

# What's the real story behind BC's education funding crisis?

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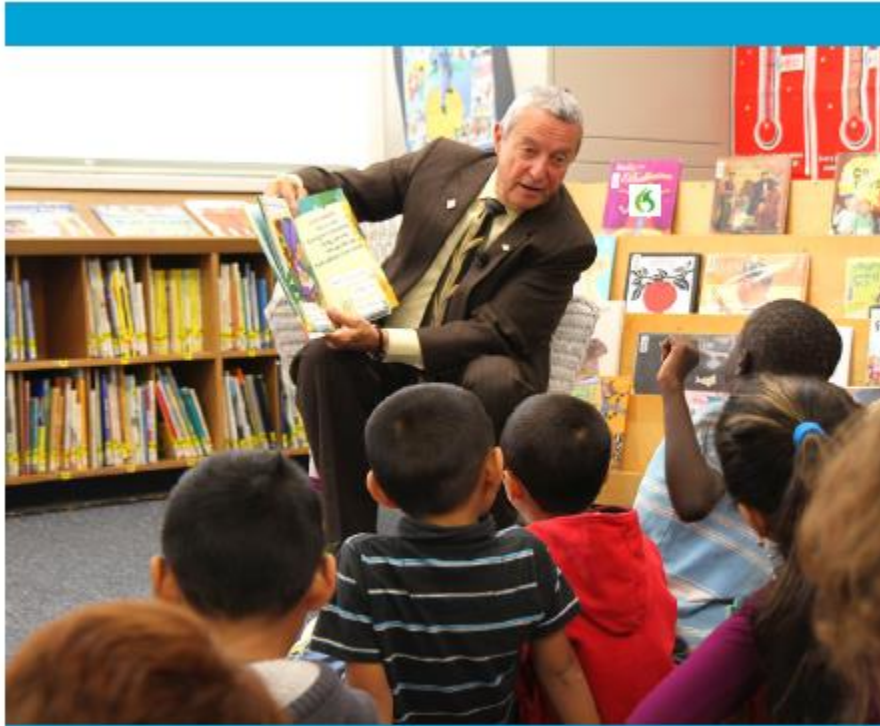
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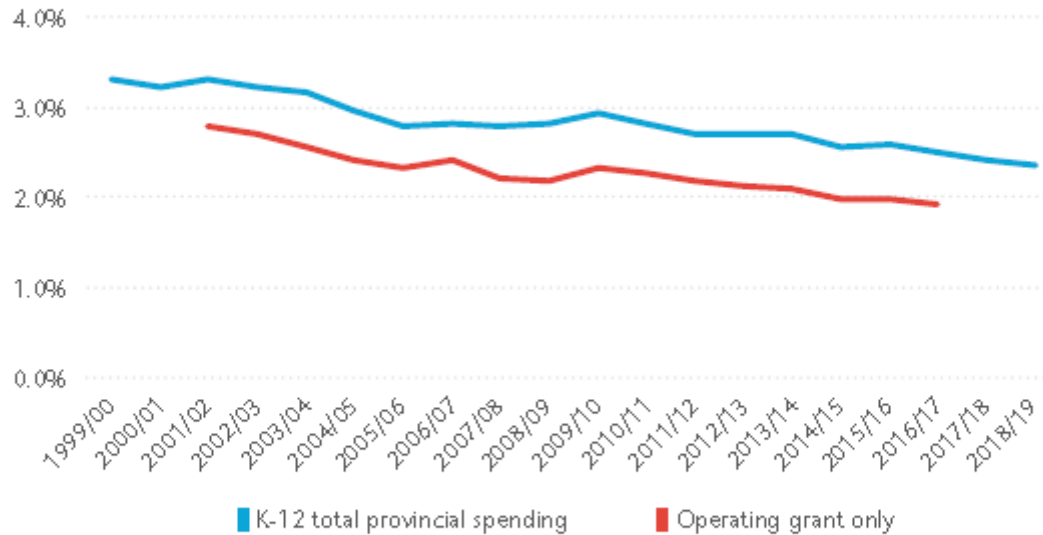
by Alex Hemingway

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# BC can afford to reinvest in public education

Figure 1: Provincial K-12 education spending as a share of the BC economy (% of GDP)

