

Leadership Questionnaire:

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

I would be in favour of considering a provincial strategy on homelessness, but I want to start with my campaign commitment to aggressively implement the recommendations in the 10 year Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, which includes “exploring partnerships with the private sector and municipal governments to create safe and stable housing options for people living with mental health and addictions issues”. As part of that commitment I have also stated that I will create a cabinet subcommittee between Social Services, Justice, Education and Health – to be chaired by the Premier – that will look at ways government can address issues like homelessness in a comprehensive and coordinated way.

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

As I’ve been travelling the province and meeting with Saskatchewan people and stakeholder groups, one of the most common concerns I hear is that service delivery for the most vulnerable in our province is too top-down, too siloed across government ministries, and includes too many layers of programming. I am fully in support of looking at ways to address homelessness by tackling the root causes – one of which is lack of affordable housing options, but we also need to consider individual circumstances like addiction and mental health issues, family violence, and unemployment / underemployment. The imperative to tackle these challenges is not just social – it is economic. Aside from the implementation of the Mental Health and Addiction Action Plan recommendations, and the cabinet subcommittee aimed to breaking down some of those silos, I also want look to the Housing First model, as we know it has yielded substantial outcomes in term of cost-savings to the government and genuine assistance to those in need.

- 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?

Even in a very challenging budget year, our Social Services budget this year (at \$1.125 billion) was the largest ever. That said, if we don’t address these complex social issues on the front end, it is true that we pay for it on the back end in our Human Services Ministries. In order to address the growing need of our citizens, we need to do a better job of replicating successful models of service-delivery for clients and communities that are most at-risk. This includes Housing First, as well as early intervention initiatives like the Hub and COR model that has been successfully implemented in Prince Albert which focusses on identifying individuals and families at risk. As Premier, I would incentivise Community Based Organizations who develop a successful model of service delivery by utilizing their expertise and providing funding to replicate those models in other parts of the province.

- 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?

There is no blinking at the fact that there is an over-representation of First Nations and Metis people on our social programs, on our streets, and in our jails. We must work to address this gap, and that begins with a respectful and inclusive dialogue with First Nations. It also requires working with the Federal Government on new and innovative ways of developing programming that will attempt to find ways of preventing individuals from getting caught in cycles of homelessness, poverty, crime and addiction. I believe that re-building our relationship with First Nations is imperative to addressing homelessness and other challenges and that demands leadership at the highest level. That is why I am committed to bringing the responsibility for First Nation and Metis Relations right into the Premier's Office.

- 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?

I have said throughout this campaign that we need to re-visit our Party's guiding principles as a foundation for moving forward with renewal. One of those principles is: *a strong social safety net which protects those who truly need support while encouraging individuals to become self-sufficient*. With this principle in mind, I absolutely believe that our diverse and growing population in all regions of the province will require the attention of government, regardless of where they live. I do think that our housing programs within social services have been too concentrated in the major centres, but as the recommendation from the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan states, partnerships with municipalities are critical to solving this challenge. As I mentioned above, when we have a successful model of service delivery – especially from the CBO sector – we can do a better job of replicating that model in other communities by providing funding support and other incentives.