



**2024–2025**

# REPORT TO SUPPORTERS

## IT'S ABOUT IDEAS



### Welcome to Parkland Institute's Annual Report for Supporters

In a time of increasing autocracy and power centralization, ideas matter. The ability of people to articulate, share, and openly question and discuss ideas is central to democracy and critical to advancing the public interest. Yet, as we navigate the multiple challenges facing our democracy, our elected leaders seem less interested in ideas than ever.

As mainstream media collapses and is replaced with platforms designed for misinformation and disinformation, evidence-based ideas and spaces for informed and respectful dialogue have become endangered species.

That is why Parkland Institute does what it does. Whether through our well-researched policy analysis and recommendations, our conferences and public presentations, or our public commentary on various issues, our work is fundamentally about ideas and creating spaces to discuss them.

In the last fiscal year, as this work grew more urgent, we published research and analysis on health care, labour rights, taxation and the economy, municipal finances, child care, and education. We spoke to Albertans about their public pension plan, surgical wait times, public-sector bargaining, education, and more. And we worked tirelessly to ensure everything we did reached a broad audience through mainstream media, social platforms, and our own networks.

We are thankful to all our supporters and volunteers for making it possible for us to not just research, share, and make space for a broad range of ideas, but also for doing your part to ensure those ideas reach as many Albertans — of all stripes — as possible.

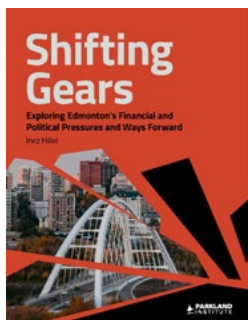
#### Get in touch:

[parklandinstitute.ca](https://parklandinstitute.ca)

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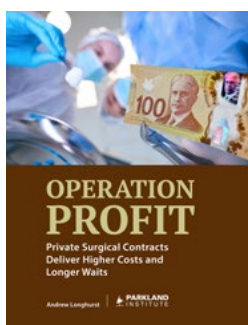
# RESEARCH & IDEAS

## REPORTS

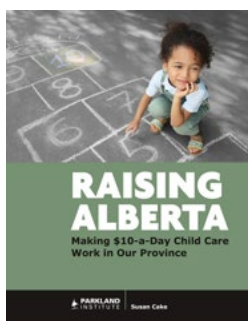


### **Shifting Gears: Exploring Edmonton's Financial and Political Pressures and Ways Forward**

examines how cuts to provincial funding, rising service demands, and underutilized revenue streams have left the city of Edmonton struggling to meet the needs of its residents. The report calls for a reevaluation of spending priorities to address root causes rather than relying on reactive services (by Inez Hillel).



**Operation Profit: Private Surgical Contracts Deliver Higher Costs and Longer Waits** reveals that the costs of private surgical services under the Alberta Surgical Initiative have skyrocketed, even as patients face increasingly long waits. Meanwhile, Alberta is one of only three provinces where real per capita hospital spending has steadily declined for the past decade (by Andrew Longhurst).



**Raising Alberta: Making \$10-a-Day Child Care Work in Our Province** analyzes the progress made under the \$10-a-day child-care plan in Alberta, identifies persistent challenges in the program implementation, and outlines actionable recommendations to build a more effective and equitable child-care system (by Susan Cake).



### **Access Denied: How the Changing Accessibility of Health Care Services in Alberta Impacts Equity**

shows how the privatized delivery of health care drains the public purse, prioritizes profit over patients, and reduces Albertans' access to timely, quality care (by Rebecca Graff-McRae; commissioned by Friends of Medicare from Parkland Institute for the project *Rebuild Alberta's Healthcare*).

## BLOGS

*Blog posts by Bob Ascah, Bob Barnetson, Jason Foster, Rebecca Graff-McRae, Ricardo Acuña, and Susan Cake.*

- **Sunshine Lists in Review: Shine the Light on Senior Executives, Not Average Workers** shows how even though the so-called “sunshine lists” can help curb financial excess by senior executives, changes are needed to protect the privacy of average public-sector workers.
- **Misleading Narratives: Pay-to-Play Queue-Jumping Won't Fix Surgery Wait Times** maintains that spending taxpayers' money on private surgical centres not only failed to resolve wait times but also made them worse. The post also presents evidence-based solutions to improve wait times in the public system.
- **The Slow Death of the Alberta Advantage** explains how Alberta's pitiful minimum wage is part of a strategy to keep wages low for all Albertans, and challenges myths about who minimum wage earners really are in our province.
- **Avoiding Fair Taxation is Alberta's Real Addiction** asks: How do we end decades of oil revenue dependency without compromising the services Albertans rely on? Drawing on Parkland Institute's research, this post argues that systemic policies of unfair taxation are behind Alberta's economic woes.
- **On the Road to AIMCo's Politicization:** The Alberta government's dismissal of AIMCo's board and CEO sparked concerns about political meddling. Then Stephen Harper's appointment as chair was another step toward reshaping AIMCo to serve partisan goals. Against this backdrop, understanding AIMCo's evolution and growing politicization is more critical than ever.
- **Why Is Your Educational Assistant on Strike? Ask the UCP** shows how, as education support workers went on strike for decent wages, Alberta's government worked behind the scenes to derail any meaningful negotiations between workers and school boards.

