

PC Policies For 2011 Election

HEALTH

The P.C. Party believes ministerial responsibility must be returned to our health system and a P.C. government would work to do so over the next 4 years.

Appointed boards and high-priced health region bureaucrats are destroying rural health care and overloading the core hospitals. The NDP's closure of 53 rural hospitals, dismissal of over 600 nurses and dislocation of dozens of rural doctors has not saved the taxpayers a dime. The system has been back-filled with high-priced administrative types rather than front-line health care professionals.

Therefore, the P.C. Party would implement over 4 years:

1. Transition back to command and control with ministerial responsibility.
2. Implementation of a full-service health card for all Saskatchewan citizens.
3. Redefine in co-operation with the College of Physicians and Surgeons residency requirements pertaining to family practitioners and their relationship to rural hospitals.
4. Qualified midwifery to be covered under medicare to make up for the lack of qualified obstetricians in much of Saskatchewan.
5. Defined Medical College Scholarship and Commitment Program for Saskatchewan-born students entering the medical profession. 7 years of scholarship assistance in exchange for 7 years of commitment to Saskatchewan communities and institutions outside of Saskatoon and Regina. This would be a very large commitment by the taxpayers of Saskatchewan but it is also a large commitment by those entering the program. That joint commitment will make Saskatchewan a better place in which to live. Saskatchewan must stop trying to fix its medical shortcomings by poaching health care professionals paid for by taxpayers from other countries. Saskatchewan's youth understand our communities and will solve the medical problems facing us.

EDUCATION

SASKATCHEWAN FIRST – EDUCATING OUR FUTURE

CREATION OF AN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Saskatchewan's abundant natural resources and a world wanting those resources means that our provincial economy should continue to grow with good management. Part of that good management is ensuring that Saskatchewan families have the ability to ensure that their children have the best educational opportunities available to them.

Part of the responsibility for that belongs to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. It is very evident that we still have a lot of our students not attending post-secondary education of whatever type because of financial constraints. We believe that it is incumbent upon government to provide tools to parents and young people leaving high school with the opportunity to help fund their education.

Therefore a P.C. Party government would implement a Saskatchewan First Education Plan. Parents or mature students could contribute to an education fund and receive provincial tax credits at the same rate as the current provincial political tax credit plan.

The contribution would be capped at a maximum of \$1275 contribution for a tax credit of \$625 off tax payable. The program would be capped at \$25,000 total contribution per child or at 18 years of age for the recipient. The funds would be administered by the Saskatchewan Pension Plan and could be used at any post-secondary institution in the province of Saskatchewan with provincial accreditation.

Many current plans discriminate against those wishing to enter the trades or apprenticeship programming. This would allow Saskatchewan students and their families to plan for our growing economy of the future. If these tax credits are good enough for our political parties and politicians, they should work for our children's education.

They are our future.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CREATION OF SASKATCHEWAN PARTNERSHIP FUND (SPF)

The P.C. Party and the last P.C. Party government believed in developing Saskatchewan's resources and creating value-added industries and employment by developing long-term partnerships with various sectors. We believe this type of economic building has been sadly lacking under both the NDP and Sask Party governments. Therefore a P.C. Party government would take the amount of money derived from the sale of Saskferco and create a new partnership tool.

The amount of money that would be available for what we would call the Saskatchewan Partnership Fund would be the sale price less the initial investment of \$249 million. This would leave approximately \$650 million to kick start the fund. If there were future sales of government assets, we believe a portion of the profit should go towards creating wealth in Saskatchewan.

Money would be directed at value-added processing, manufacturing or technology development of Saskatchewan's resources. There must be long-term job creation and a sustainable environmental footprint created. The partnerships could be with private business, co-ops, First Nations, other levels of government or a combination of the above. These partnerships would be for a defined period of time. Saskferco's legacy should have been more Saskferco type development – not making up government's shortfall because of government's mismanagement and faulty projections.

RECYCLING FOR THE FUTURE

The P.C. Party government would continue its initial successes achieved from developing SARCAN Recycling. We believe Saskatchewan must go to a second phase. A P.C. government would commit to creating a total recycling system for the people of Saskatchewan.

