



Red Tape Report Card

14TH EDITION

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Foreword

We are pleased to issue our latest Red Tape Report Card as part of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business's (CFIB) 15th annual Red Tape Awareness Week. This report reinforces CFIB's commitment to evaluating Canada's regulatory environment and championing red tape reduction across all levels of government over the last decade and a half. Originating when only few governments actively measured and reported their burden, this report highlights the commendable strides governments across Canada have made to improve regulatory accountability and reduce red tape. The Red Tape Report Card remains a consistent and essential tool for government, policy makers, businesses, and citizens to understand Canada's regulatory landscape.

In an environment where Canadians are struggling to cope with a myriad of economic challenges, it is not surprising that 92% of Canadian small business owners believe it is important that governments commit to reducing red tape (see Figure 1).¹ Red tape reduction is a low-cost way for governments to address issues facing Canadians, streamline bureaucratic processes, and make rules and regulations simpler without compromising health and safety objectives. CFIB reiterates its dedication to advocating for red tape reduction, and asserting that government regulation should be a catalyst for economic well-being rather than an impediment.

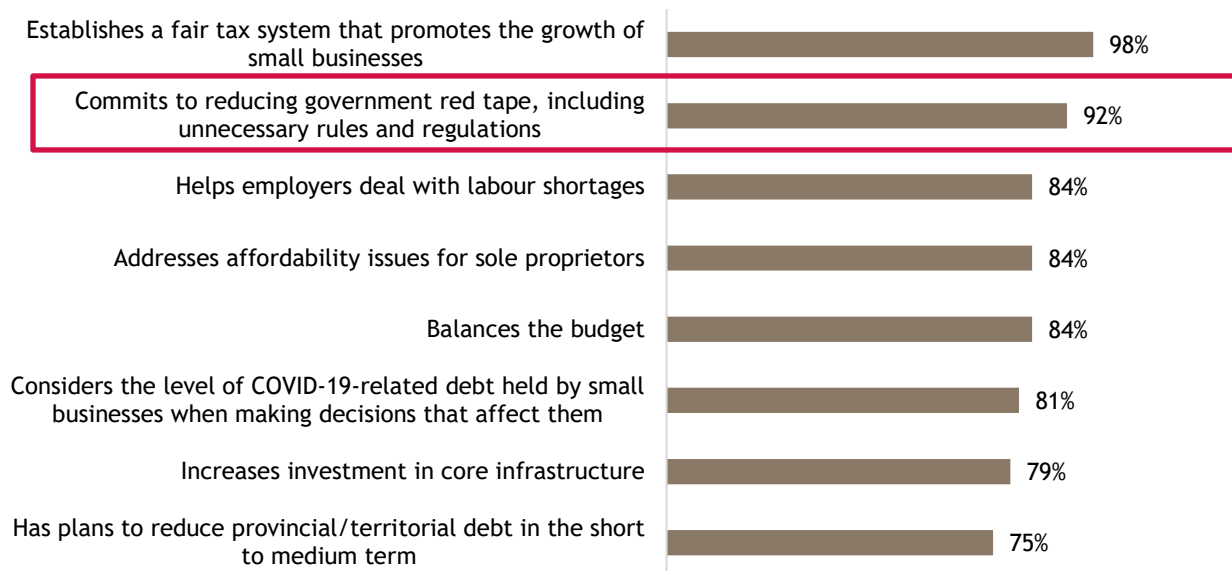
This year's methodology closely follows last year's, grading governments in three key areas: regulatory accountability, which remains the core of the report, focusing on measuring and reporting; regulatory burden, which highlights indicators that give a sense of the burden businesses and citizens feel on the ground; and political priority, which tracks the commitment from political leadership (Premier/Prime Minister and cabinet) to reduce red tape and modernize their jurisdiction's regulatory environment. This year, we have also included a bonus indicator that awards governments that accepted our 2023 Red Tape Challenge, taking action to measure and reduce the administrative burden on physicians.

This year, Alberta and Nova Scotia achieved "A" grades for their efforts to reduce the regulatory burden in their provinces to the benefit of their businesses and citizens. While we hope to see more jurisdictions receive "A" grades in the future, we must continue to raise the bar for red tape reduction in Canada. CFIB is considering adding new indicators to this report card in future years to ensure Canada continues to make progress on regulatory burden reduction and modernization. As always, CFIB is open to conversations with governments on how they can improve their regulatory reduction efforts going forward.

¹ CFIB. Your Voice Survey, November 2023. November 2–20, 2023. Based on 3,265 responses. For comparison purposes, a probability sample with the same number of respondents would have a margin of error of +/-1.7%, 19 times out of 20.

Figure 1

Initiatives most important to small businesses – Net importance



Notes:

Question: “Please indicate how important it is to your business that your provincial government does each of the following. (Select one for each line)”

Source: CFIB. Your Voice Survey, November 2023. November 2-20, 2023. Based on 3,265 responses. For comparison purposes, a probability sample with the same number of respondents would have a margin of error of +/-1.7%, 19 times out of 20.

We want to extend our thanks to the businesses, government staff, policy makers, and individuals who have contributed to this report by providing their time and feedback. We appreciate your dedication to making a sincere effort to improve accountability and reduce red tape to benefit all Canadians.

Sincerely,

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Introduction

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business's (CFIB) *2024 Red Tape Report Card* grades three major areas of regulatory performance: regulatory accountability, regulatory burden, and political priority. The grades are based on whether governments have a comprehensive measure of their regulatory burden; maintain some form of regulatory budget; are making efforts to minimize red tape; and display evidence that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are government leadership priorities. A bonus indicator has been added to this year's report card as a direct result of a challenge CFIB issued last year. It rewards governments that are measuring and reducing the administrative burden on physicians. See Table 1 for an overview of the 2024 Red Tape Report Card grades. **For details on how scores were calculated and the changes applied to the methodology since the 2023 edition of the Report Card, refer to the Methodology section in Appendix E.**

Table 1

2024 Red tape report card — areas of regulatory performance, score and grade^{1,2}

Jurisdiction	Regulatory accountability (40%)		Regulatory burden (40%)		Political priority (20%)		Physician burden (Bonus 2%)	Overall score and grade	
Alberta	8.9	A-	9.2	A	10	A	10	9.4	A
Nova Scotia	8.8	A-	8.2	B	10	A	10	9.0	A
Ontario	8.4	B+	7.8	B	10	A	10	8.7	A-
British Columbia	8.9	A-	9.0	A	4.5	F	10	8.3	B+
Quebec	8.8	A-	6.5	C-	8.5	B+	10	8.0	B
Saskatchewan	8.0	B	7.9	B	5.5	D	0	7.5	B-
New Brunswick	7.9	B	5.9	D	6.5	C-	5	6.9	C
Federal	6.6	C	6.5	C-	7.5	B-	0	6.7	C
Prince Edward Island	6.3	C-	6.5	C-	6.5	C-	5	6.5	C-
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.0	F	4.7	F	5.5	D	10	4.4	F
Manitoba ³	8.8	A-	8.4	B+	NA	NA	10	NA	NA

Notes:

- Score: 10 is best, 0 is worst. Using a weighting scheme, the four subindex scores are combined into a single score that allows for a ranking of governments from best (highest score) to worst (lowest score). The different areas are assigned the following weights: regulatory accountability — 40%, regulatory burden — 40%, political priority — 20%, and (bonus) physician burden (2%).
- Grade: A, A-: 8.7-10 (Excellent performance); B+, B, B-: 7.5-8.6 (Good performance); C+, C, C-: 6.0-7.4 (Satisfactory performance); D: 5-5.9 (Less than satisfactory performance); F: 0-4.9 (Unsatisfactory performance).
- Due to a change in government in Manitoba in October 2023, CFIB has assigned the province a status of "NA" (Not applicable) in lieu of a grade in the political priority section. As a result, the province is also marked as "NA" for the overall grade in this year's report card, acknowledging the transition to a new government. We will resume grading Manitoba in all categories in our 2025 report card.

Grades are highest in the report card's accountability section. Most governments now have some regulatory measurement, reporting, budgeting, and make regulatory documents accessible to the public (in some form). The result is several "A" grades where there were none when we first published our report card over a decade ago. This section of the report card represents 40% of the overall grade.

Regulatory burden remains a more challenging area to measure as data that can be used to compare jurisdictions is very limited. Overall, grades in the burden section are lower relative to those in the accountability section, with only two provinces achieving an "A" grade. The burden section represents 40% of the overall grade.

The political priority section was new to the report card in 2023, and only a few jurisdictions have achieved an “A” grade. This indicates there is much work to be done to show red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are clear priorities for governments. Political priority represents 20% of the overall grade.

Finally, we have introduced a bonus indicator based on the previous year’s Red Tape Awareness Week Red Tape Challenge. This year, we are awarding governments for their efforts in accepting our 2023 call to measure and reduce the administrative burden on physicians. Seven provinces receive full bonus points, worth an additional 2% added to their overall grade, for their efforts and plans to reduce the physician administrative burden. Scores awarded in the bonus indicator serve exclusively to improve the overall grade. They do not adversely affect scores where governments were either partially engaged in the challenge or did not accept it.

Regulatory Accountability

We applied a scoring system to four key indicators in our regulatory accountability section:

- (i) The existence of a comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden.
- (ii) Public reporting of the regulatory burden.
- (iii) The use of a regulatory budget.
- (iv) Accessibility of regulatory documents.

Based on these indicators, jurisdictions with more accountable regulatory systems receive higher scores.

Table 2 summarizes scores in this section. **Detailed jurisdictional findings and scorecards for the key indicators are available in Appendix A. For more details on how scores were calculated, refer to the Methodology section in Appendix E.**

In this regulatory performance area, most jurisdictions receive high marks for having some type of measurement, reporting, and regulatory budget in place. However, scores are lower for the accessibility of regulatory documents as only a few jurisdictions provide documents in open, machine-readable format (e.g., XML format).

Table 2

Regulatory accountability: score and grade (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Jurisdiction	Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden	Public reporting of the regulatory burden	Regulatory budget	Accessibility of regulatory documents	Regulatory accountability score and grade	
BC	9	10	9	7.5	8.9	A-
AB	10	10	10	5.5	8.9	A-
MB	10	10	10	5	8.8	A-
QC	8	10	10	7	8.8	A-
NS	10	10	10	5	8.8	A-
ON	8	10	10	5.5	8.4	B+
SK	10	10	9	3	8.0	B
NB	6	10	10	5.5	7.9	B
FED	5	7	7	7.5	6.6	C
PEI	8	7	7	3	6.3	C-
NL	0	2	5	5	3.0	F

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden

Table 3

Accountability indicator 1 — measuring the regulatory burden (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden	5	9	10	10	10	8	8	6	10	8	0

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

1. Existence of an aggregate regulatory measure of the burden on business and individuals/or a commitment to measure.
2. Regulatory requirement count (for business and/or individuals) includes all sources from: (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, and (iii) associated policies and forms.
3. Regulatory requirement count (for business and/or individuals) includes all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities.

Source: 2023 data.

This indicator captures whether governments use an aggregate regulatory measure, often in the form of a regulatory requirement count. The overall measure could also be in the form of regulatory cost, although measuring cost is far more challenging. Jurisdictions with comprehensive measures that include the regulatory burdens on both businesses and individuals, and that capture burden from rules in a) legislation, b) regulations, and c) associated policies and forms across all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities receive full marks.

Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia achieve top scores for this indicator (see Table 3). British Columbia scores a nine — as they do not include regulatory requirements from delegated authorities. Ontario, Quebec, and the federal government receive partial scores as their measures only capture the regulatory burden imposed on businesses, excluding citizens. Further, the federal government's regulatory requirement count only considers the burden from regulation not the burden generated through legislation or policies and forms; and does not capture the burden generated by all federal government departments and agencies. Prince Edward Island receives a partial score as the province's measure excludes policies and forms. New Brunswick also receives a partial score as their count excludes the burden on citizens and does not consider policies and forms. Newfoundland and Labrador score zero as the province does not have a publicly reported regulatory burden measure.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

Table 4

Accountability indicator 2 — public reporting (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Public reporting of the regulatory burden	7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	7	2

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

1. Accessible annual public updates that include the overall regulatory burden.
2. Legislation in place that requires public reporting of the regulatory burden.

