



Strong Economy 
Bright Future

October 15, 2024

Samantha Grills
Manager, Government Relations
Canadian Paediatric Society
100 - 2305 St. Laurent Blvd
Ottawa, ON K1G 4J8

Dear Ms. Grills:

Thank you for an opportunity to tell you about the Saskatchewan Party's plan.

What will your party do to improve timely access to publicly funded mental health services for children and youth?

Mental health is a priority for the Saskatchewan Party government, including for children and youth. Through the Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions, the Saskatchewan Party government has expanded the Rapid Access Counselling program. The program started with service for adults in 2019 and was expanded to children and youth in 2023.

The Saskatchewan Party government also created the Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools program. This year, five schools were added to the Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools for a total of 15 schools. The Saskatchewan Party government is committed to further expanding the program to all 27 school divisions over the next five years. The Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools program promotes positive mental health in children, youth, families and people in the community who interact with children. It focuses on prevention and mental health promotion, early identification and intervention. It also helps young people better manage their feelings and increase awareness of where they can find help.

Overall, under the Saskatchewan Party government, the number of mental health therapists working in the province has increased by 50 per cent since 2007.



Strong Economy 
Bright Future

What will your party do to increase access to school-based developmental and educational supports (e.g. educational assistants, psychologists, speech-language pathologists)?

The Saskatchewan Party government's most recent budget is making record investments in classrooms, care, and communities. Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive a record \$2.2 billion in school operating funding this school year, a record increase of \$180 million.

Under the Saskatchewan Party government, there are nearly 1,000 more teachers and over 930 more educational support staff to support a growing student population. Additional investments have resulted in:

- A 101 per cent increase in career counsellors; and
- A 50 per cent increase in speech language pathologists.

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will continue to work with local school divisions to ensure our classrooms have appropriate supports.

What will your party do to reduce rates of childhood poverty and food insecurity?

The Saskatchewan Party has a plan to keep Saskatchewan affordable for families. Since 2007, Saskatchewan Party personal income tax reductions have saved Saskatchewan residents over \$830 million and removed 112,000 people from the provincial income tax rolls. A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will further reduce personal income taxes for everyone who pays taxes in Saskatchewan, removing an additional 54,000 people from the tax rolls through the largest tax reduction since 2008. This means a family of four won't begin to pay income tax until their income reaches \$72,425 – the highest threshold in Canada.

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will also increase the Low-Income Tax Credit by 20% over the next four years. The Low-Income Tax Credit is a quarterly payment that primarily benefits people who are not earning enough to pay income tax. It is delivered each quarter by the Canada Revenue Agency together with the GST credit.

Saskatchewan Party

research@SaskParty.com | www.SaskParty.com



Strong Economy 
Bright Future

Additionally, this year, our government is investing an additional 7.4 million dollars into Social Income Assistance (SIS), which will be the third year in a row the program has seen an increase. As of May 2024, households that receive SIS saw an increase of up to 90 dollars per month.

Last year, our Child Nutrition funding was allocated to 19 school divisions and to 22 community-based organizations. The Saskatchewan Party government is also providing \$2 million over the next two years to Food Banks of Saskatchewan to help Saskatchewan families and food banks with high food cost.

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party will continue to take steps to reduce poverty in Saskatchewan.

How will your party uphold and protect the health and rights of transgender and gender-diverse children and youth?

The Saskatchewan Party government has passed several pieces of legislation for the protection of everyone in Saskatchewan, including:

- Adding gender identity as a prohibited ground of discrimination under the Human Rights Code.
- Amendments to the *Vital Statistics Act* to eliminate sex-reassignment surgery as a prerequisite for changing government documents and the removal of gender markers on birth certificates.
- Allowing Saskatchewan residents to now choose an undesignated, non-gendered marker for the sex designation field of their driver's license and photo identification cards.

Saskatchewan Party

research@SaskParty.com | www.SaskParty.com