



**SPP**

**SASKATCHEWAN  
PROGRESS PARTY**

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## Public Healthcare First

### Housing First Model for Homelessness

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: The Government of Saskatchewan currently oversees an increasing trend in homelessness, estimating 550 homeless people in Saskatoon alone as of 2022;</p> <p>Whereas: Housing the homeless would afford them dignity and needed supports, while reducing the current overuse of ERs, EMSs, and Police Services;</p> <p>Whereas: Significantly reducing wait times for services will increase the quality of life and services for all other residents;</p> <p>Whereas: the Ministry of Social Services currently holds outdated policy wherein the homeless must prove that they are “housing-ready” by meeting unnecessary requirements.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will immediately legislate a Housing First policy for homeless residents, and eliminate all administrative or restrictive barriers currently legislated under the <i>Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Act and Regulations</i>.</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will meet directly with existing volunteers, organizations, and homeless people on a regular basis in groups and one-on-one to develop necessary social support programs.</p>

### Supports to Avoid MAiD Program

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: The Government of Canada’s Medical Assistance in Dying legislation provides some benefits to applicants, there is evidence that the program is also being used to avoid supplying health and housing services to the public;</p> <p>Whereas: Senators recommended in 2023 that MAID should be expanded to those with certain mental illnesses or disorders;</p> <p>Whereas: a poll indicates that over 60% of Saskatchewan residents disagree with allowing MAID to be used on the basis of poverty or homelessness, both of which have a high correlation with mental health disorders;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will restrict healthcare providers from presenting MAID as an option to patients until all other solutions have been attempted, including but not limited to publicly funded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● housing;</li> <li>● mental health supports (i.e. therapy, psychiatry) and treatments (i.e. free prescriptions);</li> <li>● medical or surgical interventions.</li> <li>● Appropriate income support;</li> <li>● Access to physicians and specialists on an urgent basis</li> </ul>

## Masking in Hospitals, Long Term Care Homes, and Health Centers

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Residents with Long COVID, chronic health conditions, the immunocompromised, the elderly, and other medically vulnerable people are at greater risk of COVID-19 and its long-term consequences;</p> <p>Whereas: These residents access health services regularly;</p> <p>Whereas: Everyone deserves safe access to medical services as human beings and fellow Saskatchewan residents;</p> <p>Whereas: Inadequate mask protocols contributes to contributes to severe understaffing and virus spread;</p> <p>Whereas: Masking in public spaces and health centers has proven to reduce transmission of a wide range of infectious diseases, some of which significantly impact quality and length of life.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: An SPP government will pass legislation requiring masking by staff in all health centers.</p> <p>BIFRT: An SPP government will pass legislation requiring masking by visitors in all health centers.</p> <p>BIFRT: These measures remain in effect until Saskatchewan’s excess death rate drops below pre-2020 rates for a period of 3 years.</p>

## Medicare: Team-based Primary Care Model

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan is estimated to have 200,000 people without a primary care physician;</p> <p>Whereas: many primary care physicians are considering or nearing retirement, leaving Saskatchewan, or reducing the number of patients they serve due to workload;</p> <p>Whereas: physicians indicate that administrative and other tasks are increasing, leading to a reduction in time for patients;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan, as with most of Canada, has an aging population which often requires more times spent with certain patients by physicians;</p> <p>Whereas: physician-led, team-based primary care has been shown to be an effective model for both physicians and patients;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT an SPP government, in consultation with the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians, develop and implement a province-wide team-based primary care model beyond the inadequate, non-transparent, remote Health Network pilot project.</p>

### Guaranteed Full-time Jobs for RNs, LPNs, & HCAs

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: it is common practice for new graduates from Registered Nurse programs to be forced into casual hours, then part-time, and finally full-time employment at the mercy of their health region's hiring staff;</p> <p>Whereas: it is common practice for hospital wards and long-term care homes (particularly private ones) to be short staffed;</p> <p>Whereas: it is common practice for small groups to "trade shifts" to maximize overtime hours, burning out while putting strain on the operating budget;</p> <p>Whereas: these practices are unsustainable, they're harmful to all stakeholders involved (patients, staff, graduates) and they need to be resolved immediately because many Saskatchewan residents are in or entering their retirement age;</p> <p>Whereas: Many PSWs in Long Term Care work at 2 or more facilities, which can contribute to spread of infectious diseases between facilities.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will guarantee full-time employment for all graduates of Registered Nurse programs in the province.</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will guarantee full-time employment for all graduates of Licensed Practicing Nurse programs in the province;</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will guarantee full time employment for all graduates of Health Care Aide programs in the province.</p>

