



Retail Liquor Privatization

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan government currently operates a monopoly on liquor retailing through the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority- a Treasury Board Crown Corporation responsible for the distribution, control and regulation of alcoholic beverages in Saskatchewan through its 80 stores and approximately 190 franchise operators from a distribution centre in Regina,

And WHEREAS liquor is not a public good and government retailing of liquor is therefore not a responsibility of government,

And WHEREAS the role of government is to foster a free market economy by cultivating conditions of fair competition and equal opportunity for citizens to participate,

And WHEREAS individuals should be guaranteed the freedom to live their own lives as they see fit and the role of government is not to impose order by controlling the supply of liquor,

And WHEREAS studies of retail liquor privatization in other provincial jurisdictions prove that privatization does not lead to increased crime or other negative social effects,

And WHEREAS private retailing of liquor products will be important to economic development and wealth generation in Saskatchewan as it will create hundreds of new businesses and thousands of jobs, increase demand for commercial properties, goods, and services, and increase revenues for municipal and provincial governments, in addition to the advantages of a free market including competitive product selection, pricing, and convenient locations,

And WHEREAS most liquor can be found cheaper in Alberta where liquor retailing is privatized vs. Saskatchewan,

And WHEREAS in Alberta, government revenues after privatization have not been adversely affected because a flat mark-up at the wholesale level has displaced liquor store mark-up,

And WHEREAS the majority of Saskatchewan residents support the privatization of liquor retailing in the province,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Saskatchewan Liberals move to reduce the role of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) to the wholesaling and distribution of alcoholic beverages in Saskatchewan and remove them completely from retailing activities. Retailing would be turned over to the private sector allowing small businesses to establish liquor outlets.

Passed at the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention, February 2009, Regina