

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF SASKATCHEWAN – POLICY 2016

The policies put forward by the PC Party of Saskatchewan are developed by the Candidates and Executive of the Party. They are developed in accordance with the principles of the PC Party of Saskatchewan.

Orphan Wells Recovery Program

The PC Party of Saskatchewan believes there are made-in Saskatchewan policies which can kick-start the recovery of employment and economic opportunity in our oil dependent communities. This kick-start will benefit the entire Saskatchewan economy with no cost to the Treasury.

The PC Party is encouraging the Sask Party government to look at our proposal which is based on common sense, sound economics and which maintains environmental stewardship.

"It is apparent to me and the PC Party team of candidates that there are opportunities in the oil producing areas for small and medium sized producers to use hard work and ingenuity to restart and rehab existing wells which are currently sitting idle because of world prices. We also believe there would be the opportunity to drill new wells that may not be completed until prices improve with our proposal," said Leader Rick Swenson.

The PC Party believes this program should be limited to Sask registered producers and companies who file a Saskatchewan income tax return. They would be required to pay a \$10,000.00 one-time registration fee if a new company and 10-20% of the calculated LLR fee. We need to let small producers help negotiate this fee structure with the government.

This would allow Saskatchewan producers to acquire dormant assets, bring the wells back on production and pay 20% of returns until the LLR ratio was met. When the price of oil returns to \$65.00 BBL Canadian for a full quarter, then the full amount outstanding would become due. By then, the producer should have established production that would also reduce the LLR fee.

Swenson concludes, "We believe this program will work best for new and smaller producers - the very people who are the foundation of our communities today and in the future."

Short Line Railroads

Short line railroads are a benefit to all residents of Saskatchewan. Moving grain, oilseeds and resources via rail reduces the amount of heavy truck traffic on our highways and grid roads. They also support rural communities and businesses.

The PC Party and PC MLAs will work for the following improvements to the short line system.

1. PC MLAs would pressure the Federal Government to create a more co-operative system between short line railroads and the national rail companies.
2. Short line railroads must be part of the discussion during the CTA review process outlined by the Emerson report.
3. A full costing review of National Railroads costs must be a starting point of that review.
4. Short line railroads should be consulted during the development of reciprocal penalty agreements between shippers and carriers.

5. The PC Party will propose a 10 year transportation strategy for Saskatchewan in the Legislature which the Sask Party has failed to announce along with production goals.

We must be able to ship in a timely manner what we produce. Short line railroads must be part of that strategy.

6. A 10 year transportation strategy should include the option of rebuilding closed rail line between existing short line railroads which would allow shortlines to pass cars to the next line. This would be more cost effective for shippers if they did not have to go to a national line first.

7. PC Party will fight to protect the Legislated rights of short lines to receive timely car delivery.

Photo Radar

When the government introduced Photo Radar, the general consensus was that it was simply a cash grab. The PC Party of Saskatchewan was also in that category.

However, good government is about trying to determine what is best for the people of Saskatchewan. In this case, that means determining whether photo radar is an effective method of preventing collisions.

If photo radar proves to be effective at slowing traffic and reducing collisions then it is a worthwhile investment. The PC Party of Saskatchewan would continue to study traffic patterns in the photo radar locations, and in some non-photo radar locations for comparisons.

We would insist that all organizations involved are transparent and make all data collected public information as we work towards a final decision.

Quarterly reporting by Law Enforcement agencies of the incidents and the quantity of tickets issued for photo radar.

We need to get a handle on what's happening and to who it is happening to.

If photo radar is to be continued, the revenue generated should go back to the city, town or municipality where it is collected.

Saskatchewan Community Partnerships

While the current government has been very quick to jump on the P3 bandwagon, the PC Party believes there are flaws in this plan. Unless the P3 can generate income such as the Regina Water Treatment plant or toll roads, they are just debt under a different name. The majority of P3s do not give the taxpayer the best value for money.

