



Highlights from the 2013 Throne Speech

Social-policy related highlights include the federal government's plans to:

employment and education

- implement the Canada Job Grant
- take further steps to see that those traditionally under-represented in the workforce, including people with disabilities, youth, and Aboriginal Canadians, find the job-training they need
- work with provinces and territories on a new generation of labour market agreements to more effectively connect Canadians with disabilities to employers and in-demand jobs
- redirect federal investments in youth employment to provide real-life work experience in high-demand fields
- continue working with First Nations to develop stronger, more effective, and more accountable on-reserve education systems
- improve credential recognition and enable the free movement of skilled workers across provincial borders
- ensure that Canadians are aware of the opportunities offered by the skilled trades, and will assist apprentices with the cost of their training
- complete reforms to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to ensure that Canadians always have the first chance at available jobs
- create the conditions for new and better jobs for Canadians across all sectors of the economy.

health

- work with the provinces and territories to further strengthen food inspection regimes
- consult with parents to improve the way nutritional information is presented on food labels
- introduce new patient safety legislation to help identify potentially dangerous drugs and ensure the quick recall of unsafe drugs. This will include new powers to require reporting of adverse drug reactions.

- build on the caregiver tax credit by working with employers to better accommodate employees caring for older family members
- help seniors quickly access information about programs and services they need and use in their communities
- make adoption more affordable for families
- renew investments in health research to tackle the growing onset of dementia, and related illnesses
- prevent employers and insurance companies from discriminating on the basis of genetic testing
- collaborate with injury prevention organizations to reduce the injury rate in Canada
- work with the provinces and territories and with the private and not-for-profit sectors to encourage young Canadians to be more physically active.

community

- re-introduce and pass the *Respect for Communities Act* to ensure that parents have a say before drug injection sites open in their communities
- expand the National Anti-Drug Strategy to address the growing problem of prescription drug abuse
- close loopholes that allow for the feeding of addiction under the guise of treatment
- act on the opportunities presented by social finance and the successful National Call for Concepts for Social Finance
- build on the successful Housing First approach and its renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy to help house vulnerable Canadians
- introduce legislation giving police and prosecutors new tools to effectively address cyberbullying that involves criminal invasion of privacy, intimidation and personal abuse. This legislation would create a new criminal offence prohibiting the non-consensual distribution of intimate images.
- renew its efforts to address the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Source:

<http://www.speech.gc.ca/eng/full-speech>

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