

# **Saskatchewan Liberal Party**

## **2019 Policy Convention**

### **Guide for creating a policy resolution**

#### **Contents**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Foreword.....   | 1 |
| Who We Are .....  | 2 |
| Our Principles .....                                    | 3 |
| Writing a Policy Resolution.....                        | 4 |
| Submitting a Resolution.....                            | 5 |
| The Next Steps.....                                     | 5 |
| How to Champion Your Resolution .....                   | 6 |
| Become a Member of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party ..... | 6 |
| Share your Policy – Sign Up New Members .....           | 6 |
| Attend Convention, Introduce Resolution, and Vote.....  | 6 |
| FAQs:.....  | 7 |

#### **Foreword**

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party is inviting any resident of Saskatchewan to submit their ideas for the Saskatchewan they want to see. As part of our 2019 Policy Convention to create a platform for Saskatchewan’s 2020 election, we are soliciting any interested person to submit a policy resolution to the Sask Liberals. This way, we can make sure our platform conforms to what matters most to Saskatchewan, while ensuring the people of Saskatchewan have a chance to share what they want Saskatchewan to be and be heard in the process.

Are you passionate about policy? Is there something you would like to see done differently? Do you wish government listened to the regular voter? Then submit your policy resolution to the Sask Liberals and watch it become part of the Sask Liberal’s 2020 platform, to be voted on by all the people of Saskatchewan on October 26, 2020.

Whether your policy is focused on education, healthcare, the economy, the environment, indigenous rights, or anything else, let us know how you would like to see Saskatchewan improved.

## Who We Are

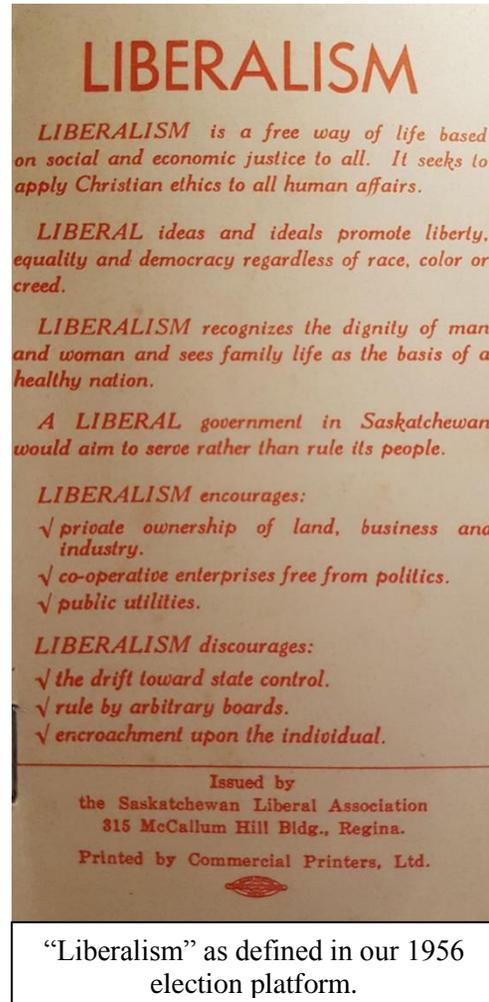
The Saskatchewan Liberal Party was founded in 1905 and has governed Saskatchewan for 41 of the province's 114 years. Through our party's history both in and out of government, Saskatchewan Liberals have a strong legacy of policy development that has made an indelible impact on the Saskatchewan we know today.

As the governing political party in Saskatchewan for its first 20 years, Sask Liberal policies formed the basis for much of how our province has developed over the next 114 years. Under Thomas Walter Scott, Saskatchewan's first Premier, the Sask Liberal government developed policies to create Wascana Park (today one of the largest urban parks in the world), the creation of rural municipalities (a form of local government unique to only Saskatchewan and Manitoba), and allowing for communities to be connected through early rural telephone services.

While Tommy Douglas is often considered the founder of Medicare, Saskatchewan Liberals first proposed the creation of province-wide health insurance in 1944. Even earlier, it was Saskatchewan Liberal Premier James Garfield "Jimmy" Gardiner who in 1928 introduced the first legislation to provide free hospitalization and treatment for victims of tuberculosis anywhere in North America.

These are just a few examples of the positive influence that Sask Liberal policies have had on our province. While electoral fortunes have fluctuated, our core principles of Prairie Liberalism have remained nearly constant throughout our Party's history.

