

TAXPAYER 2025

# Naughty & Nice List



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## Ontario Premier Doug Ford

### For giving Ontario politicians Santa-sized pay hikes

'Tis the season for giving and Ontario's politicians sure do love giving ... to themselves. Ontario politicians gifted themselves a 35 per cent pay raise this year. Ford took a pay raise that would make even Ebenezer Scrooge blush: A \$73,000 hike. Ontario politicians also brought back their platinum, taxpayer-funded pensions. More lumps of coal: Ford initially promised to end political welfare, but this year he made Ontario's per-vote subsidy to political parties permanent.

## Federal Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne

### For sticking future generations with massive debt to pay back

The Patron Saint of Children doesn't like it when politicians saddle future generations with massive government debt bills to pay back. Champagne plans to add \$324 billion to the debt by 2030. For comparison, former prime minister Justin Trudeau planned to add \$154 billion to the debt over those same years.

## The Canada Revenue Agency

### For keeping Santa on hold, then giving him the wrong tax information!

Santa reads every single letter he receives. The CRA can't even bother to pick up the phone. The CRA left Santa on hold for nearly an hour. When the CRA finally picked up the phone, they forgot to check their numbers twice. The CRA gave Santa the wrong tax information! Santa isn't surprised that the Auditor General found the CRA only gives the correct answer to individual tax questions 17 per cent of the time. But Santa is hopping mad. Santa hasn't been this upset since the invention of sugar-free cookies.

## British Columbia Finance Minister Brenda Bailey

### For taking a golden sleigh ride at taxpayers' expense

Santa's little helpers caught Bailey billing taxpayers \$6,645 for a limousine service during a four-day trip to Boston. Even Rudolph doesn't charge that much.

The limo service Bailey used markets itself as a luxury service for "pop culture icons who never drive." Bailey acknowledged the trip was a "junket." But instead of apologizing, Bailey told reporters that this was the type of trip she would take again.

## Quebec Premier François Legault

### For clinging to Mrs. Claus' least favourite tax

Legault is the only premier in Canada that still imposes a consumer carbon tax. The Claus family wanted to take a vacation to Mont-Tremblant after Santa's big day. But Legault's carbon tax would make their snowmobiling too expensive. Santa would give Legault a lump of coal for Christmas. But Legault would probably carbon tax that too.

## Federal Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree

### For taking presents away from law-abiding Canadians

Anandasangaree checked law-abiding Canadian's firearm licences. He even checked them twice. Law-abiding firearm owners did everything right. But instead of going after criminals and illegal guns, Anandasangaree is going to grinch law-abiding Canadians' firearms away with taxpayers' money. Mrs. Claus made it real clear she's not handing over the rifle she uses to protect the reindeer from hungry predators.

nice

## Parliamentary Budget Officer Jason Jacques

### For the gift of government transparency and accountability

Taxpayers deserve the gift of transparency and accountability in Ottawa. And the PBO is delivering. The PBO first sounded the bells over the government's growing debt. Then the PBO called Krampus on the government's creative accounting. The PBO caught the government relabelling \$94 billion of operating spending as capital.

## Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe

### For making Saskatchewan carbon tax free

Moe set the industrial carbon tax rate to zero, making Saskatchewan the first carbon tax-free province in the country and that warms Santa's heart. By removing the carbon tax from SaskPower bills, Moe is saving Saskatchewan families hundreds of dollars per year. Santa is thinking about expanding his toy production to Northern Saskatchewan to escape the Grinch's industrial carbon tax.

## Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston

### For keeping more money in Nova Scotians' pockets

Houston cut income taxes, sales taxes and small business taxes. Houston isn't forgetting about Tiny Tim's family, either. Taxpayers earning less than \$11,744 won't pay provincial income tax. Houston's tax relief leaves more money in families' budgets to buy the premium cookies for Santa.

## Cape Breton gun owners

### For peacefully protesting the government's gun ban

Santa doesn't exercise often, but he loves it when people exercise their democratic right to protest a taxpayer boondoggle. Hundreds of Cape Bretoners peacefully rallied against the federal pilot project that targets law-abiding firearm owners. The federal government only obtained 22 firearms as many Cape Bretoners decided to keep their property and fight the flawed policy that police associations say won't work. Santa agrees with Cape Bretoners. The government should protect Canadians from criminals, not Krampus from Mrs. Claus' rifle.

## Indigenous activist Hans McCarthy

### For winning landmark court case to improve transparency for First Nations' band members

Indigenous activist Hans McCarthy partnered with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation to launch a court challenge forcing the federal government to release records regarding Frog Lake First Nation's trust fund. The trust fund totaled about \$102 million in 2013. Less than \$9 million remained by 2024. McCarthy won the challenge and the court ordered the federal government to provide the records. McCarthy's victory sets a clear precedent: Band members have a right to know how their community's money is being used. McCarthy made Santa's Nice List for his courage and commitment to government transparency.

## Alberta Premier Danielle Smith

### For refusing to spend \$2 billion more to satisfy the Alberta Teachers' Association

When the Patron Saint of Children saw Alberta kids not able to go to school for nearly a month and their parents, Alberta taxpayers, getting shaken down for an extra \$2 billion by a big government union, the jolly old elf was becoming less jolly by the minute! Smith made Santa's Nice List for saving taxpayers a ton of cookie dough and getting kids back to school.