

**POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY
2008 CONSULTATION BOOKLET**



Table of Contents

1	Understanding Poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador
2	Role for the Provincial Government
2	Progress to Date
4	Key Themes Guiding the Poverty Reduction Strategy
5	Questions for Consideration in Respect to the Eight Key Themes
7	A Review of the Goals and Objectives of the Poverty Reduction Strategy
9	Questions for Consideration in Respect to the Poverty Reduction
9	Strategy Goals and Objectives
10	Final Thoughts and Questions for Your Consideration
13	How Can I Participate in the Consultation Process?
13	Public Consultation Locations
14	Annex I - Groups Helped by the Poverty Reduction Strategy
20	Annex II - Poverty Reduction Initiatives

In 2006, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador released *Reducing Poverty: An Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador*. This Action Plan was developed with input from community-based organizations, business, labour and people living in and vulnerable to poverty. The Poverty Reduction Strategy outlines Government's plan to transform Newfoundland and Labrador from a province with the most poverty to one with the least, within 10 years.

Over three budget cycles, and on an ongoing yearly basis, the Provincial Government is investing over \$100 million in initiatives aimed to prevent, reduce and alleviate poverty. The Provincial Government has also improved many programs and services. The Provincial Government is now planning for the next phase of the strategy. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador wants to hear views both on the work so far and on priorities for the future.

Understanding Poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador

Poverty and social exclusion involve complex social and economic issues and have many causes and consequences. Key factors include a person's ability to earn an income; cope with higher costs such as adequate housing, heat, medications, transportation, education and training, family supports and nutritious food.

It is hard to define or to measure poverty. Defining poverty may rest in the view that poverty is about a person's or family's lack of money to live comfortably and participate fully in the social and economic life of our province. Poverty or low income is commonly measured by comparing income with the cost of living, or with average income levels. For individuals and families, poverty often refers to their own daily experiences coping with, and overcoming, these challenges. Poverty affects individuals, communities and the province as a whole.

In 2006, using Statistics Canada's after-tax Low-Income Cut Offs (LICO), Newfoundland and Labrador had approximately 38,000 individuals living in poverty. This represents a decrease of almost 37 per cent from the 60,000 individuals living in poverty in 2004.

The challenge for the Provincial Government is to work with community groups, business, labour and individuals and families vulnerable to or living in poverty to develop the right mix of policies and programs to prevent, reduce and alleviate poverty. The Poverty Reduction Strategy is about supporting people to succeed.

Role for the Provincial Government

The Provincial Government has a role to play in reducing, alleviating and preventing poverty. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes that a long-term and integrated approach is needed with a variety of policy and program measures. These policies and programs must address the needs of people vulnerable to poverty including women, Aboriginal people, single parents, single people, particularly those aged 55 to 64, and persons with disabilities.

Ministerial leadership across government departments and agencies is moving the Poverty Reduction Strategy forward. The Poverty Reduction Strategy is overseen by a committee of nine Ministers. The Committee identifies priorities to tackle poverty and reach this important social and economic goal. The work of the Provincial Government is one part of this effort. Meeting this goal also requires the active engagement of the broader community.

Our Government's commitment was affirmed in *Reducing Poverty: An Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador*. This commitment includes ensuring ongoing community involvement. The Provincial Government is also engaging the public through existing consultation processes, including pre-budget consultations, the Youth Advisory Committee, the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and the Rural Secretariat at the regional level. The Poverty Reduction Action Plan commits to round tables with community partners every two years.

Progress to Date

To date the Provincial Government has committed over \$100 million on an ongoing annual basis to prevent, reduce and alleviate poverty. Over the past two years, sixty Poverty Reduction Strategy initiatives have been put in place.

Many of the initiatives will take some time to show their full benefit, particularly those of a preventative nature. Progress is being made and a positive impact is being felt. Next year's report on the Poverty Reduction Strategy will outline our progress in detail. An example of progress includes a significant decrease of people on Income Support. There has been a decrease in the number of people on Income Support because more people are working. Since 2005 the Income Support case load has gone down by approximately 3,000 cases. This change is due, in part, to a package of new Poverty Reduction Strategy initiatives including the Job Start Benefit for people on Income Support, increases in earnings exemptions for Income Support clients who work and the introduction of prescription drug coverage for individuals with low income who work. Other successful Poverty Reduction Strategy initiatives include:

