



December 19, 2017

Blair Roberts
YMCA of Regina
2400 13th Ave
REGINA, SK S4P0V9

Dear Blair Roberts:

Thank you for your email and questions about homelessness and inequality in Saskatchewan. This is a very important issue for our province, and I am committed to meaningful action to end homelessness as a key part of my vision of a Saskatchewan filled with hope, opportunity, and reconciliation.

Below are my responses to your questionnaire:

1) If you become Premier, would you support the creation of a comprehensive and coordinated Provincial strategy to end homelessness in Saskatchewan?

Yes. Every person should be able to count on a safe place to sleep at night, and it's just not right that in a rich province like Saskatchewan, people in our province are forced to sleep on the streets, couch surf, or stay in unsafe or overcrowded situations. I would fully support a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to end homelessness in Saskatchewan that would provide stability, safety and security for everyone.

2) If you become Premier, what steps would you take towards preventing and ending homelessness in Saskatchewan?

As a key part of my platform in this leadership campaign, I have committed to rolling out a province-wide Housing First strategy, as well as investments and support for public social, affordable and cooperative housing to end homelessness. Partnering with housing authorities, community based organizations, and those with lived experience with homelessness, I would work to make sure front-line supports are in place to provide housing and dignity for all people in our province.

3) Projects in many Canadian cities, including Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina, have proven that Housing First can have a major impact on improving quality of life outcomes for participants, and potentially divert costs from other government services, such as the health care and justice systems. If you become Premier, will your government invest in measures such as Housing First and Permanent Supportive Housing in Saskatchewan?

As stated in the previous answer, I fully support Housing First and have included a province-wide Housing First strategy as a core part of my platform – but serious investments are needed to make real progress on housing. As Premier, I would do more than reverse the cuts to organizations working to address housing needs and homelessness in our communities. I would substantially increase the resources available to implement Housing First all across Saskatchewan, and ensure that those fleeing domestic violence are included in the housing mandate of Housing First.

4) There is a gross over representation of Aboriginal People in Saskatchewan's homeless population. If you become Premier, what steps would you take to address Aboriginal homelessness?

Our province will never be able to realize its full potential until we make meaningful progress on reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Too often, government programs are drawn up with a one-size-fits-all approach that ignores the unique realities facing First Nations and Métis residents of our province. It's important for government policy to recognize that the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the homelessness population is a direct result of the inter-generational trauma caused by government programs like residential schools and the Sixties Scoop. If a Housing First Strategy for Saskatchewan is ever going to work, it must be developed in close collaboration with Indigenous leadership organizations like the FSIN, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, friendship centres, chiefs and council, and others to make sure services are delivered in a culturally affirming and effective way for those most at risk.

5) Homelessness and housing insecurity are present in many Saskatchewan communities. If you become Premier, what will you do to address homelessness outside of Saskatchewan's major urban centres?

Adopting a province-wide Housing First strategy, as well as support and investment in social public affordable housing and cooperative housing is very important to address homelessness in every part of Saskatchewan. Obviously, housing and homelessness needs in a community like Carlyle are different from the needs in a large city like Saskatoon, or in the North, but I would commit to working with local housing authorities and community based organizations, and Indigenous organizations providing housing to develop local solutions to address their local housing needs.

Thank you for your questions and for your tireless work to address homelessness in our province.

Sincerely,



Trent Wotherspoon
Saskatchewan NDP Leadership Candidate