

STUDENT PRIORITIES

ADDRESS RISING TUITION FEES

Political parties should commit to reducing or freezing tuition fees to address the largest barrier that Saskatchewan students and their families face in obtaining a post-secondary education.

INCREASE EDUCATION FUNDING

Political parties should commit to increase operating funding to post-secondary institutions to address the funding needs of universities and colleges across Saskatchewan and decrease the reliance on private funding such as tuition fees.

REDUCING STUDENT DEBT

Political parties should commit to terminate retention based tax credits and use the savings to provide students with millions of dollars in upfront grants, providing students with student financial assistance when they need it the most.

FUNDING FOR ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Political parties should commit to allocate adequate financial resources for upfront grants for aboriginal students, distributed through Saskatchewan Student Aid and commit to long-term stable provincial funding for First Nations University of Canada.

SUPPORT GRADUATE FUNDING AND RESEARCH

Political parties should commit to increase the funding allocation to research and innovation, distributed evenly to all sectors where research is conducted and to both basic and applied research, therefore supporting both short and long-term innovation and create an upfront grants program for graduate students in all disciplines.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Political parties should commit to establishing rent controls and prioritizing a comprehensive affordable housing strategy that will address housing shortages, low vacancy rates, and exorbitant rental rate increases.

AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE

Political parties should commit to funding the creation of affordable childcare spaces to address the estimated 5,000 new childcare spaces that are needed to ensure those families who need childcare are able to access it.

PLATFORM AND PERFORMANCE: THE RATIONALE

In analyzing the main provincial parties, the Canadian Federation of Students relied on the policies developed by member university and college students' unions. The Federation is strictly non-partisan.

All political parties were treated objectively in the creation of this report card. The four main provincial political parties were each sent a questionnaire, asking their plans to address these seven issues. The New Democratic Party and the Saskatchewan Party responded to the questionnaire, and each party's platforms and record in government were relied upon.

The seven major policy initiatives that form the basis of this report card are based students' priorities, developed member locals of the Federation. The specific policies included in the assessment are: tuition fee protections and increased government funding to ensure a more accessible, high-quality public post-secondary education system, reducing student debt, increasing funding for Aboriginal education, supporting research and innovation in all fields of study, and supporting the creation of affordable housing and affordable childcare spaces to support Saskatchewan's growing need.

For a variety of reasons, some political parties may not support these initiatives. They are graded accordingly. This report is a shifting analysis of party policy designed to help students and their families make sense of election promises with the goal of contributing to an informed vote. Parties can easily improve their report assessments by improving electoral commitments. It is incumbent upon a non-partisan student movement to be vocal about the relative strength of candidates' commitments to public post-secondary education. Policy analysis combined with effective community organising is the cornerstone of affecting change.

Armed with the information in this report card and on the website, www.voteeducation.ca, the Canadian Federation of Students encourages you to Vote Education on November 7.



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDIANT-E-S

HOW TO VOTE

Step 1: MAKE SURE YOU'RE ELIGIBLE

You can vote if you are:

- Eighteen years of age or more
- A Canadian citizen on or before voting day
- An ordinary resident in Saskatchewan for at least six months preceding the day when the election was called

Step 2: FIND YOUR VOTING POLL

Saskatchewan is separated into 58 electoral districts called constituencies. You vote in the constituency where you currently live. There will be a polling station in your constituency, near your address. If you move between October 10 and Election Day, you must return to the polling place of your former residence. If you belong to a First Nation but live off reserve you vote in the constituency in which you ordinarily reside between October 10 and November 7.

For more information visit www.elections.sk.ca or call Elections Saskatchewan at 1-877.958-8683 (VOTE)


Step 3: BRING IDENTIFICATION

To register the day of voting at the poll you must either:

Show a piece of government issued I.D that displays your name, address, and signature (e.g. driver's license or passport). OR

Show two pieces of I.D. which have the above three elements in some combination. For example: A student loan agreement, cell phone bill or lease agreement and a health card.

