

Building a Province for Tomorrow

Your Family. Your Community. Your Priorities.



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building a province for tomorrow



The Saskatchewan Liberal Party is committed to putting forward a plan focused on three principled priorities: increased accountability and transparency in government; eliminating the education portion of property taxes on your home, whether you rent or own; and making schools the heart of our communities.

This document represents the priorities that the Saskatchewan Liberal Party will fight for in the Legislature. It's time to start building a province for tomorrow.

Let's get to work today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Karwacki'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

David Karwacki
Saskatchewan Liberal Party Leader

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A Government For Tomorrow

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*“Accountability and transparency is
for when the auditor is looking.
Personal responsibility is when no
one is looking.”*

David Karwacki
Saskatchewan Liberal Leader

Building a Province for Tomorrow

a government for tomorrow

the issue

The people of Saskatchewan deserve a government that will treat taxpayer's dollars responsibly and with respect. Over the past four years, NDP and Sask Party MLAs have shown they cannot be trusted to govern themselves.

our priorities

1. **accountability & transparency in government**
2. **getting the federal government to fulfill its responsibilities**
3. **improving partnerships with first nations**



accountability & transparency in government

the current situation

Abuses of Legislative budgets are not a new problem in Saskatchewan. Most recently, scandals such as the gold-plated health benefits scheme and the billion dollar Meadow Lake Pulp boondoggle have demonstrated that Liberals are needed in the Legislature to hold the other parties to account. The Sask Party's plan to hand over the management of our economy to the unaccountable, unelected members of Enterprise Saskatchewan further proves the need for new voices in the Legislature.

the liberal plan

- Ensure the full disclosure of MLA budgets to allow for greater scrutiny of office and legislative expenditures;
- Give more power to the Provincial Auditor and the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and increase their respective budgets by \$1 million per year;
- Institute a *Fair Advertising in Government Act* to prevent the misuse of public funds for propaganda purposes and save taxpayers millions of dollars every year.

the bottom line

Scrutinize MLA budgets

Empower the Provincial Auditor and Conflict of Interest Commissioner

Fair Advertising in Government Act

getting the federal government to fulfill its responsibilities

the current situation

The Government of Canada has broken its promises to Saskatchewan and has failed to live up to its responsibilities towards First Nations people.

the liberal plan

- Insist that the Government of Canada assume its full constitutional responsibility for all First Nations people under section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*;
- Negotiate with the Government of Canada the reimbursement of costs incurred by the provinces for the provision of hospital care, physician care and social services for Registered First Nations. If negotiation fails, we are confident in our claim's legal merit;
- The Government of Saskatchewan will continue to provide health and social services to First Nations people. Funds obtained through the reimbursement would be put towards First Nations health and social programs, thus permitting the province to redirect resources towards paying down the debt, and to other social programming.

the bottom line

Get the feds to live up to their constitutional responsibilities

Obtain reimbursement for costs owed to Saskatchewan for First Nations health and social services

For more information, visit:

www.saskliberal.ca/issues/federalgov



improving partnerships with first nations

the current situation

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party believes that stronger partnerships between First Nations and the provincial government—based on a foundation of communication, accountability and transparency—must be achieved in order to ensure the province’s long-term social and economic development.

the liberal plan

- Seek greater fiscal transparency in order to ensure that gaming revenues reach grassroots First Nations and place all money flowing to First Nations through the Gaming Framework Agreement under the scrutiny of the Provincial Auditor;
- Ensure that the next Gaming Framework Agreement negotiation deals with issues such as the proportion of revenue sharing, the need for strengthened smoking restrictions in casinos and a decrease in the number of VLTs across the province, including in First Nations casinos;

the bottom line

Greater fiscal transparency on both sides

Revisit smoking restrictions and decreasing the number of VLTs

improving partnerships with first nations (cont'd)

- Encourage the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation to work in partnership with First Nations, as well as with the Provincial and Federal Governments, to extend the same professional standards and benefits to teachers on-reserve that are afforded to teachers off-reserve;
- Commit to partnering with First Nations on housing through the Community Development Corporations and the First Nations Trust in concert with governance organizations like the Saskatoon Tribal Council and their housing wing, Cress Housing Corporation. Such partnerships will be instituted on the condition that these funds fall under the scrutiny of the provincial auditor.

