

A large iceberg floats in a blue ocean under a cloudy sky. The iceberg is split horizontally, with the top part above the water and the bottom part submerged. The text is overlaid on the submerged part of the iceberg.

# EYES ON EVIDENCE III

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE  
TRANSPARENCY OF EVIDENCE  
USAGE ACROSS PROVINCIAL  
POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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# Eyes On Evidence III

## An assessment of the transparency of evidence usage across provincial policy announcements

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**Evidence for Democracy** is the leading fact-driven, non-partisan, not-for-profit organization promoting the transparent use of evidence in government decision-making in Canada. Through research, education, and issue-based campaigns, we engage and empower the science community while cultivating public and political demand for evidence-based decision-making.



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# Executive Summary

**W**e all benefit when governments make policy decisions informed by the best available evidence. Data, facts, and science challenge what we consider as common sense, and help distinguish the boundaries between reality and political framing.

Transparency is a prerequisite to enabling evidence-informed decision-making. When the public can find the evidence underlying policy decisions, they have the opportunity to scrutinize the relationship between evidence and public policy. Without transparency, we run the risk of losing the ability for citizens to hold policy-makers accountable, further distancing the public from the policy decisions that impact their lives.

However, putting evidence at the heart of public policy is no easy feat.

Previously, in *Eyes on Evidence II*, we applied a transparency framework (adapted from the United Kingdom) to assess the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 100 policies from the Government of Canada. Our assessment found that policies scored low, meaning that it's very difficult for members of the public to find the evidence behind government policy.

Now, in this study, we applied our transparency framework to assess the transparency of evidence usage in provincial policies issued by the governments of Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, and compared transparency in policy-making across the Canadian federation.

## KEY FINDINGS

- » **We applied a transparency framework to assess the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 133 policies issued by the provincial governments of Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.** Simply put, our framework asks: can the evidence behind policy decisions be found by the lay public? The framework consists of four categories:
  - **Diagnosis:** What do policy-makers know about the issue?
  - **Proposal:** What is the government's chosen intervention, and why was it chosen?
  - **Implementation:** How will the chosen intervention be rolled out, and why was this method chosen?
  - **Testing and evaluation:** How and when will we know if the policy has worked?
- » **Overall, our assessment found that provincial policies scored low on the transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it's very difficult for people living in Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan to find the evidence behind provincial policy.**
  - **There were shared shortcomings across provinces.** Too often, policies would either mention none of the underlying evidence behind the issue or proposed intervention at hand, or would fail to provide a reference or citation for any evidence mentioned. Policies rarely explored the merits of alternative policy options, or acknowledged any absent, weak or contradictory evidence. Lastly, across all provincial governments, an overwhelming majority of policies scored

poorly (i.e., received a 0) in the testing and evaluation section (i.e., to know how and when a policy has worked).

- **In particular, policies from the Government of Saskatchewan scored very poorly.** 15 of the 18 policies assessed in this province received a 0 across all four sections of the transparency framework.
- **The transparency of evidence usage fared slightly better in federal policies, though there were several similar trends in both federal and provincial assessments.** Relative to federal policies, policies from the governments of Ontario and British Columbia scored more poorly in every section, but scored slightly higher in the Testing and Evaluation section. A score of 3 was rare across all levels of government.

- » **We recognize that the transparency framework is not a perfect measure.** Throughout the Eyes on Evidence series, we spoke with public servants, political staffers, and elected representatives to explore what internal challenges or barriers exist when it comes to implementing transparency in policy-making. We look forward to sharing key insights from both our federal and provincial discussions soon, as well as a compilation of best practices for governments within the federation to improve transparency.
- » **Ultimately, our assessment demonstrates that policy-making across the Canadian federation fares poorly when it comes to the transparency of evidence usage.** We find that from the sidelines, it is difficult to discern whether government systems, structures, and resources are in fact delivering on their commitment to implement evidence-informed and transparent policy-making, to its full extent.



# Introduction

## 1.1 Background

We all benefit when governments make policy decisions informed by the best available evidence. Data, facts, and science challenge what we consider as common sense, and help distinguish the boundaries between reality and political framing. In fact, virtually every policy issue that our elected representatives face can benefit from evidence, especially as we consider the complexity of the ever-growing challenges related to climate change, food security, widening social inequality, and much more.

However, putting evidence at the heart of public policy is no easy feat. Policy-making is a complex and nuanced process, requiring decision-makers to weigh many different factors, balance benefits against risks, and consider the needs and priorities of numerous stakeholders, all while operating on short timelines with limited resources.<sup>1</sup>

The extent and type of evidence used in decision-making can heavily depend on who provides the evidence to policy-makers, and how it is framed.<sup>2</sup> For example, previously, Members of Parliament have described many challenges relating to the use of science and evidence in their work, including having to navigate conflicting findings and managing information overload, all amid time restrictions and limited resources.<sup>1</sup> To further complicate matters, sometimes policy-relevant evidence doesn't exist, or isn't accessible to policy-makers.<sup>3</sup>

Even when evidence may have been appropriately used to inform policy, the process of policy-making is often not clear to the public, nor can the evidence behind policy decisions always be found. For example, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a time in which public interest and engagement with science and evidence has increased, governments across

the world have frequently struggled to meet the challenge of effectively communicating the rationale behind many of their public health policies.<sup>4-7</sup>

In a strong democracy – where citizens regularly participate in civic matters – not only should scientific evidence play a role in driving policy decisions, but that evidence should also be accessible to the public. This is where transparency, commonly defined as the extent of information accessibility, comes in.<sup>8</sup>

The transparent use of evidence in policy-making processes offers the public the opportunity to scrutinize the relationship between evidence and public policy, consider whether they agree with the decisions shaping their lives, and ultimately, hold their governments accountable. This in turn helps build public trust in democratic institutions, and can increase participation in the political system.<sup>8</sup> For example, building and maintaining public trust through government openness is not only critical for a functional democracy, but has also been shown to correlate with the extent of public buy-in for policy interventions that hinge on behavioral responses from the public.<sup>9-12</sup>

Ultimately, transparency is a prerequisite to enabling evidence-informed decision-making. Without transparency, we run the risk of losing the ability for citizens to hold policy-makers accountable, further distancing the public from the policy decisions that impact their lives.

## 1.2 Policy-making across the Canadian federation

In Canada, our elected representatives present policy priorities to the public through several key documents, including annual budgets, mandate letters, and strategic action plans for ministries, agencies and departments. For example, since

1867, the Speech from the Throne has been crafted by the Cabinet and Prime Minister, and is presented by the Head of State (i.e., the Governor General) during the first new session of parliament.<sup>13, 14</sup> This speech lays out the federal government’s policy priorities for the current parliamentary session. These priorities feed into what programs and services will be included in the federal budget, as well as specific priorities for each minister, in the form of mandate letters.

In recent years, governments across Canada have taken steps to increase and improve the use of evidence in policy-making. This includes Ontario’s participation in the Open Government Partnership in 2016, federal investments to bolster data infrastructure, the publication of over 15,000 open datasets by the provincial Government of Alberta, and the growing network of departmental science advisors across the federal Government of Canada.<sup>15-18</sup>

The sharing of government priorities openly with the Canadian public is a relatively recent step towards improved transparency. Former Prime Minister, Jean Cr tien, and finance Minister, Paul Martin, were the first to release the federal budget to the public in 1995.<sup>19</sup> Approximately twenty years later, both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and former Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne made the historic decision to release their departmental and ministerial mandate letters, respectively, in a push for government openness and accountability.<sup>20-22</sup> Importantly, Wynne’s 2014 mandate letters, and those released by the federal government in 2015, 2019, and 2021, all committed to the use of science and evidence in decision-making.

While a majority of provinces have publicly available mandate letters, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario have not followed suit. Arguments against the disclosure of mandate letters suggest that their public release undermines their importance and reduces cabinet confidentiality.<sup>23, 24</sup> At the time of writing this report, the Government of Ontario is appealing to prevent the disclosure of their mandate letters to the public.<sup>25</sup>

It is true that the transparency of evidence usage in policy-making may fall short due to necessary confidentiality, or crisis-time circumstances. But this needs to be an exception, rather than the default, when it comes to policy-making. Citizens in a democracy deserve the opportunity to understand how and why government policy decisions are made, a process that starts with transparent and open communication of the factors involved in decision-making.

