



2023 Red Tape Report Card

13th Edition



**CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS**

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Foreword

CFIB started issuing its Red Tape Report Card over a decade ago to encourage more government accountability. At the time only a few governments were tracking and reporting the regulatory burden they impose on individuals. Such poor public accountability would be unthinkable when it comes to taxes and government spending but was accepted practice for regulation, the other main area where governments have a significant impact.

Our report card continues to challenge governments across Canada to improve their regulatory measurement and reporting. This is fundamental to good governance. A modern regulatory system that minimizes frustration and cost while maximizing safety, and environmental and consumer protections should not be an afterthought. It should, along with fiscal accountability, take center stage in public policy. Labour shortages and an aging population make this more important than ever. There are fewer people to administer rules that are more complex than they need to be, and while long lines and difficult-to-understand forms do not play well at any age, they may disproportionately affect older individuals.

Small business owners are on the front lines of regulatory compliance and have been ringing the alarm bell about red tape for decades. The public is also affected. On a recent public opinion poll, only 51 percent agree that governments are doing a good job providing service to individuals; close to seventy-five percent have personally experienced frustration with a government process or form in the past 3 years (82 per cent for business owners).¹ Both business owners and the public agree that good service is important (see figure 1).

This year we include three sections on the government report card. Our section on accountability, looking at measuring and reporting, remains core. The second section looks at the regulatory burden – a section that we look forward to expanding in future years as data availability continues to improve. The third section considers whether regulatory modernization is a political priority for premiers and the prime minister. This is key as regulatory modernization is challenging and cuts across all government departments.

¹ Sources: Business Owners: CFIB. Your Voice: November Survey, 2022, n = 3,264. Individuals: Nationally representative survey of Canadian adults (18+). Nov. 18, 2022, n = 1,507.

Figure 1:

Level of importance placed on aspects of good government service, by business owners and individuals, in percentage points¹

		Very important	Somewhat important	
Knowledgeable, helpful staff	Business Owners	90	9	99
	Individuals	83	14	97
Understanding what I need to do and why	Business Owners	86	12	98
	Individuals	82	16	98
Easy to understand web content, policies, forms, etc. (plain language)	Business Owners	84	14	98
	Individuals	81	17	98
Being able to find information easily	Business Owners	84	14	98
	Individuals	85	13	98
Being able to connect to a real person (by phone, online chat, in person)	Business Owners	82	16	98
	Individuals	72	22	94
Reasonable wait/processing times (time on hold, time in line, time to approval)	Business Owners	81	17	98
	Individuals	78	20	98
Approachable, respectful service from government staff	Business Owners	81	18	99
	Individuals	77	20	97
Clear timelines on when to expect a response or approval	Business Owners	80	18	98
	Individuals	79	19	98
Confirmation of receipt when submitting forms	Business Owners	80	18	98
	Individuals	72	24	95

Notes:

1. Aspects of good government service are ordered by share of “very important” responses for business owners.

Sources: Business Owners: CFIB. *Your Voice: November Survey*, 2022, n = 3,264. Individuals: Nationally representative survey of Canadian adults (18+). Nov. 18, 2022, n = 1,507. Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

We are pleased to present the 13th edition of our annual *Red Tape Report Card*. We want to thank the staff from governments across Canada for taking the time to talk to us about their regulatory reform efforts. We appreciate that many are making a sincere effort to improve accountability and reduce red tape to benefit all Canadians.

Sincerely,



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Introduction

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business's (CFIB) *2023 Red Tape Report Card* grades three major areas of regulatory performance: regulatory accountability, regulatory burden, and political priority. Within this framework, governments with the highest overall scores are those that have a comprehensive measure of their regulatory burden, maintain some form of regulatory budget, are making efforts to minimize red tape, and which display evidence that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are a government priority that is championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and cabinet. **For details on how scores were calculated, and the changes applied to the methodology since the 2022 edition of the Report Card, refer to the Methodology section in Appendix E.**

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

Burden remains a more challenging area of regulatory performance to measure as data related to regulatory burden that can be used to compare jurisdictions is very limited. Overall, grades in the burden section are relatively lower than that of the accountability section, with only one province achieving an "A" grade. The burden section represents 40% of the overall grade.

The political priority section is new to the report card, and only a few jurisdictions achieve an "A" grade, indicating much work remains to be done to show that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are clear priorities for governments. Political priority represents 20% of the overall grade. See Table 1 for an overview of the grades.

Table 1

2023 Red Tape Report Card — areas of regulatory performance, score and grade^{1,2}

Jurisdiction	Regulatory accountability (40%)		Regulatory burden (40%)		Political priority (20%)		Overall score and grade	
Alberta	8.9	A-	8.4	B+	9.5	A	8.8	A-
Ontario	8.8	A-	7.8	B	9.5	A	8.5	B+
British Columbia	8.9	A-	8.8	A-	7.0	C	8.5	B+
Nova Scotia	8.8	A-	7.6	B-	9.0	A	8.4	B+
Manitoba	8.8	A-	8.3	B+	7.5	B-	8.3	B+
Quebec	8.8	A-	7.4	C+	9.0	A	8.3	B+
Saskatchewan	8.0	B	7.9	B	7.0	C	7.8	B
Federal	6.9	C	6.2	C-	7.5	B-	6.7	C
Prince Edward Island	6.3	C-	6.7	C	6.0	C-	6.4	C-
New Brunswick	4.3	F	5.8	D	7.0	C	5.4	D
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.0	F	3.9	F	1.5	F	3.0	F

Notes:

- Score: 10 is best, 0 is worst. Using a weighting scheme, the three 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%, and political priority — 20%.
- 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).

Regulatory Accountability

For the regulatory accountability section, we applied a scoring system to four key indicators. These indicators are:

- (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.

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

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

Table 2

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

Jurisdiction	Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden	Public reporting of the regulatory burden	Regulatory budget	Accessibility of regulatory documents	Regulatory accountability score and grade	
BC	9	10	9	7.5	8.9	A-
AB	10	10	10	5.5	8.9	A-
MB	10	10	10	5	8.8	A-
ON	10	10	10	5	8.8	A-
NS	10	10	10	5	8.8	A-
QC	8	10	10	7	8.8	A-
SK	10	10	9	3	8.0	B
FED	5	7	10	5.5	6.9	C
PEI	8	7	7	3	6.3	C-
NB	0	2	10	5	4.3	F
NL	0	2	5	5	3.0	F

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden

Table 3

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

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden	5	9	10	10	10	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 business and/or individuals) includes all sources from: (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, and (iii) associated policies and forms.
3. Regulatory requirement count (for business and/or individuals) includes all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities.

Source: 2022 data.

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

Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia achieve top scores for this indicator (See Table 3).² British Columbia scores a 9 — as they do 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 from their measurement. 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 and Newfoundland and Labrador score zero as they do not publicly report their counts.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

Table 4

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

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Public reporting of the regulatory burden	7	10	10	10	10	10	10	2	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: 2022 data.

² Ontario's score reflects the commitment to broaden its measure to include individuals and publicly report on it by 2023.

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

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia all receive a score of 10 for this indicator — these provinces have legislation requiring them to publicly report on the regulatory burden on an annual basis (see Table 4). Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick receive the lowest score — Newfoundland and Labrador has not publicized their regulatory count since 2014, and New Brunswick does not have comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden.³ According to federal government, policy, 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 count.

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	10	9	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	7	5

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

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

Source: 2022 data.

Regulatory budgeting works in a similar fashion to a fiscal budget to the extent that it establishes a target for the adjustment in the regulatory burden, imposing some discipline and prioritizing regulatory activities.⁴

Regulatory budgeting can be in the form of a “one-for-one” rule, which requires regulatory increases be counterbalanced with an equal reduction in burden. It can also take the form of a reduction target of the overall burden of regulation. Such measures help to keep the regulatory burden from growing unchecked. Jurisdictions with legislated constraints in place to manage or reduce regulatory costs receive higher scores in this indicator than those doing it as a matter of policy.

Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the federal government score the highest on this indicator as they include legislated limits on regulators (see Table 5). These limits include the use of “one-for-one” rules and requiring the cost of additional regulations be offset by an equal or greater regulatory cost reduction. British Columbia and Saskatchewan have constraints in place; however, these constraints are not legislated. Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island score the lowest. While both provinces have legislated constraints in place, the lack of consistent reporting makes it unclear whether government is following through on this legislation.

³ Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. *Regulatory Reform Annual Report 2013-14*. Retrieved: January 13, 2022. https://www.gov.nl.ca/regulatoryreform/reg_reform_annual_report.html

⁴ Speer, Sean. *Regulatory Budgeting: Lessons from Canada*. R Street. 2016.

Accessibility of Regulatory Documents

Table 6

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

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

Scorecard for this indicator is available in Appendix A.

Criteria considered:

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

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

Source: 2022 data.

Open and machine-readable data is defined as online 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, supports the public’s oversight of government activity, and maximizes social value by providing access to individuals, businesses, and governments. 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 searching⁵, or helping academics and other researchers study the impact of the regulatory burden.

For this indicator, jurisdictions that provide open and machine-readable data⁶ for all three types of regulatory documents — (i) legislation, (ii) regulation, (iii) associated policies and forms — earn a score of 10. Partial scores are awarded for regulatory documents provided in online or downloadable/PDF format.

British Columbia and Quebec score the highest on this indicator as these jurisdictions provide regulatory data — legislation and regulations — in open and machine-readable format (see Table 6, Appendix A). As pointed out by the BC government, “This direct access to raw data is intended to enable third parties to build or add their own custom applications”.⁷ However, neither BC nor Quebec provides open and machine-readable data for its policies and forms. 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 online format for their legislation and regulations.

⁵ For example, BizPaL is a free and online service offered by the federal government to help business owners identify which permits and licences they require to operate their business. BizPaL’s database, however, is not all inclusive – business owners still must conduct additional research to ensure compliance. Machine-readable data of regulatory documents would help to improve the scope and accuracy of such tools.

⁶ Open, machine-readable data is a format that can be automatically read and processed by a computer (i.e., CSV, JSON, XML). Online data (i.e., HTML) and PDF formats are not machine-readable. Physical copies are non-digital and are also therefore not machine-readable.

⁷ Government of BC. BC Laws CiviX Server API. <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/template/complete/api/index.html>.

Regulatory Burden

This section of the report card focuses on the overall regulatory burden using six indicators. Four of these six indicators are used to evaluate efforts to minimize red tape: (i) the existence of a red tape feedback/complaint 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 inter-provincial/territorial cooperation score from CFIB's 2022 edition of *Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*⁸. The remaining two indicators focus on data from the Mercatus Center, these are (v) the total number of regulatory provincial restrictions 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 E.**

Table 7

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

	Minimizing the regulatory burden				Provincial regulatory restrictions		Regulatory burden score and grade	
	Red tape feedback	Advisory service for navigating business challenges	A proactive process/regular window for legislative changes to address red tape	Inter-provincial/territorial cooperation score ²	Total number of provincial regulatory restrictions	Total provincial regulatory restrictions per capita		
BC	10	10	10	6.7	6.5	9.8	8.8	A-
AB	5	10	10	8.3	7.1	9.7	8.4	B+
MB	5	10	10	8.1	8.0	8.4	8.3	B+
SK	5	10	10	7.5	7.1	7.7	7.9	B
ON	10	10	10	6.5	0.0	10.0	7.8	B
NS	5	10	10	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.6	B-
QC	10	10	10	3.3	1.6	9.7	7.4	C+
PEI	10	10	5	4.9	10.0	0.0	6.7	C
FED ¹	0	10	10	4.6	NA	NA	6.2	C-
NB	0	10	5	4.0	8.6	7.4	5.8	D
NL	5	0	0	4.2	8.5	5.5	3.9	F

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 inter-provincial/territorial cooperation score from CFIB's 2022 edition of [Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#).

⁸ Cruz, Marvin et.al. *The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*. CFIB. 2022.

Red tape suggestion box

Table 8

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

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Score ¹	0	10	5	5	5	10	10	0	5	10	5
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)	Yes (5)	No (0)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)	Yes (5)
Government proactively seeks feedback from individuals and/or businesses on prominent webpages — Yes/No ¹	No (0)	Yes ² (5)	No (0)	No (0)	No (0)	Yes ³ (5)	Yes ⁴ (5)	No (0)	No (0)	Yes ⁵ (5)	No (0)
Notes: 1. Scoring — The following point system was applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of a permanent online feedback/complaint box where individuals and/or businesses can report red tape frustrations (e.g. an online portal or an e-mail contact): Yes=5 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, No=0 points. 2. British Columbia seeks feedback on their Service BC webpage . 3. Ontario seeks feedback on their official government webpage . 4. Quebec seeks feedback on their official government webpage . 5. Prince Edward Island seeks feedback on their official government webpage . Source: 2022 data - See Appendix C for links to online red tape suggestion boxes.											

This indicator considers whether governments have a permanent designated place online where individuals and/or businesses can report their red tape irritants. For instance, several provinces use either an online portal or provide an e-mail contact where red tape 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 also 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 the handling of irritants. For example, Saskatchewan’s annual regulatory report provides a summary of concerns submitted through their *Help Cut Red Tape* webpage during the past year, as well as steps taken to resolve issues.⁹

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

For this indicator, jurisdictions that have a permanent online feedback/complaint box where individuals and/or businesses can report red tape frustrations, and which proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages receive higher scores. British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island score the highest as these provinces

⁹ Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2021-22*. Retrieved: August 2, 2022. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/118487>

¹⁰ Business Owners: CFIB. Your Voice: November Survey, 2022, n = 3,264. Individuals: Nationally representative survey of Canadian adults (18+). Nov. 18, 2022, n = 1,507.

have a dedicated area for red tape irritants and suggestions (see Table 8). Further, these provinces also proactively seek feedback on prominent webpages — British Columbia seeks feedback on their Service BC webpage while Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island do so on their official government webpage. All other jurisdictions, except for New Brunswick and the federal government, receive partial scores as they have an area for red tape feedback but do not proactively seek for feedback on prominent pages. New Brunswick and the federal government score the poorest as they 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/No ¹	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	Yes (10)	No (0)

Note:

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

Source: 2022 data — See Appendix C for links to business advisory sites.

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

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

Proactive process/regular window for regulatory changes

Table 10

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

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

Note:

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

Sources:

BC - The [Better Regulations for British Columbians](#) annual regulatory process updates regulations at once; the latest changes took effect in March 2022.

AB - Red tape reduction changes to legislation have been conducted semi-annually since 2019; the [Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act 2022](#) passed May 2022.

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

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

ON - Red Tape Reduction Packages have been conducted in Spring and Fall of each year since 2018; the [Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act](#) was introduced in November 2022.

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

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

FED - The federal government provides an Annual Regulatory Modernization Bill; the latest legislative changes, [Bill S-6](#), were introduced in March 2022.

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

British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and the federal government receive a score of 10 as these jurisdictions have a recurring legislative mechanism for regulatory modernization (see Table 10). For example, since 2018 the Ontario government has solicited and bundled regulatory changes semi-annually through their Spring and Fall Red Tape Reduction packages — over 400 actions to reduce red tape burdens have been taken since inception.^{11,12} British Columbia, has an annual amendment process where the government issues a call for items to all ministries, and small regulatory changes are grouped together and updated each March.¹³

¹¹ Government of Ontario. 2022 *Burden Reduction Report: Saving people and businesses time and money*. Retrieved: October 19, 2022.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2022-burden-reduction-report-saving-people-and-businesses-time-and-money>

¹² Government of Ontario. *Ontario Reducing Red Tape to Improve Competitiveness and Strengthen Supply Chains*. Retrieved: November 28, 2022.