### Medicare: Eliminate Out-Of-Pocket Fees at Primary Care Clinics

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: the public can and often are charged fees for administrative documents from their Family Doctors;</p> <p>Whereas: these documents are often required or requested by their employers, their children's schools, and other institutions necessary for daily life;</p> <p>Whereas: this functions primarily as a tax on vulnerable members of the public;</p> <p>Whereas: forms required for disability insurance applications can be hundreds of dollars in some cases;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will provide funding for all out-of-pocket expenses for primary care clinics, including but not limited to sick notes and reference letters.</p>

### Safe Consumption Clinics in All Cities

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan’s drug toxicity deaths have risen from 2016 to 2023 by over 150%, or from 109 to 297 (as of August, 2023);</p> <p>Whereas: Prairie Harm Reduction in Saskatoon has operated since 2019, providing Saskatchewan’s first Safe Consumption Site for individuals to consume their substances without judgement, using sterile equipment (to reduce HIV risks), and with immediate access to trained healthcare providers;</p> <p>Whereas: The PHR team works to ensure that their one site remains open and available to those who need a safe place to go, all in absence of provincial funding;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatoon’s PHR clinic served an average of 300 people per month in 2021, with over 600 people per month following the provincial government’s changes to SIS payments in 2021.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will provide full funding to have full time, minimum 16-hour per day harm reduction clinics in all municipalities with over 5,000 residents.</p>

### Medicare: Equal Payments for Virtual Primary Care Visits

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: primary care physicians in Saskatchewan are paid 10% less for virtual care visits than in-person visits;</p> <p>Whereas: physicians have an arbitrary cap of 3,000 virtual care visits per year;</p> <p>Whereas residents with disabilities, chronic health conditions, the elderly, people with children, those without transportation, and those from rural areas experience more challenges attending in-person medical visits;</p> <p>Whereas many medical appointments require no physical examination, lab tests or imaging;</p> <p>Whereas: these restrictions force residents who are immune-compromised into entering poorly ventilated spaces with infectious people;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will eliminate the cap on the number of virtual care visits per physician and that the online program be expanded.</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will ensure virtual and telehealth visits to physicians are paid at the same rate as in-person visits.</p>

### Service Animal Training and Certification

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan does not have training requirements and certification legislation for service animals;</p> <p>Whereas: the closest accredited Training and Certification organizations are located in Alberta and BC;</p> <p>Whereas: the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code is limited to protecting only certified service animals;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT a SPP government will pass service animal certification legislation requirements harmonized with Alberta and BC.</p> <p>BIFRT the legislation will provide funding for certification organizations and legal protections for service animal and animal-in-training owners regarding accessibility.</p>

### Free Vaccinations

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: vaccination in older adults and those with underlying health conditions prevents and reduces the risk of severe diseases, chronic illnesses, increased doctor visits, hospitalizations, and premature deaths;</p> <p>Whereas: research shows that vaccinations reduce health care spending, lost productivity, and has a broader economic impact due to a reduction in illnesses;</p> <p>Whereas: vaccinations for RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), pertussis (whooping cough), shingles and the newer, more effective Prevnar vaccine for pneumonia are not covered in Saskatchewan and the cost is prohibitive to many;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT an SPP government will institute coverage for the newest and most effective vaccinations for RSV, pertussis, pneumonia, and shingles for residents.</p>

### Physician Availability Transparency

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas Saskatchewan continues to experience a physician shortage and are losing more physicians than it is gaining each year.</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan's publicly-available list of family doctors accepting patients was removed since 2020 shortly after members of the public criticized the lack of available doctors;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: an SPP government will publicize the available roster of family doctors to avoid wasting patients' time with phoning all clinics.</p>



