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Newfoundland	385.00
P.E.I.	380.00
Alberta	33.00

(Chet Bell, "Booming B.C.'s Funded Debt Estimated at \$1.41 Billion" Sun, November 19, 1966.)

If Alberta, with a low per capita debt of \$33.00, can manage, is it not possible for high per capita debt provinces to considerably reduce their funded debts and thus decrease the burden of taxation?

5. **DRUG COSTS**—"Also, according to a Yale study, we learn that at least:

- 30% of divorces
- 25% of all insanity
- 37% of all poverty
- 47% of all child misery
- 50% of all Crimes, and
- 50% of holiday traffic deaths

are caused by the use of alcohol." Listen, May, 1967 by John Walker, "I Dare you!"

In a recent financial statement distributed by the Nova Scotia Federation on Alcohol Problems, it was estimated that the cost of the alcohol tax dollar was \$7.36. The estimate included costs of alcohol associated traffic accidents, crime, insanity, incarceration of prisoners, poverty, absenteeism, alcohol treatment, alcoholism programmes, etc. "*A Study in Stupidity: Spend \$7.36 to get \$1.00*"

James H. Gray, writing for an Edmonton paper, and quoted in the Victoria Daily Times, May 8th, 1968, states "Over the past decade Royal Commissions have gone probing into most of the darkest nooks and deepest crannies of prairie life. There is one glaring exception. Nobody has paid the slightest attention to the blackest patch of all, which alcohol is causing. The cost socially and financially of misuse of alcohol is beyond computation." "*Counting the Costs of Prairie Alcoholism.*"

"In these modern days of economic stringency, Parliament should be required to direct its attention to this important issue and make the liquor traffic directly and specifically responsible for the discharge of its own financial obligations and no longer should it be permitted to shuffle out of them by placing the burden on the State. So states the Research Student Services, Britain, September 1966. "*Who Pays Liquor's Debts?*"

Listen Magazine, May 1967, points out that the "greatest toll exacted by the poverty makers is not

financial. It is human and spiritual, the appalling waste of human resources. Who can put a cost label on a man's genius, his self-respect, his health, his home, or perhaps his life, laid waste by beverage alcohol?" Ray, R.W. "Are Liquor Tax Dollars Profitable?"

Ray Hunt, General Manager of the B.C. Division of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, "in commenting on reports from Eastern Canada that shoplifters last year bilked Canadian retailers of about \$375 million worth of goods... said that the consumer and not the retailer is the final victim because losses become part of the cost of doing business, and must be added to merchandise markups."

Hunt further said, "B.C. merchants' losses to shoplifters would run close to the national average—nearly two per cent of gross sales—but that losses on the Lower Mainland would probably be fractionally higher than in the rest of B.C. This pattern, he added, would be partly attributable to the relatively higher drug-addict-shoplifter population in the larger centres than in the hinterlands. On the gross retail sales of \$2.5 billion in B.C. last year, shoplifters probably spirited about \$40 million worth of merchandise out of stores without paying." "Shoplifters List Cost of Goods." Sun, April 4, 1968.

In the 1962 Index of Crime report, by the *Narcotic Educational Foundation of America*, is the statement, "Your taxes and mine are infinitely higher because of the narcotic and crime problems. The billions now being spent for larger police Departments, jails, courts, penitentiaries, etc. are only a small part of the total cost of these evils. There are increased insurance premiums, higher prices and lower earnings on investments, plus many other losses you 'absorb' to pay your share of crime's cost. There are also millions of dollars directly lost each year to criminals by their victims. Billions of dollars raised by taxing the better citizens are spent to 'educate' youth who later cost additional billions to incarcerate *because of our neglect in teaching moral values.*" The cost of crime in Canada is an estimated \$400,000,000.00—Sun, March 29, 1967.

An article in the "Vancouver Sun" June 19, 1969, with the heading "14,000 Deaths In Year Blamed on Cigarettes", by Jan MacDonald, stated "Cigarette smoking took the lives of almost 14,000 Canadians, and rang up a health bill of about \$400 million in 1966, Health Minister John Munro said. The following figures listed was a breakdown compiled by the department: