



NEWS RELEASE

Quebec’s François Legault ranked 8th on fiscal management among recent and current Canadian premiers

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For immediate release

MONTREAL—Among Canadian premiers, Quebec’s François Legault ranks 8th for managing provincial finances, while New Brunswick’s Blaine Higgs ranks first, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Sound fiscal policy is a crucial driver of economic well-being for the people of a province, and the premier sets the direction of a government,” said Jake Fuss, associate director of fiscal studies at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Measuring the Fiscal Performance of Canada’s Premiers*.

The study ranks Canadian premiers (seven current and four former) based on three fiscal policy categories: government spending, taxes, and deficits and debt up to the fiscal year 2021/22. Premiers who managed spending more prudently, balanced their budgets and paid down debt, and reduced or maintained competitive tax rates ranked higher.

Overall, Legault ranked 8th out of 10 with a score of 41.1 out of 100, ahead of only Saskatchewan’s Scott Moe (40.8) and Newfoundland and Labrador’s Andrew Furey (40.0).

Crucially, Legault ranked last of all Canadian premiers on the measure of government spending.

New Brunswick’s Blaine Higgs ranked first overall, and also ranked first on government spending and deficits and debt, having been the only premier who ran surpluses and paid down the province’s debt during the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“All premiers—including Premier Legault—have room for improvement, and given the importance of sound fiscal policy, they all should look to prioritize restraint in government spending, balanced budgets, lowering debt levels and establishing a more competitive provincial tax system,” Fuss said.

Premier	Ranking
Blaine Higgs (NB)	1
Brian Pallister (MB)	2
Doug Ford (ON)	3
Stephen McNeil/Iain Rankin (NS)	4
John Horgan (BC)	5
Jason Kenney (AB)	6
Dennis King (PEI)	7
François Legault (QC)	8
Scott Moe (SK)	9
Andrew Furey (NL)	10

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