Source: 2023 data.

Jurisdictions that score best for this indicator are those that annually report the regulatory burden and have legislation requiring public reporting of the burden. Moreover, the regulatory count should be easily accessible for individuals and businesses to consult.

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia all receive a score of 10 for this indicator — these provinces have legislation that requires public reporting of the regulatory burden on an annual basis (see Table 4). Newfoundland and Labrador receives the lowest score as the province has not publicized its regulatory count since 2014. According to the federal government, policies, departments, and agencies must update and publicly report their requirement count annually. However, there is no legislation in place mandating annual reporting, and it is difficult to access the overall regulatory requirement counts on each government department website.

Regulatory Budget

Table 5

Accountability indicator 3 — regulatory budgeting (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Regulatory budget	7	9	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	7	5

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

1. Commitment to regulatory budgeting.
2. Constraints in place to manage regulatory costs (e.g., 1 for 1 rule, reduction/maintenance targets).
3. Legislation in place that requires governments to adhere to constraints (e.g., 1 for 1 rule, reduction/maintenance targets).

Source: 2023 data.

Regulatory budgeting works in a similar fashion to fiscal budgeting to the extent that it establishes constraints around adding to the overall regulatory burden. It imposes some discipline and prioritizes regulatory activities.²

Regulatory budgeting can be in the form of a “one-for-one” rule, which requires additional regulatory requirements to be counterbalanced with an equal reduction in burden. Alternatively, governments can also set reduction targets for the overall regulatory burden (i.e., removing X% of regulatory requirements by a specific date). Such measures help to keep the regulatory burden from growing unchecked. Jurisdictions with legislated constraints in place to manage or reduce the regulatory burden in their jurisdiction receive higher scores in this indicator than those doing it as a matter of policy.

Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia score the highest on this indicator as they have legislated limits on regulators (see Table 5). These limits include “one-for-one” rules and requiring the additional regulatory costs to be offset by an equal or greater regulatory cost reduction. British Columbia and Saskatchewan have constraints in place; however, these constraints are not legislated. The federal government has a one-for-one rule in place, but it does not apply to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The CRA is responsible for key tasks such as administering GST and HST returns, income tax administration, and payroll tax collection. Business owners frequently cite these functions as their top federal regulatory burdens.³ Consequently, due to the CRA’s exemption from the one-for-one rule, the federal government incurs a three-point deduction for its commitment to regulatory budgeting. Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island score the lowest. While both provinces have legislated constraints in place, the lack of consistent reporting makes it unclear whether government is following through on this legislation.

² Speer, Sean. *Regulatory Budgeting: Lessons from Canada*. R Street. 2016.

³ Cruz et al. [Canada’s Red Tape Report, Sixth Edition](#). 2021.

Accessibility of regulatory documents

Table 6

Accountability indicator 4 — accessibility of regulatory documents (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Accessibility of regulatory documents	7.5	7.5	5.5	3	5	5.5	7	5.5	5	3	5

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

The accessibility of regulatory documents in open, machine-readable format including (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, (iii) associated policies and forms.

Scoring: The following point system was applied: Three points are given for each type of regulatory document that is available in an open, machine-readable format - including (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, (iii) associated policies and forms. If all three types of regulatory documents are available in open, machine-readable format, then a score of 10 is given. When regulatory documents are not available in an open, machine-readable format (i.e., an online format or PDF format), a partial score is given: 2 points for online format, and 1 point for PDF format. In some instances, there was a combination of online format and PDF format for which a score of 1.5 was given. No points are given if regulatory documents are only made available in hard copy paper format.

Source: 2023 data.

Open and machine-readable data refers to data that can be freely accessed, used, analyzed, shared, and built on. Open government data — which includes, but is not limited to, statistical information — is a public good which increases transparency and supports the public's oversight of government activity. Providing access to individuals, businesses, and governments maximizes its social value. For example, open data for legislation, regulation, and policies would be valuable for assessing the regulatory burden across the country; developing tools that allow business owners to access all compliance obligations across all jurisdictions with quick and efficient searching; or helping academics and other researchers study the regulatory burden's impact.⁴

For this indicator, jurisdictions that provide open and machine-readable data for all three types of regulatory documents — (i) legislation, (ii) regulation, (iii) associated policies and forms — earn a score of 10. Partial scores are awarded for regulatory documents provided in online or downloadable/PDF format.⁵

British Columbia and the federal government score the highest on this indicator as they provide regulatory data — legislation and regulations — in open and machine-readable format (see Table 6, Appendix A). As the BC government has pointed out, “This direct access to raw data is intended to enable third parties to build or add their own custom applications.”⁶ However, neither BC nor the federal government provides open and machine-readable data for its policies and forms. Quebec also offers its legislation and regulations in open, machine-readable format upon request. However, it is our understanding that accessing the data incurs costs and the process for obtaining this data lacks clarity. Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island score the lowest for this indicator as their regulatory data is only available in PDF format. All other jurisdictions have an online format for their legislation and regulations.

⁴ For example, BizPaL is a free online service offered by the federal government to help business owners identify which permits and licences they require to operate their business. BizPaL's database, however, is not all-inclusive — business owners still must conduct additional research to ensure compliance. Machine-readable data of regulatory documents would help to improve the scope and accuracy of such tools.

⁵ Open, machine-readable data is a format that can be automatically read and processed by a computer (i.e., CSV, JSON, XML). Online data (i.e., HTML) and PDF formats are not machine-readable. Physical copies are non-digital and are also therefore not machine-readable.

⁶ Government of BC. BC Laws Civix Server API. <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/template/complete/api/index.html>.

Regulatory Burden

This section focuses on the overall regulatory burden using six indicators. Four of these six indicators are used to evaluate efforts to minimize red tape: (i) the existence of a red tape feedback box and whether government proactively seeks feedback from individuals on prominent webpages, (ii) the existence of an advisory service for navigating business challenges, (iii) the existence of a proactive process/regular window for legislative changes to address red tape, and (iv) the interprovincial/territorial cooperation score from CFIB's 2023 edition of *Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*.⁷ The remaining two indicators focus on data from the Mercatus Center: (v) the total number of regulatory provincial requirements in place, which is then (vi) analyzed on a per capita basis. Due to limitations in the availability of data, regulatory counts for these last two indicators rely on 2022 data.

Within this section, the indicators are weighted equally. Table 7 summarizes scores for each indicator. **For more details on how scores were calculated, refer to the Methodology section in Appendix E.**

Table 7

Regulatory Burden: score and grade (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Jurisdiction	Minimizing the regulatory burden				Provincial regulatory restrictions		Regulatory burden score and grade	
	Red tape feedback	Advisory service for navigating business challenges	A proactive process/regular window for legislative changes to address red tape	Interprovincial/territorial cooperation score ²	Total number of provincial regulatory requirements	Total provincial regulatory requirements per capita		
AB	10	10	10	8.6	7.1	9.7	9.2	A
BC	10	10	10	7.7	6.5	9.8	9.0	A
MB	5	10	10	8.9	8.0	8.5	8.4	B+
NS	8	10	10	7.2	6.9	7.2	8.2	B
SK	5	10	10	7.9	7.1	7.6	7.9	B
ON	10	10	10	6.7	0.0	10.0	7.8	B
QC	3	10	10	4.4	1.6	9.7	6.5	C-
FED ¹	0	10	10	5.8	NA	NA	6.5	C-
NB	0	10	5	4.6	8.6	7.4	5.9	D
PEI	8	10	5	6.1	10.0	0	6.5	C-
NL	8	0	0	6.2	8.5	5.5	4.7	F

Notes:

1. NA - Not applicable. The federal government is not scored for (i) the total number of provincial regulatory restrictions (ii) the total provincial regulatory restrictions per capita.
2. The interprovincial/territorial cooperation score from CFIB's 2023 edition of [Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#).

⁷ Cruz, Marvin, et al. [The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#). CFIB. 2023.

Red tape feedback box

Table 8

Burden indicator 1 — Red tape feedback box (10 is best, 0 is worst)

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score¹	0	10	10	5	5	10	3	0	8	8	8
Existence of a permanent online suggestion box where individuals and/or businesses can report red tape frustrations — Yes/Some/No ¹	No (0)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	No (0)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	Yes (5)
Government proactively seeks feedback from individuals and/or businesses on prominent webpages — Yes/Some/No ¹	No (0)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	No (0)	No (0)	Yes (5)	No (0)	No (0)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	Some (3)
Notes: 1. Scoring — The following point system was applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of a permanent online feedback/complaint box where individuals and businesses can report red tape frustrations (e.g., an online portal or an e-mail contact): Yes = 5 points, Some = 3 points, No = 0 points. Government proactively seeks feedback from individuals and/or businesses on prominent webpages, such as its main webpage or service sites: Yes = 5 points, Some = 3 points, No = 0 points. Source: 2023 data - See Appendix C for links to online red tape suggestion boxes.											

This indicator considers whether governments have a permanent designated place online where individuals and/or businesses can report their red tape irritants. For instance, several provinces use either an online portal or provide an e-mail contact where red tape feedback (problems and suggestions) can be shared with government. Such tools not only provide an opportunity for governments to connect with the public (including individuals and businesses) regarding their concerns, but might also ultimately lead to improvements in the way the public is being served. It is considered a best practice to “close the loop” with those providing feedback, and to publicly report how irritants have been handled. For example, Saskatchewan’s annual regulatory report provides a summary of concerns submitted through their *Help Cut Red Tape* Webpage over the year, as well as steps taken to resolve issues.⁸

While jurisdictions provide a designated place online for feedback, locating these areas can prove difficult. A best practice would be that in addition to having designated red tape feedback areas, governments should also proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages where the public is most likely to interact with government (e.g., government’s main webpage or provincial/federal service webpages). In fact, nine out of 10 business owners and individuals believe that governments should do more to collect feedback from citizens to improve their service.⁹

For this indicator, jurisdictions that have a permanent online feedback box where individuals and businesses can report red tape frustrations, and which proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages, receive higher scores. British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario receive full marks as these provinces have a dedicated area for red tape irritants and suggestions (see Table 8). Further, these provinces also proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages — British Columbia seeks feedback on their Service BC webpage while Alberta and Ontario place it on their official government home webpage.¹⁰ All other jurisdictions, except for New Brunswick and the federal government, receive partial scores as they have an area for red tape feedback but do not proactively seek feedback

⁸ Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2022-23*. Retrieved: October 6, 2023. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/121673>.

⁹ CFIB. *Your Voice* — November 2022. n = 3,264; and Angus Reid Group. *National Omni Nov. 18, 2022*, n = 1,507.

¹⁰ Link to Nova Scotia red tape feedback is in the drop-down menu on the government home page.

on prominent pages. Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador solicit feedback from their homepage and Service Newfoundland pages, respectively, but the feedback box is found through a link in the menu on these pages. Further, Quebec’s feedback box is only directed towards businesses. New Brunswick and the federal government score the poorest as these jurisdictions do not have an online feedback area for red tape, nor do they proactively seek out feedback on prominent web pages.

Business advisory service

Table 9

Burden indicator 2 — Advisory service for navigating business challenges (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Advisory service for navigating business challenges — Yes/ No ¹	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0

Note:

1. **Scoring** — The following point system was applied: Yes = 10 points, No = 0 points.

Source: 2023 data — See Appendix C for links to business advisory sites.

Further to a suggestion/complaint box for reporting red tape, jurisdictions should also provide advisory services to help small business owners navigate business challenges, including guidance on licenses, permits, registration, and regulations.

