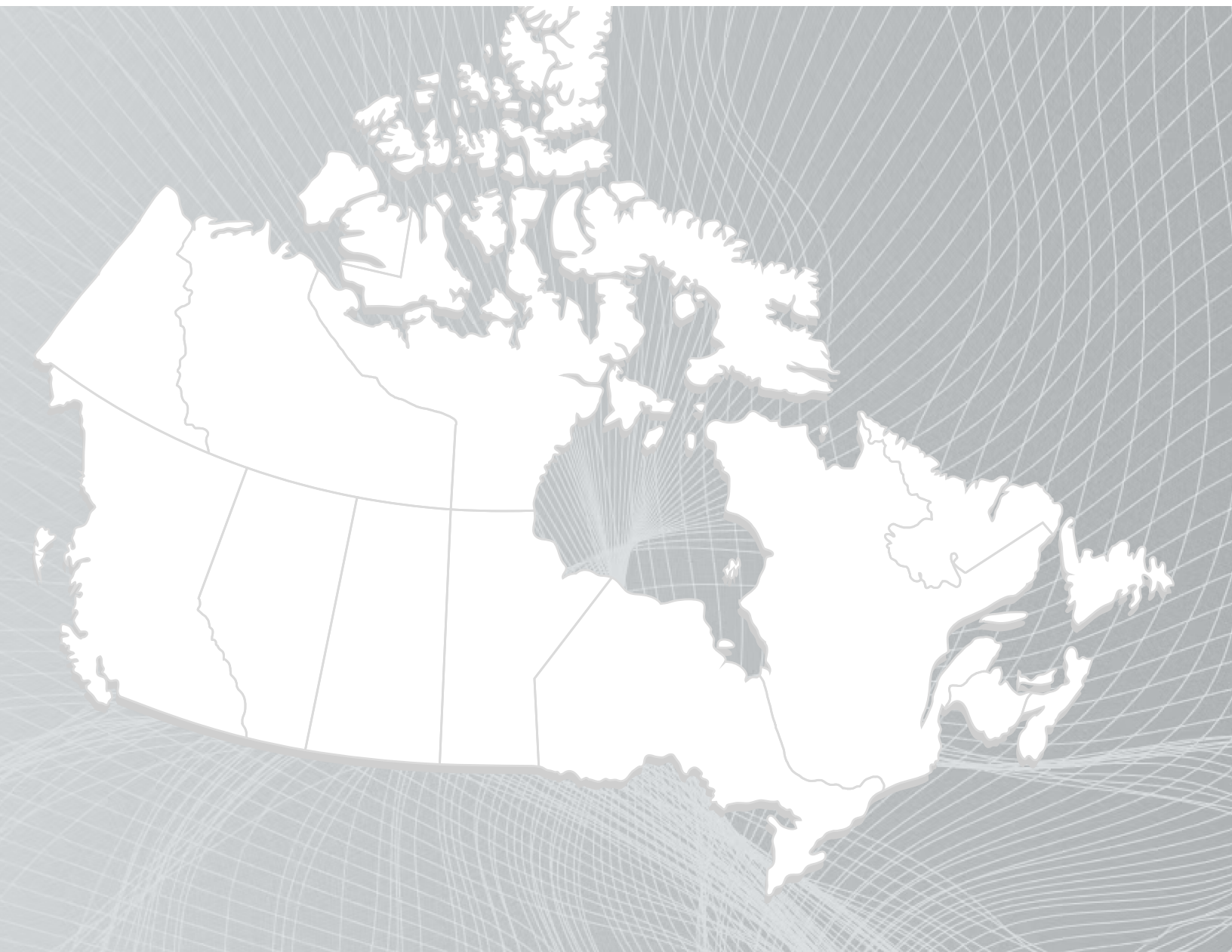




Red Tape Report Card



16th edition



Red Tape
Awareness Week[™]

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Introduction

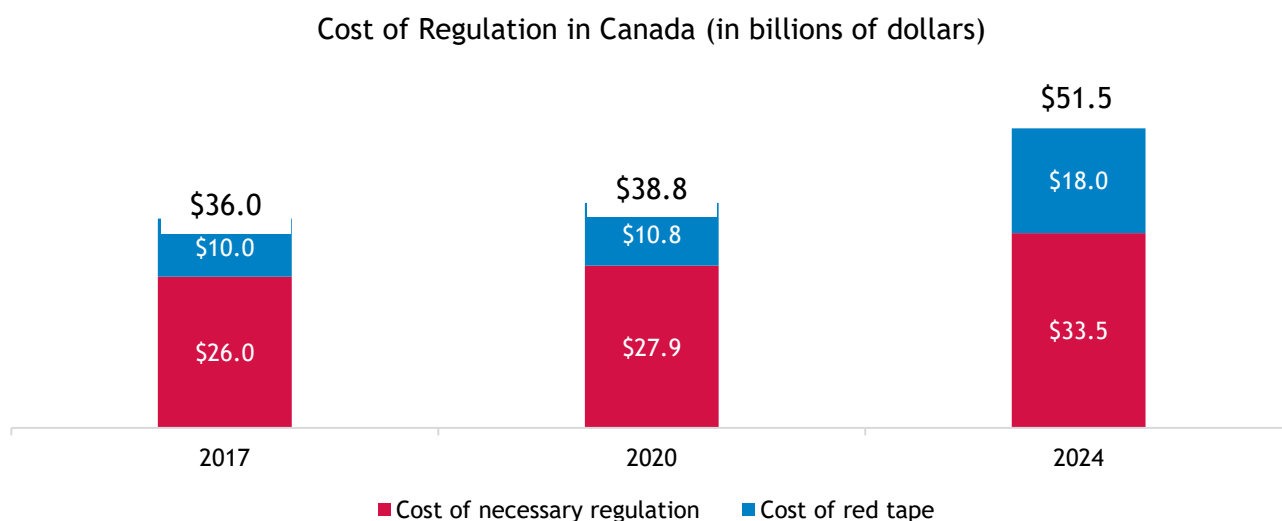
Since 2010, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) has graded government progress on reducing red tape and improving their regulatory landscape. This year, we are proud to release the 16th edition of the *Red Tape Report Card* to continue our efforts to make red tape reduction a priority in every Canadian jurisdiction.

Regulations are vital in protecting health, safety, consumers, and the environment while also ensuring fair competition and promoting societal welfare. However, excessive, outdated, or poorly designed rules turn into red tape—costly barriers that drain Canada’s businesses’ time, money, and entrepreneurial spirit. While many governments across Canada have made progress in reducing red tape over the past 16 years, high trade tensions in 2025 revealed an uncomfortable truth: Canada still has a long way to go in reducing excessive regulations that stunt growth, undermine productivity, and drive up costs.

According to CFIB research, as of 2024, the total cost of regulation for Canadian businesses reached \$51.5 billion annually, with \$17.9 billion—about 35%—attributed to red tape. Businesses spent an estimated 768 million hours on compliance, equivalent to nearly 394,000 full-time jobs. The smallest firms bear the greatest burden, paying up to five times more per employee than larger businesses. On average, business owners lost 32 working days to red tape—time that could otherwise be invested in serving customers or expanding operations.

Figure 1

The cost of regulation in Canada continues to grow¹



Sources: Calculations based on CFIB’s Regulation and Paperburden Surveys (conducted in 2017, n = 7,823; 2020, n = 4,630; and 2024, n = 2,230).

Even more concerning, the cost of regulation has grown steadily over the past decade, outpacing both inflation and economic growth (see Figure 1). Despite governments introducing accountability measures and pledging bold plans to reduce unnecessary rules, the overall burden continues to climb—making it harder for small businesses to compete, innovate, and recover from economic challenges. According to CFIB data, 68% of small businesses would not advise the next generation to run a business given the current regulatory burden.² In uncertain times, one thing governments can control is red tape. Every needless form, permit, or minute spent on hold wastes time and

¹ Bomal and Cruz. [Canada’s Red Tape Report, Seventh Edition](#). CFIB, 2025; Cruz et al. [Canada’s Red Tape Report, Sixth Edition](#). CFIB, 2021; and Wong. [The Cost of Government Regulation on Canadian Businesses](#). CFIB, 2018.

² Bomal and Cruz. [Canada’s Red Tape Report, Seventh Edition](#).

resources for businesses and Canadians. By simplifying rules and speeding up approvals, governments can lower costs, boost productivity and investment, and give Canadians more time for what matters.

As in previous years, the *2026 Red Tape Report Card* grades the federal and provincial governments in three major areas of regulatory performance: regulatory accountability, regulatory burden, and political priority (see Table 1). 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 priorities. The only methodology change this year is in the bonus section, where governments are graded on their public reporting of their wait times and service standards.

