



The Canadian Taxpayers Federation's
**2015 Alberta Taxpayer
Naughty and Nice List**

Nice List

1. **The No Expenses Club: Opposition leader Brian Jean, Aboriginal Relations Minister Kathleen Ganley, NDP MLA Rod Loyola and NDP MLA Jon Carson**

At a time when unemployment is soaring, government spending is still bloated, and harmful tax hikes are being layered on, seeing MLAs with no expenses fills us with joy. These MLAs top this year's nice list.

2. **City of Calgary manager Jeff Fielding for cancelling taxpayer-funded Christmas parties**

It would have been a nicer surprise this year than next, but Fielding makes the nice list this year for *cancelling the taxpayer-funded "holiday open house" for civil servants, politicians and their families from 2016 on.*

3. **Alberta NDP government for expanding the sunshine list**

Though our provincial government is more than a little weighed down by lumps of coal this year, they earned a spot on the nice list for committing to expand the provincial sunshine list, showing high taxpayer-funded salaries for boards, agencies and commissions. They *followed through* by introducing Bill 5. Transparency is a very nice thing for taxpayers!

4. **Edmonton City Auditor David Wiun for exposing waste and mismanagement**

Wiun is on the nice list for bringing a little future cheer to Edmonton taxpayers, calling out mismanagement of the *Edmonton Metro LRT line* and uncovering over \$100,000 in wasted taxpayer money as the result of a sole-sourced *waste management contract*. Wiun's eye for accountability makes him very nice in our books!

5. **Alberta Health Minister Sarah Hoffman for questioning the Alberta School Boards Association's frivolous spending**

During Minister Hoffman's time as chair of Edmonton Public School Boards, she wrote *an email* questioning the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) for their seemingly frivolous spending. You'll find the ASBA on our naughty list, but it was nice to see this government minister-to-be watching tax dollars that should have been spent in classrooms.


Naughty List

1. **Alberta Premier Rachel Notley & Environment Minister Shannon Phillips for imposing a massive carbon tax on Albertans that will have virtually no impact on climate change**

The premier and environment minister earned themselves an extra ironic lump of coal for *imposing a tax on everything that moves* and making it more expensive for Albertans to heat their homes and get around in the chilly winters - especially since the policy will have virtually no impact on global climate change! Making Albertans poorer so this government can feel warm and fuzzy puts a chill on our Christmas - and tops the naughty list.

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2. **Alberta Finance Minister Joe Ceci**

for hiking an endless list of taxes, but not providing receipts for his own hosting expenses

Minister Ceci held the finance portfolio as Alberta raised income taxes, hiked business taxes 20 per cent, doubled the big emitter carbon tax, raised taxes and fees on alcohol, cigarettes, train fuel, and introduced a massive broad-based carbon tax. The government also squeezed out-of-province small brewers out of the market with an unfair tax hike and *forced craft beers off Alberta shelves*. And they didn't cut a penny of their own spending. Talk about naughty! Meanwhile, our Finance Minister didn't even submit receipts for his own hosting expenses. He's on the naughty list for making taxpayers sign *a mystery \$233 cheque* on top of tax hike after tax hike.

3. **Alberta School Boards Association**

for spending big bucks on perks for staff including an adult Easter egg hunt

The Easter bunny helped put the Alberta School Boards Association on the naughty list for spending *\$41,000 tax dollars* on staff gifts, events and Easter egg hunts, on top of *flights between Edmonton and Calgary*, hotel stays for staff who live in the same city, and excessive travel. And this spending could be just the tip of the iceberg! This naughty organization won't make the nice list until they commit to posting their expenses online for the past five years.

4. **Wildrose MLA Angela Pitt**

for charging taxpayers \$115 for a 'Drive Me Home' Designated Drivers ride

While we commend Pitt for putting safety first - drinking and driving would have been much, much worse - taxpayers shouldn't be *charged for a fun night out*.

5. **Former Alberta Premier Jim Prentice**

for quitting abruptly and leaving taxpayers with a \$275,000 by-election bill

When former premier Jim Prentice took his ball and went home after losing the provincial election, he left taxpayers with a hefty bill. He's on the naughty list for *making taxpayers pay* an estimated \$275,000 for an unnecessary by-election he caused.

6. **Former PC government**

for scrapping the single-rate income tax

The former PC government under then-Premier Jim Prentice set the stage for the *elimination of the single-rate* income tax, setting the Alberta Advantage back several decades. What an extremely naughty thing to do to Alberta taxpayers at a time when the economy was already lagging.

7. **Calgary Flames owners**

for asking taxpayers to pay for a glitzy pro sports arena complex

This moneyed pro sports franchise makes the naughty list this year for *having the audacity* to ask cash-strapped Calgary taxpayers to bear the financial risk of funding a pro sports complex. We love the teams, but we say no to corporate welfare to big business. The Flames owners can deck the halls on their own dime.

