

NEWS RELEASE

Ottawa's new building energy efficiency regulations will add more than \$30,000 to cost of new homes in Nova Scotia by 2030

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For immediate release

HALIFAX—The cost of a newly constructed home in Nova Scotia will increase by \$30,677, on average, by 2030 as a result of the federal government's stricter energy efficiency regulations for buildings, according to a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan, Canadian public policy think-tank.

Crucially, the stricter building regulations will only reduce Canada's total emissions by 0.9 per cent.

"With housing costs already a major concern for so many Canadians, Ottawa's new building energy efficiency regulations will increase the cost of housing even more and achieve very little in the way of reduced emissions," said Ross McKittrick, a Fraser Institute senior fellow and author of *Wrong Move at the Wrong Time: Economic Impacts of the New Federal Building Energy Efficiency Mandates*.

The study finds that the cost increases are mainly due to a proposal in the federal government's Building Energy Efficiency (BEE) components of the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) that require energy consumption in new residential buildings be reduced to 65 per cent below 2019 levels by 2030. This will increase the cost of the average new home in Canada by an estimated \$55,000.

The additional cost to a new home in Nova Scotia will be, on average, \$30,677, \$28,369 in Prince Edward Island, \$22,966 in Newfoundland & Labrador and \$22,144 in New Brunswick.

What's more, the new regulations will affect the Canadian economy broadly, reducing economic activity by 1.8 per cent, which translates to roughly \$1,700 per worker starting in 2026.

Nova Scotia's economy will shrink by 1.6 per cent. Newfoundland & Labrador's will shrink by 1.2 per cent. Prince Edward Island's by 0.9 per cent, and New Brunswick's by 0.8 per cent.

"These are very high costs to impose on Canadians at a time when the economy is struggling and housing is already unaffordable for so many people," McKittrick said.

"Given these new building regulations will only reduce Canada's emissions by less than one per cent, policymakers should maybe ask whether the costs are worth it."

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