



**Strong Economy**   
**Bright Future**

## **Building Futures: Encouraging Youth in Construction**

### **Workforce Shortages**

*What is your vision for promoting careers in construction and skill trades?*

Since 2007, there is nearly 100,000 new jobs in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Party has a history of investing in apprenticeship and trades programs, which has led to increased numbers of trained workers in these areas. If re-elected, the Saskatchewan Party government would look forward to continuing making such investments.

*What specific actions will your party take to address the upcoming skilled workforce shortage in the construction industry?*

The Saskatchewan Party government is addressing sector shortages by working with employers and industry to develop the necessary programs and services to develop the labour force the sector needs. The Saskatchewan Party increased investments in apprenticeship by \$1.5M, for a total of \$21.4M, to add 250 training seats for construction-related skilled tradespersons, and invested an additional \$2.5M in post-secondary pre-trades programs, adding more than 200 training seats across the province in construction-related programs. These types of investments are helping to create a pipeline of talented labour force professionals such as carpenters, electricians, welders, plumbers and heavy equipment operators.

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government would also increase the Graduate Retention Program by 20% to ensure more of our young people stay right here in Saskatchewan.

### **Training and Apprenticeship Programs**

*How do you plan to enhance apprenticeship and vocational training programs to better prepare youth for careers in construction?*

The Saskatchewan Party government launched the Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship (SYA) Industry Scholarship program in 2009. Since then, more than 1,300 scholarships have been issued. Sixty industry sponsors, including employers, industry associations and unions, as well as the Government of Saskatchewan, have invested \$1.2 million total into the SYA Industry Scholarship fund.

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Providing opportunities for young people to enter the workforce, particularly in the skilled trades, is a key component of the Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy and essential to the growth of Saskatchewan's strong economy. The Saskatchewan Party is committed to ensuring more young people will pursue careers in the skilled trades in communities throughout Saskatchewan. If re-elected, we look forward to making similar investments in this area.

### **Career Pathways**

*What strategies will you implement to promote the diverse and competitive career pathways available in construction to Saskatchewan's youth at the early level of education?*

As the province grows, so too has the demand for the occupations that build the province. That is why the Saskatchewan Party government has made significant investments in programs and services that strengthen Saskatchewan's labour force, connect people to jobs and ensure employers can recruit the talent they need to support their business and grow Saskatchewan's economy for a brighter future. The 2024-25 Budget includes funding for workforce development programs, including an increase of \$1.5 million to support the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission to add 250 apprentice training seats for construction-related trades. This addition brings the total investment in apprenticeship training to \$22.9 million and will increase the total number of trainings seats to 4,850.

The Saskatchewan Party government is also investing in the Sask DLC, a fully accredited online school that offers Kindergarten to Grade 12 education. The Sask DLC offers over 30 courses focused on the trades industry.

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government would ensure similar investments are made in the future to promote jobs in the construction sector to youth looking to enter the workforce.

*Will your government collaborate with the industry to yield results from the strategies?*

If re-elected, the Saskatchewan Party would be happy to hear feedback from stakeholders and those in the industry to continue to grow our construction economy.

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## **Government-Industry Partnership: Advancing Construction Success**

### **Infrastructure Renewal**

*What strategies will your party pursue to ensure the effective renewal of our province's infrastructure?*

Since the election of the Saskatchewan Party government, over \$47 billion has been invested into provincial infrastructure to build more hospitals and schools, repair and rebuild our highways, grow our communities and expand Crown utility infrastructure. This is in contrast to the NDP who closed schools, hospitals and long-term care facilities.

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will continue to invest in infrastructure and deliver on our plan to meet the needs of a growing population. The 2024-25 Budget introduces the largest capital budget in Saskatchewan's history, with \$4.4 billion allocated for provincial projects. Over the next four years, a re-elected the Saskatchewan Party government will invest an additional \$17.9 billion into infrastructure, beginning with this year's Budget.

*Will your government prioritize the release of capital project timelines and the renewal strategy for critical infrastructure?*

If re-elected, the Saskatchewan Party government would be happy to receive feedback from industry providers on this topic.

### **Cost Management**

*What strategies will you implement to address the rising costs of construction materials and labour while ensuring regulatory compliance?*

The Saskatchewan Party government has introduced a PST Rebate on New Home Construction, as well as a Secondary Suite Incentive (SSI) Grant, which will help Saskatchewan residents save on construction materials and labour. The SSI Grant provides 35 per cent of the total price to construct a new secondary suite at an owner's primary residence, to a maximum grant of \$35,000 per qualifying property, and the PST Rebate program provides a rebate of up to 42 per cent of the PST paid on the purchase of a newly

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constructed home. Additionally, a re-elected Saskatchewan Party government would make the Home Renovation Tax Credit permanent, putting more money in the pockets of homeowners in Saskatchewan.

### **Contract Risk Management**

*How will you promote collaborative approaches to risk management in construction contracts to minimize legal hurdles and project delays?*

If re-elected, the Saskatchewan Party government would be happy to work with industry stakeholders to promote collaborative approaches to risk management.

### **Optimizing Project Delivery**

*What steps will you take to encourage the adoption of efficient project delivery methods through government-industry collaboration?*

If re-elected, the Saskatchewan Party government would be happy to work with industry stakeholders on the adoption of efficient project delivery methods.

### **Early Contractor Involvement**

*How do you plan to support the early involvement of contractors in project planning to improve constructability and project execution?*

The Saskatchewan Party government has a history of early contractor involvement, such as for the construction of the Weyburn General Hospital and the Regina Long-Term Care Specialized Beds, all announced in the 2024-25 budget. If re-elected, our government would look forward to continuing with these projects.

### **Collaboration**

*How will your government ensure ongoing collaboration with the construction association?*

If re-elected, the Saskatchewan Party will work closely with industry stakeholder, such as the construction association.



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## **PST on Construction**

PST helps funding not only priority programs and services but also investment into infrastructure including hospitals, schools and highways as well as municipal and Crown infrastructure. Saskatchewan also has the lowest PST of any province with a PST. There has always been PST on material and supplies for infrastructure projects which often, depending on the project, makes up 50% of the cost.

Saskatchewan remains the most affordable province in Canada to rent. However, we know Saskatchewan people are facing cost of living pressures, just like the rest of the country. That is why a re-elected Saskatchewan Party has committed to making life more affordable in several ways:

- Reducing provincial income tax, saving a family of four \$3400 and a senior couple \$3100 over four years;
- Increasing the Graduate Retention Program benefit by 20 per cent to a maximum of \$24,000;
- Increasing the Low Income Tax Credit by 20 per cent over four years;
- Doubling the Active Families Benefit from \$150 to \$300 per year per child;
- Introducing a Home Renovation Tax Credit of \$4,000 per year, \$5,000 for seniors;
- Increasing the Saskatchewan First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit from \$10,000 to \$15,000;
- Increasing the Personal Care Home Benefit by \$1,000 a month; and
- Eliminating the Trudeau-NDP carbon tax on home heating, saving the average household about \$420 a year.

The Saskatchewan Party has also renewed the PST Rebate on New Home Construction Program by providing up to 42% of the PST paid on the purchase of a newly constructed home.

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