

BC Municipal Spending Watch 2014

7th Edition: Trends in Operating Spending, 2000-2012

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A BC family of four could have saved, on average, \$8,356 in municipal taxes over the past 12 years if municipal councils had kept their operating spending to the rate of inflation and population growth. Although recent years have seen a noticeable slowdown in municipal operating spending growth, this slowdown is overshadowed by the 55 per cent increase in overall operating spending that has occurred over the last dozen years, representing \$8.5 billion in excess spending. Overspending of this magnitude is fiscally unsustainable.

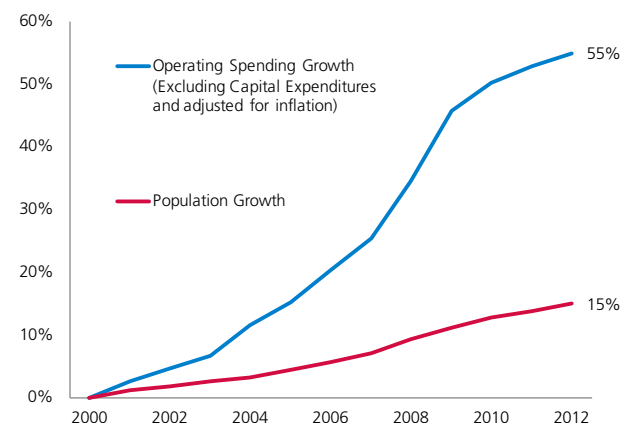
Introduction

The BC Municipal Spending Watch analyzes the sustainability of municipal finances by ranking municipalities based on their operating costs and their rate of operating spending growth over the past 12 years.

From 2000 to 2012 (the latest data available), BC's population grew by 15 per cent while inflation-adjusted municipal operating spending increased by 55 per cent, or more than three and a half times population growth (see Figure 1).

Figure 1

BC Municipal Operating Spending Growth (Adjusted for Inflation) and Population Growth, 2000-2012



Source: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development; BC Stats, Population Estimates; BC Stats, CPI.

Municipalities are unable to run a budget deficit, which means that any operating spending growth beyond population and inflation are likely paid for by raising taxes and/or fees on residents and businesses. Past research done by CFIB has shown that increases in taxes and fees are often transferred disproportionately to small businesses¹.

Increasing the taxes and/or fees on small businesses has negative consequences for the entire province. According to government statistics, small businesses account for more than half of BC's private sector employment and more than a quarter of its economic output². Increasing the tax burden on small businesses makes it more difficult for them to operate, negatively impacting BC's economy. Thus, unsustainable increases in municipal spending are unfavourable for small businesses as well as for residents.

This is why CFIB is advocating for responsible spending from municipal governments. Small business owners have expressed through CFIB surveys that increases in municipal spending should be kept to the rate of inflation and population growth³. CFIB recommends that municipalities keep spending increases to this level.

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¹ Kastelen, Kimball. 2013. *The BC Municipal Property Tax Gap Report*.

² Government of BC, *Small Business Profile 2013*.

³ Armstrong, Matthew and Jones, Laura. *British Columbia Municipal Spending Watch*.

Key Findings

Highlights

- ▶ Only eight out of 151 municipalities in BC have kept operating spending in line with inflation and population growth over the past 12 years. No large municipalities (population of 25,000 and over) made the list.
- ▶ In 2000, BC municipal operating spending per capita stood at \$863. In 2012, that dollar amount increased to \$1,163 per person when adjusted to inflation, representing a 35 per cent increase in operating spending per capita from 2000.
- ▶ In 2012, the cost of local government per capita was highest in the region of Northern BC at \$2,324 and lowest in Thompson Okanagan at \$1,411.
- ▶ The region of Vancouver Island had the highest operating spending growth over the past 12 years of all regions examined at 49 per cent, adjusted for inflation and population growth.
- ▶ Lake Cowichan is the best overall performer in BC (see Table 2).
- ▶ Stewart is the worst overall performer in BC (see Table 3).
- ▶ BC's major centres, Vancouver and Victoria increased their operating spending by 33 and 37 per cent respectively from 2000 to 2012, after adjusting for inflation and population growth (see Table 1). Together, it represents about 1.9 billion in excess spending over the past 12 years.
- ▶ Recent trends demonstrate a continuing slowdown in operating spending growth in BC municipalities compared to previous years, although short and long term operating spending are still above the rate of inflation and population growth.

A Note on Municipal Rankings

In this report, municipal performance is assessed by ranking municipalities against one another. The rank is calculated in such a way that it is evenly split between two different measures: a municipality's 2000 to 2012 spending increase and its 2012 per-person spending level, placing an equal importance on a municipality's long-term spending trend and its latest spending level.

Both measures are important and distinct from one another. For example, a municipality may have had a low increase in its spending from 2000 to 2012 but at the same time it may have a high per-person operating cost. In this case, the municipality will be rewarded for its good long-term spending trend and penalized for its poor per-person spending level.

In general, a municipality with a large, positive spending trend and a high current spending level will receive a poor rank and a municipality with a low spending level and low or negative trend will receive a good ranking. See Appendix 1 for a more detailed discussion of the report's methodology.

Largest Municipalities

Campbell River is the best performing of BC's largest municipalities with a rank of 18 (see Table 1). It has had the second lowest growth in real operating spending per capita from 2000 to 2012 amongst the largest cities at 18 per cent. It also has a below average per capita spending level.

Surrey, the second- best performing large municipality, is ranked 23rd overall and has the lowest per capita spending level among the largest cities at \$931. Its real operating spending growth from 2000 to 2012 of 42 per cent is equivalent to the large city average.

Penticton is ranked worst amongst BC's largest municipalities with a rank of 119. However, the city has been making a continued effort to improve its finances (see Case Study: City of Penticton).

West Vancouver is the second worst performing large municipality with a rank of 117. It has the second highest per capita operating spending of the largest cities at \$2,076 and has seen a 50 per cent increase in its real operating spending per capita from 2000 to 2012.

Case Study: City of Penticton

In 2009, Penticton conducted a core service review in an effort to examine its spending habits and improve its use of taxpayer dollars. From this review significant changes were implemented which resulted in the elimination of union positions, reduction of salaries, and wage freezes for managerial positions. The city also adopted 'zero-based' budgeting, and for three years straight the city has posted a 0 per cent tax increase⁴.

⁴ City of Penticton, Annual Report 2012.

Best Ranked Municipalities

Lake Cowichan is the best ranked municipality in BC, up from fourth place last year (see Table 2). The municipality has a 2012 per capita operating spending of \$945 and is one of the few BC municipalities to have decreased its 2000 to 2012 real operating spending per capita, reducing it by three per cent. Qualicum Beach and Rossland should also be commended for keeping their 2000 to 2012 per capita real operating spending growth to the level of inflation and population growth.

Armstrong is the provinces' second best ranked municipality, up from sixth last year. Even though the municipality has experienced a 19 per cent increase in its real spending per capita from 2000 to 2012, it achieves its strong rank due to having a low 2012 operating spending per capita of \$768.

Worst Ranked Municipalities

Stewart is once again BC's worst overall spender (see Table 3). The municipality had the largest 2012 per capita spending levels of all BC municipalities at \$5,771 per person and despite a population decline of 25 per cent over the last 12 years, real operating spending per capita grew by 141 per cent. (see Appendix 3).

