



# NEWS RELEASE

## Hiring by the federal government in excess of population growth cost taxpayers \$7.5 billion in 2022/23

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For Immediate Release

**VANCOUVER**—The federal workforce has grown more rapidly than the Canadian population starting in 2015/16, imposing significant costs on taxpayers, finds a new study published today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think tank.

“Federal government employment has grown significantly faster than the Canadian population starting in 2015/16, and we’re already seeing the consequences,” said Ben Eisen, senior fellow at the Fraser Institute and author of *Growing Government Workforce Puts Pressure on Federal Finances*, the first in a series of studies on federal reform.

The study finds that between 2015/16 and 2022/23, the latest year of data available, the number of full-time federal workers has increased by 26.1 per cent compared to growth in the overall Canadian population of 9.1 per cent.

“Growth in federal employment has almost tripled the rate of population growth since 2015/16, which is simply unsustainable” commented Eisen.

How much will this growth in government cost Canadian taxpayers?

According to the study, if federal hiring had simply kept pace with the rate of Canada’s population growth taxpayers would have saved \$7.5 billion.

The reduced spending on federal employees would lower the federal deficit, which is expected to exceed \$35.3 billion in 2022/23.

“The growth in the number of federal employees has been a major contributor to the growth in federal government spending and the size of deficits in recent years,” Eisen said.

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