

THERE IS A BETTER WAY

SASKATCHEWAN LIBERAL PARTY
2011 ELECTION PLATFORM



PLATFORM AT A GLANCE

Message from Ryan Bater Leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party	1
Securing our Financial Future	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminate the Provincial Debt• Reduce the PST to 3%• Create the Saskatchewan Future Fund	
Fighting for the Growing Communities of Our Province	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make Mental Health and Addiction a Priority• Create a Senior and Elder Caregiver Benefit• Put Schools at the Heart of our Community• Reform Enterprise Saskatchewan• Reduce the Burden of Student Debt	
Making Government Make Sense	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rein in Regina's Spending Spree• Open up the Crowns• Increase Transparency in Regina	
Platform Costing Assumptions and Breakdown	17
Principles of Prairie Liberalism	21

THERE IS A BETTER WAY



As I have travelled across countless kilometres of Saskatchewan highway since becoming Leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party, I am often reminded of a bumper sticker from when I was growing up:

“Dear Lord, please give me another boom...I promise I won’t piss it away again!”

We have enjoyed boom times these past four years. Saskatchewan has been blessed by natural resource wealth that has made us the envy of many as we weathered the global economic storm. Our economy has stayed strong, our population has grown, and we are a “have” province now. An entire generation that left Saskatchewan for greener pastures in Alberta and elsewhere is beginning to return home.

Yet, despite our province enjoying some of the best economic times in living memory, there is a growing sense that we have wasted this moment. There is a lingering feeling of unfairness. It seems that only the interests of government elites in Regina matter.

Leadership is in short supply. Every time our politicians in Regina face tough issues they keep saying *“that’s just the way it is”*.

They say:

*We will never be able to pay off all of our debt.
That’s just the way it is.*

*Rural communities are shrinking
That’s just the way it is.*

*We can’t have a debate about the Crown
Corporations. That’s just the way it is.*

But if the history of Saskatchewan teaches us anything, it is this: **“that’s just the way it is” just isn’t good enough.** It certainly isn’t leadership. As a former economic developer, when I look to Europe and the United States I am concerned about the dark clouds once again brewing on the economic horizon. Saskatchewan needs leadership now more than ever if we are to weather the coming storm.

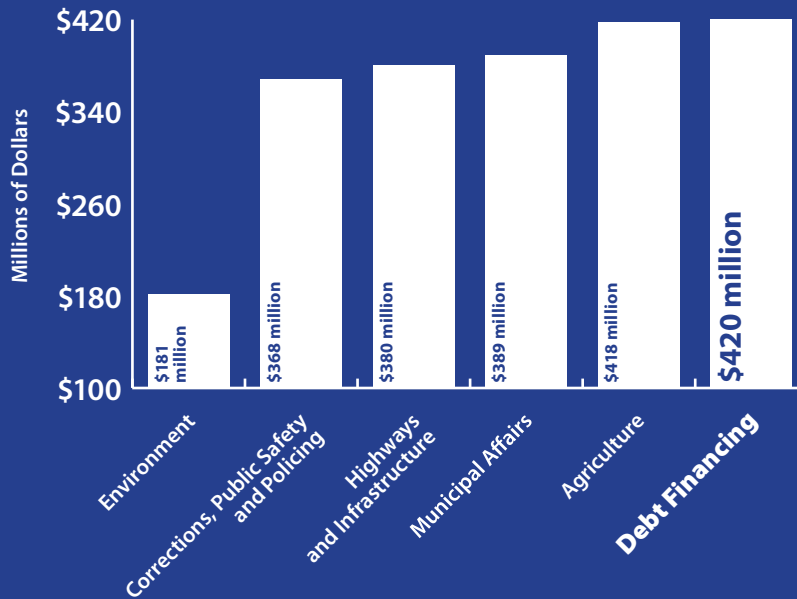
This platform document outlines the values we stand for and our proposals to help Saskatchewan reach its full potential. In the Legislature, I will lead the fight for the other growing communities in our province to ensure that they too can have their fair share. And whenever the politicians in Regina cower and say “that’s just the way it is”, I will respond:

There is a better way!

