



Which Saskatchewan municipalities spent the most of your tax dollars?

GAGE HAUBRICH
CANADIAN TAXPAYERS FEDERATION

JUNE 2023

About the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit citizens' group dedicated to lower taxes, less waste and accountable government.

The CTF was founded in Saskatchewan in 1990 when the Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers and the Resolution One Association of Alberta joined forces to create a national organization. At the end of 2020, the CTF had over 235,000 supporters nationwide.

The CTF maintains a federal office in Ottawa and regional offices in British Columbia, Alberta, Prairie (Saskatchewan and Manitoba), Ontario, Québec and Atlantic Canada. Regional offices conduct research and advocacy activities specific to their provinces in addition to acting as regional organizers of Canada-wide initiatives.

CTF offices field hundreds of media interviews each month, hold press conferences and issue regular news releases, commentaries, online postings and publications to advocate on behalf of CTF supporters. CTF representatives speak at functions, make presentations to government, meet with politicians and organize petition drives, events and campaigns to mobilize citizens to effect public policy change.

Any Canadian taxpayer committed to the CTF's mission is welcome to join at no cost and receive emailed Action Updates. Financial supporters can additionally receive the CTF's flagship publication *The Taxpayer* magazine, published three times a year.

The CTF is independent of any institutional or partisan affiliations. All CTF staff, board members and representatives are prohibited from donating to or holding a membership in any political party. In 2019-20, the CTF raised \$4.8 million on the strength of 39,792 donations. Donations to the CTF are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution.



Introduction

Taxpayers deserve to know how their mayors and councillors are spending their tax dollars. And they deserve to know how much other municipalities are spending in comparison.

The Saskatchewan government promised to help taxpayers with this basic transparency by posting municipalities financial information online. The province hasn't gotten it done.

So, at the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, we rolled up our sleeves and did it ourselves.

This report shows the per person spending levels for Saskatchewan's cities and towns in 2021. It highlights the cities and towns that spent the most and least per person. And we're providing the financial statements for all of the municipalities.

Municipalities are required by law to send a copy of their financial statements to the provincial government. The government used to publish these financial statements online, but stopped in 2008. The government promised to have a new system in place by 2021. "All of the municipalities will be required on an annual basis to actually be entering this information into that database," former Minister of Government Relations Lori Carr said. That has not happened.

Other provinces, such as Alberta and Ontario, have easy-to-use web portals where taxpayers can access municipal financial documents. Saskatchewan should be no different.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is calling on the Saskatchewan government to proactively publish municipal financial statements online.

In the meantime, the CTF collected the financial statements and published them on a website. It's a simple project, but it provides important transparency. And it highlights an obvious point: the provincial government should have gotten this done years ago.

All municipal statements obtained by the CTF and used in this analysis are available in an online database for taxpayers to access [HERE](#).

¹ <https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/fees-may-apply-provinces-proposed-web-portal-could-increase-local-government-transparency>

² <https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/fir/index.php/en/reports-and-dashboards>

³ http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/mc_financial_tax_bylaws

ANALYSIS: 2021 per person spending in Saskatchewan municipalities

Saskatoon and Regina

As the two largest cities in the province, the CTF highlighted the spending growth in these two municipalities.

Over the five-year period between 2017 and 2021, Regina increased per-person spending by 10 per cent while Saskatoon increased it by 13 per cent. Saskatoon spent more per person in 2021 than Regina at \$3,161 and \$2,760 respectively.

Saskatoon	Total Expenses	Population	Per Person Spending
2017	\$766,739,000	273,010	\$2,808
2018	\$804,016,000	268,188	\$2,998
2019	\$819,556,000	275,242	\$2,978
2020	\$856,386,000	280,400	\$3,054
2021	\$892,301,000	282,266	\$3,161

Regina	Total Expenses	Population	Per Person Spending
2017	\$578,894,000	230,725	\$2,509
2018	\$599,051,000	236,003	\$2,538
2019	\$663,831,000	239,989	\$2,766
2020	\$614,194,000	238,415	\$2,576
2021	\$660,098,000	239,175	\$2,760

Medium and Small Cities

Of the other cities in the province, Swift Current spent the most per person in 2021 at \$3,741. Martensville spent the least per person at \$1,794.

The annual average per person spending of these cities was \$2,635 in 2021.