- Since July 2007, adults with disabilities who live with family receive the same board and lodging supplement (up to \$362 per month) as those living with non-relatives. As of June 2008, 1,320 people have benefited.
- The Kids Eat Smart Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is a registered charity that supports breakfast, snack and lunch programs for school children. As of June 2008, 183 Kids Eat Smart programs throughout the province helped 18,455 children.
- In Budget 2006, Income Support rates were increased by 5 per cent. Rates were indexed so they increase automatically based on the Consumer Price Index with an April 2007 increase of 1.8 per cent and an April 2008 increase of 1.5 per cent.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program was expanded to include 2 additional plans:
 - Access Plan:** which covers working individuals and families with low income.
 - Assurance Plan:** which covers individuals and families with high prescription drug costs relative to their income.

To date almost 30,000 additional people have prescription drug coverage.

- In 2007-08, 613 female and 1,891 male students were enrolled in the high school Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology Program. The aim of this program is to increase exposure to the skilled trades in high school and increase awareness as a viable post-secondary option.
- Effective September 2007, K to 12 students now receive free textbooks. In 2007-08, this benefited approximately 26,568 students in grades 9 to 12. Under the new policy, families can save upwards of \$500.

Key Themes Guiding the Poverty Reduction Strategy

Eight key themes emerged from the 2005 Poverty Reduction consultations and guided the development of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. These are core to the strategic direction and public investment of the Provincial Government over the long-term in reducing, preventing and alleviating poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador:

- Better coordination and awareness within the Provincial Government, between the Provincial Government and the community, and between community groups.
- A stronger emphasis on education including early learning, the ability of the K to 12 system to meet the needs of all students, addressing low levels of literacy, student debt, and barriers experienced in pursuing post-secondary studies.
- Reducing barriers experienced by Income Support clients to go to work or school and to raise Income Support rates to meet necessities.
- Understanding and addressing the links between low income and health status.
- Understanding and addressing employment and economic development; including low wages, poor benefits, the minimum wage rate, full-year and full-time employment, and the role of the Employment Insurance (EI) system.
- Understanding and addressing the role that poverty plays in women's inequality and the connections between violence and poverty.
- Understanding and addressing the challenges faced by persons with disabilities, reducing barriers to their employment and encouraging greater inclusion in society.
- Understanding and addressing the development of specific strategies for high concentrations of poverty and the cycle of poverty.

These themes speak to the Provincial Government's overall 10-year goal to become the province with the least poverty in the country. The Provincial Government would like to hear from you in regard to these themes.

Questions for Consideration in Respect to the Eight Key Themes

Question 1: Do the key themes provide enough direction to guide the Poverty Reduction Strategy? Please comment.

Question 1(a): If not, please explain what area(s) are missing?

Question 1(b): Should any themes be changed or removed?



Question 2: Consider the investment in Poverty Reduction Strategy initiatives and the effort to achieve the 10-year goal. Should any themes receive priority?

Other comments?



A Review of the Goals and Objectives of the Poverty Reduction Strategy

The strategy lists goals and objectives to help guide implementation. It outlines a plan for Newfoundland and Labrador to become the province with the least poverty. Goals and objectives must be meaningful. They must also be adaptable if circumstances change.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy has five medium-term goals and 20 objectives for the 2006-10 period. The Poverty Reduction Strategy vision is for people to be valued, develop to their full potential, and access supports so they can participate fully in the social and economic life of the province.

In summary these goals and objectives are:

Goal 1: Improved access and co-ordination of services for those with low incomes

- 1.1 Increased capacity within the Provincial Government to support an integrated and coordinated approach
- 1.2 Improved access to existing programs and services for those with low incomes
- 1.3 Development of tools for ongoing analysis of combined impacts of programs, including tax implications, to avoid unintended impacts
- 1.4 Work with Aboriginal people to improve their quality of life

Goal 2: A stronger social safety net

- 2.1 Increased supports to enable people with disabilities to participate fully in society
- 2.2 Enhanced justice system supports for vulnerable people
- 2.3 Increased availability of affordable housing
- 2.4 Improved access to necessities for those most vulnerable to poverty
- 2.5 Increased Income Support rates

Goal 3: Improved earned incomes

- 3.1 Fewer barriers to work and greater support for low-income workers
- 3.2 Greater supports for the development of employment skills
- 3.3 Greater supports for labour force participation and improved earnings from employment
- 3.4 Establish an alternative to Income Support for youth which allows for a co-ordinated service specific to their needs

