

## Government waste and mismanagement



**The GTH Land Deal:** After it was revealed that the province bought land for the Global Transportation Hub at triple what a government appraisal said it was worth, the Provincial Auditor investigated. She found that the government significantly overpaid on the \$21 million deal. The GTH paid \$103,000 an acre, for land that a recent Ministry of Highways appraisal had valued at \$30,000 to \$35,000. Sask. Party MLA and former minister responsible for the GTH Bill Boyd is implicated in the deal because of business links with one of the land purchasers who profited from the sale.

**Consultants' Fees:** From 2009 to 2014, government spending on consultants rose by 228%, reaching \$120 million in 2014. The biggest spender was the Ministry of highways, which increased its payments to consultants by an incredible 400%, to \$61 million in 2014.

**Lean:** U.S.-based consultants John Black and Associates were given a \$40 million contract to improve efficiency in the health care system, using a program based on Toyota's production system. After the problem-ridden program was cancelled early, a University of Saskatchewan study found that the province spent \$1,511 for every dollar saved by Lean.

**Liquor Privatization:** A financial analysis of the decision to privatize liquor sales in Saskatchewan shows that it will greatly reduce public revenues, due to a 25% reduction in the mark-up on liquor and an increase in wholesale costs. Saskatchewan stands to lose \$115 million in just the first five years of privatization alone, and will forgo over \$25 million annually each year after that.

**The Regina Bypass:** The contract for Saskatchewan's largest-ever infrastructure project, with a price tag of \$1.88 billion – plus land costs that will drive the cost to \$2 billion or more – was awarded to VINCI, a French multinational corporation. The contract also makes an Alberta company responsible for clearing snow and laying sand on the Bypass' 60km length.

**New MLAs:** Thanks to a revised electoral map, three new members were added to the Saskatchewan Legislature in the 2016 election. At a salary of \$96,183 per year, plus expenses that average about \$134,000 per year, these three new MLAs come at a cost to taxpayers of roughly \$700,000 annually.

**Wall's Political Staff:** In Executive Council, the government agency that includes the Premier's senior advisors, salary and benefit costs have increased 74% since 2009. Wall's Communications Director, for example, has seen her six-figure salary go up 33% in that time.

**Smart Meters:** Several of SaskPower's new smart meters caught fire soon after they were installed in summer 2014. After spending \$37 million on the smart meter project, SaskPower was forced to remove and replace all 105,000 of the meters, at a cost of as much as \$15 million more.

**Carbon Capture and Storage:** SaskPower was forced to pay almost \$20 million in penalties to Cenovus Energy, when the new \$1.5 billion Boundary Dam carbon capture and storage plant failed to capture enough carbon to sell to the energy company.