the bottom line

Ensure equal professional standards for on-reserve teachers

Partner with First Nations to solve housing crisis

For more information, visit:
www.saskliberal.ca/issues/firstnations



An Economy For Tomorrow

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*“I got into public life to bring
my experience in creating
careers and high-paying jobs.”*

David Karwacki
Saskatchewan Liberal Leader

Building a Province for Tomorrow

an
economy
for **tomorrow**

the issue

As Saskatchewan booms, our cities have become some of the fastest growing urban centres in the country. However, economic prosperity creates demands on both the people of our province and the cities in which they live. The Saskatchewan Liberal Party will make certain that today's prosperity is tomorrow's foundation for a sustainable future.

our priorities

1. **education property tax reform**
2. **investing in urban infrastructure**
3. **helping people get to work**
4. **getting kids to school**
5. **post-secondary education**
7. **agriculture**
8. **energy security**



education property tax reform

the current situation

The current economic boom has led to an unsustainable increase in the cost of living for the province's homeowners and renters. With property taxes on the rise and rents skyrocketing, the Saskatchewan Liberal Party proposes that the education portion of property tax be eliminated.

the liberal plan

This plan will result in an average savings of \$1,500 per year for homeowners. For renters, this means a savings equivalent to roughly one month's rent in the form of an income tax credit.

The program will be phased-in over four years and would be paid for through the following revenue sources:

- Directing new revenues from annual GDP growth;
- 25% of excess oil royalty revenues (oil over \$50/barrel);
- Disciplined government spending;
- Redirection of a portion of other existing tax revenues.

For more information, visit:
www.saskliberal.ca/issues/propertytax

the bottom line

Eliminate the education portion of your property tax and fund education differently

Average savings of \$1,500 for homeowners, and one month's rent for renters

investing in urban infrastructure

the current situation

Well-maintained infrastructure is necessary to attract new business to our province and maintain the economic boom. The NDP has failed Saskatchewan's cities by refusing to make smart infrastructure investments. Vital projects such as the South Bridge in Saskatoon and the Inland Container Port project proposal in Regina have been stalled because of an acute lack of funding by the provincial government.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party would invest in the following areas:

- \$100 million each for Saskatoon and Regina to address critical infrastructure priorities;
- \$100 million for downtown densification projects in the four major urban centres (Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw);
- \$100 million for infrastructure priorities in smaller urban centres.

This plan represents a one-time \$400 million infrastructure investment which would be fully realized through the transfer of a portion of the funds gained through the sale of SaskFerro.

For more information, visit:

www.saskliberal.ca/issues/infrastructure

the bottom line

\$200 million for Saskatoon and Regina

\$100 million for four major urban centres

\$100 million for smaller centres



helping people get to work

the current situation

Current work-earning clawbacks for people on social assistance act as a tremendous disincentive for those who want to transition towards full employment.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- Ensure that parents on social assistance who are able to work earn an annual minimum salary of \$18,000 (\$15,000 for adults without children) before being deducted for work earnings;
- Ensure that the extended health benefits of parents who transition from social assistance to full time employment not be modified for a period of six months.

The cost for this plan will be \$3 million annually.

the bottom line

Remove the clawback disincentive on social assistance

Transition more people off of social assistance

getting kids to school

the current situation

Every day, thousands of at-risk youth fail to make it to school in our province. Saskatchewan Liberals would provide parents on social assistance with incentives to help ensure that their kids get to class.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- A direct revenue increase of \$50 per month per K-8 child if he or she maintains an 85% school attendance record;
- The plan would not impact any existing benefits received by those on social assistance.

Assuming full participation, it is estimated that this plan will cost \$23 million annually.

the bottom line

Provide results-based incentives to get at-risk youth back to school

For more information, visit:

www.saskliberal.ca/issues/schools



post-secondary education

the current situation

One of the keys to maintaining the prosperity brought about by the boom is having a highly-educated population. The Liberal plan for post-secondary education will provide significant relief for students facing rising housing costs, while ensuring greater access to student loans and higher quality undergraduate education.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- De-link student loan eligibility from the assets and income of a student, their spouse, partner, or parent. This would prevent students from being penalized by the loan system for working while studying or because of their family's background;
- Introduce a Student Housing Tax Credit of up to \$500 per academic year for full time students (\$250 for part-time students) to help them cope with rising housing costs, in addition to the education property tax renter's rebate.

the bottom line

De-link student assets and income from loan eligibility

Give students a tax credit to help cover rising housing costs

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The annual cost of this program will be \$18 million.

post-secondary education (cont'd)

- Establish a \$5 million per year undergraduate teaching fund for our two major universities to ensure quality education and attract some of the best and brightest undergraduate professors to Saskatchewan;
- Support the extension of the current tuition freeze to help keep education affordable for the province's students;
- Create 6,000 new apprenticeship positions within Saskatchewan companies over the next four years.

