



What's New from
the Institute

**HOT
TOPICS**

ALBERTA'S NEW GOVERNMENT CAN LEARN LESSONS FROM OTHER NDP GOVERNMENTS






Faced with a faltering economy and a large budget deficit, Alberta's recently-elected New Democratic government would be better off emulating the fiscal prudence of Roy Romanow's NDP government in Saskatchewan—rather than the tax and spend policies implemented by Bob Rae's NDP in Ontario.

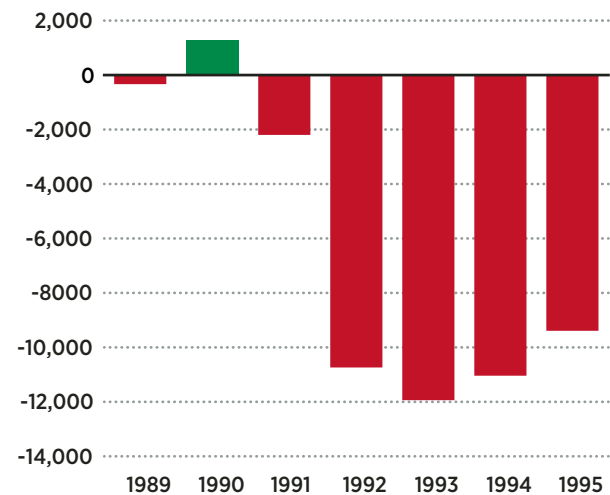
Will Alberta's NDP emulate Saskatchewan's or Ontario's NDP policies?

"Canadians too often make the assumption that a new government's approach to fiscal policy can accurately be predicted simply by looking at its political label. But historically, that hasn't been the case," said Ben Eisen, senior policy analyst with the Fraser Institute.

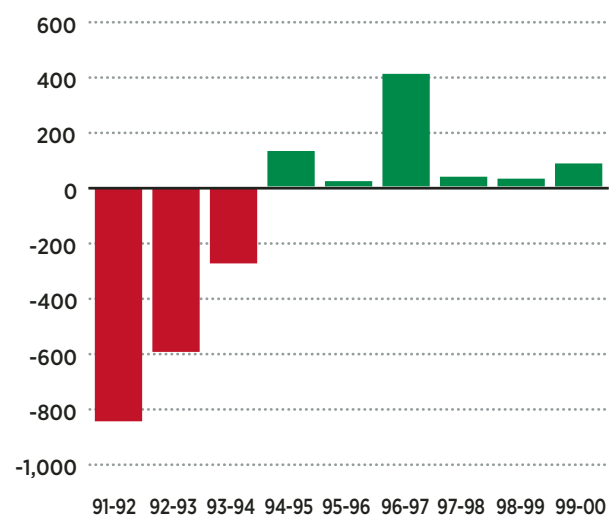
"There are numerous instances across the country of Progressive Conservative governments not acting in a fiscally responsible manner just as there are cases of NDP governments that managed provincial finances prudently." 

Read the study here [!\[\]\(d66ff64371a51729ac8c1cdaa685ba6f_img.jpg\)](#)

Ontario Surplus/Deficit (\$ Millions)



Saskatchewan Deficit/Surplus (\$ Millions)





**HOT
TOPICS**

MORE CANADIAN PARENTS OPTING FOR HOME SCHOOLING THEIR CHILDREN

-2.5%

ENROLMENT DECLINE IN
GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
AGGREGATED FOR CANADA




+29%

ENROLMENT GROWTH IN
HOME SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS
AGGREGATED FOR CANADA



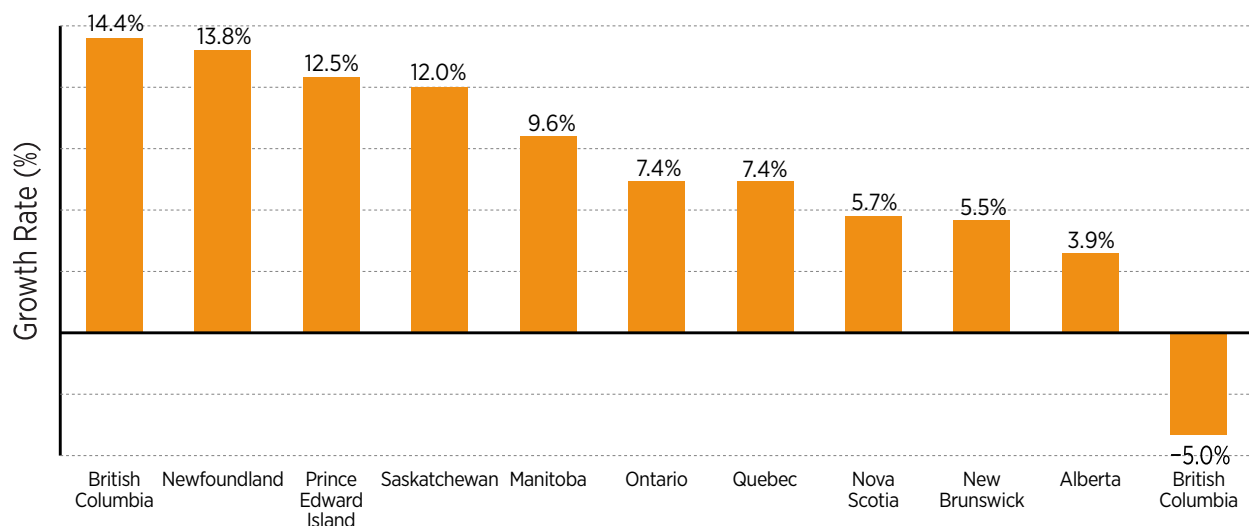
An increasing number of Canadian families are choosing to home school their children. In 2012, 21,662 Canadian children were registered as 'home school students' (with likely more not officially registered), an increase of 29 per cent over a five-year period.

"These figures point to a growing number of Canadians who, for a variety of reasons, feel that their child's interests are best served by an education program that occurs largely outside of a traditional institutional setting."

While decisions to homeschool in the past were ideologically or religiously driven, families are now choosing the option for more pragmatic reasons. For example, parents are choosing education-at-home because it corresponds with their personal circumstances such as having children involved in time-consuming extra-curricular activities; a child with a health or learning disability; or because the family lives in a remote location or travels extensively. 

Read the study here [»](#)

Enrolment in Home Schools, Average Annual Growth Rate, 2006/07–2011/12



Sources: enrolment in home schools from provincial ministries and departments of education; enrolment in government schools from Statistics Canada, 2013, 2014 (see "Government Sources", pp. 52–57); calculations by author.