## Securely-Funded, Quality Education

### Eliminate Out-Of-Pocket Fees in Elementary/Secondary Schools

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: school divisions are charging parents additional fees to make up for insufficient funding from the provincial government;</p> <p>Whereas: programs such as “school cash online” can charge parents over \$1000 in extra fees for public school programming;</p> <p>Whereas: these fees are an additional tax on families that places blame on school divisions rather than the provincial government;</p> <p>Whereas: these fees are, in effect, a way for the provincial government to claw back federal child-care benefit payments;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will immediately end the practice of school divisions charging parents additional fees for course materials, field trips, lunch time supervision, and any other fees not considered voluntary.</p> <p>BIFRT: Schools may still charge material fees for new sports uniforms and Practical &amp; Applied Arts course materials to avoid potential fiscal obstruction by their school division.</p>

### Elementary School Snack and Lunch Programs

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan consistently has among the highest rates of child poverty in Canada,</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan’s child poverty rate as of 2020 was about 20%;</p> <p>Whereas: hunger has negative impacts on learning, which has long-term impacts on children’s future and our communities;</p> <p>Whereas: schools are a highly efficient centralized location to provide solutions to reduce the impacts of child poverty</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will provide full funding for free nutritional snacks and lunch programs in all primary/elementary schools in Saskatchewan.</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will develop a committee to design a lunch program for students during July and August, when schools are not open.</p>

### Mental Healthcare Workers, Counsellors & Social Workers in Schools

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: support staff provide essential services for primary and secondary schools;</p> <p>Whereas: teachers are being asked to cover for insufficient support staff, impacting their work-life balance and putting strain on the learning environment;</p> <p>Whereas: teachers are not necessarily trained to manage and remediate the full range of mental health issues of all students.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will establish the following minimum support staff numbers in all urban school divisions: 1 mental health worker or counsellor and 1 social worker per school.</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will establish the following minimum support staff numbers in all rural school divisions: 1 mental health worker or counsellor and 1 social worker per 2 schools.</p>

### Average Classroom Sizes of 18

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: large classroom sizes have a negative impact on the quality of the learning environment for children;</p> <p>Whereas: the average class sizes in Saskatoon and Regina as of 2020 were 25, and just 1-2 years prior the quoted average was 19.</p> <p>Whereas: the real numbers are difficult to determine due to the Ministry of Education including specialized classrooms in their calculation, skewing the numbers lower.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will reduce the average classroom sizes to 18 students per teacher by 2032 through hiring and construction of new learning spaces.</p>

### Educational Assistants in Every Classroom

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: large classroom sizes have a negative impact on the quality of the learning environment for children;</p> <p>Whereas Education Assistants are paid on a part-time basis (6 hours per day) and at a low rate (\$19 to \$25 hourly) making it more difficult to recruit and retain EAs.</p> <p>Whereas many children would benefit from having EA support.</p> <p>Whereas EAs deal with the most high needs and often behaviorally challenging students, as well as regularly suffer verbal and physical abuse.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will aim to hire and place Educational Assistants in every Saskatchewan Classroom.</p>

### Guaranteed Full-time Employment for New Graduates

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: large classroom sizes have a negative impact on the quality of the learning environment for children;</p> <p>Whereas: the average class sizes in Saskatoon and Regina as of 2020 were 25, and just 1-2 years prior the average was 19.</p> <p>Whereas: new graduates frequently must accept substitute (casual) teaching positions because the number of available full-time positions are artificially scarce compared to demand;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will guarantee employment for all new graduates from primary/secondary school education programs in Saskatchewan.</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will target 20% more Primary and Secondary School Teachers from 2020 baselines by 2028.</p>

### Lowest Post-Secondary Tuition in Canada

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has among the highest tuition fees in Canada;</p> <p>Whereas: this increases the risk of losing students to out-migration to other provinces offering more competitive tuition rates;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan needs to grow its population to grow its economy;</p> <p>Whereas: if students leave Saskatchewan for other provinces, they will at least inform their new communities of this Saskatchewan education advantage;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will mandate that all post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan set tuition rates to 5% less than the lowest rates in all other provinces for comparable programs.</p>