It is through the continued development of meaningful political policy that we can both honour our historic accomplishments, and work to build a better future for every Saskatchewan citizen.



## **Our Principles**

In order to guide policy resolutions, we suggest you review the principles of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party, also referred to as the principles of Prairie Liberalism. Keep these in mind as you draft your resolution, as a clear failure to adhere to these principles is grounds for outright rejection of your resolution by the policy committee.

*Please note, however, that these principles are meant to be interpreted very liberally (yes, that was a pun, no reason we cannot have fun!)*

### **Saskatchewan Liberals...**

- are motivated by a desire to maximize **freedom** and the **quality of life** for the individual in society.
- believe in the right of all citizens to **self-determination** as long as it does not deny that right to others.
- believe that the role of government is to promote liberty by ensuring **equality of opportunity**.
- believe that **power is best invested in the individual** and that centralization of power poses a threat to personal liberty.
- recognize both **economic and social diversity** as necessary to innovation and prosperity.
- believe that healthy democracy requires **freedom of thought and expression**.

We, the members of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party, declare our belief in the above as expressed by the following three principles:

#### **Personal Liberty**

Individuals should be guaranteed the freedom to live their own lives as they see fit. Freedom requires not only the absence of government interference, but protection from coercion and other barriers to freedom such as poverty and illness. Government exists to foster the conditions for personal freedom, not to impose or encourage any way of life over any other. Justice is the protection of rights and freedoms, not punishment and imposition of order.

#### **Free Enterprise**

Individuals should be free to develop their talents and pursue their own projects in life compatible with the liberty of others. The entrepreneurial spirit of the individual must be fostered and allowed to flourish in all areas, whether artistic, commercial, charitable, or academic. 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. Social and economic ventures should be the result of community and individual initiatives.

### **Responsible Government**

Government is responsible to the electors, not to special interest groups. Decisions should be conducted with full transparency and with maximum opportunity for public input. Wherever possible, decision-making power should be decentralized and localized. The central government is responsible for those issues affecting the province as a whole: justice, the environment, ensuring a fair and competitive marketplace, and the provision of public goods and services.

Again, keeping these principles in mind as you draft your resolution will improve your resolution's chance of making it into the Sask Liberals 2020 platform and ensure quick approval of your resolution.

### **Writing a Policy Resolution**

A resolution is a statement, or set of statements, that clearly expresses a belief or a judgment on an issue of public policy. As well, it calls upon the Party to take a position or press for action. Resolutions should be concise, clear, based on accurate facts, and written to achieve a specific purpose. They should contain no more than 500 words and submitted in **.pdf** or **.docx** formats.

**Title:** This should make clear the intent of the resolution. For example, our resolution on reducing debt is called, "Debt Reduction."

#### **WHEREAS statements:**

Each WHEREAS statement presents some aspect of the problem which the resolution is designed to address, examples of how the problem has been addressed already, or some aspect of the solution that could be offered. There should be some logic to the order of WHEREAS statements. For example, our resolution on Lowering the Drinking Age begins with the problem, which is the contradiction in allowing people to vote or serve in the military yet not to drink. It then goes on to point out that the legal drinking age is 18 in many provinces. It then responds to possible objections, namely that people who are 18 should be considered irresponsible.

Each WHEREAS statement may require a few sentences to explain. In general, there should be between two and six WHEREAS statements in a resolution. The language should be non-technical and accessible to any reader.

**BE IT RESOLVED statement:**

This is the actual resolution and needs to be worded very carefully. If passed, this resolution will become part of our next platform, so we need to be clear on what policy we are promoting. The resolution itself should be fairly simple. Fine details can be worked out at the policy stage. The more wordy the resolution is, the harder it may be to pass because people voting may like one part of the resolution but not another part. One policy item per resolution is ideal.

However, if the resolution requires multiple parts, it is best to state the most important resolution first (for instance, “BE IT RESOLVED that a Sask Liberal Government would lower the drinking age to eighteen”) and dependent/associated resolutions afterwards as “further” resolutions, e.g. “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Sask Liberal Government would support harm reduction strategies...”

**Existing resolutions can be viewed at [www.saskliberals.ca/resolutions](http://www.saskliberals.ca/resolutions) (although these resolutions are not current)**

## Submitting a Resolution

Submit your resolution to <http://saskliberals.ca/convention2019>. A deadline for submitting resolutions is set at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 11:59pm.

Congratulations on submitting your policy resolution!