The PC Party of Saskatchewan is proposing a different approach which will allow the taxpaying public to become involved in the process and invest along with the large private investors to gain future benefits for themselves by creating a process known as Community Partnerships.

Principles of a Community Partnership

A Community Partnership must have the following objectives:

To provide value to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan including the provision of high quality services and workmanship at a value proposition that is resultant from efficiency and the use of best practices.

To provide an investment opportunity that is open to the involvement of Saskatchewan investors and meets all statutory reporting requirements of a public offering.

To provide complete financial transparency to the general public as to the scope of the project as is required in any public share offering, to face the scrutiny of the open market to confirm its viability and its effective rate of return for taxpayers, the private General Partner as well as the private investors.

Community Partnerships are composed of the following stakeholders:

1. A Registered Limited Partnership
2. Public Participation – 1/3 - Government of Saskatchewan
3. Private Placement General Partner – 1/3 - The Manager of the LP

Must meet standard of possessing proven technical and financial ability to meet the capital requirements of the entire project taken on by the partnership. The General Partner is subject to cash calls for cost overruns, etc.

The General Partner to be compensated by an identified percentage of project costs plus bonus incentive for completion of project on time and on budget.

4. Private Investors – 1/3 - The General Public, with the Government of Saskatchewan provide RRSP rights to the investment on the following basis:

50% of each investor's investment (to a maximum of \$10,000) is eligible to be structured into an RRSP upon agreement of the investor to lock in the RRSP portion of their investment for a minimum period of 8 years

The investor is a resident of Saskatchewan

Private Investors are not to be subjected to cash calls

The Private Investors are compensated by an identified rate of return that is disclosed in the prospectus

Private Investors are free to sell their shares to third parties (other than the General Partner) at their own discretion. Upon completion of the project, the General Partner may make an offering to the Private Investor to solicit their shares.

The registered limited partnership model is based on a performance-based agreement; with the public sector partner setting quality standards that the General Managing partners is required to meet.

The partnership model delivers greater accountability due to a long-term, performance-based agreement.

The partnership model allows private sector innovation and efficiency in all phases of the project.

The registered limited partnership will be subject to the rules and regulations for public offerings for trading securities as set out by Saskatchewan securities legislative standards including the issuance of a public prospectus, annual audit review, and quarterly public financial disclosure requirements.

Child Care

There are enough people in Saskatchewan available to work if they could get child care. Currently, to attend the U of S, you would need to apply for child care before you conceived the child. Rural Saskatchewan has more of a need for child care than urban.

The “working poor” can’t afford child care.

Education offering a child care diploma would increase the number of spaces available in the province.

We would like to alleviate our employment problems by improving our child care system. The PC Party of Saskatchewan would

PC Party MLAs will bring the following proposed changes to the Child Care legislation.

Increase subsidy income thresholds. The current thresholds have not increased since 1983 when minimum was \$4.63.

Increase before and after school programs which are valuable and reduce the number of school age children that take up permanent spaces.

Shift work parents, and adult parents returning to school have few options because most day cares close at 6 pm. Funding for qualified child care workers willing to work on shift work basis allowing child care facilities to be open later in the evening.

Increase the limit from 5 to 6 children in private care homes

Increase available spaces by 10% in the first year

Crop Insurance

Crop Insurance has not been meeting the needs of the farmers it’s supposed to serve. Crop Insurance needs to respect the work farmers do with regard to the market and the land.

We need crop insurance to make effective use of technology.

PC Party MLAs will bring the following proposed changes to the Crop Insurance legislation

Farmers with flooded acres should be compensated for storing water on their land. This will also alleviate the drainage problem prevalent in some areas. If compensated for the land and creating viable wetlands, there is no need to pump water down the line eventually creating irreparable damage to property downstream or flooding lakes like those in the Qu’Appelle System.

Crop insurance premiums are too high for what farmers receive. Farmers should receive break even payments in the event of lost crops. The farm families labour costs need to be included in this format.