Assuming full participation, it is estimated that this plan will cost approximately \$27 million annually.

the bottom line

Establish undergraduate teaching fund

Support the current tuition freeze

Create more apprenticeship positions

For more information, visit:

www.saskliberal.ca/issues/postsecondary



agriculture

the current situation

Saskatchewan Liberals are committed to the development of a four-year Risk Management Pilot Program (RMP) as a companion program within CAIS to support our grains and oilseeds sector.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- Work with the current Federal Government to provide cash transfers, as they do with Quebec, to support this Made-in-Saskatchewan solution;
- Provide farmers with more bankable support and assistance to deal with the challenges that nature, global competition and input costs present;
- Introduce a price support system for our grains and oilseeds to make local value-added industries, such as oilseed crushing and our livestock production, more competitive.

the bottom line

Create a Made-in-Saskatchewan solution

Provide farmers with more bankable support

Introduce price support for grains and oilseeds

The RMP will be fully-funded through the existing CAIS program

biofuels

the current situation

Saskatchewan Liberals support local biofuels initiatives to ensure the province's competitiveness in this rapidly growing energy sector. The NDP, however, has mismanaged the ethanol file to such an extent that most ethanol plants are controlled by outside oil companies instead of farmer-led businesses within the province. We must ensure greater local producer participation in the emerging biodiesel industry through more responsible and accountable management.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party will continue the existing repayable contribution program for the construction of new biofuel production facilities in Saskatchewan.

the bottom line

Support the existing programs for biofuels production

Ensure responsible and accountable management



energy security

the current situation

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party understands that we must meet our responsibility to the people of our province to maintain sustainable growth while recognizing our growing importance as an energy exporter.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberals would commit to:

- Greater research and development in a strategic partnership project to improve oilsands extraction;
- Partnering with private industry, other governments and national research institutions in order to protect Saskatchewan's water supplies and maintain our soil and air quality into the future.

the bottom line

Maintain sustainable growth

Greater R&D to improve oilsands extraction

Protect Saskatchewan's natural resources

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A Society For Tomorrow

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*“We need to make sure
that every child can find
their passion.”*

David Karwacki
Saskatchewan Liberal Leader

Building a Province for Tomorrow

a society for tomorrow

the issue

As our province goes forward, we must ensure that we build strong communities in which no one is left behind. The Liberal Party believes that this can only be accomplished by making sound social investments that stay true to Saskatchewan's values.

our priorities

1. hiring and retaining nurses
2. community health centres
3. reducing health care wait times
4. health and social policy council
5. getting smart and tough on youth crime
6. schools at the heart of the community
7. helping the environment from home



hiring and retaining nurses

the current situation

The Liberal Party of Saskatchewan believes that to ensure quality nursing care in the province, we must deal with the underlying reasons for the current shortage and retention problems. In order to improve working conditions, nurses must be allowed to concentrate on care-giving rather than on burdensome non-clinical tasks.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- Provide the necessary, additional training to 600 licensed practical nurses (LPN) in order to rapidly reassign them as registered nurses with clinical duties and a full increase in pay;
- Provide additional training to another 400 LPNs to become registered nurses to allow for more registered nurses to work in the community;

the bottom line

Provide the necessary training to upgrade 600 LPNs to RNs

Training a further 400 nurses to work in the community

hiring and retaining nurses (cont'd)

- Create 1,000 new non-clinical Nursing Assistant positions to perform non-clinical, non-professional and administrative functions previously performed by nurses;
- Give RNs the choice of working for hospitals in health regions, Community Health Centers, or in schools – without any change in pay, benefits, pension, seniority or union membership.