Table 1

2026 Red Tape Report Card: Areas of regulatory performance, score and grade^{1,2}

Jurisdiction	Regulatory Accountability (40%)		Regulatory Burden (40%)		Political Priority (20%)		Wait Times and Service Standards (Bonus 2%)	Overall Score and Grade	
Alberta	8.9	A-	9.2	A	10.0	A	5.0	9.3	A
Ontario	8.9	A-	8.3	B+	10.0	A	10.0	9.1	A
Nova Scotia	8.8	A-	8.5	B+	10.0	A	10.0	9.1	A
British Columbia	8.9	A-	9.0	A	7.0	C	5.0	8.6	B+
Quebec	8.8	A-	6.9	C	10.0	A	10.0	8.5	B+
Saskatchewan	8.0	B	8.7	A-	6.5	C-	5.0	8.1	B
Federal	6.6	C	7.1	C+	7.5	B-	10.0	7.2	C+
Prince Edward Island	7.0	C	6.8	C	6.5	C-	5.0	6.9	C
New Brunswick	6.4	C-	6.4	C-	5.5	D	0	6.2	C-
Manitoba	3.0	F	6.6	C	1.0	F	0	4.1	F
Newfoundland and Labrador ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA	NA

Notes:

1. 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) wait times and service standards — 2%.
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).
3. Due to a change in government in Newfoundland and Labrador in October 2025, CFIB has assigned the province a status of “NA” (Not applicable) in lieu of a grade for all sections of this year’s report card, acknowledging the transition to a new government. We will resume grading the Newfoundland and Labrador government in our 2027 report card.

For most jurisdictions, grades are highest in the report card’s *Regulatory Accountability* section. Many jurisdictions have some form of regulatory measurement, reporting, budgeting, and make regulatory documents accessible to the public in some form. 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 *Regulatory Burden* section are lower relative to those in the accountability section, with only three jurisdictions achieving an “A” grade. The *Regulatory Burden* section represents 40% of the overall grade.

The *Political Priority* section, first introduced in CFIB’s 2023 report card, highlights the extent to which governments prioritize reducing red tape and modernizing regulations. In this year’s report card, less than a third of jurisdictions achieved an “A” grade in this section, underscoring that significant work remains to ensure that regulatory accountability, transparency, and efficiency are public policy priorities for all governments. This section represents 20% of the overall grade.

Finally, the 2026 bonus indicator is based on [CFIB’s 2025 Red Tape Awareness Week™ Red Tape Challenge](#). This indicator recognizes governments for their efforts in accepting our call to publish all permit, form, and application wait times and implement a service standard associated with each. 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. CFIB thanks governments for their efforts in accepting our challenge.

In 2026, Alberta earns its third straight “A” grade, reaffirming its strong commitment to cutting red tape and modernizing regulations. Ontario and Nova Scotia follow closely, with both provinces scoring full marks on this year’s bonus indicator demonstrating great accountability and transparency. In stark contrast, Manitoba tumbles to the bottom with a failing grade after repealing nearly all regulatory accountability measures and refusing to reinstate the *Regulatory Accountability Act*. While some progress is evident across the country, the grades make it clear: there is still significant work to do.

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 F.**

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-
ON	10	10	10	5.5	8.9	A-
QC	8	10	10	7	8.8	A-
NS	10	10	10	5	8.8	A-
SK	10	10	9	3	8.0	B
PEI	10	10	5	3	7.0	C
FED	5	7	7	7.5	6.6	C
NB	3	7	10	5.5	6.4	C-
MB	0	7	0	5	3.0	F
NL	-	-	-	-	NA	NA

Most jurisdictions receive high marks in this regulatory performance area 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 an open, machine-readable format (e.g., XML).

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	0	10	8	3	10	10	NA

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

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

Source: 2025 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 legislation, regulation, and associated policies and forms across all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities receive full marks.

Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Nova Scotia continue to achieve top scores for this indicator (see Table 3). Prince Edward Island also saw its score climb to the top as the province released its updated regulatory count, which was last tabulated in 2020. The province's count now meets all requirements, earning it full marks (see Appendix A).

British Columbia scores a nine, as it does not include regulatory requirements from delegated authorities. 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.

New Brunswick receives three honorary points, as the province has committed to using CFIB's regulatory requirement count for legislation in regulation in future reports. CFIB looks forward to the province following through with this commitment. Manitoba dropped from a score of 10 (in 2023) to zero in 2024 due to its *Regulatory Accountability Reporting Act and Amendments to the Statutes and Regulations Act*, which repealed the *Regulatory Accountability Act*. The *Regulatory Accountability Act* required that the total number of regulatory requirements implemented each year be publicly reported, and mandated that when one regulatory requirement was implemented, at least one other must be eliminated. As the province does not measure the regulatory burden, it receives a score of zero.

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	7	10	10	7	10	10	NA

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: 2025 data.

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

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island all receive a score of 10 for this indicator. Each of these provinces has legislation that requires public reporting of the regulatory burden on an annual basis (see Table 4). Prince Edward Island now also receives full marks for releasing an annual report despite its *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act* having expired, as the Project Addressing Red Tape (ART) department continues to use the *Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation* to guide regulatory reform efforts. However, Prince Edward Island will lose points in future iterations of this report card if the guiding legislation is not replaced.

New Brunswick has released its annual report, but the province receives partial marks, as it does not include an overall regulatory burden count in its update. The federal government also earns partial points for this indicator. 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.

Manitoba receives partial marks as the province's *Regulatory Accountability Reporting Act* requires the minister responsible to publicly release annual regulatory reports on the government's strategies and initiatives to eliminate red tape. The province loses marks as the Act does not include the count of the overall regulatory burden.

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	0	10	10	10	10	5	NA

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., one-for-one rule, reduction/maintenance targets).
3. Legislation in place that requires governments to adhere to constraints (e.g., one-for-one rule, reduction/maintenance targets).

Source: 2025 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. The purpose is to impose discipline and prioritize regulatory review.³

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 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 receive higher scores on this indicator than those doing it as a matter of policy.

Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia continue to score the highest on this indicator, as they have legislated limits on regulators (see Table 5). These limits include adopting “one-for-one” rules and requiring 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, earning both provinces partial points.

The federal government has a one-for-one rule in place, but can and does exempt regulations related to tax and tax administration (such as the Income Tax Act). Business owners frequently cite Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) returns, income tax administration, and payroll tax collections as their top federal regulatory burdens. Consequently, due to the exemption of tax-related measures from the one-for-one rule, the federal government incurs a three-point deduction for its commitment to regulatory budgeting.

Prince Edward Island receives a five, as the province’s inconsistent reporting makes it unclear whether government is following through on a requirement to offset costs via a one-for-one rule. If the province does not table legislation that replaces the expired provisions, the province will see a lower score in future iterations of the report card.

Manitoba scores zero as the repeal of the *Regulatory Accountability Act* removed all constraints and legislation requiring governments to manage regulatory costs.

³ Speer, Sean. *Regulatory Budgeting: Lessons from Canada*. R Street. 2016.

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	NA

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, and (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) regulation, and (iii) associated policies and forms. If all three types of regulatory documents are available in an 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., online or PDF), 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 and PDF formats, for which a score of 1.5 is given. No points are given if regulatory documents are only made available in hard copy (paper) format.

Source: 2025 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 that 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; and/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, and (iii) associated policies and forms—earn a score of 10. Partial scores are awarded for regulatory documents provided in an online or downloadable/PDF format.⁵

British Columbia and the federal government score the highest on this indicator again as they provide regulatory data—legislation and regulation—in an 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 an open, machine-readable format upon request. However, 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 must still 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 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 by measuring 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 2025 edition of *Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*.⁷ The remaining two indicators are based on data gathered in 2025 through CFIB's own research.⁸ These are: (v) the total number of regulatory provincial requirements in place, which is then (vi) analyzed on a per capita basis. The federal government is only graded on indicators i through iv as it is difficult to compare the regulatory restrictions in the provinces to that of a national government

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 F.**

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	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	8.0	7.2	9.8	9.2	A
BC	10	10	10	8.5	5.6	9.7	9.0	A
SK	10	10	10	7.7	7.1	7.6	8.7	A-
NS	8	10	10	9.4	6.8	7.0	8.5	B+
ON	10	10	10	9.2	0.6	10.0	8.3	B+
FED ¹	5	10	5	8.2	NA	NA	7.1	C+
QC	6	10	10	6.0	0.0	9.6	6.9	C
PEI	8	10	5	7.8	10.0	0	6.8	C
MB	5	10	0	8.9	7.6	8.3	6.6	C
NB	6	10	0	6.6	8.6	7.3	6.4	C-
NL	-	-	-	6.0	-	-	NA	NA

Notes:

1. NA - Not applicable. The federal government is not scored for: (i) total number of provincial regulatory restrictions; (ii) total provincial regulatory restrictions per capita.
2. The interprovincial/territorial cooperation score from CFIB's 2025 edition of [Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#).