Goal 4: Increased emphasis on early childhood development

- 4.1 Strengthen the regulated early learning and child care system
- 4.2 Promotion of healthy child development
- 4.3 Strengthen early intervention services and programs

Goal 5: A better educated population

- 5.1 A K to 12 system where more students graduate
- 5.2 Increased responsiveness of the K to 12 system
- 5.3 Greater access to post-secondary education, literacy and adult basic education

The Poverty Reduction Strategy should reflect important changes and emerging trends within the social and economic life of the province. The initiatives must be meaningful to those in low income.

These goals and objectives will likely change over time. Most will remain; but some will be modified, discontinued or new goals and objectives will be added.

It is very important that people provide input on any changes to these goals and objectives because these influence budget priorities and spending.

Questions for Consideration in Respect to the Poverty Reduction

Strategy Goals and Objectives

Question 3: What are the main challenges that people of low income face as they try to overcome poverty?

Question 3(a): Are these challenges reflected in the Poverty Reduction Strategy goals and objectives?

Question 4: Will the Poverty Reduction Strategy goals and objectives allow us to reach the ten year goal to be the province with the least poverty?



Question 5: Consider current changes in the social and economic life of this province. Do any goals or objectives need to be added? Modified? Dropped?

Final Thoughts and Questions for Your Consideration

Question 6: Is the Poverty Reduction Strategy making a difference? How? If not, why?

Question 7: Can you describe a successful poverty reduction initiative within your community? Why was it successful?



Question 8: How could we improve the way programs are promoted?

Question 9: How could we improve current programs and services?

Question 10: What roles do stakeholders need to play? Who else needs to be involved in tackling poverty?



Question 11: What suggestions do you have to ensure on-going dialogue with the Provincial Government regarding the Poverty Reduction Strategy?

Other comments



How Can I Participate in the Consultation Process?

Visit www.hrle.gov.nl.ca/hrle/poverty for background material, a schedule of public sessions, and key consultation questions.

There are several ways for citizens and groups to participate:

- Email: povertyreduction@gov.nl.ca
- Telephone (toll free): 1-866-883-6600
- Fax: (709) 729-5139
- Mail:
Poverty Reduction Strategy
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

We urge you to attend a public consultation session in your region. You may register by calling 1-866-883-6600 (toll free). Registration is not required, however if you wish to make a presentation, advance registration will ensure that all will be heard.

Public Consultation Locations

Avalon

- St. John's
- Carbonear

Clarenville-Bonavista

- Clarenville
- Bonavista

Burin Peninsula

- Marystown

Gander-New-Wes-Valley

- Gander

Grand Falls-Windsor-Baie Verte-Harbour Breton

- Grand Falls-Windsor
- Harbour Breton

Corner Brook-Rocky Harbour

- Corner Brook

Stephenville-Port aux Basques

- Stephenville
- Port aux Basques

St. Anthony-Port aux Choix

- Plum Point

Labrador

- Happy Valley-Goose Bay
- Hopedale
- Labrador City

Annex I - Groups Helped by the Poverty Reduction Strategy

Initiative	Working Poor	Families	
Adult Learning & Literacy	✓		
Free Textbooks for K to 12 Students		✓	
High School Skilled Trades and Technology Program		✓	
Increase instructional grant to schools & cover prescribed materials	✓	✓	
Reconnect disengaged and at-risk youth to learning (Pilot Project)			
Implement school food guidelines			
Family Board and Lodging Supplement		✓	
Address waiting lists for Healthy Baby Clubs and support cost of providing healthy and fresh foods		✓	
Expand eligibility for Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program to include low income residents	✓	✓	
Expand Home Visiting Program		✓	
Increase access to the Special Child Welfare Allowance Program		✓	
Revise NL Dental Health Plan (Children and Youth component)		✓	
Support Youth with Transitions			
Youth Addiction Prevention and Early Intervention			
Eliminate the 'renting from relatives' Income Support rates			
Increase access to career, employment and youth services programming	✓		
Increase Labour Market Participation of Persons with Disabilities			
Simplify the process for Income Support clients with Employment Earnings			
Provide transition fund for youth			
Community supports for clients with complex needs			
Continue Infrastructure for Poverty Reduction Strategy			
Provide earning Exemption for Persons with Disabilities			