The PC Party will call for a Comprehensive Water Survey of the entire province as it relates to cultivated land so that proper benchmarking can be done in future years when determining flooded acres.

Land in the Quill Lakes basin which is permanently flooded should be purchased by the Crown in a willing seller-buyer relationship.

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. 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.

Waste Heat Utilization in Saskatchewan

2016 Election Policy

Waste Heat Utilization in Saskatchewan

In these difficult economic times, we need to do what Saskatchewan does best and that's grow food. Food production is our greatest strength and we should be looking at ways to grow the food industry. In the six month growing season that our producers have to work with, they are equal to or better than anyone else in the world. So why not grow food during the other 6 months of the year?

The recent announcement by the Federal government that infrastructure monies will be available for long term projects which are shovel ready and create long term employment has spurred our policy announcement timetable.

This policy speaks to why we need to mitigate the following facts:

- Dramatic increase in the cost of vegetables and fruit for Saskatchewan families.
- Fall of the Canadian dollar against US currency and lack of irrigation water in California and Southwest U.S. appears to be a long-term reality.

- Fruit and vegetables are an important part of a healthy diet for all citizens, so it is important to examine this situation and look to the future sustainability of supplies.
- We cannot change our climate to grow certain foods 12 months of the year in Saskatchewan outdoors, so we must be innovative and look to our strengths for answers.
- All of the above have collectively brought about bigger grocery bills for all of us and potentially poor nutritional choices.
- Necessity to meet future goals of greener energy sources

Because of the foresight of the PC Party in the 1980s, this province has many industrial complexes that can generate heat to power our food industry through the coldest days of a Saskatchewan winter. Many of these complexes already help power our agricultural industry so why not make them a bigger part of the production cycle? Much of the waste heat from our primary resource extraction industries is in the form of steam - either low pressure or high pressure - which is vented off into the atmosphere. Natural gas - another source of energy and waste heat - is flared off in many of Saskatchewan's oilfields.

The PC Party believes the Government of Saskatchewan should put in place the proper regulatory and taxation regimes to encourage the use of this waste heat for the growing of fruit and vegetables on a commercial basis through the construction and use of greenhouses in close proximity to many of these heat sources.

Publications from the Canadian Greenhouse Association show that heating costs for most vegetable production is around 20% of the total costs of production of vegetables like tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and other vegetables and fruits.

The Province of Saskatchewan currently has a greenhouse facility using waste heat attached to the Shand Power station south of Estevan, SK. This facility has been used to start and grow trees on a part-time basis but never vegetables or fruit. The PC Party believes this facility should be turned over to the Saskatchewan Research Council and the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Agriculture's Horticultural program to conduct the best implementation practices for using waste heat and greenhouse production in Saskatchewan. Because this is an existing facility, this project could be up and running in 2016 with Federal and Provincial co-operation.

Saskatchewan can be a leader in western Canada in lessening our dependence on imported food and at the same time promoting locally grown nutritious products to support healthy lifestyles in a cost-effective manner.

If the commercial viability of this program can be enhanced by allowing industrial enterprises to first co-generate electricity to be sold back into Sask Power's grid, the necessary regulatory changes should be looked at. Saskatchewan needs more sources of electrical generation to feed a growing economy. The water and fuel already have been paid for, the steam is a bonus.

The use of CO₂ has proven to be a beneficial element in greenhouse production. Saskatchewan is currently producing more CO₂ than future regulations will allow. Perhaps some of that excess CO₂ could be directed towards a viable greenhouse industry.

Despite the Sask Party government's rhetoric, Saskatchewan is still subject to a boom and bust economy and we must create additional value-added sources of income to supplement our raw

material value chains and better weather tough economic times. Food will always be in demand and our governments - both federal and provincial - should be investing in our greatest strength.

Sustainable food supplies supported by our clean water resources, our unmatched university and post-secondary research programs and a strong work ethic can make this vision a reality.