⁷ Yoo, SeoRhin, et al. *The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*. CFIB. 2025.

⁸ Whidden, Bradlee. *Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements*. CFIB. 2025.

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	5	10	10	10	5	10	6	6	8	8	NA
Existence of a permanent online suggestion box where individuals and/or businesses can report red tape frustrations — Yes/No ¹	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	NA -
Government proactively seeks feedback from individuals and/or businesses on prominent webpages — Yes/No ¹	No (0)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	No (0)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	Some (3)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	NA -
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: 2025 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 an online portal or provide an e-mail contact where red tape feedback (i.e., problems and suggestions) can be shared with government. Such tools not only provide an opportunity for governments to connect with the public (including both individuals and businesses) regarding their concerns but might ultimately lead to improvements in the way the public is being served. The recommended best practice is to “close the loop” and communicate with those submitting feedback, and to publicly report how irritants have been handled. For example, Saskatchewan’s annual regulatory report provides a summary of concerns submitted through its *Help Cut Red Tape* webpage over the year, as well as steps taken to resolve issues.⁹

Additionally, while jurisdictions may have a designated place online for feedback, locating it can prove difficult. 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.¹⁰ A best practice would be that, in addition to having designated red tape feedback portals, governments should proactively seek feedback by placing said portals on prominent webpages where the public is most likely to interact with them (e.g., government’s main or service webpages).

For this indicator, jurisdictions that have a permanent online feedback box where individuals and businesses can report red tape frustrations, and proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages, receive higher scores. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, 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 its Service BC webpage, while Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario place them on their official government home webpages.¹¹

⁹ Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2024-25*. Retrieved: November 23, 2025. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/126778>

¹⁰ CFIB. *Your Voice* – November 2022. n = 3,264; and Angus Reid Group. *National Omni*, November 18, 2022. n = 1,507.

¹¹ Link to Nova Scotia red tape feedback is in the drop-down menu on the government home page.

Prince Edward Island receives partial marks as it only offers a feedback portal for businesses, not individuals. All other jurisdictions receive partial scores as they have an area for red tape feedback but do not proactively seek feedback on prominent pages. Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador’s feedback boxes are found through a link in the menu on their main and service pages. The federal government provides an email address for feedback on their Red Tape Reduction Office page. Quebec and New Brunswick lose further partial marks as their feedback boxes are only directed towards businesses, not individuals. Manitoba formerly solicited feedback on a prominent webpage, but the location is now more obscure.

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/Some/No ¹	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	NA
Note: 1. Scoring — The following point system was applied: Yes=10 points, No=0 points. Source: 2025 data — See Appendix C for links to business advisory sites.											

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

Jurisdictions that have an advisory service for businesses receive a score of 10 for this indicator. With the launch of Newfoundland and Labrador’s Business Navigator this year, all jurisdictions now provide advisory services to businesses (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	Some 5	Yes 10	Yes 10	Yes 10	No 0	Yes 10	Yes 10	No 0	Yes 10	Some 5	NA -

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 groups together minor changes and updates to regulations.

AB - Red tape reduction changes to legislation have been conducted semiannually since 2019; the [Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#) was passed May 2025.

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.

ON - Red Tape Reduction Packages including legislation have been introduced in the spring and fall each year since 2018. The [Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024](#) received Royal Assent in June 2024, and the [Cutting Red Tape, Building Ontario Act, 2024](#) received Royal Assent in December 2024. The [Protect Ontario by Cutting Red Tape Act, 2025](#) is in its second reading as of November 2025.

QC - The Quebec government has committed to an annual amendment process; [Bill 103](#) was the first such legislative initiative and was passed in December 2021. Since then, [Bill 85](#) was tabled in December 2024 and adopted on April 9, 2025.

NS - The Chief Regulatory Officer assesses, reviews, and submits to Cabinet an independent submission evaluating every proposed regulatory, legislative, and process change with a business impact assessment. Additionally, the [Protecting Nova Scotians Act - Bill 127](#) received Royal Assent in October 2025.

NL - As part of the cabinet process, a Regulatory Impact Analysis evaluates whether proposals add or remove regulations, among other criteria.

FED - [Bill S-6: An Act respecting regulatory modernization](#) was passed through the Senate and completed 2nd reading in the House of Commons prorogation in January 2025, and the federal government has committed to advancing a red tape reduction bill in the [Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat Red Tape Review Progress Report](#).

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 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, Ontario, and Quebec 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 semiannually through its Spring and Fall Red Tape Reduction Packages. The province has since eliminated over \$1.2 billion in annualized compliance costs for businesses, not-for-profits, and the broader public sector.¹² Similarly, British Columbia's annual amendment process has seen over 1,600 amendments since its inception in 2016.¹³

Saskatchewan also receives 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 was the first of its kind in Canada, helps ensure

¹² Government of Ontario. *2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: A Plan to Protect Ontario*. Retrieved: November 23, 2025.

<https://budget.ontario.ca/2025/fallstatement/chapter-1b-economy.html>.

¹³ *Better Regulations for British Columbians | Annual Report 2023/24*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/br4bc_2023-24_annual_report.pdf.

regulations remain relevant and removes red tape. Since 2014, the RTRC saved Saskatchewan businesses over \$692 million in compliance costs.¹⁴ 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 assessment before submitting their 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.

Prince Edward Island and the federal government receive partial points. PEI has evidence that suggests it has mechanisms in place to address red tape irritants in legislation as they arise. The federal government has tabled *Bill S-6: An Act respecting regulatory modernization* through the Senate and has committed to advancing a red tape reduction bill in the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat Red Tape Review Progress Report.¹⁵

Manitoba addressed red tape reduction and modernization through regular legislation in previous years. However, the province has not introduced any relevant legislation in recent years, causing a significant drop in their score this year. Manitoba's last red tape reduction bill, *Reducing Red Tape and Improving Services Act*, was tabled in 2023.¹⁶

Interprovincial cooperation

Table 11

Burden indicator 4: Overall interprovincial cooperation score from CFIB's 2025 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card* (score; 10 is best; 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Interprovincial/territorial cooperation score ^{1,2}	8.2	8.5	8.0	7.7	8.9	9.2	6.0	6.6	9.4	7.8	6.0

Notes:

1. The 2025 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card* uses an index approach to measure and rank Canada's provinces/territories' performance on addressing barriers to internal trade based on three major interprovincial cooperation areas. The three different areas are: CFTA Exceptions; Interjurisdictional Barriers to Internal Trade; and Status of Items from Reconciliation Agreements. The 2025 edition of the report also included a bonus indicator on the usage of mutual recognition agreements to eliminate barriers. Using a weighting scheme, the four area scores are combined into a single score that allows for a jurisdiction ranking 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 15, 2025.

Source: CFIB, *The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*, 2025.

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 2025 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*.¹⁷ 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 reconciliation agreement implementation status under the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT). There is also a bonus indicator awarding additional marks for mutual recognition agreements. Within

¹⁴ Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2024-25*. Retrieved: November 23, 2025.

<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/126778>

¹⁵ Government of Canada. *Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat Red Tape Review Progress Report*, Retrieved: January 6, 2026.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/corporate/transparency/acts-regulations/red-tape-review-progress-report.html#toc4-1>

¹⁶ The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. *The Reducing Red Tape and Improving Services Act, 2023*, Retrieved: November 23, 2025.

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-5/b011e.php>

¹⁷ Yoo, SeoRhin et al. *The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*. CFIB. 2025.

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, Nova Scotia ranks the highest, while Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador rank at the bottom (see Table 11).

It is important to note that this indicator uses information that was in effect as of June 15, 2025, and CFIB acknowledges that there has been significant progress made since the release of our *2025 Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*. While new initiatives and additional progress are not captured in this year's *Red Tape Report Card*, it will be reflected in the 2027 version.

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}	84,719 (5.6)	67,094 (7.2)	68,404 (7.1)	63,032 (7.6)	139,907 (0.6)	145,958 (0.0)	51,988 (8.6)	71,584 (6.8)	36,776 (10.0)	52,407 (NA)

Notes:

1. Total number of provincial regulatory requirements is the sum of restrictions in regulations and 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: Whidden, Bradlee. [Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements](#). CFIB. December 2025.

To incorporate the overall regulatory burden on individuals and businesses into the report card, CFIB estimated the number of regulatory requirements across all legislation and regulations in each province.^{18,19} 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.