### 1.3 A framework for evaluating transparency in policy-making

In 2015, a transparency framework was developed in the United Kingdom (UK) to provide a tangible method to evaluate the transparency of evidence usage in policy-making (**Figure 1**).<sup>26</sup> In other words, the framework asks: can the evidence behind policy decisions be found by the lay public?

The transparency framework consists of four categories, and assesses whether the evidence used to inform a policy is clear, as well as how it was used, on a scale from 0 to 3. The four categories are:

- » **Diagnosis:** The first step of the assessment identifies the issue that needs to be addressed and assesses the presence of evidence used to answer the question: “What do policy-makers know about the issue (e.g. causes, effects and scale)?”
- » **Proposal:** The second step deals with the government’s chosen intervention to address the identified issue. It assesses the presence and use of evidence that was used to answer: “What is the government’s chosen intervention and why?”
- » **Implementation:** The third step addresses how the intervention will be carried out. It assesses the presence and use of the evidence used to answer the question: “How will the chosen intervention be rolled out and why was this method chosen?”

- » **Testing and evaluation:** The final step assesses the presence and use of the evidence used to answer the question: “How and when will we know if the policy has worked?” This step addresses whether plans to test the efficacy or outcomes of the policy are outlined. It allows for accountability on the efficacy of the policy, and can include updates and contingency plans.

In 2016, Sense About Science refined this framework further, and used it to assess the transparency of evidence usage in a selection of UK government policies in 2016, and again, in a spot-check in 2018.<sup>27, 28</sup> Encouragingly, the 2018 spot-check identified general improvements in transparency of evidence use, such as more departments publishing the associated evidence, though some significant omissions still existed, including omissions in areas likely to be of considerable public interest.

In 2021, in *Eyes on Evidence I*, Evidence for Democracy adapted this framework from the UK to evaluate the transparency of evidence behind public policy decisions in the Canadian context, and applied the framework to seven federal policies.<sup>29</sup> One year later, in *Eyes on Evidence II*, we applied the same transparency framework to assess a total of 100 policies, across ten federal departments and agencies.<sup>30</sup> We found that policies scored low on their transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it is difficult for the public to find the evidence behind government policy.

Ultimately, the transparency framework is a useful tool to assess the transparency of evidence usage in policy-making. The framework can be applied quickly, and involves looking for both qualitative and quantitative evidence. Applying the framework does not require subject-matter expertise, and the resulting transparency scores provide a means of comparison between different policy issues.

But the transparency framework is not a perfect measure. If the evidence behind a policy decision cannot be found, it doesn't mean that the evidence doesn't exist or that it wasn't considered in the policy-making process. For example, as mentioned above, there may be cases where the transparency of evidence usage in policy-making falls short due to necessary confidentiality or crisis-time circumstances. It should also be noted that this transparency framework does not allow for an assessment of the quality of the evidence used, nor the merits of the policy. As Sense About Science noted in an earlier report, both a “well-founded policy and a poorly founded policy may both score well for transparency.”<sup>27</sup>

Instead, the bigger question that this framework seeks to answer is: are government systems, structures and resources equipped to effectively mobilize the growing political commitment to the principles of using the best available science and evidence in policy-making?

## 1.4 Study Aim

In this study, we applied our adapted transparency framework to assess the transparency of evidence usage in policies issued by the provincial governments of Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. This is the third report in our *Eyes on Evidence* series, where we have been evaluating the transparency of evidence usage in public policy decisions in Canada.



		0	1	2	3
<b>Diagnosis:</b> What do policymakers know about the issue (e.g. causes, effects and scale)?	<i>Can you see what evidence has been used and the role it has played?</i>	Not enough for level 1.	Evidence is mentioned, with explanation of how it has been used	As in level 1, but the supporting evidence is linked to the relevant parts of the policy, properly cited, and able to be found.	As in level 2, but the evidence base is also assessed, with consideration of uncertainties and contradictory information.
<b>Proposal:</b> What is the government's chosen intervention and why was it chosen?	<i>Can you see what evidence has been used and the role it has played?</i>	Not enough for level 1	Evidence is mentioned, with explanation of how it has been used	As in level 1 but the supporting evidence is linked to the relevant parts of the policy, properly cited, and able to be found.	As in level 2, but the evidence base is also assessed, with consideration of alternate options, uncertainties, and contradictions
<b>Implementation:</b> How will the chosen intervention be rolled out and why was this method chosen?	<i>Can you see what evidence has been used and the role it has played?</i>	Not enough for level 1	Evidence is mentioned, with explanation of how it has been used	As in level 1 but the supporting evidence is linked to the relevant parts of the policy, properly cited, and able to be found.	As in level 2, but the evidence base is also assessed, with consideration of alternate options, uncertainties, and contradictions
<b>Testing and evaluation:</b> "How and when will we know if the policy has worked?"	<i>Can you see what evidence will be provided and when it will be provided?</i>	Not enough for level 1	Success measures (or process for developing them outlined), with no plans for testing/evaluation (or explanation for why inappropriate)	As in level 1, but with plans for testing/evaluation, including timetable (or explanation for why inappropriate)	As in level 2, with explanation of why these testing/evaluation methods are chosen, with linked evidence properly cited and able to be found.

**Figure 1:** The transparency framework consists of four categories (diagnosis, proposal, implementation, testing and evaluation), and assesses whether the evidence used to inform a policy is clear, as well as how it was used, on a scale from 0-3 based on criteria.

# Methods

## 2.1 Definition of policy

Similar to Sense About Science, we defined a *policy* as a “specific intervention to change the status quo at a level that is intuitively characterised as ‘a policy’ by the public, politicians and the media”<sup>27, 29</sup>. This includes both primary and secondary legislation, including bills, regulations, funding announcements, and more.

Examples of policies that were excluded from our assessments included calls for proposals (funded proposals, rather than a call for applications for funding, represent a change from the status quo), job appointments (unless for example, a position was created) and report releases (unless accompanied by a change in policy). Unlike *Eyes on Evidence II* (i.e. our federal transparency assessments), we also excluded calls for public consultations in this study.<sup>30</sup>

For the purposes of this research, evidence was defined as any type of qualitative and quantitative data or analysis.<sup>29</sup> This included, but was not limited to: academic literature (e.g. peer-reviewed publications), government reports, data collected and analyzed both in and outside the government, and results of consultations (including submissions from stakeholders and results of engagement with Indigenous groups).<sup>29</sup>

## 2.2 Policy collection

In this study, we collected policy announcements from across the provincial governments of Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. We excluded several provincial governments from this study because either (i) an archive of past policy announcements did not exist or was incomplete for 2021 (specifically, Quebec and Alberta); (ii) policies were not sorted according to the ministries who issued the policies (Manitoba); or (iii) there was an insufficient number of policies which met our eligibility criteria (Newfoundland & Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Prince Edward Island and Yukon). Policies issued by the provincial Government of New Brunswick did meet our study criteria, but we opted to exclude this province in order to limit our assessments to three provinces.

In Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan, we selected ministries whose mandates were similar to, or overlapped with, the previously selected federal departments and agencies in *Eyes on Evidence II*, to allow for the comparison of transparency scores across federal and provincial policies.<sup>30</sup> The selected ministries are listed below (**sections 2.2.1-3**).

Using the news section of each provincial ministry, we assembled all eligible policies (i.e., policies which met our criteria, as outlined in **section 2.1**) announced between January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. The eligibility of each policy was verified by two independent researchers.

## 2.2.1 Ontario

Of the 25 ministries in Ontario’s provincial government, the following ministries were included in this study:

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
2. Ministry of Colleges and Universities
3. Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
4. Ministry of Education
5. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
6. Ministry of Health
7. Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
8. Ministry of Infrastructure
9. Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development
10. Ministry of Long-Term Care
11. Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry
12. Ministry of Transportation.

The Ministry of Energy was ultimately excluded as there were insufficient eligible policies to carry out a true random sampling of policies to assess.

## 2.2.2 British Columbia

Of the 20 ministries in British Columbia’s provincial government, the following ministries were included in this study:

1. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
2. Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training
3. Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
4. Ministry of Education and Child Care
5. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

6. Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
7. Ministry of Health
8. Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
9. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
10. Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
11. Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions

The Ministry of Labour was ultimately excluded as there were insufficient eligible policies to carry out a true random sampling of policies to assess.