**Check out our past research:**  
[parklandinstitute.ca/reports](https://parklandinstitute.ca/reports)

**Read Parkland's blogs:**  
[parklandinstitute.ca/blog](https://parklandinstitute.ca/blog)

# PROGRAMMING

In November 2024, Parkland Institute's 28th annual fall conference, **The Road Ahead: Strategies for Building a Better Future**, brought together thinkers, writers, and activists to discuss new ideas and refresh old ideas to fit the challenges brought by rapidly increasing inequality and unsustainability in Alberta, Canada, and the world. The conference had a total of **428 attendees** between in-person and online participants. John Vaillant and Koren Lightning were the keynote speakers.

In March 2025, Parkland partnered with Canadians for Tax Fairness, Oxfam Canada, Public Interest Alberta, and Common Horizon Edmonton to present **Fair Taxes, Affordable Futures: Building an Economy for Everyone**, an in-person town hall that brought together community leaders and experts to explore how taxation policies impact affordability and what we can do to fix our tax system and ensure that public revenues are used to support the people and services that need them most.

Parkland marks the launch of each of its research reports with a public webinar featuring the report's author, who presents the key findings of their work and answers questions from the audience. In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, we hosted the webinars **Rethinking Edmonton's Financial Future** (November), **The Road Ahead for Child Care in Alberta** (February), and **Alberta's Surgical Crisis: Private Profits, Public Losses** (March). A total of **415 attendees** participated in these events.

In addition to the events featured on this page, Parkland Institute spoke directly to Albertans at numerous **presentations** to more than **2,000 people** across the province and online, including general audiences and groups such as doctors, nurses, seniors, union members, scholars and other engaged Albertans looking to make a difference. Topics discussed included health-care privatization, public services deficit, and Alberta's political history. We also hosted a successful **Gala Dinner** — our most important fundraiser of the year — and, of course, our traditional **Open House** in December.



## Watch our events:

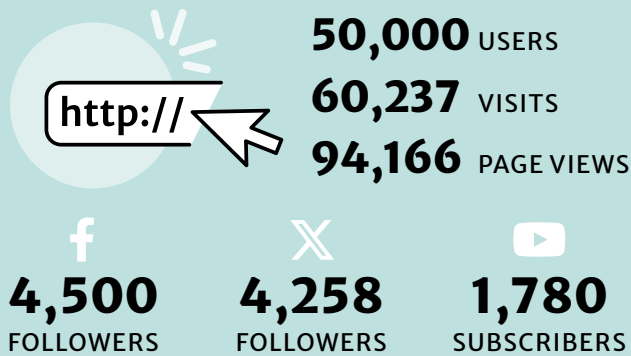
[youtube.com/  
ParklandInstvideo](https://youtube.com/ParklandInstvideo)

## Read about our conferences:

[parklandconference.ca](https://parklandconference.ca)

# COMMUNICATIONS

This fiscal year, over 50,000 people made 60,237 visits to [parklandinstitute.ca](http://parklandinstitute.ca). Collectively, they viewed our web pages more than **94,166 times**.



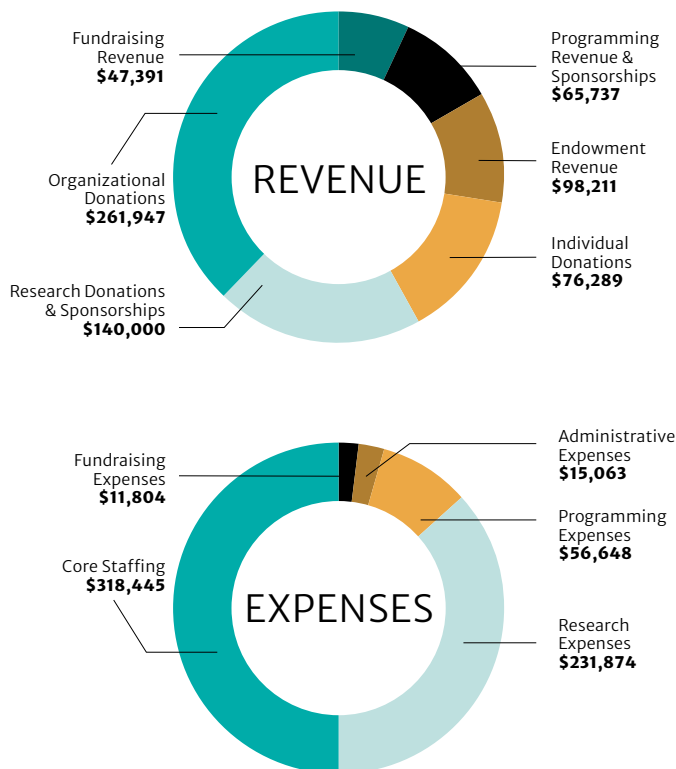
# 120

MEDIA MENTIONS

Our research and expert opinion were featured 120 times on media channels such as the **The Globe and Mail, Jacobin, The Tyee, CBC News, Edmonton Journal, Calgary Herald, and The Walrus**. Parkland Institute also sent 31 eNewsletters directly to our network of supporters.

# ADMIN & FINANCES

**Financial Report for the Year Ended March 31, 2025**



Parkland's big admin news for this year was the hiring of our new research manager, Salimah Valiani. Salimah brings a strong research background in feminist economics, health and the care economy, and gender impacts of the mining industry. She joins Rebecca Graff-McRae, who has been a research manager at Parkland since 2015. Rita Espeschit is our research communications specialist, and Sharlene Oliver is our administration coordinator. Between July and December, Kayla Dickson was our part-time conference coordinator. Jason Foster and Ricardo Acuña make up the leadership team as director and executive director respectively. Parkland also relies on many volunteer researchers and advisors from around the province and across the country, as well as a volunteer advisory board.

**Meet Parkland's people**

[parklandinstitute.ca/whoware](http://parklandinstitute.ca/whoware)

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