

# How much does Canada's federal government spend on tobacco control?

In May 2018, Health Canada announced a new tobacco strategy with a five-year funding commitment of \$330 million, and continues to represent this as the operating budget across government departments.<sup>1</sup> In 2023, the Minister of Health reported a \$66 million annual investment in tobacco control initiatives.<sup>2</sup>

Official reports of federal expenditures on tobacco control by Health Canada provide conflicting information.

- Treasury Board reports Health Canada spends \$33.6 million per year,<sup>3</sup> roughly 7 million more than was spent before the new strategy was implemented. (Figure 1)

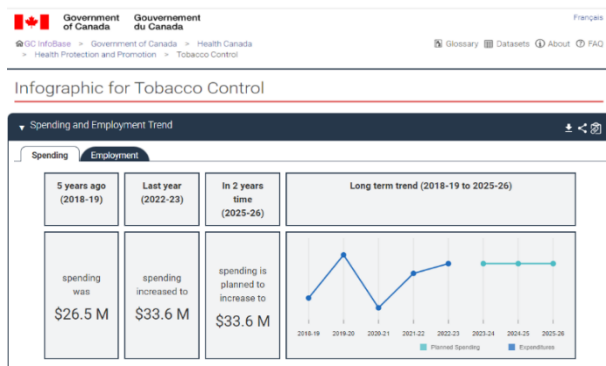


Figure 2: Treasury Board Infobase, 2023

- In September 2022, information on federal expenditures for tobacco control was provided in response to questions from parliamentarians. The information, together with that from responses to the same questions in previous years, is presented below in Table 1.<sup>4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11</sup>
- In December 2021 as part of the internal evaluation of its tobacco control activities, the planned spending of both Health Canada and the Public Health Agency totalled more than \$45 million in the later years of the review (Figure 2).<sup>12</sup> This review also reported actual expenditures, reporting that Health Canada had spent 101% of its planned budget in the 5 year period, and that

the Public Health Agency had spent 83% of its planned budget.

- In September 2022, Health Canada reported to the Senate that "To date, Health Canada has allocated \$115,687,802 of the \$217,006,370 it

Table 1: Health Canada Planned Spending, 2016-17 to 2020-21

Fiscal Year	Planned Spending	
	G&Cs*	Total
2016-17	N/A	\$29,027,999
2017-18	N/A	\$34,846,701
2018-19	N/A	\$40,202,944
2019-20	\$2,500,000	\$44,366,709
2020-21	\$4,500,000	\$40,640,467
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,000,000</b>	<b>\$189,084,820</b>

Table 2: PHAC Planned Spending, 2016-17 to 2020-21

Fiscal Year	Planned Spending	
	G&Cs*	Total
2016-17	\$2,455,000	\$2,455,000
2017-18	\$2,205,000	\$2,205,000
2018-19	\$2,705,000	\$2,881,393
2019-20	\$3,455,000	\$3,636,845
2020-21	\$4,455,000	\$4,636,895
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,275,000</b>	<b>\$15,815,132</b>

Figure 1 Health Canada Evaluation December 2021

received via Canada's Tobacco Strategy. **\$101,318,568 million remains unspent.**"

(emphasis added).<sup>13</sup> The written answer provided expenditures for 4 of the 5 years of the strategy (2018-19 to 2021-22).

- In April 2023, Health Canada reported its budget and expenditures for 2021-2022 to the World Health Organization.<sup>14</sup> In this report, the government-wide budget for tobacco control was \$66.21 million, and the amount budgeted to Health Canada was \$41.95 million, with the Public Health Agency being allocated \$4.705 million.
- In March 2024, in response to a Question on the Order Paper,<sup>15</sup> the government reported expenditures of about \$68.4 million to support the Canada Tobacco Strategy in 2022-23.

**Table 1A: Official statements about funding allocation for Federal Tobacco Control Strategy / Canada's Tobacco Strategy by department**