Swear an oath and have someone with ID who knows you and is voting at the same poll vouch for you.

VOTE
 EDUCATION

POLITICAL PARTY REPORT CARD

2011 SASKATCHEWAN
PROVINCIAL ELECTION

ELECTION DAY IS

NOVEMBER 7

VOTE  EDUCATION.CA

Leader

Victor Lau

Party

Green Party

TUITION FEES

The Green Party has committed to phasing out tuition fees over four years, making a strong commitment to address the largest barrier that students face in obtaining a post-secondary degree.

EDUCATION FUNDING

The Green Party has committed to a fully funded system of post-secondary education, providing post-secondary institutions adequate funding need to provide a high quality education.

STUDENT DEBT

While its commitment to phase out tuition fees will reduce debt the Green Party has made no commitment to address the debt students are currently burdened with.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Green Party has made no commitment to long-term funding for FNUi.

GRADUATE FUNDING & RESEARCH

The Green Party has made no commitment to research funding for graduate students.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Green Party has committed to 1,000 new and 500 more rehabilitate affordable and subsidized housing units over the next decade.

AFFORDABLE CHILCARE

The Green Party has made no commitment with respect to affordable childcare.

Leader

Ryan Bater

Party

Liberal Party

TUITION FEES

The Liberal Party has made not commitment to establish tuition fee protections.

EDUCATION FUNDING

The Liberal Party has made no commitment with respect to education funding.

STUDENT DEBT

The Liberal Party will remove family income, employment income and assets from student loan applications. The Party made no commitment to reducing student debt.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Liberal Party has made no commitment to stable, consistent funding for FNUi.

GRADUATE FUNDING & RESEARCH

The Liberal Party has made no commitment with respect to research funding for graduate students.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Liberal Party has made no commitment to address skyrocketing rental increases or housing crunch.

AFFORDABLE CHILCARE

The Liberal Party has made no commitment with respect to affordable childcare.

Leader

Dwain Lingenfelter

Party

New Democratic Party

TUITION FEES

The NDP will freeze tuition fee increases while also funding the forgone revenue an increase would provide.

EDUCATION FUNDING

The NDP has committed to increasing funding in order to freeze tuition fees public post-secondary institutions over four years.

STUDENT DEBT

The NDP has committed to increase students access to public student loans, and extending tax-credits to graduates of Master's and PhD programs, however this commitment does not address the amount of debt that students take on or focus funding when students need it the most through upfront grants.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The NDP has committed to minor investment to expand programming at regional colleges and distance education programs but has made no commitment to provide long-term, stable funding for FNUiv.

GRADUATE FUNDING & RESEARCH

The NDP would provide 100 graduate burasries annually but has made no commitment to increase research funding.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The NDP would establish rent control legislation and create 2,500 more affordable housing units, with 1,000 units dedicated to student accommodation.

AFFORDABLE CHILCARE

The NDP has committed to creating 10,000 early learning and childcare spaces with a subsidized cap on fees with rates at \$22 per toddler and \$12 per school aged child.

Leader

Brad Wall

Party

Saskatchewan Party

TUITION FEES

The Saskatchewan Party has made no commitment to establish tuition fee protections.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Over the past 4 years, the Saskatchewan Party has made significant investments in post-secondary institution operating funding and capital projects.

STUDENT DEBT

The Saskatchewan Party would create a grant, available to high school graduates, of up to \$500 per year for a maximum of \$2000.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Saskatchewan Party has made no commitment to stable, consistent funding for FNUi although it was invest in training and apprenticeship amongst First Nations students.

GRADUATE FUNDING & RESEARCH

The Saskatchewan Party has made no commitmentsto fund research across all disciplines although it was, in the past, provided funding almost entirely for science and technology.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Saskatchewan Party has limited rental increases to twice a year and made moderate investments in affordable and student housing.

AFFORDABLE CHILCARE

The Saskatchewan Party's 2011-12 budget allocated funding for 500 new childcare spaces.