It is important to acknowledge this approach's limitations. This inventory does not include certain government rules, such as those in guidance documents, policies, or forms. Further, differences in provincial economies can contribute to differences in regulatory counts. For example, larger provinces are home to more industries, and thus more regulations. Additionally, the impact of a single regulation can outweigh that of 10 smaller ones, depending on the nature of the restriction, the industry it targets, and that industry's contribution to economic output.

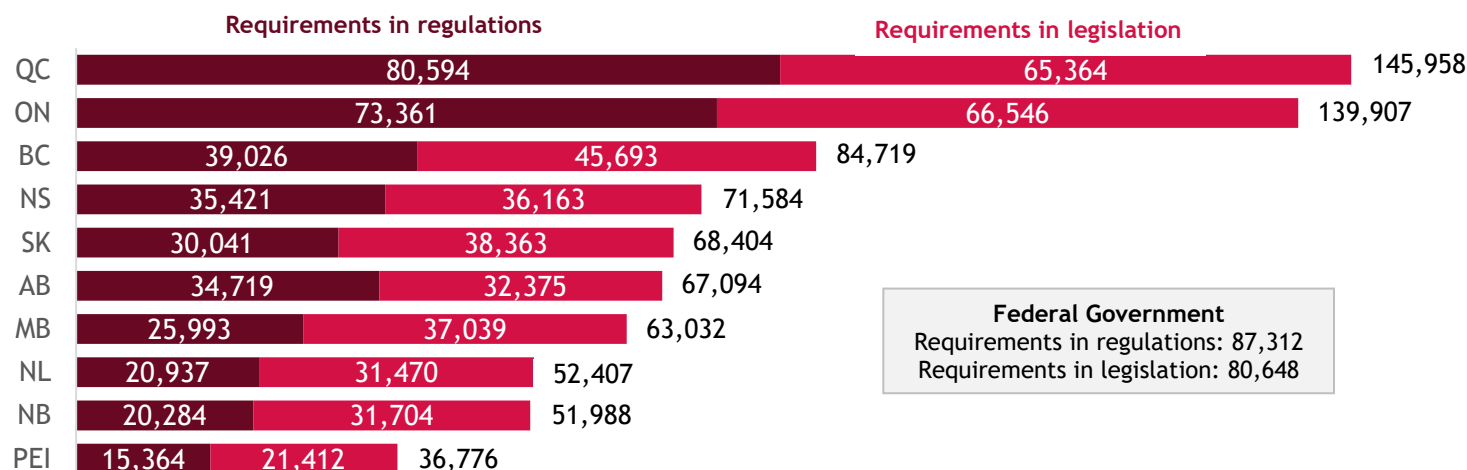
Nevertheless, there is no other single standardized measure presently available that compares regulatory counts across the country, as not all governments provide a regulatory count and those that do tend to use different counting methods. For this indicator, the fewer regulatory restrictions in place, the lower the burden and the higher the score achieved. As such, provinces with the highest scores include Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick (see Figure 2 and Table 12). Conversely, Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia score the lowest for this indicator. However, it should be noted that Ontario saw the biggest year-over-year decrease in the number of regulatory requirements (-3.5%).

¹⁸ Whidden, Bradlee. [Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements](#). CFIB. 2025.

¹⁹ CFIB estimates the number of regulatory requirements based on legal texts as they appear on government websites by counting words that mandate actions to be taken or prohibited. These words are "shall," "must," "may not," "required," and "prohibited." For certain Quebec documents available only in French, equivalent French translations of these words were used.

Figure 2

Total regulatory requirements in Canadian provinces, regulations, and statutes (2025)



Source: Whidden, Bradlee. *Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements*. CFIB. December 2025.

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 population¹	149 (9.7)	133 (9.8)	540 (7.6)	418 (8.3)	86 (10.0)	161 (9.6)	598 (7.3)	655 (7.0)	2,013 (0.0)	953 (NA)

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

1. Total provincial regulatory requirements is the sum of restrictions in regulations and 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:

- Whidden, Bradlee. [Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements](#). CFIB. December 2025.
- Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly. Q3/2025.

To compare the magnitude of the regulatory burden across provinces, the total number of provincial regulatory requirements is divided by population.²⁰ 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—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 (86 per 10,000 people), followed by Alberta, British Columbia, and Quebec (see Table 13). On the other end of the scale, Prince Edward Island fares the poorest as it has the most regulatory restrictions per capita (2,013 per 10,000 people).

²⁰ Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly. Q3/2025.

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 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: evidence that red tape reduction is a clear priority that is championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their Cabinet; and 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
QC	10	10	10.0	A
NS	10	10	10.0	A
FED	8	7	7.5	B-
BC	7	7	7.0	C
SK	6	7	6.5	C-
PEI	6	7	6.5	C-
NB	4	7	5.5	D
MB	2	0	1.0	F
NL	-	-	N/A	N/A

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 (8)	Some (7)	Clear (10)	Some (6)	Little (2)	Clear (10)	Clear (10)	Little (4)	Clear (10)	Some (6)	NA
Clear evidence/ Some evidence/ Little evidence ¹											

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: 2025 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 most recent Throne Speech.
- The existence of internal teams or panels addressing red tape issues.

Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and the federal government all exhibit clear, explicit, and sufficient evidence that red tape reduction is a top policy priority and have Premiers and Cabinets that regularly champion regulatory modernization (see Table 15 and jurisdictional findings in Appendix D). These governments have outlined red tape reduction as a key goal in ministerial mandate letters and explicitly mentioned red tape reduction several times in election platforms, budgets, and Throne Speeches. They also set up task forces and industry panels to identify red tape irritants and solutions aimed at regulatory modernization. The federal government loses two points, as it failed to mention red tape reduction in its latest Throne Speech. While Nova Scotia did not include red tape reduction in the province's most recent budget and Throne Speech, the premier and cabinet have several examples of public facings speeches emphasizing the importance of red tape reduction for their government, showing clear political priority.

British Columbia receives a score of 7; the province loses points for not including red tape reduction in its most recent budget. The province also receives partial points for its mandate letter, which places emphasis on improving the ease of doing business for SMEs but makes no direct mention of red tape reduction. Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island each receive six points. The Saskatchewan government did not mention red tape reduction in its

election platform and failed to mention red tape reduction in the responsible minister's mandate letter. Prince Edward Island did not mention red tape reduction in its most recent budget, nor did it include red tape reduction in the responsible minister's mandate letter.

New Brunswick scores four points in this indicator. Two points are given for the existence of an internal team/task force assigned to identify and solve red tape burdens. The province also receives partial points for prioritizing red tape reduction for childcare operators in its most recent election platform and for focusing on red tape reduction for internal trade in its latest Throne Speech. Manitoba receives only two points for including red tape reduction in the government's most recent election platform.

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)	No (0)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Some (7)	Yes (10)	Some (7)	NA

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 10 for [Bill 11](#), which assigns formal responsibility for reducing the regulatory and administrative burden on businesses to the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy.

Source: 2025 data.

Jurisdictions that have a minister titled and responsible for red tape reduction/modernization send a strong signal that the file is a priority for the government. This indicator awards higher scores to governments that formally designate a minister with this responsibility.

The only provinces with a minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization are Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Ontario, which all receive a score of 10 (see Table 16). Quebec also receives full marks for legislation that empowers the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy to amend any regulation in order to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses as one of their functions.²¹ 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 four provinces and the federal government.

Manitoba is currently the only province without a minister/office responsible for red tape reduction and modernization. CFIB urges Manitoba to designate a cabinet minister specifically for the red tape file. Having a dedicated minister ensures that there is a member of Cabinet with the authority and mandate to oversee, monitor, and actively reduce the red tape burden in the province.

²¹ Assemblée nationale du Québec. Bill 11, An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden. Retrieved: December 5, 2025. [Bill 11, An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden - National Assembly of Québec](#).

Bonus indicator: Publishing wait times & service standards

In addition to the standard criteria for assessing jurisdictions, the 2026 Report Card includes a bonus indicator recognizing jurisdictions actively working to reduce red tape for businesses and citizens. This additional indicator follows CFIB's 2025 Red Tape Challenge, which called on every government in Canada (federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal) to publish all permit, form, and application wait times, and to implement a service standard associated with each.

Publishing service standards and wait times helps foster transparency, accountability, predictability, and trust in government processes—benefits that are crucial for both businesses and everyday Canadians. For businesses, knowing how long it will take to obtain permits or approvals allows for better planning, budgeting, and decision-making. It reduces uncertainty and helps avoid costly delays. For individuals, clear service expectations improve trust in public institutions and empower citizens to hold governments accountable when standards are not met. Ultimately, this kind of transparency helps streamline interactions with government, reduces frustration, and contributes to a more efficient and responsive public service.