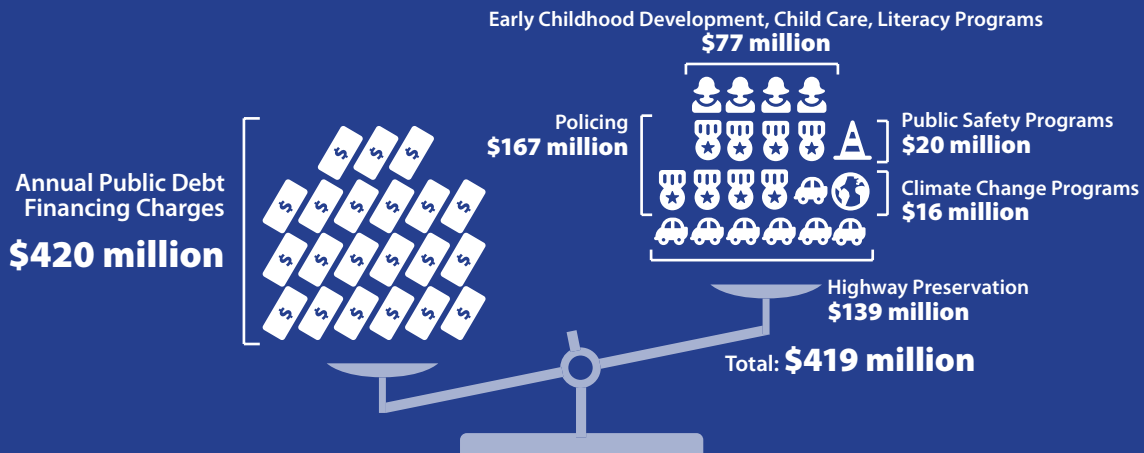
A message from Ryan Bater
Leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party

HELD BACK BY DEBT.

We spend more money on annual debt financing charges than we do on entire government departments.



That is more money than we spend on the following government programs combined:



Source: Government of Saskatchewan 2011-2012 Estimates

SECURING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

Natural resources won't last forever. It is unwise to fund ongoing expenditures such as health care with volatile, one-time dollars that come from resource extraction. This leads to problems like the unexpected budget gap of 2009-10 due to miscalculated potash royalty revenue.

We need sustainable economic policies that will last for generations. Any financial advisor will tell you, the first thing you need to do for long term financial health is to get rid of your debt. And as anyone who has struggled with debt knows, this isn't easy to do. It takes leadership and discipline.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party is proposing the adoption of a **Three-Step Plan to Secure Saskatchewan's Financial Future:**

1

Pay Off the Debt

Dedicate 100% of future unbudgeted surpluses from non-renewable resource revenues to the elimination of public debt in Saskatchewan.

2

Reduce the PST to 3%

Once half the debt has been paid off, lower the PST from 5% to 4%. Once the last half of the debt is paid off, lower the PST to 3%.

3

Invest in the Future

Once the public debt is fully eliminated, 50% of all future non-renewable resource revenues will be invested in a new sovereign wealth fund: the Saskatchewan Future Fund.



1

Pay Off the Debt

What are non-renewable resource revenues?

Every year, the Government of Saskatchewan collects billions of dollars in royalties from resources like potash, oil, natural gas and sales of Crown land – over \$2.5 billion last year alone. These are one-time revenues for the province. Once a barrel of oil is sold or a train-car of potash is shipped away, it is gone for good.

Every year hundreds of millions of tax dollars are literally thrown out the window on debt servicing charges; this year it will be \$420 million. That's \$420 million that won't go to help the people of Saskatchewan, but instead will be lining the pockets of bankers from Toronto to New York to Shanghai.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party proposes that 100% of unbudgeted surpluses from non-renewable resources should be spent on debt payment. In contrast, the Sask Party took advantage of an unexpected surplus in non-renewable resource revenues in 2008 and chose to irresponsibly spend \$334 million of those one-time dollars on a tax reduction package, which now has to be paid for each and every year.

Every penny of one-time, surplus non-renewable resource revenues going to debt reduction: that's what we will lead the fight for.