Jurisdictions that have an advisory service for businesses receive a score of 10 for this indicator. Those that do not, receive a score of 0. All jurisdictions, except for Newfoundland and Labrador, provide advisory services to businesses and receive 10 points (see Table 9).

Proactive process/regular window for regulatory changes

Table 10

Burden indicator 3 - A proactive process/regular window for legislative changes to address red tape (score below data; 10 is best, 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
A proactive process/regular window for legislative changes to address red tape — Yes/Some/No ¹	Yes 10	Yes 10	Yes 10	Yes 10	Yes 10	Yes 10	Yes 10	Some 5	Yes 10	Some 5	No 0

Notes:

1. **Scoring** — The following point system was applied: Yes = 10 points, Some = 5 points, No = 0 points.

Sources:

BC - The [Better Regulations for British Columbians](#) annual regulatory process updates regulations at once; the latest changes took effect in March 2023.

AB - Red tape reduction changes to legislation have been conducted semi-annually since 2019; the [Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2023](#) passed March 2023.

SK - Since 2014, the Red Tape Reduction Committee (RTRC) has been tasked with reviewing all business-related regulations at least once every 10 years to ensure they remain relevant and removing red tape when necessary.

MB - [The Reducing Red Tape and Improving Services Act](#) is an annual omnibus bill established in 2019; the latest legislative changes passed in June 2022.

ON - Red Tape Reduction Packages have been conducted in the spring and fall of each year since 2018; the [Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act](#) received Royal Assent in March 2023.

QC - The Quebec government has committed to an annual amendment process; [Bill 103](#) was the first of such legislative initiatives and was passed in December 2021.

NS - The Chief Regulatory Officer assesses, reviews, and submits into Cabinet an independent submission evaluating every proposed regulatory, legislative, and process change with business impact.

FED - The federal government provides an Annual Regulatory Modernization Bill; the latest legislative changes, [Bill S-6](#), were introduced in March 2022. Consultation is currently underway for the next rendition of the bill.

Having a recurring process to deal with housekeeping changes to address legislative irritants provides an opportunity to clarify, repeal, or update the regulatory system. Such actions help streamline governance processes, deliver changes to serve public interests, and improve the predictability for stakeholders seeking to provide regulatory changes. We note that there are alternative mechanisms to address legislative irritants, however, jurisdictions that have recurring formal structures in place, whether legislated or not, receive higher scores.

British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and the federal government receive a score of 10 as these jurisdictions have a recurring legislative mechanism for regulatory modernization (see Table 10). For example, since 2018 the Ontario government has solicited and bundled regulatory changes semi-annually through their Spring and Fall Red Tape Reduction packages — 450 actions to reduce red tape burdens have been taken since inception.¹¹ British Columbia has an annual amendment process where the government issues a call for items to all ministries, and small regulatory changes are grouped together and updated each March.¹²

Saskatchewan also earns a score of 10 for its Red Tape Reduction Committee's (RTRC) work to review all business-related regulations at least once every 10 years. This process, which is the only one of its kind in Canada, helps ensure regulations remain relevant and removes red tape. In 2022-23, the RTRC reviewed 2,480 compliance requirements.¹³

¹¹ Government of Ontario. *Ontario Reducing Red Tape to Deliver Better Services and Help Businesses Grow*. Retrieved: October 16, 2023.

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002896/ontario-reducing-red-tape-to-deliver-better-services-and-help-businesses-grow>.

¹² Government of British Columbia. *Modernizing Language Initiative*. Retrieved: October 16, 2023. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/modernization-initiative>.

¹³ Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2022-23*. Retrieved: October 16, 2023. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/121673>.

The Nova Scotia government earns a score of 10 as its Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) – who is in charge of proactively seeking legislative/regulatory changes from other departments/ministries – independently assesses every proposed regulatory, legislative, and process change with a business impact before submitting its review to Cabinet. This process allows Cabinet to receive independent advice from the CRO on every regulatory/legislative approach before it is put forward to the Legislature.

The remaining provinces receive lower scores as no proactive process or recurring legislative mechanism exists. However, there is evidence that suggests PEI and New Brunswick have mechanisms in place to address red tape irritants in legislation as they arise.

Interprovincial cooperation

Table 11

Burden indicator 4 - Overall interprovincial cooperation score from CFIB's 2023 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card* (10 is best; 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Interprovincial/territorial cooperation score ^{1,2}	5.8	7.7	8.6	7.9	8.9	6.7	4.4	4.6	7.2	6.1	6.2

Notes:

1. The 2023 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card* uses an index approach to measure and rank the performance of Canada's provinces/territories towards addressing barriers to internal trade based on three major areas of interprovincial cooperation. The three different areas are: CFTA Exceptions; Interjurisdictional Barriers to Internal Trade; and Status of Items from Reconciliation Agreements. Using a weighting scheme, the three area scores are combined into a single score that allows for a ranking of jurisdictions from best (highest score-10) to worst (lowest score-0).

2. The data reflected is based on information that was in effect as of June 29, 2023.

Source: CFIB, [The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#), 2023.

Regulatory barriers between jurisdictions add costs, create delays, and limit the flow of people, goods, and services across the country. These obstacles can have detrimental effects on Canadians and make it much more difficult, or even impossible, for businesses to operate across borders.

For this indicator we use the interprovincial/territorial cooperation score from CFIB's 2023 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*.¹⁴ This report card grades three major areas of interprovincial/territorial cooperation: Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) exceptions, the existence of select interjurisdictional barriers to internal trade, and the implementation status of reconciliation agreements under the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT). Within this framework, governments with the highest overall scores are those that have the fewest exceptions and have made the most progress towards reducing specific barriers. Here, Manitoba ranks the highest, and Quebec the poorest (see Table 11).

¹⁴ Cruz, Marvin, et al. [The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#). CFIB. 2023.

Provincial Regulatory Requirements

Table 12

Burden indicator 5 - Total number of provincial regulatory requirements (score below data; 10 is best, 0 is worst)

Indicator	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Total provincial regulatory requirements — requirements in regulations and statutes ^{1,2}	73,535 (6.5)	67,645 (7.1)	67,482 (7.1)	57,606 (8.0)	144,677 (0.0)	127,263 (1.6)	50,728 (8.6)	69,268 (6.9)	35,931 (10.0)	52,759 (8.5)

Notes:

1. Total number of provincial regulatory requirements is the sum of restrictions in regulations and restrictions in statutes. The province with the best performance (i.e., the lowest number of requirements in regulations and statutes) receives the maximum score of 10, while the province with the worst performance receives a score of 0. All other scores are based on the scale formed by these two values.
2. The federal government is not scored for this indicator.

Source: RegData Canada (dataset). QuantGov, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, 2022.

To incorporate the overall regulatory burden on individuals and businesses into our report card, we use the Mercatus Center at George Mason University's latest data. This dataset provides the number of requirements found in the regulations and statutes that exist in each province.^{15,16} In using the requirement count as a regulatory burden surrogate measure, we assume that a higher number of requirements in a province means a greater regulatory load and more opportunity to reduce red tape. Due to the unavailability of 2023 data, the regulatory count from 2022 was used.

It is important to acknowledge this approach's limitations. The dataset does not include certain government rules, such as those in guidance documents, policies, or forms. Further, differences in provincial industrial landscapes can contribute to differences in regulatory counts.¹⁷ For example, larger provinces are home to more industries, and thus more regulations. Nevertheless, the dataset is used as it is the only measure presently available that compares regulatory counts across the country, as not all governments provide a regulatory count and those that do tend to use different counting methods. For this indicator, the fewer regulatory restrictions in place, the lower the burden and the higher the score achieved. As such, provinces with the highest scores include Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador (see Figure 2 and Table 12). Conversely, Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia score the lowest for this indicator.

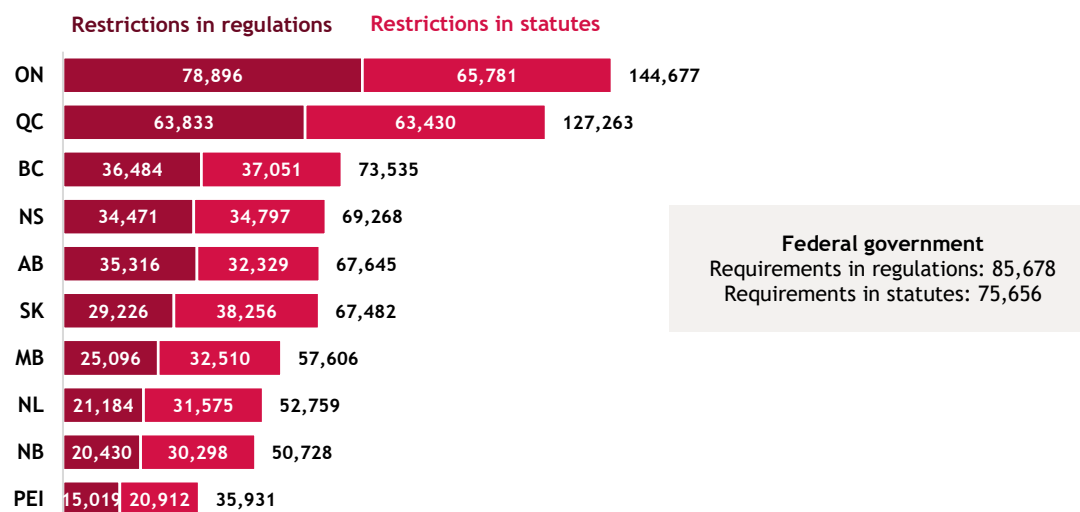
¹⁵ McLaughlin, Patrick A., Jonathan Nelson, and Stephen Strosko. RegData Canada (dataset). QuantGov, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, 2020. <https://quantgov.org/regdata-canada/>.

¹⁶ The Mercatus Center quantifies regulations based on the content of regulatory text using a text analysis program that counts the number of binding constraints or "restrictions," words that indicate an obligation to comply — including "shall," "must," "may not," "required," and "prohibited."

¹⁷ Laura Jones et al. *RegData Canada: A Snapshot of Regulatory Restrictions in Canada's Provinces*. Mercatus Center at George Mason University. 2020.

Figure 2

Total Regulatory Requirements in Canadian provinces, Regulations and Statutes (2022)



Source: RegData Canada (dataset). QuantGov, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, 2022.

Provincial Regulatory Requirements Per Capita

Table 13

Burden indicator 6 - Provincial regulatory requirements per capita (score below data; 10 is best, 0 is worst)

Indicator	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial regulatory restrictions per capita — per 10,000 population ¹	133 (9.8)	144 (9.7)	558 (7.6)	396 (8.5)	93 (10.0)	143 (9.7)	608 (7.4)	654 (7.2)	2,068 (0.0)	980 (5.5)

Note: The federal government is not scored for this indicator.

1. Total provincial regulatory requirements is the sum of restrictions in regulations and restrictions in statutes. The province with the best performance (i.e., the lowest number of requirements in regulations and statutes per 10,000 population) receives the maximum score of 10, while the province with the worst performance receives a score of 0. All other scores are based on the scale formed by these two values.

Sources:

1. RegData Canada (dataset). QuantGov, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates Q3/2023.

To compare the regulatory burden's magnitude across provinces, the total number of provincial regulatory requirements is divided by population.¹⁸ This approach is used to counterbalance the natural bias in regulatory counts that occurs in larger provinces where industrial mixes are more diverse and complex than in smaller provinces, thus naturally requiring more regulations. We used a per capita count as a basis for scaling to show — in relative terms — whether regulations pose a larger or smaller burden.

Using this approach, Ontario scores highest as it has the lowest number of provincial regulatory restrictions per capita (93 per 10,000 people), followed by British Columbia, Quebec, and Alberta (see Table 13). On the other end of the scale, Prince Edward Island fairs the poorest as it has the most regulatory restrictions per capita (2,068 per 10,000 people).

