



# 2022 Policy Convention

## Guide for Creating a Policy Resolution



# **Saskatchewan Liberal Party**

## **2022 Policy Convention**

### **Guide for Creating a Policy Resolution**

Version 1 - December 11, 2021

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## **1. Who We Are**

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party was founded in 1905 and has governed for 41 of the province's 116 years. While electoral fortunes have fluctuated, our core principles of Prairie Liberalism have remained constant. Throughout our party's history, both in and out of government, Saskatchewan Liberals have a strong legacy of policy development which has made an indelible impact on the province as we know it today.

It is through the continued development of meaningful political policy that we can both honour our historic accomplishments, and work to build a better future for every Saskatchewan citizen.

In order to guide policy resolutions, carefully review the principles of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party, also referred to as the principles of Prairie Liberalism. Keep these in mind as you draft your resolution, as failure to adhere to these principles is grounds for rejection of your resolution by the policy committee.

Please note however, that these principles are meant to be interpreted very liberally (yes, that was a pun, no reason we cannot have fun!)

## **Party Principles**

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 principles:

### **a) 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.

### **b) Free 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.

### **c) 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: justice, the environment, ensuring a fair and competitive marketplace, and the provision of public goods and services.

## 2. Writing a Policy Resolution

A resolution is a set of statements which clearly express an opinion or an intention regarding an issue of public policy; it calls upon the Party to take a position or press for action.

### **Criteria**

To be eligible for consideration, policy resolutions must:

- respect Canada's Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- be within provincial jurisdiction;
- be factual and evidence-based;
- reflect, as appropriate, the application of gender rights, Indigenous rights, and environmental responsibility considerations;
- align with the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Principles;
- be clear and concise with a **limit of 275 words**; and,
- be submitted in .pdf or .docx format.

*(See format and sample on next page)*

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
Title	-make clear the intent of the resolution	Lowering the Legal Drinking Age
Preamble	<p>“WHEREAS” statements</p> <p>-the situation or context that gives rise to the policy idea and why it is important</p> <p>-statements based on objectively verifiable facts</p> <p>-identify third parties consulted in preparation of policy proposal</p>	<p>WHEREAS the legal drinking age in Saskatchewan is 19;</p> <p>WHEREAS there is a contradiction in allowing people at 18 years of age to vote or serve in the military yet not to drink;</p> <p>WHEREAS the legal drinking age is 18 in many provinces;</p> <p>WHEREAS the sponsors consulted researchers at the University of Saskatchewan and a wide variety of Youth and Justice stakeholders in the preparation of this resolution;</p>
Direction	<p>“BE IT RESOLVED” statements</p> <p>-identify actions the sponsor wants SLP to take in a statement or series of statements</p> <p>-one policy item per resolution is ideal, however, if the resolution requires multiple parts, it is best to state the most important resolution first</p>	<p>BE IT RESOLVED that a SLP Government would lower the drinking age to 18;</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a SLP Government would support harm reduction strategies.</p>
Sponsor	<p>-name, email, phone number and Provincial Constituency of sponsor</p> <p>-if multiple sponsors, give information for the spokesperson of the resolution</p>	<p>Jane Doe -jdoe @. . . . -306.999.9999 -Humboldt-Watrous</p> <p>Max Doe Robin Doe</p>

### 3. Submitting a Resolution

Resolutions may be submitted in your preferred language (ex. Cree, French, Michif, etc.) accompanied by an English translation.

Submit your resolution to Constance Sacher, Policy Chair; [csacher@saskliberals.ca](mailto:csacher@saskliberals.ca).

The deadline for submitting resolutions is **February 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm**.

### 4. The Next Steps

Your resolution will be directed to the SLP Policy & Resolutions Committee. The committee will review your resolution based on adherence to the criteria set out in the previous section, "Writing a Policy Resolution".

Depending on the decision of the policy committee, there are three possible outcomes:

- a) Your resolution is approved and will be presented at the 2022 Convention;  
Or...
- b) Your resolution requires more information for it to be approved. We will contact you and request more information, such as sources and evidence that back up your resolution. Once any additional information is provided, the committee will either approve or reject the resolution;  
Or...
- c) Your resolution is rejected. This option requires a unanimous vote by the policy committee and is reserved for resolutions that do not adhere to the criteria set out in the previous section, "Writing a Policy Resolution". Please note, failure to provide additional information when asked will result in the rejection of your resolution as well.

*Note: It is possible we will receive duplicate resolutions, or contradictory resolutions for the same issues. In the case of two resolutions that are vastly similar, we will communicate with both submitters and attempt to merge the two resolutions. In the case of contradictory resolutions, assuming both follow the criteria set out in the previous section, "Writing a Policy Resolution", both will go to the floor of the convention and be voted on in an either-or manner by the membership.*

## 5. How to Champion Your Resolution

Once your resolution has been approved, the next steps are up to you to determine your resolution's continued success.

- **Become a Member of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party**

While we invite resolutions from any resident of Saskatchewan, the Constitution of the SLP requires a person to hold membership in the party in order to both attend conventions and vote for resolutions. Therefore, if you wish to speak to your resolution at the 2022 Convention, you will be required to get a membership. But good news, membership in the Saskatchewan Liberal Party is free! Sign up for a membership at [saskliberals.ca/join](https://saskliberals.ca/join)

- **Share your resolution – Sign Up New Members**

Now that you are a member of the SLP, you have guaranteed one vote for your resolution at the convention. Share this resolution with your friends, colleagues, and family and urge them to also get a membership so they too can support your resolution.

- **Attend Convention, Introduce Resolution, and Vote**

After sharing your resolution, becoming a member, and signing up new people, all you have to do is attend the 2022 Convention. The date is set as Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and will be held in Saskatoon. More details will be announced as they become finalized. We will attempt to make time available for introductions for each resolution, but this will depend on the number of resolutions received. Preparing a short introduction for your resolution to be presented at convention is encouraged.

Please take a look at our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and feel free to contact the policy committee at [policy@saskliberals.ca](mailto:policy@saskliberals.ca)

## 6. FAQs

- **Who can submit policy resolutions?**  
Any person may submit a policy resolution.
- **Can an organization or business submit a resolution?**  
Yes. A resolution can be submitted by an organization or business, however we will require contact information for an individual in order to communicate potential changes to the resolution. If the resolution is approved to move forward to the convention, it will be considered to have been moved by the individual on behalf of the organization.
- **My resolution has been approved, how can I ensure it passes at convention?**  
We recommend you tell people about the importance of this policy resolution and ask people to support it at the convention. Let people know they need to sign up for a membership at <http://saskliberals.ca/join/>; membership is required in order to attend convention.
- **How much is a membership?**  
Memberships are free, but donations are appreciated. Your donation may be eligible for up to a 75% tax credit.
- **What is the deadline to submit a resolution?**  
The deadline is February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 11:59pm.
- **What is the deadline to get a membership so I can vote for my resolution?**  
The deadline is March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- **Where is the convention?**  
The convention will be held in Saskatoon on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022. More information will be provided as it is finalized.
- **How will my contact information be used?**  
Your name and Provincial Constituency will be attached to your approved resolution for distribution. Your phone number and email address will be kept according to the [SLP Privacy Policy](#); we will only use those to communicate with you about your resolution and to provide more information about the convention. Submitting a resolution does not automatically make you a member.
- **Is there a cost to attend the policy convention?**  
Yes. There will be a fee to cover costs of the convention. This fee is not likely to exceed \$50.

*Note: Signing up for membership is separate from signing up to attend the convention. Please ensure you sign up for both if you wish to attend the convention and vote for your resolution.*