Reduce the PST to 3%

The PST impacts every resident of Saskatchewan in their daily life. With uncertain economic times on the horizon, it is important to ensure that people can still afford to spend on the things that are important to them. It is also critical that we ensure that our local businesses stay competitive, particularly for those communities along our western border where Alberta's PST-free economy is only a short drive away.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party proposes that the PST be responsibly reduced. As public debt is paid off, money that was being wasted on debt servicing charges should be redirected to reducing the PST. This means that once approximately half the debt is paid off, the PST would be reduced by one percentage point to 4%. Once the remainder of the debt is paid off, it would be reduced to 3%.



Invest in the Future

Regina is addicted to potash and oil. The provincial government is spending the one-time dollars that they get from non-renewable resource dollars faster than they can get their hands on them. If we are to secure our financial future, this needs to stop.

Other jurisdictions rich in similar natural resources, such as Norway, have established "Sovereign Wealth Funds" in order to generate ongoing revenue for government in perpetuity. These funds ensure that future generations can benefit from today's one-time resource extraction.

In 2008, Ryan Bater was the first party leader to call for the creation of a sovereign wealth fund for the province of Saskatchewan, to be called the Saskatchewan Future Fund. We will lead the fight for the creation of such a fund once our public debt is paid off. 50% of all future one-time non-renewable resource dollars will be committed to the Saskatchewan Future Fund for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents today and for generations to come.

PRIORITIES, PRIORITIES.

Where should the government invest? One of the ideas the government has is to build a domed stadium in Regina for:

\$430 million

What else could you get with that kind of money?

- 4** New Saskatchewan Psychiatric Hospitals in North Battleford
- 286** Multi-purpose community recreation facilities
- 307** Tier-1 Canada Research Chairs
- \$ 406** For every man, woman and child in Saskatchewan

Source: Western Economic Diversification Canada, Canada Research Chairs, Statistics Canada

FIGHTING FOR THE GROWING COMMUNITIES OF OUR PROVINCE

The province is more than the big cities. Our growing communities, like The Battlefords, need support too. A new approach to economic and social development is required that isn't focused on the narrow interests of the government elites in Regina.

Instead of domed stadium mega-projects, the people of Saskatchewan should be the focus of the provincial government's investments. We want to support our growing communities by empowering people to live with dignity and reach for their dreams. The best solutions are found closest to where the people are.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party will support our growing communities by leading the fight for:

- 1** Making Mental Health and Addiction a Priority
- 2** Creating a Senior and Elder Caregiver Benefit
- 3** Putting Schools at the Heart of our Community
- 4** Reforming Enterprise Saskatchewan
- 5** Reducing the Burden of Student Debt





Make Mental Health and Addiction a Priority

Mental health and addiction are diseases that silently, and often invisibly, affect countless people across Saskatchewan. While there has been progress made on reducing the stigma and improving access to support programs, much more remains to be done. A proactive approach on mental health and addiction issues will save lives and reduce the demand for more expensive health care and police services.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party will advocate for mental health and addictions issues taking a higher priority by:

- Continuing to lead the fight to immediately replace the 100 year-old Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford, the province's only dedicated psychiatric rehabilitation facility. It is time to stop the endless election-year promises, and start building a new Saskatchewan Hospital to provide acceptable facilities for mental health patients and the health care professionals who care for them.
- Advocating for the creation and implementation of a province-wide mental health strategy, building on the principles outlined in the Kirby/Keon Senate report: *Out of the Shadows at Last: Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness, and Addiction Services in Canada*.



Create a Senior and Elder Caregiver Benefit

Every family at some point is touched by the need to take care of a loved one battling illness. We owe our seniors and elders dignity and quality of life, yet have a long-term care system that is bursting at the seams. Many seniors and elders would choose to live at home or with family members if medically possible, but this can present a serious financial burden for those caregivers. In a compassionate society that believes in the dignity of the individual, it is wrong to leave families to shoulder this responsibility on their own.