## 2.2.3 Saskatchewan

Of the 19 ministries in Saskatchewan’s provincial government, the following ministries were included in this study:

1. Ministry of Agriculture
2. Ministry of Education
3. Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport
4. Ministry of Health
5. Ministry of Highways
6. Ministry of Trade and Export Development

The Ministries of Energy and Resources, Environment, Advanced Education, and Social Services were ultimately excluded as there were insufficient eligible policies to carry out a true random sampling of policies to assess.

## 2.3 Policy assessment

A total of five policies were randomly selected from each ministry, resulting in a total of 60 policies to assess for Ontario, and 55 policies for British Columbia (**Appendix**). As there were fewer policy announcements issued by the provincial Government of Saskatchewan, a total of three policies were randomly selected from each ministry, resulting in a total of 18 policies to assess for Saskatchewan (**Appendix**).

All policies, and any supporting documents that were linked within the policy announcement (such as backgrounders or annexes), were examined and assessed using the criteria from the transparency framework (**Figure 1**).

Previously, in *Eyes On Evidence II*, we noted that the transparency framework may benefit from additional refinement as it was sometimes difficult to differentiate between whether aspects of a policy would fall under the proposal or implementation section.<sup>30</sup> To address this ambiguity, we further defined the proposal

and implementation sections as follows: the proposal is the 'big picture' policy decision (e.g., the investment of \$1 million to create a new community centre), while implementation refers to the specific steps or actions taken to achieve a policy (e.g., how were the research projects selected for funding approval?).

Each policy was assessed by two independent researchers. In the event that a policy assessment received conflicting scores, the two researchers discussed the policy in question and came to a consensus on scoring.



# 03

## Findings

In this study, we assessed the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 133 policies across the provincial governments of Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.

**Overall, our assessment found that provincial policies scored low on the transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it's very difficult for people living in Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan to find the evidence behind provincial policy.** Too often, policies failed to provide a reference or citation for any evidence mentioned, and rarely acknowledged alternative policy options, or any absent, weak or contradictory evidence. In particular, policies from the Government of Saskatchewan scored very poorly.

In comparison to the federal transparency assessments in *Eyes on Evidence II*, policies from the Governments of Ontario and British Columbia scored more poorly in every section, but scored slightly higher in the Testing and Evaluation section (Table 1).<sup>30</sup>

**Ultimately, our assessment demonstrates that policy-making across the Canadian federation fares poorly when it comes to the transparency of evidence usage.**

In the remainder of this section, we discuss findings from each province, compare transparency scores across the Canadian federation, and reflect on common transparency shortcomings.



**Figure 1: The percentage of policies which received a transparency score of 0-3, across the different sections of the transparency framework (diagnosis, proposal, implementation, and testing and evaluation), and levels of government.** The figure compares transparency scores between the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, Government of British Columbia and Government of Saskatchewan.<sup>30</sup> In each of the four sections of the transparency framework, every policy that was assessed received a score of 0 (no evidence was mentioned), 1 (evidence was mentioned, with explanation of how it has been used), 2 (the supporting evidence was linked, properly cited and able to be found) or 3 (the evidence base is also assessed, with consideration of uncertainties and contradictory information).

**Table 1: A comparison of scores across the different sections of the transparency framework (diagnosis, proposal, implementation, testing and evaluation), and across different levels of government.** The table compares transparency scores between the Government of Canada (a total of 100 policies, from *Eyes on Evidence II*), as well as the provincial Government of Ontario (60 policies), Government of British Columbia (55 policies) and Government of Saskatchewan (18 policies).<sup>30</sup> In each of the four sections of the transparency framework, every policy that was assessed received a score of 0 (no evidence was mentioned), 1 (evidence was mentioned, with explanation of how it has been used), 2 (the supporting evidence was linked, properly cited and able to be found) or 3 (the evidence base is also assessed, with consideration of uncertainties and contradictory information).

Transparency Score	Diagnosis				Proposal			
	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
Government of Canada (n=100)	45	48	7	0	29	67	4	0
Government of Ontario (n=60)	67	25	7	2	82	15	3	0
Government of British Columbia (n=55)	53	31	15	2	82	16	2	0
Government of Saskatchewan (n=18)	89	11	0	0	100	0	0	0
Transparency Score	Implementation				Testing and Evaluation			
	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
Government of Canada (n=100)	63	35	2	0	94	5	1	0
Government of Ontario (n=60)	87	10	3	0	73	27	0	0
Government of British Columbia (n=55)	78	13	9	0	82	16	2	0
Government of Saskatchewan (n=18)	100	0	0	0	94	6	0	0

### 3.1 Government of Ontario: Transparency Assessments

For the 12 Ontario ministries included in this study, there were a total of 762 policies announced between January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. Upon vetting for eligible policies (i.e., policies which met our criteria, as outlined in **section 2.1**), a total of 368 policies remained. Next, five policies were randomly selected from each ministry, leading to an assessment of the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 60 policies, across 12 ministries, from the Government of Ontario (**Appendix**).

**Overall, our assessment found that policies scored low on the transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it's difficult for Ontarians to find the evidence behind provincial policy.**

Our findings indicate:

- » **Transparency scores varied across different ministries.** The ministries that received the highest scores were the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The ministry which received the lowest scores was the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.
- » **When we searched for the underlying evidence used to understand a policy issue, two-thirds of policies scored very poorly.** The diagnosis section asks: what do policymakers know about the issue? When we assessed what evidence had been used and the role it had played in this section, 67% (n=40) of policies received a 0, while 25% (n=15) received a 1. In other words, policies either failed to mention any underlying evidence (a 0), or mentioned evidence but with no citation to track down the source (a 1). Only four policies received a 2 in this section (i.e., the supporting evidence was linked, properly cited and able to be found). A single policy received a score of 3.
- » **When we searched for evidence about why an intervention was selected, a majority of policies scored very poorly.** The proposal section asks: what is the government's chosen intervention and why was it chosen? Upon assessing the transparency of evidence usage here, 82% (n=49) of policies received a 0, and 15% (n=9) of policies received a 1. Only two policies received a 2 in this section.
- » **When we searched for evidence about how (and why) the chosen intervention would be rolled out, a majority of policies scored very poorly.** The implementation section asks: how will the chosen intervention be rolled out, and why was this method chosen? Here, 87% (n=52) of policies received a 0. Six policies received a score of 1, and only two policies received a score of 2 (i.e., supporting evidence was able to be found).
- » **Across all ministries, about three-quarters of policies scored very poorly in the testing and evaluation section.** The testing and evaluation sections asks: how and when will we know if the policy has worked? 73% (n=44) of policies received a 0 in this section. The remaining 27% (n=16) received a score of 1.
- » **There was only one policy which scored at least a 1 at minimum in each section.** The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' *Expanding Access to Broadband in Middlesex County* scored at least a 1 across the diagnosis, proposal, implementation, and testing and evaluation sections.
- » **A total of 27 policies, across 10 ministries, scored poorly (i.e., received a 0 for every section of the transparency framework).**
- » **Policies rarely assessed their evidence base critically across the four sections (diagnosis, proposal, implementation, or testing and evaluation).** A 3 indicates that the criteria for a 1 and 2 were met (i.e., evidence is mentioned and properly cited, with an explanation of how it was used), and that there was also consideration of alternate options, uncertainties, and contradictions within the policy. Across all assessments, there was only a single policy section which received a score of 3 – the diagnosis section of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' *Ontario Protecting the Health of the Muskoka River Watershed* policy.