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2018-2019	2019-2020	2019-2020	2020-2021	2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023
<i>Data as reported in:**</i>	<i>Q779-Q780<sup>7-8</sup></i>	<i>Q-132<sup>76</sup></i>	<i>Q-6<sup>54</sup></i>	<i>Q-64<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>Q-64<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>S-145<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>Q-230<sup>10</sup></i>	<i>S-145<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>S-145<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>Q-872<sup>11</sup></i>	<i>S-145<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>Q-872<sup>11</sup></i>	<i>COP<sup>14</sup></i>	<i>Q-2204<sup>16</sup></i>
<b>Canada Revenue Agency</b>		\$890 K	\$890 K	\$890 K	\$890 K	\$890 K	NR	\$890 K	\$890 K	\$890 K	\$890 K	\$890 K	\$890 K	\$890 K
<b>Public Safety</b>	\$610K	\$610 K	\$610 K	\$610 K	\$610 K	\$1.97M	\$610 K	\$3.58 M	\$2.85 M	\$2.9 M	\$2.89 M	\$3.1 M	\$3.34 M	\$3.2 M
<b>Canada Border Services Agency<sup>17</sup></b>	\$2.2M	\$2.9 M	\$3 M	\$3 M	\$3 M	NR	\$3 M	NR	NR	\$3 M	NR	\$3 M	\$3 M	\$3.019 M
<b>RCMP<sup>18</sup></b>	\$1.7M	\$1.8 M	\$1.8 M	\$1.8 M	\$1.9 M	NR	\$2.9 M	NR	NR	\$3 M	NR	\$3 M	\$3.0 M	\$3 M
<b>Health Portfolio</b>	\$37.6 M	\$38.6 M	\$32.1 M	\$31.9 M	\$31.9 M					\$44.9 M		\$44.1 M		\$46.2 M
• <b>Health Canada</b>						\$25.46 M	\$44.37 M	\$30.90 M	\$29.84 M		\$29.50 M		\$41.95 M	
• <b>Public Health Agency<sup>19</sup></b>						\$2.55 M		\$2.55 M	\$2.55 M		\$2.55 M		\$4.7 M	
<b>Indigenous Services<sup>20</sup></b>			\$6.5 M	\$5 M	\$6.8 M		\$9.2 M			\$10.2 M		\$9.1 M	\$9.3M	\$9.1 M

NR – nothing reported in document cited

**Table 1B: Expenditures for Federal Tobacco Control Strategy by the Health Portfolio as reported by Health Canada**

Amount spent	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023
<i>Data as reported in:**</i>	<i>Q779-Q780<sup>7-8</sup></i>	<i>Q-132<sup>76</sup></i>	<i>Q-64<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>Q-64<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>Q-64<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>Q-230<sup>10</sup></i>	<i>Q-872<sup>11</sup></i>	<i>Q-872<sup>11</sup></i>	<i>COP<sup>14</sup></i>	<i>Q-2204<sup>15</sup></i>	
<b>Health Portfolio</b>	<b>\$32.5 M</b>	<b>\$35.1 M</b>	<b>\$31.0 M</b>	<b>\$33.2 M</b>	<b>\$34.7 M</b>	<b>\$50.90 M</b>	<b>\$43.3 M</b>	<b>\$45.2 M</b>	<b>\$45.16 M</b>	<b>\$48.6 M</b>	
o <b>Mass Media</b>	\$0	\$0	Indirectly	Indirectly	Indirectly	\$6.3 M	\$0.9 M	\$0.7 M	\$0.7 M	\$0.8 M	
o <b>Policy and regulatory development</b>	\$9.6 M	\$5.7 M	\$6.5 M	\$9.5 M	\$5.5 M	\$5.3 M	\$6.0 M	\$6.2 M	\$6.2 M	\$11 M	
o <b>Research</b>	\$3.8 M	\$2.7 M	\$1.4 M	\$1.6 M	\$3.6 M	\$5.9 M	\$3.9 M	\$2.0 M	\$2.0 M	\$3.0 M	
o <b>Surveillance</b>	\$4.1 M	\$2.9 M	\$3.4 M	\$2.5 M	\$3.1 M	\$2.2 M	\$0.3 M	\$2.0 M	\$2.9 M	\$3.2 M	
o <b>Enforcement</b>	\$5.2 M	\$6 M	\$5.9 M	\$5.2 M	\$4.6 M	\$7.1 M	\$6.9 M	\$7.2 M	\$7.2 M	\$6.6 M	
o <b>Grants &amp; Contributions</b>	\$1.4 M	\$1.4M	\$1.9 M	\$3.0 M	\$1.9 M	\$2.0 M	\$6.5 M	\$8.8 M	\$3.6 M	\$8.5 M	
o <b>Litigation</b>	\$3 M	\$2.5 M									
o <b>Legal Services and administrative costs</b>				\$5 M	\$6 M	\$9.5 M	\$8.1 M	\$5.3 M	\$5.5 M	\$7 M	\$4.9 M
o <b>Corporate Costs</b>		\$4.8 M	\$5 M	\$4.6 M	\$5.5 M	\$5.9 M	\$5.5 M	\$5.5 M	\$5.5 M	\$5.5 M	
o <b>Other activities funded by FTCS</b>						\$8.1 M	\$5.8 M	\$6.2 M	\$4.9 M	\$5.1 M	
o <b>Re-allocation</b>	\$7.1 M	\$2.5 M	\$1.4 M				\$2.2 M				
o <b>Programs for Aboriginal Canadians</b>	\$4.2 M	\$6.2 M									
o <b>Public Health Agency</b>										\$5.2 M	

