

Manitoba Election 2016

Party Leader Survey on Small Business Issues

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 109,000 members, including 4,800 in Manitoba, we continue to 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 following ***2016 Leaders' Survey on Small Business Issues*** 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 each question, please provide your comments explaining your party's position on small business issues. You can insert your answers into this document or attach a separate one. Your responses will be posted, unedited, on CFIB's Manitoba website and will be shared with all media outlets. We will encourage all members to view your responses and additional comments in their preparation for Election Day on April 19th.

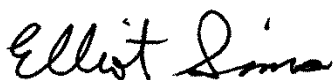
We request you submit your responses to the survey by the close of business on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 to msman@cfib.ca.

We believe our ***2016 Leaders' Survey on Small Business Issues*** is an excellent opportunity to convey the commitment and ideas of your party to small business.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (204) 982-0817.

We wish you all the best with your campaign.

Sincerely,



Elliot Sims
Director Provincial Affairs, Manitoba
Canadian Federation of Independent Business

Sustainable Spending

Just like families and small business owners, it is essential the provincial government live within its means. In CFIB's pre-election survey, the majority of Manitoba entrepreneurs believe balancing the budget without tax increases is the best way to support small business.

- 1. How will you balance the budget and when?**
- 2. Will you commit to holding a referendum before implementing any legislation that raises personal income tax rates or the provincial sales tax (PST)?**
- 3. Will you commit to limit annual spending increases to the rate of inflation and population growth?**
- 4. Will you commit to further reduce the size and cost of government (e.g. through attrition and narrowing the wages/benefits disparity (19%) between Manitoba public and private sector employees)?**

Creating a Competitive Tax Environment

Manitoba small business owners state reducing the total tax burden as the best provincial measure to support small business and entrepreneurship. Reducing the PST to 7 per cent and providing personal income tax relief are entrepreneurs' highest priorities for tax relief.

- 5. What is your plan to improve Manitoba's tax competitiveness?**
- 6. Will your party increase Manitoba's small business corporate tax threshold rate to the provincial standard of \$500,000?**
- 7. Will you eliminate the \$5,000 refund cap on the farmland school tax rebate?**
- 8. Do you support mandatory increases to CPP premiums or a mandatory provincial pension plan?**
- 9. Will you reject calls for increased taxation powers for municipalities (e.g. fuel, income or sales taxes)?**

Regulatory Accountability & Red Tape Reduction

As part of CFIB's Red Tape Awareness Week, we publish an annual provincial report card. Manitoba received a grade of "F" in 2016.

- 10. Will you introduce Red Tape Accountability legislation that includes requirements to annually measure and publically report the regulatory burden entrepreneurs face?**

11. Will you push for a new Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) to foster trade within Canada?

12. Will you seek admission into the New West Partnership to streamline and expand trade with the western provinces?

Balanced Labour Laws

Ensuring Manitoba labour laws support employers and employees equally is a priority for Manitoba small business owners.

13. Do you support increasing Manitoba's minimum wage from \$11.00 to \$15.00 per hour?

14. Will you reinstate legislation that allows all working Manitobans the right to a secret ballot union certification process?