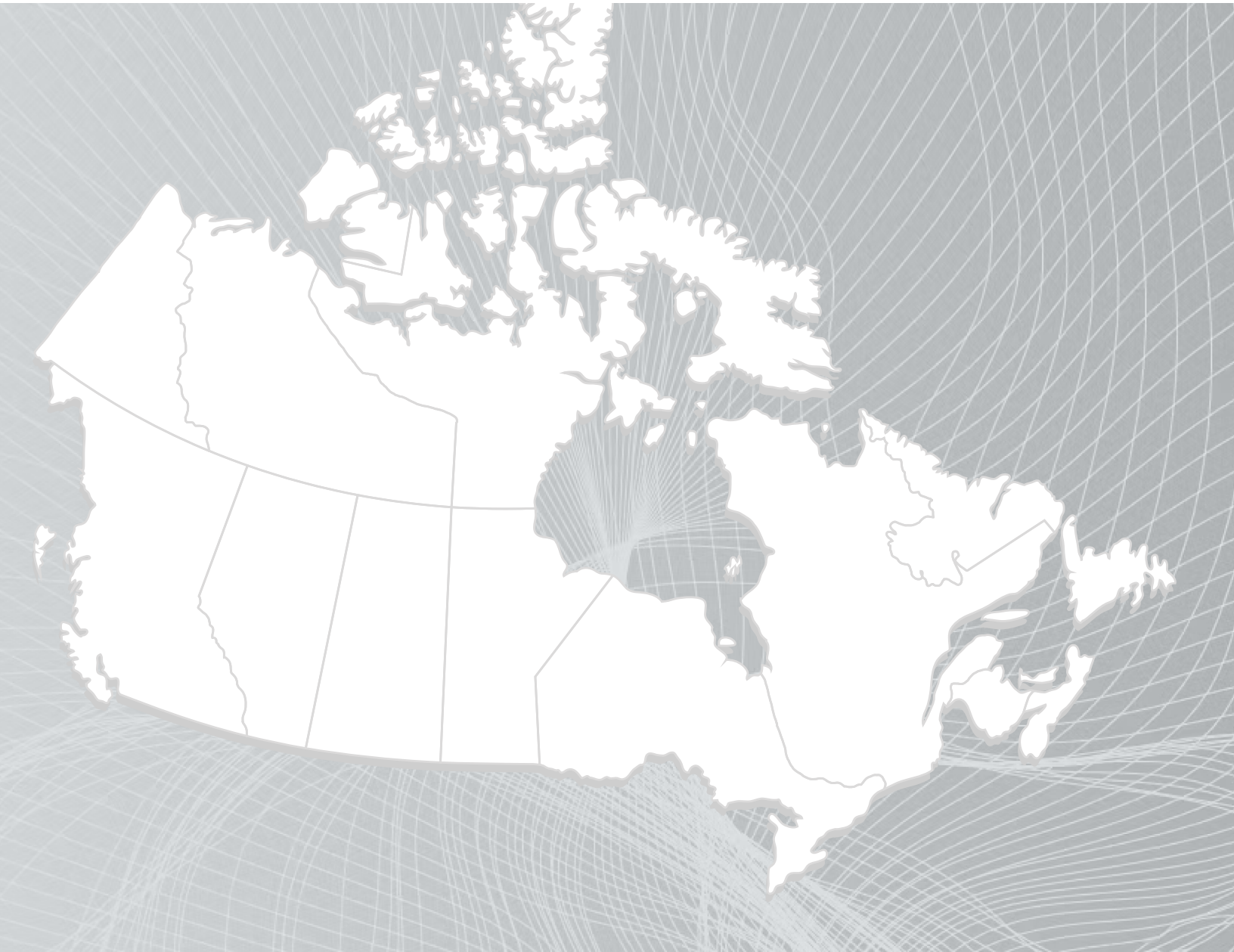




Red Tape Report Card

15th edition



Red Tape
Awareness Week™

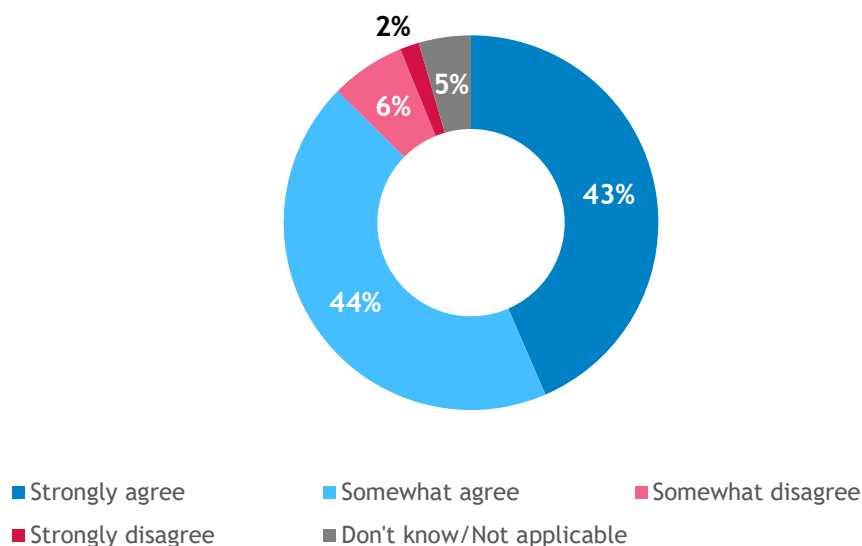
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Introduction

Nearly nine in ten (87%) Canadian small business owners agree that red tape significantly reduces their business’s productivity and ability to grow (see Figure 1). As the Canadian economy faces ongoing challenges and our productivity lags that of other developed countries, red tape reduction is a low-cost way for governments to enhance production. Whether through streamlining bureaucratic processes or through making rules and regulations simpler without compromising health and safety objectives, governments at all levels have an opportunity to spur growth by cutting down on the regulatory burden.

Figure 1
Red tape significantly impacts business productivity and growth



Notes:

Question: "To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? (Select one for each line) | Excessive government regulations significantly reduce my business’s productivity and ability to grow"

Source: CFIB. Regulation and Paperburden Survey, 2024. July 4-September 8, 2024. Based on 2,552 responses. For comparison purposes, a probability sample with the same number of respondents would have a margin of error of +/-1.9%, 19 times out of 20.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business’s (CFIB) *2025 Red Tape Report Card* (Table 1) grades three major areas of regulatory performance: regulatory accountability, regulatory burden, and political priority. The grades are based on whether governments have a comprehensive measure of their regulatory burden; maintain some form of regulatory budget; are making efforts to minimize red tape; and display evidence that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are government priorities.

The bonus indicator for this year’s report card reflects the challenge CFIB issued last year during Red Tape Awareness Week™ (RTAW). It rewards governments that have undertaken at least two initiatives to reduce red tape to improve the housing supply. For details on how scores were calculated, and the changes applied to the methodology since the 2023 edition of the report card, refer to the Methodology section in Appendix F.

Table 1

2025 Red tape report card: Areas of regulatory performance, score and grade^{1,2}

Jurisdiction	Regulatory Accountability (40%)		Regulatory Burden (40%)		Political Priority (20%)		Housing Initiatives (Bonus 2%)	Overall Score and Grade	
Alberta	8.9	A-	9.3	A	10	A	10	9.5	A
Nova Scotia	8.8	A-	8.1	B	10	A	10	8.9	A-
Ontario	8.9	A-	7.9	B	10	A	10	8.9	A-
British Columbia	8.9	A-	8.9	A-	5.5	D	10	8.4	B+
Quebec	8.8	A-	6.7	C	9.5	A	10	8.3	B+
Saskatchewan	8.0	B	8.0	B	6.0	C-	0	7.6	B-
Federal	6.6	C	7.0	C	6.5	C-	10	7.0	C
Prince Edward Island	5.8	D	6.5	C-	6.5	C-	10	6.4	C-
Manitoba	1.8	F	8.8	A-	2.0	F	5	4.7	F
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.0	F	5.5	D	6.5	C-	0	4.7	F
New Brunswick ³	5.6	D	6.0	C-	NA	NA	5	NA	NA

Notes:

- Score: 10 is best, 0 is worst. Using a weighting scheme, the four subindex scores are combined into a single score that allows for a ranking of governments from best (highest score) to worst (lowest score). The different areas are assigned the following weights: regulatory accountability – 40%, regulatory burden – 40%, political priority – 20%, and (bonus) housing initiatives – 2%.
- Grade: A, A-: 8.7-10 (Excellent performance); B+, B, B-: 7.5-8.6 (Good performance); C+, C, C-: 6.0-7.4 (Satisfactory performance); D: 5-5.9 (Less than satisfactory performance); F: 0-4.9 (Unsatisfactory performance).
- Due to a change in government in New Brunswick in October 2024, CFIB has assigned the province a status of “NA” (Not applicable) in lieu of a grade in the political priority section. As a result, the province is also marked as “NA” for the overall grade in this year’s report card, acknowledging the transition to a new government. We will resume grading New Brunswick in all categories in our 2026 report card.

