

NEWS RELEASE

75 per cent of Atlantic Canadians surveyed support the average family paying 40 per cent or less of its income in total taxes

March 02, 2023
For Immediate Release

HALIFAX—As the total tax bill continues to rise for the average Canadian family, 75 per cent of Atlantic Canadians support the average family paying 40 per cent or less of its income in total taxes, finds a new report published today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“There is a large discrepancy between what the average family actually pays in total taxes versus what Canadians believe the average family should be paying,” said Jake Fuss, associate director of fiscal studies at the Fraser and author of *Polling Canadians on Taxes for the Average Family*.

The average Canadian family paid 45.2 per cent of its income to the federal, provincial, and local governments in 2022.

The study, based on a Leger poll in early 2023 that surveyed 1,554 Canadians about their opinions on the tax burdens imposed on families, finds that 80 per cent of Canadians across the country support the average family paying 40 per cent or less of their income in total taxes to all levels of government.

Critically, those most likely in the survey to answer that they were getting poor or very poor value for their tax dollars were in Atlantic Canada, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Nearly half (49 per cent) of Atlantic Canadian respondents surveyed believe they’re getting poor or very poor value from the services they receive from governments, while only 9 per cent believe they are getting good or great value. Less than a quarter (23 per cent) of Atlantic Canadians surveyed believe they receive satisfactory value.

“It’s clear that many Atlantic Canadian families don’t believe they’re getting value from their taxes,” said Alex Whalen, a senior economist at the Fraser Institute.

“Tax relief should be a much higher policy priority given the overwhelming view that average Canadian families are overtaxed coupled with perceptions of the value Canadians receive in government-provided services.”

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