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly. Q3/2023.

Political Priority

Ensuring that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are political priorities is crucial for fostering a regulatory environment that improves the relationship between government, individuals, and businesses while supporting economic growth and job creation. By prioritizing these efforts, political leaders can provide the vision, direction, and accountability needed to create a more streamlined and effective regulatory system. Without political prioritization, red tape reduction efforts may lack direction and resources, and may be more difficult to implement and sustain over time.

To assess whether red tape reduction/regulatory modernization is a political priority, we used two indicators: (i) evidence that red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet and (ii) the existence of a minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization (see Table 14).

Indicators are weighted equally within this section.

Table 14

Political Priority: score and grade (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Jurisdiction	Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet	Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization	Political priority score and grade	
AB	10	10	10.0	A
ON	10	10	10.0	A
NS	10	10	10.0	A
QC	8	9	8.5	B+
FED	8	7	7.5	B-
NB	6	7	6.5	C-
PEI	6	7	6.5	C-
SK	4	7	5.5	D
NL	4	7	5.5	D
BC	2	7	4.5	F
MB ¹	NA	NA	NA	

Note:

1. Manitoba receives a NA in 2024 as the province had a change in government in October 2023 and therefore, we cannot fairly assess the priorities of the new government at this time. We plan to resume our evaluation of Manitoba's political priority in 2025.

Premier/Prime Minister and Cabinet champion red tape reduction

Table 15

Political priority indicator 1 - Red Tape Reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet (score below data; 10 is best, 0 is worst)

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet — Clear evidence/ Some evidence/ Little evidence ¹	Clear (8)	Little (2)	Clear (10)	Little (4)	NA	Clear (10)	Clear (8)	Some (6)	Clear (10)	Some (6)	Little (4)

Note:

1. **Scoring** — The following point system was applied:

- Total score is the sum of the scores for the five criteria assessed: Clear evidence: 8-10 points; Some evidence: 5-7 points; Little evidence: 0-4 points.

Criteria:

- Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization is included/mentioned in:
 - Mandate letter to the minister responsible for red tape reduction, regulatory modernization. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.
 - Latest budget, budget speech, and/or economic update. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.
 - Latest election platform. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.
 - Latest Throne Speech. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.
- Internal red tape team or task force/industry panels assigned to identify red tape burdens and solutions aimed at modernizing the regulatory framework. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.

Source: 2023 data. Jurisdictional findings for this indicator are available in Appendix D.

This indicator measures whether red tape reduction is a political priority using five criteria: inclusion in the responsible minister's mandate letter, mentions in the latest budget or economic updates, references in recent election platforms, mentions in the latest Throne Speech, and the existence of internal teams or panels addressing red tape issues.

Alberta, Ontario, and Nova Scotia all exhibit clear, explicit, and sufficient evidence that red tape reduction is a top policy priority, and have Premiers and cabinets that champion regulatory modernization (see Table 15 and jurisdictional findings in Appendix D). These governments have outlined red tape reduction as a key goal in Minister's mandate letters and explicitly mentioned red tape reduction several times in election platforms and budgets. They have also set up task forces and industry panels to identify red tape irritants and solutions aimed at regulatory modernization, and publicly championed the file in their Throne Speeches.

Jurisdictions like Quebec and the federal government — while not displaying full political commitment — show clear evidence that red tape reduction/regulatory modernization is a priority for their political leaders. For example, these jurisdictions have fulfilled every category while Alberta, Ontario, and Nova Scotia have satisfied, only falling short in one.

Other jurisdictions show some evidence of prioritizing regulatory modernization. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island both fulfill some of the categories Alberta, Ontario, and Nova Scotia satisfied, falling short in two.

British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador receive the lowest grades as there was little evidence to suggest that red tape reduction is a clear priority for the top policy makers in the province.

Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction

Table 16

Political priority indicator 2 - Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization (score below data; 10 is best, 0 is worst)

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC ²	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization Yes/Some/No ¹	Some (7)	Some (7)	Yes (10)	Some (7)	NA	Yes (10)	Some (9)	Some (7)	Yes (10)	Some (7)	Some (7)

Notes:

1. **Scoring** — The following point system was applied: Yes = 10 points, Some = 7-9 points, No = 0 points.

- “Yes” refers to: A Minister being specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization; OR the red tape reduction office reports directly to the Premier/Prime Minister.
- “Some” refers to a Minister being assigned to the red tape reduction/regulatory modernization file, but not specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization.

2. Despite not having a Ministry specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization, Quebec scores a 9. Quebec’s Deputy Minister for the Economy is explicitly assigned the red tape reduction file through a legislative decree and is accountable for the file in the province’s Executive Council.

Source: 2023 data.

For this indicator, jurisdictions which have a minister titled and responsible for red tape reduction/modernization send a clear signal that the file is a priority for government and receive a higher score.

The only two provinces with a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization are Alberta and Ontario. Both receive a score of 10 (see Table 16). Despite not having a titled minister, Nova Scotia’s Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness reports directly to the Premier and therefore also receives a score of 10.

Partial scores are given to jurisdictions where regulatory modernization/red tape reduction is assigned as a responsibility for a cabinet minister, as is the case for six provinces and the federal government. Among these jurisdictions, Quebec receives a score of nine. Their Deputy Minister for the Economy is explicitly assigned the task of implementing the government’s policy on regulatory and administrative streamlining via Executive Council Decree on the recommendation of the Premier, which carries legislative force.¹⁹

¹⁹ Décret 1663-2022, 20 octobre 2022. https://www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/gazette/pdf_encrypte/lois_reglements/2022F/78479.pdf.

Bonus Indicator: Physician Administrative Burden

In 2023, a CFIB report revealed that Canada's doctors collectively spend approximately 18.5 million hours on unnecessary paperwork and administrative tasks each year, which is equivalent to 55.6 million patient visits annually.²⁰ Our research uncovered that 89% of Canadians and 87% of business owners agree that governments should focus on reducing physician paperwork to free up time for more patient visits.

During Red Tape Awareness Week 2023, CFIB issued a challenge to governments across Canada: commit to measuring and reducing physician burdens in your jurisdictions. This year, we added a bonus indicator to the report card to award bonus points to the successful governments' overall score. To reflect the degree to which governments have committed to this challenge, we used two indicators: (i) initiatives taken by governments to measure the burden on physicians and (ii) efforts made to reduce this burden (see table 17).

Indicators are weighted equally in this section.

Table 17

Physician Burden: score (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Jurisdiction	Government working to measure the overall physician burden		Government working to reduce the overall physician burden		Bonus indicator score
AB	Yes	5	Yes	5	10
NS	Yes	5	Yes	5	10
ON	Yes	5	Yes	5	10
MB	Yes	5	Yes	5	10
BC	Yes	5	Yes	5	10
QC	Yes	5	Yes	5	10
NL	Yes	5	Yes	5	10
PEI	No	0	Yes	5	5
NB	No	0	Yes	5	5
SK	No	0	No	0	0
FED	No	0	No	0	0
Note: 1. Scoring — The following point system was applied: Yes = 5 points, No = 0 points.					
Source: CFIB, Patients before Paperwork: Jurisdictional Scan. 2024.					

Alberta, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador receive full bonus points for this indicator. All have conducted work over the last year to both measure and reduce the administrative burden on physicians. Some provinces, like Nova Scotia and Manitoba, are further along in their efforts, whereas other provinces are just starting work in these areas.

²⁰ CFIB. Patients before Paperwork. January 2023. <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/media/canadian-doctors-spend-over-18-million-hours-a-year-on-unnecessary-administrative-work>.

Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick receive partial grades. While they do not currently have a plan to measure the physician administrative burden, they have worked to reduce it through their participation in the Atlantic Physician Registry which allows physicians to work in any of the four Atlantic provinces without registering their license in each province.

Saskatchewan and the federal government do not receive any bonus points as they have not implemented any initiatives to measure or reduce the physician administrative burden.

For additional details on the work each jurisdiction is doing to reduce the physician administrative burden in their province, please reference CFIB's second edition of [Patients before Paperwork: Jurisdictional Scan](#).

Current Context: Red Tape Reduction Efforts Across Canada

While this report card assesses governments on a broad range of indicators related to red tape reduction, it cannot fully encompass all the good work being done across the country. This section highlights several important initiatives that governments have recently undertaken.

Using red tape reduction as a tool to address policy challenges

- Recently, British Columbia passed legislation establishing "Transit Oriented Development Areas" around transit hubs.²¹ This law allows municipalities to **approve housing projects near train stations and bus stops**, where they adhere to provincial density standards, eliminating parking requirements and adopting consistent guidelines. Additionally, BC's Standardized Housing Design Project offers preapproved designs for affordable, small-scale, multi-unit housing, **simplifying permits and expediting construction**.²² These initiatives use red tape reduction as a tool to address supply constraints in the context of a critical housing shortage.
- The Nova Scotia government recently spearheaded a groundbreaking initiative to **quantify and reduce the physician administrative burden, as well as eliminate the province's health care red tape**.²³ Working in collaboration with physicians, Nova Scotia's Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness is actively identifying and streamlining specific forms and processes in an effort to reduce red tape by 80%. Nova Scotia's Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness released a progress report on its efforts in November 2023, including a record of how many hours each initiative saves. The report identifies over 45 initiatives that are either completed or underway to reduce red tape—with a savings of 200,000 hours annually.²⁴
- Following Nova Scotia's lead, Manitoba's provincial government and Doctors Manitoba created a **Joint Task Force in 2023 to reduce physicians' administrative burden**.²⁵ The task force revealed that physicians spend 10.1 hours weekly on administrative tasks, 44% of which they have deemed unnecessary. The task force has set a 10% reduction target for the end of 2023. The task force estimates that meeting the target could save 63,000 hours and enable 190,000 additional patient visits.

Removing barriers to labour mobility

- **The Atlantic Physician Registry** is a groundbreaking initiative launched in May 2023 that **allows doctors to practice in all four Atlantic provinces without dealing with extra licensing steps**.²⁶ This innovative system simplifies the licensing process, cutting down paperwork and fees. The registry promotes flexibility and mobility, making it more appealing for both existing physicians and new graduates.

²¹ Government of British Columbia. *Legislation introduced to deliver more houses near transit hubs*. Retrieved: November 29, 2023. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HOU0063-001748>.

²² Government of British Columbia. *New standardized designs will help build more homes quicker*. Retrieved: November 29, 2023. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HOU0158-001798>.

²³ Government of Nova Scotia. *Patients Before Paperwork: Reducing Red Tape for Physicians*. Retrieved: November 29, 2023. <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-3600/patients-paperwork-reducing-red-tape-physicians-november-2023-en.pdf>

²⁴ Government of Nova Scotia. November 2023. *Patients before Paperwork: Reducing Red Tape for Physicians*. <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-3600/patients-paperwork-reducing-red-tape-physicians-november-2023-en.pdf>.

²⁵ Government of Manitoba. *Manitoba Government Announces Members of Joint Task Force to Reduce Administrative Burden on Physicians*. Retrieved: November 29, 2023. <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/?archive=&item=58526#:~:text=E2%80%9CIt's%20estimated%20Manitoba%20physicians%20spend,top%20contributor%20to%20physician%20burnout>.

²⁶ Government of Nova Scotia. *Atlantic Physician Registry Launches*. Retrieved: November 29, 2023. <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20230501002>.

- **Ontario's innovative "As of Right" rules**, implemented in September 2023, allow health care workers from other Canadian provinces and territories to work in Ontario immediately **without the usual registration requirements**. The move streamlines processes and addresses delays in accessing health care.