For most provinces, grades are highest in the report card’s accountability section. Most provincial governments have some form of regulatory measurement, reporting, and 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 burden section are lower relative to those in the accountability section, with only three provinces achieving an “A” grade. The burden section represents 40% of the overall grade.

The political priority section, first introduced in the 2023 report card, highlights the extent to which governments prioritize reducing red tape and modernizing regulations. In 2025, only a few jurisdictions have achieved an “A” grade, underscoring that significant work remains to be done to ensure that regulatory accountability, transparency, and efficiency become public policy priorities for all governments. This indicator represents 20% of the overall grade.

Finally, the bonus indicator is based on the 2024 Red Tape Awareness Week™ Red Tape Challenge. This year, we are awarding governments for their efforts in accepting our 2024 call to undertake at least two red tape reduction initiatives for housing. Scores awarded in the bonus indicator serve exclusively to improve the overall grade. They do not adversely affect scores where governments were either partially engaged in the challenge or did not accept it.

Regulatory Accountability

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

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

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

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

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).

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
FED	5	7	7	7.5	6.6	C
PEI	8	7	5	3	5.8	D
NB	0	7	10	5.5	5.6	D
NL	0	2	5	5	3.0	F
MB	0	2	0	5	1.8	F

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden

Table 3

Accountability indicator 1: Measuring the regulatory burden (10 is best, 0 is worst)

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

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

1. Existence of an aggregate regulatory measure of the burden on business and individuals, or a commitment to measure.
2. Regulatory requirement count (for 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: 2024 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 achieve top scores for this indicator (see Table 3). 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. Prince Edward Island receives a partial score as the province's measure excludes policies and forms. New Brunswick receives a zero as the province has halted its work to measure its regulatory count. Newfoundland and Labrador scores zero as the province does not have a publicly reported regulatory burden measure.

Manitoba drops from a score of ten last year to zero this year due to the introduction of *Bill 16: The Regulatory Accountability Reporting Act and Amendments to the Statutes and Regulations Act*, which repeals 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 is no longer measuring 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	2	10	10	7	10	7	2

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

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

Source: 2024 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, and Nova Scotia 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).

Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba receive the lowest score. Newfoundland and Labrador has not publicized its regulatory count since 2014. Manitoba's new *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 but does not include the count of the overall regulatory burden.

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. While New Brunswick has released its annual report, the province receives partial marks as it does not include an overall regulatory burden count in its update.

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	5

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

1. Commitment to regulatory budgeting.
2. Constraints in place to manage regulatory costs (e.g., 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: 2024 data.

Regulatory budgeting works in a similar fashion to a fiscal budgeting to the extent that it establishes constraints around adding to the overall regulatory burden. It imposes some discipline and prioritizes regulatory activities.¹

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 score the highest on this indicator as they have legislated limits on regulators (see Table 5). These limits include “one-for-one” rules and requiring additional regulatory costs to be offset by an equal or greater regulatory cost reduction. British Columbia and Saskatchewan have constraints in place; however, these constraints are not legislated.

The federal government has a one-for-one rule in place, but it does not apply to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as the Treasury Board has the authority to exempt regulations related to tax and tax administration. The CRA is responsible for key tasks such as administering GST and HST returns, income tax administration, and payroll tax collection. Business owners frequently cite these functions as their top federal regulatory burdens. 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.

Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island score low partial marks. While both provinces have legislated constraints in place, the lack of consistent reporting makes it unclear whether government is following through on this legislation. Manitoba scores zero as it has repealed its *Regulatory Accountability Act*, pulling all constraints and legislation requiring governments to manage regulatory costs.

Accessibility of regulatory documents

Table 6

Accountability indicator 4: Accessibility of regulatory documents (10 is best, 0 is worst)

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

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

The accessibility of regulatory documents in open, machine-readable format including (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, 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: 2024 data.

Open and machine-readable data refers to data that can be freely accessed, used, analyzed, shared, and built on. Open government data – which includes, but is not limited to, statistical information – is a public good which increases transparency and supports the public’s oversight of government activity. Providing access to individuals,

¹ Speer, Sean. *Regulatory Budgeting: Lessons from Canada*. R Street. 2016.

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.²

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.³

British Columbia and the federal government continue to score the highest on this indicator 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.”⁴ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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 2024 edition of *Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*.⁵ The remaining two indicators are based on data gathered in 2024 through our own research.⁶ These are: (v) the total number of regulatory provincial requirements in place, which is then (vi) analyzed on a per capita basis.

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	8.6	7.2	9.8	9.3	A
BC	10	10	10	7.9	5.6	9.7	8.9	A-
MB	8	10	10	8.7	7.6	8.3	8.8	A-
NS	8	10	10	6.6	6.8	7.1	8.1	B
SK	5	10	10	8.0	7.1	7.7	8.0	B
ON	10	10	10	7.2	0.0	10.0	7.9	B
FED ¹	0	10	10	8.1	NA	NA	7.0	C
NB	0	10	5	5.4	8.6	7.3	6.0	C-
QC	6	10	10	4.3	0.2	9.7	6.7	C
PEI	8	10	5	6.0	10.0	0	6.5	C-
NL	8	0	5	6.2	8.5	5.5	5.5	D

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 2024 edition of [Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#).

⁵ Loeppky, Keyli, et al. [The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#). CFIB. 2024.

⁶ Whidden, Bradlee. [Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements](#). CFIB. 2024.

Red tape feedback box

Table 8

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

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score¹	0	10	10	5	8	10	6	0	8	8	8
Existence of a permanent online suggestion box where individuals and/or businesses can report red tape frustrations — Yes/No ¹	No (0)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	No (0)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	Yes (5)
Government proactively seeks feedback from individuals and/or businesses on prominent webpages — Yes/No ¹	No (0)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	No (0)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	Some (3)	No (0)	Some (3)	Yes (5)	Some (3)

Notes:

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

- 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: 2024 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 individuals and businesses) regarding their concerns, but might ultimately lead to improvements in the way the public is being served. It is considered a best practice to “close the loop” with those providing feedback, and to publicly report how irritants have been handled. For example, Saskatchewan’s annual regulatory report provides a summary of concerns submitted through its *Help Cut Red Tape* webpage over the year, as well as steps taken to resolve issues.⁷

While jurisdictions provide a designated place online for feedback, locating it can prove difficult. A best practice would be that in addition to having designated red tape feedback areas, governments should proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages where the public is most likely to interact with them (e.g., government’s main webpage or provincial/federal service webpages). In fact, nine out of ten business owners and individuals believe that governments should do more to collect feedback from citizens to improve their service.⁸

For this indicator, jurisdictions that have a permanent online feedback box where individuals and businesses can report red tape frustrations, and that proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages, receive higher scores. British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario receive full marks as these provinces have a dedicated area for red tape irritants and suggestions (see Table 8). Further, these provinces also proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages. British Columbia seeks feedback on its Service BC webpage, while Alberta and Ontario place it on their

⁷ Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2023-24*. Retrieved: October 21, 2024. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/124262>

⁸ CFIB. *Your Voice* – November 2022. n = 3,264; and Angus Reid Group. *National Omni*, November 18, 2022. n = 1,507.

official government home webpage.⁹ PEI receives partial marks as it only offers a feedback portal for businesses, not individuals.

All other jurisdictions, except for the federal government, 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 solicit feedback from their home pages, and Service Newfoundland pages. However, the feedback box is found through a link in the menu on these pages. Meanwhile, Quebec’s feedback box is only directed towards businesses. New Brunswick and the federal government score the poorest as these jurisdictions do not have an online feedback area for red tape, nor do they proactively seek out feedback on prominent webpages.

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	0

Note:

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

Source: 2024 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. All jurisdictions apart from Newfoundland and Labrador provide advisory services to businesses and receive 10 points (see Table 9).

⁹ Link to Nova Scotia red tape feedback is in the drop-down menu on the government home page.

Proactive process/regular window for regulatory changes

Table 10

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

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

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 semi-annually since 2019; the [Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2023](#) passed March 2023.

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

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

ON - Red Tape Reduction Packages 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.

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 17](#) was tabled in May 2023 and adopted on October 23, 2023.

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

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

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

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

British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and the federal government receive a score of 10 as these jurisdictions have a recurring legislative mechanism for regulatory modernization (see Table 10). For example, since 2018, the Ontario government has solicited and bundled regulatory changes semiannually through its Spring and Fall Red Tape Reduction Packages. The Ontario government has eliminated over \$1 billion in annualized compliance costs for businesses, not-for-profits, and the broader public sector.¹⁰ British Columbia's annual amendment process has seen over 1,600 amendments since its inception in 2016.¹¹

Saskatchewan also earns a score of 10 for its Red Tape Reduction Committee's (RTRC) work to review all business-related regulations at least once every 10 years. This process, which was the first of its kind in Canada, helps ensure

¹⁰ Government of Ontario. *Ontario Reducing Red Tape to Deliver Better Services and Help Businesses Grow*. Retrieved: October 27, 2024. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002896/ontario-reducing-red-tape-to-deliver-better-services-and-help-businesses-grow>.