Whistler and Fort Nelson were the next worst ranked. Whistler has the second highest operating spending per capita in the province at \$5,444 despite experiencing a relatively low 2000 to 2012 real operating spending growth of 38 per cent. Fort Nelson (Northern Rockies) has the province's fourth highest increase in operating spending per capita from 2000 to 2012 at 136 per cent and a per capita spending level of \$3,481.

Another municipality of concern is Sooke⁵. While having among the lowest levels of operating spending per capita in all of BC at \$758, it also possesses the highest spending

⁵ Sooke incorporated in December 1999 to become the District of Sooke. Operations began in 2000 with the introduction of a skeletal budget.

growth in BC over the past 12 years at 260 per cent, adjusted for inflation and population growth.

Table 1

How BC's Largest Municipalities Spend (population 25,000 and above)

Listed from Best to Worst (by Overall Provincial Rank)

	Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)	Last Year Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)
1	Campbell River	18	26	18	1,233
2	Surrey	23	35	42	931
3	Burnaby	24	19	24	1,241
4	Mission	33	38	28	1,226
5	Langley City	37	37	32	1,190
6	North Cowichan	39	42	42	1,061
7	Saanich	42	32	37	1,158
8	Port Coquitlam	43	34	37	1,167
9	Richmond	44	45	27	1,348
10	Nanaimo	49	29	28	1,367
11	Port Moody	50	49	28	1,367
12	Chilliwack	51	39	53	981
13	Prince George	58	67	27	1,540
14	Maple Ridge	59	47	52	1,130
15	Delta	66	59	29	1,569
16	New Westminster	68	62	14	1,839
17	Kamloops	72	53	35	1,525
18	Coquitlam	73	40	48	1,344
19	Vernon	82	82	63	1,254
20	Vancouver	86	97	33	1,782
21	North Vancouver District	89	90	51	1,493
22	Langley District Mun.	91	96	66	1,248
23	Kelowna	92	108	44	1,619
24	North Vancouver City	93	76	48	1,593
25	Abbotsford	94	95	67	1,275
26	Victoria	105	105	37	1,962
27	Langford	113	79	108	966
28	West Vancouver	117	111	50	2,076
29	Penticton	119	118	45	2,230
	Average:			42	1,404

The "overall rank" assigned to each municipality is an equally-weighted combination of two indicators: (1) 2000 - 2012 real operating spending per capita growth, or percentage growth in operating spending over the past 12 years, adjusted for inflation and population growth; and (2) 2012 operating spending per capita

Table 2

BC's 10 Best Ranked Municipalities

Listed from Best to Worst (by Overall Provincial Rank)

	Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)	Last Year Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)
1	Lake Cowichan	1	4	-3	945
2	Armstrong	2	6	19	768
3	Qualicum Beach	3	2	0	1,089
4	Fruitvale	4	7	25	731
5	Salmo	5	5	17	877
6	Parksville	6	1	6	1,069
7	Coldstream	7	11	35	593
8	Spallumcheen	8	8	31	743
9	Kaslo	9	12	7	1,209
10	Rosland	10	13	-1	1,354

The "overall rank" assigned to each municipality is an equally-weighted combination of two indicators: (1) 2000 - 2012 real operating spending per capita growth, or percentage growth in operating spending over the past 12 years, adjusted for inflation and population growth; and (2) 2012 operating spending per capita

Table 3

BC's 10 Worst Ranked Municipalities

Listed from Worst to Best (by Overall Provincial Rank)

	Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)	Last Year Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)
1	Stewart	151	151	141	5,771
2	Whistler	150	149	38	5,444
3	Fort Nelson (Northern Rockies)	149	150	136	3,481
4	Silverton	148	128	131	3,483
5	Sooke	147	146	260	758
6	Wells	146	141	79	3,670
7	Valemount	145	110	113	2,972
8	Masset	144	145	59	3,826
9	Tahsis	143	144	31	4,114
10	Granisle	142	147	63	3,386

The "overall rank" assigned to each municipality is an equally-weighted combination of two indicators: (1) 2000 - 2012 real operating spending per capita growth, or percentage growth in operating spending over the past 12 years, adjusted for inflation and population growth; and (2) 2012 operating spending per capita

Municipal Revenue Trends, 2000 - 2012

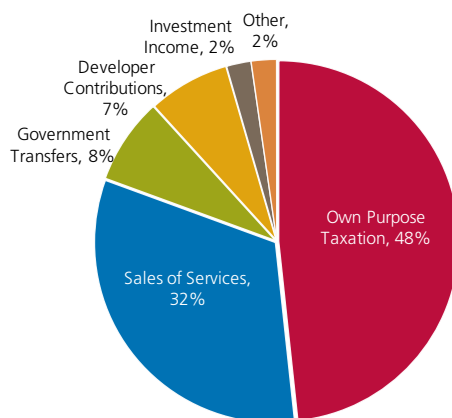
In 2012, municipal revenue in BC totalled \$8 billion⁶. As shown in Figure 2, the majority of municipal revenues stem from property taxes (48 per cent). About one third of revenues are from the sale of services such as business licences. Other sources of revenues include government transfers (8 per cent), which refers to the transfer of funds from higher levels of government to lower levels of government, developer contributions (7 per cent), which are costs a developer needs to pay to connect a new community to municipal infrastructure, and investment income (2 per cent).

Small business owners are particularly affected by taxes on business property because they are taxed at a much higher rate than residents, despite not consuming municipal services at the same rate⁷. In 2012, BC businesses paid, on average, 2.7 times more on municipal property tax than on a residential property of equal value⁸. Raising property taxes on businesses is a politically easier alternative than raising residential property taxes due to less potential for voter backlash.

Real municipal revenues from government transfers increased by 139 per cent over the past 12 years (see Figure 3). While local governments argue that the large increases in municipal spending are due to 'government downloading', or the transfer of responsibility from provincial governments to municipal governments, it is clear from the charts that municipalities have been given much support from higher levels of government to administer the programs they have passed down. Another source of municipal revenue that has more than doubled over the 12 years is sales of services, which encompasses everything from parking fees to business licences. This is an easy way for local governments to raise revenues without causing too much criticism, but the effects of raised fees hurts small businesses tremendously.

Figure 2

Sources of Municipal Revenue, 2012



Source: Ministry of Community, Sport, & Cultural Development. 2012. Local Gov't Stats. Revenue. Sch401_2012; BC Stats, CPI.

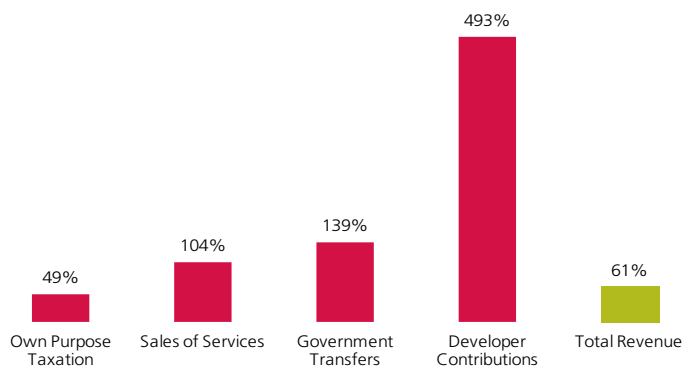
⁶ Ministry of Community, Sport, & Cultural Development. 2012. Local Government Statistics

⁷MMK Consulting Inc., City of Vancouver - Consumption of Tax-Supported Municipal Services, Volume 1 – Main Report

⁸Kastelen, Kimball. The BC Municipal Property Tax Gap

Figure 3

Growth of Revenue Sources, Adjusted for Inflation, 2000 – 2012



Source: Ministry of Community, Sport, & Cultural Development. 2012. Local Gov't Stats. Revenue. Sch401_2000 -2012; BC Stats, CPI.