City	Total Expenses	Population	Per Person Spending
Swift Current	\$62,664,299	16,750	\$3,741
Yorkton	\$50,606,025	16,280	\$3,108
North Battleford	\$41,355,367	13,836	\$2,989
Estevan	\$31,167,566	10,629	\$2,932
Melville	\$12,873,402	4,493	\$2,865
Lloydminster	\$86,077,404	31,582	\$2,726
Meadow Lake	\$13,756,714	5,322	\$2,585
Humboldt	\$15,350,422	6,033	\$2,544
Moose Jaw	\$84,260,577	33,665	\$2,503
Prince Albert	\$92,477,160	37,756	\$2,449
Melfort	\$13,872,714	5,955	\$2,330
Weyburn	\$23,977,687	11,019	\$2,176
Warman	\$26,656,157	12,419	\$2,146
Martensville	\$18,925,339	10,549	\$1,794

Towns

In 2021, the average per person spending among towns in Saskatchewan was \$2,248. The town of Luseland spent the most at \$4,933 per person, while the town of St. Brieux spent the least at \$1,299 per person.

The top five town towns that spent the most in 2021 were Luseland, Lampman, Coronach, Kyle, and Blaine Lake. The five towns that spent the least were St. Brieux, Waldheim, Sturgis, Francis, and Rouleau.

Towns that spent the most per person in 2021

Town	Total Expenses	Population	Per Person Spending
Luseland	\$2,757,306	559	\$4,933
Lampman	\$2,791,265	673	\$4,147
Coronach	\$2,327,561	612	\$3,803
Kyle	\$1,506,518	413	\$3,648
Blaine Lake	\$1,675,689	509	\$3,292

Towns that spent the least per person in 2021

Town	Total Expenses	Population	Per Person Spending
St. Brieux	\$828,983	638	\$1,299
Waldheim	\$1,723,247	1,237	\$1,393
Sturgis	\$953,020	646	\$1,475
Francis	\$276,297	182	\$1,518
Rouleau	\$770,033	505	\$1,525

Index

Saskatoon and Regina

Saskatoon	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Per Person Spending	Per Person Revenue	Population
2017	\$957,448,000	\$766,739,000	\$2,808	\$3,507	273,010
2018	\$1,062,906,000	\$804,016,000	\$2,998	\$3,963	268,188
2019	\$951,186,000	\$819,556,000	\$2,978	\$3,456	275,242
2020	\$1,022,828,000	\$856,386,000	\$3,054	\$3,648	280,400
2021	\$1,078,979,000	\$892,301,000	\$3,161	\$3,823	282,266

Regina	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Per Person Spending	Per Person Revenue	Population
2017	\$740,441,000	\$578,894,000	\$2,509	\$3,209	230,725
2018	\$736,535,000	\$599,051,000	\$2,538	\$3,121	236,003
2019	\$765,914,000	\$663,831,000	\$2,766	\$3,191	239,989
2020	\$696,923,000	\$614,194,000	\$2,576	\$2,923	238,415
2021	\$748,589,000	\$660,098,000	\$2,760	\$3,130	239,175

Cities

City	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Per Person Spending	Per Person Revenue	Population
Swift Current	\$64,258,404	\$62,664,299	\$3,741	\$3,836	16,750
Yorkton	\$58,684,658	\$50,606,025	\$3,108	\$3,605	16,280
North Battleford	\$44,012,671	\$41,355,367	\$2,989	\$3,181	13,836
Estevan	\$33,136,904	\$31,167,566	\$2,872	\$3,054	10,851
Melville	\$12,815,835	\$12,873,402	\$2,865	\$2,852	4,493
Lloydminster	\$89,408,602	\$86,077,404	\$2,743	\$2,849	31,377
Meadow Lake	\$11,211,980	\$13,756,714	\$2,585	\$2,107	5,322
Humboldt	\$16,190,591	\$15,350,422	\$2,544	\$2,684	6,033
Moose Jaw	\$114,293,818	\$84,260,577	\$2,503	\$3,395	33,665
Prince Albert	\$93,342,688	\$92,477,160	\$2,449	\$2,472	37,756
Melfort	\$15,675,588	\$13,872,714	\$2,330	\$2,632	5,955
Weyburn	\$23,977,687	\$23,977,687	\$2,176	\$2,176	11,019
Warman	\$24,217,109	\$26,656,157	\$2,146	\$1,950	12,419
Martensville	\$19,921,436	\$18,925,339	\$1,794	\$1,888	10,549