¹¹ *Better Regulations for British Columbians | Annual Report 2023/24*. Retrieved: October 27, 2024. 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. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the RTRC reviewed 2,566 compliance requirements, resulting in 62 actions and recommendations.¹²

The Nova Scotia government earns a score of 10 as its Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) – who is in charge of proactively seeking legislative/regulatory changes from other departments/ministries – independently assesses every proposed regulatory, legislative, and process change with a business impact before submitting 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.

Newfoundland and Labrador receives partial points as its cabinet process involves assessing the regulatory impact of new proposals. Partial points are also awarded to PEI and New Brunswick as there is evidence that suggests they have mechanisms in place to address red tape irritants in legislation as they arise.

Interprovincial cooperation

Table 11

Burden indicator 4: Overall interprovincial cooperation score from CFIB's 2024 *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}	8.1	7.9	8.6	8.0	8.7	7.2	4.3	5.4	6.6	6.0	6.2

Notes:

1. The 2024 *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 2024 edition of the report also included a bonus indicator on leadership in reducing internal trade 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 July 23, 2024.

Source: CFIB, [The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card, 2024](#).

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 2024 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*.¹³ 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), with a single bonus indicator assessing leadership on addressing internal trade barriers. Within this framework, governments with the highest overall scores are those that have the fewest exceptions and have made the most progress towards reducing specific barriers. Here, Manitoba ranks the highest and Quebec the poorest (see Table 11).

¹² Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2023-24*. Retrieved: October 27, 2024. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/121673>

¹³ Loeppky, Keyli et al. [The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#). CFIB. 2024.

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}	83,947 (5.6)	66,510 (7.2)	67,596 (7.1)	62,389 (7.6)	144,990 (0.0)	142,510 (0.2)	52,043 (8.6)	70,827 (6.8)	36,299 (10.0)	52,329 (8.5)

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 2024.

To incorporate the overall regulatory burden on individuals and businesses into our report card, we have estimated the number of regulatory requirements across all legislation and regulation in each province.^{14,15} 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.

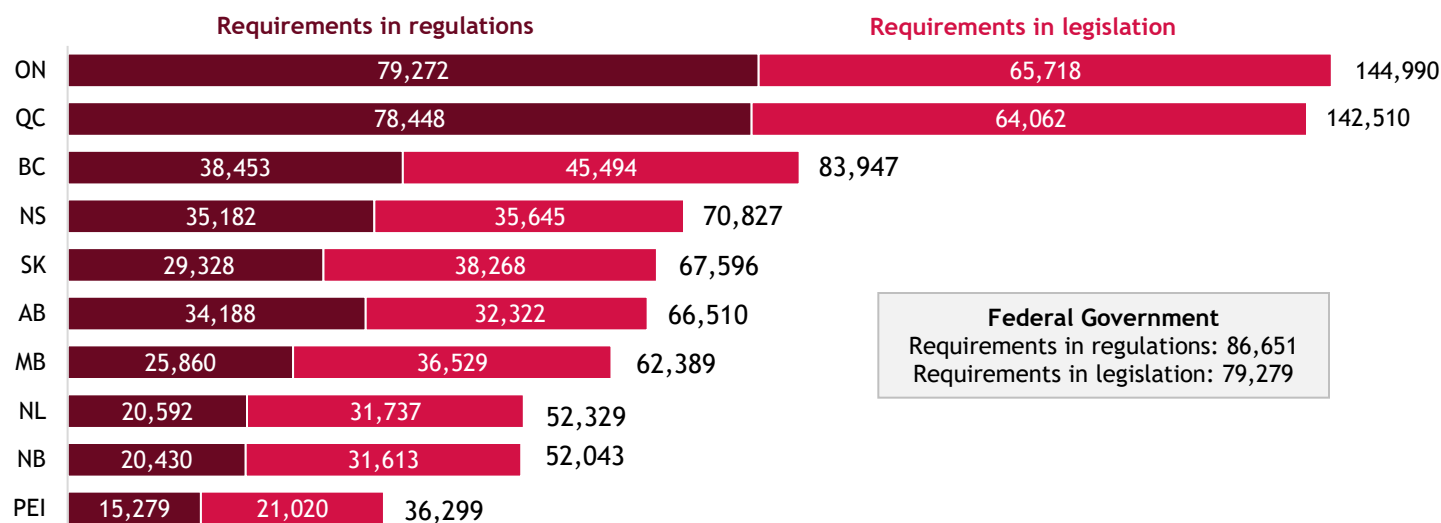
Nevertheless, there is no other single standardized measure presently available that compares regulatory counts across the country, as not all governments provide a regulatory count and those that do tend to use different counting methods. For this indicator, the fewer regulatory restrictions in place,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

¹⁴ Whidden, Bradlee. [Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements](#). CFIB. 2024.

¹⁵ 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. Note: this count was previously provided by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. See Appendix F for more details.

Figure 2

Total regulatory requirements in Canadian provinces, regulations and statutes (2024)



Source: Whidden, Bradlee. *Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements*. CFIB. December 2024.

Provincial regulatory requirements per capita

Table 13

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

Indicator	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Provincial regulatory restrictions per capita – per 10,000 population ¹	147 (9.7)	136 (9.8)	545 (7.7)	418 (8.3)	90 (10.0)	157 (9.7)	609 (7.3)	658 (7.1)	2,033 (0.0)	960 (5.5)

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

1. Total provincial regulatory requirements is the sum of restrictions in regulations and 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 2024.
- Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly. Q3/2024.

To compare the regulatory burden's magnitude across provinces, the total number of provincial regulatory requirements is divided by population.¹⁶ This approach is used to counterbalance the natural bias in regulatory counts that occurs in larger provinces, where industrial mixes are more diverse and complex than in smaller provinces, thus naturally requiring more regulations. We used a per capita count as a basis for scaling to show – in relative terms – whether regulations pose a larger or smaller burden.

Using this approach, Ontario scores highest as it has the lowest number of provincial regulatory restrictions per capita (90 per 10,000 people), followed by Alberta, British Columbia, and Quebec (see Table 13). On the other end

¹⁶ Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates, quarterly. Q3/2024.

of the scale, Prince Edward Island fares the poorest as it has the most regulatory restrictions per capita (2,033 per 10,000 people).

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/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 13).

Indicators are weighted equally within this section.

Table 14

Political priority: Score and grade (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Jurisdiction	Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their Cabinet	Existence of a minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization	Political priority score and grade	
AB	10	10	10.0	A
ON	10	10	10.0	A
NS	10	10	10.0	A
QC	10	9	9.5	A
FED	6	7	6.5	C-
NL	6	7	6.5	C-
PEI	6	7	6.5	C-
SK	5	7	6	C-
BC	4	7	5.5	D
MB	4	0	2.0	F
NB ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note:

1. New Brunswick receives a NA in 2024 as the province had a change in government in October 2024. Therefore, we cannot fairly assess the priorities of the new government at this time. We plan to resume our evaluation of New Brunswick's political priority in 2026.

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	Some (6)	Little (4)	Clear (10)	Little (5)	Little (4)	Clear (10)	Clear (10)	NA	Clear (10)	Some (6)	Some (6)
Clear evidence/ Some evidence/ Little evidence ¹											
Note:											
1. Scoring — The following point system was applied:											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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:											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization is included/mentioned in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: 2024 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, Nova Scotia, and Quebec 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 the Minister's mandate letters and explicitly mentioned red tape reduction several times in election platforms and budgets. They also set up task forces and industry panels to identify red tape irritants and solutions aimed at regulatory modernization, and publicly championed the file in their Throne Speeches.

The federal government, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island each score six points. The federal government loses points for not mentioning red tape reduction in its most recent Throne Speech, and not having an internal team or panel aimed at identifying and addressing red tape issues. Newfoundland and Labrador did not include red tape reduction in its most recent Throne Speech, nor did the governing party mention it in its election platform. Prince Edward Island loses points for not including red tape reduction in the responsible minister's mandate letter and not mentioning it in the province's most recent budget.

Saskatchewan scores five 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 and for mentioning red tape reduction in the Department of Trade and Export Development’s yearly business plan. Saskatchewan receives partial points for including red tape reduction in its economic growth plan, which sets out the priorities for relevant ministers. British Columbia and Manitoba showed little evidence that red tape reduction was a priority for their respective premiers. Manitoba receives four points for mentioning red tape reduction in its most recent budget and the governing party’s election platform. British Columbia also receives four points for the existence of an internal team/task force assigned to identify and solve red tape burdens and including red tape reduction in the governing party’s most recent election platform.