Municipal Spending Trends, 2000 – 2012

Aggregate municipal operating spending in BC totalled 5.8 billion in 2012. Over 40 per cent of this was spent on general government and protective services (see Figure 4).

A large portion of operating spending is spent on wages and benefits (e.g. 60 per cent in Vancouver⁹ and 62 per cent in Victoria¹⁰). Unfortunately, unlike provinces such as Alberta and Quebec where the provincial government collects, aggregates, and publishes data on municipal salaries and benefits as well as the number of employees a municipality has, the BC government does not require such information. This makes it more challenging to have an expense breakdown in order to figure out what exactly the money is being used for.

In a past study done by CFIB, it was found that there is a large disparity between public sector and private sector salaries, wages and benefits. CFIB's Wage Watch Report found that in BC, there was an average wage premium of 11.8 per cent for public sector workers, which balloons to 35.1 per cent when public sector benefits are included¹¹.

Figure 4 outlines the growth in spending by expenditure category. 'Other services' experienced the highest increase at 133 per cent over the past 12 years even after adjusting for inflation (see Figure 5). Such services include cemeteries, airports, wharves and docks, and other utilities (e.g. telephone, gas and electricity)¹².

With the exception of social services, the inflation-adjusted growth in all spending categories has widely exceeded BC's population growth of 15 per cent from 2000 to 2012.

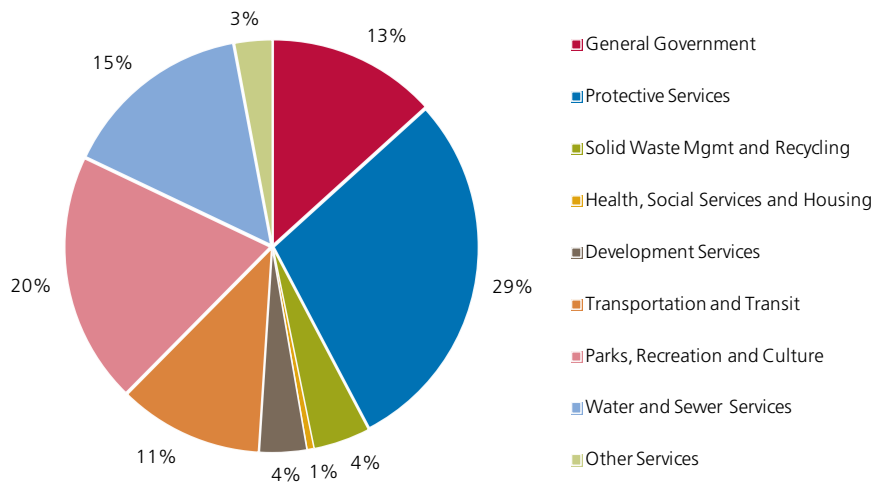
⁹ City of Vancouver, 2012 Annual Financial Report.

¹⁰ City of Victoria, 2012 Annual Report.

¹¹ Mallett, Ted. Wong, Queenie. Canadian Federation of Independent Business. 2008. Wage Watch: A Comparison of Public-sector and Private-sector Wages

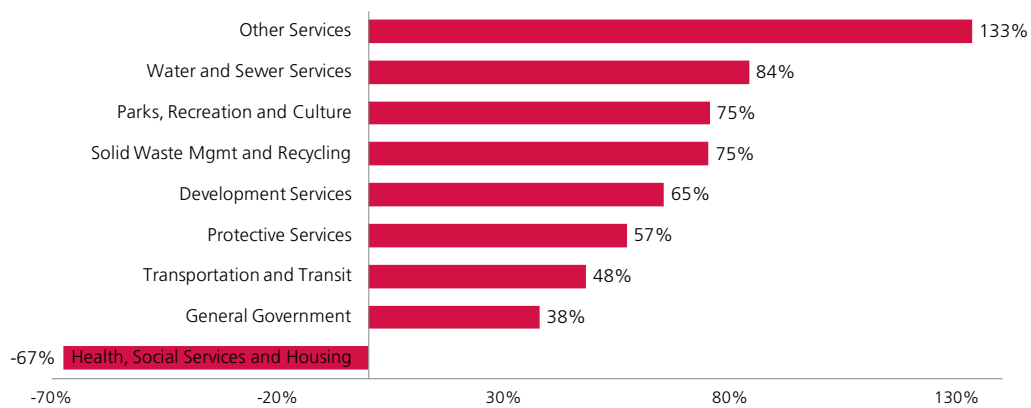
¹² Provincial Guidance. Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

Figure 4
Allocation of Municipal Spending, 2012



Source: Ministry of Community, Sport, & Cultural Development. 2012.
 Local Gov't Stats, Expenditure. Sch402_2012.

Figure 5
Growth of Spending, by Expenditure Category, Adjusted for Inflation, 2000 – 2012



Source: Ministry of Community, Sport, & Cultural Development. 2000-2012.
 Local Gov't Stats, Expenditure. Sch402_2000-2012; BC Stats, CPI.

Municipal Spending Trends by Region

2000- 2012 Municipal Operating Spending Statistics

This section examines British Columbia's municipal spending trends by the following geographic regions:

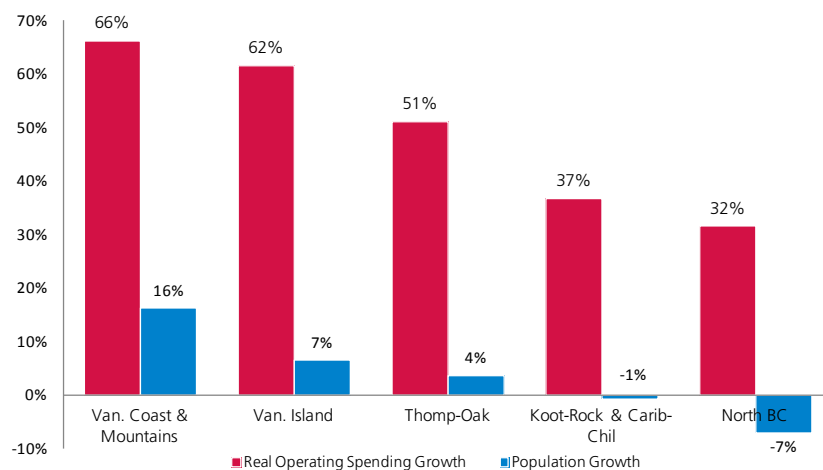
- ▶ Vancouver, Coast & Mountains
- ▶ Vancouver Island
- ▶ Thompson Okanagan
- ▶ Kootenay Rockies & Cariboo Chilcotin Coast
- ▶ Northern British Columbia

These regions are the same defined geographic areas used by the Government of British Columbia. For balance, "Kootenay Rockies" and "Cariboo Chilcotin Coast" have been combined.

Figure 6 compares real operating spending growth at the regional level to that of population growth over the last 12 years. Even when operating spending is adjusted to inflation, it still greatly outpaces population growth. The regions of Northern BC and Kootenay Rockies & Cariboo Chilcotin Coast have had growth in real operating spending per capita over the 2000 to 2012 period despite the municipalities in these regions having had a declining population, on average.

Figure 6

BC Regional Real Operating Spending Growth and Population Growth, 2000 – 2012



Source: Ministry of Community, Sport, & Cultural Development. 2000-2012. Local Gov't Stats, Expenditure. Sch402_2000-2012; BC Stats, Population Estimates 2000-2012; BC Stats, CPI.