Groups Helped

Women	Pre-School Aged	School Aged	Youth at Risk	Aged 55+	Aboriginal	Persons with Disabilities	Income Support Clients	Offenders
✓				✓				
		✓	✓					
		✓	✓					
✓		✓	✓				✓	
			✓					
		✓						
						✓		
✓								
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓					✓		
						✓		
		✓	✓					
		✓	✓					
		✓	✓					
							✓	
✓			✓	✓			✓	
						✓		
							✓	
			✓				✓	
			✓			✓	✓	✓
						✓		

Annex I - Groups Helped by the Poverty Reduction Strategy

Initiative	Working Poor	Families	
Provide Earning Exemptions and Overlapping Benefits			
Expand Employment Transitions Program			
Enhance Health Benefits for Income Support Clients			
Expand Community Youth Networks (additional increase 2008)			
Expand eligibility for Northern Allowance for Income Support Clients in Coastal Labrador			
Funding for Jumpstart program (additional increase 2008)		✓	
Review of Income Support benefits			
Increase first child rate of NLCB by \$5 per month		✓	
Increase high school incentive allowance to families		✓	
Increase Income Support "additional assistance for shelter" rate			
Increase Mother Baby Nutrition Supplement by \$15 per month		✓	
Increase private child care rates by \$75 per month			
Index Income Support Rates			
Promote support trusts for persons with disabilities		✓	
Raise Income Support Rates by 5 percent			
Research transportation needs	✓	✓	
Support for Income Support clients who leave IS for work - Job Start Benefit			
Increase funding for Kids Eat Smart (additional increase 2008)			
Collaborative Support Service Delivery for Shared Clients			
Bridging the Gap: From Education to Employment Project			
Community Capacity Building Program			
Micro-lending Program (2 yr. Pilot Program)	✓		
Adult Alternative Justice Program			

Groups Helped

Women	Pre-School Aged	School Aged	Youth at Risk	Aged 55+	Aboriginal	Persons with Disabilities	Income Support Clients	Offenders
							✓	
✓							✓	
							✓	
		✓	✓					
							✓	
	✓	✓	✓					
							✓	
			✓				✓	
							✓	
✓							✓	
							✓	
						✓		
							✓	
✓				✓		✓	✓	
		✓					✓	
			✓			✓	✓	✓
							✓	
✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
								✓

Annex I - Groups Helped by the Poverty Reduction Strategy

Initiative	Working Poor	Families
Amendments to Human Rights Code	✓	✓
Enhanced collection of court-ordered support		✓
Sex Offender and Spousal Abuse Treatment Program		
Civil Legal Aid – Child Youth and Family Service extension to Western Region	✓	✓
Enhance Civil Legal Aid Services	✓	✓
Expansion of mental health project (assist with civil law arrangements)		
Family Violence Treatment Court (Pilot Project)		✓
Justice- Offender Employment Skills Program		
Unified Family Court Expansion – Family Justice Services		✓
Adjust Rent Geared to Income scale for tenants with employment earnings	✓	✓
Adjusted RGI Scale from 30% to 25% of income for those aged 55+	✓	
Community Collaboration Facilitator for Corner Brook	✓	
Education Incentive Program	✓	✓
Increased financial support for Community Centres	✓	✓
Rent geared to income for other non-profit housing	✓	✓
Rent Supplementation Program	✓	✓
Increase air food lift subsidy	✓	✓
Opening Doors for Crown Corporations		
Improve results for women's employment for medium and large scale development projects by strengthening requirements under the environmental approval process.		
Apply gender lens to Low Income Guide for Government Programs and Services		
Increase funding to Women's Centres (additional increase 2008)		
Linking Victims of Violence to Employment Supports		

Groups Helped

Women	Pre-School Aged	School Aged	Youth at Risk	Aged 55+	Aboriginal	Persons with Disabilities	Income Support Clients	Offenders
							✓	
✓								
								✓
✓			✓					
✓								
						✓		
✓								
								✓
✓								
				✓			✓	
				✓			✓	
							✓	
			✓				✓	
	✓	✓	✓				✓	
				✓			✓	
				✓		✓	✓	
				✓	✓		✓	
						✓		
✓								
✓								
✓								
✓								

