



**Saskatchewan Liberal Party
Convention 2010**

Policy Resolutions

May 8, 2010
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel
Saskatoon

First Nations and Métis Principles

Whereas it is essential to develop a partnership with First Nations and Métis people of Saskatchewan, and

Whereas it is only through inclusion of Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis Peoples in the social, economic, and political arenas that our Province will truly prosper, and

Whereas the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties is one of partnership, peaceful co-existence, prosperity and respect, and

Whereas the Saskatchewan Liberal Party is motivated by a desire to maximize freedom and the quality of life for the individual in society,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan Liberal Party will apply the following principles of cooperation within the Saskatchewan Liberal Party and its future Saskatchewan Liberal Government:

1. Use of the Treaties as a blue print for the future
2. Implementation of a Representative Workforce at all levels of government.
3. Commitment of a Secretariat within the Premier's Office to directly address First Nation and Métis issues.

Adopted at the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention, May 2010, Saskatoon

"Value-for-Money" Audit

WHEREAS the size of the Government of Saskatchewan has doubled in expenditures in the past decade, and

WHEREAS this doubling of spending by the Saskatchewan Government may or may not be entirely justified, and

WHEREAS Saskatchewan taxpayers have no way of knowing whether the \$10-billion plus now being spent to operate the Saskatchewan Government is being used efficiently,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in its first 100 days in office, a Saskatchewan Liberal Party Government would initiate a 'value-for-money' audit of the entire provincial government and all of its Crown Corporations and agencies, to determine if tax dollars are being used efficiently.

Adopted at the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention, May 2010, Saskatoon

Introduction of a Feed-In Tariff

Whereas SaskPower that based on current projected supply, the crown corporation will have to rebuild, replace, or acquire 1,091 megawatts of power by 2014 and a further 1,017 megawatts of power by 2022, and

Whereas SaskPower's current power capacity is 3,641 megawatt, of which 161 megawatts are generated by wind, 0 by solar, 0 by biomass, constituting 4.5% from renewable sources not including hydro, and

Whereas Saskatchewan is naturally endowed with a huge land mass and great wind and solar resources, and

Whereas a global shift to renewable energy systems is inevitable, offering us a way to tap into our vast supply of sustainable resources and reduce our environmental impact while creating a long-term, secure energy supply, and

Whereas Feed-In Tariffs have been demonstrated to be the most effective policy mechanism that can be used to foster the rapid development of renewable energy systems, most notably in Germany, Denmark, and Spain, and

Whereas Feed-In Tariffs provide universal access to the power grid for producers of renewable energy, providing a market for investors and entrepreneurial producers, and

Whereas Saskatchewan Liberals believe that 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, as stated in the *Declaration of the Principles of Prairie Liberalism*,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan Liberals openly advocate a Feed- In Tariff proposal for Saskatchewan, and that a future Saskatchewan Liberal Government would implement a Feed- In Tariff with the following components:

1. The opportunity to connect to the grid for anyone who wants to deliver renewable energy
2. Fair prices are set for each renewable energy technology that can result in a modest profit for operators with a decent business case
3. Prices are set to reflect the current cost of each renewable energy source at its proposed location
4. Premium prices and conditions may be set for specific projects to promote storage systems, First Nations, or other community power initiatives
5. Contractual long term premiums are implemented to give financiers a loud and clear signal from government that it is serious about renewable energy development

Adopted at the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention, May 2010, Saskatoon

Opposition to Enterprise Saskatchewan

Whereas the Saskatchewan Party government created Enterprise Saskatchewan in 2007 with a mandate to oversee economic development programming in Saskatchewan, dissolving the Department of Industry and Resources and its grassroots economic development programming through the 28 Regional Economic Development Authorities, and

Whereas Enterprise Saskatchewan created 13 organizations responsible for economic development programming called "Enterprise Regions", and imposed these organizations on communities throughout Saskatchewan in direct contrast to the voluntary participation and self-determination of the previous REDA system, and

