



NEWS RELEASE

Wages and salaries 23 per cent lower in B.C. compared to neighbouring Washington

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For Immediate Release

VANCOUVER—The median employment earnings—wages, salaries and self-employment income—of workers were lower in British Columbia than in every state in the United States, finds a new study published today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“British Columbian workers earn less compared to American workers, regardless of the state,” said Alex Whalen, senior policy analyst at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Our Incomes Are Falling Behind: Earnings in the Canadian Provinces and U.S. States, 2010-2022*.

Specifically, in B.C., median employment earnings in 2022 (the latest year of available data), stated in Canadian dollars, were \$37,801, lagging behind every U.S. state including Mississippi (\$42,430) and Washington (\$49,112).

In fact, compared to neighbouring Washington, median employment earnings were \$11,311 (or 23.0 per cent) lower in B.C.

In addition to all 50 states, one province—Alberta (\$38,969)—had higher median employment earnings than B.C. in 2022.

Consequently, in 2022 B.C. ranked 52nd out of 60 provinces and U.S. states for median employment earnings.

“British Columbians should want to know why workers in states such as Washington and Mississippi make more money than workers here at home,” Whalen said.

“In light of the close connection between incomes and living standards, policymakers in B.C. should make economic growth a top priority.”

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