Annex II - Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Department	Initiative
Education	Adult Learning & Literacy
Education	Free Textbooks for K to 12 Students
Education	High School Skilled Trades and Technology Program
Education	Increase instructional grants to schools & cover prescribed materials
Education	Reconnect disengaged and at-risk youth to learning (Pilot Project)
Education	Implement school food guidelines
Health and Community Services	Increase funding for Kids Eat Smart (additional increase 2008)
Health and Community Services	Family Board and Lodging Supplement
Health and Community Services	Funding enhancement for Healthy Baby Clubs
Health and Community Services	Expansion of the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP)
Health and Community Services	Home Visiting Program
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	Supporting Youth with Transitions
Health and Community Services	Youth Addiction Prevention and Early Intervention
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Eliminate the renting from relatives Income Support rates

* unless otherwise indicated

What it does	Budget Annually*
Expansion of Adult Basic Education and academic upgrading programs at College of the North Atlantic.	\$1.85 million
All students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 now receive free textbooks.	\$1.28 million
Increased exposure to the skilled trades in high school.	\$1.5million (2006 - 2008)
Eliminate school fees for items commonly referred to as “school materials”, including student IDs and photocopying fees.	\$6.3 million
Multi-phase pilot project aimed at reconnecting disengaged and at-risk youth to learning.	\$255,000 as of 2009
Complete the implementation of the school food guidelines.	\$250,000 (2006)
To support the Kids Eat Smart Foundation and enable the further expansion of the breakfast program to more children in schools across the province.	\$1.25 million as of 2009
Adults with disabilities living with family will now receive the same board and lodging supplement as those living with non-relatives.	\$11 million
This funding will address wait lists and will support costs of providing healthy and fresh food.	\$400,000 as of 2009
Expanded eligibility of the NLPDP to include more low income families and individuals.	\$32.8 million
An enhanced home visiting model that will give additional support for parenting and early childhood development.	\$3 million as of 2010
Remove RESPs and RRSPs from the calculation of assets.	\$2.25 million
Expanded eligibility so that 13-17 year olds in low income families receive the same coverage as families receiving Income Support.	\$2.3 million
A supportive board and lodging model to house and support youth at risk in Central NL.	\$401,600
Outreach and early intervention programs for youth.	\$1.27 million as of 2009
The renting from relatives rates have been eliminated.	\$450,000

Annex II - Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Department	Initiative
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Increase Labour Market Participation of Persons with Disabilities
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Community supports for clients with complex needs
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Earning Exemption for Persons with Disabilities
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Increased access to career, employment and youth services programming
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Simplifying the process for Income Support clients with Employment Earnings
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Transition fund for youth
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Earning Exemptions and Overlapping Benefits
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Employment Transitions
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Enhance Health Benefits for Income Support Clients
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Expand Community Youth Networks (additional increase in 2008)
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	Review of Income Support benefits
Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Increase first child rate of NL Child Benefit by \$5 per month

* unless otherwise indicated

What it does	Budget Annually*
Increased access to student summer employment opportunities and disability-related supports in the workplace.	\$1.44 million
Increased investment to support community-based groups who provide services to clients with complex needs.	\$250,000
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.	\$300,000
The department will actively identify those that can most benefit from the employment programs and work to help these individuals develop employability skills, and link with education, training and employment opportunities.	Nil
This initiative will simplify the process of reporting earnings.	Nil
The Transitional Fund combines a variety of supports with an intensive case management approach on employment for youth applying for Income Support.	Nil
Overlap of Income Support and benefits for a full 30 days from the start date of work.	\$1.65 million as of 2009
Expand the successful Employment Transitions Program for single parents.	\$334,000 as of 2009
Increase the rates paid for health services such as eye exams, eyeglasses, dentures and special diet allowance.	\$1.17 million as of 2009
Increased funding and expansion to ten new areas in the province.	\$1.18 million
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
Review Income Support benefits and benefit structures.	\$105,000 as of 2009
The NL Child Benefit rate for the first child has been increased by \$5 per month.	\$1 million

Annex II - Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Department	Initiative
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	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
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	Support for Income Support clients who leave IS for work - Job Start Benefit
Human Resources, Labour and Employment; Health and Community Services; Newfoundland 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)

