

SASKATCHEWAN

The *Saskatchewan Child Benefit* (SCB) is a payment to low-income parents to help with the costs of raising a child. The program replaced the welfare portion for children with a new child benefit directed to all low-income families whether they are low wage earners or social assistance recipients. The program is integrated with the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the benefits are combined with the National Child Benefit Supplement into a single monthly payment to reduce duplication and to simplify administration. This new provincial benefit is also delivered to First Nations families living on reserve.

The *Saskatchewan Employment Supplement* (SES), delivered provincially, was not to be delivered on-reserve; however First Nations in consultation with INAC will design and deliver a comparable program for First Nation families living on-reserve.

The *Family Health Benefits Program* provides extended health benefits to low-income families with children. A full range of benefits is provided for children and partial benefits for adults. With this program, low-income families are assured of retaining health benefits when they leave social assistance for work opportunities.

In their first year of operation, Saskatchewan's programs benefited approximately 40 percent of the province's children, or 100,000 children in 50,000 families. This includes *Saskatchewan Child Benefit* payments received by 8,800 First Nations families living on-reserve.

Saskatchewan's National Child Benefit Initiatives	Average Number of Children Benefiting per Month		
	1998-1999 Actual	1999-2000 Estimated	2000-2001 Estimated
Child Benefit/Earned Income Supplements			
Saskatchewan Child Benefit			
- Provincial	79,300	71,240	63,930
- On-reserve*	20,200	20,200	20,200
Saskatchewan Employment Supplement	12,700	14,310	23,160
Health Benefits			
Family Health Benefits	42,810	57,080	60,000

* On-reserve Saskatchewan Child Benefit paid by INAC.

Actual Number of Families and Children Benefiting under National Child Benefit Initiatives by Program Name in 1998-1999

National Child Benefit Initiatives by Program Name	Actual Number of Families Benefiting	Actual Number of Children Benefiting
Saskatchewan Child Benefit		
- Provincial	38,820	79,300
- On-reserve	8,800	22,200
Saskatchewan Employment Supplement	5,150	12,700
Family Health Benefits	22,670	42,810

YUKON

The *Children's Drug and Optical Program* was designed to assist low-income families with the cost of prescription drugs and eye care for children up to 18 years of age. Families must pay a deductible based on income and the number of family members. There is no deductible for low-income families. Benefits include prescription drugs, some medical supplies, eye examinations and glasses.

The Yukon government has estimated that approximately 291 children benefited from this program during 1998-1999. Approximately 333 children were estimated to benefit during 1999-2000, and 350 children will benefit in 2000-2001.

The above initiatives were put in place to support the territorial government's *Antipoverty Strategy* and its emphasis on supporting healthy children, families and communities, and in recognizing the long-term benefits of early childhood interventions. They also represent an integration of health and social services programming.

Yukon's National Child Benefit Initiatives	Estimated Territorial Investment Funds 1998-1999		
	1998-1999 Actual	1999-2000 Estimated	2000-2001 Estimated
Yukon Child Benefit	N/A	\$ 328,000	\$ 328,000
Children's Drug and Optical	N/A	\$ 42,000	\$ 62,000
Children's Recreation	N/A	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Healthy Families*	\$ 180,000	\$ 73,000	\$ 253,000

* When Healthy Families began in 1999-2000, it fell under an existing program, *Family Support Worker Program*, to develop it. This explains the low expenditure in its first year. In the second year, salary dollars were moved from Family Support to Healthy Families and new money was added. Additional funds will be made available in 2000-2001.

Actual Number of Families and Children Benefiting under National Child Benefit Initiatives by Program Name in 1999-2000

National Child Benefit Initiatives by Program Name	Estimated Number of Families Benefiting	Estimated Number of Children Benefiting
Yukon Child Benefit	1,357	2,500
Children's Drug and Optical	-	333
Food for Learning	-	250
Children's Recreation	180	335
Healthy Families	22	39