Poverty Reduction Plan

Our government acknowledges that the high cost of living and inflationary pressures are creating challenging times for many people throughout the province and across the country, with a deep impact on individuals and families, especially those living in poverty.

The poverty reduction plan is supported by an investment that will grow to $85 million annually after three years. This is in addition to the upwards of $1 billion the Provincial Government allocated in Budget 2024 for social programming and support for lower income families and individuals.

Next Step Forward to Improving Well-Being

We are putting a heightened focus on the social determinants of health in both our spending and policy decisions as the evidence is clear – the social determinants of health have a far greater impact on well-being than the health care system itself. This committment is aligned with recommendations from Health Accord NL.

Reducing Childhood Poverty

The following actions will provide increased income to families with young children and evidence shows that this is one of the most important things we can do to ensure all children develop to their full potential.

- **Increasing the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit by 300 per cent;** which means that our province will have the highest provincial child benefits in Atlantic Canada; with only Quebec and Alberta having higher provincial child benefit amounts.



- **Expanding the Prenatal-Infant Nutritional Supplement up to age five and renaming it the Prenatal-Early Childhood Nutrition Supplement** to better reflect its expanded scope. For low income families with children under the age of five, the combination of the increased Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit and this expanded nutrition



supplement will now offer the highest rates in the country. Most other provinces, including Quebec and Alberta, only provide post-natal nutritional supplements for one year and only to breastfeeding parents.

- Providing additional funding to ensure school lunch programs are available in all Pre-Kindergarten and K-9 schools.

Supporting Seniors

- Implementing a second targeted Basic Income Pilot for people aged 60 to 64 who currently receive Income Support and the Community Supports Program through the Department of Health and Community Services. Pilot participants will receive an increase in payments to match federal seniors benefits available to people aged 65 and over. This will allow for more adequate and stable financial supports.
- Introduced a new Seniors' Well-Being Plan as part of Budget 2024. The targeted plan will improve health and social service delivery for seniors, and is in addition to the $70 million in this year's budget to support almost 50,000 seniors through the Seniors' Benefit
- The ongoing work of the Cabinet Committee on Seniors will continue and further measures to help seniors manage the higher cost of living will soon be released.

Helping People Connect to Employment

- Continuing the Employment Stability Pilot province-wide; and
- Providing enhanced programming to train and connect non-employment insurance eligible individuals to employment.

Improving Income

All Income Support recipients will benefit, with people who are currently receiving the lowest rates seeing the highest increases in monthly benefits.

- Increasing the comfort allowance immediately by $50 per month to a total of $175 monthly for people staying in temporary accommodations where meals are provided, such as emergency homeless shelters.



Well-Being NL

Newfoundland & Labrador