



*Centre for the Study of Living Standards  
Centre d'étude des niveaux de vie*

## **Alberta Tops Human Development Index for Canadian Provinces and Territories**

**Press Release – Ottawa, July 28, 2016**

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) today released the report “The Human Development Index: Ranking the Provinces and Territories Internationally.” The report provides estimates of the Human Development Index (HDI) for the Canadian provinces and territories for the 2000-2014 period. The HDI is an internationally recognized measure of socio-economic development developed by the United Nations Development Program based on three dimensions of well-being: income, education, and life expectancy.

The report uncovers significant differences in human development among the provinces and territories, finding that “Canadians living in Alberta enjoy a quality of life similar to that of Switzerland or Denmark while Canadians in Nunavut face a quality of life similar to Latvia or Croatia.”

The key findings are highlighted below.

- Alberta recorded the highest HDI score in 2014 out of the 13 provinces and territories. If Alberta were a country it would rank fourth among the 188 countries for which the HDI is calculated. Alberta ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> among the 13 jurisdictions in income, 3<sup>rd</sup> in education, and 4<sup>th</sup> in life expectancy.
- Nunavut ranked last among the provinces and territories in the HDI. If Nunavut were a country it would rank 46<sup>th</sup>. Nunavut ranked last among the 13 jurisdictions for education and life expectancy and fifth for income.
- In terms of life expectancy, British Columbia ranked first among the provinces and territories in 2014 and Nunavut ranked last.
- For the two measures of education, in 2014 Yukon ranked first for educational attainment and Nunavut last, while for expected years of schooling Quebec ranked first and Nunavut last.

- In terms of income, the Northwest Territories ranked first and Prince Edward Island last in 2014.
- All provinces and territories experienced improvements in the HDI over the 2000-2014 period. The two jurisdictions with the greatest improvements were Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador. The rapid HDI growth in Nunavut had no effect on its last place position because its HDI score in 2000 was so far behind the other jurisdictions. On the other hand, Newfoundland and Labrador's strong HDI growth boosted it from 11<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Three jurisdictions tied for slowest HDI growth: the Northwest Territories, Ontario and British Columbia.

The report is posted at <http://www.csls.ca/reports/csls2016-14.pdf>.

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The Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) is a national, independent, Ottawa-based not-for-profit research organization. Its primary objective is to contribute to a better understanding of trends and determinants of productivity, living standards, and economic well-being in Canada through research.