

NEWS RELEASE

Spending on public schools in Alberta increasing faster than national average

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For immediate release

CALGARY—Spending on public schools in Alberta increased 3.2 per cent per student in recent years, surpassing the national average, finds a new study by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Contrary to what we often hear, education spending on public schools in Alberta has increased, and it’s increasing at a faster rate than in other parts of the country,” said Jason Clemens, Fraser Institute executive vice-president and co-author of *Education Spending in Public Schools in Canada, 2020 Edition*.

The study finds that per-student spending, after adjusting for inflation, increased in Alberta from \$14,003 in 2012/13 to \$14,456 in 2016/17, the most recent year of available Statistics Canada data.

That’s a 3.2 per cent increase, which was higher than the national average increase of 2.9 per cent.

Crucially, Alberta spent \$2,577 more per student in 2016/17 than neighbouring British Columbia, which spent \$11,879.

“In critical policy discussions, especially those that affect our children’s education, it’s important to understand exactly what’s happening with public education spending,” Clemens said.

“In Alberta, the evidence is clear—spending on public education, after adjusting for inflation and enrolment changes, has increased over the past few years.”

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Jason Clemens, Executive Vice-President
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:

Bryn Weese
Fraser Institute
Office: (604) 688-0221 ext. 589
bryn.weese@fraserinstitute.org

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