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001640/ontarios-newest-red-tape-reduction-act-features-fewer-fees-better-services>

¹³ Government of British Columbia. *Modernization Initiatives*. Retrieved: October 18, 2022. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/modernization-initiatives>

Saskatchewan also earns a score of 10 for the work done by its Red Tape Reduction Committee (RTRC) to review all business-related regulations at least once every 10 years. This process, which is the only one of its kind in Canada, helps ensure regulations remain relevant and removes red tape — in 2021-22 RTRC reviewed 2,376 compliance requirements.¹⁴

In the case of Nova Scotia, the province 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 — assesses, reviews, and submits into Cabinet an independent submission evaluating every proposed regulatory, legislative, and process changes with a business impact. This process allows Cabinet to receive independent advice from the CRO on every regulatory/legislative approach before it is put forward to the Legislature.

The remaining provinces receive lower scores as no proactive process or recurring legislative mechanism exists.

Inter-provincial cooperation

Table 11

Burden indicator 4 - Overall inter-provincial cooperation score from CFIB's 2022 Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card (score; 10 is best; 0 is worst)

Indicator	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Inter-provincial/ territorial cooperation score ^{1,2}	4.6	6.7	8.3	7.5	8.1	6.5	3.3	4.0	6.8	4.9	4.2

Notes:

1. The 2022 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card* uses an index approach to measure and rank the performance of Canada's provinces/territories towards addressing barriers to internal trade based on three major areas of inter-provincial cooperation. The three different areas are: CFTA Exceptions; Implementation Status of Reconciliation Agreements; and Select Barriers to Internal Trade. Using a weighting scheme, the three area scores are combined into a single score that allows for a ranking of jurisdictions from best (highest score-10) to worst (lowest score-0).

2. The data reflected is based on information that was in effect as of June 16, 2022.

Source: CFIB, [The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card](#), 2022

Regulatory barriers between jurisdictions add costs, create delays, and limit the flow of people, goods, and services across the country. Ultimately, 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 inter-provincial/territorial cooperation score from CFIB's 2022 *Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*.¹⁵ This report card grades three major areas of inter-provincial/territorial cooperation: Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) exceptions, the existence of select interjurisdictional barriers to internal trade, and the implementation status of reconciliation agreements under the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT). Within this framework, governments with the highest overall scores are those that have the fewest exceptions and have made the most progress towards reducing specific barriers. Here, Alberta ranks the highest, and Quebec fairs the poorest (see Table 11).

¹⁴ Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2021-22*. Retrieved: November 9, 2022. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/118487>

¹⁵ Cruz, Marvin et al. *The State of Internal Trade: Canada's Interprovincial Cooperation Report Card*. CFIB. 2022.

Provincial regulatory restrictions

Table 12

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

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

Notes:

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

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

To incorporate the overall regulatory burden on individuals and businesses into our report card we use the latest data presented by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. This dataset provides the number of restrictions found in the regulations and statutes that exist in each province.^{16,17} In using the restriction count as a surrogate measure for the regulatory burden, we assume that a higher number of restrictions in a province means a greater regulatory load and more opportunity to reduce red tape.

It is important to acknowledge the limitations of this approach. The dataset does not include certain government rules, such as those in guidance documents, policies, or forms. Further, differences in provincial industrial mixes can contribute to differences in regulatory counts.¹⁸ For example, larger provinces are home to more industries, and thus more regulations, than a smaller province. Nevertheless, the dataset is used as it is the only measure presently available that compares regulatory counts across the country, as not all governments provide a regulatory count and those that do tend to use different counting methods. For this indicator, the fewer regulatory restrictions in place, the lower the burden and the higher the score achieved. As such, provinces with the highest scores include Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador — see Figure 2 and Table 12. Conversely, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia score the lowest for this indicator.

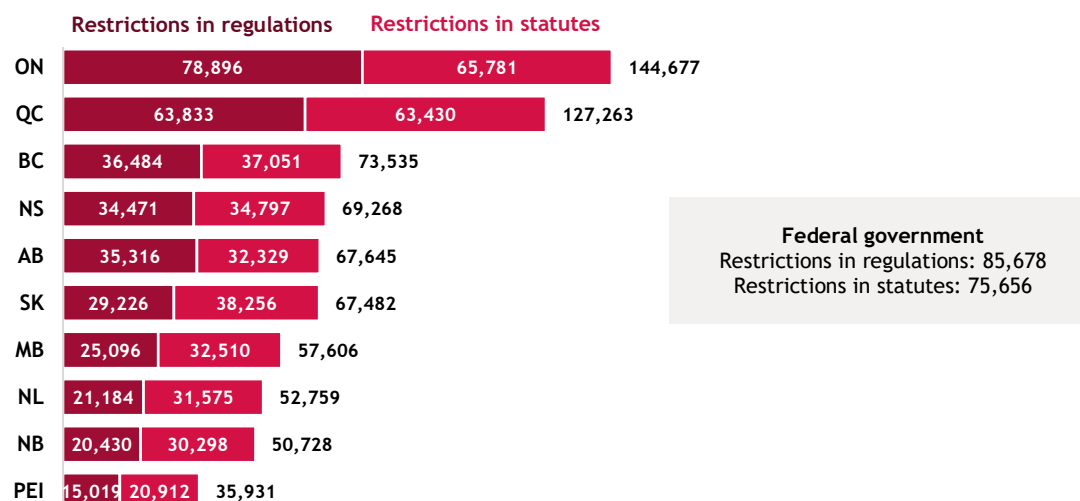
¹⁶ McLaughlin, Patrick A., Jonathan Nelson, and Stephen Strosko. RegData Canada (dataset). QuantGov, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, 2020. <https://quantgov.org/regdata-canada/>.

¹⁷ The Mercatus Center quantifies regulations based on the content of regulatory text using text analysis program that counts the number of binding constraints or "restrictions", words that indicate an obligation to comply — including "shall", "must", "may not", "required" and "prohibited".

¹⁸ Laura Jones et.al. *RegData Canada: A Snapshot of Regulatory Restrictions in Canada's Provinces*. Mercatus Center at George Mason University. 2020.

Figure 2

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



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

Provincial regulatory restrictions per capita

Table 13

Burden indicator 6 - Provincial regulatory restrictions 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	137 (9.8)	147 (9.7)	560 (7.7)	406 (8.4)	95 (10.0)	145 (9.7)	618 (7.4)	672 (7.1)	2,080 (0.0)	998 (5.5)

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

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

Sources:

1. RegData Canada (dataset). QuantGov, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0009-01 Population estimates Q4/2022.

To compare the magnitude of the regulatory burden across provinces, the total number of provincial regulatory restrictions is divided by population.¹⁹ 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. To this end, we employed a per capita count as a basis for scaling, such a calculation shows - 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 (95 per 10,000 people), followed by British Columbia, Quebec, and Alberta (see Table 13). On the other end of the scale, Prince Edward Island fairs the poorest as it has the most regulatory restrictions per capita (2,080 per 10,000 people).

¹⁹ Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. Q4/2022.

Political Priority

Ensuring that red tape reduction/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. As such, without political prioritization, red tape reduction efforts may lack direction and resources, and may be more difficult to implement and sustain over time.