Vancouver, Coast & Mountains

Whistler and Lions Bay are the worst performers in the region (see Table 4). Whistler has by far the highest operating spending per capita in the region at \$5,444. Lions Bay experienced the region's largest growth in real operating spending per capita from 2000 to 2012 at 134 per cent. The third worst performing municipality in the region, West Vancouver has the region's second highest operating spending per capita at \$2,076.

BC's largest municipality, Vancouver's population has increased by 12 per cent since 2000 (see Appendix 4) while its real operating spending per capita has increased by 33 per cent. Vancouver's overall rank improved by 11 spots from last year's report.

Powell River was the only municipality in the region that was able to keep its operating spending to inflation and population levels during the past 12 years.

Table 4

Municipalities by Overall Provincial Rank, Vancouver, Coast & Mountains Listed from Best to Worst (by Overall Provincial Rank)

	Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)	Last Year Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)
1	Gibsons	13	14	10	1,235
2	Anmore	20	55	41	869
3	Surrey	23	35	42	931
4	Burnaby	24	19	24	1,241
5	Powell River	29	17	-8	1,807
6	Mission	33	38	28	1,226
7	Pemberton	36	52	19	1,406
8	Langley City	37	37	32	1,190
9	Port Coquitlam	43	34	37	1,167
10	Richmond	44	45	27	1,348
11	Port Moody	50	49	28	1,367
12	Chilliwack	51	39	53	981
13	Bowen Island	55	57	33	1,417
14	Maple Ridge	59	47	52	1,130
15	White Rock	63	54	40	1,363
16	Delta	66	59	29	1,569
17	New Westminster	68	62	14	1,839
18	Squamish	69	69	36	1,472
19	Coquitlam	73	40	48	1,344
20	Harrison Hot Springs	85	120	38	1,686
21	Vancouver	86	97	33	1,782
22	Kent	87	88	64	1,255
23	North Vancouver District	89	90	51	1,493
24	Township of Langley	91	96	66	1,248
25	North Vancouver City	93	76	48	1,593
26	Abbotsford	94	95	67	1,275
27	Hope	98	86	59	1,473
28	Sechelt	103	46	70	1,356
29	Pitt Meadows	112	104	89	1,266
30	West Vancouver	117	111	50	2,076
31	Lions Bay	135	148	134	1,349
32	Whistler	150	149	38	5,444
	Regional Average:			44	1,506

Vancouver Island

While the cost for the operations of the local government in Sooke¹³ is relatively low per capita (\$758), real operating spending per capita skyrocketed by 260 per cent from 2000 to 2012, the largest increase in the region and in BC (see Table 5). The second worst ranked municipality in the region is Tahsis where municipal operating spending has reached \$4,114 per capita, the highest in the region and third worst in the province.

Victoria ranked 105th in this year's report, the same position it held last year. Its real municipal operating spending per capita has increased by 37 per cent since 2000.

Overall, municipalities in the Vancouver Island region have had, on average, the highest rate of real operating spending growth per capita from 2000 to 2012. Lake Cowichan and Qualicum Beach are the only municipalities in the region that have kept spending to inflation and population growth from 2000 to 2012. Due to this and its low per capita operating spending, Lake Cowichan is now the best performing municipality in the province, up from fourth place in the previous year.

Table 5

Municipalities by Overall Provincial Rank, Vancouver Island Listed from Best to Worst (by Overall Provincial Rank)

	Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)	Last Year Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)
1	Lake Cowichan	1	4	-3	945
2	Qualicum Beach	3	2	0 ¹⁴	1,089
3	Parksville	6	1	6	1,069
4	Port McNeill	12	9	29	890
5	Comox	16	23	29	1,013
6	Campbell River	18	26	18	1,233
7	Duncan	22	60	23	1,199
8	Ladysmith	28	24	27	1,218
9	Port Alberni	30	21	7	1,560
10	Highlands	34	41	54	786
11	Port Hardy	35	18	10	1,529
12	Courtenay	38	30	25	1,315
13	North Cowichan	39	42	42	1,061
14	Saanich	42	32	37	1,158
15	Cumberland	46	28	51	976
16	Nanaimo	49	29	28	1,367
17	Sidney	53	33	32	1,387
18	Central Saanich	67	51	46	1,302
19	Oak Bay	75	70	36	1,592
20	Gold River	80	81	14	1,992
21	North Saanich	83	65	64	1,236
22	Metchosin	88	123	103	622
23	View Royal	90	74	80	1,012
24	Esquimalt	95	89	52	1,550
25	Port Alice	97	122	25	2,023
26	Colwood	104	106	97	932
27	Victoria	105	105	37	1,962
28	Langford	113	79	108	966
29	Belcarra	125	98	106	1,465
30	Tofino	129	127	67	2,218
31	Alert Bay	132	130	42	2,802
32	Ucluelet	139	138	73	2,691
33	Tahsis	143	144	31	4,114
34	Sooke	147	146	260	758
	Regional Average:			49	1,442

¹³ See footnote 5

¹⁴ Figures shown as '0' could be due to rounding

Thompson Okanagan

Valemount is the worst performing municipality in the region and the sixth worst in the province (see Table 6). It has the region's highest operating spending per capita at \$2,972. Sicamous is the second worst ranked municipality in the region. It has had the region's largest increase in spending from 2000 to 2012 at 151 per cent.

As a whole, municipalities in Thompson Okanagan have, on average, the lowest local government operating cost per capita compared to the other four regions. However, no municipality in the Thompson Okanagan region was able to keep its spending in line with inflation and population growth, although Midway was able to keep its spending somewhat close to that benchmark.

Table 6

Municipalities by Overall Provincial Rank, Thompson Okanagan Listed from Best to Worst (by Overall Provincial Rank)

Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)	Last Year Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)
1 Armstrong	2	6	19	768
2 Fruitvale	4	7	25	731
3 Coldstream	7	11	35	593
4 Spallumcheen	8	8	31	743
5 Chase	11	10	22	972
6 Enderby	14	3	20	1,118
7 Ashcroft	21	15	15	1,311
8 Midway	27	20	6	1,549
9 Oliver	31	36	35	1,101
10 Salmon Arm	32	22	33	1,141
11 Princeton	48	50	36	1,244
12 Greenwood	54	78	20	1,591
13 Keremeos	64	91	60	1,044
14 Kamloops	72	53	35	1,525
15 Peachland	74	58	50	1,356
16 Lake Country	76	87	56	1,256
17 Logan Lake	77	66	39	1,571
18 Cache Creek	78	68	27	1,770
19 Merritt	79	80	44	1,496
20 Vernon	82	82	63	1,254
21 Kelowna	92	108	44	1,619
22 Osoyoos	102	93	66	1,384
23 Grand Forks	110	113	34	2,154
24 Summerland	118	125	63	1,913
25 Penticton	119	118	45	2,230
26 Lumby	121	119	114	1,202
27 Sicamous	141	132	151	1,892
28 Valemount	145	110	113	2,972
Regional Average:			46	1,411

Kootenay Rockies & Cariboo Chilcotin Coast

Silverton is the worst ranked municipality in the region and third worst in the province (see Table 7). Along with having a high operating spending per capita, Silverton has recorded the region's largest increase in real operating spending per capita from 2000 to 2012 at 131 per cent. The second worst in the region was Wells, with the region's largest operating spending per capita at \$3,670.