Regulatory accountability

- **The *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act*, 2020**, mandates that for every \$1 of increased compliance costs resulting from new programs, policies, or regulations, there must be an offset of \$1.25 in compliance cost savings.²⁷ This innovative approach to a regulatory constraint places the regulatory burden's economic costs at the centre of red tape reduction efforts.
- In 2023, New Brunswick took a significant positive step towards improving the province's business environment when its government started to **count the number of regulatory requirements** for businesses.²⁸ This proactive approach not only helps governments to identify areas for improvement but also aims to reduce unnecessary burdens, fostering a more favourable and efficient regulatory landscape for small businesses.

Regulatory modernization

- **The External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness**, formed in 2018, brings together external stakeholders to offer advice and action plans to the federal government focused on red tape reduction and regulatory modernization.²⁹ This collaborative approach is crucial to simplifying processes, reducing red tape, and modernizing the regulatory environment for increased efficiency and competitiveness.
- Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador stand out as noteworthy examples of jurisdictions focusing on **digitization to alleviate red tape challenges**. Quebec's comprehensive digitization strategy, as highlighted in the recent budget speech, and Newfoundland and Labrador's ambitious targets outlined in the Minister for Digital Services' mandate letter, underscore how a dedicated focus on digitization can reduce red tape in government processes.

²⁷ Government of Ontario. *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020, S.O. 2020, c.18, Sched 11*. Retrieved: November 29, 2023. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/20m18>.

²⁸ Government of New Brunswick. *Connect. Grow. Prosper. 2022–2027 Strategic Plan*. Retrieved: November 29, 2023. https://onbcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ONB_StratPlan_EN.pdf.

²⁹ Government of Canada. *External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness: About the Committee*. Retrieved: November 29, 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/laws/developing-improving-federal-regulations/modernizing-regulations/external-advisory-committee-regulatory-competitiveness.html>.

Appendix A: Regulatory Accountability — Scorecards and Summary of Jurisdictional Findings

Jurisdictional Scorecards

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score	5	9	10	10	10	8	8	6	10	8	0
Existence of an aggregate regulatory measure of the burden on business and individuals/or a commitment to measure Yes (5 points) / Some (3 points) / No (0 points)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	Some (3)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	No (0)
Regulatory requirement count (for business and/or individuals) includes all sources from (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, and (iii) associated policies and forms Yes (3 points) / Some (1 point) / No (0 points)	Some (1)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Some (1)	Yes (3)	Some (1)	No (0)
Regulatory requirement count (for business and/or individuals) includes all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities Yes (2 points) / Some (1 point) / No (0 points)	Some (1)	Some (1)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)

Source: 2023 data.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score	7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	7	2
Accessible annual public updates that include the overall regulatory burden Yes (5 points) / Some (2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Some (2)	No (0)
Legislation in place that requires public reporting of the regulatory burden Yes (5 points) / Some (2 points) / No (0 points)	Some (2)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Some (2)

Source: 2023 data.

Regulatory budget

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score	7	9	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	7	5
Commitment to regulatory budgeting Yes (5 points) / Some (2 points) / No (0 points)	Some (2)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Some (2)	No (0)
Constraints in place to manage regulatory costs (e.g., 1 for 1 rule, reduction/maintenance targets) Yes (3 points) / Some (1) / No (0 points)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)
Legislation in place that requires governments to adhere to constraints (e.g., 1 for 1 rule, reduction/maintenance targets) Yes (2 points) / Some (1) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	Some (1)	Yes (2)	Some (1)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)

Source: 2023 data.

Accessibility of regulatory documents

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score¹	7.5	7.5	5.5	3	5	5	7²	5	5	3	5
Legislation documents available in open format Yes (3 points) / Some (1-2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Some (2)	Some (1)	Some (2)	Some (2)	Yes (3)	Some (2)	Some (2)	Some (1)	Some (2)
Regulation documents available in open format Yes (3 points) / Some (1-2) / No (0 points)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Some (2)	Some (1)	Some (2)	Some (2)	Yes (3)	Some (2)	Some (2)	Some (1)	Some (2)
Policies and forms available in open format Yes (3 points) / Some (1-2) / No (0 points)	Some (1.5)	Some (1.5)	Some (1.5)	Some (1)	Some (1)	Some (1.5)	Some (1)	Some (1.5)	Some (1)	Some (1)	Some (1)

Source: 2023 data.

Notes:

1. The following point system was applied: Three points are given for each type of regulatory document that is available in open data format—including (i) legislation, (ii) regulation, (iii) policies and forms. If all three types of regulatory documents are available in open data format, then a score of 10 is given. When regulatory documents are only available in online format or PDF format, a partial score is given: 2 points for online format, and 1 point for PDF format. In some instances, there was a combination of online format and PDF format for which a score of 1.5 was given.

2. Quebec offers XML files for legislation and regulation upon request to [Les Publications du Québec](https://www.quebec.ca/publications) and after acceptance of terms and conditions.

Summary of jurisdictional findings on accountability

British Columbia

Overall Grade: 8.9/10

In 2001, the province began to measure and report the total number of regulatory requirements imposed on businesses and individuals. The baseline count was initially 382,129 requirements which was later revised to 330,812 to eliminate some double counting.¹ The government committed to reduce the regulatory requirements by one third in three years (by 2004). To achieve this goal, the province introduced a regulatory reform policy requiring two regulatory requirements be eliminated for each one introduced. By 2004, the province had surpassed its reduction target, achieving close to a 40% reduction in regulatory requirements. Its “two-for-one” policy was then replaced with a “one-for-one” policy. A commitment was made to maintain the total number of regulatory requirements (i.e., net zero increase commitment) beyond the baseline count of 197,242. The Net Zero Increase commitment (NZI) has been extended several times and is currently in place until 2024.²

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden

Score: 9/10

The BC government regulatory requirement count reflects the overall number of requirements for people, business, and government included in the province’s statutes, regulations, and associated policies and forms.² As of March 31, 2023, the regulatory requirements count was 170,353 — 14% below the established 2004 baseline (197,242).² The count excludes certain agencies and delegated authorities (e.g., waste management rules) and the province loses one point on this indicator.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

Score: 10/10

Data on the number of regulatory requirements are available on the provincial government website and are reported publicly every year, as per legislation.^{3,4}

Regulatory budget

Score: 9/10

In terms of a regulatory budget, the province’s commitment to keep regulations at or below the 2004 baseline is in place until 2024.⁵ The BC government maintains a “one-for-one” policy requiring government to remove one equivalent regulation for every new one introduced.⁶ The province loses a point as the regulatory budget is not legislated.

Accessibility of regulatory documents

Score: 7.5/10

British Columbia provides its legislation and regulation as open, machine-readable data.⁶ Policies and forms are provided on various department pages in a combination of downloadable/PDF format and online format.

Sources:

1. Jones, Laura. *Lessons from the British Columbia Model of Regulatory Reform*. Mercatus Research, Mercatus Center at George Mason University. 2018. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www.mercatus.org/publications/regulation/lessons-british-columbia-model-regulatory-reform>.
2. Government of British Columbia. *Better Regulations for British Columbians: Annual Report 2022/2023*. Retrieved: September 26, 2023. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/better-regulations-for-british-columbians-22-23-annual-report-final.pdf>.
3. Government of British Columbia website. *Regulatory Reform*. Retrieved: September 26, 2023. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/resources>.
4. Government of British Columbia. *Regulatory Reporting Act*. BC Laws. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/lc/statreg/11028_01.
5. Government of British Columbia. *Better Regulations for British Columbians: Annual Report of 2021/2022*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/better-regulations-2021-22-annual-report.pdf>.
6. Government of British Columbia. *Regulatory Reform Policy*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/regulatory_reform_policy.pdf.
7. Government of British Columbia. *BC Laws*. Retrieved: September 6, 2023. <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca>.

Alberta**Overall Grade: 8.9/10**

Alberta completed its first baseline count in 2020 and found 666,513 regulatory requirements as of May 2019.¹ The province has an overall reduction target of 33% in 2022-23.¹ Between May 2020 and March 2022, the Alberta government achieved a net reduction of 24.2% against its baseline.¹

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

As of the end of the fiscal year 2021-2022, Alberta's count of regulatory requirements stands at 540,440 — a reduction of 24.2% from its baseline count of 666,513 regulatory requirements.¹ The government's count includes the regulatory burden on both individuals and businesses found in legislation, regulation, policy, and forms. Additionally, the count includes all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities. Alberta scores full points for this indicator.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

The Alberta government legislates the requirement to publicly and annually report on the regulatory and red tape burden in the province.² The report tracks and reports on regulatory burden measures and can be easily found on the Government of Alberta's *Cutting Red Tape* webpage.³

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

The Alberta government made a commitment to reduce its regulatory burden by one third by its 2022-23 fiscal year.¹ Further, once this goal is achieved, the province is committed to moving ahead with a "one-in/one-out" rule requiring legislators to identify at least one offsetting regulatory requirement for every new requirement created.⁴

Accessibility of regulatory documents**Score: 5.5/10**

Alberta provides its legislation and regulation in an online data format.⁵ Policies and forms are provided on various department pages in a combination of downloadable/PDF format and online format.

Sources:

1. Government of Alberta. *Red Tape Reduction annual report 2021-2022*. Retrieved: September 26, 2023. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ecd877d0-79f9-4379-9bc9-b35a9ad50522/resource/93d9d3d3-5d98-45db-baed-5f199cbce459/download/sartr-red-tape-reduction-annual-report-2021-2022.pdf>
2. Government of Alberta. *Red Tape Reduction Act*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/r08p2>.
3. Government of Alberta website. *Cutting Red Tape*. Retrieved: December 1, 2022. <https://www.alberta.ca/cut-red-tape.aspx>.
4. Government of Alberta. *Annual Report Red Tape Reduction 2019-2020*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/red-tape-reduction-annual-report>.
5. Government of Alberta. *Alberta King's Printer*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx>.

Saskatchewan**Overall Grade: 8/10**

In 2017-18, Saskatchewan began measuring the regulatory burden on businesses and individuals — this baseline measure stood at 654 regulations containing over 230,000 regulatory requirements.¹ In 2017-18, Saskatchewan became the first province to implement the mandatory use of the Direct Cost Estimator (DCE) for all regulatory decision items for ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations. This tool provides the ability to measure the net impact that changes to regulations have on impacted stakeholders and government. The net savings for regulatory and policy changes made during 2022-23 totalled \$4 million.²

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

Saskatchewan's regulatory count includes the overall regulatory requirements on people and business, including related programs, policies, guidelines, and forms from the regulatory framework of its ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations.¹ In 2021-22, the province estimated it had 230,647 mandatory compliance requirements.³

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

As required by legislation, each year the *Regulatory Modernization Annual Progress Report* is tabled and publicly reported.⁴ The province earns full points for this indicator.

Regulatory budget**Score: 9/10**

As part of its 10-year plan to grow a stronger economy by 2030, the province is committed to save businesses \$10 to \$20 million annually.⁵ To achieve this goal, all ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations must use the Direct Cost Estimator. However, as there is no legislation in place to ensure government adheres to their constraints (for example, the use of the estimator), the government loses one mark for this indicator.

Accessibility of regulatory documents**Score: 3/10**

Saskatchewan provides its legislation, regulations, policies, and forms in downloadable/PDF format.⁶ The province is working closely with BizPal to upgrade its regulatory documents to open, machine-readable format (XML) to work for the Service for Regulators program.

Sources:

1. Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2017-18*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/90767>.
2. Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2022-23*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/121673>.
3. Government of Saskatchewan. *Help Cut Red Tape*. Retrieved: August 11, 2023. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/help-cut-red-tape>.
4. Government of Saskatchewan. *The Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/68641>.
5. Government of Saskatchewan. *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/plan-for-growth>.
6. Government of Saskatchewan. *Freelaw*. Retrieved: August 11, 2023. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/freelaw>.