## Infrastructure and Public Safety

### Upgrade Indoor Air Quality in Workplaces

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: improving indoor air quality has proven to reduce infectious disease transmission as well as the effects of wildfire smoke, molds, bacteria, radon, chemicals and off-gases from building materials and furnishings on long term health;</p> <p>Whereas: research shows that improved indoor air ventilation and filtration increases cognitive function leading to improved employee performance, productivity, retention rates, and fewer sick days;</p> <p>Whereas: ASHRAE is an international organization dedicated to advancing the arts and science of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration;</p> <p>Whereas: ASHRAE has approved new, groundbreaking standards to reduce the risk of transmission in indoor spaces and prioritizes requirements for air cleaning and filtration efficiently and cost effectively (ASHRAE 241);</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: an SPP government will work with the federal government to implement ASHRAE 241 standards in buildings in Saskatchewan and provide grants to public institutions such as hospitals, long term care facilities, childcare facilities, senior and low-income residences to meet the ASHRAE 241 standard.</p> <p>BIFRT: an SPP government will adopt the ASHRAE 241 standards into the Saskatchewan Building Codes and create a public education campaign about indoor air quality.</p>

### Upgrade Indoor Air Quality in Schools

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas research shows that improved indoor air ventilation and filtration increases cognitive function leading to improved student tests scores, performance, and fewer sick days;</p> <p>Whereas improved indoor air leads to fewer teacher sick days, improves retention rates, and fewer sick days for teachers and other staff;</p> <p>Whereas Edmonton Public Schools spent only \$6 million to place HEPA filter air cleaners (and one-year operating costs) in schools serving 120,000 students and Saskatchewan has approximately 190,000 students;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT an SPP government will purchase HEPA filters for all classrooms and learning spaces in its schools.</p> <p>BIFRT: will immediately provide funds for Cori-Rosenthal boxes in all classrooms, which are as effective as HEPAs in filtering the air, and are a practical teaching tool with students.</p>

### Replace or Reline all Asbestos Cement Pipes by 2032

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: The National Research Council (NRC) has produced numerous studies which say that asbestos-cement (AC) pipes have already reached the end of their useful life;</p> <p>Whereas: deteriorated AC pipes release asbestos fibres into water, increasing the risk of cancer;</p> <p>Whereas: NRC studies refer to asbestos fibres in water as a “health concern”;</p> <p>Whereas: the City of Regina’s replacement rate will take decades to replace these pipes;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will immediately commit to funding the replacement or relining of all AC Pipes in Saskatchewan by 2032.</p>

### Testing Program for Asbestos in Drinking Water

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: There are more than 1,000 kilometers of decades-old AC pipes carrying drinking water in Saskatchewan, accounting for the following known portions of municipal networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 76% in Weyburn, 73% in Swift Current, and 60% in Regina,</li> <li>● 46% in Prince Albert, 43% in Moose Jaw, and 30% in Saskatoon;</li> </ul> <p>Whereas: an end-of-pipe water sampling program will provide data necessary to identify areas with the most degraded water quality;</p> <p>Whereas: prioritizing the AC pipe replacement funding for communities with the worst water quality will reduce cancer rates in the long run, save the healthcare system more money, and improve the quality of life in Saskatchewan;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will immediately fund a research testing program for asbestos fibres in drinking water in every community in Saskatchewan.</p> <p>BIFRT: the results of the testing program will be used to prioritize replacement work in communities with worse water quality.</p>

## Double Rural Cell Tower Coverage

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: a major part of the future of agriculture is the use of autonomous vehicles run by GPS and software, which frequently requires cell tower coverage;</p> <p>Whereas: rural Saskatchewan residents have second-class service for cellular signals, coverage, and internet speeds;</p> <p>Whereas: SaskTel’s original mandate was to provide equal services to all Saskatchewan residents;</p> <p>Whereas: the majority of the private sector has not filled the existing demand and gaps in service for communications infrastructure;</p> <p>Whereas: lack of cell coverage results in health and security risks for residents, and makes Saskatchewan a less-secure place to work outside of major municipal centers;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will pass legislation to double the number of SaskTel cell towers in regions outside of cities over 10,000 residents.</p>

## Necessary Action on Affordable Housing

### Introduce Rent Control in Saskatchewan

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: five provinces in Canada (Ontario, Quebec, BC, Manitoba, and PEI) have rent control policies in place to provide a sense of financial security for renters;</p> <p>Whereas: every year, thousands of Saskatchewan residents relocate to provinces with rent control policies;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has the most relaxed legislation in Canada regarding the financial insecurity of rent increases;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has the highest child poverty rates in Canada as of 2023, and among the highest homelessness rates in Canada;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will develop rent control amendments to The Residential Tenancies Act to harmonize with existing legislation in Manitoba and British Columbia.</p>

