



YOUR TAX DOLLAR

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2015, Canada's federal government spent \$280.4 billion. That represents roughly 14% of our country's \$2.0-trillion economy.

Here's a quick overview of where that money went—and how it was raised.

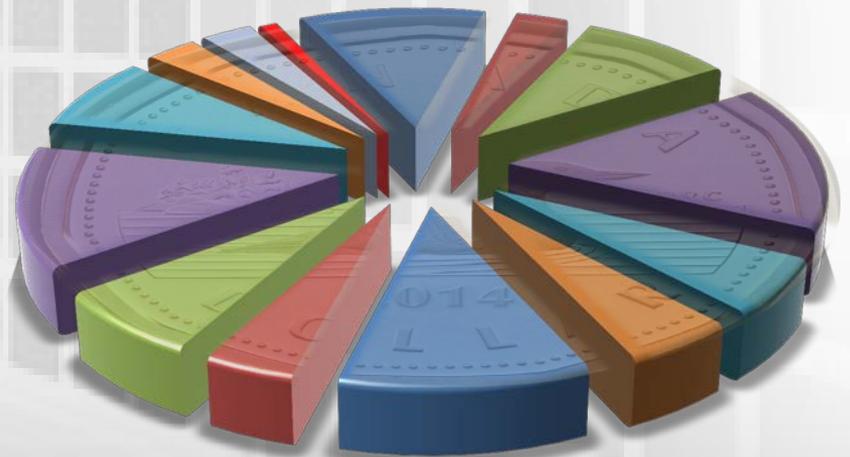


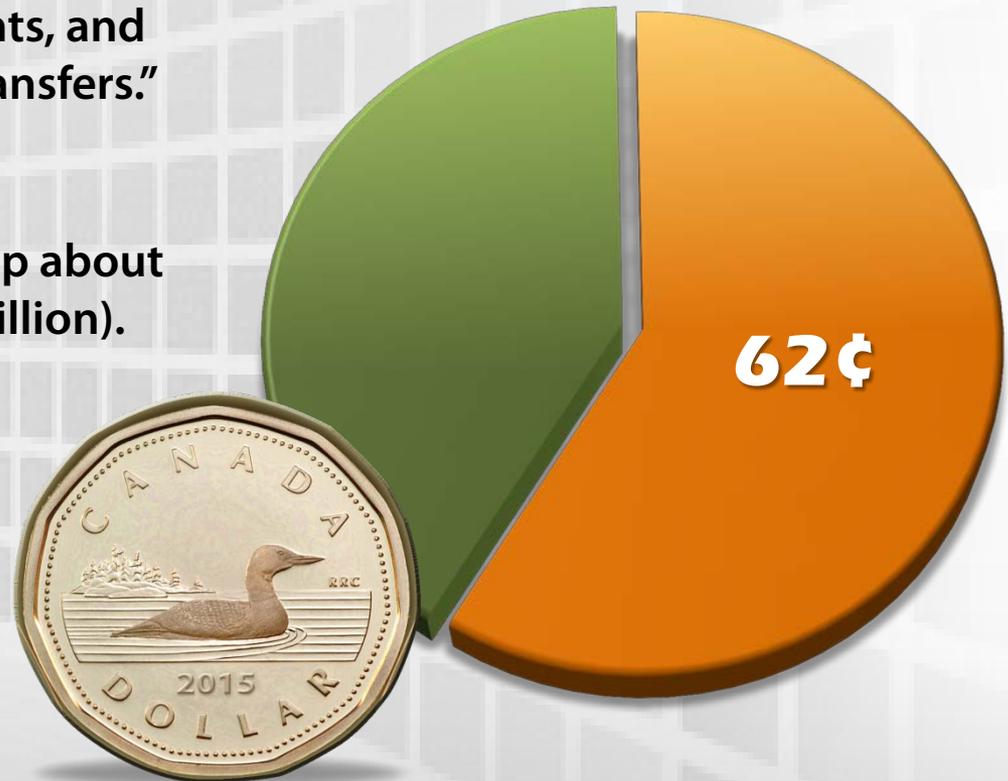
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Transfer payments

Payments that go directly to persons, to provincial and territorial governments, and to other organizations are called “transfers.”

Transfers are the largest category of government spending. They made up about **62 cents** of each tax dollar (\$174.7 billion).



Summary

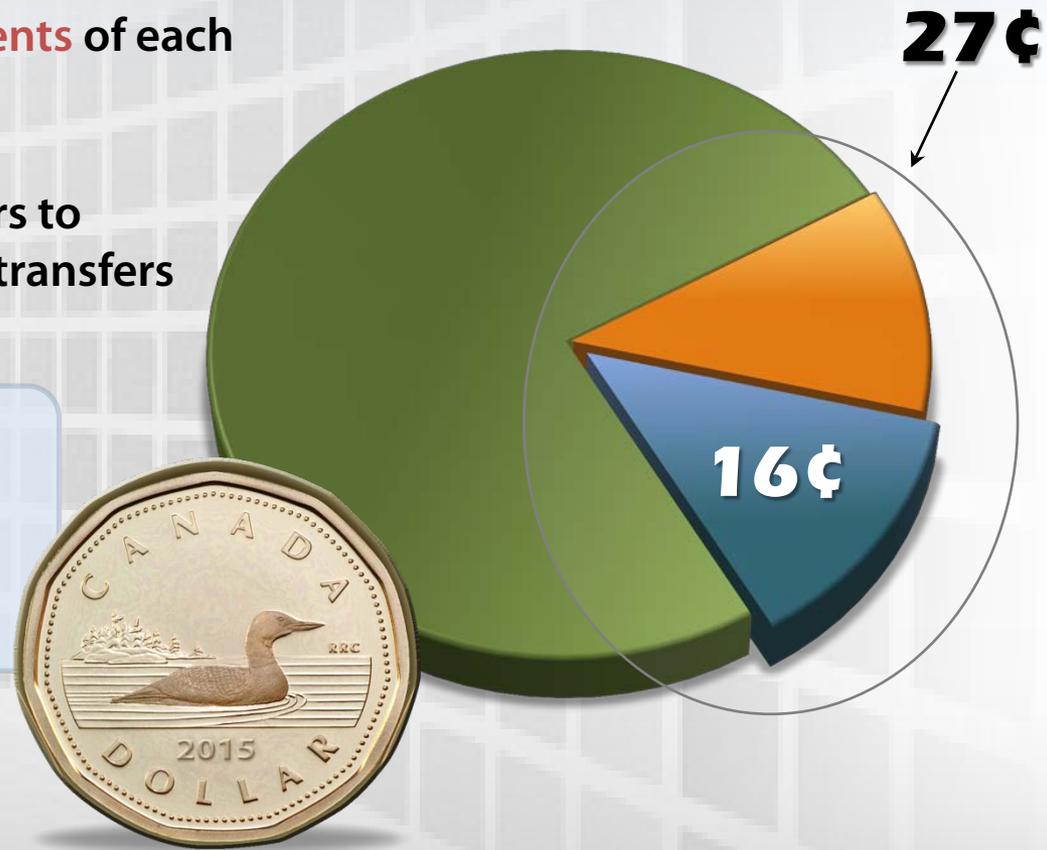
Transfers to persons

Major transfers to persons cost **27 cents** of each tax dollar (\$76.5 billion).

The biggest category within transfers to persons was elderly benefits. These transfers include:

- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Allowance for Spouses

Total elderly benefits cost about \$44.1 billion, or roughly **16 cents** of each tax dollar.



Summary

Transfers to persons

Another major transfer to persons is Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. Altogether, EI benefits cost over **6 cents** of every tax dollar (\$18.1 billion).

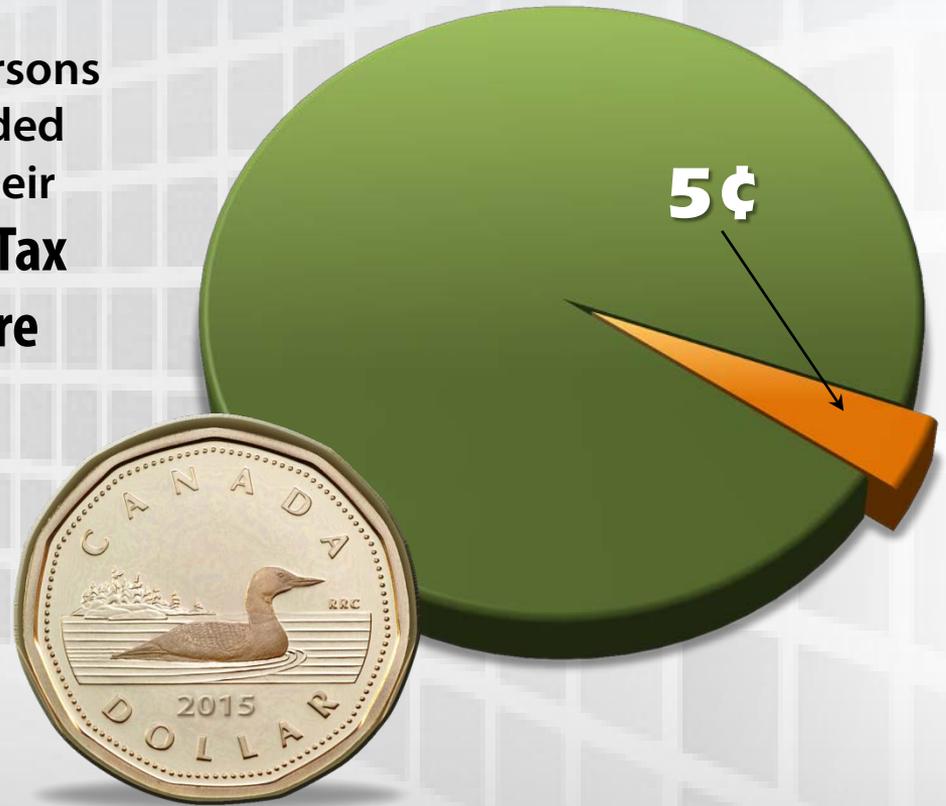
For information on EI premiums, see the section entitled "Where the money comes from."



Summary

Transfers to persons

The final category of transfers to persons is Children's Benefits. Canada provided \$14.3 billion to help families raise their children through the **Canada Child Tax Benefit** and the **Universal Child Care Benefit**. These payments cost **5 cents** of every tax dollar.



Summary

Transfers to provincial and territorial governments

Major transfers to other levels of government totalled \$63.1 billion, or **22 cents** of each tax dollar. These transfers help fund health care, post-secondary education and other programs for Canadians.



Summary

Transfers to provincial and territorial governments

The **Canada Health Transfer** provided \$32.1 billion for health programs, representing about **11 cents** of each tax dollar.

The **Canada Social Transfer** provided \$12.6 billion for post-secondary education, social programs and programs for children, representing over **4 cents** of each tax dollar.



Summary

Transfers to provincial and territorial governments

Other major transfers, including the **Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing** programs as well as payments under the **Gas Tax Fund** program to cities and communities, totalled roughly **7 cents** of every tax dollar (\$18.4 billion).

The Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing programs help less prosperous provinces and the territories provide services that are reasonably comparable to those in other provinces at reasonably comparable levels of taxation.

Gas Tax Fund program payments help provide stable, predictable funding to support municipal infrastructure projects.



Summary

Federal support for health care

Federal support for health care goes beyond cash payments under the Canada Health Transfer and the Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing programs.

The federal government also provided roughly **\$7 billion** last year for:

First Nations health services

Health care for veterans

Programs for public health

Health research



Summary

Other transfer payments

Last year, spending on federal grants, contributions and subsidies added up to \$35.1 billion, representing close to **13 cents** of each tax dollar. This included:

- \$7.6 billion in transfers by Indian Affairs and Northern Development for First Nations and Aboriginal peoples
- \$6.3 billion in assistance provided by Employment and Social Development Canada in support of learning, skills and employment, and social housing
- \$3.4 billion in transfers by the Canada Revenue Agency, which includes transfers made to individuals and corporations through the tax system

Other funding was provided in support of farmers and other food producers, research and development, infrastructure, regional development, health research and promotion, the arts, amateur sports, international assistance and multiculturalism and bilingualism.



Summary

Other program expenses

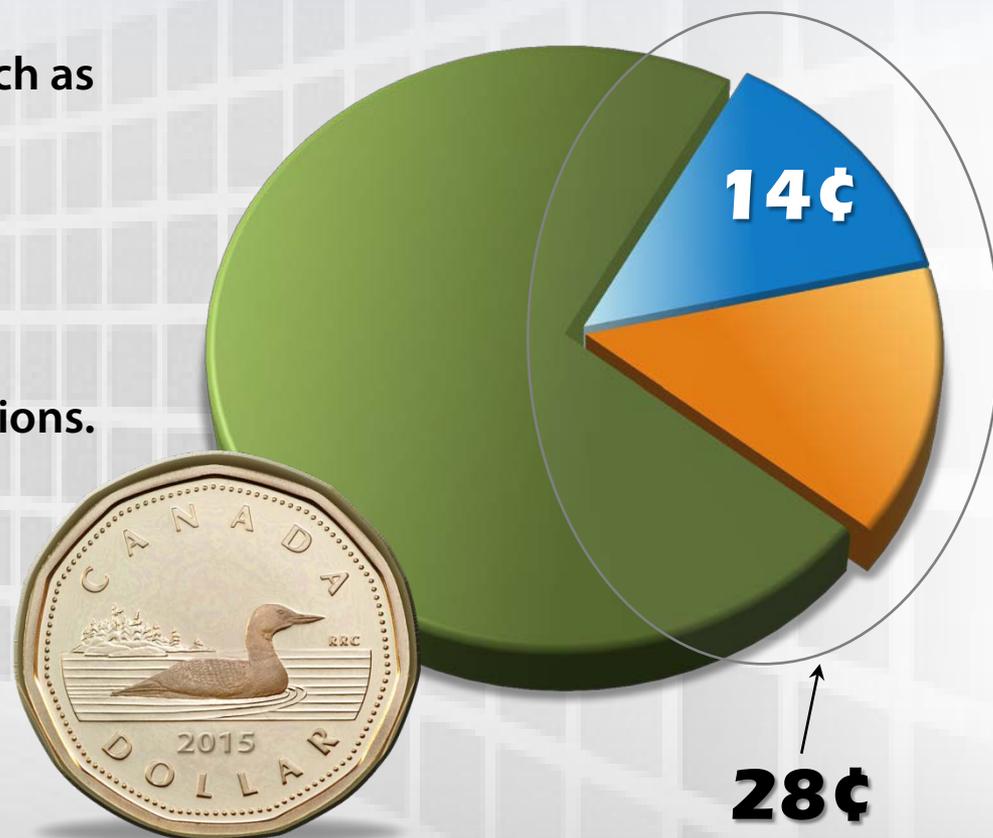
After transfers, the bulk of federal tax dollars went to cover the operating costs of the more than 130 government departments, agencies, Crown corporations and other federal bodies that provide programs and services for Canadians.



Summary

Other program expenses

Government operating expenses such as salaries and benefits, facilities and equipment, and supplies and travel made up **28 cents** of each tax dollar spent (\$79.1 billion). Half of this spending—**14 cents** of each tax dollar—went to just three organizations.



Summary

National Defence

First, spending last year by National Defence, including the Canadian Armed Forces, made up **8 cents** of each tax dollar (\$23.7 billion)

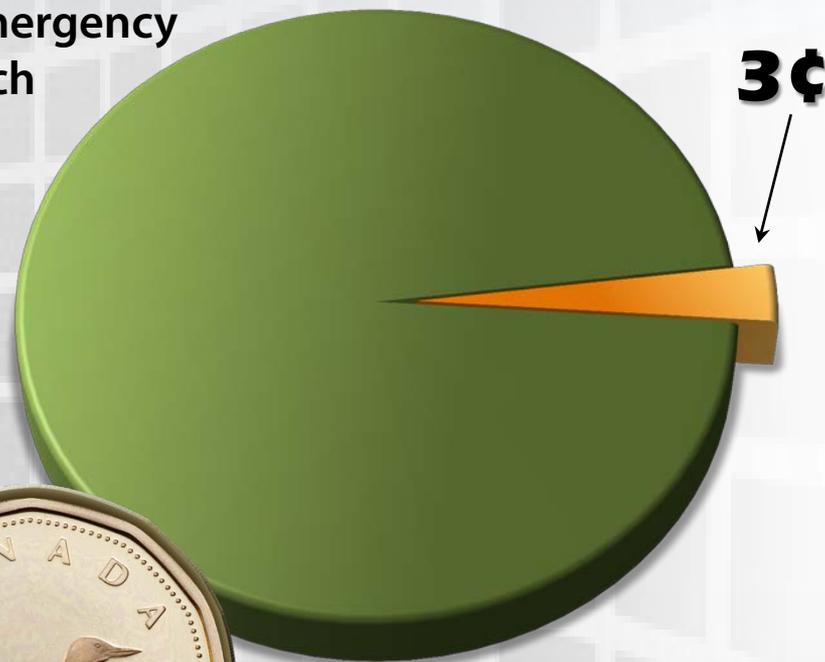


Summary

Public Safety

Next, operating costs of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness represented over **3 cents** of each tax dollar (\$9.8 billion).

This includes funding for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the federal prison system, and border traffic and security operations.



Summary

Canada Revenue Agency

And third, expenses of the Canada Revenue Agency, which administers the federal tax system (and also collects taxes for all provinces except Quebec) totalled \$8.1 billion, or **3 cents** of each tax dollar.



Summary

Other operations

A further \$30.0 billion—**11 cents** of each tax dollar—was spent on the operations of the other federal departments and agencies.

These included major departments such as:

- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Health Canada
- Industry Canada
- Department of Justice
- Natural Resources Canada
- Public Works and Government Services Canada
- Transport Canada
- Veterans Affairs Canada



