HOW DID THE PROVINCE GET INTO THIS FINANCIAL MESS?

Sask. Party government waste and mismanagement

GTH Land Scam – The Sask. Party government paid three times more than the appraised value for land near the Global Transportation Hub (GTH). Millions in taxpayers' money was wasted buying land at inflated prices. Somewhere along the line, millions ended up in the pockets of land speculators, including a Sask. Party donor and an Alberta business associate of former GTH Minister Bill Boyd.

Over-priced consultants – Government is handing out hundreds of millions to costly consultants. Spending on consultants rose by 228% between 2009 and 2014. The Ministry of Highways spent 400% more on outside consultants.

Lean – $40 million was handed to a U.S. consultant to improve efficiency in health care. 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 – Tens of millions will be lost each year according to independent financial analysis – the fall-out from privatizing liquor sales. . The main reason: government dropped the mark-up to give private retailers a wider profit margin.

Regina Bypass – Nearly $2 billion was handed to a French multinational corporation to build a bypass around Regina. An Alberta company will be paid an undisclosed amount to plow and sand the 60 kms of highway for 30 years.

More MLAs – The Sask. Party added three new MLAs to the Legislature in time for the 2016 election. The cost to taxpayers: with salaries and expenses, close to $700,000 a year.

Premier's political staff – Taxpayers picked up the tab for a whopping increase in salaries and benefits for advisors, strategists and others who work in Executive Council – a 74% increase since 2009.

Smart meters – After spending $37 million on smart meters, SaskPower was forced to remove and replace all 105,000 of the potentially-defective meters, at a cost of as much as $15 million more.

Carbon Capture – 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.