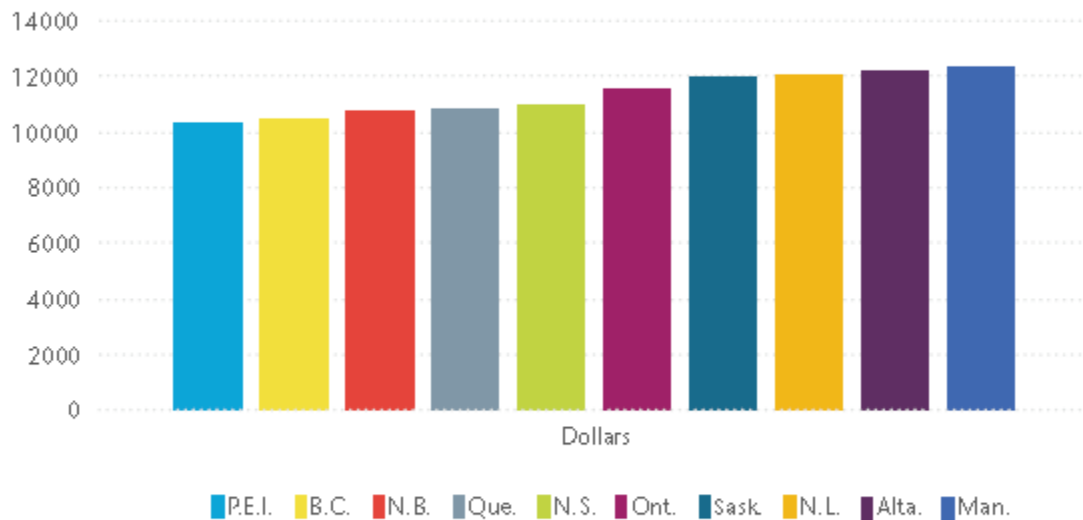


Source: 2015 BC Financial and Economic Review; 2016 BC Budget; BC K-12 Operating Grant summaries.

Note: 2017/18 and 2018/19 are forecasts from the 2016 BC Budget.

# BC compared to the rest of Canada

Figure 2: Per student spending in public elementary and secondary schools (2010/11)



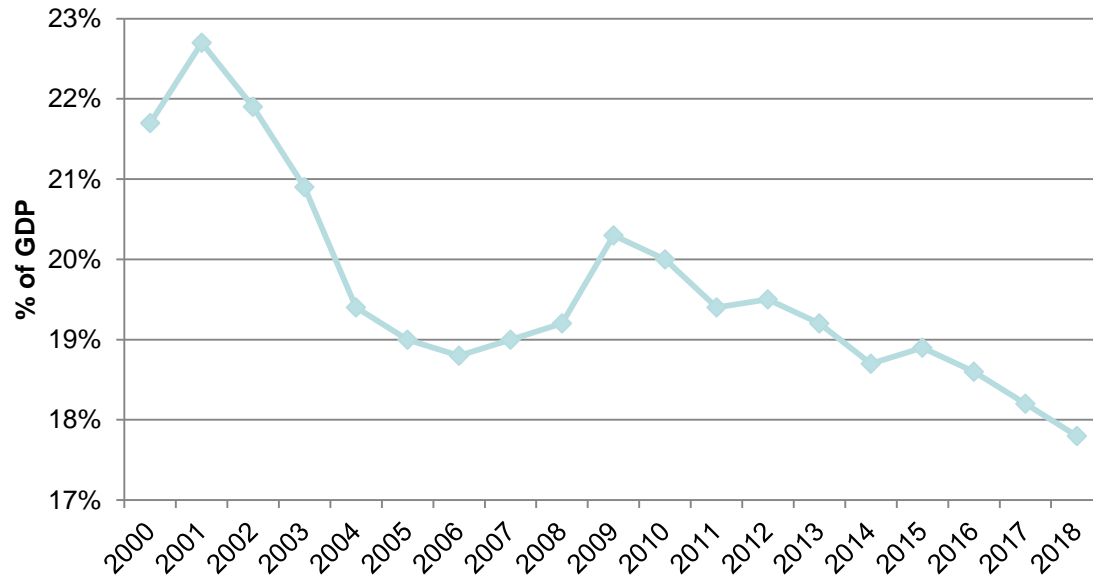
Source: Table 21. Operating expenditures per student in public elementary and secondary schools, "Summary Elementary and Secondary School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2006/2007 to 2010/2011," Statistics Canada.

## Cost pressures on school districts

- Besides inflation, the provincial government has downloaded an array of additional costs to local school districts
  - BC Hydro rates
  - Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums
  - WorkSafe BC rates
  - Carbon tax
  - Next Generation Network
  - And more...
- BC Association of School Business Officials estimated cost pressures at \$192 million for the 2014/15 school year.
- Provincial government directly controls many of these costs

# Underfunding and the art of the possible

**Provincial public spending as a proportion of the BC economy**



- <http://www.policynote.ca/possible/>

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