

October 15, 2024

Deep Pandya
Construction Associations of Saskatchewan
Email: deep@constructionsask.ca

Dear Deep Pandya:

Thank you for submitting your questions to the Saskatchewan NDP. I am pleased to respond to each of these groups of questions on behalf of our party.

Building Futures: Encouraging Youth in Construction

- *What is your vision for promoting careers in construction and skill trades?*
- *What specific actions will your party take to address the upcoming skilled workforce shortage in the construction industry?*
- *How do you plan to enhance apprenticeship and vocational training programs to better prepare youth for careers in construction?*
- *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?*
- *Will your government collaborate with the industry to yield results from the strategies?*

Investing in young people means investing in a brighter future for our province. Scott Moe and the Sask. Party have failed to encourage made-in-Saskatchewan solutions the labour force challenges facing our province – you can see it every time you drive past a highway maintenance crew with Alberta license plates. Carla Beck and the Saskatchewan NDP are encouraging young people to pursue good jobs in the trades. Our platform includes a commitment to increase funding for training programs to get more people working in high-demand sectors like construction. We will always collaborate and consult with industry when developing strategies and policies related to advancing the interests of the construction sector.

Government-Industry Partnership: Advancing Construction Success

- *What strategies will your party pursue to ensure the effective renewal of our province's infrastructure?*
- *Will your government prioritize the release of capital project timelines and the renewal strategy for critical infrastructure?*
- *What strategies will you implement to address the rising costs of construction materials and labour while ensuring regulatory compliance?*
- *How will you promote collaborative approaches to risk management in construction contracts to minimize legal hurdles and project delays?*
- *What steps will you take to encourage the adoption of efficient project delivery methods through government-industry collaboration?*
- *How do you plan to support the early involvement of contractors in project planning to improve constructability and project execution?*
- *How will your government ensure ongoing collaboration with the construction association?*

A strong construction sector is an essential part of a vibrant economy. Saskatchewan New Democrats are committed to boosting our province's construction industry with our *Hire Saskatchewan* plan to ensure Saskatchewan workers and companies are prioritized to build and maintain public infrastructure projects. We know that collaboration with the construction industry involves listening, which is why we're going to invite key leaders to be part of our business roundtable discussions to identify problems the sector is currently facing and work together on solutions. Our platform includes a commitment to better planning highway infrastructure projects in the province, and we would look to accomplish that goal through more transparency and collaboration with industry on timelines and budgeting for capital projects.

PST on Construction

- *What is your party's stance on the current PST structure for construction services, and how do you plan to enhance Saskatchewan's economic competitiveness compared to neighbouring provinces and territories?*
- *Do you support the removal of PST on construction services? If so, what specific measures will you take to implement this change?*
- *How do you believe removing the PST would affect construction costs and project viability in Saskatchewan, particularly regarding essential infrastructure projects?*
- *What role do you see the removal of PST on construction playing in improving housing affordability and addressing the housing crisis in Saskatchewan?*
- *How would your party work to attract investment to the construction sector if the PST on construction services were repealed?*
- *How does your party plan to ensure that the removal of PST on construction services contributes to long-term economic growth and job creation in Saskatchewan?*

For years, Saskatchewan New Democrats have been raising the issue of the PST on construction and how bad it is for the industry. In our platform, we're proposing two new programs to help address the damage caused by the Sask. Party's decision to add the PST to construction labour. One program, the Economic Growth Incentive Program, will offer PST rebates on the construction costs of new value-added facilities in Saskatchewan. The other program will provide PST rebates to businesses investing in a return to the designated downtown cores and Main Streets of our towns and cities. These programs will help to lower costs and stop the hurt caused by the Sask Party decision to add the PST to construction labour in 2017.

Thank you for your questions and for everything you and your members do to create jobs and grow our economy.

Sincerely,



Mitch Bonokoski
Director of Research and Policy