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

Within this section the indicators are weighted equally. **Jurisdictional findings for this indicator are available in Appendix D.**

Table 14

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

Jurisdiction	Red Tape Reduction is a clear priority/ championed by Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet	Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization	Political priority score and grade	
AB	9	10	9.5	A
ON	9	10	9.5	A
NS	8	10	9	A
QC	9	9	9	A
MB	8	7	7.5	B-
FED	8	7	7.5	B-
BC	7	7	7	C
SK	7	7	7	C
NB	7	7	7	C
PEI	5	7	6	C-
NL	3	0	1.5	F

Premier/Prime Minister and cabinet champion red tape reduction

Table 15

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

	FED	BC ²	AB ²	SK	MB ²	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Red tape reduction is a clear priority/ championed by Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet — Clear evidence/ Some evidence/ Little evidence ¹	Clear (8)	Some (7)	Clear (9)	Some (7)	Clear (8)	Clear (9)	Clear (9)	Some (7)	Clear (8)	Some (5)	Little (3)

Notes:

1. **Scoring** — The following point system was applied: Clear evidence=8-10 points, Some evidence=5-7 points, Little evidence=0-4 points.

2. Note that these provinces have recently changed Premiers under the same government.

Source: 2022 data. Jurisdictional findings for this indicator are available in Appendix D.

Jurisdictions which display clear evidence that the Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet are committed to red tape reduction receive higher scores for this indicator. Initiatives which indicate that red tape reduction is a clear priority for the Premier and cabinet may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Direction from Premier to Ministers; red tape reduction/regulatory modernization included in mandate letters to ministers.
- Reducing red tape is frequently raised by leader in public (news conferences, speeches, social media posts).
- Commitments to reduce red tape are included in Throne Speeches, Budgets, and election platforms.
- The existence of active task forces assigned to identify red tape burdens and solutions aimed at modernizing the regulatory framework.
- Public promotion of the red tape online suggestion box.
- Regulatory modernization/red tape reduction is used as a solution for government priorities.
- Current government maintaining effective regulatory reforms from previous governments.

Alberta, Quebec, and Ontario are the only three jurisdictions that exhibit clear, explicit, and sufficient evidence that red tape reduction is a top policy priority, and that regulatory modernization is championed by their Premiers (see Table 15 and jurisdictional findings in Appendix D). These jurisdictions' governments have built on previous governments' regulatory modernization reforms, outlined red tape reduction as a key goal in Minister's mandate letters, explicitly mentioned red tape reduction several times in election platforms and budgets, led task forces and industry panels to identify red tape irritants and solutions aimed at regulatory modernization, and publicly championed the file in news conferences, throne speeches, social media, etc.

Jurisdictions like Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and the federal government — while not displaying full political commitment as the previously mentioned provinces — show clear evidence that red tape reduction/regulatory modernization is a priority for their political leaders. For example, these three jurisdictions either have mandate letters where red tape reduction/regulatory modernization are outlined as key commitments, have kept in place past regulatory reforms, have task forces or industry panels assigned to identify burdens and solutions, or have committed to reduce red tape in throne speeches and budgets.

Other jurisdictions show some evidence of prioritizing regulatory modernization, whether it is using red tape reduction as a solution to address government priorities or continuing red tape reduction efforts put in place by

previous governments. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick are examples of the latter case in which governments have built on the success of reforms done by previous governments and have kept the institutional drive of regulatory modernization in place.

Newfoundland and Labrador receives the lowest grade as there was little evidence to suggest that red tape reduction is a clear priority for the top policy makers in the province.

Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction

Table 16

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

	FED	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC ²	NB	NS	PEI	NL
Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction/regulatory modernization Yes/Some/No ¹	Some (7)	Some (7)	Yes (10)	Some (7)	Some (7)	Yes (10)	Some (9)	Some (7)	Yes (10)	Some (7)	No (0)

Notes:

1. **Scoring** — The following point system was applied: Yes=10 points, Some=7 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: 2022 data

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

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

Partial scores are given to jurisdictions where regulatory modernization/red tape reduction is assigned as a responsibility for a cabinet minister, as is the case for six provinces and the federal government. Among these jurisdictions, Quebec receives a score of 9 given that their Deputy Minister for the Economy is explicitly assigned the task of implementing the government’s policy on regulatory and administrative streamlining by an Executive Council Decree on the recommendation of the Premier²⁰, which carries legislative force.

Newfoundland and Labrador receives the lowest grade as the file is not assigned to any Ministry.

²⁰ Décret 1663-2022, 20 octobre 2022

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

Jurisdictional Scorecards

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden

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

Source: 2022 data.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

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

Source: 2022 data.

Regulatory budget

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

Source: 2022 data.

Accessibility of regulatory documents

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

Source: 2022 data.

Notes:

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

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

Summary of jurisdictional findings on accountability

British Columbia

Overall Grade: 8.9/10

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

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden

Score: 9/10

The BC government regulatory requirement count reflects the overall number of requirements for people, business, and government included in the province’s statutes, regulations and associated policies and forms.²

As of March 31, 2022, the regulatory requirements count was 169,189 — 14% below the established 2004 baseline (197,242).²

The count excludes certain agencies and delegated authorities (e.g. waste management rules) and the province loses one point on this indicator.

Public reporting of the regulatory burden

Score: 10/10

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

Regulatory budget

Score: 9/10

In terms of a regulatory budget, the province’s commitment to keep regulations at or below the 2004 baseline is in place until 2024.² The BC government maintains a “one-for-one” policy requiring government to remove one equivalent regulation for every new one introduced.⁵ The province loses a point as the regulatory budget is not legislated.

Accessibility of regulatory documents

Score: 7.5/10

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

Sources:

1. Jones, Laura. *Lessons from the British Columbia Model of Regulatory Reform*. Mercatus Research, Mercatus Center at George Mason University. 2018. Retrieved, July 29, 2022. <https://www.mercatus.org/publications/regulation/lessons-british-columbia-model-regulatory-reform>
2. Government of British Columbia. *Better Regulations for British Columbians: Annual Report 2021/2022*. Retrieved: July 29, 2022. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/better-regulations-2021-22-annual-report.pdf>
3. Government of British Columbia website. *Regulatory Reform*. Retrieved: July 29, 2022. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/resources>
4. Government of British Columbia. *Regulatory Reporting Act*. BC Laws. Retrieved: July 29, 2022. https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/lc/statreg/11028_01
5. Government of British Columbia. *Regulatory Reform Policy*. Retrieved: July 29, 2022. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/regulatory-reform/pdfs/regulatory_reform_policy.pdf
6. Government of British Columbia. *BC Laws*. Retrieved: November 9, 2022. <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 per cent in 2022-23.¹ Between May 2020 and June 2021, the Alberta government achieved a net reduction of 17.8% against its baseline.¹ Alberta's Red Tape Reduction Annual Report 2021-22, is targeted for release in January 2023 and will include updated costs savings achieved since 2019.

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

As of June 30, 2021, Alberta's count of regulatory requirements stands at 547,837 — a reduction of 17.8% from its baseline count of 666,513 regulatory requirements.¹ The government's count includes the regulatory burden on both individuals and businesses found in legislation, regulation, policy, and forms. Additionally, the count includes all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities. Alberta scores full points for this indicator.