* unless otherwise indicated

What it does	Budget Annually*
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.	\$2.78 million
Increased support to help with the cost of nutritious food during pregnancy and infancy.	\$300,000
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.	An additional \$2.5 million (estimated)
A contract was awarded to the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living to promote support trusts.	\$15,000 (2006)
Income support rates were increase by 5% on July 1, 2006	\$7.416 million
Conduct a study of the transportation needs of persons with low income throughout the province.	\$100,000 (2007 - 2009)
Provides financial help to Income Support Clients with the cost of starting work.	\$570,000
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 (2007 - 2009)
Bridging the Gap provides participants with essential, practical, workplace, and personal development skill sets to work with partnering private businesses.	\$216,000 as of 2010
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.	\$270,000 (2008) \$120,000 (2009)

Annex II - Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Department	Initiative
Justice	Adult Alternative Justice Program
Justice	Sex Offender and Spousal Abuse Treatment Program
Justice	Civil Legal Aid – Child Youth and Family Service extension to Western Region
Justice	Enhance Civil Legal Aid Services
Justice	Amendments to Human Rights Code
Justice	Enhanced collection of court-ordered support
Justice	Expansion of mental health project (assist with civil law arrangements)
Justice	Family Violence Treatment Court (Pilot Project)
Justice	Justice- Offender Employment Skills Program
Justice	Unified Family Court Expansion – Family Justice Services
Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs	Increase air food lift subsidy
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Adjusted RGI 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	Rent geared to income for other non-profit housing

* unless otherwise indicated

What it does	Budget Annually*
This program provides a range of opportunities for victims and offenders to resolve disputes through various non-adversarial mechanisms.	\$348,000
Funding to expand treatment options to Central Newfoundland and Labrador.	\$100,000 (2006 - 2007)
Establish a Child Youth and Family Services Project office in Corner Brook to serve the Western region of the province.	\$239,800 as of 2009
Increased support for early intervention in family law cases and for additional resources to support family law services.	\$500,000
The Human Rights Code has been amended to provide protection against discrimination based on source of income.	Nil
Government passed amendments to the Support Order Enforcement Act in the 2006 Spring Session in order to strengthen the enforcement of and collection of court-ordered support payments.	Nil
Expand the coverage of the Mental Health Project to include representation for persons with mental health problems interacting with the justice system.	\$124,700 as of 2009
The court will address matters of domestic dispute by adopting a holistic approach with a focus on victim safety and offender accountability.	\$279,000
Funding to expand employment skills programs for offenders to Central Newfoundland and Labrador.	\$47,000
This initiative would provide more family law support resources throughout the province.	\$617,000
This increase helps residents purchase nutritious food at a more reasonable price.	\$300,000
For tenants with employment earnings the Rent Geared to Income scale will be based on net pay	\$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
Helps reduce rents in community-based volunteer housing.	\$350,000

Annex II - Poverty Reduction Initiatives

Department	Initiative
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Education Incentive Program
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Community Collaboration Facilitator for Corner Brook
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Increased financial support for Community Centres
Newfoundland Labrador Housing	Rent Supplementation Program
Pubic Service Secretariat	Opening Doors for Crown Corporations
Women's Policy Office	Improve results for women's employment for medium and large scale development projects by strengthening requirements under the environmental approval process.
Women's Policy Office	Apply a gender lens to Low Income Guide for Government Programs and Services
Women's Policy Office	Increase funding to Women's Centres (additional increase in 2008)
Women's Policy Office	Linking Victims of Violence to Employment Supports

* unless otherwise indicated

The Provincial Government has committed \$100 million on an ongoing annual basis to support initiatives to prevent, reduce and alleviate poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador.

What it does	Budget Annually*
A \$25 monthly rental reduction incentive for every child attending high school and adult tenant in full-time attendance at a post-secondary institution.	\$500,000
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
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
Will reduce the wait list for social housing by increasing the number of available rent supplement homes by 500.	\$2 million as of 2009
Expand the Provincial Government's Opening Doors Program to Crown Corporations.	\$300,000
Increase the participation of women in areas where they have traditionally been under-represented. Stronger requirements and greater compliance measures will ensure such plans are more effective.	Nil
Ensure that a gender lens is applied to the Guide to Government Programs and Services.	\$15,000 (2007)
Centres provide counseling, support and education services to women throughout the province.	\$362,000 as of 2009
Increase in support to develop a fast track targeted approach to helping women gain financial independence through training and employment.	Annual on-going amount to be determined

Poverty Reduction Strategy
Department of Human Resources,
Labour and Employment
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6
Email: povertyreduction@gov.nl.ca

