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## **Ontario and Alberta Tops Human Development Index for Canadian Provinces and Territories**

**Press Release – Ottawa, August 31, 2017**

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) today released the report “The Human Development Index: Ranking the Provinces and Territories Internationally, 2000-2015: An Update.” The report provides estimates of the Human Development Index (HDI) for the Canadian provinces and territories for the 2000-2015 period. The HDI is an internationally recognized measure of socio-economic development developed by the United Nations Development Program based on three dimensions of well-being: income, education, and life expectancy.

Canada ranks an impressive tenth place in the international 2015 HDI rankings published in the most recent HDR released in March 2017. However, this ranking hides significant regional variations among the Canadian provinces and territories. This report aims to calculate an internationally comparable HDI for each of the Canadian provinces and territories in order to evaluate their respective levels of human development relative not only to each other and the Canadian average, but also to the rest of the world.

The key findings are highlighted below.

- In terms of the HDI, Alberta and Ontario tied for first among the provinces and territories in 2015 and Nunavut last;

- Canadians living in Alberta and Ontario enjoy a quality of life similar to those residing in Singapore or Denmark, while Canadians in Nunavut face a quality of life similar to Latvians or Argentineans.
- For life expectancy, British Columbia was the top region and Nunavut again ranked last;
- For average educational attainment; the Yukon had the highest among Canadian provinces and territories while Nunavut had the lowest;
- For expected years of schooling, Quebec ranked at the top and Nunavut came in last;
- For GNI per capita, Northwest Territories was in first place and Prince Edward Island was in last.
- Of the 188 countries in the most recent HDR rankings, Canada's provinces and territories ranked between fifth and 45<sup>th</sup> place in overall HDI; fourth and 103<sup>rd</sup> in life expectancy; second and 40<sup>th</sup> in average educational attainment; 13<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> in expected years of schooling; and second and 35<sup>th</sup> in GNI per capita.
- All provinces and territories experienced improvements in the HDI between 2000 and 2015. The two jurisdictions with the greatest improvement were Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut.

The report is posted at <http://www.csls.ca/reports/csls2017-06.pdf>.

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The Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) is a national, independent, Ottawa-based not-for-profit research organization. Its primary objective is to contribute to a better understanding of trends and determinants of productivity, living standards, and economic well-being in Canada through research.