



Election 2024
Talking Points for the Provincial Election
October 28, 2024

“Saskatchewan is building on its reputation as one of the best places in Canada to do business. The province boasts a competitive business environment and has much to offer potential investors.” InvestSK.ca

The constituency of Yorkton, comprised primarily of the city Yorkton, has benefitted from investment. The city is developing an agri-food processing hub which brings jobs and families to the area. There is a perception that Yorkton is on the cusp of growth. It is, therefore, essential that the person elected to represent this constituency understands the opportunities and concerns facing the business community as it prepares for growth.

It is the Chamber’s responsibility to provide information and leadership on key business issues and to build support for concepts and practices that will enable Yorkton to continue on its path *“where good things happen”!*

The Talking Points identified by the Chamber are a result of the Chamber's observations over the past few years and a survey of its members in June. It also reiterates many of the recommendations put forward by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce in its document ***Fueling Momentum 2024: Provincial Election Platform***.

The Chamber encourages its members to discuss these points with the various candidates:

1. Taxes & Red Tape

- Reduce the PST from 6% to 5%
- Reduce the corporate income tax rate to 10%
- Increase accountability for our tax dollar
 - ◇ Saskatchewan has the highest per capita budget in the country. How will each party ensure our tax dollars are spent effectively and efficiently?
- Reduce "red tape" for businesses.
 - ◇ Inconsistent, unclear, out-of-date and duplicative regulations create hardship for Saskatchewan people and business and act as barriers to economic growth. How will each party address a reduction in red tape?

2. Education

- The purpose of Suncrest College is to facilitate local training.
 - ◇ Currently, it is difficult for people to obtain student loans for short term courses. How will each party address this?
 - ◇ Certain educational programs are offered only by Saskatchewan Polytechnic or the universities. Students are required to leave the local area in order to enroll in these programs. How will each party address this?
- The public school system appears to have many challenges.
 - ◇ How will each party endeavour to address the notion of "complex classrooms"?

3. Infrastructure

- In order for Yorkton to grow, Grain Millers Drive must be repaired and brought up to standard, requiring immediate attention.
 - ◇ How will each party ensure this happens in a timely manner?
- A new Health Facility for Yorkton has been talked about for years. A new facility will serve to attract and retain medical professionals. It will also help to attract investment and employees when they can be assured of access to timely health care.
 - ◇ How will each party ensure that a new Health Centre reaches the top of the queue? When does each party anticipate building of a new health facility? On what basis?
- Access to adequate and affordable housing is key to ensuring a reliable and sustainable work force.
 - ◇ How will each party develop a housing strategy? What would that look like for Yorkton?
- Yorkton has aging, crumbling water and sewer lines in parts of the city.
 - ◇ How will each party assist Yorkton in obtaining the funding required to replace these pipes?

4. Workforce

- Businesses in all sectors are reporting a shortage of employees
 - ◇ How will each party enhance the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)?
 - ◇ How will each party encourage and facilitate the training of Indigenous people?
 - ◇ How will each party provide incentives to retain young people and newcomers to Saskatchewan?

5. Business Development

- The agri-food processing hub in Yorkton has potential for growth.
 - ◇ How would each party provide incentives for investment in Yorkton?
- Small & Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the Yorkton business community
 - ◇ How would each party provide access to capital for SMEs?

The 2024 Provincial Election is very important to the future of the province and to the City of Yorkton. As a member of the Business Community, it's important for you to discuss the Talking Points with the candidates from each of the political parties. More importantly, on October 28, please vote for the candidate you believe understands the needs of the Yorkton business community and who will work tirelessly to represent Yorkton's best interests.

*The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is "the voice of business in Yorkton."
Representing over 415 businesses and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected members, the Chamber advocates for its membership.*

**To learn more about the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce,
visit www.yorktonchamber.com**

The **All Candidates' Forum** sponsored by
the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce will be held
7:00 PM Wednesday October 16
at the Gallagher Centre and is open to the public.

Information about the provincial election can be found at www.elections.sk.ca

How to register as a voter, advance polls, location of polling stations
can be found on the website.

**The Forum will be broadcast LIVE on The Rock 98.5FM
and Access Communications.**