This bonus indicator assesses each jurisdiction's progress in meeting the challenge. CFIB intends to make this indicator permanent as of the *2027 Red Tape Report Card*, where the grades will likely see adjustments as scores will be awarded using a more comprehensive indicator.

Table 17

Progress to publish wait times and service standards: Score (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Jurisdiction	Government publishes all permit, form, and application wait times and implement a service standard associated with each	Bonus indicator score
BC	Some	5
AB	Some	5
SK	Some	5
MB	No	0
ON	Yes	10
QC	Yes	10
NB	No	0
PEI	Some	5
NS	Yes	10
FED	Yes	10
NL	-	NA
Notes: 1. Scoring — The following point system was applied: Yes=10 points, Some=5 points, No=0 points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Yes” refers to a jurisdiction that has published wait times and service standards for all permits, applications, and forms. “Some” refers to a jurisdiction with some publicly available examples of wait times and service standards for select permits, applications, and forms. “No” refers to a jurisdiction with no easily accessible wait times or service standards. Source: 2025 data.		

Jurisdictions receive full (10) points if they clearly demonstrate that they have published wait times and service standards for most of their permits, applications, and forms. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and the federal government all meet this threshold. Nova Scotia has gone a step further by legislating publicly available service

standards through its *Making Business Easier Act*. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Prince Edward Island receive partial points for making some permit, form, and application wait times and service standards publicly available. The jurisdictions that do not have any easily findable wait times or service standards include Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. These jurisdictions (except Newfoundland and Labrador) will not lose points on the overall report card grade but miss out on bonus points in this indicator.

For detailed actions by jurisdiction, refer to Appendix E.

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	0	10	8	3	10	10	NA
Existence of an aggregate regulatory measure of the burden on business and individuals/a commitment to measure Yes (5 points) / Some (3 points) / No (0 points)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	No (0)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	-
Regulatory requirement count (for businesses and/or individuals) includes all sources from (i) legislation, (ii) regulation, and (iii) associated policies and forms Yes (3 points) / Some (1 point) / No (0 points)	Some (1)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	No (0)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	No (0)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	-
Regulatory requirement count (for businesses 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)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	-

Source: 2025 data.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score	7	10	10	10	7	10	10	7	10	10	NA
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)	Some (2)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Some (2)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	-
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)	-

Source: 2025 data.

Regulatory budget

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

Source: 2025 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	5.5	7²	5.5	5	3	NA
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)	-
Regulation 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)	-
Policies and forms available in open format Yes (3 points) / Some (1-2 points) / 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)	-

Source: 2025 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, and (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 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 and PDF formats, for which a score of 1.5 is 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 reducing 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 cap the total number of regulatory requirements (i.e., Net Zero Increase commitment) at the baseline count of 197,242. The Net Zero Increase commitment (NZI) has been extended several times and is currently in place until the end of 2028.² As of March 31, 2025, the number of regulatory requirements was 172,961.³

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden

Score: 9/10

The BC government’s regulatory requirement count reflects the overall number of requirements for people, businesses, and government included in the province’s statutes, regulations, and associated policies and forms.³ As of March 31, 2025, the regulatory requirement count was 172,961—12% below the established 2004 baseline (197,242).³ As the count excludes certain agencies and delegated authorities (e.g., waste management rules), 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’s website and are reported publicly every year, as per legislation.^{4,5}

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 2028.² 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.⁷ Policies and forms are provided on various department pages in a combination of downloadable/PDF and online formats.

Sources:

1. Jones, Laura. *Lessons from the British Columbia Model of Regulatory Reform*. Mercatus Research, Mercatus Center at George Mason University. 2018. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. <https://www.mercatus.org/publications/regulation/lessons-british-columbia-model-regulatory-reform>
2. Based on e-mail discussion with British Columbia’s Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth department. November 6, 2025.
3. Government of British Columbia. *Better Regulations for British Columbians: Annual Report 2024/2025*. Retrieved: November 17, 2025. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/br4bc_annual_report_2024_25.pdf
4. Government of British Columbia website. *Regulatory Reform Policy*. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/regulatory-reform-policy>
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6. Government of British Columbia. *Regulatory Reform Policy*. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. 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: November 24, 2025. <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 set a 33% overall reduction target for 2022-23.¹ The province met the 33% target in 2024, saving the public a total of \$2.88 billion. To ensure this progress is not undone in future years, on August 1, 2024, the Alberta government made amendments to the *Red Tape Reduction Act*, requiring the government to offset any additional regulatory requirements by reducing unnecessary existing ones within two years.^{2,3}

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

As a result of its 33% regulatory requirement reduction, Alberta estimates its total direct cost savings to be \$2.88 billion as of 2024.² 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.³ The annual report tracks and reports on regulatory burden measures and can be easily found on the Government of Alberta's *Cutting Red Tape* webpage.⁴

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

The Alberta government reduced one-third of its regulatory burden by 2024.² Additionally, to ensure that the province maintains a 33% minimum reduction in red tape, the Alberta government amended its *Red Tape Reduction Act* on August 1, 2024, legislating a one-for-one rule.²

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

Alberta provides its legislation and regulation in an online data format.⁶ Policies and forms are provided on various department pages in a combination of downloadable/PDF and online formats.

Sources:

1. Government of Alberta. *Red Tape Reduction annual report 2021-2022*. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ecd877d0-79f9-4379-9bc9-b35a9ad50522/resource/aababb3f-951d-4970-bf73-6e0c9d47e72b/download/tbf-red-tape-reduction-annual-report-2010-2021.pdf>
2. Government of Alberta. *Red Tape Reduction Annual Report 2023-24*. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ecd877d0-79f9-4379-9bc9-b35a9ad50522/resource/011c9193-c0ae-404b-b6b3-cc3403d74763/download/sartr-red-tape-reduction-annual-report-2023-2024.pdf>
3. Government of Alberta. *Red Tape Reduction Act*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/r08p2>
4. Government of Alberta website. *Cutting Red Tape*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://www.alberta.ca/cut-red-tape.aspx>
5. Government of Alberta. *Alberta King's Printer*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx>

Saskatchewan**Overall grade: 8/10**

In 2014, Saskatchewan was the first jurisdiction in Canada to commit to ensuring all business regulations are reviewed at least once every 10 years by the Red Tape Review Cabinet Sub-Committee. This ensures regulations remain relevant and allows the government to identify any red tape that has made its way into regulations over time.¹ 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.² 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. Saskatchewan's net savings for regulatory and policy changes made during 2024-25 totalled \$1.38 million.³

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.² In 2024-25, the province estimated that it had 232,600 mandatory compliance requirements.⁴

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

As required by legislation, the *Regulatory Modernization Annual Progress Report* is tabled and publicly reported each year.⁵ 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 saving businesses \$10 to \$20 million annually.¹ 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 its constraints (for example, the use of the estimator), the province 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 an open, machine-readable format (XML) to work for the Service for Regulators program.

Sources:

1. Government of Saskatchewan. *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/plan-for-growth>
2. Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2017-18*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/90767>
3. Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2024-25*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/126778>
4. Government of Saskatchewan. *Help Cut Red Tape*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-engagement/help-cut-red-tape>
5. Government of Saskatchewan. *Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/68641>
6. Government of Saskatchewan. *Freelaw*®. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/freelaw>

Manitoba**Overall grade: 3.0/10**

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 was the most comprehensive in North America. However, in March 2024, the Manitoba government repealed the *Regulatory Accountability Act*, which required the provincial government to count its regulatory burden as well as legislate a one-for-one rule.²

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

The Manitoba government has repealed the *Regulatory Accountability Act*, which had established a comprehensive regulatory measure by counting all regulatory requirements on individuals and businesses, 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 As the Manitoba government no longer counts regulatory requirements, it receives a score of zero. The last *Regulatory Accountability Report* was released in 2023 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and the total number of regulatory requirements across departments and government agencies was 833,074.¹

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 7/10**

Manitoba is no longer required to count its regulatory requirements by legislation. The province earns partial points, as the Minister charged with the administration of the *Regulatory Accountability Reporting Act* must, subject to the regulations, prepare a report on the government's strategies and initiatives to eliminate duplicative and inconsistent regulatory and administrative requirements and evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory and administrative requirements in achieving public policy outcomes.² However, the province has not released a report since 2023.

Regulatory budget**Score: 0/10**

On July 1, 2019, Manitoba became the first province to legislate a "2-for-1" rule requiring government to remove two regulations for every new regulation introduced. Beginning April 1, 2021, the "2-for-1" rule became a "one-for-one" rule.³ However, this requirement was repealed in 2024, earning Manitoba zero marks.

