

# NEWS RELEASE

## Per-person spending in New Brunswick has increased from \$2,346 to \$11,835 (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars) since 1965

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For Immediate Release

**SAINT JOHN**—From 1965 to 2021, per-person spending in New Brunswick increased substantially from \$2,346 (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars) to \$11,835, 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 *New Brunswick Premiers and Provincial Government Spending*.

This study reviews annual per-person program spending (inflation-adjusted) by New Brunswick premiers from 1965 to 2021, and finds that the highest per-person spending on record was under Louis Robichaud, with a 17.3 per cent average annual change in per person spending—substantially higher than the next two premiers with the largest increases, Camille Thériault (4.9 per cent), and Shawn Graham (4.5 per cent).

Current Premier Blaine Higgs (-2.2 per cent) is the Premier who has restrained spending the most during his tenure, joining David Alward (-0.5 per cent) and Frank McKenna (-0.1 per cent) as the only premiers who decreased spending during this period.

“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 New Brunswick moving forward.”

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