



Premier of Saskatchewan

Legislative Building
Regina Canada S4S 0B3

February 26, 2014

Colin Craig, Prairie Director
Canadian Taxpayers Federation
(ccraig@taxpayer.com)

Dear Mr. Craig:

Thank you for your letter dated January 23, 2014, outlining your concerns about government employee pensions.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes that pension reform is an issue for many jurisdictions and we appreciate your views and recommendations. We are aware of the funding pressures faced by pension plans, and of the changes being made by governments in other jurisdictions to shift the funding risk away from taxpayers. In Saskatchewan, amendments to *The Pension Benefits Regulations, 1993*, which came into force on June 26, 2013, will help to ease the funding pressure for Saskatchewan's public sector plans, and help to make them sustainable and affordable. However, the changes to the regulations are only part of the solution. Plan stakeholders are also being encouraged to amend their pension plan contracts to address the cost of benefits.

In addition, stakeholders in certain publicly-funded pension plans are negotiating some changes to the benefit structure which will shift more pension plan funding responsibility to plan members. Government officials are working closely with the plan stakeholders to ensure new plan designs are affordable to taxpayers and sustainable for plan members.

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In addition, the Government of Saskatchewan supports efforts to encourage the public to consider their retirement income needs and to set aside savings as appropriate, through pension plans and other savings vehicles. On May 15, 2013, our government passed its Pooled Registered Pension Plans Act (PRPP) legislation and we are working to complete the regulatory framework to enable PRPPs to be available to all Saskatchewan workers as soon as possible.

I have forwarded your letter, and a copy of my response, to the Honourable Ken Krawetz, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, for his information.

Thank you again for writing; I appreciate receiving your views on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Brad Wall
Premier

cc Honourable Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance