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

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

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

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

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

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

Sources:

1. Government of Alberta. *Red Tape Reduction annual report 2020-2021*. Retrieved: December 1, 2022. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/red-tape-reduction-annual-report>
2. Government of Alberta. *Red Tape Reduction Act*. Retrieved: December 1, 2022. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/r08p2>
3. Government of Alberta website. *Cutting Red Tape*. Retrieved: December 1, 2022. <https://www.alberta.ca/cut-red-tape.aspx>
4. Government of Alberta. *Annual Report Red Tape Reduction 2019-2020*. Retrieved: December 1, 2022. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/red-tape-reduction-annual-report>
5. Government of Alberta. *Alberta King's Printer*. Retrieved: November 10, 2022. <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-kings-printer.aspx>

Saskatchewan**Overall Grade: 8/10**

In 2017-18, Saskatchewan began measuring the regulatory burden on businesses and individuals — this baseline measure stood at 654 regulations containing over 230,000 regulatory requirements.¹ In 2017-18, Saskatchewan became the first province to implement the mandatory use of the Direct Cost Estimator (DCE) for all regulatory decision items for ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations. This tool provides the ability to measure the net impact that changes to regulations have on impacted stakeholders, and government. The net savings for regulatory and policy changes made during 2021-22 totalled \$86 million.²

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

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

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

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

Regulatory budget**Score: 9/10**

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

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

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

Sources:

1. Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2017-18*. Retrieved: August 2, 2022. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/90767>
2. Government of Saskatchewan. *Annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report 2021-22*. Retrieved: August 2, 2022. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/118487>
3. Government of Saskatchewan. *Help Cut Red Tape*. Retrieved: February 6, 2022. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/help-cut-red-tape>
4. Government of Saskatchewan. *The Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act*. Retrieved: August 2, 2022. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/68641>
5. Government of Saskatchewan. *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*. Retrieved: August 3, 2022. <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/budget-planning-and-reporting/plan-for-growth>
6. Government of Saskatchewan. *Freelaw*. Retrieved: November 10, 2022. <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/freelaw>

Manitoba**Overall Grade: 8.8/10**

Starting in 2016, the Manitoba government embarked upon a program to promote regulatory accountability by tracking regulatory requirements and the costs they impose on businesses and individuals. At that time, the province's baseline count stood at 939,827.^{1,2} Manitoba had reduced its regulatory requirements by 10.3% (or 97,202 regulatory requirements) as of March 31, 2022. Manitoba's measure is the most comprehensive in North America.

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden Score: 10/10	The Manitoba government has established a comprehensive regulatory measure by counting all regulatory requirements on individuals and business and costing the relative burden of new regulatory requirements across every government entity (e.g. relative burden includes administrative burden and other costs such as financial, economic, environmental, and social costs). ¹ Manitoba earns full points for this indicator. In 2021-2022, the total number of regulatory requirements across departments and government agencies was 842,625. ¹
Public reporting of the regulatory burden Score: 10/10	Each year the Manitoba government counts and publicly reports the regulatory requirements, as required by legislation. ³ The province earns full points for this indicator.
Regulatory budget Score: 10/10	On July 1, 2019, Manitoba became the first province to legislate a "2-for-1" rule requiring government to remove two regulations for every one new regulation introduced. Beginning April 1, 2021, the "2-for-1" rule became a "one for one" rule. ³ The Manitoba government earns full points for this indicator.
Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 5/10	Manitoba provides its legislation and regulation in an online format. ⁴ Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Government of Manitoba. *2021-2022 Regulatory Accountability Report*. Retrieved: October 13, 2022. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/reducedredtape/index.html>
2. Reflects adjustments that were made in 2021/22 for corrections that were made to the baseline that carried forward to subsequent fiscal years baseline adjustment of regulatory requirements.
3. The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. *The Regulatory Accountability Act and Amendments to The Statutes and Regulations Act*. Retrieved: October 13, 2022. <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/41-2/b022e.php>
4. Government of Manitoba. *Manitoba Laws*. <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/index.php>

Ontario**Overall Grade: 8.8/10**

Ontario's current approach to measuring the regulatory burden on businesses began in 2018, with a baseline count of 250,809 regulatory compliance requirements on businesses.¹ Initiatives to reduce the regulatory burden have led to a 6.5% decrease and the regulatory compliance requirement count on businesses currently stands at 234,600 impacting businesses (between June 29, 2018 and June 30, 2022).¹ The province's actions have resulted in \$576 million in net annual regulatory compliance cost savings to businesses, not-for-profits, municipalities, universities and colleges, school boards and hospitals since June 29, 2018.¹

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

Ontario's regulatory count includes requirements on business from all government ministries, agencies, boards, commissions and delegated administrative authorities found in all legislation, regulations, policies, and forms.² This count stands at 234,600 in 2022.¹

Further to the count of requirements on businesses, the Ontario government has committed to start tracking and to publicly report its progress on reducing the regulatory burden on individuals by no later than September 30, 2023.¹ The province achieves full marks for this indicator based on their commitment to track regulatory burden on individuals.

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

As prescribed by legislation, the Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction is required to publicly make available an annual report on actions taken to reduce the regulatory burden and future reduction plans.² The report is published on the Government of Ontario's website and includes an update for the regulatory compliance requirement count on businesses for 2022. Given these actions, the government receives a score of 10 for this indicator.

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

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

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

Ontario provides its legislation and regulation as online format.⁴ Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Government of Ontario. *2022 Burden Reduction Report: Saving people and businesses time and money*. Retrieved: September 30, 2022. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2022-burden-reduction-report-saving-people-and-businesses-time-and-money>
2. Legislative Assembly of Ontario. *Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020. (Schedule 11, Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020)*. Retrieved: September 30, 2022. <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-197>
3. Government of Ontario. *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020*. Retrieved: September 30, 2022. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200555>
4. Government of Ontario. *e-Laws*. Retrieved: November 10, 2022. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>

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 administrative burden on business. Administrative burden is limited to estimating compliance from paperwork and does not include other aspects of regulatory compliance. The first estimate of the administrative cost on businesses in Quebec was \$1.4 billion annually in 2004.¹ At the time the province also determined that a total of 672 administrative obligations existed for businesses, and that the volume of obligations totalled 35.5 million. The government's regulatory reduction efforts have led to a reduction in this cost by 31% by 2020, or \$432 million annually.¹

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

The government focuses on administrative procedures for business. These include: obligations imposed by laws, regulations, or a directive to obtain a permit or other authorization, register, produce a report or keep a record. All government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities are included.¹ In 2020, the total number of administrative procedures on businesses was 765, the volume of procedures (i.e. number of times administrative procedures must be submitted in a given period by businesses in Quebec) was 32.6 million, and the administrative cost on business was \$963 million.¹ The government loses points for this indicator as its regulatory measure does not include the burden on individuals.

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

Quebec's regulatory policy (The Governmental Policy and Rules Regarding the Streamlining of Legislative and Regulatory Standards - for smart regulations), makes it mandatory for government to publicly measure and report on the regulatory burden annually.² The regulatory policy related to tracking and reporting is not legislated, however, it does serve as a strong enough requirement that full marks are earned.

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

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

Further to these targets, the Quebec government also includes a one-for-one rule policy requiring ministries and agencies proposing a new administrative regulation to remove an equivalent regulation.² While the one-for-one policy is not legislated, government does earn full marks as the policy does serve as a strong enough requirement.

Accessibility of regulatory documents**Score: 7/10**

Québec provides its legislation and regulation as online data.³ Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation Québec. Rapport sur la réglementation intelligente et les mesures gouvernementales d'allègement réglementaire et administratif. Édition 2022. Retrieved: October 13, 2022. https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/contenu/publications/administratives/allegement/rapport_allegement_2022.pdf
2. Gouvernement du Québec. Politique gouvernementale sur l'allègement réglementaire et administratif : Pour une réglementation intelligente. Retrieved: October 13, 2022. https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/contenu/publications/administratives/allegement/politique_gouv_allegement.pdf
3. Gouvernement du Québec. *Légis Québec*. Retrieved : November 10, 2022. <https://www.legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/>

New Brunswick**Overall Grade: 4.3/10**

The New Brunswick government has yet to develop a comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden and report on progress made to reduce it. Steps, however, have been taken to address the regulatory burden imposed on business in the province. For example, the province has implemented a Business Impact Assessment tool to help reduce unnecessary costs and improve the effectiveness of new regulations, as well as a business navigation service that provides support and guidance to existing businesses struggling with start-up and red tape issues.

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

To earn full marks, the government must develop a comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden for both individuals and businesses and keep it updated.

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

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, however, does not include a comprehensive baseline measure or track the regulatory burden annually² — as such, points are deducted for this indicator.

