

From: Ken Grey
Sent: October 20, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Marilyn Braun-Pollon
Subject: PC response

1. What is your plan to deliver immediate provincial tax relief for small businesses to help speed up Saskatchewan's economic recovery?

We would cut provincial sales taxes including those on new homes and used cars. We would position our small business taxes to be the most competitive in Canada. We would institute a manufacturers sales tax credit to be an incentive for new manufacturing business start ups.

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?

Yes

3. Do you support giving municipalities new taxation powers (e.g. local fuel, income or sales taxes)?

Yes

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?

Payroll taxes ultimately hurt small business so yes we oppose these increases.

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?

The government's high spending is problematic. Its difficult to say whether we can be balanced given the systemic spending problem this government has created. It is our hope the economic measures we have instituted will result in actively which will increase revenue. Our biggest impediment to growth quite frankly is the looming threat of another lockdown and the continued covid state of emergency. Until we are out of that shadow economy recovery is going to be difficult.

6. Will you commit to limit annual spending increases to rate of GDP growth?

Yes

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?

We would partner Sasktel with another internet provider to expedite the internet infrastructure to our rural residents. Its our belief the infrastructure deficit is too great for Sasktel alone to facilitate without putting the crown at risk.

8. Will you increase annual spending on crime prevention across the province?

Yes. We are in favor of our own provincial police force to better control our policing needs. We have a plan to create local sheriff deputies in more remote communities to act as part of the first responder teams to assess and organize any police response to local issues in the immediate absence of the police force.

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?

The educational curriculum (secondary) is inadequate to educate students properly of matters of finance and money management. It's our position that this is the root of the issues in terms of our future workers understanding small business and the place of the worker in the workplace.

Post secondary skills training must meet the emerging needs of business better. Our programs must keep pace with technological needs.

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

This proposal is a business killer so yes we will commit to that.

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)

The best means to assist low income earners is to offer initiatives for them to upgrade their skills to qualify for better jobs. This would be in combination with the tax incentives to encourage more economic activity. The best means to increase the wage levels is to increase competition.

Ultimately I would be in favour of a flat tax excluding low income workers. However until the provinces finances are in order this may be well in the future.