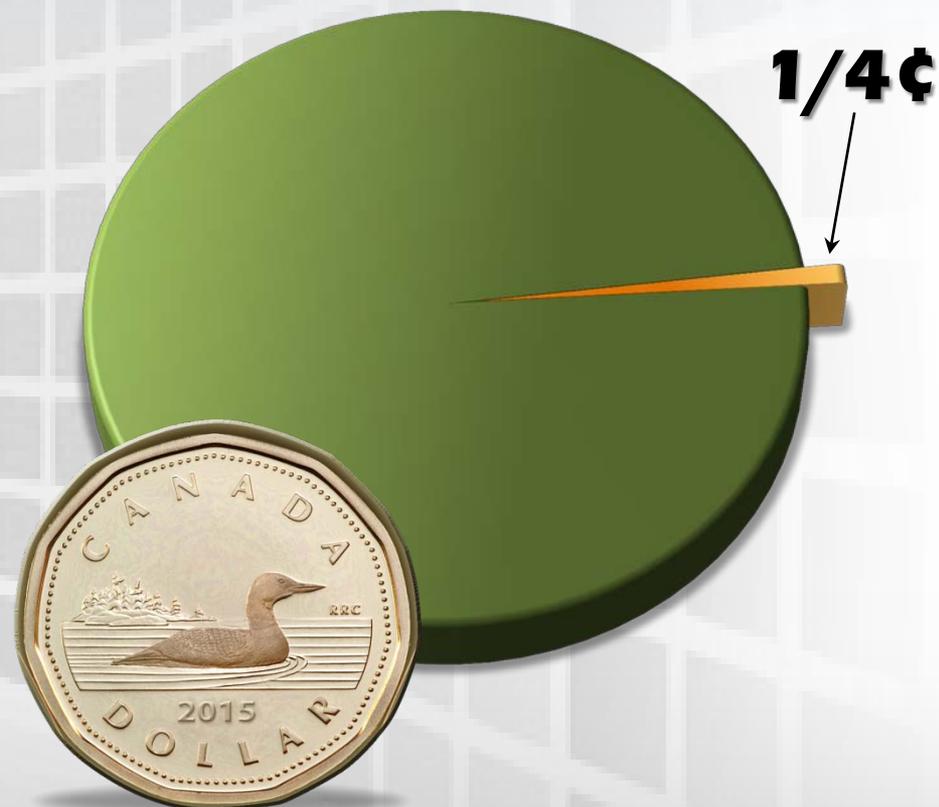
Funding also went to federal agencies such as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Parks Canada.

Summary

Paying for Parliament

One of the smallest spending slices goes to Parliament itself—the House of Commons, the Senate and the Library of Parliament.

Last year, the combination of salaries and benefits for Members of Parliament, Senators and parliamentary staff, and spending on facilities and services, totalled \$542 million. That's less than **one-quarter of a cent** of every tax dollar.



Summary

Crown corporations

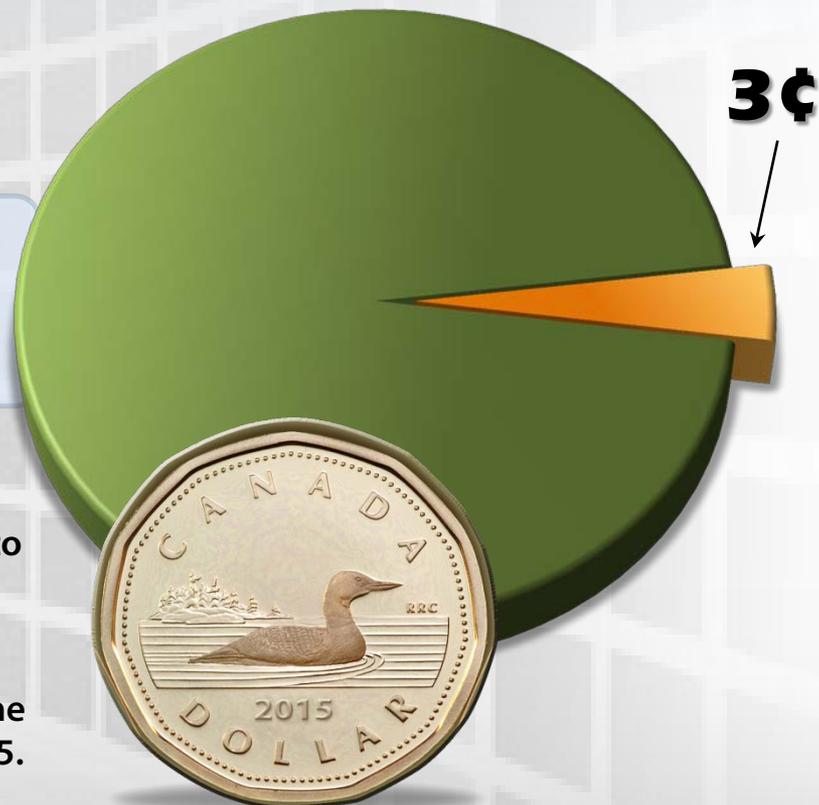
Crown corporations (organizations owned directly or indirectly by the Government) cost \$7.6 billion, or **3 cents** of each tax dollar.