To ensure that Saskatchewan residents can live in dignity as they age, the Saskatchewan Liberal Party will fight for a Senior and Elder Caregiver Benefit to support lower and middle-income caregivers who are taking care of an aging family member. This Senior and Elder Caregiver Benefit would:

- Provide individuals with a tax-free monthly payment worth up to \$2,000 per year
- Be available to all caregivers with family incomes under \$100,000 who are taking care of a family member 65 years of age or older
- Require a medical certificate affirming that the ill family member needs a significant amount of personal care and assistance with daily tasks in order to qualify for the benefit

3

Put Schools at the Heart of our Community

For too many teachers, their day-to-day job resembles that of a social worker more than it does of an educator. Teachers need adequate resources to support the children in their classroom so that they can do their job and teach. Students need the full range of support possible so that they can thrive and achieve their dreams.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party believes that schools should be at the heart of our communities. This means giving children and families access to the full range of health, social, justice and community programming that they need to succeed. We believed this in 2007, and we still believe it today.

Specifically, we will advocate for:

- Creating new employment positions in schools for clinical nurses, pediatricians, social workers, and other health care professionals
- Supplementing teachers and health workers in schools with special education teachers, educational assistants, and after-school coordinators
- Making the early identification of, and treatment programs for, children with speech and language disorders a priority to avoid less effective and more expensive treatment later on in life
- Hiring Community Programming Coordinators responsible for school-based health, social and youth justice services, and organizing after-school programming that meets the needs of the community
- Offering classes for adults so that parents can work on completing their high school education or take part in continuing education programs while their children are involved in evening music, drama, sports, or arts programs
- Working with school boards to ensure that physical activity is mandatory and daily from Kindergarten to Grade Twelve
- Raising the age that youth need to stay in school from 16 to 17

4

Reform Enterprise Saskatchewan

Enterprise Saskatchewan was introduced by the Sask Party to replace Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDAs). Enterprise Saskatchewan imposed new centrally controlled organizations responsible for economic development programming called Enterprise Regions. The Enterprise Regions operate in direct opposition to the principles of voluntary participation, local control, and self-determination that the previous REDA system was based on.

The Enterprise Saskatchewan approach is top-down when effective economic development should be bottom-up. The Enterprise Regions have little or no autonomy from the provincial government. Local communities have no ability to self-determine their economic development priorities. Enterprise Regions are now forced to focus entirely on foreign investment, effectively abandoning all local small business and entrepreneurial development. This focus on mega-projects and ribbon cuttings, while attractive for career politicians in Regina, is harmful to our growing communities where 80% of all new job and wealth creation is the result of small business retention and expansion.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party will lead the fight to reform economic development policy by advocating for the:

- Elimination of Enterprise Saskatchewan and the Enterprise Regions system, with a return of all related resources back into the appropriate core government departments
- Creation of Rural Development Corporations for all areas of the province outside of Regina and Saskatoon. The Rural Development Corporations will be set-up as self-governing organizations which local communities and First Nations can voluntarily choose to join. The provincial government would provide matching funds to those contributed by participating jurisdictions
- Emphasis of provincial economic development activities to be focused on small business and entrepreneurial development

