

Election 2016: Strategic Infrastructure Investment will keep Saskatchewan Strong

Saskatchewan needs provincial government leadership and vision on infrastructure investment

- The three levels of government (federal, provincial, municipal) should work towards a collective goal of restoring *and maintaining* infrastructure investment to 6% of GDP.
- Infrastructure investments need to be strategic, predictable and ongoing in order to provide the best value and return on investments for Saskatchewan taxpayers.
- Investing strategically means delivering real economic benefits based on identified government priorities, including using a clear, efficient and transparent application process that reflects demonstrated needs.
- Asset management is required to demonstrate and prioritize real needs and objectively measure the success of infrastructure investments.

Benefits to Saskatchewan

- Public infrastructure is a core business of government and vital to Saskatchewan's prosperity.
- Infrastructure investment generates significant economic activity; it results in tangible assets that contribute to the economic, social and environmental quality of life of Saskatchewan taxpayers.

Current situation

- Recent investments in infrastructure by all levels of government have helped improve the quality and capacity of some of Saskatchewan's public infrastructure.
- ACEC-SK commends the Saskatchewan government for its recent record infrastructure investment (\$2.9 billion in 2014 or 4.7% of GDP, and \$3.3 billion in 2015), and encourages it to maintain or increase this level of investment despite multiple competing interests for government investment dollars. Here's why:
 - Record population growth has led to greater demand on existing infrastructure, much of which has reached its useful life expectancy
 - Strategic new infrastructure investment, including regional investment where appropriate, will generate economic benefits to keep Saskatchewan strong
 - Municipalities are facing looming deadlines to meet public safety regulatory requirements with no consistent, predictable funding available to meet these deadlines
 - Northern infrastructure investment will position this province for preferred international private sector investment, as well as economic development opportunities arising as a consequence of climate change
 - Today's reduced financing, labour, and materials costs may allow for more efficient infrastructure investment
- ACEC-SK is prepared to work closely with the provincial government and other stakeholders to ensure appropriate delivery methods lead to the best return on investment for Saskatchewan taxpayers.

Questions for provincial political parties

- What is your party's position on long-term, ongoing infrastructure investment by the provincial government? How will you ensure that infrastructure investments are strategic and predictable in order to provide the best value and return on investments for Saskatchewan taxpayers?
- How would your party finance infrastructure investments? How should the appropriate sharing of responsibility for financing and managing various types of infrastructure by each level of government (federal, provincial, municipal) and the private sector be determined?
- How will your party work with stakeholders, including federal and municipal governments, to ensure infrastructure programs will have a clear, efficient and transparent application process that reflects the demonstrated needs of communities and businesses?
- How would your party encourage and support asset management by communities in order to prioritize the real needs and objectively measure the success of infrastructure investments?

For more information, please contact:

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