Resources	Residential Energy Efficiency Program	The program assists homeowners with a household income level of \$32,500 or less who use home heating fuel or electricity. The program will pay for a pre- and post-energy inspection and provide grants up to a maximum of \$3,000 (\$4,000 in Labrador) to make identified improvements, such as heating system upgrades, basement and attic insulation, and draft-proofing.
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Heating Allowance for NLHC tenants	Additional funding to raise the heating allowance for the Housing Corporation's low-income tenants.
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	New Housing units in Nain	Construct four new housing units in Nain.
Newfoundland Labrador Housing and Federal Government	Aboriginal Housing Trust	Improve housing for Aboriginal people living off-reserve which includes an Off-Reserve Aboriginal Home Repair Program.
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Increase to NLHCs annual maintenance budget	Additional funding to raise the Housing Corporation's annual maintenance budget.
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Modernizing NLHC housing units	Additional provincial and federal funding to modernize more than 2,300 housing units.
Tourism, Culture and Recreation	Community-based after school programs	Funding for community-based after school programs.
Tourism, Culture and Recreation	Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle	The Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle promotes physical activity and athlete development for Aboriginal peoples.
Tourism, Culture and Recreation	Promotion of healthy eating and physical activity	Funding to help organizations develop programs promoting healthy eating and physical activity.
Women's Policy Office	Violence Prevention Initiative	This is a six year initiative to find long term solutions to the problem of violence against those most at risk in our society.







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