Saskatchewan receives just two points for the existence of an internal team/task force assigned to identify and solve red tape burdens.

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	Some (7)	Some (7)	Yes (10)	Some (7)	No (0)	Yes (10)	Some (9)	NA	Yes (10)	Some (7)	Some (7)
Yes/Some/No ¹											

Notes:

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

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

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

Source: 2024 data.

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

The only 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). 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 seven provinces and the federal government. Among these jurisdictions, Quebec receives a score of nine. Its Deputy Minister for the Economy is explicitly assigned the task of implementing the government’s policy on regulatory and administrative streamlining via Executive Council Decree on the recommendation of the Premier, which carries legislative force.¹⁷

The province of Manitoba saw the largest decrease in this indicator since it was last graded in 2023, going from seven points to zero. This is a result of Manitoba no longer officially assigning a minister responsible for red tape reduction and modernization. CFIB urges Manitoba to designate a cabinet minister specifically for the red tape file.

¹⁷ Décret 1663-2022, 20 octobre 2022. https://www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/gazette/pdf_encrypte/lois_reglements/2022F/78479.pdf

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 their province.

Bonus Indicator: Red tape reduction initiatives to improve housing

In addition to the standard criteria for assessing jurisdictions, CFIB has introduced a new bonus indicator to recognize jurisdictions actively working to reduce red tape associated with housing development. This additional indicator follows CFIB's 2024 Red Tape Challenge, which called on governments to reduce red tape that slows down housing projects.

Canada faces a significant housing gap. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), an additional 3.45 million homes, beyond the base level of 2.2 million, are needed by 2030 to meet housing demands.¹⁸ In CFIB's 2024 report, *Flushing Out the Nonsense: An Analysis of Municipal Renovation Permitting Across Canada*, CFIB identified red tape reduction as an efficient and cost-effective strategy to accelerate housing projects across Canada. CFIB then challenged all orders of government to introduce two new policies or adopt best practices to make it easier to build in their respective jurisdictions.

This bonus indicator assesses each jurisdiction's progress in streamlining red tape and encourages jurisdictions to actively work towards identifying and eliminating barriers. Lump sum investments are not considered, as this indicator focuses on initiatives that address structural issues such as permitting, zoning, service standards, and freeing up public lands for housing.

Table 17

Initiatives to cut red tape in the home-building process: score (10 is best, 0 is worst)

Jurisdiction	Government has introduced two red tape reduction initiatives to improve the house building process	Bonus indicator score
BC	Yes	10
AB	Yes	10
SK	No	0
MB	Some	5
ON	Yes	10
QC	Yes	10
NB	Some	5
PEI	Yes	10
NS	Yes	10
NL	No	0
FED	Yes	10

Jurisdictions receive full (10) points if they have established two initiatives to reduce red tape and streamline the home-building process over the past year. Those jurisdictions that have not introduced initiatives include Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador. These jurisdictions will not lose points on the overall report card

¹⁸ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, "Estimating how much housing we'll need by 2030," CMHC Blog, September 27, 2023. <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/blog/2023/estimating-how-much-housing-we-need-by-2030>

grade but miss out on bonus points in this indicator. Manitoba receives partial points for Bill 40, which increased the threshold in which a zoning change appeal can be triggered. This was the only initiative the province implemented in the last year. New Brunswick receives partial points for Housing NB moving to signed attestations by designers when reviewing plans for Affordable Rental Housing Program (ARHP) projects with the goal of reducing regulatory burden in the approval process for the program.

While this indicator grades governments' actions to streamline the housing process, it is ultimately up to municipalities to play an active role in building housing. For additional details on work to reduce red tape across federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal jurisdictions in the home building process, please reference CFIB's upcoming jurisdictional scan, *Breaking ground: A jurisdictional update on housing initiatives to reduce red tape*.

For an overview of each jurisdiction's actions assessed in this section, refer to Appendix E.

Current Context: Red tape reduction efforts across Canada

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

Using red tape reduction as a tool to address policy challenges in health care

- According to Nova Scotia's Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness, the province has effectively reached its goal of reducing red tape for physicians, taking on **more than 45 initiatives that have reduced red tape by 400,000 hours per year**.¹⁹ Additionally, the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness continues to proactively seek feedback from Nova Scotians via its [physician feedback portal](#).
- Just days after CFIB's national report was published in 2023, Manitoba's provincial government and Doctors Manitoba created a **Joint Task Force to reduce physicians' administrative burden**. The task force revealed that physicians spend 10.1 hours weekly on administrative tasks, 44% of which they deem unnecessary. As of February 2024, the task force identified an estimated annual reduction of 75,300 hours of unnecessary physician administrative time, surpassing the initial reduction target of 63,300 hours.²⁰
- **Quebec introduced Bill 68, An Act mainly to reduce the administrative burden of physicians** this year to reduce the administrative burden on physicians. Bill 68 proposes to prohibit insurance companies from requiring medical notes from doctors to avoid physicians having to fill out unnecessary paperwork.²¹
- To reduce administrative burdens for family physicians, the **Ontario government has introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI) scribe pilot program**. This program is to be used by more than 150 primary care workers, automatically summarizing or transcribing conversations with patients by integrating with Electronic Medical Records, reducing the documentation time by nearly four hours per week.²²

Removing barriers to internal trade

- On September 26, 2024, the Committee on Internal Trade announced a **new mutual recognition pilot project for the trucking sector**. This pilot project will allow jurisdictions to recognize one another's regulatory requirements without compromising safety within the industry. **The federal government and Newfoundland and Labrador will be co-chairing this pilot**, and CFIB looks forward to monitoring its progress.
- On July 16, 2024, the governments of **British Columbia and Alberta signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), allowing BC wineries to sell directly to customers in Alberta**.²³ CFIB encourages the governments to release a timeline for when Albertans and British Columbians can benefit from this policy.
- On November 20, 2024, the **federal government made amendments to the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations for the City of Lloydminster**. With this change, Alberta and Saskatchewan businesses can trade

¹⁹ Government of Nova Scotia. *Patients Before Paperwork: May 2024 Update*. Retrieved: October 29, 2024.

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-3705/patients-paperwork-reducing-red-tape-physicians-may-2024-en.pdf>

²⁰ Doctors Manitoba. *Final Report: Joint Task Force to Reduce Administrative Burdens for Physicians*. Retrieved: October 29, 2024.

<https://assets.doctorsmanitoba.ca/documents/ABTF-Final-Report.pdf>

²¹ Assemblée Nationale du Québec. *Bill 68, An Act mainly to reduce the administrative burden of physicians*. Retrieved: October 29, 2024.

<https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/projets-loi/projet-loi-68-43-1.html>

²² Government of Ontario. *2024 Burden Reduction Report: Enhancing Ontario's communities - Pathways to efficiency and connection*. Retrieved: October 30, 2024.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2024-burden-reduction-report-enhancing-ontarios-communities-pathways-efficiency-and-connection>

²³ Government of British Columbia. *Agreement reopens direct-to-consumer B.C. wine sales to Alberta*. Retrieved: November 8, 2024.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024PREM0031-001121#:~:text=British%20Columbia%20and%20Alberta%20have,%2C%20MLA%20for%20Boundary%2DSimilkameen>

food into or within the City of Lloydminster as if it was not split by a provincial border. This will reduce the red tape and administrative burden, making it easier to do business and facilitating local trade, economic growth, and competitiveness.

Removing barriers to labour mobility

- On August 14, 2024, the Ontario and Nova Scotia governments signed a MOU to **improve interprovincial mobility for skilled tradespeople, including post-journeyperson certification**. This MOU builds on the MOU Ontario signed with Alberta in July to collaborate on growing the skilled trades and removing barriers for the flow of labour between the two jurisdictions, complementing ongoing work to harmonize Red Seal trades nationally. Ontario is also working with the governments of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador to share ideas on removing interprovincial barriers in the skilled trades.²⁴
- **Saskatchewan’s Credential Recognition Services (CRS) streamline and support credential recognition** for internationally trained professionals and those transferring Canadian licences to the province. The province has put in place **mandated timelines to ensure regulators assess and respond promptly to applicants**. Additionally, a team of three **Navigators provides one-on-one support to professionals** looking to have their foreign credentials recognized in Saskatchewan. They provide personalized, ongoing support throughout the licensure process. Collaborating with regulatory bodies, CRS simplify foreign credential recognition and labour mobility, minimizing additional training, experience, exams, or assessments.²⁵

Regulatory modernization

- The department of **Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction has developed a Permit Database** to inventory and catalogue over 430 permits issued by the government, and to track current decision times against publicly established service standards. Data analysis, coupled with cross-government collaboration through a dedicated RTR Permit Sub-Committee (internal to government), has **allowed officials to develop strategies and best practices to address challenge areas, improve permit decision times, and help reduce backlogs**.
- The **Ontario government** is creating business service standards under the *At Your Service Act, 2022*. **As of January 1, 2025, business service standards will be published on Ontario.ca and set clear expectations for how quickly provincial permits and licences should be processed across all channels—online, over the phone, or in person**. These standards will be regularly published and reported on, ensuring ministries stay accountable.²⁶
- **Newfoundland and Labrador’s Digital Government and Service** department has been implementing a **digital-by-design approach to services and increasing the number of services offered online by 75%**. This includes replacing outdated paper-based processes with online applications for the licencing of financial services professionals, direct sellers, etc. As of August 30, 2024, the 75% target has been exceeded, and the government continues to work to add to it to increase service convenience and accessibility.