Regulatory budget**Score: 10/10**

Based on the Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation, New Brunswick uses a "cost-for-cost" rule which requires the cost of additional regulations be offset by an equal regulatory cost reduction.³ Further to this rule, the government launched an initiative to reduce the regulatory burden experienced by businesses by \$14 million by March 2021.² Using a Business Impact Assessment Tool for estimating the costs of regulatory proposals, the government reported that its efforts have resulted in a \$34 million net reduction being realized over the course of 2020-21.² New Brunswick earns full marks for this indicator.

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

New Brunswick provides its legislation and regulation as online data.⁴ Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Government of New Brunswick. *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*. Retrieved: January 13, 2023. <https://www.canlii.org/en/nb/laws/astat/snb-2016-c-11/latest/snb-2016-c-11.html>
2. Government of New Brunswick. *Agile Business Ensuring Regulatory Competitiveness Annual Report 2020-2021*. Retrieved: January 13, 2023. <https://onbcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Reducing-Regulatory-Burden-2020-2021-EN.pdf>
3. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*.
4. Government of New Brunswick. *Justice and Public Safety*. Retrieved: November 9, 2022. https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public-safety/attorney-general/content/acts_regulations.html

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

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

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

The government provides a count of regulatory compliance requirements in all Nova Scotia Government Acts, Regulations, and related administrative policy and forms.¹ In its 2021 annual report, the government estimated that there are 173,738 compliance requirements imposed on individuals, business, non-profits, and other organizations.²

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

As required by legislation, government publishes an annual report detailing the progress made to improve regulation and reduce regulatory burden.³ An annual report can be easily found on the website for the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness.⁴

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.⁵

While not part of the grading, it should be noted that the government has implemented a Business Impact Assessment tool to estimate the dollar costs or savings of individual legislative or regulatory proposals affecting business.⁶

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

Nova Scotia provides its legislation⁷ and regulation⁸ as online data. Policies and forms are provided in downloadable/PDF format.

Sources:

1. Government of Nova Scotia. The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Three Year Review*.
2. Government of Nova Scotia. *Annual Report 2021: Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness*. Retrieved: December 15, 2021. <https://beta.novascotia.ca/documents/office-regulatory-affairs-and-service-effectiveness-annual-report-2021>
3. Nova Scotia Legislature. *Bill No. 143, Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*. Retrieved: August 3, 2022. https://nslslegislature.ca/legc/bills/62nd_2nd/1st_read/b143.htm
4. Government of Nova Scotia. *Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness*. Retrieved: August 3, 2022. <https://beta.novascotia.ca/government/regulatory-affairs-and-service-effectiveness>
5. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers' Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*.
6. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Regulating for Recovery: Regulatory Burden Reduction Target Report (Achievement as of December 31, 2020)*. Retrieved: August 3, 2022. <https://novascotia.ca/regulatoryopportunity/documents/Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf>.
7. Government of Nova Scotia. Consolidated public statutes. Retrieved: November 18, 2022. <https://nslslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/consolidated-public-statutes>.
8. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Registrar of Regulations. Retrieved: November 18, 2022. <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/index.htm>.

Prince Edward Island

Overall Grade: 6.3/10

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

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden Score: 8/10	The regulatory count includes requirements on business and individuals from all government ministries, boards, commissions and delegated administrative authorities found in all legislation, 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
Public reporting of the regulatory burden Score: 7/10	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, prior to reporting its regulatory requirement baseline count in 2021 there had not been a report since 2016-17. ³ Points are lost for the absence of annual reporting.
Regulatory budget Score: 7/10	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. The lack of annual reporting makes it difficult to assess whether government is following through on this legislation. As such, the government earns partial points for its commitment to regulatory budgeting.
Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 3/10	Prince Edward Island provides its legislation, regulations, policies, and forms in downloadable/PDF format. ⁵

Sources:

1. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Project ART Regulatory Count*. Retrieved: January 13, 2023. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/economic-growth-tourism-and-culture/project-art-regulatory-count>
2. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act*. Retrieved: January 13, 2023. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/R-11-1%20Regulatory%20Accountability%20And%20Reporting%20Act.pdf>
3. Government of Prince Edward Island. *Annual Report Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness 2015-16*. Retrieved: January 13, 2023. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/publication/annual-report-joint-office-regulatory-affairs-and-service-effectiveness>
4. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. Premiers’ Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation.
5. Government of Prince Edward Island. Statutes and Regulations. Retrieved: November 18, 2022. <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/legislation/all/all/a>.

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

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

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

The regulatory requirement count was last publicly reported in 2014.

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

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

Regulatory budget**Score: 5/10**

The government has legislated a “one-for-one” policy as part of the Premiers’ Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation in Atlantic Canada.⁴ This policy requires the cost of additional regulations be offset by a regulatory reduction of equal cost. While it is commendable government includes these constraints in their legislation, it is unclear whether government is following through on this legislation. As such, the government loses points for its commitment to regulatory budgeting based on the lack of transparency.

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

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

Sources:

1. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. *Report of the Red Tape Reduction Task Force to The Minister of the Department of Business*. Retrieved: January 13, 2023. <https://www.gov.nl.ca/regulatoryreform/taskforcereport.pdf>
2. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. *Regulatory Reform Annual Report 2013-14*. Retrieved: January 13, 2023. https://www.gov.nl.ca/regulatoryreform/reg_reform_annual_report.html
3. House of Assembly Newfoundland and Labrador. *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act. Assented to December 14, 2016*. Retrieved: January 13, 2023. <https://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/r10-02.htm#10>
4. Government of Nova Scotia. Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. *Premiers’ Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation*.
5. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. *Office of Legislative Counsel*. Retrieved: November 9, 2022. <https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/default.htm>

Federal Government**Overall Grade: 6.9/10**

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, with a 2-year term, to bring business leaders, academics, and consumer representatives together to help ministers and regulators modernize Canada's regulatory system. The committee recommended that measurement be a focus of the government's modernization plan. In 2021, the Committee and its mandate were renewed until 2023.

Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden Score: 5/10	<p>In 2014, the federal government established a baseline count (Administrative Burden Baseline — ABB) of federal requirements in the regulations and related forms from departments and agencies that impose administrative burden on businesses.¹ As of June 30, 2021, the total number of administrative requirements from thirty-nine regulators was 150,569 — an increase of 13,480 (or 9.83%) from the 2020 count of 137,089.¹</p> <p>Points are lost as the ABB does not capture the burden generated by all federal government departments and agencies, nor does it include the burden from legislation or policies on business. Further, this regulatory measure is not comprehensive as it does not include the regulatory burden on individuals.</p>
Public reporting of the regulatory burden Score: 7/10	<p>As part of the <i>Red Tape Reduction Act</i>, the President of the Treasury Board must prepare and make public a report on the one-for-one requirement.³ The sixth annual report for 2021/22 includes savings from the one-for-one and an assessment of details on the overall count. Although reporting on one-for-one is legislated, reporting on the overall count or details on the progress made to improve regulation and reduce burden is not, thus it loses some points on this indicator.</p>
Regulatory budget Score: 10/10	<p>The federal government uses a one-in-one-out rule, legislated by the <i>Red Tape Reduction Act</i>.³ When a new or amended regulation increases the administrative costs on business, government must reduce the burden in two ways. First, regulators are required to offset an equal amount of administrative cost. Second, regulators are required to remove at least one existing regulation. Since the implementation of this rule in 2012-13, the annual net burden has been reduced by approximately \$59.5 million with a total net reduction of 205 regulatory titles.¹ However, it is important to remember that the administrative burden does not include big components of the regulatory burden (e.g. burden imposed on individuals and other costs outside of administration imposed on business). 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 one-for-one is a form of regulatory budget, although it is not as comprehensive as it could be and points are deducted for this in the first category above.</p>
Accessibility of regulatory documents Score: 5.5/10	<p>The federal government provides its legislation and regulation as online data.⁵ Policies and forms are provided on various department pages in a combination of downloadable/PDF format and online format.</p>

Sources:

