This bulletin is a quick inventory of recent social research information. Its purpose is to promptly disseminate the most current external and internal research relevant to social policy.

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Research and Development of Canadian Non-Profit Organizations, 2018 by Statistics Canada, June 2020.

Canadian private non-profit organizations spent $171 million performing research and development (R&D) activities in 2018, down $4 million from the previous year. The vast majority of these activities was tied to current in-house research and development, which decreased 3.5% to $165 million.

➢ More than three-quarters of all R&D spending by Canadian non-profit organizations in 2018 was on the natural sciences and engineering. Expenditures rebounded from the previous year, reaching $139 million
➢ R&D in the social sciences and humanities, which represents another major category of expenditures, fell 24.4% to $31 million, the second-highest outlay since 2014
➢ Provincial grants were the largest single source of funds reported, with funds reaching $58 million, followed by federal government grants at $36 million and self-funding at $25 million

Link to the full paper:
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200611/dq200611c-eng.pdf?st=2wOuM80o
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Dimensions of Poverty Hub, September 2020 Update by Statistics Canada, September 2020.

Today, Statistics Canada is updating the Dimensions of Poverty Hub. The Hub, sponsored by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), enables Canadians to track progress on poverty reduction. The updates include poverty statistics based upon the new 2018-base Market Basket Measure (MBM).

➢ The release of 2018-base MBM poverty estimates and 2018-base MBM thresholds for reference years 2015 to 2018 marks the end of the second comprehensive reiew of the MBM
➢ In Canada, some dimensions of poverty have improved in recent years. For example, the percentage of people living in poverty (11.0% in 2018, down from 14.5% in 2015)
➢ [T]hose living in deep income poverty has declined (5.4% in 2018, down from 7.4% in 2015)

Link to the full paper:
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/200908/dq200908b-eng.pdf?st=o2rh2Wgt

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Lifting Lives: The Problems with Ontario's Social Assistance Programs and How to Reform Them by Parisa Mahboubi and Mariam Ragab, C.D. Howe Institute, June 2020.

The Ontario government has committed to reform its social assistance system and announced a number of changes in 2018, which it has since rolled back. What is the best way forward? This study evaluates the Ontario social assistance programs and summarizes international best practices for reforming social assistance, especially with a view to improving labour-market attachment.

➢ In 2018, Ontario provided income support to about 949,000 beneficiaries (over 6.6 percent of the population). This places Ontario as the province with the highest social assistance rate in Canada
➢ Despite strong labour-market performance in recent years and mandatory requirements to participate in employment assistance programs, only 10 percent of OW cases exited to employment in 2017 and 2018, down from 13 percent in 2014
➢ The government reforms to social assistance were expected to reduce the programs cost by an estimated $720 million a year by 2021-22
➢ Canada has the 3rd highest dependence ratio (Canadians reliant on social assistance per 100 members of the working-age population), after only the United States and Mexico

Link to the release:
https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/Commentary%20572_0.pdf

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A Critical Assessment of Canada's Official Poverty Line by Christopher A. Sarlo, Fraser Institute, 2020.

This study critically examines the newly established "official poverty line" as it has been laid out since its origin in 1998 and in the various revisions, especially the latest version in Djidel et al. (2020) entitled Report on the Second Comprehensive Review of the Market Basket Measure. This assessment looks at both technical and conceptual issues with the poverty measure and finds that there are serious concerns in both areas.

➢ Among the technical concerns with the MBM are a striking lack of published detail about the construction of many of the components and their revisions
➢ Shelter costs increased dramatically in the 2018 revision driven in large part by the results of a flawed, online survey
➢ [G]iven the stringent definition of disposable income used (deduct taxes, CPP, EI, and RPP payments, union dues, support payments, daycare, out-of-pocket medical costs, etc.) a family would have to earn about $60,000 to avoid poverty

Link to the full paper:
https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/critical-assessment-of-canadas-official-poverty-line.pdf

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Shelters for Victims of Abuse with Ties to Indigenous Communities or Organizations in Canada, 2017/2018 by Ashley Maxwell, Statistics Canada, July 2020.

While the recognition that Indigenous populations are at a higher risk of victimization is not a new discovery, there has been increased concern in recent years regarding the overrepresentation of

Indigenous persons as victims of crime in Canada following a report released by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, as well as the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 2019; The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015).

➤ In 2017/2018, there were 85 shelters for victims of abuse that had ties to First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities or organizations—also referred to as Indigenous shelters—operating across Canada. More than half (59%) of these shelters were located in rural areas
➤ On snapshot day, around 70% of women and children in Indigenous shelters, and around 20% of women and children in non-Indigenous shelters, identified as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.
➤ In contrast, Indigenous persons represented 4% of Canadian women (age 18 and older) and 8% of children as a whole
➤ Indigenous shelters for victims of abuse identified a lack of permanent housing and a lack of affordable long-term housing as the most common challenges facing shelters and their residents in 2017/2018

Link to the full paper:
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00007-eng.pdf?st=vhwgo7Ke

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Trends in Student Debt of Postsecondary Graduates in Canada: Results from the National Graduates Survey, 2018 by Diane Galarneau and Laura Gibson, Statistics Canada, August 2020.

In this study, data from the last four cycles of the National Graduates Survey (NGS) are used to examine changes in the proportion of students with debt over time, and in the median amount of student debt at graduation.

➤ Approximately half of graduates who graduated in 2015 reported that they had student debt when they completed their program
➤ The proportion of graduates with student debt varied little between 2000 and 2015, and the median amount of student debt at graduation also remained relatively stable in real terms during this period. College graduates had the lowest amount ($11,500 in 2015) of median student debt and professional graduates the highest ($60,300 in 2015)
➤ Three in four students who graduated with student debt in 2015 had loans from only one source. Among those who graduated with student debt in 2015, most (74%) reported that they had government sponsored student loans
➤ Overall, 64% of the graduates in 2015 who graduated with student debt still had an outstanding debt after three years. This proportion was similar across levels of study

Link to the full paper:
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2020001/article/00005-eng.pdf?st=qn4KWcMj

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