

TAXPAYER 2021

Naughty and Nice List



naughty

Former governor general Julie Payette

For leaving early and still pocketing millions through her pension

Despite resigning because of a reportedly grinch-style work environment after serving for a little more than three years, Payette could still receive an estimated \$4.8 million if she continues to collect her pension to age 90. More lumps of coal: Payette can still expense taxpayers for \$206,040 every year for life, and even six months after her death.

Billionaire Stephen Bronfman

For asking Quebec taxpayers to foot the bills for his part-time baseball team

Bronfman lands himself on the naughty list for pulling a reverse Robin Hood: proposing to take from struggling taxpayers and use the loot to build a whole new baseball stadium for a part-time professional team. Bronfman's business group wants to scoop up to \$300 million from Quebec taxpayers in hopes of attracting the Tampa Bay Rays to play half of their season in Montreal. That money would work out to the total provincial income tax bill of 54,000 Quebecers!

Members of Parliament

For giving themselves two pay raises during the pandemic

'Tis the season for giving. And MPs sure do love giving... to themselves. MPs got two pay raises while millions of Canadians struggled through the pandemic, ranging from an extra \$6,900 for a backbench MP to \$13,800 for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. MPs are set to gobble up their third pay raise in 2022. MPs land themselves on the naughty list for acting like Scrooge and padding their own pockets while people around them struggle. They all need a visit from Jacob Marley this Christmas.

Conservative Party Leader Erin O'Toole

For fibbing on carbon taxes

Fibbing is a sure-fire way to land yourself on Santa's naughty list. And Conservative Party Leader Erin O'Toole's nose grew three sizes this year. When running for party leader, O'Toole promised taxpayers that he would "immediately repeal the Trudeau carbon tax; and, reject any future national carbon tax or cap-and-trade scheme." Then, a few months before the 2021 election, he proposed a carbon tax of his own. Worse, he claimed his 11 cent per litre of gasoline carbon tax was somehow "not a tax at all."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

For increasing his tax-take during the pandemic

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is giving Canadians the gift of tax hikes this holiday season. His carbon tax and alcohol taxes are set to increase for the third time during the pandemic in 2022. Workers and businesses will also be paying higher payroll taxes in the new year. His latest plan includes more tax hikes, such as luxury taxes, a so-called anti-flipping tax on homes, and higher taxes on top earners, banks and insurance companies. Still worse, only last year, Trudeau promised Canadians that he would not be raising taxes or costs.

nice

New Brunswick Finance Minister Ernie Steeves

For running surpluses during the pandemic

The government of New Brunswick is showing Canadian taxpayers that politicians don't have to run massive deficits. In fact, the government is projected to run a \$38 million surplus. And that gives taxpayers a surplus of joy.

Former Speaker of the British Columbia Legislature Darryl Plecas

For bringing transparency and accountability to the BC Legislature

All taxpayers deserve the gift of greater government transparency. And the former speaker of the BC legislature has been delivering by the sleigh full. His investigations into misspending have led to audits, a police investigation, formal charges and the mandatory reporting of expenses by officers of the legislature for the first time in its history. Plecas earned his way on to the Nice List for helping to track down names for Santa's Naughty List!

Former Calgary councillor Jeromy Farkas

For turning down his pension and goodbye bonus

From double and triple pensions to pay raises during the pandemic, the city of Calgary is not well known for saving taxpayers money. But this year, outgoing councillor, Jeromy Farkas, turned down his pension and transition allowance saving Calgary taxpayers an estimated \$308,234. For his act of generosity, Farkas landed himself in Santa and taxpayers' good books.

Bloc Québécois

For saying no to the federal wage subsidy

Usually, we're hammering political parties for dipping their fingers into the taxpayer cookie jar. But this year, one federal party deserves credit for refusing to take the federal wage subsidy meant to help businesses stay afloat during the pandemic. The Bloc Québécois was the only party in the House of Commons that did not exploit the pandemic subsidy. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation estimates that federal parties took \$3.2 million through the wage subsidy – but the Bloc, which gets kudos this Christmas, did not. Père Noël will be pleased.