The PC Party believes this type of forward looking and co-operative approach to food production, enhanced by our collective efforts to become a more environmentally responsible province, will ensure a healthier society and a more productive economy.

We will actively promote this Policy platform in the upcoming election and push whichever new government is in place after April 4th to take this proposal seriously.

For more information call Rick Swenson at (306) 631-5461 or

Estevan PC Candidate Paul Carroll at (306) 461-6636

For information on the Shand Greenhouse, please contact Paul Carroll at 306 461-6636

Regina Bypass

When the Regina Bypass started, costs were estimated at around \$400 million dollars. Over the next year, costs rose to \$800 million, then \$1.2 billion, and then just five months after that announcement the price rose again to \$1.88 billion. This cost does not include acquisition of land along the route. This means total costs will probably be over \$2 billion.

The P.C. Party of Saskatchewan is endorsing a northern route that will save Provincial taxpayers \$1 billion.

Most of the industrial development in Southern Saskatchewan is located on the north side of Regina. A northern bypass would enhance the growth of Saskatchewan jobs.

High use intersections east of Regina, which have been identified as dangerous to the public, have been included in the PC plan. Because safety is the number 1 reason for a bypass, the PC Party believes these structures should have been started before the bypass at Tower Road.

Some of the money we can save comes from:

Less need for land acquisition, as much of the northern route is Crown land or city-owned

Highway #46 only needs to be twinned, eliminating half the cost of that section.

The land North of Regina is better suited for construction than the land south of Regina and will need far less aggregate. This reduces time and cost preparing the land for construction.

The proposed bypass south of Regina will cross many existing power lines, gas lines, pipelines, drainage ditches and other infrastructure which will have to be moved or redesigned at a huge cost to the taxpayer. The northern route has almost none of the above.

Film Tax Credit

Movie and television production brought people and prestige to our province. Saskatchewan has suffered many losses from the elimination of the Film Tax Credit. Many talented people have moved to places more accommodating to the film industry. We have lost millions of investment dollars as projects are filmed in places other than Saskatchewan.

The P.C. Party of Saskatchewan would restore a Film Tax credit to bring back the creative talent and investment this province has lost, and encourage people with aspirations of a career in the film industry the opportunity to stay in the province.

Agriculture: Farmland Ownership

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.

The P.C. Party of Saskatchewan also opposes the exemptions being granted to resource companies where they are granted far more surface land than is required for their operations.

To aid in the process of ensuring that land continues to be available to Saskatchewan farm and ranch families, the P.C. Party would change the structure of the Farmland Security Board to consist of 7 members.

- Only 1 appointed from government. This person would chair the meeting plus
- 1 member of SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities)
- 1 member of SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association)
- 1 member of APAS (Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan)
- 1 member of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association,
- 1 member of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- 1 member of the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors.

Health Care

The P.C. Party believes the current health care system is broken and **MUST** be fixed. Ministerial responsibility must be returned to our health system and a P.C. government would work to do so over the next 4 years.

The current health regions have appointed bureaucrats receiving huge salaries. The current health regions are governed by political appointees. Eliminating these large salaries and the political appointees would save millions of dollars that could be returned to the front lines for staffing and equipment.

Therefore, the P.C. Party and PC MLAs will demand implementation the following:

Bring back ministerial responsibility by gradually phasing out health regions over the 4 year term of government.

Until the regions are phased out, demand the CEO, CFO (Chief Financial Officer) and the CMO (Chief Medical Officer) of every health region would be required to be in attendance for health estimates when the Minister of Health is outlining spending specific to the regions in question.

Create a Patient Advisory Board in those communities which have health care facilities. Members of these boards are to be elected. Elections would be held in conjunction with civic elections. Members would receive a daily honorarium when conducting board duties plus expenses. All expenses would need to be receipted.

Mandatory allocation of 5% of the regional budgets to infrastructure until the regions are dissolved.