Most of these expenses were recorded by three organizations:

- Canadian Commercial Corporation—\$2.5 billion
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation —\$1.5 billion
- Atomic Energy of Canada Limited—\$0.8 billion

Funding was also provided to cultural organizations (including the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of History and the Canada Council for the Arts), to enterprises like VIA Rail, and to the Canadian Tourism Commission.

These costs were partially offset by revenues earned by the Crown corporations, which totalled \$4.2 billion in 2014–15. These revenues are included as part of the Government's other revenues discussed in the section entitled "Where the money comes from."



Summary

Public debt charges

Interest charges on Canada's public debt—money borrowed by the federal government over the years and not yet repaid and liabilities for pensions and other future benefits—cost \$26.6 billion. That's about **9 cents** of every tax dollar.

Currently, 74% of the Government's unmatured debt is owed to Canadians, including citizens and domestic institutions holding federal bonds, treasury bills and other forms of the debt.



Summary

The budgetary surplus

The remaining **1 cent** of the tax dollar represents the 2014–15 budgetary surplus of \$1.9 billion—how much money was left after paying for all federal programs, operations and interest on public debt.

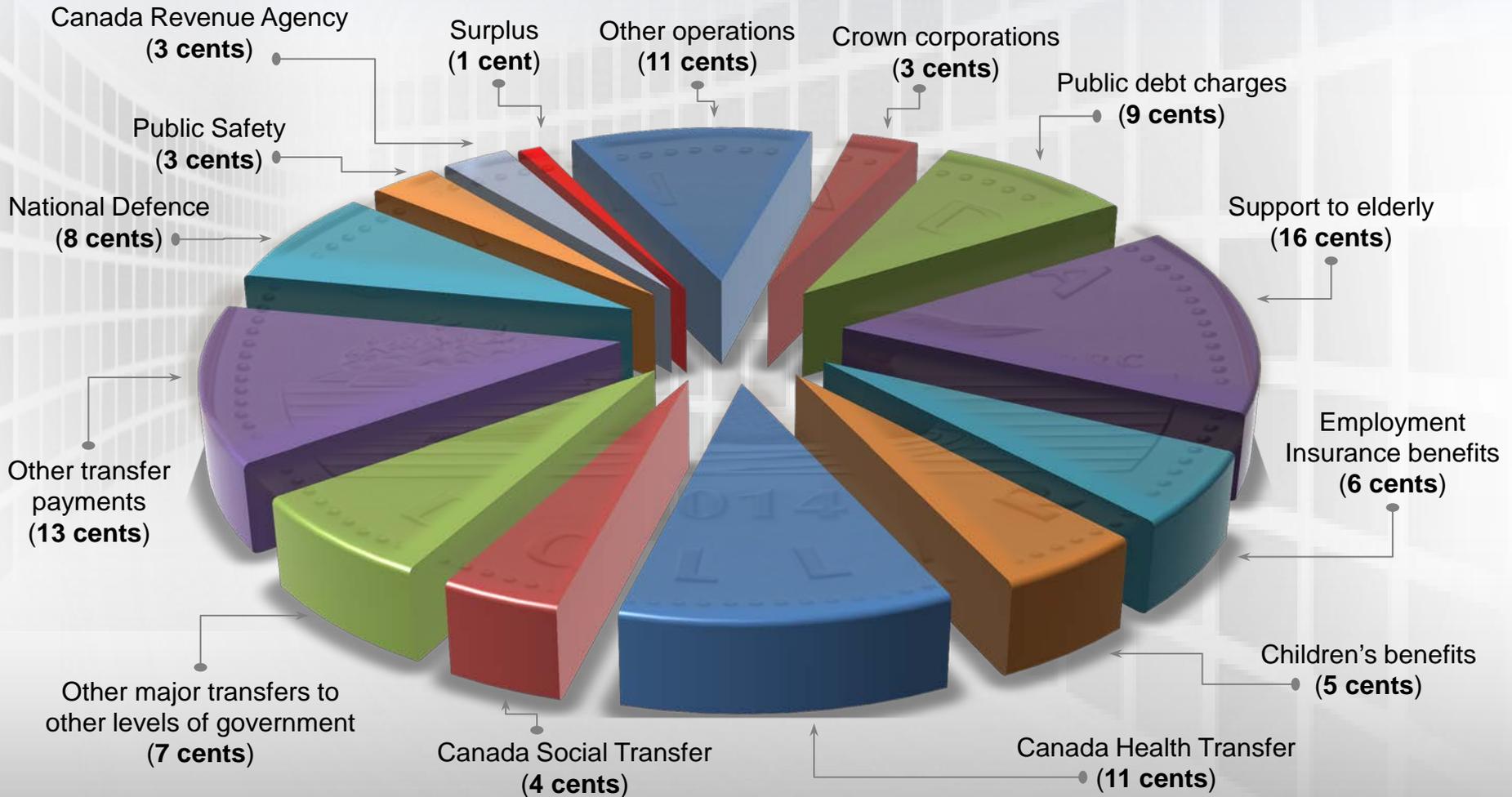
Government accounting principles mean that any surplus at year-end automatically reduces the federal debt.