²⁴ Government of Ontario. *Ontario and Nova Scotia Partnering to Create More Opportunities for Skilled Tradespeople*. Retrieved: October 29, 2024. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1004936/ontario-and-nova-scotia-partnering-to-create-more-opportunities-for-skilled-tradespeople>

²⁵ Government of Saskatchewan. *Credential Recognition Services – Program Overview*. Received via e-mail December 2, 2024.

²⁶ Government of Ontario. *2024 Burden Reduction Report: Enhancing Ontario’s communities - Pathways to efficiency and connection*. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2024-burden-reduction-report-enhancing-ontarios-communities-pathways-efficiency-and-connection>

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	0	10	8	0
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)	No (0)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	No (0)
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)	Some (1)	No (0)
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)	No (0)

Source: 2024 data.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

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

Source: 2024 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	5
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)	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)	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)	Yes (2)

Source: 2024 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	5
Legislation documents available in open format Yes (3 points) / Some (1-2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Some (2)	Some (1)	Some (2)	Some (2)	Yes (3)	Some (2)	Some (2)	Some (1)	Some (2)
Regulation documents available in open format Yes (3 points) / Some (1-2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (3)	Yes (3)	Some (2)	Some (1)	Some (2)	Some (2)	Yes (3)	Some (2)	Some (2)	Some (1)	Some (2)
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)	Some (1)

Source: 2024 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/les-publications-du-quebec) and after acceptance of terms and conditions.

Summary of jurisdictional findings on accountability

British Columbia	
Overall grade: 8.9/10	
<p>In 2001, the province began to measure and report the total number of regulatory requirements imposed on businesses and individuals. The baseline count was initially 382,129 requirements, which was later revised to 330,812 to eliminate some double counting.¹ The government committed to reduce the regulatory requirements by one-third in three years (by 2004). To achieve this goal, the province introduced a regulatory reform policy requiring two regulatory requirements be eliminated for each one introduced. By 2004, the province had surpassed its reduction target, achieving close to a 40% reduction in regulatory requirements. Its “two-for-one” policy was then replaced with a “one-for-one” policy. A commitment was made to maintain the total number of regulatory requirements (i.e., Net Zero Increase commitment) beyond the baseline count of 197,242. The Net Zero Increase commitment (NZI) has been extended several times and is currently in place until 2024.²</p>	
<p>Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 9/10</p>	<p>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, 2024, the regulatory requirement count was 171,538 — 13% 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.</p>
<p>Public reporting of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>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}</p>
<p>Regulatory budget</p> <p>Score: 9/10</p>	<p>In terms of a regulatory budget, the province’s commitment to keep regulations at or below the 2004 baseline is in place until 2024.⁵ The BC government maintains a “one-for-one” policy requiring government to remove one equivalent regulation for every new one introduced.⁶ The province loses a point as the regulatory budget is not legislated.</p>
<p>Accessibility of regulatory documents</p> <p>Score: 7.5/10</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jones, Laura. <i>Lessons from the British Columbia Model of Regulatory Reform</i>. Mercatus Research, Mercatus Center at George Mason University. 2018. Retrieved: September 27, 2023. https://www.mercatus.org/publications/regulation/lessons-british-columbia-model-regulatory-reform 2. Government of British Columbia. <i>Better Regulations for British Columbians: Annual Report 2022/2023</i>. Retrieved: September 26, 2024. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/better_regulations_for_british_columbians_22-23_annual_report_final.pdf 3. Government of British Columbia. <i>Better Regulations for British Columbians: Annual Report 2023/2024</i>. Retrieved: October 28, 2024. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/br4bc_2023-24_annual_report.pdf 4. Government of British Columbia website. <i>Regulatory Reform Policy</i>. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/regulatory-reform-policy 5. Government of British Columbia. <i>Regulatory Reporting Act</i>. BC Laws. Retrieved: September 27, 2024. https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/lc/statreg/11028_01 6. Government of British Columbia. <i>Regulatory Reform Policy</i>. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/regulatory_reform_policy.pdf 7. Government of British Columbia. <i>BC Laws</i>. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca 	

Alberta

Overall grade: 8.9/10

Alberta completed its first baseline count in 2020 and found 666,513 regulatory requirements as of May 2019.¹ The province has an overall reduction target of 33% in 2022-23.¹ As of 2024, it has met its reduction target of 33%, saving a total of \$2.75 billion for the public. As the target has been reached, Alberta will implement an offset requirement that ensures the regulatory burden does not once again increase.²

<p>Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>As of the end of the fiscal year 2022-2023, Alberta’s regulatory requirement count stands at 505,440 — a reduction of 33% from its baseline count of 666,513 regulatory requirements.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.</p>
<p>Public reporting of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>The Alberta government legislates the requirement to publicly and annually report on the regulatory and red tape burden in the province.³ The report tracks and reports on regulatory burden measures and can be easily found on the Government of Alberta’s <i>Cutting Red Tape</i> webpage.⁴</p>
<p>Regulatory budget</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>The Alberta government made a commitment to reduce its regulatory burden by one-third by its 2022-23 fiscal year.¹ Further, once this goal is achieved, the province is committed to moving ahead with a “one-in/one-out” rule requiring legislators to identify at least one offsetting regulatory requirement for every new requirement created.⁵</p>
<p>Accessibility of regulatory documents</p> <p>Score: 5.5/10</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government of Alberta. <i>Red Tape Reduction annual report 2021-2022</i>. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. 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. <i>Red Tape Reduction annual report 2022-23</i>. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ecd877d0-79f9-4379-9bc9-b35a9ad50522/resource/126f3697-3d22-4e40-8431-0774fe48b73f/download/sartr-red-tape-reduction-annual-report-2022-2023.pdf 3. Government of Alberta. <i>Red Tape Reduction Act</i>. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. https://open.alberta.ca/publications/r08p2 4. Government of Alberta website. <i>Cutting Red Tape</i>. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. https://www.alberta.ca/cut-red-tape.aspx 5. Government of Alberta. <i>Annual Report: Red Tape Reduction 2019-2020</i>. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ecd877d0-79f9-4379-9bc9-b35a9ad50522/resource/daf6e897-0185-485a-a7b5-9960669ecad1/download/tbf-red-tape-reduction-annual-report-2019-2020.pdf 6. Government of Alberta. <i>Alberta King’s Printer</i>. Retrieved: September 27, 2024. https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx 	

Saskatchewan

Overall grade: 8/10

In 2014, Saskatchewan was the first jurisdiction in Canada to undertake the commitment to ensure all business regulations are reviewed at least once every 10 years by the Red Tape Review Sub-Committee of Cabinet so that they remain relevant and identify any red tape that has made its way into regulations over time.⁵ In 2017-18, Saskatchewan began measuring the regulatory burden on businesses and individuals. This baseline measure stood at 654 regulations containing over 230,000 regulatory requirements.¹ In 2017-18, Saskatchewan became the first province to implement the mandatory use of the Direct Cost Estimator (DCE) for all regulatory decision items for ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations. This tool provides the ability to measure the net impact that changes to regulations have on impacted stakeholders, and government. Saskatchewan's net savings for regulatory and policy changes made during 2023-24 totalled \$11 million.²

<p>Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Saskatchewan's regulatory count includes the overall regulatory requirements on people and business, including related programs, policies, guidelines, and forms from the regulatory framework of its ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations.¹ In 2023-24, the province estimated that it had 233,213 mandatory compliance requirements.³</p>
<p>Public reporting of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>As required by legislation, each year the <i>Regulatory Modernization Annual Progress Report</i> is tabled and publicly reported.⁴ The province earns full points for this indicator.</p>
<p>Regulatory budget</p> <p>Score: 9/10</p>	<p>As part of its 10-year plan to grow a stronger economy by 2030, the province is committed to save businesses \$10 to \$20 million annually.⁵ To achieve this goal, all ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations must use the Direct Cost Estimator. However, as there is no legislation in place to ensure government adheres to their constraints (for example, the use of the estimator), the province loses one mark for this indicator.</p>
<p>Accessibility of regulatory documents</p> <p>Score: 3/10</p>	<p>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.</p>

Sources:

1. Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2017-18*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/90767>
2. Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2023-24*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/124262>
3. Government of Saskatchewan. Help Cut Red Tape. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-engagement/help-cut-red-tape>
4. Government of Saskatchewan. *Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/68641>
5. 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>
6. Government of Saskatchewan. *Freelaw*[®]. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/freelaw>

Manitoba

Overall grade: 1.8/10

Starting in 2016, the Manitoba government embarked upon a program to promote regulatory accountability by tracking regulatory requirements and the costs they impose on businesses and individuals. At that time, the province's baseline count stood at 939,827.¹ Manitoba had reduced its regulatory requirements by 11.4% (or 106,753 regulatory requirements) as of March 31, 2023. Manitoba's measure was the most comprehensive in North America. However, the Manitoba government recently introduced Bill 16 repealing the *Regulatory Accountability Act* which requires the provincial government to count its regulatory burden as well as legislate a one-for-one rule.²

<p>Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 0/10</p>	<p>The Manitoba government has repealed the <i>Regulatory Accountability Act</i> 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 <i>Regulatory Accountability Report</i> 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</p>
<p>Public reporting of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 2/10</p>	<p>Manitoba is no longer required to count its regulatory requirements. The province earns partial points as the Minister charged with the administration of the <i>Regulatory Accountability Reporting Act</i> 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 yet to release its latest report.</p>
<p>Regulatory budget</p> <p>Score: 0/10</p>	<p>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 This has been repealed by Bill 16, earning Manitoba zero marks.</p>
<p>Accessibility of regulatory documents</p> <p>Score: 5/10</p>	<p>Manitoba provides its legislation and regulation in an online format.³ Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.</p>

Sources:

1. Government of Manitoba. *Regulatory Accountability Report 2022/23*. Retrieved: October 29, 2024. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/reduceredtape/index.html>
2. The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. *The Regulatory Accountability Reporting Act and Amendments to The Statutes and Regulations Act*. Retrieved: October 29, 2024. <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: October 2, 2023. <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-2/b022e.php>
4. Government of Manitoba. *Manitoba Laws*. Retrieved: October 29, 2024. <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 Initiatives to reduce the regulatory burden have led to a 5.7% decrease and the regulatory compliance requirement count on businesses currently stands at 236,561 (between June 29, 2018, and September 27, 2024).¹ The province's actions have resulted in \$1 billion in annualized compliance cost savings to businesses, not-for-profits, municipalities, universities and colleges, school boards, and hospitals since June 29, 2018.¹

<p>Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>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 236,561 in 2024.¹ Recently, the government has 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</p>
<p>Public reporting of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>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 2024. Given these actions, the government receives a score of 10 for this indicator.</p>
<p>Regulatory budget</p> <p>Score: 10/10</p>	<p>The Ontario government is required by legislation to offset 125% of direct compliance costs (e.g., for every dollar of new or existing increasing direct compliance costs on 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.</p>
<p>Accessibility of regulatory documents</p> <p>Score: 5.5/10</p>	<p>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</p>

Sources:

1. Government of Ontario. *2024 Burden Reduction Report: Enhancing Ontario's communities - Pathways to efficiency and connection*. Retrieved: October 31, 2024. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2024-burden-reduction-report-enhancing-ontarios-communities-pathways-efficiency-and-connection>
2. Government of Ontario. *2020 Burden Reduction Report: helping business recover, rebuild and prosper*. Retrieved: October 31, 2024. <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: December 5, 2024. <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: October 31, 2024. <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: October 31, 2024. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200555>
6. Government of Ontario. *e-Laws*. Retrieved: October 31, 2024. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>
7. Government of Ontario. Central Forms Repository. Retrieved: October 31, 2024. <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 672 administrative obligations existed for businesses, and that the volume of obligations totalled 35.5 million.¹ The government’s regulatory reduction efforts led to a 31% cost reduction by 2020, or \$432 million annually.²

<p>Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden Score: 8/10</p>	<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 2021-22, the total number of administrative procedures on businesses was 741. The number and volume of procedures (i.e., number of times administrative procedures must be submitted in a given period by businesses in Quebec) saw declines of 3% and 6% from their baseline, respectively.³ The cost of the administrative burden decreased 4% 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>
<p>Public reporting of the regulatory burden Score: 10/10</p>	<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.⁴ 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>
<p>Regulatory budget Score: 10/10</p>	<p>The government’s action plan for 2020-2025 aims to reduce the number of administrative procedures by 10%, the total volume of procedures by 15%, and the overall cost by 20%, resulting in annual savings of approximately \$200 million.¹</p> <p>Further to these targets, the Quebec government also includes a one-for-one rule policy requiring ministries and agencies proposing a new administrative regulation to remove an equivalent regulation.³ While the one-for-one policy is not legislated, government earns full marks as the policy serves as a strong enough requirement.</p>
<p>Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 7/10</p>	<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 document. Policies and forms are only available in PDF format.</p>

Sources:

1. The volume of administrative obligations is obtained by multiplying the number of administrative obligations completed during the year by the number of companies subject to them. The data supplied by the ministries is then translated into constant values to eliminate the effects of economic growth and inflation.
https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/contenu/publications/administratives/allegement/rapport_mise_en_oeuvre_allegement_2008.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 2022. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/contenu/publications/administratives/allegement/rapport_allegement_2022.pdf
3. Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation Québec. *Rapport sur la réglementation intelligente et les mesures gouvernementales d'allègement réglementaire et administratif*. Édition 2023. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/economie/publications-adm/rapport/RA_allegement_reglementaire_2023.pdf
4. Gouvernement du Québec. Politique gouvernementale sur l'allègement réglementaire et administratif : Pour une réglementation intelligente. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/economie/publications-adm/politique/PO_politique_gouv_allegement.pdf
5. Gouvernement du Québec. *Légis Québec*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/>

New Brunswick

Overall grade: 5.6/10

In 2023, the New Brunswick government (through Opportunities New Brunswick) developed guidelines for a comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden and reporting on progress made to reduce it. The province is currently in the process of implementing this framework and has measured around 60% of the burden on businesses within the province's legislation and regulation. The province also continues to use the Business Impact Assessment tool to help reduce unnecessary costs and improve 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: 0/10

While the New Brunswick government previously committed to measure the regulatory burden (legislation and regulation) on businesses, the province receives a zero as the measuring process has been put on hold and there is no count available this year.

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, awarding 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: September 27, 2023. <https://www.canlii.org/en/nb/laws/stat/rsnb-2016-c-11/latest/rsnb-2016-c-11.html>
2. Government of New Brunswick. *Ensuring Regulatory Competitiveness: Annual Report 2023-2024*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. https://onbcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ONB_RegulatoryBurden2024_EN.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 2023 annual report, the government estimated that there are 180,340 compliance requirements imposed on individuals, business, not-for-profits, and other organizations, an increase of 1.3% from 2022.²

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.^{6,7}

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 2023 Annual Report: Reducing Red Tape Together*. Retrieved: November 1, 2024. <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-2927/annual-report-2023-office-regulatory-affairs-and-service-effectiveness-en.pdf>
3. Nova Scotia Legislature. *Bill No. 143, Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*. Retrieved: November 1, 2024. https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/62nd_2nd/1st_read/b143.htm
4. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*. Retrieved: November 1, 2024. <https://support.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/docs/premiers-charter-governing-principles-for-regulation.pdf>
5. Government of Nova Scotia. Statutes. Retrieved: November 1, 2024. <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/statutes/2023>
6. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of the Registrar of Regulations. Retrieved: November 1, 2024. <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/index.htm>

Prince Edward Island

Overall grade: 5.8/10

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). The regulatory requirement baseline count was estimated at 30,023.¹

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

Sources:

1. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Project ART Regulatory Count*. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. <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: October 30, 2024. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/R-11-1%20-Regulatory%20Accountability%20And%20Reporting%20Act.pdf>
3. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Annual Report Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness 2015-16*. Retrieved: October 30, 2024. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/publication/annual-report-joint-office-regulatory-affairs-and-service-effectiveness>
4. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. Premiers’ Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation.
5. Government of Prince Edward Island. Statutes and Regulations. Retrieved: October 29, 2024. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/legislation/all/all/a>.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Overall grade: 3/10

In 2005, the province appointed a Red Tape Reduction Task Force to identify unnecessary red tape and recommend improvements to the regulatory environment for 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: 0/10	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: 2/10	The <i>Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act</i> , proclaimed in January 2018, requires the government to publicly report on its work to reduce red tape. ³ However, as no comprehensive measure of the total regulatory burden has been made public since 2013-14, points are lost for not reporting the overall burden on an annual basis.
Regulatory budget Score: 5/10	The government has legislated a "one-for-one" policy as part of the Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation in Atlantic Canada. ⁴ This policy requires the cost of additional regulations be offset by a regulatory reduction of equal cost. While it is commendable government includes these constraints in its legislation, we received indication from Newfoundland and Labrador that it is not currently utilizing the one-for-one rule. As such, the government loses points for its commitment to regulatory budgeting based on the lack of use.
Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 5/10	Newfoundland and Labrador provides its legislation and regulation as online data. ⁵ Policies and forms are provided in 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 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 Further, in 2014, a baseline count of federal requirements on businesses was developed and totalled 129,860.¹ In 2018, government formed the External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness, which included business leaders, academics, and consumer representatives to advise ministers and regulators on how to modernize Canada's regulatory system. The committee was in place until 2024 and made many recommendations, including making measurement a key focus of the government's modernization plan.