### Public Housing Development Corp.

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: cities across Canada are suffering from insufficient housing, in part due to failures in the dominant private market model;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has a long history of improving market competition by operating a public alternative;</p> <p>Whereas: More competition will benefit Saskatchewan residents by lowering prices;</p> <p>Whereas: immediate action is necessary to combat the increasing homelessness crisis, and impoverished Canadians choosing MAiD due to lack of housing;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will build low/no-income housing for Saskatchewan residents through a development branch of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.</p>

### Repair or Replace All 3400 Vacant Damaged Units for Sask Housing Corp.

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: the Sask Housing Corporation (SHC) owns thousands of publicly subsidized housing units across Saskatchewan;</p> <p>Whereas: under the Saskatchewan Party's watch, there are nearly 3,400 vacant housing units across Saskatchewan that need repairs;</p> <p>Whereas: leaving these units vacant will lead to further safety issues and lower the value of surrounding houses in the neighbourhood;</p> <p>Whereas: the costs to repair vacant units can range from an "average cost of \$5,000 to \$7,000, with a turnaround of a few weeks" per SHC, an estimated total cost less than \$3 million, and the value for services would remain in the local economy;</p> <p>Whereas: approximately 20% of the Saskatchewan population has a physical or mental disability;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will commit to repairing all vacant housing units across Saskatchewan within three years of assuming office.</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government commit to making 20% of all SHC units accessible for residents with disabilities.</p>

## Modernize Social Services

### Guaranteed Livable Basic Income

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: technology and automation have been main contributors to wage stagnation and to the steadily declining share of Canadian workers' income over the last 40 years, with nearly half (42%) of Canadian jobs at high risk of automation in the coming years;</p> <p>Whereas: GLBI can grow Saskatchewan's local economy more than it costs while ending poverty, and increase entrepreneurship by giving everyone the ability to take risks while also significantly improving health and educational outcomes;</p> <p>Whereas: basic income pilots conducted in Manitoba, Ontario, and B.C. report communities at risk became financially secure, those in Japan showed that interest in starting a business increased by 3.9 times, and in South Korea results showed a 45% increase in local business revenue;</p> <p>Whereas: 60% of Canadians want GLBI over Universal Basic Income;</p> <p>Whereas: GLBI shall be defined as "a payment to individuals or families by government that covers the cost of basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and community participation) and is not conditional on meeting employment criteria";</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will develop a Fiscal Analysis of a Provincial GLBI within the first 90 days of forming government covering all Saskatchewan citizens over 17 years-old.</p> <p>BIFRT: within 30 days of a completed report, the SPP will begin 120 days of consultations with stakeholders and residents to develop a GLBI bill within 12 months after forming government.</p>



## Income Support Program Revisions

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: changes made to the Saskatchewan Assistance Program from 2019 to 2021 resulted in an increase in evictions and homelessness for many people receiving financial assistance;</p> <p>Whereas: the current Income Support Program and Disability Income programs provide assistance significantly below that necessary to meet the real cost of living and are significantly below the poverty line, while supports to those with disabilities has in fact declined in constant dollars over the past two decades;</p> <p>And whereas: this increases the difficulty for those receiving social assistance to find and secure housing, and contributes to the rising homelessness issue across the province:</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: the current Saskatchewan Income Support Program and the Saskatchewan Assured Income for the Disabled Program revert to the previous practice of funds being sent directly to landlords and utility companies along with the utility guarantee being re-instated.</p> <p>BIFRT: both income support programs increase at the annual rate of inflation at a minimum, and that the current rate increase immediately by 10 percent upon a SPP government taking office.</p> <p>BIFRT: a provincial advisory group be formed that includes representatives from frontline workers, community organizations that work with SIS recipients and the homeless, and SIS recipients themselves to review the current program, benefits, delivery, and needs to assist a new SPP government in reducing barriers, updating supports, and addressing gaps in services.</p>