	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs</b>				
Ontario Delivering Support to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies	1	0	0	0
Expanding Access to Broadband in Wellington County	2	1	0	1
Ontario Improves Commodity Loan Guarantee Program	0	0	1	0
Ontario Helps Farmers and Agri-food Operators Keep Workers Safe During COVID-19	0	1	0	0
Expanding Access to Broadband in Middlesex County	2	1	1	1
<b>Ministry of Colleges and Universities</b>				
Ontario Names Special Advisor to Support Laurentian University	0	0	0	0
Ontario Expands Financial Assistance to Include Micro-credentials	0	0	0	0
Ontario Invests in New and Expanded Rapid Training Program	1	0	0	1
Ontario Supports Innovation in Virtual Learning	0	0	0	0
Ontario Invests in Research and Innovation	0	0	1	0
<b>Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade</b>				
Ontario Investing in Peterborough-Based Producer of Hand Sanitizer and Disinfectant Bottles	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supports the Development of the Next Generation of PPE	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supports Air Monitoring Technology to Better Protect People from COVID-19	0	0	0	1
Province Appoints Board of Directors of Invest Ontario	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supports Local Manufacturing of Disinfectant during COVID-19	1	1	0	1



	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
<b>Ministry of Education</b>				
Ontario Provides Funding for Autism Training	1	1	0	1
Ontario Delays March Break in an Effort to Reduce Community Transmission of COVID-19	0	0	0	0
Ontario Takes Action to Support Working Families and Improve Child Care	1	2	2	0
Additional Protections for Schools to Keep Students and Staff Safe	0	1	0	0
Ontario Acting to Combat Anti-Asian Racism in Schools	1	0	0	0
<b>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks</b>				
Ontario Enhancing Protection for Species at Risk	2	0	1	0
Ontario Expanding the Protection and Preservation of Green Spaces	0	0	0	0
Ontario Protecting the Health of the Muskoka River Watershed	3	2	2	0
Ontario Providing More Relief for Tourism Industry	0	0	0	0
Ontario Investing in Significant Wetland Restoration Projects	0	1	0	1
<b>Ministry of Health</b>				
Ontario Deploys Rapid Tests to More Essential Workplaces and Settings	0	0	0	1
Ontario Supporting Children and Youth with Complex Mental Health and Addictions Needs	0	0	0	1
Ontario Expanding Access to Dental Care and Affordable Prescription Drugs for Vulnerable Seniors	0	0	1	1
Ontario Accelerates Second Doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine	0	1	0	0
Ontario Launching New \$30 Million Surgical Innovation Fund	1	0	0	0

	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
<b>Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries</b>				
Province Supports Ontario Heritage Trust during COVID-19	0	0	0	0
Ontario Continues Investing in Innovative Festivals and Events	0	0	0	0
Ontario Provides Significant Financial Support to the Arts Sector During COVID-19	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supporting Tourism and Culture in the GTA	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supports Tourism, Culture, Sport and Recreation Organizations	0	0	0	0
<b>Ministry of Infrastructure</b>				
Canada and Ontario invest to improve recreation infrastructure in Brampton	2	0	0	0
Canada and Ontario invest in improved facilities for the Boys & Girls Club of Brantford	0	0	0	0
Canada and Ontario Invest in the Renovation and Expansion of the Kanata Recreation Centre in Ottawa	0	0	0	0
Canada and Ontario Invest in Improved Community, Culture and Recreational Infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario	0	0	0	0
Canada and Ontario invest \$15 million in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in Northern Ontario	0	0	0	0
<b>Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development</b>				
Over 1,000 Stores Visited during Ontario's COVID-19 Inspection Blitz	1	0	1	0
Ontario Training Students for Medical Technology Careers	0	0	0	1
Ontario Makes it Easier to Start a Career in the Skilled Trades	0	0	0	0
Ontario Preparing Students for Skilled Trades and Technology Careers	1	0	0	1
Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs	0	0	0	0

	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
<b>Ministry of Long-Term Care</b>				
Ontario Launches Pilot Program to Train Personal Support Workers	1	0	0	1
Ontario Supports Management Agreement Between The Ross Memorial Hospital and Caressant Care on McLaughlin Road	0	0	0	0
Ontario adding 2,000 nurses to the health care system	0	0	0	1
Ontario Opening Up Outdoor Visits for Long-Term Care	0	0	0	0
Ontario Keeping Seniors in Long-Term Care Homes Cool this Summer	1	0	0	1
<b>Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry</b>				
Ontario Supporting Forestry Jobs and Worker Safety	0	0	0	0
Ontario Supporting Resource-Based Tourism Jobs	0	0	0	0
Ontario Helps Build Winter Roads in the Far North	0	0	0	0
Ontario Takes Steps to Further Protect Nipissing Region Businesses from COVID-19	0	1	0	0
Ontario Releases Draft Forest Biomass Action Plan	1	0	0	1
<b>Ministry of Transportation</b>				
Ontario Restarting Passenger Road Tests in Most DriveTest Centres Across the Province	0	0	0	0
Ontario Increases Support for Transit Across the Province	1	0	0	0
Ontario Awards Contract for Highway 17B Improvements	1	0	0	0
Ontario to Officially Open New Bloomington GO Station	0	0	0	0
Ontario Releases Discussion Paper to Improve Transportation Vision for Greater Golden Horseshoe	1	0	0	0

## 3.2 Government of British Columbia: Transparency Assessments

For the 11 British Columbian ministries included in this study, there were a total of 747 policies announced between January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. Upon vetting for eligible policies (i.e., policies which met our criteria, as outlined in **section 2.1**), a total of 437 policies remained. Next, five policies were randomly selected from each ministry, leading to an assessment of the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 55 policies, across 11 ministries, from the Government of British Columbia (**Appendix**).

**Overall, our assessment found that policies scored low on the transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it's difficult for British Columbians to find the evidence behind provincial policy.**

Our findings indicate:

- » **Transparency scores varied across different ministries.** The ministries which received the highest scores were the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Child Care, and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. The ministries which received the lowest scores were the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.
- » **When we searched for the underlying evidence used to understand a policy issue, half of the policies assessed received very low scores.** The diagnosis section asks: what do policymakers know about the issue? When we assessed what evidence had been used and the role it had played in this section, 53% of policies received a 0, while 31% of policies received a 1. In other words, policies either failed to mention any underlying evidence (a 0), or mentioned evidence but with no citation to track down the source (a 1). Only eight policies received a score of 2, and a single policy received a score of 3.
- » **When we searched for evidence about why an intervention was selected, a majority of policies scored poorly.** The proposal section asks: what is the government's chosen intervention and why was it chosen? 80% of policies received a 0. Only seven policies received a score of 1, and four policies received a score of 2.
- » **When we searched for evidence about how (and why) the chosen intervention would be rolled out, a majority of policies scored poorly.** The implementation section asks: how will the chosen intervention be rolled out, and why was this method chosen? 78% of policies received a 0. Only seven policies received a score of 1, and five policies received a score of 2.
- » **Policies scored poorly in the testing and evaluation section.** The testing and evaluation sections asks: how and when will we know if the policy has worked? 82% of policies received a 0 in this section. Among the ten remaining policies, nine policies received a 1, and a single policy received a score of 2.
- » **There were only two policies which scored at least a 1 at minimum in each section.** The Ministry of Forests' *Christie Mountain fire closes wildlife area* and the Ministry of Health's *B.C. moves to Phase 2 of COVID-19 immunization plan, protects seniors* scored at least a 1 across the diagnosis, proposal, implementation, and testing and evaluation sections.
- » **A total of 19 policies, across nine ministries, scored poorly (i.e., received a 0 for every section of the transparency framework).**
- » **Policies rarely assessed their evidence base critically across the four sections (diagnosis, proposal, implementation, or testing and evaluation).** A 3 indicates that

the criteria for a 1 and 2 were met (i.e., evidence is mentioned and properly cited, with an explanation of how it was used), and that there was also consideration of alternate options, uncertainties, and contradictions within the policy. Across all assessments, there was only a single policy which received a score of 3 – the diagnosis section of the Ministry of Forests’ *Christie Mountain fire closes wildlife area* policy.

