

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

# Saskatchewan Election 2020:

## Party Leaders' Survey on Small Business Priorities

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### Dear Party Leader:

As you know, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) represents independent business owners in all industries and regions across Canada. With 110,000 members, including 5,250 in Saskatchewan, we work toward the development of public policy that not only promotes the growth and prosperity of small business, but also strengthens the entrepreneurial spirit of our communities.

CFIB is non-partisan and will not be endorsing specific candidates or parties. We would, however, like to respectfully ask you to complete the *2020 Leaders' Survey on Small Business Priorities* (below) to ensure our members have clear and concise information about your Party's platform so they can make an informed choice on Election Day. For more information on the questions, attached is an updated copy of *CFIB's Saskatchewan Small Business Pre-Election Priorities* presentation.

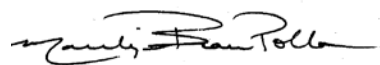
For each question, please provide your Party's position on small business issues. You can insert your answers into a Word document. Your responses will be posted, unedited, on [CFIB's Saskatchewan Election website](#) and will be shared with all media outlets leading up to Election Day. We will also encourage our members to view your responses and additional comments as they prepare to vote on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Please submit your survey responses no later than Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> to [mssask@cfib.ca](mailto:mssask@cfib.ca).**

We believe our *2020 Leaders' Survey on Small Business Priorities* is an excellent opportunity for your Party to outline your plan and policies to help small businesses and the Saskatchewan economy recover, which is especially important as many small businesses continue to struggle due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (306) 539-6302. We wish you safe travels during the campaign.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Braun-Pollon  
Vice President, Western Canada & Agri-business

## **Deliver needed small business tax relief to help economic recovery:**

We know there is no economic recovery without a small business recovery. However, the recovery has been slow for most small businesses. In Saskatchewan, while 79 per cent of small businesses are fully open and 46 per cent are fully staffed, only 29 per cent of small firms are making normal sales. The majority of small business owners (67%) in the province believe it is very important for the next government to provide tax relief to help small businesses recover, even if it delays balancing the budget.

- 1. What is your plan to deliver immediate provincial tax relief for small businesses to help speed up Saskatchewan's economic recovery?**
- 2. Will you introduce a plan to reduce Saskatchewan's small business corporate income tax rate from 2% to 0% on the first \$600,000 of annual business income?**
- 3. Do you support giving municipalities new taxation powers (e.g. local fuel, income or sales taxes)?**
- 4. Will you oppose any federal government measures to continue increasing Canada Pension Plan (CPP) premiums, Employment Insurance premiums and carbon tax rates over the next four years?**

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## **Spend sustainably**

Small businesses understand the need to have larger than normal deficits to deal with COVID-19, but do not want to see unsustainable spending outside of that. Small business owners work hard to operate within their means and they expect their governments to do the same. In fact, the majority (67%) of Saskatchewan small business owners say it is a priority for the next provincial government to balance its budget without raising taxes.

- 5. What is your plan to balance the budget and when will this happen?**
- 6. Will you commit to limit annual spending increases to rate of GDP growth?**

### ***Strategic investments:***

COVID-19 has amplified the need for strategic investments to be made to help Saskatchewan businesses recover and to grow our economy. Small business owners need better technological infrastructure to connect their business with staff and customers regardless of where they live. In fact, almost 60 per cent of the province's small business owners agree that their business needs better internet service in their area.

Furthermore, a strong majority (89%) of Saskatchewan small businesses agree the provincial government should increase spending on crime prevention across Saskatchewan.

- 7. What is your plan to improve access to high speed internet across Saskatchewan?**
- 8. Will you increase annual spending on crime prevention across the province?**

## **Reduce red tape for small businesses**

As all levels of government shift their focus to help businesses recover, red tape reduction has never been more important or necessary. Red tape is a huge cost to small businesses. In fact, CFIB estimates that it costs Canadian businesses approximately \$36 billion per year to comply with regulations from all levels of government in 2017 – about \$10 billion of that is red tape (about \$340 million in Saskatchewan alone).

**9. What is your plan to reduce red tape for small businesses?**

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## **Employment & training**

Many businesses are still struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and nearly all are adapting to new ways of doing business. This means they need to help their staff develop new skills or onboard new staff with different training.

**10. What is your plan to better prepare graduates to meet the needs of small businesses?**

**11. Will you commit to not increase Saskatchewan's minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour?**

**12. What is your plan to help the province's low-income earners? (e.g. introduce an income tax credit for low-income earners such as no PIT paid under \$25,000 on a graduated basis)**

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Thank-you for taking time to provide your response. We request you submit your responses **no later than Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** to **mssask@cfib.ca**. **Note:** Please provide your responses in a separate document.