

NEWS RELEASE

Per-person spending in Prince Edward Island increased from \$2,823 to \$15,024 (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars) since 1965

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For Immediate Release

CHARLOTTETOWN— From 1965 to 2021, per-person spending in Prince Edward Island increased from \$2,823 (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars) to \$15,024, finds a new report published today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“An effective way of measuring a government’s fiscal policy is by comparing per-person program spending by various Premiers,” said Alex Whalen, senior economist with the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Prince Edward Island Premiers and Provincial Government Spending*.

This study reviews annual per-person program spending (inflation-adjusted) by Newfoundland and Labrador premiers from 1965 to 2021, and finds that the highest per-person spending on record was under Premier Alex Campbell, with an 8.7 per cent average annual change in per person spending—substantially higher than the premier with the next largest increase, Joe Ghiz at 4.8 per cent.

Overall, Angus MacLean (-2.3 per cent) and Catherine Callbeck are the only two premiers within the period of analysis who actually reduced spending—Callbeck stands out as the premier who presided over the largest reduction in spending, at -8.1 percent during her tenure.

“The intention is to provide a historical analysis of this key measure of government fiscal policy,” said Whalen.

“It will be important to see how per-person inflation-adjusted spending develops in Atlantic Canada moving forward.”

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MEDIA CONTACT:
Alex Whalen, Senior Economist
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:
Drue MacPherson, Fraser Institute
(604) 688-0221 Ext. 721
drue.macpherson@fraserinstitute.org

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