

NEWS RELEASE

New Brunswick’s Blaine Higgs ranks highest for fiscal management among recent and current Canadian premiers; Newfoundland’s Andrew Furey ranks last

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 For immediate release

VANCOUVER—Among recent and current Canadian premiers, New Brunswick’s Blaine Higgs ranks highest for managing provincial finances, while Newfoundland and Labrador’s Andrew Furey ranks 10th, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Sound fiscal policy is a crucial driver of economic well-being for Atlantic Canadians, and the premier sets the direction of a government,” said Jake Fuss, associate director of fiscal studies at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Measuring the Fiscal Performance of Canada’s Premiers*.

The study ranks Canadian premiers (seven current and four former) based on three fiscal policy categories: government spending, taxes, and deficits and debt up to the fiscal year 2021/22. Premiers who managed spending more prudently, balanced their budgets and paid down debt, and reduced or maintained competitive tax rates ranked higher.

Overall, Higgs ranked first in overall fiscal performance with a score of 75.8 out of 100. Higgs specifically ranked first on government spending, and on the measure of debt and deficits, having been the only premier who ran surpluses and paid down the province’s debt during the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nova Scotia’s recent former premiers Stephen McNeil and Iain Rankin ranked 4th with a score of 60.4, while PEI’s Dennis King ranked 7th (52.7).

Furey, again, ranked last of the premiers in the analysis on overall fiscal performance with a score of 40 out of 100. Furey also ranked 9th on deficits and debt (27 out of 100) and 8th on taxes (27.9 out of 100).

“All premiers have room for improvement and given the importance of sound fiscal policy, they all should look to prioritize restraint in spending, balanced budgets, lowering debt levels and establishing a more competitive provincial tax system,” Fuss said.

Premier	Ranking
Blaine Higgs (NB)	1
Brian Pallister (MB)	2
Doug Ford (ON)	3
Stephen McNeil/Iain Rankin (NS)	4
John Horgan (BC)	5
Jason Kenney (AB)	6
Dennis King (PEI)	7
François Legault (QC)	8
Scott Moe (SK)	9
Andrew Furey (NL)	10

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jake Fuss, Associate Director, Fiscal Studies
Fraser Institute

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

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For more information:

Aanand Radia, Media Relations Specialist, Fraser Institute

(416) 363-6575 ext. 238

aanand.radia@fraserinstitute.org

@FraserInstitute