## Minimum Wage as Living Wage

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: The average minimum wage between the western Canadian provinces of BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba is \$15.26;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has the lowest minimum wage in Canada at \$14, and exempts vulnerable groups from this protection;</p> <p>Whereas: the average minimum wage in Canada is not considered a living wage, and financial insecurity contributes to mental health problems;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has high rates of mental health problems, inadequate access to mental and physical healthcare, and frequently the lowest resident retention rates in all of Canada;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan’s high rate of outmigration has negative impacts on the economy and weakens our political bargaining power in Canada;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: A SPP government will increase the minimum wage to \$20 by 2025.</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will increase the minimum wage to a living wage following implementation of appropriate utility pricing, rent controls, and other economic policies.</p>

## Accessible and Beneficial Economy

### First Nations' Natural Resource Stewardship

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Our history with the First Nations peoples has been one of exploitation, dismissive attitudes and greed;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has vast untouched natural resources such as fossil fuels, rare earth metals, uranium, metals, potash, and more;</p> <p>Whereas: the extraction of these resources often causes environmental damage due to underfunded checks and balances;</p> <p>Whereas: Ontario has a successful resource revenue sharing agreement with its First Nations that is the envy of others across the country;</p> <p>Whereas: our First Nations have a history of maintaining harmony with the Earth and are invested in environmental health.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will pass legislation to give First Nations an equal seat at the table, along with the Government and corporations, when negotiating resource extraction contracts.</p> <p>BIFRT: the legislation will require agreement on the following at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental sustainability and protection</li> <li>• The share of profits for all parties</li> <li>• Binding agreements which ensure that extraction activities will not negatively impact communities.</li> </ul>

### Matching Mining Incentives

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: the Saskatchewan Government offers significant incentives for potash mining from exploration to site development;</p> <p>Whereas: the next generation of vehicles and other technologies requires significant quantities of minerals and rare earth elements;</p> <p>Whereas: more attractive incentives will allow for a secure job transition for labour groups currently subject to job insecurity in the volatile oil and gas market;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will match or exceed tax incentive regimes currently provided to the potash industry for Rare Earth Elements and other minerals to ensure Saskatchewan's mining industry grows.</p>

### Cease Sale of Crown Lands

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: the current government has sold approximately 22 million acres of Crown land since 2007;</p> <p>Whereas: the Government has a duty to consult First Nations and to fulfill its duties under the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement;</p> <p>Whereas: Indigenous groups are concerned about the new process for mineral rights auctions and Crown Land lease auctions;</p> <p>Whereas: the current government has changed the duty to consult criteria without consultation with Indigenous nations;</p> <p>Whereas: some of these lands are considered 'vulnerable' by the Nature Conservatory of Canada.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: the sale and new leases of all Crown Lands in Saskatchewan be halted and a new consultation and advisory process be developed in cooperation with First Nations, the Metis Nation, and conservation organizations.</p>

### Raise Large Corporate Taxes by 2%

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has between \$15 and \$30B in debt between the government and crown corporations;</p> <p>Whereas: the current government has frequently run well over \$200M in annual deficits for most of its time in office while completely depleting previous savings funds;</p> <p>Whereas: companies need to recognize that the cost of doing business in Canada is rising, and the past 20 years of prosperity has been borne at the cost of the public;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will raise taxes on large corporate entities by 2%.</p>

### Raise Oil and Gas Royalty Rates by 5%

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has between \$15 and \$30B in debt between the government and crown corporations;</p> <p>Whereas: companies need to recognize that the cost of doing business in Canada is rising, and the past 20 years of prosperity has been borne at the cost of the public;</p> <p>Whereas: the current government has provided generous subsidies to the oil and gas sector, including a 35% discount on power use, foreign trade offices, a Public Relations arm called “Sustainable Saskatchewan”, and the planned use for captured carbon at boundary dam as an input for Enhanced Oil Recovery;</p> <p>Whereas: the status quo of low royalty rates has resulted in depreciated quality of essential services across most government departments and sectors, impacting workers in the resource sector as well;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will raise the effective royalty rates by 5% for crude oil and natural gas production.</p>

