

Taxpayer-Friendly Election Platform



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Note to Political Parties in Saskatchewan: Please plagiarize

Taxation

Flat Tax – Match Alberta’s 10% flat tax for personal income taxes and businesses income taxes.

Bracket Creep – Fully protect taxpayers by indexing tax brackets to the provincial inflation rate, not the lower federal inflation rate.

Phase-out School Property Taxes – Join Atlantic provinces by phasing out school taxes all together.

Basic Personal Exemption – Match or exceed Alberta’s basic personal exemption by the end of the next term in office.

Spending

Spending Protection for Taxpayers – Hold the line on government spending to no higher than the combined rate of population growth and inflation.

Contracting Out – Open up government services to competition and encourage existing employees to bid-in for the work (*chances are they know where to trim the fat!*)

Cooperative Curriculum – Instead of each province having a K-12 curriculum department, cooperate with other provinces to share material and reduce costs.

School Board Reform – Does Saskatchewan really need 28 school boards? Why not fund schools directly and eliminate school boards?

Gain sharing – This technique fundamentally changes how governments spend money. It lets employees keep part of the savings they help deliver (while service levels are maintained or increased.)

Citizen Centred Culture and Commerce – Scrap all subsidies to businesses and arts groups, and give the money back to taxpayers. Taxpayers could then decide who receives their money.

Efficiencies Commission – Create an efficiencies commission to review all government activities and recommend areas for improvement.



Environment

Province-wide Giveaway Weekends – A green idea that won’t cost taxpayers any green. It’s simple, twice a year the government designates weekends for citizens to put out unwanted goods - that still have life in them - on the curb with a “free” sign on the pile. Others are free to come by and poach the articles. It helps the environment without requiring a bureaucracy or spending tax dollars. Ottawa has held Giveaway Weekends for years and the CTF helped bring it to Winnipeg.

Convenience

Open Up Liquor Retail Sales to Competition – Loosen up restrictions around the sale of alcohol so that there is competition on the retail side. This would allow people to pick up their alcohol at the same place they pick up the rest of their meal.

Accountability

Answer Period – Across Canada, politicians of all political stripes routinely refuse to answer questions during “question period.” It’s time for a neutral, elected speaker of the house (chosen by voters province-wide) with the power to force politicians to answer questions.

Fraud and Waste Hotline – With a budget of over \$10 billion, there is bound to be abuse and waste in the system. A fraud and waste hotline would help government employees and taxpayers flush it out.

Citizens’ Commission on Democratic Reform – Announce a citizens’ commission on democratic reform which would give taxpayers a chance to review the current democratic structure and make binding recommendations on change.

Liberate Cabinet Documents – Current information laws require cabinet documents to be kept confidential for 25 years before the public has the right to see them. Reduce the period down to one year or less.

Give Power to Information Commissioner – Right now the Information and Privacy Commissioner can give opinions on disclosure of government documents, but has no power to force government bodies to release them. Give him the power.

Recall Legislation – Just like you can take back a new t.v. that doesn’t work, why not be able to return a politician that isn’t accountable? B.C. has “recall legislation” which allows citizens to remove a politician from office if enough citizens in the politicians’ riding sign a petition.

Keep Your Promise Provision – Change Elections Act to allow candidates to backstop their promises with bonds or fines if they are broken.

Citizens’ Initiative – This is the legislation that has allowed B.C. taxpayers to force a referendum on the HST. Citizens’ initiative allows taxpayers to gather signatures and force referendums on issues important to taxpayers.

Debt

Debt Free Saskatchewan – Set a timetable for a debt free Saskatchewan.



Health Care

Open Up Health Services – Keep the public health care system, but allow private firms to offer the same services. This could help the economy (keep money in SK instead of people buying services in the U.S.) and could help take demand off the public system.

More Partnerships – Not only look at opening more procedures up to competition, open internal services such as laundry and cleaning up to competition.

Justice

Cancel “Cash for Criminals” – Under no fault insurance, SGI currently provides car thieves, who are injured in stolen cars, with cash benefits. This should be scrapped immediately.

Work Benches NOT Work Out Machines – The Sask government has spent \$46,122 over the past three years on weightlifting and exercise equipment in jails. Stop spending money on such equipment and give criminals exercise by putting them to work.

Cut out the Coffee – Over the past three years, \$68,769 has been spent on coffee for provincial inmates. It’s time to pull coffee and other luxuries from provincial jails, and/or let criminals pay for it themselves.



About the Canadian Taxpayers Federation: The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is a federally incorporated, non-profit and non-partisan, advocacy organization dedicated to lower taxes, less waste and accountable government. The CTF was founded in Saskatchewan in 1990 when the Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers and the Resolution One Association of Alberta joined forces to create a national taxpayers organization. Today, the CTF has over 69,000 supporters nationwide.