\*\* See Listed References for information on the dates and numbers of the sessional papers with the responses to the Order Paper Questions.

## References

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- 1 Health Canada. Canada's Tobacco Strategy.  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/canada-tobacco-strategy.html>
- 2 Statement from the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health on National Non-Smoking Week  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/01/statement-from-the-minister-of-health-and-the-minister-of-mental-health-and-addictions-and-associate-minister-of-health-on-national-non-smoking-week.html>
- 3 Treasury Board Infobase. Infographic for Tobacco Control  
<https://www.tbs-sct.canada.ca/ems-sgd/edb-bdd/index-eng.html#infographic/program/H-BVH12/financial>
- 4 Question on the Order Paper S-145. Senator Housakos. 2022. Sessional Paper No. 1/44-1002S
- 5 Question on the Order Paper No. 64. Marilyn Gladu. January 27, 2020. Sessional Paper No. 8555-431-64.
- 6 Question on the Order Paper No. 1327. Don Davies. January 29, 2018. Sessional Paper No. 8555-421-1327.
- 7 Question on the Order Paper No. 780. Don Davies. January 30, 2017. . Sessional Paper No. 8555-421-780.
- 8 Question on the Order Paper No. 779. Don Davies. January 30, 2017. Sessional Paper No. 8555-421-779.
- 9 In order to provide consistency, minor adjustments were made to the information as reported to Parliament. In 2016-17 and 2017-2018, Breakitoff campaign costs were included in research activities. Mass Media promotion of quitline services was done through MOA with provinces in 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
- 10 Question on the Order Paper No. 230. Don Davies. November 12, 2020. Sessional Paper 8555-432-230
- 11 Question on the Order Paper No. 872. Don Davies. October 13, 2022. Sessional Paper 8555-441-872
- 12 Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Evaluation of the Health Portfolio Tobacco and Vaping Activities 2016-17 to 2020-21  
<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/corporate/transparency/corporate-management-reporting/evaluation/tobacco-vaping-activities-2016-2017-2020-2021/tobacco-vaping-activities-2016-2017-2020-2021-en.pdf>
- 13 Question on the Order Paper S-145. Senator Housakos. 2022
- 14 FCTC Reporting 2023 Annex 4 (Canada's tobacco control budgets) and Annex 5 (Question E9 Tobacco control spending 2021-2022)
- 15 Question on the Order Paper Q-2204. Don Davies. 2024.
- 16 Question on the Order Paper Q-2204. Don Davies. 2024.
- 17 The Canada Border Services Agency reported that "The CBSA has rolled the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy funding into the regular program budget and, unlike funding that is allocated to specified projects, the CBSA is not able to provide an exact breakdown of how much of the Federal Tobacco Control Strategy funding was allocated to specific activities.
- 18 The RCMP reported that after 2022 "the funding is now being managed in an integrated manner within the RCMP's overall appropriation and is neither uniquely captured nor specifically reported in the RCMP's external reporting".
- 19 Public Health Agency reported that "as of April 8, 2022, HCCF has spent \$10,216,443, including \$9,533,621 in Grants and Contributions, and \$682,822 in Operating funds between 2018-19 and 2021-22 to implement the CTS and support tobacco prevention and cessation projects. In addition, \$2.38 million of committed Grants and Contributions funds for 2021-22 are scheduled to be distributed. The 2022-23 allocation of HCCF funding under the CTS, which remains to be spent, is \$4.43 million, including \$4.25 million in Grants and Contributions and approximately \$180K in Operating funding." This \$10,216,443 sum is presented as an annual expenditure of \$2.5 million for each of 4 years.
- 20 Indigenous Services does not provide information on whether money was spent on tobacco control initiatives. In Question No. 64, the department responded that "Funds were allocated in full to First Nations and Inuit, and spent accordingly with their priorities."