Overall, the municipalities within the Kootenay Rookies & Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region had, on average, the lowest real operating spending growth per capita from 2000 to 2012 (tied with the Northern BC region). Rossland and 100 Mile House are the only municipalities in the region that have kept their spending in line with population and inflation growth over the past 12 years.

Table 7

Municipalities by Overall Provincial Rank, Kootenay Rockies & Cariboo Chilcotin Coast

Listed from Best to Worst (by Overall Provincial Rank)

	Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)	Last Year Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)
1	Salmo	5	5	17	877
2	Kaslo	9	12	7	1,209
3	Rossland	10	13	-1	1,354
4	Montrose	15	16	30	985
5	Creston	17	27	17	1,234
6	100 Mile House	26	44	-7	1,770
7	Warfield	41	31	43	1,059
8	Castlegar	45	43	18	1,508
9	Quesnel	52	48	14	1,638
10	Fernie	60	84	5	1,926
11	Nakusp	62	85	22	1,639
12	Clinton	65	61	27	1,596
13	Trail	71	75	18	1,819
14	Cranbrook	81	99	44	1,515
15	Elkford	96	77	17	2,134
16	Williams Lake	99	101	37	1,845
17	Sparwood	108	117	35	2,068
18	Invermere	115	102	60	1,861
19	Nelson	120	126	11	2,870
20	Slocan	124	143	79	1,896
21	Radium Hot Springs	127	115	32	2,767
22	Kimberley	128	131	65	2,251
23	New Denver	130	129	105	1,603
24	Revelstoke	133	135	74	2,280
25	Lillooet	134	124	110	1,717
26	Golden	137	136	110	1,806
27	Wells	146	141	79	3,670
28	Silverton	148	128	131	3,483
	Regional Average:			43	1,871

Northern British Columbia

Stewart is the worst ranked municipality in the region and in BC. This municipality is also the region's worst culprit in terms of its 2012 operating spending per capita (\$5,771) and its real operating spending per capita growth from 2000 to 2012 (141 per cent). Fort Nelson (Northern Rockies) is Northern BC's second worst performing municipality. It had the region's second highest growth in operating spending per capita from 2000 to 2012 at 136 per cent and also has the region's third highest 2012 operating spending per capita at \$3,481.

On average, the local governments in Northern British Columbia have the highest operating cost per capita among the regions examined (see Table 9). However, real operating spending growth per capita from 2000 to 2012 is the lowest among the five regions (tied with the Kootenay Rookies & Cariboo Chilcotin Coast). Northern BC stands out from the other regions as 22 out of 29 municipalities have undergone a population decrease from 2000 to 2012, yet most of these municipalities increased their spending over that period.

Three municipalities in the region, Prince Rupert, Tumbler Ridge and Taylor, kept their operating spending growth well below the benchmark of population growth and inflation over the 2000 to 2012 period.

Table 8

Municipalities by Overall Provincial Rank, Northern British Columbia Listed from Best to Worst (by Overall Provincial Rank)

	Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)	Last Year Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)
1	Terrace	19	25	11	1,384
2	Vanderhoof	25	83	37	1,028
3	Port Clements	40	103	22	1,397
4	Houston	47	56	25	1,418
5	Prince Rupert	56	63	-11	2,159
6	Tumbler Ridge	57	72	-48	2,782
7	Prince George	58	67	27	1,540
8	New Hazelton	61	112	24	1,606
9	Smithers	70	64	22	1,733
10	Fort St. James	84	94	33	1,758
11	Port Edward	100	142	13	2,246
12	Taylor	101	114	-42	3,197
13	Mackenzie	106	100	36	2,001
14	Hazelton	107	92	24	2,219
15	Fort St. John	109	107	49	1,836
16	Fraser Lake	111	109	55	1,844
17	Burns Lake	114	73	64	1,739
18	Chetwynd	116	139	49	2,077
19	Pouce Coupe	122	116	77	1,858
20	Dawson Creek	123	133	40	2,522
21	McBride	126	137	67	2,136
22	Sayward	131	140	43	2,690
23	Kitimat	136	121	59	2,658
24	Telkwa	138	71	112	1,881
25	Hudson's Hope	140	134	62	3,217
26	Granisle	142	147	63	3,386
27	Masset	144	145	59	3,826
28	Fort Nelson (Northern Rockies)	149	150	136	3,481
29	Stewart	151	151	141	5,771
	Regional Average:			43	2,324

Conclusions and Recommendations

Municipal operational spending is considered to be sustainable when it is at or below the rate of inflation and population growth¹⁵. However, over the past 12 years most British Columbia municipalities have spent well in excess of sustainable levels. While the overall rate of spending growth continues to slow, only a minority of BC municipalities have demonstrated real restraint. Overspending by local governments leads to high taxation, putting pressure on local commerce and stifling job growth. For local governments the choice is clear: address overspending now or leave a greater burden for future governments to deal with down the road.

CFIB believes there is still time for municipalities to adopt more sustainable spending practices before it is too late. Ultimately, it will require strong political leadership.

CFIB recommends that:

1. Municipal operating spending increases be limited to the rate of population growth and inflation.
2. In all cases, core services must be identified and core service reviews conducted to ensure effective fiscal management.
3. Public sector compensation should be aligned with the private sector. According to the latest CFIB research, British Columbia currently has a 35.1 per cent gap between these sectors when combining wages and benefits¹⁶. CFIB recommends freezing public sector wages until private sector wages catch up and reach parity with those of the public sector.
4. Increase transparency of reporting municipal financial data. While data is collected and reported on an annual basis by the BC Government, the quality and coverage of the data could use improvement. For example, the province should collect and publicly report the data on the number of employees and the total amount spent on wages, salaries and benefits at the municipal level on a regular basis. This practice is already in place in Alberta¹⁷ and Quebec¹⁸. In order to better inform the public as to where their tax dollars are being spent, improving accountability in the process, employment and salary numbers should be broken down by function and included in the annual reports submitted to the province by municipal governments¹⁹.
5. All municipalities support the mandate and abide by the recommendations of BC's new Municipal Auditor General. CFIB is encouraged that the provincial government has followed through on its commitment to create an independent Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG), as recommended in previous iterations of this report. However, the success and effect of this new office will rely on the cooperation and recognition of municipal governments. Therefore, we urge municipalities to commit to working constructively with the AGLG to reverse the unsustainable spending trends outlined in this report.

¹⁵ Based on CFIB survey data. Armstrong, Matthew and Jones, Laura. *British Columbia Municipal Spending Watch*.

¹⁶ Mallett, Ted. Wong, Queenie. *Canadian Federation of Independent Business. 2008. Wage Watch: A Comparison of Public-sector and Private-sector Wages*

¹⁷ Government of Alberta, Ministry of Municipal Affairs. 2012. *Municipal Financial and Statistical Data. Financial Activities by Type/Object; General Statistics*

¹⁸ Gouvernement du Québec, ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'occupation du territoire, *Rapport financier des organismes municipaux. Analyse de la rémunération*

¹⁹ Armstrong, Matthew and Jones, Laura. *British Columbia Municipal Spending Watch*.

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Appendix 1

Methodology

The Municipal Spending Watch rankings are based on an equal weighting of growth in inflation-adjusted operating spending per capita (2000 to 2012) and 2012 operating spending per capita²⁰. In order for the ranking system to be more intuitive, this year's report changes the ranking system so that the best performing municipality is given a rank of one. In previous editions of this report, the worst ranked municipality was given a rank of one.