Assuming full participation, it is estimated that this plan will cost \$73 million annually.

the bottom line

Reassign non-clinical duties from nurses by hiring Nursing Assistants

Give nurses choice in their working environments

For more information, visit:
www.saskliberal.ca/issues/nurses



community health centres

the current situation

Community Health Centres can deliver services more effectively than highly bureaucratic health regions. They will focus on the health and community wellness of young and low-income families as well as Seniors, while health regions and hospitals focus on surgeries and specialized care.

the liberal plan

- Establish 100 Community Health Centres throughout Saskatchewan in order to allow health regions to focus on surgeries, specialist services, clinical nursing care and diagnostics;
- Encourage the staffing of centres by family physicians, nurses, mental health therapists, physical therapists, and other health care professionals;
- Ensure local accountability by establishing a voluntary, elected local boards of directors.

This plan will cost \$400 million annually and will be fully funded through the partial reallocation of the existing health care budget.

the bottom line

Establish 100 Community Health Centres

Ensure local accountability

Fully funded through existing health care budget

reducing health care wait times

the current situation

As Saskatchewan's population continues to age, diagnostic and surgical services for orthopaedics will increasingly create wait-time list backlogs and reduce our ability to provide more complex medical procedures. By streaming orthopaedics and orthopaedic diagnostics towards unionized, not-for-profit community health surgical centres, our plan will significantly free up surgery space in hospitals.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- Establish two unionized, not-for-profit community health surgical centres for orthopaedic day surgeries and orthopaedic diagnostics (MRI's);
- Admission to these new clinics would be entirely up to the individual; patients can choose to remain on a health region waiting list if they so desire.

Assuming full participation, it is estimated that this plan will cost \$50 million annually.

the bottom line

Reduce health care wait-times for orthopaedic procedures

Establish two specialized orthopaedic surgical centres

For more information, visit:

www.saskliberal.ca/issues/waittimes



health and social policy council

the current situation

Discussions on health and social policy are too often polarized and politically motivated. Furthermore, there is limited data on the effectiveness of costly health and social programs. As such, we need to create an independent Health and Social Policy Council to inform policy makers and the general public of evidence-based health care solutions.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- Create a Health and Social Policy Council to monitor health care outcomes and evaluate the effectiveness of clinical care and the use of medications;
- The HSPC will make recommendations based on the most current medical research and best-practices from around the world.

The operating budget of this body will be \$36 million annually, producing health care system savings of \$50 million annually.

the bottom line

Create an independent body to monitor health care outcomes

Save the health care system money by recommending efficiency improvements

getting smart & tough on youth crime

the current situation

Youth crime is an area of growing concern in our province. Our plan for youth justice will ensure that we are both smart and tough in dealing with youth crime, while giving corrections officers the tools they need to work safely and effectively.

the bottom line

Outsmart gangs and give corrections officers the tools they need to get the job done

the liberal plan

- Restructure youth detention centres to limit interaction between age groups and gang elements at a cost of \$12 million over four years;
- Provide \$5 million in new funding over four years for an integrated provincial anti-gang strategy and \$200,000 for body armour to ensure the safety of corrections officers;
- Fund a four-year GPS ankle monitoring pilot project for non-violent, low-risk offenders. The cost of this pilot program would be \$1 million per year;
- Provide \$1 million in additional funding to youth programs such as “Opening Doors” or the Ranch Ehrlo Society in order to provide a more structured environment for youth who require it.

For more information, visit:

www.saskliberal.ca/issues/youthcrime



schools at the heart of the community

the current situation

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan will put schools at the heart of our communities and give children and families access to the full range of health, social, justice and community programming that they need to succeed.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- Create new employment positions in schools for clinical nurses, paediatricians, social workers, and other health care professionals;
- Supplement teachers and health workers in schools with special education teachers, educational assistants and after-school coordinators;
- Hire Community Programming Co-ordinators responsible for school-based health, social and youth justice services, and organizing after-school programming that meets the needs of the community;

the bottom line

Bring needed services into schools

Give teachers the support they need

Encourage community programming

schools at the heart of the community (cont'd)

- Offer classes for adults so that while their children are involved in evening music, drama, sports, or arts programs, their parents can work on completing their high school education or take part in continuing education programs;
- Work with school boards to ensure that physical activity is mandatory and daily from Kindergarten to Grade Twelve;
- Propose raising the age that youth need to stay in school from 16 to 17.