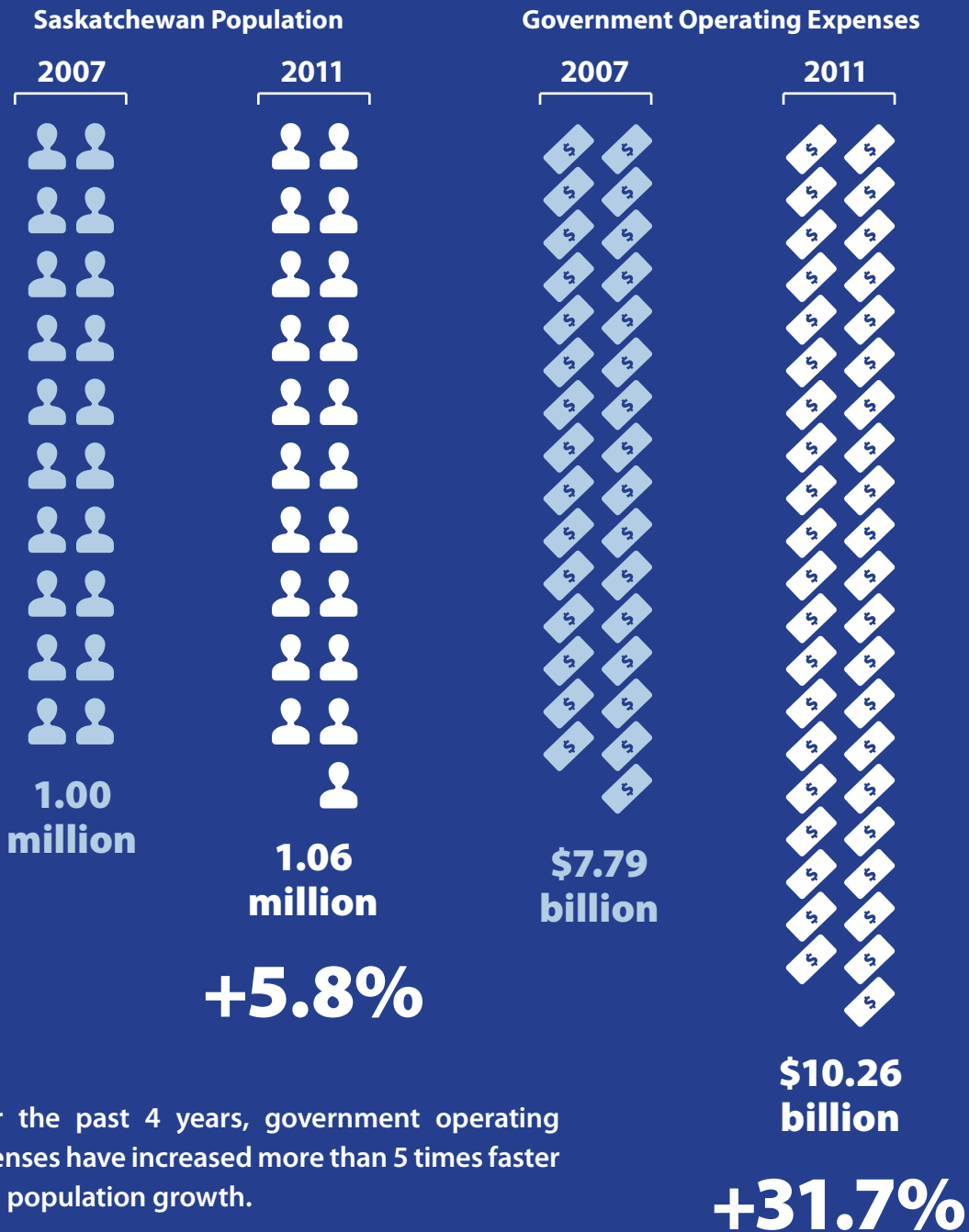
5

Reduce the Burden of Student Debt

Many post-secondary students have a heavy burden of debt after graduation. Between 2000 and 2009, the incidence of bachelor degree graduates with debt has risen by 3%, and the average amount of debt has skyrocketed by over 33%. This makes entrepreneurship very unappealing and most recent graduates clamour instead for the quickest, safest job they can find in order to manage their student debt burden.

Government student loans are an attractive option for many students given their favourable interest rates and repayment options. However, our current student loan application process means that many hard-working students from middle-class families are often forced to seek financing from commercial sources with higher interest rates. To help post-secondary students invest in education while keeping their career options open, the Saskatchewan Liberal Party will advocate for de-linking a student's family income, as well as all employment income and assets from Saskatchewan student loan qualifications.

SPENDING EXPLOSION.



Source: Statistics Canada, Government of Saskatchewan 2011-2012 Estimates

MAKING GOVERNMENT MAKE SENSE

Regina is out of control. The provincial government has lost focus on what it is here for. Government can be a force for good, but not when the politicians in Regina have lost touch with our values.

The Sask Party's 2007 election platform claimed that once all of their promises were implemented that "total government operating expenses before debt servicing costs are forecast to increase from \$7.79 billion to \$8.75 billion by 2011-12" (p. 43, 2007 Sask. Party Platform).

So how did the Sask Party do? Not so well. In the latest budget, government operating expenses were \$10.26 billion. That's over \$1.5 billion dollars more than the Sask Party promised to be spending at the end of their first term.