Manitoba**Overall Grade: 8.8/10**

Starting in 2016, the Manitoba government embarked upon a program to promote regulatory accountability by tracking regulatory requirements and the costs they impose on businesses and individuals. At that time, the province's baseline count stood at 939,827.¹ Manitoba had reduced its regulatory requirements by 11.4% (or 106,753 regulatory requirements) as of March 31, 2023. Manitoba's measure is the most comprehensive in North America. Given the recent change in government in Manitoba, we encourage new leadership to continue to prioritize red tape reduction and keep Manitoba's regulatory accountability measures in place.

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

The Manitoba government has established a comprehensive regulatory measure by counting all regulatory requirements on individuals and business and costing the relative burden of new regulatory requirements across every government entity (e.g., relative burden includes administrative burden and other costs such as financial, economic, environmental, and social costs).¹ Manitoba earns full points for this indicator. In 2022-2023, the total number of regulatory requirements across departments and government agencies was 833,074.¹

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

Each year, the Manitoba government counts and publicly reports the regulatory requirements, as required by legislation.² The province earns full points for this indicator.

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

On July 1, 2019, Manitoba became the first province to legislate a "2-for-1" rule requiring government to remove two regulations for every one new regulation introduced. Beginning April 1, 2021, the "2-for-1" rule became a "one-for-one" rule.² The Manitoba government earns full points for this indicator.

Accessibility of regulatory documents**Score: 5/10**

Manitoba provides its legislation and regulation in an online format.³ Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Government of Manitoba. *2022-2023 Regulatory Accountability Report*. Retrieved: October 2, 2023. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/reducedredtape/index.html>.
2. The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. *The Regulatory Accountability Act and Amendments to The Statutes and Regulations Act*. Retrieved: October 2, 2023. <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-2/b022e.php>.
3. Government of Manitoba. *Manitoba Laws*. Retrieved: December 4, 2023. <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/index.php>.

Ontario**Overall Grade: 8.4/10**

Ontario's current approach to measuring the regulatory burden on businesses began in 2018, with a baseline count of 250,809 regulatory compliance requirements on businesses.¹ Initiatives to reduce the regulatory burden have led to a 6% decrease and the regulatory compliance requirement count on businesses currently stands at 235,822 impacting businesses (between June 29, 2018, and June 30, 2023).¹ The province's actions have resulted in \$819 million in net annual regulatory compliance cost savings to businesses, not-for-profits, municipalities, universities and colleges, school boards, and hospitals since June 29, 2018.¹

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden**Score: 8/10**

Ontario's regulatory count includes requirements on business from all government ministries, agencies, boards, commissions, and delegated administrative authorities found in all legislation, regulations, policies, and forms.² This count stands at 250,809 in 2023.¹ The government loses points for this indicator as its regulatory measure only includes the regulatory burden on businesses, not citizens.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

As prescribed by legislation, the Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction is required to publicly make available an annual report on actions taken to reduce the regulatory burden and future reduction plans.³ The report is published on the Government of Ontario's website and includes an update for the regulatory compliance requirement count on businesses for 2023. Given these actions, the government receives a score of 10 for this indicator.

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

The Ontario government is required by legislation to offset 125% of direct compliance costs (e.g., for every dollar of new or existing increasing direct compliance costs on business, \$1.25 of old and unnecessary direct compliance costs must be removed) within 24 months.³ Direct compliance costs include administrative costs, fees, upfront capital costs, upfront operating costs, and ongoing operating costs. As such, the Ontario government earns full marks for this indicator.

Accessibility of regulatory documents**Score: 5.5/10**

Ontario provides its legislation and regulation in an online format.⁵ Policies and forms are provided in a mix of online and downloadable/PDF format.⁶

Sources:

1. Government of Ontario. *2023 Burden Reduction Report: Delivering better services and a stronger economy*. Retrieved: October 11, 2023. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2023-burden-reduction-report-delivering-better-services-and-stronger-economy>.
2. Government of Ontario. *2020 Burden Reduction Report: helping business recover, rebuild and prosper*. Retrieved: October 11, 2023. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2020-burden-reduction-report-helping-business-recover-rebuild-and-prosper>.
3. Legislative Assembly of Ontario. *Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020. (Schedule 11, Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020)*. Retrieved: October 11, 2023. <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-197>.
4. Government of Ontario. *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020*. Retrieved: October 11, 2023. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200555>.
5. Government of Ontario. *E-Laws*. Retrieved: December 4, 2023. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>.
6. Government of Ontario. *Central Forms Repository*. Retrieved: October 11, 2023. <https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/dataset/>.

Quebec**Overall Grade: 8.8/10**

In 2004, the Quebec government started measuring the administrative burden costs on businesses by using a formula derived from the *Standard Cost Model* — an accounting method used in many European countries to calculate the cost of the administrative burden on business. Administrative burden is limited to estimating compliance from paperwork and does not include other aspects of regulatory compliance. The first estimate of the administrative cost on businesses in Quebec was \$1.4 billion annually in 2004.¹ At the time, the province also determined that a total of 672 administrative obligations existed for businesses, and that the volume of obligations totalled 35.5 million. The government's regulatory reduction efforts have led to a reduction in this cost by 31% by 2020, or \$432 million annually.¹

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden Score: 8/10	<p>The government focuses on administrative procedures for business. These include obligations imposed by laws, regulations, or a directive to obtain a permit or other authorization, register, produce a report, or keep a record. All government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities are included.¹ In 2020, the total number of administrative procedures on businesses was 765, the volume of procedures (i.e., number of times administrative procedures must be submitted in a given period by businesses in Quebec) was 32.6 million, and the administrative cost on business was \$963 million.¹ CFIB looks forward to an updated estimate from Quebec as to keep its commitment to measure annually. The government loses points for this indicator as its regulatory measure does not include the burden on individuals.</p>
Public reporting of the regulatory burden Score: 10/10	<p>Quebec's regulatory policy (The Governmental Policy and Rules Regarding the Streamlining of Legislative and Regulatory Standards - for smart regulations) makes it mandatory for government to publicly measure and report on the regulatory burden annually.² The regulatory policy related to tracking and reporting is not legislated, however, it does serve as a strong enough requirement that full marks are earned.</p>
Regulatory budget Score: 10/10	<p>The government's action plan for 2020-2025 aims to reduce the number of administrative procedures by 10%, the total volume of procedures by 15%, and the overall cost by 20%, resulting in annual savings of approximately \$200 million.¹</p> <p>Further to these targets, the Quebec government also includes a one-for-one rule policy requiring ministries and agencies proposing a new administrative regulation to remove an equivalent regulation.² While the one-for-one policy is not legislated, government does earn full marks as the policy serves as a strong enough requirement.</p>
Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 7/10	<p>Quebec provides its legislation and regulation as online data.³ While the government does not explicitly provide legislation and regulation in an open machine-readable format, they are available upon request, earning Quebec full points for those two types of regulatory documents. Policies and forms are only available in PDF format.</p>

Sources:

1. Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation Québec. Rapport sur la réglementation intelligente et les mesures gouvernementales d'allègement réglementaire et administratif. Édition 2022. Retrieved: December 4, 2023. https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/contenu/publications/administratives/allegement/rapport_allegement_2022.pdf.
2. Gouvernement du Québec. Politique gouvernementale sur l'allègement réglementaire et administratif - pour une réglementation intelligente. Retrieved: December 4, 2023. https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/contenu/publications/administratives/allegement/politique_gouv_allegement.pdf.
3. Gouvernement du Québec. *LégisQuébec*. Retrieved: December 4, 2023. <https://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/>.

New Brunswick**Overall Grade: 7.9/10**

In 2023, the New Brunswick government (through Opportunities New Brunswick) has developed guidelines for a comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden and report on progress made to reduce it. They are currently in the process of implementing this framework and have completed measuring around 60% of the burden on business within the province's legislation and regulation. The province also continues to use the Business Impact Assessment tool to help reduce unnecessary costs and improve the effectiveness of new regulations, as well as a business navigation service that provides support and guidance to existing businesses struggling with start-up and red tape issues.

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden**Score: 6/10**

The New Brunswick government has committed to measure the regulatory burden (legislation and regulation) on businesses. Points are deducted in this category due to the measure not including the impact on individuals and not counting the impact of policies and forms.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

The New Brunswick *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act* legislates that a public report be made available annually. It must include the progress made to improve regulation and reduce burden, as well as the goals and objectives for the coming year.¹ Even though the latest annual report does not include a comprehensive baseline measure or track the regulatory burden annually,² the government has committed to measure the regulatory burden and are in the process of doing so, awarding New Brunswick full marks in this indicator.

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

Based on the Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation, New Brunswick uses a "cost-for-cost" rule which requires the cost of additional regulations be offset by an equal regulatory cost reduction.³ Further to this rule, the government launched an initiative to reduce the regulatory burden experienced by businesses by \$16.5 million by March 2024.² Using a Business Impact Assessment Tool for estimating the costs of regulatory proposals, the government reported that its efforts have resulted in a \$36 million net reduction being realized over the course of 2022-23.² New Brunswick earns full marks for this indicator.

Accessibility of regulatory documents**Score: 5.5/10**

New Brunswick provides its legislation and regulation as online data.⁴ Some policies and forms are provided in online structured format while others are only available in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Government of New Brunswick. *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www.canlii.org/en/nb/laws/stat/rsnb-2016-c-11/latest/rsnb-2016-c-11.html>.
2. Government of New Brunswick. *Agile Business Ensuring Regulatory Competitiveness Annual Report 2022-2023*. Retrieved: September 15, 2023. https://onbcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ONB_RegulatoryBurden_AnnualReport23_EN.pdf.
3. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*. Retrieved: December 5, 2023. <https://support.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/docs/premiers-charter-governing-principles-for-regulation.pdf>.
4. Government of New Brunswick. *Justice and Public Safety*. Retrieved: September 14, 2023. https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public-safety/attorney-general/content/acts_regulations.html.

Nova Scotia**Overall Grade: 8.8/10**

In 2015, the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness was established to, among other things, quantify and reduce the avoidable burden of regulation on Nova Scotia businesses.¹ In 2017, government began to set regulatory reduction targets, and in 2019, the government completed a baseline count of regulatory compliance requirements imposed on individuals, business, non-profits, and other organizations — the baseline count was estimated at 157,000.¹

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

The government provides a count of regulatory compliance requirements in all Nova Scotia Government Acts, Regulations, and related administrative policy and forms.¹ In its 2022 annual report, the government estimated that there are 177,948 compliance requirements imposed on individuals, business, non-profits, and other organizations.²

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 10/10**

As required by legislation, government publishes an annual report detailing the progress made to improve regulation and reduce regulatory burden.³

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

Based on The Charter of Governing Principles on Regulation, Nova Scotia uses a “cost-for-cost” rule which requires the cost of additional regulations be offset by an equal regulatory cost reduction. Such legislated policy earns Nova Scotia full points for this indicator.⁴ While not part of the grading, it should be noted that the government has implemented a Business Impact Assessment tool to estimate the dollar costs or savings of individual legislative or regulatory proposals affecting business.⁵

Accessibility of regulatory documents**Score: 5/10**

Nova Scotia provides its legislation⁶ and regulation⁷ as online data. Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Government of Nova Scotia. The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Three Year Review*.
2. Government of Nova Scotia. *Annual Report 2022: Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness*. Retrieved: September 12, 2023. <https://beta.novascotia.ca/documents/office-regulatory-affairs-and-service-effectiveness-annual-report-2022>.
3. Nova Scotia Legislature. *Bill No. 143, Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/62nd_2nd/1st_read/b143.htm.
4. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*.
5. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Regulating for Recovery: Regulatory Burden Reduction Target Report (Achievement as of December 31, 2020)*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://novascotia.ca/regulatoryopportunity/documents/Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf>.
6. Government of Nova Scotia. Statutes. Retrieved: August 29, 2023. <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/statutes/2023>.
7. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Registrar of Regulations. Retrieved: August 29, 2023. <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/index.htm>.

Prince Edward Island**Overall Grade: 6.3/10**

In 2020, the Prince Edward Island (PEI) government completed its first count of the regulatory obligations on businesses and individuals as part of Project ART (Addressing Red Tape). The baseline count of regulatory requirements was estimated at 30,023.