### Ministry of Agriculture and Food

	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
New food hub to strengthen food security in Fraser Valley	0	0	0	0
Over \$5M in clean tech funding for British Columbia fisheries and aquaculture projects	0	0	1	0
New life to be breathed into Elk and Beaver lakes	1	0	0	0
Minister’s statement on Day of the Honey Bee in B.C.	0	0	0	1
Focus on the farm a priority in COVID-19 recovery	1	0	1	0

### Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

NVIT to train more community mental health workers	0	0	0	0
Financial flexibility supports post-secondary sector	0	0	0	0
Okanagan students to benefit from greener, more affordable housing	1	0	0	1
Protecting students at private training institutions	2	2	2	0
Funding to support Camosun with film studio educational planning	0	0	0	1

	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
<b>Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation</b>				
Funding supports businesses to launch online	1	0	0	0
Island Coastal Economic Trust expands to more communities	1	1	0	0
New grant program helps set up B.C. manufacturers for growth, innovation	0	0	0	0
Increased funding, expanded eligibility to help almost 20,000 businesses	0	0	0	0
Board of directors appointed in INBC Investment Corp.	0	0	0	0
<b>Ministry of Education and Child Care</b>				
New school, child care spaces coming for Abbotsford families	1	0	0	1
Construction begins on more classrooms for Hammond Bay students	1	0	0	1
Safer school with mental health programs under construction in Saanich	1	0	0	0
Temporary École élémentaire Beausoleil to welcome students in September	0	0	1	1
More seismically safe schools start for Surrey students	1	0	2	0
<b>Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation</b>				
Legacy sites restoration program cleans up environment, supports good jobs	1	0	0	1
EV skills training now available at three additional colleges	0	1	0	0
EV skills training to be offered at College of New Caledonia	0	0	0	0
Innovative building technologies to be proven in northern B.C	0	0	0	0
Province extends bill supports for BC Hydro customers in financial crisis	0	1	0	0

	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
<b>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy</b>				
Working to take care of parks in the Okanagan, Kootenays	1	0	0	0
Working to take care of parks in northern B.C.	1	0	0	0
BC Parks projects support economic recovery	1	0	0	0
New conservancy recognizes cultural significance to First Nations	0	0	0	0
Watershed, wetland projects create jobs, protect environment	0	0	0	0
<b>Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations &amp; Rural Development</b>				
Recovery grants support jobs in rural communities	0	0	0	0
'Namgis, Province partner as stewards of lands, resources	0	0	0	0
Forest agreement to benefit First Nation, community	0	0	0	0
Christie Mountain fire closes wildlife area	3	1	1	1
Grants to reduce wildfire risks around northwestern communities	0	0	1	0
<b>Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport</b>				
Funding approved for local sports organizations in the Lower Mainland	1	0	0	0
Funding approved for local sports organizations in the North	1	0	0	0
Celebrate Family Day safely with loved ones	0	0	0	0
B.C.'s music industry gets an encore	0	1	0	0
Supporting Indigenous tourism businesses through recovery	2	2	0	0

<b>Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions</b>	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
Funds support access to addictions treatment, recovery services during COVID-19	0	0	0	0
Island's rural, remote Indigenous communities receive grants to address overdose	2	2	2	0
Expanding vital mental health, substance use services to help young people thrive	2	0	0	0
Expanded mental health supports for women affected by trauma, violence	1	0	0	0
New resources to help children, teens cope with anxiety	0	0	0	0

<b>Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure</b>	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
Median barriers to boost safety on section of Okanagan Highway	0	0	0	0
New program to help students get moving	2	2	2	0
West Fraser Road construction begins this spring	1	0	1	0
South coast airports to receive essential upgrades	0	0	0	0
Major upgrades to Coquihalla washrooms to benefit travellers	0	0	0	0

<b>Ministry of Health</b>	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates	2	0	0	0
B.C. moves to Phase 2 of COVID-19 immunization plan, protects seniors	2	1	1	2
Next steps taken for new Cowichan District Hospital	0	1	0	1
New vaccine schedule invites those 18+ to register this week	2	0	0	0
Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates	0	0	2	0



### 3.3 Government of Saskatchewan: Transparency Assessments

For the six Saskatchewan ministries included in this study, there were a total of 383 policies announced between January 1st to June 30th 2021. Upon vetting for eligible policies and ministries (i.e., policies which met our criteria, as outlined in **section 2.1**), a total of 148 policies remained. Next, three policies were randomly selected from each eligible ministry, leading to an assessment of the transparency of evidence usage in a total of 18 policies, across 6 ministries, from the Government of Saskatchewan (**Appendix**).

**Overall, our assessment found that policies scored very poorly on the transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it's very difficult for those in Saskatchewan to find the evidence behind provincial policies.**

Our findings indicate:

- » **Transparency scores were consistently poor across different ministries.**
- » **When we searched for the underlying evidence used to understand a policy issue, a majority of policies scored very poorly.** The diagnosis section asks: what do policymakers know about the issue? When we assessed what evidence had been used and the role it had played in this section, 88.9% of policies received a 0 (i.e. no evidence was mentioned), while 11% of policies received a 1. In other words, a majority of policies either failed to mention any underlying evidence (a 0), while the remaining few mentioned evidence but with no citation to track down the source (a 1). No policies received a score of 2 or 3.
- » **When we searched for evidence about why an intervention was selected, all policies scored very poorly.** The proposal section asks: what is the government's chosen intervention and why was it chosen? In this section, all policies received a 0.
- » **When we searched for evidence about how (and why) the chosen intervention would be rolled out, all policies scored poorly.** The implementation section asks: how will the chosen intervention be rolled out, and why was this method chosen? Here, all policies received a 0.
- » **Policies scored very poorly in the testing and evaluation section.** The testing and evaluation sections asks: how and when will we know if the policy has worked? 94% of policies received a 0 in this section. The remaining policies received a 1.
- » **15 of the 18 policies, across all six ministries, scored poorly (i.e., received a 0 for every section of the transparency framework).**
- » **Policies did not assess their evidence base critically across the four sections (diagnosis, proposal, implementation, or testing and evaluation).** Across all assessments, there was no policy which received a score of 3. A 3 indicates that the criteria for a 1 and 2 were met (i.e., evidence is mentioned and properly cited, with an explanation of how it was used), and that there was also consideration of alternate options, uncertainties, and contradictions within the policy.

	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
<b>Ministry of Agriculture</b>				
Food Centre Expansion Will Support Saskatchewan's Value-Added Agriculture Sector	0	0	0	0
Additional Funding Supports Immediate Irrigation Expansion in Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0
Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan Invest in Pulse Starch Research	0	0	0	0
<b>Ministry of Education</b>				
Province Proclaims Agriculture Literacy Month	0	0	0	0
Safe Schools Plan: Nearly \$29 Million Allocated In Third Round Of Contingency Funding For Schools	0	0	0	0
Government of Saskatchewan Growing Access to Family Resources in Saskatchewan With New Centres in Estevan and Humboldt	0	0	0	1
<b>Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport</b>				
Parks, Culture and Sport Budget Builds on Government's Commitment to Families, Veterans and Park Infrastructure	0	0	0	0
Government Grows Support For Veterans	0	0	0	0
Saskatchewan Kids Return To Play	0	0	0	0
<b>Ministry of Health</b>				
Minister Announces New eHealth Board Of Directors, Independent Review Of Governance, Management And Program Operations	0	0	0	0
Ombudsman Formally Requested to Investigate Extendicare Parkside Outbreak	1	0	0	0
Construction of New Hemodialysis Unit at Meadow Lake Hospital Set to Begin	0	0	0	0

<b>Ministry of Highways</b>	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
Additional Stimulus Dollars Will Improve Rural Roads And Bridges While Contributing To Economic Recovery	0	0	0	0
North Dakota and Saskatchewan Sign Agreement to Vaccinate Essential Workers	0	0	0	0
Municipalities To Receive \$25.7 Million In Support Through Rural Integrated Roads For Growth Program	0	0	0	0

<b>Ministry of Trade and Export Development</b>	Diagnosis	Proposal	Implementation	Testing & Evaluation
Government Announces Caps on Food Delivery Fees	0	0	0	0
Innovation Saskatchewan Supporting the Growth of Agricultural Technology	0	0	0	0
Increased Funding to Support Saskatchewan's Female Founders	1	0	0	0

### 3.4 A comparison of transparency scores across the Eyes on Evidence series

Previously, in *Eyes On Evidence II*, we assessed a total of 100 federal policies, and found that policies scored low on the transparency of evidence usage.<sup>30</sup> There are differences between *Eyes on Evidence II* and *III*, such as the fact that more federal policies were assessed, and that federal policies tend to concern matters of national interest, rather than a regional or local nature. However, our transparency framework allows for comparison between different areas of policy, and different levels of government.

**Overall, the transparency of evidence usage fared slightly better in federal policies, though there were several similar trends in both federal and provincial assessments.**

In particular, we note that:

- » **Compared to federal policies, more provincial policies scored poorly (i.e. received a score of 0) when it came to the diagnosis, proposal and implementation sections.** Across the three provinces, a total of 61 policies scored poorly, while only 19 federal policies received a 0 across every section. There were three federal policies, and three provincial policies (one from Ontario, two from British Columbia) which scored at least a 1 at minimum in each section.
- » **Federal policies scored more poorly in the testing and evaluation section.** 94% of federal policies received a 0 in this section, as did 94% of policies issued from the Government of Saskatchewan. In contrast, only 73% of Ontarian, and 82% of British Columbian policies received a 0 in this section.