A province-wide system would be developed to collect a wide variety of containers that would be legislated to provide a financial incentive to all citizens in Saskatchewan through an expanded depot and collection system. The present systems would be encouraged to participate in the increased volumes of eligible containers. The key to success of a province-wide system is the support of the public. Let's not forget that the consumers and taxpayers are the ones that will pay and their goodwill is needed to support the system.

The system would be financed by a deposit system with a handling fee component built in. That component must be negotiated to take into account the marketing for the recycled containers because some markets are easier to obtain than others. The system will be modeled after SARCAN but modernized to handle larger volume of recyclables.

The system would be franchised firstly to municipalities as an opportunity to cut landfill waste then to cities under the same opportunity. A private-public entity at arms length from government would be the preferred delivery vehicle responsible for creating the system, paying franchise operators, transporting the recyclables to a processing area, marketing these products and advertising to educate the public.

The employment principles which have allowed so many of our disadvantaged citizens find meaningful employment with SARCAN should be a cornerstone of this enterprise.

RESOURCE POLICY

STRATEGIC RESOURCES REVIEW COMMISSION (SRRC)

The P.C. Party believes Saskatchewan people need to be assured on a regular basis that the resources of this province are being exploited in the best interests of the owners – the people of this province. Politicians and governments are the stewards that we hire to look after our best interests. They are not the owners.

When the Sask Party Premier and his government took a major interventionist step into the potash industry and at the same time, has committed to hundreds of millions of dollars in incentives to this industry, the public interest needs to be guarded. The P.C. Party feels that the interest of Saskatchewan people needs to be recognized with a structured, non-political review that would report to the Legislative Assembly not the Cabinet and government.

Our solution of a Strategic Resources Review Commission would accomplish this with a mandated review taking place at least once every four years. The make up of the Commission and its mandate have been well documented this past spring and has received favorable comments across the board. This mandated review will take the politics out of royalty and resource taxation debates.

It will come down to what is fair and what is not.

CREATION OF A URANIUM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

A P.C. government, over a 4 year mandate, would negotiate a working relationship between the private sector, the provincial government, the federal government and First Nations to facilitate the construction of a used uranium fuel storage facility at the appropriate location in Saskatchewan.

This would be in conjunction with current initiatives already under way at the University of Saskatchewan and at AECL to further value add Saskatchewan's world class uranium deposits. This partnership should have the majority of its shares in the private sector. A Canpotex model involving all companies producing in the province would be a good example alongside public sector involvement to ensure environmental and regulatory compliance.

The P.C. Party of Saskatchewan believes in the promise of our uranium resource and wishes to continue the work done by a P.C. government which helped found Cameco Corp. 21 years ago. The potential economic benefits and technological opportunities for our citizens is too great to ignore. Our uranium resource should not be a topic for political manipulation but one of public awareness and education which can drive our economy for generations to come.

AGRICULTURE

FARM LAND OWNERSHIP CHANGES

Farm land is Saskatchewan's most strategic resource. It is our primary renewable generator of wealth and growth. Accordingly, we must continue to safeguard our control over this resource by maintaining our legislated framework of protection under The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act and adapting it where necessary to new challenges.

Accordingly, the P.C. Party of Saskatchewan opposes the inclusion of pension funds as a qualifying investor in Saskatchewan farm land and would ensure that the growth of farm land Limited Partnerships do not become a threat to the viability of our family farm base or the economic health of our rural communities.

HOUSING

The P.C. Party believes there is a housing crisis in Saskatchewan. It is very apparent that there is a lack of moderately priced single family and multi-family units available for purchase across the province. This is not a big city phenomenon but exists in our villages, towns and smaller cities where much of Saskatchewan's resource sector is concentrated.

It is obvious that the home building industry has been concentrating on higher end construction and must be doing so because of a lack of incentives in other areas.

The P.C. Party of Saskatchewan has always believed in the benefits of a properly harmonized sales tax system. Therefore we would commit to starting the phase-in of that system with the home building sector. This would allow companies, individuals, co-ops or community-based self help groups to claim back the tax credits which would occur under a harmonized sales tax system. We believe that the single family dwelling would have a capped price of \$275,000 to qualify and that a price of \$220,000 multi-family construction should be the capped limit to qualify.

This would encourage building of housing in markets which do not have enough affordable housing starts, rural communities, boom economies and first-time homeowners.

The implementation of such a plan would allow for the integration of existing tax rebates and federal housing funds that are for community-based and self-help groups.