

Alberta premier promises no tax hikes to deal with debt

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A defiant Alberta premier broke ranks with some of his own senior cabinet ministers Tuesday, declaring that, under his watch, taxes will never increase to help the government escape from its multi-billion-dollar deficit and a deepening fiscal hole. One day after some of his most trusted ministers said both tax hikes and program cuts are needed to redress the province's revenue crunch, Premier Ed Stelmach said his government won't hike personal or corporate taxes, and vowed never to adopt a provincial sales tax. The premier also rescinded the recent liquor tax hike -- the first markup since 2002 -- announced in the April budget, with the changes expected to be reflected on booze-store shelves by the weekend.

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