- » **A score of 3 was rare in both federal and provincial assessments.** A 3 indicates that evidence is mentioned and properly cited, with an explanation of how it was used, as well as consideration of alternate options, uncertainties, and contradictions within the policy. In our federal transparency assessments, no federal policy received a score of 3 in any of the four sections. Among the provinces, only two policies (one in Ontario, the second in British Columbia) received a score of 3 in a single section.

### 3.5 Common transparency shortcomings

Our assessment demonstrates that while there were some examples of good practice, there were shared shortcomings across provincial policy announcements.

Similar to *Eyes On Evidence II*, we found that:

- » **Sharing the evidence considered in the decision-making process, with referencing, is key to higher scores.** Too often, policies would either mention none of the underlying evidence behind the issue or proposed intervention at hand, or would fail to provide a reference or citation for any evidence mentioned. In some cases, hyperlinks were broken, despite the fact that all of the policies we assessed were announced last year, in 2021. Properly citing and linking evidence is the key to higher assessment scores, and crucial for the public to understand and explore the rationale behind a policy decision. The transparency framework requires evidence to be cited, linked to the relevant policy, and to be findable. This can be achieved via in-text citations, a reference list, or hyperlinks, and can be qualitative or quantitative.

- » **Often, in the diagnosis section, evidence was mentioned that was not relevant to the issue being addressed by the policy decision.** In the diagnosis section of the transparency framework, we begin by identifying the issue that needs to be addressed, and assess whether there is evidence to answer the question: what do policy-makers know about the issue (e.g., causes, effects and scale)? But too often, in provincial policies, unrelated evidence was being shared, or the shared evidence was broadly related but not specific to the policy decision. For example, in a policy announcement titled “Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs”, Ontario’s Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development invested “\$7.7 million in language and skills training supports to help 2,700 newcomers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic start new jobs.”<sup>31</sup> There were statistics provided (with no supporting sources) regarding the high rate of job loss among immigrants, but no evidence pointing towards language barriers as the cause.
- » **A majority of policies scored very poorly (i.e., received a 0) in the testing and evaluation section,** and did not mention any plans for evaluation, let alone cite underlying evidence. While we are aware that policies are subject to refinement after an initial announcement, the first release of a policy is when the public, as well as the media, stakeholders, and other elected officials, have their first opportunity to examine the policy.<sup>29</sup> Testing and evaluation is important to determine how, and when, we will know if a policy has worked. It is a necessary step for future decisions about renewing, redesigning, or eliminating policy interventions.
- » **Policies rarely explored the merits of alternative policy options, or acknowledged any absent, weak or contradictory evidence.** While properly citing and linking evidence is the first step, it is also important for policy-makers to critically assess the evidence they are choosing to use. This includes considering alternate policy options, as well as addressing any uncertainties, gaps or contradictions that may be present in the evidence base used to formulate the policy.
- » **Plain language is key in policy announcements, but policy-makers can still use plain language while transparently sharing the evidence used to make decisions.** Provincial policies from the Government of British Columbia were often difficult to assess in part due to confusing language (e.g., conflicting verb tenses), making it hard to discern whether a policy announcement was truly a change in the status quo (i.e., a policy change). In particular, for the Ministry for Health, we chose to discard joint statements which referred to a new policy change that had been announced in a separate policy announcement on the same day. In contrast, policies issued by the Government of Saskatchewan were very easy to read, but rarely mentioned the underlying evidence, and lacked features common to policy announcements from Ontario and British Columbia (such as ‘Quick Facts’, a ‘Backgrounder’ or a list of associated links or resources).

# Conclusions

This is the third report in our Eyes on Evidence series, where we have been evaluating the transparency of evidence usage in government policy decisions in Canada. In this report, we found that provincial policies scored low on the transparency of evidence usage, meaning that it's very difficult for people living in Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan to find the evidence behind provincial policy.

Taken altogether, our Eyes on Evidence series finds that policy-making across the Canadian federation fares poorly when it comes to the transparency of evidence usage. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has freshly demonstrated the power and peril of the many interconnected governments within a federated system. Improving openness between governments can help optimize the strength of the federation, without which Canadian governments risk retreating to the confines of their jurisdictions. This may be ambitious, but communicating about evidence used to make policy decisions shouldn't be a bonus to be added on when time and resources permit. Instead, transparency in policy-making, across different levels of government, can plant a new seed for improving the relationship across the different policy contexts in Canada that properly reflects the national breadth and regional depths of our federated system.

While our report is an important next step towards providing the public with the necessary information to hold elected officials accountable, we recognize that our transparency framework is not a perfect measure (**section 1.3**). For example, we recognize that if the evidence behind a policy decision cannot be found, it doesn't mean that the evidence doesn't exist, or that it wasn't considered in the policy-making process. We also note that for several provinces, we were unable to collect sufficient policy announcements to carry out transparency assessments. This is an insurmountable barrier to applying the transparency framework.

Throughout the Eyes on Evidence series, we have found that, from the sidelines, it is difficult to discern whether government systems, structures, and resources are in fact delivering on their commitment to implement evidence-informed and transparent policy-making to its full extent. Amid this series, we have spoken with public servants, political staffers and elected representatives to discuss the findings from our research, and explore what challenges or barriers exist when it comes to transparency in policy-making. Now, with the launch of *Eyes on Evidence III*, we will reach out to the governments of Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan to understand what internal challenges exist at the provincial level, and how this differs from the federal level. We look forward to sharing key insights from both our federal and provincial discussions soon, as well as a compilation of best practices and ways for governments within the federation to improve transparency.

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# Appendix: List of Policies Assessed

## 6.1 Ontario

### Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

- 1 *Ontario Delivering Support to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies*. 26 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60107/ontario-delivering-support-to-agricultural-and-horticultural-societies>
- 2 *Expanding Access to Broadband in Wellington County*. 28 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60155/expanding-access-to-broadband-in-wellington-county>
- 3 *Ontario Improves Commodity Loan Guarantee Program*. 11 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60322/ontario-improves-commodity-loan-guarantee-program>
- 4 *Ontario Helps Farmers and Agri-food Operators Keep Workers Safe During COVID-19*. 8 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61059/ontario-helps-farmers-and-agri-food-operators-keep-workers-safe-during-covid-19>
- 5 *Expanding Access to Broadband in Middlesex County*. 17 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000139/expanding-access-to-broadband-in-middlesex-county>

### Ministry of Colleges and Universities

- 1 *Ontario Names Special Advisor to Support Laurentian University*. 1 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/60200/ontario-names-special-advisor-to-support-laurentian-university>
- 2 *Ontario Expands Financial Assistance to Include Micro-credentials*. 18 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60792/ontario-expands-financial-assistance-to-include-micro-credentials>
- 3 *Ontario Invests in New and Expanded Rapid Training Program*. 23 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61236/ontario-invests-in-new-and-expanded-rapid-training-programs>
- 4 *Ontario Supports Innovation in Virtual Learning*. 17 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000144/ontario-supports-innovation-in-virtual-learning>
- 5 *Ontario Invests in Research and Innovation*. 29 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000443/ontario-invests-in-research-and-innovation>

### Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

- 1 *Ontario Investing in Peterborough-Based Producer of Hand Sanitizer and Disinfectant Bottles*. 18 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59986/ontario-investing-in-peterborough-based-producer-of-hand-sanitizer-and-disinfectant-bottles>
- 2 *Ontario Supports the Development of the Next Generation of PPE*. 26 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60103/ontario-supports-the-development-of-the-next-generation-of-ppe>

- 3 *Ontario Supports Air Monitoring Technology to Better Protect People from COVID-19*. 4 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60230/ontario-supports-air-monitoring-technology-to-better-protect-people-from-covid-19>
- 4 *Province Appoints Board of Directors of Invest Ontario*. 19 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60841/province-appoints-board-of-directors-of-invest-ontario>
- 5 *Ontario Supports Local Manufacturing of Disinfectant during COVID-19*. 7 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61018/ontario-supports-local-manufacturing-of-disinfectant-during-covid-19>

