

TAXPAYER 2023

Naughty & Nice List

naughty



CBC President & CEO Catherine Tait

For clinging to executive bonuses

It takes a special type of Scrooge to announce hundreds of layoffs weeks before Christmas. Even worse, Tait isn't willing to end the tens-of-millions of dollars in bonuses the CBC doled out in recent years. 'Tis the season for giving... but giving out bonuses while firing hundreds of staffers is a sure-fire way to land yourself on Santa's Naughty List!

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

For leaving 97 per cent of Canadians out in the cold

All Canadians need a warm home to celebrate during the holiday season. But Trudeau thinks only three per cent of Canadians need carbon tax relief this winter. Trudeau is removing the carbon tax from furnace oil while keeping the tax on for 97 per cent of Canadian families. Santa is stuffing the prime minister's stocking with lumps of coal this year and Trudeau will be sure to carbon tax those lumps, too.

Senator Pierre Dalphond

For making Santa's milk and cookies more expensive

The holiday season is a time to enjoy festive feasts with loved ones. But Senator Pierre Dalphond is making the holiday season more expensive by delaying and watering down a bill that would take the carbon tax off all farm fuels. Canadians worry they may have to cut back on the milk and cookies they leave out on Christmas eve. Unfortunately for Senator Dalphond, Santa is not a happy camper, because the bills for his candy cane farm and reindeer barn are going through the chimney.

Mayor of Quebec City Bruno Marchand and Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim

For hiking taxes on pets

It's one thing to tax the air we breathe, the money we earn or the presents we buy.

But taxing our pets ... have you no heart, Mr. Grinch? Mayors Marchand and Sim are hiking the taxes families pay to own pets in Quebec City and Vancouver. Rumour has it Santa is launching a campaign to take the tax off his reindeer.

Federal Minister of Industry François-Philippe Champagne

For giving billions of dollars to multinational corporations

There's only one place you'll find yourself if you pull a reverse Robin Hood ... Santa's Naughty List! Champagne has been busy taking money from struggling taxpayers and giving billions of dollars to multinational corporations to build electric car battery plants. Champagne should take notes from Santa and his little helpers. They've been building batteries and remote-control hot rods for decades, at no cost to taxpayers!

Mayor of Calgary Jyoti Gondek and Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi

For hiking taxes and their own pay

'Tis the season for giving ... and mayors Gondek and Sohi sure do love giving. They're giving their residents steep property tax hikes. And they're giving themselves pay raises. Calgary City Council and Edmonton city council both took a raise this year. More lumps of coal: both Gondek and Sohi take bigger salaries than the premier of Alberta.

Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston

For his bracket creep income tax hike

Nothing makes Santa more upset than bracket creep. It's a sneaky backdoor tax grab that allows politicians to use inflation to raise income taxes. Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston is using bracket creep to gouge taxpayers. And for that, Houston finds himself on Santa's Naughty List this year.

University of Manitoba's former law dean Jonathan Black-Branch

For racking up half-a-million in expenses

Black-Branch's term was cut short after an internal investigation found he expensed upwards of \$500,000 in public funds, including for personal dinners and drinks. Now that's a lot of cookies and eggnog! There's only one way for Black-Branch to get off the Naughty List: pay the money back.

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Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew

For the gift of tax relief

Kinew is giving Manitobans Santa-sized fuel and income tax relief in the New Year. He committed to suspending the province's fuel tax and providing significant income tax relief. And kudos to the previous Manitoba government who didn't forget about the Tiny Tims. Thanks to the last budget, taxpayers earning less than \$15,000 won't pay any provincial income taxes.

Liberal MP Ken McDonald

For getting his constituents carbon tax relief

It takes a lot of courage to stand up for your convictions and constituents, and vote against your party leader. McDonald did just that when he voted to "repeal all carbon taxes." Because of his advocacy, the feds took the carbon tax off furnace oil for three years. Santa just wishes Liberal MPs in other parts of Canada had McDonald's courage and were willing to stick up for their constituents too.

Parliamentary Budget Officer Yves Giroux

For the gift of government accountability and transparency

Taxpayers always deserve the gift of transparency and accountability in Ottawa. And the PBO delivered it in droves in 2023. From showing the full cost of Trudeau's two carbon taxes, to fact-checking Ottawa's deficit numbers and analyzing tax plans, the PBO has been holding politicians accountable all year.

Alberta's Village of Ryley

For recalling a big-spending mayor

Ryley is the first municipality in Canada to recall a city hall politician, former mayor Nik Lee. During Lee's tenure, the village's spending almost doubled from \$1.7 million to \$3 million in 2022. Lee also spent more than \$5,000 on meetings without approval. When Lee refused to resign from council, residents of Ryley took matters into their own hands, launched a recall campaign and booted Lee. For their civic engagement and holding a big-spending politician accountable, all residents of Ryley land themselves on Santa's Nice List this year!