<p>Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 5/10</p>	<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, 2023, the total number of administrative requirements from 39 regulators was 149,401 — an increase of 631 (or 0.42%) from the 2022 count of 148,770.¹</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>
<p>Public reporting of the regulatory burden</p> <p>Score: 7/10</p>	<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 2023/24 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>
<p>Regulatory budget</p> <p>Score: 7/10</p>	<p>The federal government uses a one-in-one-out rule, legislated by the <i>Red Tape Reduction Act</i>.³ When a new or amended regulation increases the administrative costs on businesses, government must reduce the burden in two ways. First, regulators are required to offset an equal amount of administrative cost. Second, regulators are required to remove at least one existing regulation. Since this rule's implementation in 2012-13, the annual net burden has been reduced by approximately \$81.9 million with a total net reduction of 238 regulatory titles.¹ In 2022, the government finalized its review of the <i>Red Tape Reduction Act</i> through the application of the one-for-one rule.⁴ The review concluded that the Act is working as intended to control the administrative burden from regulation on businesses. The federal government, however, loses points in this indicator as the one-for-one rule does not apply to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The CRA is responsible for key tasks such as administering Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) returns, income tax administration, and payroll tax collection. Business owners frequently cite these functions as their top federal regulatory burdens.</p>
<p>Accessibility of regulatory documents</p> <p>Score: 7.5/10</p>	<p>The federal government provides its legislation and regulation as open, machine-readable data.⁵ Policies and forms are provided on various department pages in a combination of downloadable/PDF and online formats.</p>

Sources:

1. Government of Canada. *Annual Report for the 2023 to 2024 Fiscal Year: Federal Regulatory Management Initiatives*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/corporate/reports/annual-report-2023-2024-fiscal-year-federal-regulatory-management-initiatives.html#toc5>
2. Government of Canada. *One-for-One Rule*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <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 Reduction Act*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/R-4.5/page-1.html>
4. Government of Canada. *Report on the internal review of the Red Tape Reduction Act*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/laws/developing-improving-federal-regulations/modernizing-regulations/red-tape-reduction-act/rtra-report.html>
5. Government of Canada. *Justice Canada Acts and Regulations*. Retrieved: November 6, 2024. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/>

Appendix B: Summary of Regulatory Accountability Grades, 2011 to 2025*

Jurisdiction	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BC	B+	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A-	A-	A	A (9.3)	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)
SK	C+	B-	C	B	B	B	B	A-	A	A	A	A (9.7)	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)
ON	C-	B-	B	B	B+	B+	B-	C+	A-	A-	A	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)	B+ (8.4)	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)
NB	C-	C+	B-	B	NA	C-	C+	C-	NA	B+	C-	F (4.7)	F (4.3)	B (7.9)	D (5.6)
NS	B	D	D	C-	D-	C+	B	A-	A	A	A	A (10.0)	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)
NL	B	B	B	C+	C	NA	C	C-	D	D	F	F (2.3)	F (3.0)	F (3.0)	F (3.0)
Federal government	C+	B-	B+	B+	B+	NA	B	B-	B+	B+	B	C+ (7.3)	C (6.9)	C (6.6)	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: Small Business BC
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/reducedredtape/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"> A designated place to provide feedback on red tape irritants is not provided; however, submissions can be made through the Business Navigator Program (for businesses only) Advisory services are provided through a Business Navigator Program
NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nova Scotia seeks feedback on 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
FED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federal government does not provide a public feedback/complaint box Advisory services: https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/innovation-canada/en/contact-us

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

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

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score	6	4	10	5	4	10	10	NA	10	6	6
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)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Some (1)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)		Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)
Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization was mentioned in the latest budget, budget speech, and/or economic update Yes (2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)		Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)
Red tape reduction/regulatory modernization was mentioned in the latest election platform Yes (2 points) / No (0 points)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)		Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)
Internal red tape team or task force/industry panels assigned to identify red tape burdens and solutions aimed at modernizing the regulatory framework Yes (2 points) / No (0 points)	No (0)	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) / No (0 points)	No (0)	No (0)	Yes (2)	No (0)	No (0)	Yes (2)	Yes (2)		Yes (2)	Yes (2)	No (0)

New Brunswick receives a NA in 2025 as the province had a change in government in October 2024. Therefore, we cannot fairly assess the priorities of the new government at this time.

Source: 2024 data.

Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister ¹	
British Columbia Little evidence Score: 4/10	British Columbia shows little evidence that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are clear priorities. The current BC government has not included red tape reduction in the mandate letter for the corresponding minister. Also, red tape reduction was not mentioned in the latest budget/fiscal plan or the latest Throne Speech . The province does have an internal red tape team/task force in charge of identifying and addressing regulatory irritants and did mention red tape in the governing party's most recent election platform .
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 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: 5/10	The current government does not post its mandate letters. However, Saskatchewan earns partial points for including red tape reduction in its economic growth plan , which sets out the priorities for relevant ministers. Points are also awarded for the province's Red Tape Reduction Committee (RTRC) , which acts as an internal red tape task force, and for mentioning red tape reduction in the Department of Trade and Export Development's yearly business plan . Red tape reduction was not mentioned in the latest budget , Throne Speech , or in the last election platform .
Manitoba Little evidence Score: 4/10	The Government of Manitoba did mention red tape in its most recent budget , focused on recent changes to the sales tax registration threshold. The current government's most recent election platform also mentioned reducing red tape in the credentialing process, with a special focus on internationally trained health care workers. The province does not have a minister responsible for red tape reduction or a task force assigned to identify red tape burdens, and did not mention reducing red tape in its most recent Throne Speech .
Ontario Clear evidence Score: 10/10	Although the Ontario government does not post 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 , last election platform , and the latest 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 budget , it does include a commitment from the Quebec Revenue Agency to contact 50,000 SMEs by 2025-2026 to inform them of information, education, and support regarding corporate tax credits. Red tape was also addressed in the last election platform and in the latest Throne Speech with a big focus on digitization and streamlined processes. Additionally, the government has an external advisory committee on regulatory and administrative relief called the Comité-conseil sur l'allègement réglementaire et administratif .
New Brunswick NA	Due to the recent change in government in New Brunswick, the 2025 Red Tape Report Card highlights the actions of the previous government in this category. The previous government of New Brunswick did not post mandate letters, forfeiting marks in this area. Also, the government did not address red tape in the latest budget but did mention it in its last election platform and Throne Speech . Finally, among other mandates, Opportunities New Brunswick is the government's agency in charge of addressing red tape irritants and regulatory modernization.

<p>Nova Scotia Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Following the 2024 election, Nova Scotia established the position of Minister of Service Effectiveness, whose mandate includes red tape. Red tape reduction is also mentioned in the province’s latest budget and Throne Speech. Lastly, Nova Scotia has distinguished itself for the team’s efforts at the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness, fulfilling the requirement for an internal red tape team. 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).</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, costing the province points in this area. Red tape was not mentioned in the last budget, but was addressed in the government’s latest election platform and Throne Speech. In addition, the team working for Project ART, a 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 Some evidence Score: 6/10</p>	<p>While red tape is not explicitly mentioned in the mandate letter to the corresponding minister, it places a significant emphasis on “digitization,” for which the government receives points. Points are also given for its commitment to cut red tape to support businesses and drive economic activity in the 2024 budget speech. Points are lost for the absence of any mention of red tape in the latest Throne Speech and the last election platform. 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 Some evidence Score: 6/10</p>	<p>Red tape is included in the mandate letter to the corresponding minister within the federal government. The last Throne Speech did not address red tape reduction. However, it was addressed in the last election platform and budget.</p> <p>The Federal External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness was in place until June 2024 and was not extended. As a result of the lack of commitment to extend the committee’s mandate, the federal government was not awarded points for the <i>existence of an internal team/task force assigned to identify and solve red tape burdens</i> category.</p> <p>While the 2024 Federal Economic Statement mentions the creation of a Regulatory Red Tape Office, it is not scored in this iteration of the report card as it has not yet been implemented.</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: 2024 data.

