

NEWS RELEASE

Pre-COVID (2019) median employment income in New Brunswick was more than \$4,000 lower compared to the average for provinces outside Atlantic Canada

January 17, 2023
For immediate release

SAINT JOHN— Median employment income in New Brunswick trailed incomes in provinces outside of Atlantic Canada by 10.9 per cent—or \$4,083 —and, in fact, median incomes in all four Atlantic Provinces were materially lower than elsewhere in the country, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan, Canadian public policy think-tank.

“The income gap between New Brunswickers and workers outside of Atlantic Canada was significant, and resulted in lower living standards,” said Ben Eisen, a senior fellow at the Fraser Institute and author of *Comparing Median Employment Income in the Atlantic Region to the Rest of Canada*.

The study, which focuses on Atlantic Canada compared to central and western Canada, finds that the average median employment income in Atlantic Canada in 2019 was \$32,175 while in central and western Canada the average median employment income was \$37,583—16.8 per cent higher.

All four Atlantic provinces lagged central and western Canada with respect to median employment income in 2019: the gap was 19.9 per cent for Prince Edward Island (the highest among the four provinces), followed by 14.9 per cent for Newfoundland and Labrador, 11.9 per cent for Nova Scotia, and 10.9 per cent for New Brunswick.

“Policymakers in New Brunswick and across Atlantic Canada need to understand fully what’s causing this income gap, and to seek out policy reforms that will close the gap and make the region more prosperous,” said Alex Whalen, a senior economist with the Institute’s Atlantic Canada Prosperity Initiative.

(30)

MEDIA CONTACT:

Alex Whalen, Senior Economist
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:
Drue MacPherson, Fraser Institute
Tel: (604) 688-0221 Ext. 721
E-mail: drue.macpherson@fraserinstitute.org

[Follow the Fraser Institute on Twitter](#) | [Become a fan on Facebook](#)

The Fraser Institute is an independent Canadian public policy research and educational organization with offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax and ties to a global network of think-tanks in 87 countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Canadians, their families and future generations by studying, measuring and broadly communicating the effects of government policies, entrepreneurship and choice on their well-being. To protect the Institute’s independence, it does not accept grants from governments or contracts for research. Visit www.fraserinstitute.org

