

Real Change



SACL – Answers to Questions from Saskatchewan Green Party

Q: What would your party do to support Educational Assistants in the classroom?

A: We would work with all stakeholders in Education to determine the adequate level of Educational Assistants needed and to set aside permanent funding for them. Our Participatory Democracy process involves citizens in helping design and fund their priorities.

Q: What would your party do to help people with intellectual disabilities have the opportunity for post-secondary education in local colleges and universities?

A: We feel there should be no barriers to any citizen wishing to attain higher education. Hence, in addition to our policy of Free Tuition, we would look to enact a provincial Act for People with Disabilities. This Act would ensure those less-abled would not be discriminated upon and if they are, they would be able to seek legal remedy through this Act. We would also work with the universities and colleges to review their current accessibility for those less-abled students and upgrade those standards to ensure equity.

Q: What is your party's position on the Disability Strategy?

A: We have not had a chance to fully review the Disability Strategy.

Q: What concrete steps would your party undertake to implement the recommendations of the Disability Strategy?

A: Working with all stakeholders, our Sask Green Party government would create a plan to implement as much of the positive recommendations in the Strategy as possible over our 4yr term of office.

Q: What does the phrase “person-centered” mean to you?

A: 'Person-centered' is much like 'patient-first', the citizen is placed at the center of all decision making. It makes sense, our model of governance is totally focused on this way of thinking and acting.

Q: How would you ensure that services for people with intellectual disabilities are person-centered?

A: We would consult with those closest to the person who has the intellectual disability. If there are no relatives or care providers, we would seek to involve them as much as possible in their own care. It is definitely a challenging question and one in which we hope to learn more about via our Participatory Democracy process of involvement.

Q: What would your party do to encourage the participation of people with intellectual disabilities in the labour market?

A. Having legislated a Guaranteed Livable Income, the Sask Green Party government would transform the Ministry of Social Services to the MINISTRY OF INCOME SUPPORT. Social workers from this department would no longer monitor welfare recipients but instead would be expected to help offer citizens resume writing, job placement and be job coaches for workers in actual work sites. In short, social workers would be retrained to Aid all citizens in having a fulfilled life. Also, under our government, employers would be expected to aid in hiring workers to work less than 40hrs/week; to have more diversity in their workforce and to be open to being as inclusive as possible.

Q: What would your party do to promote employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities within government?

A. The Sask Green Party government would be open to reviewing all Ministries and Departments for hiring opportunities for citizens with intellectual disabilities. We want to be an Open, Accountable and Transparent government. We could also consider having a Minister for People with Disabilities if stakeholders feel this would help towards our common project of inclusiveness.

Q: If elected would your party increase the monthly earnings exemption?

A: Our Sask Green Party government would abolish the monthly earnings limit. We feel citizens, disabled or not, should be free to earn as much as they can or would like to.

Q: Would your party average earnings of SAID beneficiaries over a 6 – 12 month period?

A: Again, we would not restrict earnings for less-abled people.

Q: What does your party see as a ‘socially acceptable’ income for SAID beneficiaries?

A: Our SAIE initiative (Sask Assured Income for Everyone) will enhance SAID benefits by an extra \$500/month on top of current SAID benefits; all tax free. From there, recipients are free to earn as much as they can or would like.

Q: Would you increase the transportation benefit within SAID to allow people with disabilities more control and flexibility in securing transportation when they need it?

A: We would be very open to increasing the transportation benefit for SAID recipients. We also would look to enhance transportation options for those on SAID via our Provincial Transportation Strategy.

Q: If elected, how would your government better support the transportation needs of people with intellectual disabilities?

A: We would sit down with stakeholders to design and then find a transportation plan to be as inclusive as possible for those with intellectual disability.

Q: Are you aware that Stats Can reports have shown that families who have children with disabilities have a lower income?

A: Yes. As a person with two children who have Autism, I have direct knowledge of this lower income gap.

Q: Do you know why this happens? A: Families often have to have one parent at home for fulltime caregiving.

A: Very true.

Q: How will your party support the families of individuals with intellectual disabilities – children or adult – to succeed in employment and personally?

A: Our plan to implement a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) through the personal income tax system would provide parents, single or otherwise, a reliable tax free income. This will help

parents with children with intellectual disability immensely. Their GLI along with their children's GLI will ensure poverty will be eliminated. Under this plan, those on GLI still can work if they so choose.

Q: What will your party do for families needing respite on a monthly basis?

A: Respite Care is desperately needed by families who care for their loved ones almost 24 hours a day. Under a Sask Green Party government, we would look to expand Medicare to cover this area of need. Respite Care Givers would be paid a reasonable wage and offered free training if required.

Q: Will your party support the development of a provincial respite registry or Program?

A: Yes. We support a provincial registry plus we feel parents should be able to choose the Respite Care they want. The Respite Care giver should be someone they trust including hiring other family members if they so choose.

Q: Will you support affordable housing development that looks at the needs and goals for all people with intellectual disabilities?

A: Yes we will.

Q: If elected, would your government work with SACL to develop more suitable, affordable housing options for people with intellectual disabilities?

A: Most definitely Yes. Our Participatory Democracy process of designing government ensures this input from all stakeholders including SACL.

Q: If elected would your government support independent living supports for people who do not currently qualify for existing residential programming?

A: We definitely would look at this.

Q: If elected, how would your party address the eligibility criteria (IQ and age based service cut offs) for people with intellectual disabilities who require services but currently do not qualify?

A: Ideally we would work with stakeholders, like SACL, in a Participatory Democracy process to design an adequate, easily accessible system. In addition, our Guaranteed Livable Income and SAIE will ensure no one is left destitute or poor ever again.