

# Canadian Paediatric Society

Strengthening child and youth mental health care

1. If elected, what will your party do to improve access to publicly funded mental health treatment and resources for children and youth and reduce SK's high rate of youth suicide, especially in our northern communities?

**Mental health and suicide prevention are high priorities for the Saskatchewan Party. The Saskatchewan Party government has invested new funding in the area of mental health and addictions and supported many new initiatives. In 2020-21, a record high total of \$435 million was invested through the Ministry of Health for mental health and addictions services and supports across Saskatchewan. This is double the amount spent on Mental Health and Addictions in 2007. Included in this year's investment, is \$1.2 million to support year one actions contained within the suicide prevention plan.**

**In December 2017, the Advocate for Children and Youth released a special report on youth suicide in northern Saskatchewan titled: *Shhh...LISTEN!! WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY! Youth Voices from the North*. The findings and recommendations of this report influenced our government's recent investments in mental health and addictions in Northern Saskatchewan.**

**One such investment is the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Roots of Hope community suicide prevention initiative which is grounded in the knowledge and experience of local community leaders to develop, build on and implement culturally appropriate project components. There are three Roots of Hope initiative sites in Saskatchewan: La Ronge, Meadow Lake and Buffalo Narrows, and these are connected to their respective First Nation or Métis locals to ensure the initiative is culturally relevant and inclusive for the communities.**

**The Saskatchewan Party government's Pillars for Life: *The Saskatchewan Suicide Prevention Plan*, supports individuals from all across our province. This plan is a starting point which allows us the ability to address the various and unique needs of Saskatchewan people from all corners of our province.**

**On September 24th, the Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health Warren Kaeding signed a tripartite Letter of Commitment on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan alongside representatives of Indigenous Services Canada and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN). Through this letter, our government and our federal and Indigenous partners are committed to work toward addressing the issue of suicide in Saskatchewan First Nations communities. While tripartite conversations are underway, our government will continue to advance the many other actions identified in our suicide prevention plan including engaging with other Ministries, community organizations, mental health professionals and others.**

**It is crucial to continue to build and strengthen partnerships so that we achieve a goal of reducing the rates of suicide in the Indigenous, Métis and Northern populations, and in the province as a whole.**

**The Saskatchewan Party government is proud of the investments we have made in mental health and addictions in our province in order to provide quality services for Saskatchewan families. A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government looks forward to continuing to make similar investments if given the opportunity to form government again on October 26th.**

## Expanding access to paediatric drugs and therapeutics

2. If elected, what will your party do to improve access to accessible and affordable paediatric drugs and therapeutics for all children and youth?

**A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that Saskatchewan continues to have one of the most comprehensive drug coverage plans in Canada, and we will continue to fund the Drug Plan which has a budget of \$334.9M in 2020-21.**

**As new drugs are added to the Saskatchewan Formulary, we will continue to fund those new drugs. A Saskatchewan Party government will continue to support the multiple programs for families who have considerable cost for their prescription medications. We will continue to support children and youth under the program that provides them with the best coverage.**

**Under a re-elected Saskatchewan Party government, children will continue to receive their prescriptions for free if they have coverage under the following programs:**

- **Supplementary Health**
- **Family Health Benefits**
- **Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living**
- **Palliative Care Drug Plan Program**

**In addition, we will continue to provide access to accessible and affordable paediatric drugs by continuing to fund the Children's Drug Plan. This program allows families to pay \$25 per prescription for drugs listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary and those approved under Exception Drug Status.**

**Lastly, a Saskatchewan Party government will continue to partner with other jurisdictions through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance to make medications more affordable for all patients.**

## Reducing child poverty

3. If elected, what will your party do to reduce childhood poverty and associated inequities?

**In 2016, the Saskatchewan Party government released the poverty reduction strategy. It contained a number of initiatives that aim to reduce the number of residents who experience poverty for two years or more by 50 per cent by the end of 2025.**

**A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will continue to do what we have been doing in our time in government, and that is reduce child poverty. From 2015 to 2018, our province saw a decrease in the percentage of children in low income from 17.1% to 11.6%, and the number of children living in low income families has decreased by more than 32%.**

**Between 2017 and 2020, the Saskatchewan Party government will invest \$41 million into new early learning and child care opportunities for vulnerable families through the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in support of the strategy's goals. We have also added over 7,000 new licensed child care spaces during our time in government.**

## Tackling climate change

4. If elected, what will your party do to reduce the threat posed to health, well-being and prosperity from climate change and rising greenhouse gas emissions?

**The Saskatchewan Party government has a made-in-Saskatchewan climate change plan called Prairie Resilience. Our climate change plan focuses on resilience and reducing emissions. It will reduce our emissions all while maintaining economic competitiveness – with no carbon tax. By 2030, the Prairie Resilience plan is expected to reduce GHG emissions by 12 million tonnes. This climate change plan is broader and bolder than a single tax and it will achieve better results.**

**Since start-up, our carbon capture and storage facility has captured 3.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, the equivalent of taking over 750,000 cars off Saskatchewan roads.**

**The Saskatchewan Party also has a goal for up to 50 per cent of renewable energy by 2030 through Saskatchewan's Growth Plan.**

**We support small modular reactors as a clean energy source. Saskatchewan has the largest high-grade deposits of uranium in the world, making us a leader in providing clean energy.**