

## **Hugh Mackenzie's CCPA Analysis Puts Heat on Some Provinces.**

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(from: [www.thelittleeducationreport.com](http://www.thelittleeducationreport.com))

I'm not quite sure what the Ontario progressive education movement would do without Hugh Mackenzie offering his services in understanding education finance. He has done it again with a study for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) which will put a lot of heat on many provincial governments, I would say especially Ontario and BC to "up their game" in education funding from now on. Mackenzie has juxtaposed all of the Canadian provinces and American states per pupil expenditures with of course, the exchange rate factored in.

Of course when we look at some Canadian jurisdictions a thinking person will say, naturally, Yukon, NWT and Nunavut will have transportation, housing and isolation pay costs that other provinces can avoid but that does not explain why 'have not' province Manitoba should lead the pack of the lower ten provinces unless a sustained NDP government over the years actually does make a difference. The gap from Manitoba to Ontario is significant, over 9%. That is a chunk of change; close to the \$1.5 billion total cost of Ontario's new Early Childhood Program. Take a look at who is below Ontario in per pupil funding. Only the poor old Atlantic Provinces spend less with Newfoundland & Labrador about to catch up. This is a provincial disgrace for Ontario.

It has to be said that the axe wielding Liberal government of BC doesn't look too good here either. This flinty bunch is slashing the BC schools while they fall all over themselves with the Olympics. Not really good optics. BC is a 'have province' and the sole legislative opposition comes from the NDP. It doesn't make the BC Liberal government look very good to be significantly behind a much poorer province like Manitoba either. Alberta's recent slash and burn mentality will probably drop them in the rankings unless they are very careful.

Ontario Finance and Trade ministers often like to tell us that our real competition is in the Great Lakes states. Check the per pupil spending in Michigan (\$11 956), Ohio (\$11 978), New York (\$ 18 733), Illinois, (\$11 564) and Massachusetts (\$15 493). These gaps are just mind blowing.

Ontario has announced a funding formula review for next year but

meanwhile, school closings seem to be moving ahead. The province is biting its lip over imminent cut-backs while they are already underfunding the system by \$1-2 Billion just to bring it to the Manitoba level.

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**Hugh McKenzie**  
An invaluable resource

	<i>Per-student spending</i>	<i>Rank</i>
New Jersey	19,477	1
New York	18,733	2
District of Columbia <sup>1</sup>	18,691	3
<b>Yukon</b>	<b>17,624</b>	<b>4</b>
Connecticut	16,460	5
Vermont	16,423	6
Rhode Island	16,211	7
Wyoming	15,914	8
Massachusetts	15,493	9
Alaska	14,851	10
Maryland	14,430	11
<b>NWT</b>	<b>14,274</b>	<b>12</b>
Delaware	14,171	13
Maine	14,031	14
Hawaii <sup>2</sup>	13,328	15
New Hampshire	13,300	16
<b>Nunavut</b>	<b>13,273</b>	<b>17</b>
Pennsylvania	13,141	18
Wisconsin	12,493	19
Virginia	12,308	20
Nebraska	12,132	21
Ohio	11,978	22
Michigan	11,956	23
West Virginia	11,721	24
Illinois	11,564	25
Minnesota	11,555	26
Kansas	11,138	27
Montana	11,075	28
Georgia	10,968	29
Indiana	10,942	30
Oregon	10,795	31
California	10,787	32
Louisiana	10,769	33
New Mexico	10,663	34
Missouri	10,662	35
Iowa	10,593	36
North Dakota	10,449	37
Florida	10,324	38
South Carolina	10,322	39
Washington	10,272	40
Alabama	10,120	41
Arkansas	10,111	42
Colorado	9,985	43
<b>Manitoba</b>	<b>9,926</b>	<b>44</b>
South Dakota	9,717	45
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>9,689</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	<b>9,619</b>	<b>47</b>
Kentucky	9,568	48
North Carolina	9,493	49
Texas	9,460	50
Nevada	9,407	51
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>9,180</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Quebec</b>	<b>9,125</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>ONTARIO</b>	<b>9,079</b>	<b>54</b>
Mississippi	8,988	55
Oklahoma	8,953	56
<b>Nfld. &amp; Labrador</b>	<b>8,897</b>	<b>57</b>
Arizona	8,843	58
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<b>8,782</b>	<b>59</b>
Tennessee	8,591	60
<b>New Brunswick</b>	<b>8,422</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>PEI</b>	<b>8,121</b>	<b>62</b>
Idaho	8,011	63
Utah	6,876	64