## The Next Steps

From here, your resolution will be directed to the Sask Liberal Policy Committee, which is made up of executive members of the Party. This committee will take up to 14 days to review your resolution. Each resolution is evaluated based on adherence to the principles of Prairie Liberalism, evidence-based decision-making, and prior submissions of similar resolutions.

Depending on the decision of the policy committee, there are three possible outcomes:

1. Your resolution is approved, congratulations. We will contact you and inform you of your resolution’s success and send you information on how to champion your resolution to ensure it gets passed at the convention.

*Or...*

2. Your resolution requires more information for it to be approved. We will contact you and request more information, such as sources and evidence that back up your resolution. Once any additional information is provided, the committee will either approve or reject the resolution.

*Or...*

3. Your resolution is rejected outright. This option requires a unanimous vote by the policy committee and is reserved for resolutions that are discriminatory, lack significant evidence, or fail to adhere to any aspect of Prairie Liberalism. Additionally, failure to provide additional information when asked will result in the rejection of your resolution.

*Note:* It is possible that we will receive duplicate resolutions, or contradictory resolutions for the same issues. In the case of two resolutions that are vastly similar, we will communicate with both submitters and attempt to merge the two resolutions. In the case of contradictory resolutions, assuming both follow the principles of Prairie Liberalism, both will go to the floor of the convention and be voted on in an either-or manner by the membership.

## How to Champion Your Resolution

So, your resolution has been approved? Congratulations, your resolution is one step closer to becoming part of the Sask Liberals 2020 platform. The next steps are up to you to determine your resolution's continued success.

## Become a Member of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party

While we are soliciting resolutions from any resident of Saskatchewan, the Constitution of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party requires a person to hold membership in the party in order to attend, and vote for, resolutions at a policy convention. Therefore, if you wish to speak to your resolution at the policy convention, you will be required to get a membership with a deadline **TBD** (Check our website for updated information). But good news, membership in the Saskatchewan Liberal Party is free! While you are signing up for your free membership, consider donating to the party.

## Share your Policy – Sign Up New Members

Now that you are a member of the Sask Liberals, you have guaranteed one vote for your resolution at our policy convention. Your approved resolution will now be available on the SaskLiberals website at <http://saskliberals.ca/convention2019> for all to see. Share this resolution with your friends, colleagues, and family and urge them to also get a membership so they too can support your resolution at the policy convention. Again, don't forget to remind people that a membership is free and that donations are greatly appreciated and can result in up to a 75% tax credit for your 2019 taxes.

## Attend Convention, Introduce Resolution, and Vote

After becoming a member, signing up new people, and sharing your resolution, all you have to do is attend the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Convention. The date is set as **May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019** and it will be held in Regina. More details will be announced as they become available. We will attempt to make time available for introductions for each resolution,

but this will depend on the number of resolutions received. Preparing a short introduction for your resolution to be presented at convention is encouraged.

Please take a look at our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and feel free to contact the policy committee at [Policy@SaskLiberals.ca](mailto:Policy@SaskLiberals.ca)

## **FAQs:**

### **Who can submit policy resolutions?**

Any person may submit a policy resolution.

### **Can an organization or business submit a resolution?**

Yes. A resolution can be submitted by an organization or business, however we will require contact information for an individual in order to communicate potential changes to the resolution. If the policy is approved to move forward to the convention, it will be considered to have been moved by the individual on behalf of the organization.

### **My policy has been approved, how can I ensure it passes at convention?**

We recommend you tell people about the importance of this policy resolution and ask people to support it at the convention. Let people know they need to sign up for a membership at <http://saskliberals.ca/join/> in order to be able to vote.

### **How much is a membership?**

Memberships are free, but donations are appreciated. Your donation may be eligible for up to a 75% tax credit.

### **What is the deadline to submit a resolution?**

The deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 11:59pm.

### **What is the deadline to get a membership so I can vote for my resolution?**

The deadline is: TBD, please expect a mid-April cut-off. More information will be posted on the website as it becomes available.

### **Where is the convention?**

The convention will be held in Regina on May 04, 2019, more information will be provided as it is set.

### **Is there a cost to attend the policy convention?**

Yes. There will be a fee to cover costs of the convention. This fee is not likely to exceed \$50.



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*Note:* Signing up for a free membership is separate from signing up to attend the convention. Please ensure you sign up for both if you wish to attend the convention and vote for your resolution.

**How will my contact information be used?**

Your information will be kept according to the Saskatchewan Liberal Party Privacy Policy. We will only use your contact information to communicate with you about your resolution and to provide more information about the convention. Submitting a resolution does not automatically make you a member.