This represents a 31.7% increase in government spending since the Sask Party formed government. At the same time, the provincial population has only grown by 5.8%.

Enough is enough. We need leadership to end this now.

To start making government make sense, the Saskatchewan Liberal Party will lead the fight to:

- 1** Rein in Regina's Spending Spree
- 2** Open up the Crowns
- 3** Improve Accountability in Regina





Rein in Regina's Spending Spree

Governments around the world and across Canada are tightening their belts as they prepare for tough economic times to come. Saskatchewan should be no exception. The Saskatchewan Liberal Party proposes that within the first 100 days of a new government that a value-for-money audit of the entire provincial government be conducted to determine the efficiency of how tax dollars are being used.

- The goal of the value-for-money audit would be to identify opportunities for more efficient and effective delivery of services to the public
- The value-for-money audit would have a target of a 10% reduction in provincial government operational spending to be announced in the 2012-13 provincial budget
- The audit should be conducted transparently and the results released directly to the people of Saskatchewan



Open up the Crowns

The people of Saskatchewan want their Crowns to be well managed, accountable and want assurance that the Crown services offered are being delivered in the most economical and efficient manner possible. Yet an adult discussion about Crowns in Saskatchewan seems to be impossible. Why? Because former Saskatchewan Party Leader, Elwin Hermanson, lost an election in 2003 by talking about the future of the Crowns (or so the myth goes). Now all the politicians in Regina are too scared to show leadership and speak up. Get real.

It's time for leadership on developing innovative approaches to how our Crowns do business in a modern economy, and the Saskatchewan Liberal Party will start this long delayed discussion by advocating for two concrete proposals:

Privatize Liquor Retailing

The role of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority should be reduced to the wholesaling and distribution of alcoholic beverages in Saskatchewan and it should be removed completely from retailing activities. Privately-run small businesses should be allowed to establish liquor outlets. The only thing standing in the way of someone starting their own liquor business should be their own entrepreneurial spirit and work ethic. Saskatchewan consumers will see the advantages of a free market including competitive product selection, pricing, and more convenient locations.

(Open up the Crowns continued)

Encourage Green Energy Entrepreneurship

Saskatchewan has the wind, sun, and landmass to become a major producer of green energy. Yet, despite our natural advantages, we only produce 4.5% of our energy from renewable sources, not including hydro. What is holding us back? The government in Regina.

Currently, SaskPower holds a monopoly on energy production. All individuals in Saskatchewan should have the freedom to invest in renewable energy and contribute to our provincial energy needs. The opportunities for entrepreneurs in rural Saskatchewan could give farmers and First Nations a much needed economic boost by providing access to another revenue source.

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party will advocate for the establishment of a Feed-In Tariff for renewable energy generation to allow anyone to be a green energy entrepreneur and end the SaskPower monopoly on energy production. This Feed-In Tariff will:

- Set fair prices for each renewable energy technology that can result in a modest profit for operators with a good business case
- Ensure that prices reflect the current cost of each renewable energy source at its proposed location
- Allow for premium prices and conditions for specific projects to promote storage systems, First Nations, or other community power initiatives
- Have contractual long-term premiums to give the market a strong signal that the provincial government is serious about green energy entrepreneurship

3

Increase Transparency in Regina

The last two provinces in Canada to not have a lobbyist registry or be in the process of introducing one are Saskatchewan and PEI. Even some Canadian cities are creating comprehensive registries.

Subsequent Sask Party and NDP governments have taken no action on this issue, leaving the people of Saskatchewan without the ability to track how corporate interests exercise influence in Regina. For example, last fall when international corporations were jostling for control of PotashCorp over a potential deal valued at \$39 billion, the public was left in the dark as to who was trying to influence our government.

We deserve to know who is talking with our elected officials behind closed doors. Governments that have nothing to hide should embrace transparency mechanisms. The Saskatchewan Liberal Party will advocate for the introduction of a lobbyist registry that meets the highest national standards.