Where your tax dollar goes: summary

That's our brief summary of federal spending for 2014–15.



Where the money comes from

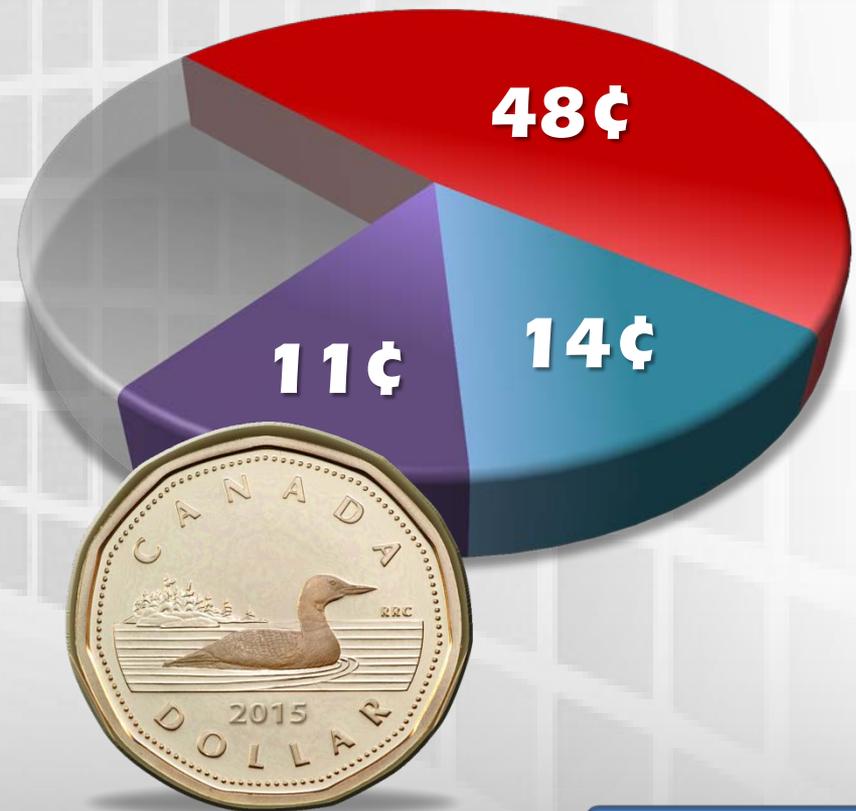
During 2014–15, the federal government recorded \$282.3 billion in revenues.

These revenues came from:

Personal income tax—\$135.7 billion, or **48 cents** of every tax dollar.

Corporate income tax—\$39.4 billion, or **14 cents** of every dollar.

Goods and Services Tax—\$31.3 billion, or **11 cents** of every dollar.



Summary

Where the money comes from

A number of other taxes—such as non-resident withholding taxes, customs import duties, and excise levies on alcohol, tobacco, gasoline and diesel fuel—made up \$22.0 billion, or **8 cents** of every tax dollar.

As well, Employment Insurance premiums contributed \$22.6 billion to federal revenues, or **8 cents** of every tax dollar.