Appendix E: Government Red Tape Reduction Initiatives to Improve Housing

Government Red Tape Reduction Initiatives to Improve Housing	
<p>British Columbia Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>British Columbia Building Permit Hub: In May 2024, the Province of British Columbia launched a new digital tool to streamline and standardize the local permitting process. This new tool acts as a “one-stop shop” for builders by automatically checking if permit applications are complete, checking compliance with key parts of the BC Building Code, and standardizing building permit submission requirements across jurisdictions in the province.</p> <p>Changes to BC Building Codes to allow single egress stair designs: In September 2024, the Province of British Columbia announced it would allow single egress stair designs in low- and mid-rise buildings. According to the province, this change would improve density by making it possible to build housing on smaller lots and in different configurations, allowing for more flexibility.</p> <p>Bill 44: On June 30, requirements under Bill 44 mandated that municipalities of more than 5,000 people amend their zoning bylaws to allow for three to four units on lots previously zoned for single-family or duplex use, depending on lot size; and for six units on larger lots previously zoned for single-family or duplex use and close to transit stops with frequent service.</p> <p>The legislation also expedites and streamlines permitting by requiring municipalities to update community plans and zoning bylaws on a regular basis, to ensure that they have enough housing to meet the needs of both their current and future residents.</p>
<p>Alberta Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Changes to City Charters: In May 2024, the Province of Alberta put forward three changes to the charters of the province’s largest cities, Calgary and Edmonton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove inclusionary housing provisions that have not been used by either city and could cause the housing supply to decrease while potentially increasing the costs of new homes. • Remove bylaw-making authority for cities to require energy efficiency standards that are more stringent than Alberta’s building code, as this could drive up construction costs. • Clarify the rules for off-site levies to ensure transparency and accountability.
<p>Saskatchewan No evidence Score: 0/10</p>	<p>Saskatchewan has not introduced initiatives that meet the criteria under this indicator. For more information on what jurisdictions are doing to cut red tape to improve housing, see <i>Breaking ground: A jurisdictional update on housing initiatives to reduce red tape</i> (to be published January 30, 2025).</p>
<p>Manitoba Some evidence Score: 5/10</p>	<p>Amendments to the City of Winnipeg Charter and <i>Planning Amendment Act</i>: In the fall of 2024, the Government of Manitoba passed Bill 40, which amended the <i>Planning Amendment Act</i> and the <i>City of Winnipeg Charter Act</i> and changed the appeals process for zoning changes. These changes address challenges associated with the public appeals process, whereby a public appeal could be triggered with only 25 individuals appealing zoning changes. The enacted changes now require 300 individuals in a municipality with a population over 6,000 per census population and 100 individuals in municipalities under 6,000.</p>
<p>Ontario Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act: In June 2024, Ontario passed Bill 185 (<i>Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024</i>) to reduce barriers to building housing and accelerate planning approvals through measures such as: removing parking space minimums for developments in certain areas near most major transit stations, allowing municipalities to reallocate infrastructure servicing allocations from stalled developments to ready-to-build ones, and removing the planning responsibilities of seven upper-tier municipalities.</p> <p>New business service standards: Under the <i>At Your Service Act</i> passed in March 2022, the province established a framework to set service standards for businesses applying for licences and permits across all government ministries, including the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. As of</p>

	<p>January 1, 2025, business service standards for processing licences and permits online, by phone, and in person have been published on Ontario.ca.</p> <p>New Permit Navigation Tool: In April 2024, Ontario launched the Permit Navigation Tool that helps businesses find and track permits and licences. The tool is undergoing beta testing and now includes these permits: Building and Land Use, Encroachment, Entrance, and Sign. More permits and licences will be added.</p> <p>New land use planning policy: In August 2024, the Ontario government published its new Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) that streamlines land use planning and reduces red tape by creating one province-wide land use planning policy statement. This new policy took effect on October 20, 2024. According to the province, it eliminated over 100 pages and 30,000 words of administrative burden and will save municipal staff an estimated 6,600 hours.</p> <p>New Building Code: In 2024, Ontario released a new Building Code to reduce regulatory burdens for the construction industry, increase the safety and quality of buildings, and make it easier to build housing. The 2024 Building Code streamlines processes for the sector and increases harmonization with the National Construction Codes by eliminating at least 1,730 technical variations between the provincial and national requirements. It took effect on January 1, 2025, with a three-month grace period until March 31, 2025, for certain designs that are already underway.</p>
<p>Quebec Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Fast track for qualified developers: The Quebec government and the City of Montréal have announced the creation of a fast track for "qualified developers" to allow faster construction of affordable housing. It supports financially affordable housing projects led by groups of experienced developers recognized for their efficiency by the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ). The SHQ will grant "Qualified Developer" status to promoters or organizations so they can begin construction on their projects more quickly.</p> <p>Bill 51: This bill aims to modernize the construction industry in the province of Quebec. The Bill introduces the concept of versatility between the 25 trades, which means that journeymen can perform tasks that are related to their trade, part of the same work sequence, and short in duration. The bill also aims to improve labour mobility in Quebec's construction industry by easing rules for workers to move between regions.</p>
<p>New Brunswick Some evidence Score: 5/10</p>	<p>Streamlining Affordable Rental Housing Program (ARHP) applications: New Brunswick receives partial points for Housing NB moving to signed attestations by designers when reviewing plans for ARHP projects with the goal of reducing regulatory burden in the approval process for the program.</p>
<p>Nova Scotia Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Trusted Partner Program: The Province of Nova Scotia and the Halifax Regional Municipality have collaborated to create a trusted partner program for qualified developers. The program will provide more streamlined and expedited services for developers who have a solid track record of quality development submissions and are working with certified professionals.</p> <p>Financial Measures Act, 2024: Through the <i>Financial Measures Act</i>, passed in the spring, the Province of Nova Scotia amended the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> to streamline housing across the province through changes such as: allowing planning documents to be submitted electronically; allowing development officers to approve non-substantive development agreement amendments; allowing municipal councils to provisionally approve a development agreement; and permitting councils to sell or lease property below market value for any purpose deemed beneficial by council, such as housing development.</p> <p>The <i>Financial Measures Act</i> also extended the Executive Panel on Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), which in 2023, according to the provincial government, added 23,000 units of housing and eliminated six to nine months from HRM's development approval process.</p>

<p>Prince Edward Island Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Prince Edward Island's <i>Building Together Housing Strategy</i>: In February 2024, the Government of Prince Edward Island released its five-year plan to address the housing shortage on the Island. Included in the plan were initiatives to cut red tape, such as streamlining the permitting process in the province and modernizing regulations to support housing supply increases.</p> <p>Permit Coordinators: Prince Edward Island recently established Permit Coordinator positions which act as the first point of contact for all permit- and property-related requests and provide one-on-one support by answering people's questions and assisting them with their building and development permit applications. CFIB applauds Prince Edward Island for this move as it falls in line with recommendations from CFIB's 2024 report <i>Flushing Out the Nonsense</i>, which called on jurisdictions to improve their permitting processes.</p>
<p>Newfoundland and Labrador No evidence Score: 0/10</p>	<p>Newfoundland and Labrador has not introduced initiatives that meet the criteria under this indicator. For more information on what jurisdictions are doing to cut red tape to improve housing, see <i>Breaking ground: A jurisdictional update on housing initiatives to reduce red tape</i> (to be published January 30, 2025).</p>
<p>Federal government Clear evidence Score: 10/10</p>	<p>Housing Accelerator Fund: The Housing Accelerator Fund was created to incentivize local governments to implement reforms such as ending exclusionary zoning, streamlining permitting processes, and increasing process efficiency through digitization. As a result of the 178 Housing Accelerator Fund agreements with municipalities across Canada, which are implemented to encourage jurisdictions to cut red tape and improve the efficiency of their processes, the federal government receives full points for this indicator.</p> <p>Frequent Builder Initiative: In July 2024, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation launched the Frequent Builder Initiative with the aim of expediting the application process for established housing providers working with the CMHC that have a proven track record in delivering projects. Those qualified as "frequent builders" will be provided priority assignment of CMHC resources and expedited loan approvals, underwriting and advancing flexibilities, and conditional funding approval for future funding years.</p>

Appendix F: Methodology

The *2025 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 red tape reduction initiatives to improve housing (1 indicator)

1. Government has established two initiatives to reduce red tape and streamline the home-building process over the past year (*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 red tape reduction initiatives to improve housing* 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 housing bonus – 2%.

The data reflected in this report are based on information that was in effect as of December 20, 2024.

Regulatory Accountability Subindex

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

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

Table C1

Regulatory accountability scoring criteria

A1. Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden	Total potential points = 10
Existence of an aggregate regulatory measure of the burden on 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:

- 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.
- 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.

2025 change in methodology

The main changes in methodology between the 2025 and 2024 report card are described below.

- CFIB's own regulatory requirement count replaces the count that was previously provided by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University (last provided in 2022). For more details on CFIB's method for developing the regulatory requirement count, see [Counting Constraints: A Comprehensive Count of Canada's Regulatory Requirements](#).
- **The housing bonus subindex** is new to the report card in 2025 and replaces the 2024 subindex that scored jurisdictions on their initiatives to reduce red tape for physicians. 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 established two initiatives to reduce red tape and streamline the home-building process over the past year*

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About CFIB and the *2025 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 2025 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 over 15 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.