Capital expenditures, such as infrastructure building, are excluded from the report. This report only looks at local government *operating* spending. Policing costs have been included in this year's report (see Appendix 2). An implication of this inclusion is that this year's report is not comparable to previous editions of the BC Municipal Spending Watch, since policing costs were excluded in previous editions.

In total, 151 municipalities are covered in this report. Barriere, Canal Flats, Clearwater, Lantzville, Sun Peaks, West Kelowna and Queen Charlotte were not included in this report since many of these municipalities are newly incorporated and do not have data stretching back to 2000. Zeballos has been excluded from this year's report as the municipality has a very small population that has decreased substantially since 2000. Lytton has also been excluded since, at the time this report was written, the municipality had not yet submitted their 2012 financial records to the BC Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for verification.

Municipalities are divided into the following geographic regions:

- Vancouver, Coast & Mountains
- Vancouver Island
- Thompson- Okanagan
- Kootenay- Rockies & Cariboo- Chilcotin Coast
- Northern British Columbia

This report analyzes BC municipal spending statistics from 2000 to 2012, the most recent year available. Unless otherwise stated, data on municipal revenues and expenditures have been obtained from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. Figures and tables on municipal spending represent CFIB calculations based on this data.

Similar to past reports, the year 2000 is used as the base year for comparing operating spending. This inevitably includes spending patterns during both economic upturns and economic downturns over

²⁰A standardized index is created for each indicator (between 0 and 100). A municipality with the highest real operating spending per capita growth is given a score of 0 while the municipality with the lowest 2000 – 2012 real operating spending per capita growth is given a score of 100. All other municipalities are given a proportionate score within that range. The same exercise is applied to the indicator for the 2012 operating spending per capita. The average of the two scores is then converted to a percentage score which is subsequently ranked against the other municipalities.

the past 12 years. Municipal operating spending is calculated using total municipal expenditures, excluding capital spending²¹.

Municipal population growth rates and provincial inflation growth rates are calculated based on BC Stats data from 2000 to 2012. The population figures have been updated from previous reports to obtain more recent estimates. All municipalities have been allocated the provincial inflation rate with the exception of those municipalities within the Greater Vancouver Region and the Capital Region, as separate inflation values exist for these two regions. To evaluate the degree of sustainable spending growth, CFIB considers population growth and inflation to be a reasonable benchmark for optimal spending increases based on survey responses from small business owners in BC²².

Appendix 2

A Note on Policing Costs

Although excluded from past reports, policing costs have been included in this year's report. The reason for the previous exclusion is that most BC municipalities do not have an independent police force but rather contract out to the RCMP. Due to this, municipalities have argued that they have little control over their policing costs since the federal government, not the municipality, negotiates policing wages. However, although municipalities that contract out to the RCMP may not have much control over their contracts, they do have control over the number of police officers they hire²³. CFIB sees this as a credible reason to include policing costs in these calculations.

According to the BC Ministry of Justice, a municipality is responsible for its own police services once it reaches a population of 5,000²⁴. Before reaching a population of 5,000, municipalities are policed by the provincial RCMP. The province pays for 70 per cent of the associated costs while the federal government pays for the remaining 30 per cent. A portion (less than 50 per cent) of the provincial component is recovered through a municipal Police Tax.

Once a municipality has reached a population of 5,000, it has the choice of forming an independent department, contracting with an existing department or contracting with the provincial government for RCMP services. As of 2012, there are 74 BC municipalities that were given responsibility for providing their own police services, 12 which have chosen to be policed by an independent force (Vancouver, Victoria, Saanich, Central Saanich, Oak Bay, Delta, Abbotsford, New Westminster, West Vancouver, Nelson and Port Moody; Esquimalt shares services with Victoria). These 12 municipalities are responsible for 100 per cent of their policing costs and are governed by their own policing board. Of the remaining 62 municipalities that are policed by the RCMP, those with a population of 5,000-14,999 are responsible for 70 per cent of their policing costs. Municipalities with a population over 14,999 are responsible for 90 per cent. The federal government pays for the remaining portions.

²¹In the case of West Vancouver, transportation and transit expenses have also been excluded from operating spending due to special circumstances in these expenses after 2000. This is addressed in the previous editions of this report.

Due to changes in accounting practices, starting from 2008, amortization is excluded from total expenses.

²²Based on CFIB survey data. Armstrong, Matthew and Jones, Laura. *British Columbia Municipal Spending Watch*

²³Government of British Columbia. 2012. *British Columbia Municipal Police Unit Agreement*

²⁴Government of British Columbia, Ministry of Justice. 2013. *Police Resources in British Columbia, 2012*

Appendix 3

2014 Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best, 151=Worst)

Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best)	Last Yr. Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)	Change in Municipal Spending per Capita from 2011-2012 (%)	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending Growth (%)	2000-2012 Population Growth (%)
Lake Cowichan	1	4	-3	945	-6	5	8
Armstrong	2	6	19	768	0	38	17
Qualicum Beach	3	2	0	1,089	2	23	23
Fruitvale	4	7	25	731	1	22	-3
Salmo	5	5	17	877	4	17	0
Parksville	6	1	6	1,069	7	23	16
Coldstream	7	11	35	593	-1	47	9
Spallumcheen	8	8	31	743	4	27	-3
Kaslo	9	12	7	1,209	2	6	-1
Rosland	10	13	-1	1,354	-2	-4	-3
Chase	11	10	22	972	5	21	-1
Port McNeill	12	9	29	890	6	10	-15
Gibsons	13	14	10	1,235	-2	28	17
Enderby	14	3	20	1,118	15	20	0
Montrose	15	16	30	985	0	23	-5
Comox	16	23	29	1,013	-3	53	19
Creston	17	27	17	1,234	11	-66	10
Campbell River	18	26	18	1,233	-3	26	7
Terrace	19	25	11	1,384	-1	1	-8
Anmore	20	55	41	869	-11	122	57
Ashcroft	21	15	15	1,311	2	0	-13
Duncan	22	60	23	1,199	-11	28	4
Surrey	23	35	42	931	-3	96	38
Burnaby	24	19	24	1,241	3	44	17
Vanderhoof	25	83	37	1,028	-15	38	1
100 Mile House	26	44	-7	1,770	-6	-6	1
Midway	27	20	6	1,549	3	9	2
Ladysmith	28	24	27	1,218	3	52	20
Powell River	29	17	-8	1,807	4	-7	0
Port Alberni	30	21	7	1,560	3	3	-3
Oliver	31	36	35	1,101	-2	52	12
Salmon Arm	32	22	33	1,141	4	48	12
Mission	33	38	28	1,226	-2	48	16
Highlands	34	41	54	786	-2	93	25
Port Hardy	35	18	10	1,529	5	-9	-18
Pemberton	36	52	19	1,406	-6	85	55
Langley City	37	37	32	1,190	-1	40	6
Courtenay	38	30	25	1,315	3	63	30
North Cowichan	39	42	42	1,061	-1	54	8
Port Clements	40	103	22	1,397	-18	-11	-27
Warfield	41	31	43	1,059	3	36	-5
Saanich	42	32	37	1,158	3	42	3
Port Coquitlam	43	34	37	1,167	2	52	11
Richmond	44	45	27	1,348	-1	47	16
Castlegar	45	43	18	1,508	0	30	9
Cumberland	46	28	51	976	6	98	31
Houston	47	56	25	1,418	-4	3	-18
Princeton	48	50	36	1,244	-2	38	2
Nanaimo	49	29	28	1,367	6	47	14
Port Moody	50	49	28	1,367	-1	77	38
Chilliwack	51	39	53	981	3	89	23
Quesnel	52	48	14	1,638	0	13	-1
Sidney	53	33	32	1,387	6	31	0
Greenwood	54	78	20	1,591	-7	22	2
Bowen Island	55	57	33	1,417	-1	52	15
Prince Rupert	56	63	-11	2,159	-2	-27	-18
Tumbler Ridge	57	72	-48	2,782	-5	-26	42
Prince George	58	67	27	1,540	-2	22	-4
Maple Ridge	59	47	52	1,130	4	84	22

Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best)	Last Yr. Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)	Change in Municipal Spending per Capita from 2011-2012 (%)	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending Growth (%)	2000-2012 Population Growth (%)
Fernie	60	84	5	1,926	-6	4	-1
New Hazelton	61	112	24	1,606	-16	3	-17
Nakusp	62	85	22	1,639	-6	14	-7
White Rock	63	54	40	1,363	2	46	4
Keremeos	64	91	60	1,044	-7	80	13
Clinton	65	61	27	1,596	1	28	1
Delta	66	59	29	1,569	1	30	1
Central Saanich	67	51	46	1,302	5	47	1
New Westminster	68	62	14	1,839	1	37	19
Squamish	69	69	36	1,472	0	67	23
Smithers	70	64	22	1,733	2	16	-5
Trail	71	75	18	1,819	-1	14	-3
Kamloops	72	53	35	1,525	4	46	8
Coquitlam	73	40	48	1,344	10	69	15
Peachland	74	58	50	1,356	5	66	11
Oak Bay	75	70	36	1,592	3	34	-2
Lake Country	76	87	56	1,256	-1	100	28
Logan Lake	77	66	39	1,571	4	22	-12
Cache Creek	78	68	27	1,770	4	22	-4
Merritt	79	80	44	1,496	1	40	-2
Gold River	80	81	14	1,992	0	-3	-15
Cranbrook	81	99	44	1,515	-3	49	4
Vernon	82	82	63	1,254	3	82	12
North Saanich	83	65	64	1,236	8	69	3
Fort St. James	84	94	33	1,758	-2	13	-15
Harrison Hot Springs	85	120	38	1,686	-12	59	16
Vancouver	86	97	33	1,782	-3	49	12
Kent	87	88	64	1,255	2	91	16
Metchosis	88	123	103	622	-12	100	-1
North Vancouver District	89	90	51	1,493	0	53	1
View Royal	90	74	80	1,012	6	138	32
Langley District Mun.	91	96	66	1,248	-1	101	21
Kelowna	92	108	44	1,619	-6	74	21
North Vancouver City	93	76	48	1,593	6	62	10
Abbotsford	94	95	67	1,275	1	93	15
Esquimalt	95	89	52	1,550	3	48	-3
Elkford	96	77	17	2,134	5	11	-6
Port Alice	97	122	25	2,023	-11	-13	-31
Hope	98	86	59	1,473	5	51	-5
Williams Lake	99	101	37	1,845	-1	29	-6
Port Edward	100	142	13	2,246	-31	-12	-22
Taylor	101	114	-42	3,197	-8	-28	25
Osoyoos	102	93	66	1,384	3	86	12
Sechelt	103	46	70	1,356	20	103	19
Colwood	104	106	97	932	0	124	14
Victoria	105	105	37	1,962	0	47	8
Mackenzie	106	100	36	2,001	3	-15	-37
Hazelton	107	92	24	2,219	6	4	-16
Sparwood	108	117	35	2,068	-3	31	-2
Fort St. John	109	107	49	1,836	1	81	22
Grand Forks	110	113	34	2,154	0	32	-1
Fraser Lake	111	109	55	1,844	2	39	-10
Pitt Meadows	112	104	89	1,266	6	130	21
Langford	113	79	108	966	16	231	59
Burns Lake	114	73	64	1,739	18	72	5
Invermere	115	102	60	1,861	9	65	3
Chetwynd	116	139	49	2,077	-17	43	-4
West Vancouver	117	111	50	2,076	5	51	0
Summerland	118	125	63	1,913	0	72	5
Penticton	119	118	45	2,230	3	53	5
Nelson	120	126	11	2,870	1	18	6

Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best)	Last Yr. Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)	Change in Municipal Spending per Capita from 2011-2012 (%)	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending Growth (%)	2000-2012 Population Growth (%)
Lumby	121	119	114	1,202	7	115	0
Pouce Coupe	122	116	77	1,858	8	60	-10
Dawson Creek	123	133	40	2,522	-2	55	10
Slocan	124	143	79	1,896	-18	74	-3
Belcarra	125	98	106	1,465	20	85	-10
McBride	126	137	67	2,136	-9	36	-19
Radium Hot Springs	127	115	32	2,767	11	85	40
Kimberley	128	131	65	2,251	4	63	-1
Tofino	129	127	67	2,218	7	127	36
New Denver	130	129	105	1,603	7	92	-6
Sayward	131	140	43	2,690	-11	15	-20
Alert Bay	132	130	42	2,802	8	7	-25
Revelstoke	133	135	74	2,280	-3	63	-6
Lillooet	134	124	110	1,717	14	74	-17
Lions Bay	135	148	134	1,349	-24	115	-8
Kitimat	136	121	59	2,658	16	22	-24
Golden	137	136	110	1,806	-1	93	-8
Telkwa	138	71	112	1,881	44	112	0
Ucluelet	139	138	73	2,691	1	79	3
Hudson's Hope	140	134	62	3,217	15	53	-6
Sicamous	141	132	151	1,892	27	118	-13
Granisle	142	147	63	3,386	-12	31	-19
Tahsis	143	144	31	4,114	3	-38	-52
Masset	144	145	59	3,826	2	39	-12
Valemount	145	110	113	2,972	49	77	-17
Wells	146	141	79	3,670	11	75	-2
Sooke	147	146	260	758	2	372	31
Silverton	148	128	131	3,483	54	98	-14
Fort Nelson (Northern Rockies)	149	150	136	3,481	-15	195	25
Whistler	150	149	38	5,444	-7	56	13
Stewart	151	151	141	5,771	5	80	-25

Appendix 4

Overall Provincial Rank, in Alphabetical Order (1=Best, 151=Worst)

