



PRINTED APRIL 18 2017

SASK PARTY BUDGET 2017:

Who's feeling the pain?

School kids – Government cut \$22 million from already tight school budgets, affecting services for kids with special needs, pre-kindergarten programming, bus services, and classroom support.

Post-Secondary Students – A \$30 million cut means higher tuition fees, fewer classes, instructors and resources. Less chance for scholarships and student aid. No chance for a tuition tax credit.

Anyone who lives in a city – If you live in a city in Saskatchewan, you will feel the effect of the Sask Party's plan to cut \$32 million from cities by getting rid of a grant-in-lieu paid by provincial Crowns. Could be tax hikes. Could be transit cuts, or other rollbacks in services, like parks and rec centres.

People who use libraries – A whopping 60% cut to regional libraries and a 100% cut to Regina and Saskatoon threatens to shut down our nationally-acclaimed interlibrary loan system. And, if you are low-income, or live in a remote area, don't expect to access the internet at your local library. It may not be there. And, kids say good-bye to the summer reading programs.

Workers who provide public services – To date, 574 people fired - from government cleaners to

staff in the Ministries of Environment, Highways, and Justice. 224 of those are jobs lost due to government's elimination of the STC. Another 132 jobs will be lost over the next three years due to the termination of the Saskatchewan Pastures Program. Collateral damage: everyone who relies on public services. More job cuts to come, the fall-out from provincial cuts to schools, libraries, and cities.

Working families, Sask. communities – Government plans a \$250 million compensation claw back from public-sector workers. It says it will force rollbacks at the bargaining table – which could include wage cuts, mandatory unpaid days off, or pension and benefit reductions. Less take home pay will mean less spending in local communities, draining millions from the Saskatchewan economy.

Seniors, farmers, rural and Indigenous people, and anyone who needs the bus – Government completely eliminates STC. People who need a ride to the city for cancer treatments, doctor's appointments, or just to visit their grandchildren will be among those who will feel the pain of losing STC. The bus company was a lifeline connecting families and communities for 70 years. Buses delivered parts for the combine, library books, blood products, and more.

People who are hearing impaired – The Hearing Aid Plan, which helped families pay for costly hearing aids and provided testing and repair services is no more. The service has been privatized, so families will be forced to pay thousands more.



Seniors in long-term care – Fees for about half the province's long-term care residents are being hiked. This will affect seniors already living on a modest, fixed income after decades of hard work that helped build our province.

People in chronic pain – Government has cut coverage for chiropractic, orthotic and podiatry services for low-income people.

Moms-to-be – Parent mentoring, a home-visitation program, has been cut. Parents expecting a baby, and wondering how to cope, won't be getting support in their homes any more.

Special needs kids – Day cares will lose funding for staff who care for children with special needs. Families will be expected to figure out how to apply for individualized funding on their own. Could be tough for those facing other challenges, like poverty, poor housing, or low literacy skills.

Sick people and grieving families – Government

has cut funding for chaplains who comfort patients in hospitals and care homes. Cutting these services makes us the only province that doesn't provide spiritual care for patients.

Bereaved low-income families – Social Services will no longer cover the cost of funeral services, beyond basic burial or cremation.

Families on assistance, disabled people – Monthly living allowances are cut, including travel allowances for people with disabilities. Government is considering more cuts for things like school supplies and home repairs.

People who love parks – A 45% cut to Meewasin Valley Authority funding puts the fragile ecology of the South Saskatchewan River bank area near Saskatoon in jeopardy. Meewasin has already announced it can't afford to run its annual clean-up campaign, hold its popular Pelican Watch contest, or hire summer students to help with conservation work. Regional parks - the volunteer-run ones close to small, rural communities- have had their funding cut by half.

Northern communities (and forests) – A 39% cut to the capital budget for wildfire management could make it harder to fight wildfires.

Cattle producers (and the wildlife) who rely on public pastures – The Saskatchewan Pastures Program is on the chopping block. These grazing lands helped mixed farmers and ranchers by providing affordable grazing on public lands managed for a balance of cattle production and conservation. Ending support for ecological management and selling off the pastures will lead to the degradation or loss of vital habitat for native grassland flora and fauna, including several endangered species. Privatizing the pastures will also affect hunters,



birdwatchers, researchers, Indigenous people and others who have accessed these rare public grasslands for recreation and research.

Farmers who need to ship grain – Government is selling off the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation and its 900 hopper cars that helped farmers get their products to market. Not much in the way of budget savings here. The Crown corporation was profitable, earning \$2 million for the province last year alone.

People who count on community-based supports – A 10% cut to community-based organizations (CBOs) that receive health funding targets at-risk people – like those with mental health issues. Without the supports offered by CBOs, vulnerable people are more likely to end up in hospital, in the courts, or in jail, costing more and hurting, rather than helping, those in need. The cuts could also hurt kids with autism and people with acquired brain injuries.

Taxes target most vulnerable

Low and mid-income families – Hiking the PST up to 6% hurts lower-income people hardest. Families who typically spend most of their money on local goods and services to meet basic needs pay a greater portion of their income in sales taxes than the wealthy, who can save, invest or spend their money elsewhere. This tax targets people already hit hard by the government's austerity budget.

And if all that isn't bad enough – To top it off, families will now have to pay PST on kids' clothes, snack foods, and restaurant meals.

Who's NOT feeling the pain?

Big businesses get the breaks – Large corporations will get a .5% tax cut this year and another .5% cut in 2019. Government boasts Saskatchewan will have the lowest corporate tax rate in the country at 11%. These corporate handouts mean the province will lose \$25 million this year alone. Cuts to personal income tax rates – which also benefit the highest income

earners most - will mean \$82 million less in provincial revenue this year.

Say 'No!' to Sask. Party Budget 2017

Handouts for corporations, callous cuts for the rest of us. We need to stop the cuts and make corporations pay their fair share.

Stand up for Saskatchewan.