The cost of this plan would be \$150 million per year, of which \$100 million would be financed by shifting funds from the current Health, Justice, and Community Resources budgets.

the bottom line

Offer evening activities to both adults and children

Make physical activity mandatory from K-12

Keeping kids in school until they are at least 17

For more information, visit:

www.saskliberal.ca/issues/youthcrime



helping the environment from home

the current situation

Saskatchewan is one of the only Canadian provinces without a comprehensive curbside recycling program. The Saskatchewan Liberal Party believes that an important component of improving the quality of life in our cities is putting in place common sense programs to allow people to help the environment from their homes.

the liberal plan

The Saskatchewan Liberal plan would include the following elements:

- Establish a \$20 million fund to support the implementation of a curbside recycling program in Saskatoon and Regina, phased-in over a four-year period.
- Create a separate fund of \$5 million per year to support the implementation of curbside recycling in other municipalities across Saskatchewan;
- Establish a public education program of \$1 million per year to promote proper recycling practices.

This plan will cost \$26 million annually once fully implemented.

the bottom line

Establish comprehensive curbside recycling in Saskatoon and Regina

Create a \$5 million fund for other municipalities to help support curbside recycling programs

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program summary

(millions of dollars)

New Expenditures	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Building a Government for Tomorrow					
Increase in Provincial Auditor budget	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00
Increase in Conflict of Interest Commissioner Budget	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00
Fair Advertising in Government Act ¹	(5.00)	(5.00)	(5.00)	(5.00)	(20.00)
Building an Economy for Tomorrow					
Eliminating Education Property Tax	78.75	157.50	236.25	315.00	787.50
Eliminate Clawbacks on Social Assistance	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
School Attendance Incentives	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	92.00
Student Housing Tax Credit	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	72.00
Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Fund	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	20.00
Creation of 6,000 Journeyman Trade Positions	2.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	12.00
Savings from Program Restructuring in Dept. of Industry and Resources	(30.00)	(30.00)	(30.00)	(30.00)	(120.00)
Building a Society for Tomorrow					
Hiring and Staffing for Nurses and Training Programs	73.00	73.00	73.00	73.00	292.00
Specialized Surgical Centres	15.00	30.00	50.00	50.00	145.00
Health and Social Policy Council ²	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	144.00
Savings generated by HSPC	-	(50.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)	(150.00)
Cost Savings from Generic Drugs	(39.00)	(39.00)	(39.00)	(39.00)	(156.00)
Restructuring Youth Detention Centres	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
Integrated Anti-Gang Strategy	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	5.00
Support Equipment for Corrections Officers	.10	.10	-	-	.20
GPS Ankle Bracelet Monitoring	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00
Savings in Youth Incarceration Costs	(0.50)	(0.50)	(0.50)	(0.50)	(2.00)
Extra Funding for Youth Programs	.25	.25	.25	.25	1.00
Schools at the Heart of the Community	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	200.00
Curbside Recycling for Saskatoon & Regina	5.00	10.00	15.00	20.00	50.00
Curbside Recycling Funding for Other Municipalities	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	20.00
Curbside Recycling Public Education	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00
Cultural Mapping Project	.30	-	-	-	.30
TOTAL NEW EXPENDITURES	248.15	297.60	401.25	486.00	1,433.00

Notes:

1. Elimination of publicly financed partisan advertisements will result in an estimated \$5 million/year savings.
2. Continued operation of the HSPC is contingent upon realization of expected cost savings in the health care system.

Revenue Neutral Initiatives	(millions of dollars) Annual Cost
Building an Economy for Tomorrow	
Investment into Saskatchewan Infrastructure (Fully funded through sale of SaskFerco)	400.00
Energy Security Research Funding (Funds will be allocated from a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the share in New Grade)	120.00
Agriculture Risk Management Program (RMP will draw from CAIS funding)	170.00
Building a Society for Tomorrow	
Establishing Community Health Centres (Implementation costs allocated via the existing health care budget)	400.00
Health, Social and Justice Programming in Schools (Funds allocated from existing Health, Justice, and Community Resources budgets)	100.00
Low-income Housing Assistance	50.00
Daycare Subsidy (Both programs will replace existing non-performing programs within the Dept. of Community Resources)	16.00

(Revenue neutral initiatives are programs in which the costs associated with it result in no net increase in the provincial operating budget)

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