



NEWS RELEASE

Newfoundlanders have the highest combined federal and provincial interest costs per-person in Canada at \$2,727; Atlantic Canada has two of the four highest interest costs per person nationwide

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HALIFAX— Residents in Newfoundland and Labrador face the highest combined federal-provincial interest payments in the country at \$2,727 per person, and residents in the other Maritime provinces are paying more than \$1,500 per person, finds a new study published by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Interest must be paid on government debt, and the more money governments spend on interest payments the less money is available for the programs and services that matter to Atlantic Canadians,” said Jake Fuss, associate director of fiscal studies at the Fraser Institute and author of *Federal and Provincial Debt Interest Costs for Canadians, 2023 edition*.

The study finds that taxpayers across Canada will pay a total of \$68.6 billion on interest payments for the federal and provincial debts this year alone, and Atlantic Canada has two of the four highest per person interest costs nationwide.

Newfoundland and Labrador’s combined interest costs per person is the highest in the country at \$2,727. In fact, 10.5 per cent of the province’s revenues will be spent on debt interest costs this year.

Debt interest costs (federal and provincial) elsewhere in the region are also high, with Prince Edward Island at 1,736 per person, New Brunswick at \$1,635 per person, and Nova Scotia at \$1,553 per person.

“Even before the COVID-19 pandemic and recession, governments across Atlantic Canada and in Ottawa have been racking up large debts, and this debt imposes real costs on Atlantic Canadian taxpayers,” said Fuss.

“Interest payments across the region are substantial, and that takes money away from other important priorities.”

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