Towns

Towns	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Per Person Spending	Per Person Revenue	Population
Luseland	\$2,084,698	\$2,757,306	\$3,729	\$4,933	559
Lampman	\$1,664,385	\$2,791,265	\$2,473	\$4,147	673
Coronach	\$2,179,101	\$2,327,561	\$3,561	\$3,803	612
Kyle	\$1,212,769	\$1,506,518	\$2,936	\$3,648	413
Blaine Lake	\$1,340,951	\$1,675,689	\$2,634	\$3,292	509
Elrose	\$2,067,550	\$1,509,325	\$4,399	\$3,211	470
Lemberg	\$760,929	\$812,116	\$2,861	\$3,053	266
Big River	\$1,995,268	\$2,001,760	\$2,996	\$3,006	666
Gravelbourg	\$3,168,750	\$2,935,881	\$3,214	\$2,978	986
Leroy	\$1,487,859	\$1,514,637	\$2,917	\$2,970	510
Lafleche	\$999,911	\$1,107,150	\$2,681	\$2,968	373
St. Walburg	\$1,526,453	\$1,734,474	\$2,583	\$2,935	591
Fleming	\$220,318	\$202,778	\$3,147	\$2,897	70
Cut Knife	\$1,660,534	\$1,583,077	\$3,036	\$2,894	547

Towns	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Per Person Spending	Per Person Revenue	Population
Kerrobert	\$3,486,568	\$2,790,398	\$3,594	\$2,877	970
Moosomin	\$7,153,940	\$7,617,257	\$2,692	\$2,867	2,657
Eston	\$4,295,518	\$2,759,908	\$4,419	\$2,839	972
Govan	\$486,946	\$564,239	\$2,435	\$2,821	200
Morse	\$661,466	\$607,584	\$3,062	\$2,813	216
Rose Valley	\$763,403	\$719,545	\$2,982	\$2,811	256
Wynyard	\$4,822,211	\$4,832,662	\$2,797	\$2,803	1,724
Naicam	\$1,854,000	\$1,811,770	\$2,848	\$2,783	651
Whitewood	\$2,525,170	\$2,568,623	\$2,675	\$2,721	944
Cabri	\$1,049,203	\$1,120,805	\$2,540	\$2,714	413
Rosetown	\$8,036,038	\$6,751,998	\$3,205	\$2,693	2,507
Kamsack	\$4,411,196	\$4,772,337	\$2,480	\$2,683	1,779
Stoughton	\$1,636,555	\$1,746,680	\$2,510	\$2,679	652
Kindersley	\$15,786,808	\$11,941,879	\$3,457	\$2,615	4,567
Mossbank	\$968,743	\$957,653	\$2,632	\$2,602	368
Hudson Bay	\$5,623,467	\$3,635,570	\$4,008	\$2,591	1,403
Rocanville	\$2,488,331	\$2,286,445	\$2,799	\$2,572	889
Redvers	\$2,225,364	\$2,585,019	\$2,208	\$2,565	1,008
Burstall	\$742,119	\$770,131	\$2,457	\$2,550	302
Raymore	\$1,516,844	\$1,292,302	\$2,992	\$2,549	507
Tisdale	\$9,646,370	\$7,525,890	\$3,257	\$2,541	2,962
Balcarres	\$1,511,627	\$1,563,113	\$2,454	\$2,538	616
Central Butte	\$990,980	\$1,045,841	\$2,382	\$2,514	416
Assiniboia	\$6,845,171	\$5,852,809	\$2,934	\$2,509	2,333
Aberdeen	\$1,683,957	\$1,789,296	\$2,352	\$2,499	716
Regina Beach	\$3,730,837	\$3,200,023	\$2,888	\$2,477	1,292
Rosthern	\$5,285,384	\$3,961,030	\$3,299	\$2,473	1,602
Arcola	\$1,717,795	\$1,568,378	\$2,701	\$2,466	636
Saltcoats	\$1,101,654	\$1,164,137	\$2,329	\$2,461	473
Leader	\$2,592,983	\$2,162,038	\$2,943	\$2,454	881
Kipling	\$2,664,822	\$2,621,082	\$2,477	\$2,436	1,076
Bengough	\$783,241	\$805,164	\$2,359	\$2,425	332
Star City	\$945,759	\$899,945	\$2,529	\$2,406	374
Davidson	\$2,981,040	\$2,510,607	\$2,855	\$2,405	1,044
Shaunavon	\$4,532,955	\$4,284,715	\$2,541	\$2,402	1,784