PLATFORM COSTING ASSUMPTIONS

The proposals in the Saskatchewan Liberal Party's 2011 platform, if fully enacted, are projected to create no new government debt. This is based primarily upon two assumptions:

- Reasonable expectations of growth in population and economic activity in-line with current provincial government forecasts
- Achieving the targeted 10% reduction in government operating expenses as proposed

Platform Proposal	Fiscal Impact
Eliminate the Provincial Debt	Neutral
Reduce the PST to 3%	\$13.6 million per year ongoing cost
Create the Saskatchewan Future Fund	Neutral
Make Mental Health and Addiction a Priority	\$100 million one-time cost; \$5 million per year ongoing cost
Create a Senior and Elder Caregiver Benefit	\$100 million per year ongoing cost
Put Schools at the Heart of our Community	\$50 million per year ongoing cost
Reform Enterprise Saskatchewan	Neutral
Reduce the Burden of Student Debt	Neutral
Rein in Regina's Spending Spree	\$1.026 billion per year savings
Open up the Crowns	Neutral
Increase Transparency in Regina	\$1 million per year ongoing cost
Total Fiscal Impact	\$100 million one-time spending \$169.6 million per year new spending \$1.026 billion per year savings

These platform proposals show extreme fiscal prudence. Based on these estimates, ongoing impacts to the provincial treasury would be an \$856.4 million annual reduction in expenditures.

PLATFORM COSTING BREAKDOWN

Securing our Financial Future

Eliminate the Provincial Debt

Estimated Cost: Fiscally Neutral

The provincial debt will be paid down through dedicating 100% of unbudgeted surplus non-renewable resource revenues. Based on budget numbers, over the past four years there have been unbudgeted surpluses in non-renewable resource revenues three fiscal years as follows:

2007/08:	\$548,100,000
2008/09:	\$2,737,500,000
2010/11:	\$454,700,000
Total:	\$3,740,300,000

Note: in 2009-10 non-renewable resource revenues were over-budgeted by \$1,605,100,000

Reduce the PST to 3%

Estimated Cost: \$13.6 million per year

In the 2011-12 provincial budget, one percentage point of PST was valued at \$216.8 million as per municipal revenue sharing agreements. Reducing the PST by two percentage points will remove \$433.6 million from provincial revenues, approximately equivalent to the elimination of debt servicing payments which in budget 2011-12 stood at \$420 million annually. There would be a \$13.6 million per year cost to reduce the PST to 3% due to lost revenues above and beyond the fiscal room freed up by eliminated debt servicing payments. This means 97% of the cost of reducing the PST to 3% would be covered by the elimination of debt servicing charges.

Create the Saskatchewan Future Fund

Estimated Cost: Fiscally Neutral

Redirecting 50% of non-renewable resource revenues to the Saskatchewan Future Fund will have an impact on the resources available for short-term government operations spending. For example, in the last budget year, non-renewable resource revenues were budgeted at \$2,828,900,000 – meaning that if the Saskatchewan Future Fund were in place, \$1,414,450,000 would have been diverted from the provincial treasury. This budget shortfall would be offset over time by projected growth in other forms of own-source revenue, assuming that government spending is kept steady. From 2007-08 to 2011-12, own-source revenues (excluding non-renewable resource revenues) increased by \$1,321,200,000.

(Costing Breakdown continued)

Fighting for the Growing Communities of Our Province

Make Mental Health and Addictions a Priority

Estimated Cost: \$100 million one-time investment for a new Saskatchewan Hospital; \$5 million per year for strategy implementation

The one-time capital costs associated with building a new Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford has been estimated by the provincial government to be \$100 million.

We estimate that the implementation of a comprehensive Mental Health and Addiction strategy for Saskatchewan would cost \$5 million per year to implement. As a point of comparison, the Government of Saskatchewan's Provincial Tobacco Reduction Strategy which was officially launched in 2010 was budgeted at \$1 million per year.

Create a Senior and Elder Caregiver Benefit

Cost: \$100 million per year

Current demographic projections show that by the end of the decade 1 in 6 Saskatchewan residents will be over 65 years of age. A 2003 study by the provincial government showed that 29% of those 65 and older reported not being in good health. Based on current population numbers, this would mean a fully subscribed Senior Caregiver Tax Benefit, with one qualifying caregiver per senior, would cost approximately \$100 million per year.

