



NEWS RELEASE

Saskatchewan government spending reaches highest level on record in 2021 at \$16,843 per person

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For Immediate Release

REGINA—Per-person (inflation-adjusted) program spending in Saskatchewan reached its highest level on record at \$16,843 in 2021 (excluding COVID-related spending, per-person spending (\$15,585) was still by far the highest on record), 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 reviewing per-person (inflation-adjusted) program spending by various Premiers,” said Tegan Hill, senior economist with the Fraser and co-author of *Saskatchewan Premiers and Provincial Government Spending*.

This study reviews annual per-person program spending (inflation-adjusted) by Saskatchewan premiers from 1965 to 2021, and finds that the highest single year of per-person spending on record was under Premier Scott Moe in 2021. Even excluding COVID-related spending, 2021 was still the highest year on record.

The second highest year of inflation-adjusted per-person spending (\$14,904) occurred in 2020, with non-COVID related spending at \$13,541 that year.

In contrast, in 1996, then-premier Roy Romanow’s government spent \$7,148 per person (adjusted for inflation) after a period of austerity to better control the province’s finances, which laid the foundation for debt elimination and tax relief, contributing to a period of prosperity in Saskatchewan.

“Holding the line on the growth of provincial spending, as the government achieved in the 1990s, is imperative to the long-term health of the province’s finances,” Hill said.

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