Towns	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Per Person Spending	Per Person Revenue	Population
Bruno	\$1,541,179	\$1,427,616	\$2,552	\$2,364	604
Dundurn	\$1,576,662	\$1,591,206	\$2,336	\$2,357	675
Eatonia	\$1,117,877	\$1,170,681	\$2,245	\$2,351	498
Duck Lake	\$1,104,656	\$1,359,059	\$1,908	\$2,347	579
Macklin	\$3,514,873	\$2,915,598	\$2,819	\$2,338	1,247
Biggar	\$5,618,963	\$4,986,405	\$2,634	\$2,338	2,133
Watson	\$1,699,897	\$1,646,388	\$2,404	\$2,329	707
Willow Bunch	\$693,906	\$690,449	\$2,321	\$2,309	299
Birch Hills	\$2,993,025	\$2,442,115	\$2,808	\$2,291	1,066
Wadena	\$2,943,959	\$2,902,879	\$2,320	\$2,288	1,269
Nipawin	\$10,393,181	\$10,423,158	\$2,274	\$2,281	4,570
Gull Lake	\$2,432,896	\$2,067,859	\$2,679	\$2,277	908
Strasbourg	\$1,540,595	\$1,794,182	\$1,955	\$2,277	788
Herbert	\$1,768,391	\$1,749,903	\$2,297	\$2,273	770
Carrot River	\$2,860,497	\$2,147,628	\$3,024	\$2,270	946
Sintaluta	\$226,827	\$281,437	\$1,829	\$2,270	124
Wapella	\$646,119	\$628,035	\$2,324	\$2,259	278
Oxbow	\$3,372,095	\$2,899,568	\$2,622	\$2,255	1,286
Spiritwood	\$2,317,929	\$2,148,294	\$2,400	\$2,224	966
Balgonie	\$4,293,746	\$3,889,038	\$2,445	\$2,215	1,756
Cupar	\$1,358,098	\$1,318,546	\$2,271	\$2,205	598
Pense	\$1,017,316	\$1,328,652	\$1,687	\$2,203	603
Radisson	\$1,059,693	\$1,026,550	\$2,274	\$2,203	466
Carlyle	\$3,792,771	\$3,355,818	\$2,489	\$2,202	1,524
Wakaw	\$2,207,561	\$2,140,054	\$2,257	\$2,188	978
Broadview	\$1,182,197	\$1,178,749	\$2,185	\$2,179	541
Carnduff	\$2,977,469	\$2,498,889	\$2,589	\$2,173	1,150
Foam Lake	\$2,770,417	\$2,534,538	\$2,342	\$2,142	1,183
Imperial	\$802,734	\$793,693	\$2,158	\$2,134	372
Fort Qu'Appelle	\$4,457,005	\$4,206,447	\$2,260	\$2,133	1,972
Hanley	\$1,200,133	\$1,148,454	\$2,222	\$2,127	540
Maple Creek	\$6,184,430	\$4,617,631	\$2,842	\$2,122	2,176
Shellbrook	\$3,590,228	\$3,196,730	\$2,378	\$2,117	1,510
Dalmeny	\$4,442,932	\$3,738,401	\$2,516	\$2,117	1,766
Kelvington	\$1,827,094	\$1,747,104	\$2,209	\$2,113	827

