



NEWS RELEASE

Spending in public schools across Canada up more than 10% in recent years

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For immediate release

VANCOUVER—Spending on public schools across Canada has increased in every province in recent years, finds a new study by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Contrary to what we often hear, spending is on the rise in public education systems across Canada, and in almost every province, it’s outpacing inflation and enrolment changes,” said Jason Clemens, executive vice-president of the Fraser Institute.

The study, *Education Spending in Public Schools in Canada, 2020 Edition*, finds that nominal education spending increased by 10.7 per cent, from \$61.5 billion in 2012/13 to \$68.1 billion in 2016/17, the most recent year of available Statistics Canada data.

After adjusting for inflation and changes in enrolment over the same five-year period, per-student spending increased in seven out of 10 provinces. Nationally, per student spending increased by 2.9 per cent.

Prince Edward Island (8.3 per cent) and Nova Scotia (7.1 per cent) saw the largest spending increases per student, followed by Manitoba (6.6 per cent) and Alberta (3.2 per cent).

Newfoundland & Labrador experienced the largest decline in per student spending in public schools over this period at -3.3 per cent. Saskatchewan (-1.2 per cent) and B.C. (-0.1 per cent) also recorded declines.

In 2016/17, Saskatchewan, however, still had the highest spending per student at \$15,423. Quebec had the lowest at \$11,543.

“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.

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