1. Government of Canada. *Annual Report for the 2021 to 2022 Fiscal Year: Federal Regulatory Management Initiatives*. Retrieved: January 3, 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/corporate/reports/annual-report-2021-2022-fiscal-year-federal-regulatory-management-initiatives.html><https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/corporate/reports/annual-report-2020-2021-fiscal-year-federal-regulatory-management-initiatives.html>
2. Government of Canada. *One-for-One Rule*. Retrieved: January 3, 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/laws/developing-improving-federal-regulations/requirements-developing-managing-reviewing-regulations/one-for-one-rule.html>
3. Government of Canada. *Red Tape Reduction Act*. Retrieved: January 3, 2023. <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, January 3, 2023. <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 9, 2022. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/>

Appendix B: Summary of Regulatory Accountability Grades, 2011 to 2023*

Jurisdiction	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BC	B+	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A-	A-	A (9.3)	A (9.3)	A- (8.9)
AB	F	D	D+	D	D	N/A	F	F	F	B-	A (10.0)	A (10.0)	A- (8.9)
SK	C+	B-	C	B	B	B	B	A-	A	A	A (9.7)	A (9.7)	B (8.0)
MB	F	F	D-	D-	D	F	D+	A	A	A	A (10.0)	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)
ON	C-	B-	B	B	B+	B+	B-	C+	A-	A-	A (9.3)	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)
QC	C+	B-	B	B+	B+	B+	A	A	N/A	A	A (9.0)	A (9.3)	A- (8.8)
NB	C-	C+	B-	B	N/A	C-	C+	C-	N/A	B+	C- (6.0)	F (4.7)	F (4.3)
NS	B	D	D	C-	D-	C+	B	A-	A	A	A (10.0)	A (10.0)	A- (8.8)
PEI	D	F	D-	D+	D+	C-	C+	C-	D	N/A	A (8.3)	B+ (8.0)	C- (6.3)
NL	B	B	B	C+	C	N/A	C	C-	D	D	F (4.7)	F (2.3)	F (3.0)
Federal government	C+	B-	B+	B+	B+	N/A	B	B-	B+	B+	B (7.3)	C+ (7.3)	C (6.9)

*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"> 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"> An e-mail address dedicated to red tape inquiries: CutRedTape@gov.ab.ca Advisory services: Business Link Alberta
SK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online portal for red tape submissions: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/help-cut-red-tape Advisory services: SK Startup Institute
MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online portal for red tape submissions: https://www.gov.mb.ca/reducedredtape/submissions.html Advisory services: AccessManitoba
ON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online portal for red tape submissions: https://www.ontario.ca/page/cutting-red-tape Advisory services: Small Business Enterprise Centres
QC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online portal for red tape submissions (French only; for businesses only): https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/objectifs/informer/allegement-reglementaire-et-administratif/boite-a-suggestions-en-matiere-dallegement-reglementaire-et-administratif/ Advisory services: Entreprises Québec
NB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A designated place to provide feedback on red tape irritants is not provided, however, submissions can be made through the Business Navigator Program (for businesses only) Advisory services are provided through a Business Navigator Program
NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> 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"> An e-mail address dedicated to red tape submissions: redtapereduction@gov.nl.ca Advisory service is not provided
FED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federal government does not provide a public feedback/complaint box Advisory services: https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/innovation-canada/en/contact-us

Appendix D: Political priority - Jurisdictional Findings

Red Tape Reduction is a clear priority/championed by Premier/Prime Minister ¹	
British Columbia Some evidence Score: 7/10	<p>The current BC government has kept the regulatory modernization institutional framework put in place by previous governments. More specifically, the regulatory cap (net zero increase commitment) to not exceed the overall number of regulatory requirements as measured by the 2004 baseline count and the one-for-one rule (when a new regulatory requirement is introduced, an existing requirement needs to be eliminated) are two measures that continue to be part of BC's red tape reduction efforts.</p>
Alberta Clear evidence Score: 9/10	<p>Red tape reduction is included as a key goal in the mandate letter of the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction. In addition, regulatory modernization and red tape were explicitly mentioned several times in the current government's election platform and the latest budget (2022). The province also has nine industry panels assigned to identify red tape irritants and offer solutions aimed at modernizing the regulatory framework.</p> <p>Finally, the former Premier of the current government frequently raised red tape reduction issues on social media, throne speeches, and press conferences.</p>
Saskatchewan Some evidence Score: 7/10	<p>The current government has maintained the mandatory use of the Direct Cost Estimator (DCE) for all regulatory decision items for all ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations. This tool provides the ability to measure the net impact changes to regulations have on all impacted stakeholders, and to government when presenting regulatory proposals for approval.</p> <p>In addition, the province implemented red tape reduction initiatives in 2022 to address government priorities in the oil and gas and healthcare sectors as well as for the liquor industry.</p>
Manitoba Clear evidence Score: 8/10	<p>The government has kept the regulatory modernization framework put in place in the form of the Regulatory Accountability Secretariat which "provides analytical and decision-making support" to the committee responsible for overseeing and coordinating the proposed legislative and regulatory initiatives of the Manitoba government.</p> <p>Red tape reduction had a dedicated section in the province's latest budget (2022) and was mentioned several times in other sections of the budget as a tool to solve other policy issues. In addition, "red tape reduction through regulation reform and modernization" was cited as a way to contribute to the province's economic competitiveness in Manitoba's latest Throne Speech.</p> <p>Finally, the province implemented red tape reduction initiatives to solve government priorities in sectors like healthcare and housing as well as for the liquor industry.</p>
Ontario Clear evidence Score: 9/10	<p>Red tape reduction had its own section in Ontario's latest budget (2022) where the government recommitted to track reduced burdens on citizens and publicly report on the progress beginning in September 2023.</p> <p>Red tape reduction was mentioned in the latest Throne Speech and was a key focus of the government's latest Fall Economic Statement in which they announced the formation of industry panels that will "provide ideas on ways Ontario can continue to reduce red tape and administrative burden across government".</p> <p>In addition, the government also implemented red tape reduction initiatives to address government priorities in areas such as labour shortages, housing, and energy.</p> <p>Finally, the Premier frequently raises red tape reduction and regulatory modernization on social media and news conferences.</p>

<p>Quebec Clear evidence Score: 9/10</p>	<p>On the recommendation of the Premier, regulatory streamlining is a clear priority for the government as outlined in the Executive Council's Decree 1663-2022 of October 2022, which carries legislative force.</p> <p>Quebec also has an advisory committee on regulatory and administrative streamlining where members of five different business and industry associations actively participate and annually report to the province's Executive Council on red tape burdens and solutions aimed at modernizing the regulatory framework.</p> <p>In addition, the government recently announced that it will be implementing 35 red tape reduction initiatives to address government priorities in areas such as alcoholic beverages, hospitality, mining, forestry, construction and real estate, as well as in municipal issues. The government has committed to present a new bill each year to simplify and reduce the administrative procedures that affect Quebec entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Finally, red tape reduction for both businesses and individuals is explicitly mentioned in the governing party's latest election platform and the Premier recently mentioned red tape reduction and digital transformation in its latest Inaugural Speech.</p>
<p>New Brunswick Some evidence Score: 7/10</p>	<p>The current government kept in place the regulatory modernization framework put in place by previous governments by extending the Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act – which was set to expire in 2021 – to 2026.</p> <p>In addition, red tape reduction was mentioned in the current government's election platform, Throne Speech, and in the Premier's latest State of the Province Address.</p> <p>The government of New Brunswick also recently introduced Bill 24, which looks to modernize New Brunswick's legislation regulating corporations by reducing the regulatory burden on businesses.</p> <p>However, despite showing some evidence of political priority by championing red tape reduction in the public debate, New Brunswick continues to lack regulatory accountability and measurement of the regulatory burden.</p>
<p>Nova Scotia Clear evidence Score: 8/10</p>	<p>The current government has kept (and continues to commit to) the regulatory modernization framework put in place by previous governments in the form of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. For example, the government continues to conduct Business Impact Assessments as a way of estimating costs and/or savings of regulatory changes for businesses.</p> <p>As the Minister of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness, the Premier leads the province's "effort to improve Nova Scotia's regulatory environment and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden" as highlighted in its mandate letter.</p> <p>In addition, the government also implemented red tape reduction initiatives to address government priorities in areas such as healthcare and housing.</p> <p>Finally, the Premier also promotes the province's Red Tape Reduction tool for individuals and businesses to provide feedback on red tape on social media and news releases.</p>
<p>Prince Edward Island Some evidence Score: 5/10</p>	<p>The government expanded the number of navigators to include one for businesses. Red tape reduction is mentioned in the Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism, and Culture's mandate letter.</p>