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. *Regulatory Accountability Report 2022/23*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/reducedredtape/index.html>
2. The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. *The Regulatory Accountability Reporting Act and Amendments to The Statutes and Regulations Act*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/43-1/b016e.php>
3. The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. *The Regulatory Accountability Act and Amendments to The Statutes and Regulations Act*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-2/b022e.php>
4. Government of Manitoba. *Manitoba Laws*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/index.php>

Ontario**Overall grade: 8.9/10**

The Ontario government's current approach to measuring the regulatory burden on businesses began in 2018, with a baseline count of 250,799 regulatory compliance requirements on businesses.¹ As of 2025, initiatives to reduce the regulatory burden have led to a 5.6% decrease since 2018. The regulatory compliance requirement count on businesses currently stands at 236,556.¹ The province's actions have resulted in over \$1.2 billion in annualized 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: 10/10	Ontario's regulatory count includes requirements on businesses from all government ministries, agencies, boards, commissions, and delegated administrative authorities found in all legislation, regulations, policies, and forms. ² This count stands at 236,556 in 2025. ¹ In 2024, the government made amendments to <i>Bill 227, Cutting Red Tape, Building Ontario Act, 2024</i> , to start conducting an analysis of the regulatory impact on individuals. ³
Public reporting of the regulatory burden Score: 10/10	As prescribed by legislation, the Minister of Red Tape Reduction is required to make publicly available an annual report on actions taken to reduce the regulatory burden and future reduction plans. ⁴ The report is published on the Government of Ontario's website and includes an update for the regulatory compliance requirement count on businesses for 2025. 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 increase to direct compliance costs on businesses, \$1.25 of old and unnecessary direct compliance costs must be removed) within 24 months. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Policies and forms are provided in a mix of online and downloadable/PDF formats. ⁷

Sources:

1. Government of Ontario. *2025 Burden Reduction Report*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2025-burden-reduction-report>
2. Government of Ontario. *2020 Burden Reduction Report: helping business recover, rebuild and prosper*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2020-burden-reduction-report-helping-business-recover-rebuild-and-prosper>
3. Legislative Assembly of Ontario. *Bill 227, Cutting Red Tape, Building Ontario Act, 2024. (Schedule 17, Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020)*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill-227>
4. Legislative Assembly of Ontario. *Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020. (Schedule 11, Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020)*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-197>
5. Government of Ontario. *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200555>
6. Government of Ontario. *e-Laws*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>
7. Government of Ontario. *Central Forms Repository*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <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 businesses. 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 674 administrative obligations existed for businesses.¹ The government's regulatory reduction efforts led to a 31% cost reduction by 2019, or \$442 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 As of 2023-24, the total number of administrative procedures on businesses was 723. The number and volume of procedures (i.e., number of times administrative procedures must be submitted in a given period by businesses in Quebec) both saw declines of 9% from their baseline.² The cost of the administrative burden decreased 18% compared to the baseline.² CFIB looks forward to an updated estimate from Quebec, as the province committed to doing so 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.³ 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 The action plan expires on March 31, 2026. CFIB looks forward to seeing an updated plan from Quebec's Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie.</p> <p>Further to these targets, the Quebec government also has a one-for-one rule policy requiring ministries and agencies proposing a new administrative regulation to remove an equivalent regulation.³ While the one-for-one policy is not legislated, government earns full marks, as the policy serves as a strong enough requirement. Recently, the Quebec government tabled Bill 11, aiming to legislate a two-for-one policy.⁴</p>
Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 7/10	<p>Quebec provides its legislation and regulation as online data.⁵ 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. *Moins de paperasse - Pour une relance innovante et efficace (Plan d'action gouvernemental en matière d'allègement réglementaire et administratif 2020-2025)*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/economie/publications-adm/plans-action/PL-plan-action-allegement-2020-2025.pdf>
2. Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation Québec. *Rapport sur la réglementation intelligente et les mesures gouvernementales d'allègement réglementaire et administratif*. Édition 2024. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/economie/publications-adm/rapport/RA_allegement_reglementaire_2024.pdf
3. Gouvernement du Québec. Politique gouvernementale sur l'allègement réglementaire et administratif : Pour une réglementation intelligente. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/economie/publications-adm/politique/PO_politique_gouv_allegement.pdf
4. Gouvernement du Québec. Bill 11, An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden. Retrieved: December 9, 2025. <https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/projets-loi/projet-loi-11-43-2.html>
5. Gouvernement du Québec. *Légis Québec*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/>

New Brunswick**Overall grade: 6.4/10**

The New Brunswick government (through Opportunities New Brunswick) is working to implement a comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden using CFIB's count for their next annual report. The province also continues to use the Business Impact Assessment tool to help reduce unnecessary costs and improve new regulations' effectiveness, 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: 3/10**

While the New Brunswick government previously committed to measuring the regulatory burden (legislation and regulation) on businesses, the measuring process has been put on hold and there is no count available this year. However, the province receives partial points for its commitment to using CFIB's regulatory count in their annual reports moving forward.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden**Score: 7/10**

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 The latest annual report does not include a comprehensive baseline measure or track the regulatory burden annually, earning New Brunswick partial marks in this indicator.²

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, in 2021, the government launched an initiative to reduce the business regulatory burden by \$16.5 million by March 2024. This target was met and exceeded, as it was concluded that the regulatory burden has been reduced by nearly \$90 million (total) from the 2021-22 fiscal year.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: November 25, 2025. <https://www.canlii.org/en/nb/laws/stat/rsnb-2016-c-11/latest/rsnb-2016-c-11.html>
2. Government of New Brunswick. *Ensuring Regulatory Competitiveness: Annual Report 2024-2025*. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. <https://www.gnb.ca/content/dam/GNB3/org/opnb/docs/onb-regulatory-report-2024-2025.pdf>
3. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <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: October 31, 2024. 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, it completed a baseline count of regulatory compliance requirements imposed on individuals, businesses, not-for-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 its acts, regulations, and related administrative policies and forms.¹ In its 2024 annual report, the government estimated that there are 181,014 compliance requirements imposed on individuals, business, not-for-profits, and other organizations, an increase of 0.4% from 2023.²

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 businesses.²

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

Nova Scotia provides its legislation and regulation as online data. Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.^{5,6}

Sources:

1. Government of Nova Scotia. The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Three Year Review*.
2. Government of Nova Scotia. *Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness 2024 Annual Report: Reducing Red Tape to Improve Government Efficiency and Effectiveness*. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. <https://www.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-3855/annual-report-2024-office-service-efficiency-en.pdf>
3. Nova Scotia Legislature. *Bill No. 137, Making Business Easier Act*. Retrieved: November 24, 2025. https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/65th_1st/3rd_read/b137.htm
4. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://support.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/docs/premiers-charter-governing-principles-for-regulation.pdf>
5. Government of Nova Scotia. Statutes. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/statutes/2023>
6. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of the Registrar of Regulations. Retrieved: November 25, 2025. <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/index.htm>

Prince Edward Island**Overall grade: 7.0/10**

In 2020, the Prince Edward Island (PEI) government completed its first count of regulatory obligations on businesses and individuals as part of Project ART (Addressing Red Tape). As of 2025, the regulatory requirement baseline count is estimated at 30,616.¹

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

The regulatory count includes requirements on businesses and individuals from all government ministries, boards, commissions, and delegated administrative authorities found in all legislation and regulations.¹ Previously, the province lost partial points, as its count did not include policies and forms. However, in its latest report released on December 3, 2025, PEI met all requirements, earning it full marks.¹

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

The province's *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act* requiring government to publicly report on the progress made to improve regulation and reduce regulatory burden has expired.² However, the province receives full marks for publishing a new report detailing its red tape reduction efforts, and the province's Project Addressing Red Tape (ART) department continues to use the Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation as a guide for the province's regulatory reform efforts.^{1,3}

Regulatory budget**Score: 5/10**

The government previously 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. Although the Charter, which was legislated through the *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*, has expired, the Project ART department continues to use it as a guide for regulatory reform efforts, earning the province partial points.³

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

Prince Edward Island provides its legislation, regulations, policies, and forms in downloadable/PDF format.⁵

Sources:

1. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Project ART Regulatory Count*. Retrieved: December 4, 2025. <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: December 4, 2025. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/R-11-1%20-Regulatory%20Accountability%20And%20Reporting%20Act.pdf>
3. Based on e-mail discussion with Prince Edward Island's Project ART department. November 21, 2025.
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: December 4, 2025. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/legislation/all/all/a>

Newfoundland and Labrador

Overall grade: NA

In 2005, the province appointed a Red Tape Reduction Task Force to identify unnecessary red tape and recommend improvements to the regulatory environment for businesses 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: -

Newfoundland and Labrador's Digital Government and Service NL (DGSNL) has a Legislative Review Policy which looks at all legislation under its purview annually to prioritize amendments. This helps keep legislation current and reduces unnecessary or outdated requirements. However, as the regulatory requirement count was last publicly reported in 2014, it lacks clarity on measurements.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

Score: -

The *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*, proclaimed in January 2018, required the government to publicly report on its work to reduce red tape.³ However, the Act has since expired with no corresponding legislation enacted by the province, and no comprehensive measure of the total regulatory burden has been made public since 2013-14.