Whereas the focus of Enterprise Saskatchewan and the Enterprise Regions is direct foreign investment and investment attraction, abandoning all small business and entrepreneurial development programming previously undertaken by the previous REDA program, and

Whereas 80% of all new job and wealth creation is the result of small business retention and expansion, and

Whereas the Saskatchewan economy is predominantly a resource-based economy already dependent on international market forces, and

Whereas one year after launching the new Enterprise Region organizations- with a new structure and new mandate- the Saskatchewan Party government cut core funding by 25% in the 2010 Budget, crippling the operations of many Enterprise Regions in the process, and

Whereas the new Enterprise Regions have little or no autonomy from the provincial government and individual communities or local areas have no ability to self-determine their economic development priorities, and

Whereas Saskatchewan Liberals believe decision-making power should be decentralized and localized, as stated in the *Declaration of the Principles of Prairie Liberalism*, and

Whereas Saskatchewan Liberals believe that social and economic ventures should be the result of community and individual initiatives, as stated in the *Declaration of the Principles of Prairie Liberalism*, and

Whereas Saskatchewan Liberals believe that the entrepreneurial spirit of the individual must be fostered and allowed to flourish, as stated in the *Declaration of the Principles of Prairie Liberalism*,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan Liberals oppose the existing economic development programming function of Enterprise Saskatchewan in favour of a decentralized approach to encourage local decision making, autonomy, and empowerment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Saskatchewan Liberals oppose the exclusive focus on direct foreign investment and investment attraction in favour of small business and entrepreneurial development.

Adopted at the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention, May 2010, Saskatoon

Reducing the Provincial Sales Tax

WHEREAS taxes are a disincentive for individuals to work more, and

WHEREAS the Province of Saskatchewan has an overall tax burden that is about 25-percent higher than in neighbouring provinces, and

WHEREAS Saskatchewan is situated next to Alberta, a province without a provincial sales tax, and

WHEREAS Saskatchewan already has the lowest provincial sales tax in Canada at 5-percent,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Saskatchewan Liberal Party Government would reduce the Provincial Sales Tax from its current rate of 5-percent to a lower rate within its first term in office, preferably zero percent.

Adopted at the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention, May 2010, Saskatoon

Saskatchewan Future Fund

WHEREAS the extraction of natural resources is an important part of the Saskatchewan economy and provides significant revenue to the government of Saskatchewan in the form of resource royalties.

WHEREAS these resource royalties, by their very nature are 'one-time' dollars, that is to say that a particular barrel of oil or tonne of potash can only be extracted and sold once.

WHEREAS it is unwise for the Saskatchewan Government to fund ongoing expenditures such as health care with volatile, one-time dollars that come from resource extraction. This leads to problems like the unexpected budget gap of 2009-10 due to miscalculated potash royalty revenue.

WHEREAS other countries and jurisdictions rich in similar natural resources have established 'Sovereign Wealth Funds' (like the Alberta Heritage Fund) in order to generate ongoing revenue for government in perpetuity so future generations can benefit from today's one-time resource extraction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan Liberal Party supports the creation of a sovereign wealth fund (Saskatchewan Future Fund) for the province of Saskatchewan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Saskatchewan Liberal Party Government will mandate that a minimum percentage of one-time resource dollars be committed to the Saskatchewan Future Fund for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents today and for generations to come.

Adopted at the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention, May 2010, Saskatoon

Reducing Student Debt

WHEREAS in today's competitive society, ensuring that Saskatchewan students receive post secondary education is more important than ever.

WHEREAS many students rely on student loans to finance their post secondary education.

WHEREAS student debt is becoming an increasingly important issue, with students needing to take on more debt than ever before.

WHEREAS the Government of Saskatchewan's students loans program charges students a rate of interest that is above the cost of borrowing for the government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan Liberal Party supports the reduction of the rate of interest for government student loans to the lowest rate of borrowing that the Government of Saskatchewan has access to.

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