Newfoundland and Labrador Little evidence Score: 3/10	<p>Newfoundland & Labrador shows little evidence that red tape reduction and regulatory modernization are clear priorities championed by the province's top policymakers. However, the Premier mentioned the importance of red tape feedback from citizens and businesses in his State of the Province address and in other press conferences as a way of solving problems in issues like labour shortages.</p>
Federal government Clear evidence Score: 8/10	<p>The current federal government has kept in place some red tape reduction initiatives established by the previous federal government, such as the one-for-one rule established in 2012.</p> <p>Regulatory reform and regulatory harmonization are explicitly mentioned as key commitments in the Treasury Board President's mandate letter.</p> <p>The federal government has conducted two rounds of Targeted Regulatory Reviews since 2018 that evaluate "existing regulations and regulatory practices and are identifying novel regulatory approaches in order to support economic growth and innovation" in areas such as agriculture, health and biosciences, transportation and infrastructure, and clean technology.</p> <p>In addition, the current federal government established an External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness that brings together members from the business and academic communities to provide advice and support the modernization of Canada's regulatory framework.</p> <p>Moreover, the federal government allocated \$21 million in Budget 2021-22 to be spent over the next two years to enhance Canada's internal trade framework and to provide federal transfers to provinces and territories.</p> <p>Finally, the federal government recently launched its Federal Action Plan to Strengthen Internal Trade outlining five key measures to identify and reduce interprovincial trade barriers.</p>

Note:

1. **Scoring** — The following point system was applied: Clear evidence=8-10 points, some evidence=5-7 points, little evidence=0-4 points.

Some initiatives that demonstrate political commitment to reducing red tape may include (but are not limited to):

- Direction from Premier to Ministers; red tape reduction/regulatory modernization included in mandate letters to ministers.
- Reducing red tape is frequently raised by leader in public (news conferences, speeches, social media posts).
- Commitments to reduce red tape are included in Throne Speeches, Budgets, and election platforms.
- Task forces assigned to identify red tape burdens and solutions aimed at modernizing the regulatory framework are actively operating.
- Public promotion of the online suggestion box.
- Regulatory modernization/red tape reduction is used as a solution for government priorities.
- Current government maintaining effective regulatory reforms from previous governments.

Source: 2022 data.

Appendix E: Methodology

The 2023 *Red Tape Report Card* uses an index approach to measure and rank the regulatory performance of Canada's governments based on three priority areas of regulatory activity (or subindexes), which encompass 12 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. Inter-provincial/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 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*)

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 governments from best (highest score) to worst (lowest score). The weighting scheme is based according to how the three areas influence the ability to develop successful regulatory reform. In this regard, more weight is placed on regulatory accountability and regulatory burden, while less on political priority. This approach was taken because to effectively control and reduce red tape over the long-term, it is imperative governments maintain a public measurement of the regulatory burden and implement constraints on regulators. Therefore, the different areas are assigned the following weights: regulatory accountability — 40%, regulatory burden — 40%, and political priority — 20%.

The data reflected in this report are based on information that was in effect as of January 13, 2023.

Regulatory Accountability Subindex

For the regulatory accountability subindex, we assigned a specific scoring system for each of the four indicators. Both the indicators and their respective scoring criteria were chosen on their relevance to ensure the proper success of regulatory reform initiatives and proper accountability (see Table E1). To achieve an overall score for this subindex, the total number of points earned are divided by the total number of points that could have been earned, using the following calculation: $(A1+A2+A3+A4)/40*10$.

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

Table E1

Regulatory Accountability Scoring Criteria

A1. Comprehensive measure of the regulatory burden	Total Potential Points = 10
Existence of an aggregate regulatory measure of the burden on business and individuals/or a commitment to measure ¹	Yes (5 points); Some (3 points); No (0 points)
Regulatory requirement count (for business and individuals) includes all sources from (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, and (iii) associated policies and forms	Yes (3 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
Regulatory requirement count (for business and individuals) includes all government departments, agencies, and delegated authorities	Yes (2 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
A2. Public reporting of the regulatory burden	Total Potential Points = 10
Accessible annual public updates that include the overall regulatory burden	Yes (5 points); Some (2 points); No (0 points)
Legislation in place that requires public reporting of regulatory burden	Yes (5 points); Some (2 point); No (0 points)
A3. Regulatory budget	Total Potential Points = 10
Commitment to regulatory budgeting	Yes (5 points); Some (2 points); No (0 points)
Constraints in place to manage regulatory costs (e.g. 1 for 1 rule, reduction/maintenance targets)	Yes (3 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
Legislation in place that requires governments to adhere to constraints (e.g. 1 for 1 rule, reduction/maintenance targets)	Yes (2 points); Some (1 point); No (0 points)
A4. Accessibility of regulatory documents²	Total Potential Points = 10
Regulatory government documents available in open data format, including (i) legislation, (ii) regulations, (iii) associated policies and forms	For each type of government document: Yes (3 points); Some (1-2 points); No (0 points)
Overall Subindex Score = $(A1+A2+A3+A4)/40*10$	

Notes:

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

Regulatory Burden Subindex

The regulatory burden subindex contains both scalar and binary indicators.

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

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

Where x = the score to be calculated

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

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

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

Political Priority Subindex

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

2023 Changes in Methodology

The main changes in methodology between the 2023 and 2022 report card are described below.

All subindexes

- 2023: The federal government is scored for regulatory accountability, regulatory burden, and political priority and enters the overall analysis to determine jurisdictional rankings.
 - In 2022, the federal government was only scored for regulatory accountability and did not enter the overall analysis to determine jurisdictional rankings.

Regulatory accountability subindex

- 2023: Addition of the following indicator — *Accessibility of regulatory documents*. Inclusion of this indicator is meant to encourage government to provide regulatory documents in an open, machine-readable format.

Regulatory burden subindex

- 2023: Addition of the following indicator: *red tape suggestion box*.
 - This indicator replaces the following indicators from 2022: (i) *Existence of a permanent feedback mechanism* (ii) *Time spent finding feedback area for reporting red tape concerns on government website*.
- 2023: Addition of the following indicator — *Inter-provincial/territorial cooperation score*.
 - This indicator replaces the following indicator from 2022: *Direct-to-Consumer interprovincial shipment of Canadian wine*.

Political priority subindex

- 2023: The political priority subindex is new to the report card, included are its two indicators:
 - i. *Red tape reduction is a clear priority/championed by the Premier/Prime Minister and their cabinet.*
 - ii. *Existence of a Minister specifically titled for red tape reduction regulatory modernization.*

Weighting Changes

With the addition of the political priority subindex in our 2023 report card, the following weighting changes have been implemented.

- **Regulatory accountability subindex weights:**
 - 2023: 40%
 - 2022: 60%
- **Regulatory burden subindex weights:**
 - 2023: 40%
 - 2022: 40%
- **Political priority subindex weights:**
 - 2023: 20%
 - 2022: Not applicable (subindex not part of the 2022 report card)