Regulatory budget

Score: -

The government previously legislated a "one-for-one" policy as part of the Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation in Atlantic Canada.⁴ This policy required the cost of additional regulations be offset by a regulatory reduction of equal cost. However, the Charter, which was legislated through the *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*, is no longer in effect as the Act has expired.

Accessibility of regulatory documents

Score: -

Newfoundland and Labrador provides its legislation and regulation as online data.⁵ Policies and forms are provided in a 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: November 6, 2024. <https://www.gov.nl.ca/regulatoryreform/taskforcereport.pdf>
2. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. *2013-14 Regulatory Reform Annual Report*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. 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: November 6, 2024. <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 the Legislative Counsel*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <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 Further, in 2014, a baseline count of federal requirements on businesses was developed and totalled 129,860.¹ In 2015, Canada became the first country in the world to legislate its one-in-one-out policy through its *Red Tape Reduction Act*.² In 2025, Ottawa launched a Red Tape Reduction Office as well as a government-wide 60-day review, aimed at eliminating red tape.³ Ministers with regulatory responsibilities conducted reviews within their portfolios and released public progress reports to share early achievements and describe next steps.

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 an administrative burden on businesses.¹ As of June 30, 2024, the total number of administrative requirements from 38 regulators was 149,312—a decrease of 89 (or 0.06%) from the 2023 count of 148,401.¹</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 Its latest annual report for 2025 includes savings from the one-for-one rule and an assessment of details on the overall count.¹ 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>.⁴ When a new or amended regulation increases the administrative costs on businesses, government must reduce the burden in two ways. First, regulators are required to offset an equal amount of administrative costs. Second, regulators are required to remove at least one existing regulation. Since this rule's implementation in 2012-13, the annual net burden has been reduced by approximately \$91.6 million with a total net reduction of 276 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.⁵ 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 it can and does exempt regulations related to tax and tax administration from the one-for-one rule (such as the Income Tax Act), despite business owners frequently citing Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) returns, income tax administration, and payroll tax collections 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 open, machine-readable data.⁶ Policies and forms are provided on various department pages in a combination of downloadable/PDF and online formats.</p>

Sources:

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2. Government of Canada. *One-for-One Rule*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/laws/developing-improving-federal-regulations/requirements-developing-managing-reviewing-regulations/one-for-one-rule.html>
3. Government of Canada. Red tape review: summary and next steps. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/laws/developing-improving-federal-regulations/red-tape-reduction-office/red-tape-review/red-tape-review-summary-and-next-steps.html>
4. Government of Canada. *Red Tape Reduction Act*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/R-4.5/page-1.html>
5. Government of Canada. *Report on the internal review of the Red Tape Reduction Act*. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/laws/developing-improving-federal-regulations/modernizing-regulations/red-tape-reduction-act/rtra-report.html>
6. Government of Canada. Justice Canada Acts and Regulations. Retrieved: November 27, 2025. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/>

Appendix B: Summary of regulatory accountability grades, 2011 to 2026*

Jurisdiction	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
BC	B+	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A-	A-	A	A (9.3)	A- (8.9)	A- (8.9)	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)	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)	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)	F (1.8)	F (3.0)
ON	C-	B-	B	B	B+	B+	B-	C+	A-	A-	A	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)	B+ (8.4)	A- (8.9)	A- (8.9)
QC	C+	B-	B	B+	B+	B+	A	A	NA	A	A	A (9.3)	A- (8.8)	A- (8.8)	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)	D (5.6)	C- (6.4)
NS	B	D	D	C-	D-	C+	B	A-	A	A	A	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)	A- (8.8)	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)	D (5.8)	C (7.0)
NL	B	B	B	C+	C	NA	C	C-	D	D	F	F (2.3)	F (3.0)	F (3.0)	F (3.0)	NA
FED	C+	B-	B+	B+	B+	NA	B	B-	B+	B+	B	C+ (7.3)	C (6.9)	C (6.6)	C (6.6)	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 its Service BC webpage An e-mail address dedicated to red tape inquiries: BetterRegulations@gov.bc.ca Advisory services: Business Advisory Service
AB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta seeks feedback on its 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-engagement/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 its 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: Services Québec
NB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Brunswick seeks feedback on its Opportunities New Brunswick webpage but is only available to businesses Advisory services are provided through a Business Navigator Program
NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nova Scotia seeks feedback on its 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 its 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 seeks feedback on its Service NL webpage An e-mail address dedicated to red tape submissions: redtapereduction@gov.nl.ca Advisory services are provided through a Business Navigator Program
FED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federal government provides a public feedback/complaint box on its Red Tape Reduction Office page: regulation-reglementation@tbs-sct.gc.ca 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	7	10	6	2	10	10	4	10	6	NA
Red tape is included in mandate letter to the minister responsible for red tape reduction, regulatory modernization Yes (2 points) / Some (1 point) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	Some (1)	Yes (2)	No (0)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	No (0)	
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)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	No (0)	
Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization was mentioned in the latest election platform Yes (2 points) / Some (1 point) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Some (1)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	
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)	No (0)	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) / Some (1 point) / No (0 points)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Some (1)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	

Newfoundland and Labrador receives a NA in 2026, as the province had a change in government in October 2025. Therefore, we cannot fairly assess the priorities of the new government at this time.

Source: 2025 data.

Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister ¹	
British Columbia Some evidence Score: 7/10	British Columbia shows some evidence that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are clear priorities. The province mentioned red tape in the government's most recent election platform , Throne Speech , and does have an internal red tape team/task force in charge of identifying and addressing regulatory irritants. The current BC government receives partial points for its mandate letter , which places emphasis on improving the ease of doing business for SMEs. The province loses points for not including red tape reduction in its latest budget/fiscal plan .
Alberta Clear evidence Score: 10/10	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 reduction was mentioned in Alberta's latest budget , the government's last election platform , and the latest Throne Speech . Lastly, Alberta's red tape industry panels fulfill the last category, earning the province full marks in this area.
Saskatchewan Some evidence Score: 6/10	The current government does not publicly post its mandate letters. However, Saskatchewan earns points for including red tape reduction in its budget and Throne Speech . Points are also awarded for the province's Red Tape Reduction Committee (RTRC) , which acts as an internal red tape task force. The government loses points for not mentioning red tape reduction in its last election platform .
Manitoba Little evidence Score: 2/10	The government of Manitoba receives points for its most recent election platform , which mentions reducing red tape in the credentialling process, with a special focus on internationally trained health care workers. However, the province receives a low score, as the government does not have a minister responsible for red tape reduction nor a task force assigned to identify the red tape burden, and did not mention red tape reduction in its most recent budget or Throne Speech .
Ontario Clear evidence Score: 10/10	Although the Ontario government does not publicly release its 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 is awarded points for having an internal team dedicated to identifying and addressing red tape irritants. In addition, red tape reduction was mentioned in the province's latest budget , election platform , and Throne Speech .
Quebec Clear evidence Score: 10/10	Red tape is addressed in the corresponding minister's decree in Quebec. While the province does not explicitly mention red tape in the latest Throne Speech , the Premier places an emphasis on streamlining bureaucratic practices. Red tape was addressed in the last election platform , the latest budget , and the corresponding ministry's mandate webpage . Additionally, the government has an external advisory committee on regulatory and administrative relief called the Comité-conseil sur l'allègement réglementaire et administratif .
New Brunswick Little evidence Score: 4/10	Partial points are awarded for the government's most recent election platform —which includes cutting red tape for childcare operators—and its most recent Throne Speech , which mentions cutting red tape to facilitate internal trade. The province also earns points for Opportunities New Brunswick , which, among other mandates, is the government's agency in charge of addressing red tape irritants and regulatory modernization. However, the government did not address red tape in the latest budget or in the mandate letter for the responsible minister, earning the province a lower score.