## Ministry of Education

- 1 *Ontario Provides Funding for Autism Training*. 10 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59909/ontario-provides-funding-for-autism-training>
- 2 *Ontario Delays March Break in an Effort to Reduce Community Transmission of COVID-19*. 11 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/60325/ontario-delays-march-break-in-an-effort-to-reduce-community-transmission-of-covid-19>
- 3 *Ontario Takes Action to Support Working Families and Improve Child Care*. 26 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60465/ontario-takes-action-to-support-working-families-and-improve-child-care>
- 4 *Additional Protections for Schools to Keep Students and Staff Safe*. 8 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61052/additional-protections-for-schools-to-keep-students-and-staff-safe>
- 5 *Ontario Acting to Combat Anti-Asian Racism in Schools*. 12 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000111/ontario-acting-to-combat-anti-asian-racism-in-schools>

## Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- 1 *Ontario Enhancing Protection for Species at Risk*. 5 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59869/ontario-enhancing-protection-for-species-at-risk>
- 2 *Ontario Expanding the Protection and Preservation of Green Spaces*. 15 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60714/ontario-expanding-the-protection-and-preservation-of-green-spaces>
- 3 *Ontario Protecting the Health of the Muskoka River Watershed*. 20 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61220/ontario-protecting-the-health-of-the-muskoka-river-watershed>
- 4 *Ontario Providing More Relief for Tourism Industry*. 14 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000128/ontario-providing-more-relief-for-tourism-industry>
- 5 *Ontario Investing in Significant Wetland Restoration Projects*. 16 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000353/ontario-investing-in-significant-wetland-restoration-projects>

## Ministry of Health

- 1 *Ontario Deploys Rapid Tests to More Essential Workplaces and Settings*. 12 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60337/ontario-deploys-rapid-tests-to-more-essential-workplaces-and-settings>
- 2 *Ontario Supporting Children and Youth with Complex Mental Health and Addictions Needs*. 27 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60491/ontario-supporting-children-and-youth-with-complex-mental-health-and-addictions-needs>

- 3 *Ontario Expanding Access to Dental Care and Affordable Prescription Drugs for Vulnerable Seniors*. 11 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000095/ontario-expanding-access-to-dental-care-and-affordable-prescription-drugs-for-vulnerable-seniors>
- 4 *Ontario Accelerates Second Doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine*. 12 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000329/ontario-accelerates-second-doses-of-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>
- 5 *Ontario Launching New \$30 Million Surgical Innovation Fund*. 23 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000392/ontario-launching-new-30-million-surgical-innovation-fund>

## Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

- 1 *Province Supports Ontario Heritage Trust during COVID-19*. 16 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60357/province-supports-ontario-heritage-trust-during-covid-19>
- 2 *Ontario Continues Investing in Innovative Festivals and Events*. 19 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60390/ontario-continues-investing-in-innovative-festivals-and-events>
- 3 *Ontario Provides Significant Financial Support to the Arts Sector During COVID-19*. 2 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60515/ontario-provides-significant-financial-support-to-the-arts-sector>
- 4 *Ontario Supporting Tourism and Culture in the GTA*. 3 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60526/ontario-supporting-tourism-and-culture-in-the-gta>
- 5 *Ontario Supports Tourism, Culture, Sport and Recreation Organizations*. 16 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60724/ontario-supports-tourism-culture-sport-and-recreation-organizations>

## Ministry of Infrastructure

- 1 *Canada and Ontario invest to improve recreation infrastructure in Brampton*. 9 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60270/canada-and-ontario-invest-to-improve-recreation-infrastructure-in-brampton>
- 2 *Canada and Ontario invest in improved facilities for the Boys & Girls Club of Brantford*. 18 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60373/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-improved-facilities-for-the-boys-girls-club-of-brantford>
- 3 *Canada and Ontario Invest in the Renovation and Expansion of the Kanata Recreation Centre in Ottawa*. 8 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61064/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-the-renovation-and-expansion-of-the-kanata-recreation-centre-in-ottawa>
- 4 *Canada and Ontario Invest in Improved Community, Culture and Recreational Infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario*. 9 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/61072/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-improved-community-culture-and-recreational-infrastructure-in-southwestern-ontario>
- 5 *Canada and Ontario invest \$15 million in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in Northern Ontario*. 7 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000276/canada-and-ontario-invest-15-million-in-municipal-infrastructure-to-respond-to-the-impacts-of-covid-19-in-northern-ontario>

## Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

- 1 *Over 1,000 Stores Visited during Ontario's COVID-19 Inspection Blitz*. 29 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60163/over-1000-stores-visited-during-ontarios-covid-19-inspection-blitz>

- 2 *Ontario Training Students for Medical Technology Careers*. 1 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000241/ontario-training-students-for-medical-technology-careers>
- 3 *Ontario Makes it Easier to Start a Career in the Skilled Trades*. 2 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/1000253/ontario-makes-it-easier-to-start-a-career-in-the-skilled-trades>
- 4 *Ontario Preparing Students for Skilled Trades and Technology Careers*. 3 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000257/ontario-preparing-students-for-skilled-trades-and-technology-careers>
- 5 *Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs*. 29 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000432/ontario-helping-immigrants-prepare-for-good-jobs>

## Ministry of Long-Term Care

- 1 *Ontario Launches Pilot Program to Train Personal Support Workers*. 21 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60060/ontario-launches-pilot-program-to-train-personal-support-workers>
- 2 *Ontario Supports Management Agreement Between The Ross Memorial Hospital and Caressant Care on McLaughlin Road*. 23 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60425/ontario-supports-management-agreement-between-the-ross-memorial-hospital-and-caressant-care-on-mclaughlin-road>
- 3 *Ontario adding 2,000 nurses to the health care system*. 14 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000132/ontario-adding-2000-nurses-to-the-health-care-system>
- 4 *Ontario Opening Up Outdoor Visits for Long-Term Care*. 21 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000182/ontario-opening-up-outdoor-visits-for-long-term-care>

- 5 *Ontario Keeping Seniors in Long-Term Care Homes Cool this Summer*. 27 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000204/ontario-keeping-seniors-in-long-term-care-homes-cool-this-summer>

## Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

- 1 *Ontario Supporting Forestry Jobs and Worker Safety*. 6 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59878/ontario-supporting-forestry-jobs-and-worker-safety>
- 2 *Ontario Supporting Resource-Based Tourism Jobs*. 1 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60972/ontario-supporting-resource-based-tourism-jobs>
- 3 *Ontario Helps Build Winter Roads in the Far North*. 14 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59954/ontario-helps-build-winter-roads-in-the-far-north>
- 4 *Ontario Takes Steps to Further Protect Nipissing Region Businesses from COVID-19*. 12 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60670/ontario-takes-steps-to-further-protect-nipissing-region-businesses-from-covid-19>
- 5 *Ontario Releases Draft Forest Biomass Action Plan*. 6 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000077/ontario-releases-draft-forest-biomass-action-plan>

## Ministry of Transportation

- 1 *Ontario Restarting Passenger Road Tests in Most DriveTest Centres Across the Province*. 12 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60340/ontario-restarting-passenger-road-tests-in-most-drivetest-centres-across-the-province>
- 2 *Ontario Increases Support for Transit Across the Province*. 1 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60496/ontario-increases-support-for-transit-across-the-province>

- 3 *Ontario Awards Contract for Highway 17B Improvements*. 11 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000287/ontario-awards-contract-for-highway-17b-improvements>
- 4 *Ontario to Officially Open New Bloomington GO Station*. 16 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000355/ontario-to-officially-open-new-bloomington-go-station>
- 5 *Ontario Releases Discussion Paper to Improve Transportation Vision for Greater Golden Horseshoe*. 29 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000444/ontario-releases-discussion-paper-to-improve-transportation-vision-for-greater-golden-horseshoe>

## 6.2 British Columbia

### Ministry of Agriculture and Food

- 1 *New food hub to strengthen food security in Fraser Valley*. 24 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AFF0019-000274>
- 2 *Over \$5M in clean tech funding for British Columbia fisheries and aquaculture projects*. 7 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/over-5m-in-clean-tech-funding-for-british-columbia-fisheries-and-aquaculture-projects>
- 3 *New life to be breathed into Elk and Beaver lakes*. 4 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AFF0034-000801>
- 4 *Minister's statement on Day of the Honey Bee in B.C.* 29 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AFF0037-001029>
- 5 *Focus on the farm a priority in COVID-19 recovery*. 14 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AFF0039-001145>

### Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

- 1 *NVIT to train more community mental health workers*. 18 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AEST0002-000063>
- 2 *Financial flexibility supports post-secondary sector*. 12 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AEST0013-000260>
- 3 *Okanagan students to benefit from greener, more affordable housing*. 5 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AEST0014-000395>
- 4 *Protecting students at private training institutions*. 10 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AEST0036-000809>
- 5 *Funding to support Camosun with film studio educational planning*. 10 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AEST0032-000687>

### Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

- 1 *Funding supports businesses to launch online*. 3 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0009-000194>
- 2 *Island Coastal Economic Trust expands to more communities*. 16 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0014-000278>
- 3 *New grant program helps set up B.C. manufacturers for growth, innovation*. 1 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0024-000609>
- 4 *Increased funding, expanded eligibility to help almost 20,000 businesses*. 26 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0031-000770>

- 5 *Board of directors appointed in INBC Investment Corp.* 6 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0032-000854>

## Ministry of Education and Child Care

- 1 *New school, child care spaces coming for Abbotsford families.* 26 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0006-000133>
- 2 *Construction begins on more classrooms for Hammond Bay students.* 9 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0012-000228>
- 3 *Safer school with mental health programs under construction in Saanich.* 10 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0019-000429>
- 4 *Temporary École élémentaire Beausoleil to welcome students in September.* 23 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0022-000529>
- 5 *More seismically safe schools start for Surrey students.* 7 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0037-001083>

## Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation

- 1 *Legacy sites restoration program cleans up environment, supports good jobs.* 17 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EMLI0021-000486>
- 2 *EV skills training now available at three additional colleges.* 29 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EMLI0028-000568>
- 3 *EV skills training to be offered at College of New Caledonia.* 29 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EMLI0029-000569>

- 4 *Innovative building technologies to be proven in northern B.C.* 31 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EMLI0037-001015>

- 5 *Province extends bill supports for BC Hydro customers in financial crisis.* 22 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EMLI0043-001196>

## Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

- 1 *Working to take care of parks in the Okanagan, Kootenays.* 22 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021ENV0009-000102>
- 2 *Working to take care of parks in northern B.C.* 22 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021ENV0008-000101>
- 3 *BC Parks projects support economic recovery.* 22 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021ENV0011-000112>
- 4 *New conservancy recognizes cultural significance to First Nations.* 12 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021ENV0014-000249>
- 5 *Watershed, wetland projects create jobs, protect environment.* 15 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021ENV0020-000463>

## Ministry of Forests

- 1 *Recovery grants support jobs in rural communities.* 23 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021FLNRO0010-000310>
- 2 *'Namgis, Province partner as stewards of lands, resources.* 25 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021FLNRO0014-000323>

- 3 *Forest agreement to benefit First Nation, community.* 11 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021FLNRO0017-000431>
- 4 *Christie Mountain fire closes wildlife area.* 12 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021FLNRO0033-000893>
- 5 *Grants to reduce wildfire risks around northwestern communities.* 30 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021FLNRO0047-001232>

## Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

- 1 *Funding approved for local sports organizations in the Lower Mainland.* 21 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TACS0008-000094>
- 2 *Funding approved for local sports organizations in the North.* 21 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TACS0004-000090>
- 3 *Celebrate Family Day safely with loved ones.* 9 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TACS0011-000229>
- 4 *B.C.'s music industry gets an encore.* 13 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TACS0026-000695>
- 5 *Supporting Indigenous tourism businesses through recovery.* 26 May 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TACS0039-000975>

## Ministry of Health

- 1 *Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates.* 18 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0004-000074>

- 2 *B.C. moves to Phase 2 of COVID-19 immunization plan, protects seniors.* 1 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PREM0015-000355>
- 3 *Next steps taken for new Cowichan District Hospital.* 1 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0024-000627>
- 4 *New vaccine schedule invites those 18+ to register this week.* 18 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0077-000736>
- 5 *Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates.* 27 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0030-000779>

## Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

- 1 *Funds support access to addictions treatment, recovery services during COVID-19.* 28 January 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MMHA0002-000144>
- 2 *Island's rural, remote Indigenous communities receive grants to address overdose.* 1 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MMHA0014-000617>
- 3 *Expanding vital mental health, substance use services to help young people thrive.* 26 April 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MMHA0019-000769>
- 4 *Expanded mental health supports for women affected by trauma, violence.* 22 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MMHA0028-001203>
- 5 *New resources to help children, teens cope with anxiety.* 30 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MMHA0029-001247>

## Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

- 1 *Median barriers to boost safety on section of Okanagan Highway.* 8 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TRAN0016-000203>
- 2 *New program to help students get moving.* 11 February 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TRAN0014-000243>
- 3 *West Fraser Road construction begins this spring.* 11 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TRAN0020-000435>
- 4 *South coast airports to receive essential upgrades.* 18 March 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TRAN0040-000493>
- 5 *Major upgrades to Coquihalla washrooms to benefit travellers.* 17 June 2021. Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TRAN0090-001176>

## 6.3 Saskatchewan

### Ministry of Agriculture

- 1 *Food Centre Expansion Will Support Saskatchewan's Value-Added Agriculture Sector.* 4 May 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/may/04/food-centre-expansion-will-support-saskatchewans-value-added-agriculture-sector>
- 2 *Additional Funding Supports Immediate Irrigation Expansion in Saskatchewan.* 2 June 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/june/02/additional-funding-supports-immediate-irrigation-expansion-in-saskatchewan>

- 3 *Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan Invest in Pulse Starch Research.* 22 June 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/june/22/governments-of-canada-and-saskatchewan-invest-in-pulse-starch-research>

### Ministry of Education

- 1 *Province Proclaims Agriculture Literacy Month.* 1 March 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/march/01/province-proclaims-agriculture-literacy-month>
- 2 *Safe Schools Plan: Nearly \$29 Million Allocated In Third Round Of Contingency Funding For Schools.* 11 March 2021. Available at: [https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/march/11/safe-schools-plan-nearly-\\$29-million-allocated-in-third-round-of-contingency-funding-for-schools](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/march/11/safe-schools-plan-nearly-$29-million-allocated-in-third-round-of-contingency-funding-for-schools)
- 3 *Government of Saskatchewan Growing Access to Family Resources in Saskatchewan With New Centres in Estevan and Humboldt.* 12 April 2021. Available at: [https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/march/11/safe-schools-plan-nearly-\\$29-million-allocated-in-third-round-of-contingency-funding-for-schools](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/march/11/safe-schools-plan-nearly-$29-million-allocated-in-third-round-of-contingency-funding-for-schools)

### Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

- 1 *Parks, Culture and Sport Budget Builds on Government's Commitment to Families, Veterans and Park Infrastructure.* 6 April 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/april/06/parks-culture-and-sport-budget-builds-on-governments-commitment-to-families-veterans-and-park-infras>
- 2 *Government Grows Support For Veterans.* 15 April 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/april/15/applications-open-for-grants-to-support-veteran-service-clubs>



- 3 *Saskatchewan Kids Return To Play*. 31 May 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/may/31/saskatchewan-kids-return-to-play>

## Ministry of Health

- 1 *Minister Announces New eHealth Board Of Directors, Independent Review Of Governance, Management And Program Operations*. 12 January 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/january/12/minister-announces-new-ehealth-board-of-directors-independent-review-of-governance-management-and-pr>
- 2 *Ombudsman Formally Requested to Investigate Extendicare Parkside Outbreak*. 29 January 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/january/29/ombudsman-formally-requested-to-investigate-extendicare-parkside-outbreak>
- 3 *Construction of New Hemodialysis Unit at Meadow Lake Hospital Set to Begin*. 16 June 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/june/16/construction-of-new-hemodialysis-unit-at-meadow-lake-hospital-set-to-begin>

## Ministry of Highways

- 1 *Additional Stimulus Dollars Will Improve Rural Roads And Bridges While Contributing To Economic Recovery*. 10 March 2021. Available at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2021/march/10/additional-stimulus-dollars-will-improve-rural-roads-and-bridges-while-contributing-to-economic-reco>
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