Given that some seniors in poor health would either receive care in hospital and/or long-term

care facilities, as well as some families would have household incomes above the \$100,000 threshold, the full cost would likely be significantly less than \$100 million per year.

Put Schools at the Heart of our Community

Estimated Cost: \$50 million per year

Based on costing in the 2007 Saskatchewan Liberal Party Platform, this initiative would cost approximately \$50 million per year.

Reform Enterprise Saskatchewan

Estimated Cost: Fiscally Neutral

Changes to Enterprise Saskatchewan would be in policy direction and operations, and not have an impact on the current budget envelope for economic development activities.

Reduce the Burden of Student Debt

Estimated Cost: Fiscally Neutral

As the proposals only impact loan eligibility, they are fiscally neutral over time for the government as the money loaned out will be returned to the provincial treasury as loans are repaid.

(Costing Breakdown continued)

Making Government Make Sense

Rein in Regina's Spending Spree

Estimated Savings: \$1 billion per year

Based on budget 2011-12 as a baseline, with government operational expenditures (excluding debt servicing) being \$10.26 billion, a 10% reduction in expenditures for budget 2012-13 would result in \$1.026 billion dollars in savings.

Open up the Crowns

Estimated Cost: Fiscally Neutral

Liquor privatization would be fiscally neutral as the government would retain revenues from the wholesale of liquor, while removing the overhead of running retail operations. Alberta's experience with privatizing liquor retailing found that government revenues actually increased.

Opening the power grid for green energy entrepreneurs would be fiscally neutral as the feed-in tariff and associated costs would be paid for by re-directing funds that would have otherwise been invested to increase power generation by traditional methods (e.g. new power plants). Based on current projected supply, Crown Corporations will have to rebuild, replace, or acquire 1,091 megawatts of power by 2014 and a further 1,017 megawatts of power by 2022.

Increase Transparency in Regina

Estimated Cost: \$1 million per year

We estimate that costs involved in setting up and maintaining a provincial lobbyist registry would cost approximately \$1 million per year. As a point of comparison, the federal lobbyist registry in Ottawa cost \$5.2 million to operate in 2011.

PRINCIPLES OF PRAIRIE LIBERALISM

Saskatchewan Liberals...

- Are motivated by a desire to maximize freedom and the quality of life for the individual in society.
- Believe in the right of all citizens to self-determination as long as it does not deny that right to others.
- Believe that the role of government is to promote liberty by ensuring equality of opportunity.
- Believe that power is best invested in the individual and that centralization of power poses a threat to personal liberty.
- Recognize both economic and social diversity as necessary to innovation and prosperity.
- Believe that healthy democracy requires freedom of thought and expression.

We, the members of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party, declare our belief in the above as expressed by the following three principles:

Personal Liberty

Individuals should be guaranteed the freedom to live their own lives as they see fit. Freedom requires not only the absence of government interference, but protection from coercion and other barriers to freedom such as poverty and illness. Government exists to foster the conditions for personal freedom, not to impose or encourage any way of life over any other. Justice is the protection of rights and freedoms, not punishment and imposition of order.

Freedom of Enterprise

Individuals should be free to develop their talents and pursue their own projects in life compatible with the liberty of others. The entrepreneurial spirit of the individual must be fostered and allowed to flourish in all areas, whether artistic, commercial, charitable, or academic. The role of the state is to foster a free market economy by cultivating conditions of fair competition and ensuring equal opportunity of citizens to participate. Social and economic ventures should be the result of community and individual initiatives.

Responsible Government

Government is responsible to the electors, not to special interest groups. Decisions should be conducted with full transparency and with maximum opportunity for public input. Wherever possible, decision-making power should be decentralized and localized. The central government is responsible for those issues affecting the province as a whole, such as justice, the environment, ensuring a fair and competitive marketplace, and the provision of public goods and services.

The Declaration of the Principles of Prairie Liberalism was passed at the 2009 Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention



**Learn More about
Ryan Bater's Leadership at:**

SaskLiberals.ca



Authorized by the official agent of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party