<p>Nova Scotia Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Following the 2024 election, Nova Scotia established the Minister of Service Efficiency and the Office of Service Efficiency, whose mandate includes red tape. While red tape reduction was not explicitly mentioned in the current government's election platform, the platform did highlight utilizing red tape reduction as a means to achieve outcomes (i.e., implementing virtual care to allow more people to access family doctors, removing barriers to housing starts). The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Efficiency fulfills the requirement for an internal red tape team. While red tape reduction is not mentioned in the province's most recent Throne Speech and budget, the premier and cabinet have several examples of public facings speeches emphasizing the importance of red tape reduction. Nova Scotia is clearly a national leader on the file and is awarded full points for political priority.</p>
<p>Prince Edward Island Some evidence Score: 6/10</p>	<p>Red tape reduction was not mentioned in the mandate letter for the corresponding minister, nor in the last budget, costing the province points in this area. However, red tape reduction was addressed in the government's latest election platform and Throne Speech. In addition, the team working for Project ART, a province-wide initiative to streamline processes to increase efficiency and reduce red tape, is part of the Department of Economic Development, Innovation and Trade.</p>
<p>Newfoundland and Labrador NA</p>	<p>Due to the recent change in government in Newfoundland and Labrador, the <i>2026 Red Tape Report Card</i> highlights the actions of the previous government in this category. The previous government made no mention of red tape in its last budget and Throne Speech. Red tape is not mentioned in the new government's mandate letter to ministers. However, the new government's election platform explicitly mentions CFIB's Red Tape Report Card and wanting to reduce red tape. Additionally, the Department of Digital Government and Service NL is in charge, among many other regulatory functions, of reducing barriers for citizens and businesses.</p>
<p>Federal government Clear evidence Score: 8/10</p>	<p>Red tape is included in the Treasury Board Secretariat's mandate within the federal government. The latest Throne Speech did not address red tape reduction. However, it was addressed in the current government's most recent election platform and budget. In line with the 2024 Fall Economic Statement, the government has created the Red Tape Reduction Office, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Board Secretariat.</p>

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: 2025 data.

Appendix E: Government progress to publish permit, form & application wait times and associated service standards

Government Progress to Publish Permit, Form & Application Wait Times and Associated Service Standards	
British Columbia Some progress Score: 5/10	<p>While the BC government does not have publicly available wait times and service standards for all permits, forms, and applications, several highly visible examples do exist, including within BC Registries and Online Services, WorkBC, and the Environmental Assessment Office.¹</p>
Alberta Some progress Score: 5/10	<p>The Government of Alberta has developed an internal Permit Database—a centralized system to catalogue the permits issued by the province and the service standard established by ministries for each permit type, and to track current wait times for decisions against these service standards.</p> <p>While discussions are underway around broader publication of decision wait times for provincial permit approvals, some examples of published service standards include the Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Utilities Commission, childcare licenses, and firearms licenses.²</p>
Saskatchewan Some progress Score: 5/10	<p>The Government of Saskatchewan has conducted a review and inventory of the provincial permit landscape, including published service standards, and is exploring risk-based approaches that enable streamlined or automatic approvals where appropriate. These efforts aim to establish clear guidelines, minimize delays, and create a more efficient, client-focused experience.</p> <p>To date, ministries, agencies, and crowns have some service standards and wait times published and are working towards publishing the remaining where feasible. For example, application processing times are available for the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP), elevator licences, private investigators or security guards, and gas contract operators.³</p>
Manitoba No progress Score: 0/10	<p>Manitoba does not have any easily accessible or publicly available wait times or associated service standards for government permits, forms, and applications.</p>
Ontario Completed Score: 10/10	<p>The Ontario government has published service standards and the percentage of time that the service standard is met for all department permits and licences related to businesses.⁴</p>
Quebec Completed Score: 10/10	<p>All ministries and agencies in Quebec have service declarations in place. The Conseil du trésor evaluates the performance of each ministry and agency using a methodology that includes compliance with these service declarations.⁵ It publishes annual global results, bulletins, and creates a competitive environment among ministries.</p>
New Brunswick No progress Score: 0/10	<p>New Brunswick does not have any easily accessible or publicly available wait times or associated service standards for government permits, forms, and applications.</p>
Nova Scotia Completed Score: 10/10	<p>The Nova Scotia government recently passed the <i>Making Business Easier Act</i>.⁶ One part of the Act is an audit of all permits (around 300) undertaken by the province. They will eliminate all permits considered low risk, then establish publicly available service standards and reduce the frequency of required renewals for remaining permits by lengthening the renewal intervals. While the implementation of the Act is still in progress, legislating the requirement for service standards is a great signal of accountability and transparency that goes beyond the ask of CFIB's 2025 Red Tape Challenge.</p>
Prince Edward Island Some progress Score: 5/10	<p>While Prince Edward Island does not provide publicly available wait times or associated service standards for all government permits, forms, and applications, the province does now publish Access PEI wait times, as well as wait times for some sector-specific services.⁷</p>

Newfoundland and Labrador No progress Score: NA	Newfoundland and Labrador does not have any easily accessible or publicly available wait times or associated service standards for government permits, forms, and applications.
Federal government Completed Score: 10/10	While there is no central location that lists all the published waiting times and/or service standards for federal departments, these service standards are reflected in departmental plans and departmental results reports. Several highly visible examples do exist, including within Canada Border Service Agency, Canada Revenue Agency, and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. ⁸
Sources: 1. BC Registries and Online Services , WorkBC , Environmental Assessment Office . 2. Alberta Energy Regulator , Alberta Utilities Commission , childcare licenses , firearm licenses . 3. Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program , elevator licence , private investigators and security guard licence , gas contractor licence . 4. Ontario Business Service Standards for Permits and Licences 5. Conseil du trésor 6. Making Business Easier Act 7. Access PEI Wait Times , Surgery Wait Times , Cancer Treatment Wait Times , Register for Livestock and Poultry Premises Identification , Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gas Plant Licence . 8. Departmental Plans , Departmental Results Reports , CBSA Service Standards , CRA Service Standards , IRCC Service Standards .	

Appendix F: Methodology

The 2026 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 13 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*)

Government progress to publish permit, form & application wait times and associated service standards (1 indicator)

1. Government has published wait times and service standards for all permits, applications, and forms (*composite 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 on how the three areas influence the ability to develop successful regulatory reform. In this regard, greater weighting is given to regulatory accountability. This approach is 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 *Government Progress to Publish Permit, Form & Application Wait Times and Associated Service Standards* 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 bonus — 2%.

The data reflected in this report is based on information that was in effect as of December 8, 2025, excluding the interprovincial cooperation score—which is based off on information that was in effect as of June 15, 2025.

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 based on their relevance to ensure the proper success of regulatory reform initiatives and proper accountability (see Table F1). 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 a government's commitment to implement the appropriate approaches, or for approaches that met some aspects of criteria but failed others.

Table F1

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 businesses and individuals, or a commitment to measure ¹	Yes (5 points); Some (3 points); No (0 points)
Regulatory requirement count (for businesses 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 businesses 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., one-for-one 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., one-for-one rule, reduction/maintenance targets)	Yes (2 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
A4. Accessibility of regulatory documents²	Total potential points = 10
Regulatory government documents available in open data format, including (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, and (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:

1. Some provinces show commitment to measure the regulatory burden on businesses only. These provinces are deducted 2 points for not maintaining a measure for individuals.
2. 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, and (iii) associated policies and forms. If all three types of regulatory documents are available in an 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 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 and PDF formats, for which a score of 1.5 is 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 (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: $10 - ((x - \text{min}) / (\text{max} - \text{min})) * 10$*

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, and intermediate values (partial scores) are used within the extremes.

2026 change in methodology

The main change in methodology between the 2025 and 2026 report cards is described below.

- **The wait time and service standard bonus indicator** is new to the report card in 2026 and replaces the 2025 bonus that scored jurisdictions on efforts to reduce red tape around housing. Governments that earn points within it are awarded bonus points. Those that do not receive points for the bonus indicator are not penalized. Indicator used:
 - i. *Government has published wait times and service standards for all permits, applications, and forms.*

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About CFIB and the *2026 Red Tape Report Card*

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is Canada's largest association of small and medium-sized businesses with 100,000 members across every industry and region. Our goal is to raise awareness about the red tape challenges that currently exist with politicians and policymakers to encourage positive changes that will boost productivity, improve affordability, and create a landscape where small businesses can thrive.

The *2026 Red Tape Report Card* reinforces CFIB's long-standing commitment to assessing Canada's regulatory environment and advocating for red tape reduction at all levels of government. Launched 16 years ago, when few governments measured or reported on regulatory burdens, this report highlights the progress governments across Canada have made in regulatory accountability and red tape reduction. Today, the Red Tape Report Card serves as a vital tool for government officials, policymakers, business owners, and citizens to understand and improve Canada's regulatory landscape.

While CFIB is encouraged by the strides made so far, we remain focused on raising the red tape reduction bar. We hope to see more jurisdictions achieve "A" grades in the future and are continuously searching for new indicators to add to the report card to further drive regulatory modernization. CFIB is always open to discussions with governments on ways to enhance their red tape reduction efforts, ensuring ongoing progress towards a more efficient and supportive regulatory environment for businesses.

We extend our thanks to the businesses, government staff, policymakers, 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.