Municipality	Overall Provincial Rank (1=Best)	Last Yr. Rank	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending per Capita Growth (%)	2012 Operating Spending per Capita (\$)	Change in Municipal Spending per Capita from 2011-2012 (%)	2000-2012 Real Operating Spending Growth (%)	2000-2012 Population Growth (%)
100 Mile House	26	44	-7	1,770	-6	-6	1
Abbotsford	94	95	67	1,275	1	93	15
Alert Bay	132	130	42	2,802	8	7	-25
Anmore	20	55	41	869	-11	122	57
Armstrong	2	6	19	768	0	38	17
Ashcroft	21	15	15	1,311	2	0	-13
Belcarra	125	98	106	1,465	20	85	-10
Bowen Island	55	57	33	1,417	-1	52	15
Burnaby	24	19	24	1,241	3	44	17
Burns Lake	114	73	64	1,739	18	72	5
Cache Creek	78	68	27	1,770	4	22	-4
Campbell River	18	26	18	1,233	-3	26	7
Castlegar	45	43	18	1,508	0	30	9
Central Saanich	67	51	46	1,302	5	47	1
Chase	11	10	22	972	5	21	-1
Chetwynd	116	139	49	2,077	-17	43	-4
Chilliwack	51	39	53	981	3	89	23
Clinton	65	61	27	1,596	1	28	1
Coldstream	7	11	35	593	-1	47	9
Colwood	104	106	97	932	0	124	14
Comox	16	23	29	1,013	-3	53	19
Coquitlam	73	40	48	1,344	10	69	15
Courtenay	38	30	25	1,315	3	63	30
Cranbrook	81	99	44	1,515	-3	49	4
Creston	17	27	17	1,234	11	-66	10
Cumberland	46	28	51	976	6	98	31
Dawson Creek	123	133	40	2,522	-2	55	10
Delta	66	59	29	1,569	1	30	1
Duncan	22	60	23	1,199	-11	28	4
Elkford	96	77	17	2,134	5	11	-6
Enderby	14	3	20	1,118	15	20	0
Esquimalt	95	89	52	1,550	3	48	-3
Fernie	60	84	5	1,926	-6	4	-1
Fort Nelson (Northern Rockies)	149	150	136	3,481	-15	195	25
Fort St. James	84	94	33	1,758	-2	13	-15
Fort St. John	109	107	49	1,836	1	81	22
Fraser Lake	111	109	55	1,844	2	39	-10
Fruitvale	4	7	25	731	1	22	-3
Gibsons	13	14	10	1,235	-2	28	17
Gold River	80	81	14	1,992	0	-3	-15
Golden	137	136	110	1,806	-1	93	-8
Grand Forks	110	113	34	2,154	0	32	-1
Granisle	142	147	63	3,386	-12	31	-19
Greenwood	54	78	20	1,591	-7	22	2
Harrison Hot Springs	85	120	38	1,686	-12	59	16
Hazelton	107	92	24	2,219	6	4	-16
Highlands	34	41	54	786	-2	93	25
Hope	98	86	59	1,473	5	51	-5
Houston	47	56	25	1,418	-4	3	-18
Hudson's Hope	140	134	62	3,217	15	53	-6
Invermere	115	102	60	1,861	9	65	3
Kamloops	72	53	35	1,525	4	46	8
Kaslo	9	12	7	1,209	2	6	-1
Kelowna	92	108	44	1,619	-6	74	21
Kent	87	88	64	1,255	2	91	16
Keremeos	64	91	60	1,044	-7	80	13
Kimberley	128	131	65	2,251	4	63	-1

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Kitimat	136	121	59	2,658	16	22	-24
Ladysmith	28	24	27	1,218	3	52	20
Lake Country	76	87	56	1,256	-1	100	28
Lake Cowichan	1	4	-3	945	-6	5	8
Langford	113	79	108	966	16	231	59
Langley City	37	37	32	1,190	-1	40	6
Township of Langley	91	96	66	1,248	-1	101	21
Lillooet	134	124	110	1,717	14	74	-17
Lions Bay	135	148	134	1,349	-24	115	-8
Logan Lake	77	66	39	1,571	4	22	-12
Lumby	121	119	114	1,202	7	115	0
Mackenzie	106	100	36	2,001	3	-15	-37
Maple Ridge	59	47	52	1,130	4	84	22
Masset	144	145	59	3,826	2	39	-12
McBride	126	137	67	2,136	-9	36	-19
Merritt	79	80	44	1,496	1	40	-2
Metchosin	88	123	103	622	-12	100	-1
Midway	27	20	6	1,549	3	9	2
Mission	33	38	28	1,226	-2	48	16
Montrose	15	16	30	985	0	23	-5
Nakusp	62	85	22	1,639	-6	14	-7
Nanaimo	49	29	28	1,367	6	47	14
Nelson	120	126	11	2,870	1	18	6
New Denver	130	129	105	1,603	7	92	-6
New Hazelton	61	112	24	1,606	-16	3	-17
New Westminister	68	62	14	1,839	1	37	19
North Cowichan	39	42	42	1,061	-1	54	8
North Saanich	83	65	64	1,236	8	69	3
North Vancouver City	93	76	48	1,593	6	62	10
North Vancouver District	89	90	51	1,493	0	53	1
Oak Bay	75	70	36	1,592	3	34	-2
Oliver	31	36	35	1,101	-2	52	12
Osoyoos	102	93	66	1,384	3	86	12
Parksville	6	1	6	1,069	7	23	16
Peachland	74	58	50	1,356	5	66	11
Pemberton	36	52	19	1,406	-6	85	55
Penticton	119	118	45	2,230	3	53	5
Pitt Meadows	112	104	89	1,266	6	130	21
Port Alberni	30	21	7	1,560	3	3	-3
Port Alice	97	122	25	2,023	-11	-13	-31
Port Clements	40	103	22	1,397	-18	-11	-27
Port Coquitlam	43	34	37	1,167	2	52	11
Port Edward	100	142	13	2,246	-31	-12	-22
Port Hardy	35	18	10	1,529	5	-9	-18
Port McNeill	12	9	29	890	6	10	-15
Port Moody	50	49	28	1,367	-1	77	38
Pouce Coupe	122	116	77	1,858	8	60	-10
Powell River	29	17	-8	1,807	4	-7	0
Prince George	58	67	27	1,540	-2	22	-4
Prince Rupert	56	63	-11	2,159	-2	-27	-18
Princeton	48	50	36	1,244	-2	38	2
Qualicum Beach	3	2	0	1,089	2	23	23
Quesnel	52	48	14	1,638	0	13	-1
Radium Hot Springs	127	115	32	2,767	11	85	40
Revelstoke	133	135	74	2,280	-3	63	-6
Richmond	44	45	27	1,348	-1	47	16
Rossland	10	13	-1	1,354	-2	-4	-3
Saanich	42	32	37	1,158	3	42	3
Salmo	5	5	17	877	4	17	0
Salmon Arm	32	22	33	1,141	4	48	12
Sayward	131	140	43	2,690	-11	15	-20

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Sechelt	103	46	70	1,356	20	103	19
Sicamous	141	132	151	1,892	27	118	-13
Sidney	53	33	32	1,387	6	31	0
Silverton	148	128	131	3,483	54	98	-14
Slocan	124	143	79	1,896	-18	74	-3
Smithers	70	64	22	1,733	2	16	-5
Sooke	147	146	260	758	2	372	31
Spallumcheen	8	8	31	743	4	27	-3
Sparwood	108	117	35	2,068	-3	31	-2
Squamish	69	69	36	1,472	0	67	23
Stewart	151	151	141	5,771	5	80	-25
Summerland	118	125	63	1,913	0	72	5
Surrey	23	35	42	931	-3	96	38
Tahsis	143	144	31	4,114	3	-38	-52
Taylor	101	114	-42	3,197	-8	-28	25
Telkwa	138	71	112	1,881	44	112	0
Terrace	19	25	11	1,384	-1	1	-8
Tofino	129	127	67	2,218	7	127	36
Trail	71	75	18	1,819	-1	14	-3
Tumbler Ridge	57	72	-48	2,782	-5	-26	42
Ucluelet	139	138	73	2,691	1	79	3
Valemount	145	110	113	2,972	49	77	-17
Vancouver	86	97	33	1,782	-3	49	12
Vanderhoof	25	83	37	1,028	-15	38	1
Vernon	82	82	63	1,254	3	82	12
Victoria	105	105	37	1,962	0	47	8
View Royal	90	74	80	1,012	6	138	32
Warfield	41	31	43	1,059	3	36	-5
Wells	146	141	79	3,670	11	75	-2
West Vancouver	117	111	50	2,076	5	51	0
Whistler	150	149	38	5,444	-7	56	13
White Rock	63	54	40	1,363	2	46	4
Williams Lake	99	101	37	1,845	-1	29	-6