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden Score: 8/10	<p>The regulatory count includes requirements on business and individuals from all government ministries, boards, commissions, and delegated administrative authorities found in all legislation and regulations.¹ The province, however, loses points as the count does not include policies and forms. The overall count of regulatory requirements is estimated at 30,023 in 2020 — publicized in 2021.¹ PEI has indicated they will release their next estimate of the regulatory count in 2025.</p>
Public reporting of the regulatory burden Score: 7/10	<p>The province's <i>Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act</i> requires government to publicly report on the progress made to improve regulation and reduce regulatory burden.² However, there has not been a report since 2016-17.³ Points are lost for the absence of annual reporting.</p>
Regulatory budget Score: 7/10	<p>The government has legislated a “one-for-one” policy as part of the Premiers’ Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation in Atlantic Canada.⁴ This policy requires the cost of additional regulations be offset by a regulatory reduction of equal cost. The lack of annual reporting makes it difficult to assess whether government is following through on this legislation. As such, the government earns partial points for its commitment to regulatory budgeting.</p>
Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 3/10	<p>Prince Edward Island provides its legislation, regulations, policies, and forms in downloadable/PDF format.⁵</p>

Sources:

1. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Project ART Regulatory Count*. Retrieved: August 23, 2023. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/economic-growth-tourism-and-culture/project-art-regulatory-count>.
2. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/R-11-1%20Regulatory%20Accountability%20And%20Reporting%20Act.pdf>.
3. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Annual Report Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness 2015-16*. Retrieved: September 26, 2023. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/publication/annual-report-joint-office-regulatory-affairs-and-service-effectiveness>.
4. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. Premiers’ Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation.
5. Government of Prince Edward Island. Statutes and Regulations. Retrieved: September 26, 2023. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/legislation/all/all/a>.

Newfoundland and Labrador**Overall Grade: 3/10**

In 2005, the province appointed a Red Tape Reduction Task Force to identify unnecessary red tape and recommend improvements to the regulatory environment for business and individuals. It determined a baseline count for regulatory requirements of 312,517.¹ However, the regulatory burden was last publicly reported in 2013-14. At that time, around 1,300 regulatory requirements had been eliminated from the province's overall regulatory count, representing a reduction of 0.6%.² Since then, the regulatory burden in Newfoundland and Labrador has not been reported.

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden**Score: 0/10**

The regulatory requirement count was last publicly reported in 2014.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 2/10**

The *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*, proclaimed in January 2018, requires the government to publicly report on its work to reduce red tape.³ However, as no comprehensive measure of the total regulatory burden has been made public since 2013-14, points are lost for not reporting the overall burden on an annual basis.

Regulatory budget**Score: 5/10**

The government has legislated a “one-for-one” policy as part of the Premiers’ Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation in Atlantic Canada.⁴ This policy requires the cost of additional regulations be offset by a regulatory reduction of equal cost. While it is commendable government includes these constraints in their legislation, we received indication from Newfoundland and Labrador that they are not currently utilizing the one-for-one rule. As such, the government loses points for its commitment to regulatory budgeting based on the lack of use.

Accessibility of regulatory documents**Score: 5/10**

Newfoundland and Labrador provides its legislation and regulation as online data.⁵ Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. *Report of the Red Tape Reduction Task Force to the Minister of the Department of Business*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www.gov.nl.ca/regulatoryreform/taskforcereport.pdf>.
2. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. *Regulatory Reform Annual Report 2013-14*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. https://www.gov.nl.ca/regulatoryreform/reg_reform_annual_report.html.
3. House of Assembly Newfoundland and Labrador. *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act. Assented to December 14, 2016*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/r10-02.htm#10>.
4. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers’ Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*.
5. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. *Office of Legislative Counsel*. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. <https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/default.htm>.

Federal Government

Overall Grade: 6.6/10

In 2012-13, the federal government introduced a one-in-one-out policy for business regulations requiring that when a new or amended regulation increases the administrative burden on businesses, the cost of this burden must be offset with a corresponding decrease.¹ In 2015, Canada legislated its one-for-one rule through its *Red Tape Reduction Act*.² Further, in 2014, a baseline count of federal requirements on businesses was developed and totalled 129,860.¹ In 2018, government formed the External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness, with a 2-year term, that was renewed in 2021, to bring business leaders, academics, and consumer representatives together to help ministers and regulators modernize Canada's regulatory system. The committee recommended that measurement be a focus of the government's modernization plan.

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden Score: 5/10	<p>In 2014, the federal government established a baseline count (Administrative Burden Baseline — ABB) of federal requirements in the regulations and related forms from departments and agencies that impose administrative burden on businesses.¹ As of June 30, 2021, the total number of administrative requirements from thirty-nine regulators was 148,770 — a decrease of 1,799 (or 1.23%) from the 2021 count of 150,569.¹</p> <p>Points are lost as the ABB does not capture the burden generated by all federal government departments and agencies, nor does it include the burden from legislation or policies on business. Further, this regulatory measure is not comprehensive as it does not include the regulatory burden on individuals.</p>
Public reporting of the regulatory burden Score: 7/10	<p>As part of the <i>Red Tape Reduction Act</i>, the President of the Treasury Board must prepare and make public a report on the one-for-one requirement.³ The sixth annual report for 2021/22 includes savings from the one-for-one and an assessment of details on the overall count. Although reporting on one-for-one is legislated, reporting on the overall count or details on the progress made to improve regulation and reduce burden is not, thus it loses some points on this indicator.</p>
Regulatory budget Score: 7/10	<p>The federal government uses a one-in-one-out rule, legislated by the <i>Red Tape Reduction Act</i>.³ When a new or amended regulation increases the administrative costs on business, government must reduce the burden in two ways. First, regulators are required to offset an equal amount of administrative cost. Second, regulators are required to remove at least one existing regulation. Since the implementation of this rule in 2012-13, the annual net burden has been reduced by approximately \$55.8 million with a total net reduction of 216 regulatory titles.¹ In 2022, the government finalized its review of the <i>Red Tape Reduction Act</i> through the application of the one-for-one rule.⁴ The review concluded that the Act is working as intended to control the administrative burden from regulation on businesses. The federal government, however, loses points in this indicator as the one-for-one rule does not apply to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The CRA is responsible for key tasks such as administering GST and HST returns, income tax administration, and payroll tax collection. These functions are frequently cited by business owners as their top federal regulatory burdens.</p>
Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 7.5/10	<p>The federal government provides its legislation and regulation as in open, machine-readable format.⁵ Policies and forms are provided on various department pages in a combination of downloadable/PDF format and online format.</p>

Sources:

1. Government of Canada. *Annual Report for the 2022 to 2023 Fiscal Year: Federal Regulatory Management Initiatives*. Retrieved: January 3, 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/corporate/reports/annual-report-2022-2023-fiscal-year-federal-regulatory-management-initiatives.html#toc10>
2. Government of Canada. *One-for-One Rule*. Retrieved: January 3, 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/laws/developing-improving-federal-regulations/requirements-developing-managing-reviewing-regulations/one-for-one-rule.html>
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Appendix B: Summary of Regulatory Accountability Grades, 2011 to 2024*

Jurisdiction	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BC	B+	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A-	A-	A	A (9.3)	A- (8.9)	A- (8.9)
AB	F	D	D+	D	D	NA	F	F	F	B-	A	A (10.0)	A- (8.9)	A- (8.9)
SK	C+	B-	C	B	B	B	B	A-	A	A	A	A (9.7)	B (8.0)	B (8.0)
MB	F	F	D-	D-	D	F	D+	A	A	A	A	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)	A- (8.8)
ON	C-	B-	B	B	B+	B+	B-	C+	A-	A-	A	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)	B+ (8.4)
QC	C+	B-	B	B+	B+	B+	A	A	NA	A	A	A (9.3)	A- (8.8)	A- (8.8)
NB	C-	C+	B-	B	NA	C-	C+	C-	NA	B+	C-	F (4.7)	F (4.3)	B (7.9)
NS	B	D	D	C-	D-	C+	B	A-	A	A	A	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)	A- (8.8)
PEI	D	F	D-	D+	D+	C-	C+	C-	D	NA	A	B+ (8.0)	C- (6.3)	C- (6.3)
NL	B	B	B	C+	C	NA	C	C-	D	D	F	F (2.3)	F (3.0)	F (3.0)
Federal government	C+	B-	B+	B+	B+	NA	B	B-	B+	B+	B	C+ (7.3)	C (6.9)	C (6.6)

*While overall report card grades are not comparable as we have added new sections over time, the grades for accountability are comparable. This section has not changed much since report cards were first issued in 2011.

Appendix C: Red Tape Suggestion Boxes for Individuals/Businesses; and Advisory Services for Navigating Business Challenges

BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC seeks feedback on their Service BC webpage. An e-mail address dedicated to red tape inquiries: BetterRegulations@gov.bc.ca Advisory services: Small Business BC
AB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta seeks feedback on their official government webpage. An e-mail address dedicated to red tape inquiries: CutRedTape@gov.ab.ca Advisory services: Business Link Alberta
SK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online portal for red tape submissions: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/help-cut-red-tape Advisory services: SK Startup Institute
MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online portal for red tape submissions: https://www.gov.mb.ca/reduceredtape/submissions.html Advisory services: AccessManitoba
ON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario seeks feedback on their official government webpage. Online portal for red tape submissions: https://www.ontario.ca/page/cutting-red-tape Advisory services: Small Business Enterprise Centres
QC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online portal for red tape submissions (French only; for businesses only): https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/objectifs/informer/allegement-reglementaire-et-administratif/boite-a-suggestions-en-matiere-dallegement-reglementaire-et-administratif/ Advisory services: Entreprises Québec
NB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A designated place to provide feedback on red tape irritants is not provided, however, submissions can be made through the Business Navigator Program (for businesses only) Advisory services are provided through a Business Navigator Program
NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nova Scotia seeks feedback on their official government webpage. Online portal for red tape submissions: https://beta.novascotia.ca/share-feedback-red-tape Advisory services are provided through a Business Navigator Program
PEI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prince Edward Island seeks feedback on their official government webpage. Dedicated portal for red tape submissions (for businesses only) https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/red-tape-challenge-we-want-hear-island-business Advisory services are provided through a Business Navigator Program
NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newfoundland and Labrador seek feedback on their Service NL webpage. An e-mail address dedicated to red tape submissions: redtapereduction@gov.nl.ca Advisory service is not provided
FED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federal government does not provide a public feedback/complaint box. Advisory services: https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/innovation-canada/en/contact-us

Appendix D: Political Priority — Scorecards and Summary of Jurisdictional Findings

Jurisdictional Scorecards for indicator (i): Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score	8	2	10	4	NA	10	8	6	10	6	4
Red tape is included in mandate letter to the minister responsible to red tape reduction, regulatory modernization Yes (2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	No (0)	NA NA	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)
Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization was mentioned in the latest budget, budget speech, and/or economic update Yes (2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	No (0)	NA NA	Yes (2)	No (0)	No (0)	Yes (2)	No (0)	No (0)
Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization was mentioned in the latest election platform Yes (2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	NA NA	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)
Internal red tape team or task force/industry panels assigned to identify red tape burdens and solutions aimed at modernizing the regulatory framework Yes (2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	NA NA	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)
Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization was mentioned in the latest Throne Speech Yes (2 points) / No (0 points)	No (0)	No (0)	Yes (2)	No (0)	NA NA	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)

Manitoba receives a NA in 2024 as the province had a change in government in October 2023 and therefore, we cannot fairly assess the priorities of the new government at this time.

Source: 2023 data.

Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister ¹	
British Columbia Little evidence Score: 2/10	<p>British Columbia shows little evidence that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are clear priorities. The current BC government has not included red tape reduction in the mandate letter for the corresponding minister. Red tape reduction was also not mentioned in the latest budget/fiscal plan, the last election platform, or the latest Throne Speech. The province does have an internal red tape team/task force in charge of identifying and addressing regulatory irritants.</p>
Alberta Clear evidence Score: 10/10	<p>Red tape reduction is included as a key goal in the mandate letter of the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction. Additionally, red tape was mentioned in Alberta's latest budget, the government's last election platform, and the latest Throne Speech. Lastly, the red tape industry panels fulfill the last category, earning the province full marks in this area.</p>
Saskatchewan Little evidence Score: 4/10	<p>The current government does not post their mandate letters, forfeiting points in the first category. Red tape was also not mentioned in the latest budget or Throne Speech but was addressed in the last election platform. The Red Tape Reduction Committee (RTRC) acts as an internal red tape task force, bringing Saskatchewan's checked categories to two.</p>
Manitoba Clear evidence Score: 8/10	<p>Due to the recent change in government in Manitoba, the 2024 Red Tape Report Card highlights the actions of the previous government in this category. The previous government did not post their province's mandate letters, forfeiting points in the first category. However, red tape reduction was mentioned in their latest budget, election platform, and Throne Speech.</p>
Ontario Clear evidence Score: 10/10	<p>Although the Ontario government does not post their mandate letters, given that the province has a ministry specifically titled for Red Tape Reduction, it is implied that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are key components of the minister's mandate letter. For the same reason (having a full ministry just for red tape reduction), the province was awarded points for having an internal team dedicated to identifying and addressing red tape irritants.</p> <p>In addition, red tape reduction was mentioned in the province's latest budget, last election platform, and the latest Throne Speech.</p>
Quebec Clear evidence Score: 8/10	<p>Red Tape is addressed in the corresponding minister's decree in Quebec. While the province loses marks for red tape not being mentioned in the latest budget, it was addressed in the last election platform and in the latest Throne Speech with a big focus on digitization and streamlined processes. Additionally, the government has an external advisory committee on regulatory and administrative relief called the Le Comité-conseil sur l'allègement réglementaire et administratif.</p>
New Brunswick Some evidence Score: 6/10	<p>New Brunswick does not post mandate letters, forfeiting marks in this area. The government also did not address red tape in the latest budget but did mention it in its last election platform and Throne Speech. Finally, among other mandates, Opportunities New Brunswick is the government's agency in charge of addressing red tape irritants and regulatory modernization.</p>
Nova Scotia Clear evidence Score: 8/10	<p>The premier of Nova Scotia also serves as the Minister of Regulatory Affairs, whose mandate letter does include red tape. It is also mentioned in the province's latest budget and Throne Speech. Lastly, Nova Scotia has distinguished itself for the team's efforts at the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness to reduce the administrative burden for physicians,</p>

	fulfilling the requirement for an internal red tape team. Nonetheless, red tape reduction was not mentioned in the current government's election platform .
Prince Edward Island Some evidence Score: 6/10	Red Tape reduction was not mentioned in the mandate letter for the corresponding minister, losing points in this area. Red tape was not mentioned in the last budget, but was addressed in the government's latest election platform and Throne Speech . In addition, the team working for Project ART, a government-wide initiative of Prince Edward Island to streamline processes to increase efficiency and reduce red tape, is part of the Department of Economic Development, Innovation, and Trade.
Newfoundland and Labrador Little evidence Score: 4/10	While red tape is not explicitly mentioned in the mandate letter to the corresponding minister, it places a significant emphasis on "digitization" from which the government receives points. While points are lost for the absence of red tape being addressed in the latest budget and Throne Speech , the last election platform did include it. The Department of Digital Government and Service NL is in charge, among many other regulatory functions, of reducing barriers for citizens and businesses.
Federal government Some evidence Score: 8/10	Red tape is included in the mandate letter to the corresponding minister within the federal government. Their last Throne Speech did not address red tape reduction, but it was addressed in the last election platform and fall economic statement . Lastly, an external advisory committee exists to modernize the regulatory framework.

Note:**1. Scoring** — The following point system was applied:

- Total score is the sum of the scores for the five criteria assessed: Clear evidence: 8-10 points; Some evidence: 5-7 points; Little evidence: 0-4 points.

Criteria:

- Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization is included/mentioned in:
 - Mandate letter to the minister responsible for red tape reduction, regulatory modernization. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.
 - Latest budget, budget speech, and/or economic update. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.
 - Latest election platform. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.
 - Latest Throne Speech. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.
- Internal red tape team or task force/industry panels assigned to identify red tape burdens and solutions aimed at modernizing the regulatory framework. Yes = 2 points, No = 0 points.

Source: 2023 data.

Appendix E: Methodology

The 2024 *Red Tape Report Card* uses an index approach to measure and rank the regulatory performance of Canada's governments based on four priority areas of regulatory activity (or subindexes), which encompass 14 indicators. These indicators represent either a composite of multiple scores or a stand-alone value. These subindexes and their respective indicators are:

Regulatory accountability subindex (4 indicators)

1. Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden (*composite scores*)
2. Public reporting of the regulatory burden (*composite scores*)
3. Regulatory budget (*composite scores*)
4. Accessibility of regulatory documents (*composite scores*)

Regulatory burden subindex (6 indicators)

Minimizing the regulatory burden

1. Red tape suggestion box (*composite score*)
2. Advisory service for navigating business challenges (*stand-alone score*)
3. A proactive process/regular window for legislative changes to address red tape (*stand-alone score*)
4. Interprovincial/territorial cooperation score (*stand-alone score*)

Provincial regulatory restrictions

5. Total provincial regulatory restrictions (*stand-alone score*)
6. Total provincial regulatory restrictions per capita (*stand-alone score*)

Political priority subindex (2 indicators)

1. Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet (*stand-alone score*)
2. Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization (*stand-alone score*)

Physician burden bonus subindex (2 indicators)

1. Government working to measure the overall physician burden (*stand-alone score*)
2. Government working to reduce the overall physician burden (*stand-alone score*)

Report Card Grading Scale and Weighting

For each subindex, indicator scores are compiled into a single score and corresponding letter grade. Each subindex is scored on a scale of zero (worst) to ten (best), and the numeric value is converted to a letter grade using an academic style grading system with the following ranges:

A	9.0-10 (Excellent performance)	C+	7.1-7.4 (Satisfactory performance)
A-	8.7-8.9 (Excellent performance)	C	6.6-7.0 (Satisfactory performance)
B+	8.3-8.6 (Good performance)	C-	6.0-6.5 (Satisfactory performance)
B	7.8-8.2 (Good performance)	D	5.0-5.9 (Less than satisfactory performance)
B-	7.5-7.7 (Good performance)	F	0-4.9 (Unsatisfactory performance)

Using a weighting scheme, the three subindex scores are combined into a single score that allows for a ranking of provincial governments from best (highest score) to worst (lowest score). The weighting scheme is based according to how the three areas influence the ability to develop successful regulatory reform. In this regard, larger weighting is placed on regulatory accountability. This approach was taken because to effectively control and reduce red tape over the long term, it is imperative governments maintain a public measurement of the regulatory burden and

implement constraints on regulators. The physician burden bonus indicator is not given a grade. Its score is added to each government's final score but cannot take away from it. The different areas are assigned the following weights: regulatory accountability — 40%, regulatory burden — 40%, political priority — 20%, and physician burden — bonus 2%.

The data reflected in this report are based on information that was in effect as of January 5, 2024.

Regulatory Accountability Subindex

For the regulatory accountability subindex, we assigned a specific scoring system for each of the four indicators. Both the indicators and their respective scoring criteria were chosen on their relevance to ensure the proper success of regulatory reform initiatives and proper accountability (see Table C1). To achieve an overall score for this subindex, the total number of points earned is divided by the total number of points that could have been earned, using the following calculation: $(A1+A2+A3+A4)/40*10$.

Note, we attributed partial scores for some criteria based on either government's commitment to implement the appropriate approaches, or for approaches that met some aspects of criteria but failed others.

Table C1

Regulatory Accountability Scoring Criteria

A1. Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden	Total Potential Points = 10
Existence of an aggregate regulatory measure of the burden on business and individuals/or a commitment to measure ¹	Yes (5 points); Some (3 points); No (0 points)
Regulatory requirement count (for business and individuals) includes all sources from (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, and (iii) associated policies and forms	Yes (3 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
Regulatory requirement count (for business and individuals) includes all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities	Yes (2 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
A2. Public reporting of the regulatory burden	Total Potential Points = 10
Accessible annual public updates that include the overall regulatory burden	Yes (5 points); Some (2 points); No (0 points)
Legislation in place that requires public reporting of regulatory burden	Yes (5 points); Some (2 points); No (0 points)
A3. Regulatory budget	Total Potential Points = 10
Commitment to regulatory budgeting	Yes (5 points); Some (2 points); No (0 points)
Constraints in place to manage regulatory costs (e.g., 1 for 1 rule, reduction/maintenance targets)	Yes (3 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
Legislation in place that requires governments to adhere to constraints (e.g., 1 for 1 rule, reduction/maintenance targets)	Yes (2 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
A4. Accessibility of regulatory documents ²	Total Potential Points = 10
Regulatory government documents available in open data format, including (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, (iii) associated policies and forms	For each type of government document: Yes (3 points); Some (1-2 points); No (0 points)
Overall Subindex Score = $(A1+A2+A3+A4)/40*10$	

Notes:

- Some provinces show commitment to measure the regulatory burden on business only, these provinces are deducted 2 points for not maintaining a measure for individuals.
- The following point system was applied: Three points are given for each type of regulatory document that is available in an open, machine-readable format - including (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, (iii) associated policies and forms. If all three types of regulatory documents are available in open, machine-readable format, then a score of 10 is given. When regulatory documents are not available in a machine-readable format (i.e., an online format or PDF format), a partial score is given: 2 points for online

format, and 1 point for PDF format. In some instances, there was a combination of online format and PDF format for which a score of 1.5 was given. No points are given if regulatory documents are only made available in hard copy paper format.

Regulatory Burden Subindex

The regulatory burden subindex contains both scalar and binary indicators.

On each scalar indicator, the province with the best performance for an indicator (lowest or highest, depending on the indicator) receives the maximum score of 10, while the province with the worst performance receives a score of 0. All other scores are based on the scale formed by these two values.

*When an indicator receives a lower score for a higher value or a higher score for a lower value, the formula used is: $10 - ((x - \min) / (\max - \min)) * 10$*

Where x = the score to be calculated

Min and max are the minimum and maximum of the range of indicators.

Binary indicators typically have a value of either 0 or 10. We acknowledge that combining scalar and binary indicators with equal weight within a subindex may be problematic, because the extreme valuation of the binary indicator can significantly influence the results. However, the several binary indicators used are of such importance to small businesses that they warrant their valuation.

There are instances where the scoring of the indicator is represented by a range of values with extremes 0 and 10, or 0 and 5, as well as instances where intermediate values (partial scores) are used within the extremes.

Political Priority Subindex

Within this section, the scoring of the indicators is represented by a range of values with extremes 0 and 10, as well as intermediate values (partial scores) are used within the extremes.

2024 Changes in Methodology

The main changes in methodology between the 2024 and 2023 report cards are described below.

- **Political priority subindex**
 - The 2024 report card removes criteria for the *Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister* indicator
 - Criteria removed:
 - Reducing red tape is frequently raised by leaders in public (news conferences, speeches, social media posts).
 - Public promotion of the red tape online suggestion box.
 - Regulatory modernization/red tape reduction is used as a solution for government priorities.
 - Current government maintaining effective regulatory reforms from previous governments.
- **The physician burden bonus subindex** is new to the report card in 2024. Governments that earn points within it are awarded bonus points; governments that do not receive points for the bonus indicator are not penalized. Indicators used:
 - i. *Government is working to measure the overall physician administrative burden.*
Government is working to reduce the overall physician administrative burden.