### Pledge 30% Ownership Stake in REE Mining & Processing

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has significant natural mineral deposits for a wide range of materials necessary for industrial production and future technologies;</p> <p>Whereas: clear favoritism for the Alberta-dominated energy sector has suppressed growth in other, more critical Saskatchewan industries such as mining and processing;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has the opportunity to become a mining powerhouse largely due in part to our experienced, world class potash mining labour force;</p> <p>Whereas: pledges of minor subsidies often fail to materialize long term projects, and a new financing regime will provide a guarantee of finished projects;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will promise up to 30% of funding for select new Rare Earth Element mining ventures in exchange for an ownership stake.</p>

## Representative Democracy and Repeals

### Repeal the Parents' Bill of Rights Act

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: the <i>Parents' Bill of Rights Act</i> was passed in 2023 contrary to the legal implications and spirit expressed by a judicial review, the <i>Saskatchewan Human Rights Code</i>, and the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i>;</p> <p>Whereas: the Saskatchewan Party government used the Notwithstanding Clause of the Charter, and in doing so admitting the illegality of their Act;</p> <p>Whereas: experts have predicted that this Act will cause direct and indirect harm to vulnerable residents of Saskatchewan, indirect harm to other Canadians, and has already harmed Saskatchewan's global reputation;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will immediately repeal the Parents Bill of Rights Act within the first 30 days of taking office.</p>

### Electoral Reform: Ranked or Preferential Ballots

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Ranked Ballots (also known as Alternative Vote, Ranked Choice, or Instant Runoff Voting) is a voting system where the voter is allowed to select more than one candidate, and give their order of preference for each candidate;</p> <p>Whereas: several federal and provincial parties already use a form of Ranked Ballots for leadership elections;</p> <p>Whereas: benefits of Ranked Ballots include the elimination of vote splitting, more choice for voters, and winning candidates must appeal to more than their own loyal supporters (encouraging positive conduct during campaigns);</p> <p>Whereas: prior party votes indicated preference for a decisive policy rather than to hold a referendum;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will amend The Election Act to change from SMP to Ranked Ballot elections.</p>

### Electoral Reform: Treaty and Metis Nation MLAs

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has a long history of mistreatment of indigenous residents;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan has only had 15 self-identified indigenous MLAs in its history, and 11 have been Metis;</p> <p>Whereas: in 2016, 11% of people in Saskatchewan identified as First Nations, and 6% Metis;</p> <p>Whereas: Treaty First Nations are too spread out to be able to elect MLAs that represent their particular interests sufficiently, and yet are subject to provincial jurisdiction when they are working or living off-reserve;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a SPP government will amend the Elections Act to create new MLA positions for each Treaty's group of signatory bands to elect their own representative (1 for each Treaty).</p> <p>BIFRT: a SPP government will amend the Elections Act to create an MLA position for the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan to elect one representative.</p>

### Dissolve New Saskatchewan Marshal Service

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas Saskatchewan is well-served by the RCMP (albeit underfunded by choice), multiple municipal police services, the Saskatchewan Highway Patrol, as well as Conservation Officers and the Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>Whereas: the Marshal Service is a duplication of services, currently has no civilian oversight, and its start-up costs are unknown, in addition to the estimated \$20 million in annual operating costs;</p> <p>Whereas: Saskatchewan had a provincial police force in the 1920s which was disbanded following several accusations of partisan activities;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>BIRT: a new SPP government will immediately dissolve the Saskatchewan Marshal Service with 50 per cent of savings used to bolster current policing services, particularly in underserved rural areas.</p>

## Rescind the Saskatchewan Revenue Agency Legislation

<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Whereas: the Government of Canada currently collects and remits income tax from Saskatchewan farmers, businesses, and corporations to the provincial government, a service which is provided for free.</p> <p>Whereas: the legislation creating a Saskatchewan Revenue Agency also gives the government the power to collect personal income taxes;</p> <p>Whereas: a separate provincial revenue agency would be a duplication of services and is expected to have significant up-front development and planning costs, with \$1.5 million already allocated to a “business plan’ and an estimated \$20 million annual operating costs;</p> <p>Whereas: this will add to administrative costs for farmers, businesses, and corporations;</p> <p>Whereas: there is no economic or business case to support the development of such an agency, and will likely cause issues with interprovincial investment and migration;</p>
<b>Direction</b>	BIRT: the legislation creating the Saskatchewan Revenue Agency be rescinded.