Summary

Where the money comes from

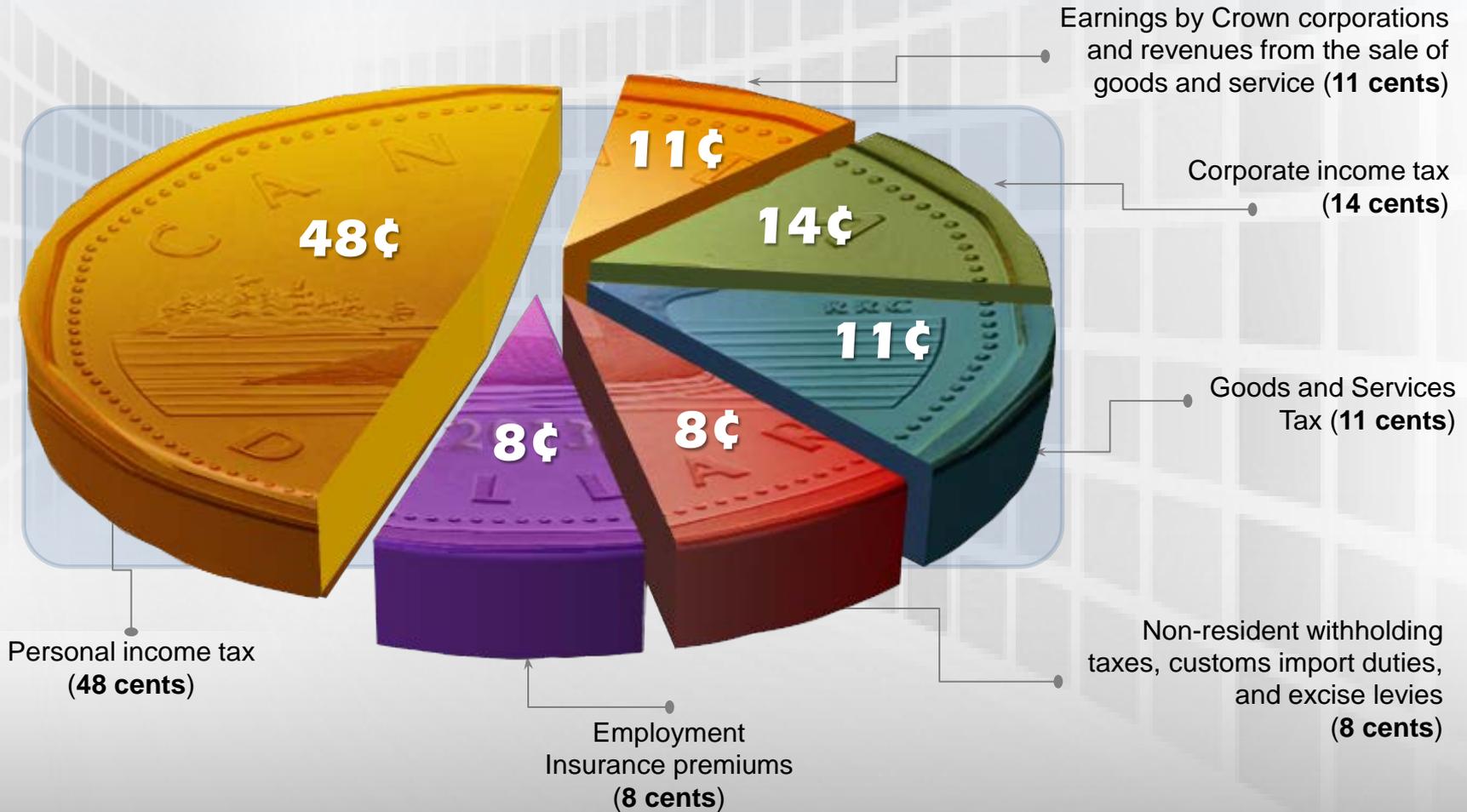
And other revenues—such as earnings by Crown corporations and revenues from the sale of goods and services—provided the remaining \$31.2 billion, or **11 cents** of every tax dollar.



Summary



Where the money comes from: summary



More about these numbers

The federal government calculates its financial results over a 12-month “fiscal year” that ends every March 31. This presentation is based on the *Annual Financial Report of the Government of Canada* for the most recent complete fiscal year, 2014–15.

So that’s the story of where your federal tax dollar goes, and how it is raised. If you want more detailed information, we’ve provided a series of useful links.



Useful links

More information on Government of Canada finances is available from these sources:

Annual Financial Report

The *Annual Financial Report of the Government of Canada* provides overall financial data on federal revenues and spending on a full accrual accounting basis for the most recent complete fiscal year. It is available through the Department of Finance website under Publications at <http://www.fin.gc.ca/purl/afr-eng.asp>.

Fiscal Reference Tables

Along with the Annual Financial Report, the Department of Finance also publishes its annual *Fiscal Reference Tables*. Financial information on the provinces and territories is also included. The tables are available through the Department of Finance website under Publications at <http://www.fin.gc.ca/pub/frt-trf/index-eng.asp>.

The Fiscal Monitor

Produced by the Department of Finance, this monthly newsletter highlights the most recent financial results of the Government. It is available on the Department of Finance website under Publications at www.fin.gc.ca/pub/fm-rf-index-eng.asp.

Public Accounts

The *Public Accounts of Canada* contain the Government's audited financial statements for the most recent fiscal year, and details of financial operations by each ministry. It is available through the Public Works and Government Services Canada website at <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/cpc-pac/index-eng.html>.

Debt Management Report

The annual *Debt Management Report* covers key elements of the federal debt strategy and strategic and operational aspects of the Government's debt program and cash management activities over the past year. It is available on the Department of Finance website under Publications at <http://www.fin.gc.ca/pub/dmr-rgd/index-eng.asp>.

Canada Revenue Agency

While the Department of Finance is responsible for setting federal tax policy, it is the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) that manages the actual revenue collection for the federal government. A quick overview of CRA operations (and access to the agency's annual operating report and Internet home page) is available at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/nnnl/menu-eng.html.