Towns	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Per Person Spending	Per Person Revenue	Population
Cudworth	\$1,676,396	\$1,627,655	\$2,171	\$2,108	772
Hague	\$2,260,458	\$1,870,769	\$2,543	\$2,104	889
Midale	\$1,296,737	\$1,060,217	\$2,543	\$2,079	510
Allan	\$1,367,067	\$1,299,192	\$2,187	\$2,079	625
Yellow Grass	\$713,532	\$1,001,433	\$1,477	\$2,073	483
Eastend	\$1,318,191	\$1,249,212	\$2,172	\$2,058	607
Radville	\$1,687,944	\$1,589,839	\$2,170	\$2,043	778
Watrous	\$4,268,339	\$3,753,581	\$2,317	\$2,038	1,842
Churchbridge	\$2,091,266	\$1,761,375	\$2,415	\$2,034	866
Nokomis	\$974,847	\$839,796	\$2,355	\$2,028	414
Kinistino	\$1,840,759	\$1,357,133	\$2,743	\$2,023	671
Bredenbury	\$835,557	\$777,459	\$2,165	\$2,014	386
Hepburn	\$1,719,354	\$1,566,077	\$2,193	\$1,998	784
Rockglen	\$886,395	\$793,507	\$2,222	\$1,989	399
Canora	\$4,641,991	\$4,155,637	\$2,219	\$1,986	2,092
Ituna	\$1,320,846	\$1,427,252	\$1,819	\$1,966	726
Grenfell	\$2,119,906	\$2,065,180	\$2,002	\$1,950	1,059
Preeceville	\$2,003,349	\$2,063,043	\$1,886	\$1,943	1,062
Osler	\$2,527,087	\$2,426,711	\$2,020	\$1,940	1,251
Lanigan	\$3,392,975	\$2,768,465	\$2,368	\$1,932	1,433
Unity	\$5,311,274	\$4,814,637	\$2,128	\$1,929	2,496
Outlook	\$5,011,939	\$4,504,557	\$2,146	\$1,928	2,336
Lumsden	\$4,279,989	\$3,464,481	\$2,378	\$1,925	1,800
Norquay	\$834,039	\$798,034	\$1,986	\$1,900	420
Pilot Butte	\$5,245,947	\$4,970,522	\$1,989	\$1,884	2,638
Craik	\$812,259	\$762,851	\$2,006	\$1,884	405
Wilkie	\$2,258,114	\$2,250,172	\$1,890	\$1,883	1,195
Colonsay	\$917,048	\$824,790	\$2,056	\$1,849	446
Scott	\$182,461	\$136,572	\$2,466	\$1,846	74
Esterhazy	\$5,564,151	\$4,326,825	\$2,373	\$1,845	2,345
White City	\$6,956,004	\$6,783,559	\$1,879	\$1,832	3,702
Langham	\$2,989,176	\$2,757,831	\$1,969	\$1,817	1,518
Asquith	\$1,166,371	\$1,122,622	\$1,869	\$1,799	624
Wolseley	\$1,490,798	\$1,522,531	\$1,750	\$1,787	852
Turtleford	\$963,797	\$892,567	\$1,916	\$1,774	503

Towns	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Per Person Spending	Per Person Revenue	Population
Langenburg	\$2,404,890	\$2,179,069	\$1,958	\$1,774	1,228
Arborfield	\$540,649	\$505,332	\$1,897	\$1,773	285
Porcupine Plain	\$2,184,938	\$1,444,827	\$2,674	\$1,768	817
Lashburn	\$1,558,325	\$1,532,538	\$1,791	\$1,762	870
Milestone	\$1,086,517	\$1,198,408	\$1,593	\$1,757	682
Delisle	\$1,788,614	\$1,784,786	\$1,747	\$1,743	1,024
Choiceland	\$678,664	\$594,619	\$1,984	\$1,739	342
Alameda	\$738,755	\$597,976	\$2,141	\$1,733	345
Springside	\$1,030,838	\$827,898	\$2,157	\$1,732	478
Indian Head	\$3,238,744	\$3,293,088	\$1,703	\$1,731	1,902
Bienfait	\$1,374,163	\$1,155,302	\$2,057	\$1,729	668
Ogema	\$633,673	\$661,605	\$1,654	\$1,727	383
Hafford	\$903,937	\$709,151	\$2,183	\$1,713	414
Wawota	\$1,067,089	\$942,289	\$1,923	\$1,698	555
Maidstone	\$2,121,005	\$2,033,863	\$1,754	\$1,682	1,209
Marshall	\$842,037	\$872,759	\$1,613	\$1,672	522
Ponteix	\$978,650	\$954,572	\$1,696	\$1,654	577
Vonda	\$700,400	\$629,333	\$1,824	\$1,639	384
Zealandia	\$149,041	\$121,129	\$1,987	\$1,615	75
Grand Coulee	\$1,130,771	\$960,103	\$1,866	\$1,584	606
Qu'Appelle	\$1,112,108	\$988,564	\$1,779	\$1,582	625
Southey	\$1,613,991	\$1,305,785	\$1,940	\$1,569	832
Battleford	\$7,880,397	\$6,806,102	\$1,791	\$1,547	4,400
Rouleau	\$733,183	\$770,033	\$1,452	\$1,525	505
Francis	\$325,586	\$276,297	\$1,789	\$1,518	182
Sturgis	\$1,160,431	\$953,020	\$1,796	\$1,475	646
Waldheim	\$1,560,136	\$1,723,247	\$1,261	\$1,393	1,237
St. Brieux	\$1,313,880	\$828,983	\$2,059	\$1,299	638

Sources

1. All information for the spending and revenues of each municipality can be found in the CTF's online database [HERE](#).
2. [Population data](#) was taken from the 2021 census, and the five-year population numbers for Regina and Saskatoon are from a [Statistics Canada](#) population estimate from July 1 of each year included.