



## **YWCA Prince Albert, Regina & Saskatoon**

### **Poverty, Violence & Homelessness**

#### **1. What concrete steps will you take to reduce the rate of intimate partner violence in Saskatchewan?**

I think some very positive steps have occurred, specifically, on the Domestic Violence Death Review panel and the recent passage of the Bill allowing women to break rental/lease agreements. We have also opened and supported a number of women's shelters across the province, the most recent in the City of Melfort.

However, more work needs to be done on the prevention end. For one thing, I believe we need to change the conversation about this. Intimate partner violence is not a "women's" issue. It is everyone's issue. And because, sadly, most interpersonal violence is perpetrated by men, we need to talk about healthy constructs of masculinity. I think initiatives like "Man Up Against Violence" and the "White Ribbon" campaign are important moves in the right direction. I would also like to see us focus increasingly on economic opportunities for women. While I recognize that violence crosses socio-economic lines, we cannot ignore the fact that it is much more prevalent in conditions of poverty. Thus, I would like to see women's economic opportunities become part of the lense of government in everything we do.

I would also add that I have offered a strategy for Saskatchewan's northern communities, where the prevalence is interpersonal violence is particularly high, as are the rates of suicide. In that strategy, I point out that "...deliberate attention will be paid to opportunities for women and girls." You can read more about this here: <https://votetina.ca/engaging-northern-saskatchewan/>

#### **2. The Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy states that in the short-term, the Government of Saskatchewan will work with**

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community agencies to expand opportunities for housing those deemed “hard to house”. Which steps would you take to provide safe, appropriate, supportive housing options for women deemed hard-to-house?

My leadership platform commits us to Housing First, which is one of the pillars of “smart social investments.” You can read more about that commitment here: <https://votetina.ca/platform-smart-social-investment/> Housing First works, as has been demonstrated by the pilot here in Regina and also in its ability to achieve functional zero in Medicine Hat. I do worry, however, that Housing First tends to focus on the stereotype of homelessness – which is that of single men. I therefore appreciate the YWCA’s focus on family homelessness.

3. Will you commit to applying a gender based analysis of provincial assistance programs and any future redesign of such programs to ensure women and families receiving assistance are able to adequately cover the cost of living?

Work on applying a gender based analysis of the redesign of our income assistance programs was started under my former tenure as the Minister of Social Services and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and I believe that is still continuing today. If elected Premier, I would continue that work. Income assistance redesign was being done at that time with a view to using the Market Based Measure as a guidepost. That would also continue.

I would further state that in my leadership platform, I have committed to moving the Status of Women Executive Director to serve directly under the Office of the Premier where it could work in a centralized way through cabinet planning and Executive Council to ensure a gender based lense on everything we do. You can read more about that commitment here: <https://votetina.ca/nextgen-economy-plan-to-build-the-most-entrepreneurial-province-in-canada/>

4. What will you do to support the inquiry into Missing & Murdered Aboriginal Women and to respond to the disproportionate victimization of aboriginal women and girls?

I support the federal inquiry and would work in partnership with the federal government, RCMP and First Nations leaders to provide any support as a Province we can.

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Through a gendered & racialized lense, however, we need to deal with the multiple oppressions that First Nations women and girls face. While this space does not permit me to engage fully in a dialogue about that that could span days, I do want to say that I believe the relative invisibility of First Nations women and girls who are excelling and achieving in so many ways – from business to the arts to leadership – is part of the problem. I support current efforts to “humanize” the victims through the telling of their stories. But I also offer that we need to focus also on the lack of air time dedicated to celebrating First Nations women and their achievement. This is an important part of dismantling the terrible stereotypes that lead to victimization.

## Women & Employment

1. What measures will you implement to improve the economic status of women in Saskatchewan?

My previous answers have spoken to this. In my leadership platform, I have talked about relocating the Status of Women Executive Director to immediately under the Office of the Premier with the mandate to apply a gender based lense through everything we do, and with a particular focus on locating and expanding upon economic development opportunities for women.

2. Do you have plans to developed work based training opportunities in the workforce?

I will continue with the current initiatives in place, but I would also add those that I have specifically focused on in Saskatchewan’s Northern communities, where I feel the need is most acute. Again, you can see my policy commitment on this here:

<https://votetina.ca/engaging-northern-saskatchewan/>

3. How do you plan on recognizing and giving value to the unpaid work of women?

I think it is important to have a leadership candidate for the Saskatchewan Party who can speak to this and therefore elevate that conversation. Recognition of this issue is very important in order to shift mindsets. Government can play a role by shifting from conversations about work and family life way from the lense of

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“women’s issues” and towards parenting issues. The sharing of labour at home is starting to happen...we can do a lot by expanding the lense through which we see it.

## Education – Early Years

1. How do you plan to fix the child care subsidies to ensure that all families have access to high quality early years programming for their children?

I am not aware that there is a problem with the current child care subsidies, nor is this an issue that I hear about in my constituency office, the leadership campaign trail or in my former office as Minister of Social Services. I would be interested in hearing more.

## TRC & Child Welfare

1. According to Statistics Canada, 85% of children in care in Saskatchewan are First Nations & Metis children. How do you plan to reduce the number of children in care?

Why are children apprehended? There are multiple reasons ranging from addictions and mental health issues, abuse, sexual assault, neglect and then the more systematic reasons such as racial/socio-cultural/economic biases.

We currently have 15 agreements with First Nations and Metis Child & Family Services who provide supports for children and families in their communities. I believe that we need to further empower First Nations & Metis people to care for families. This is an important part of reconciliation and it is one of the only ways, in my mind, to rebuild for future generations.

2. In 2015, a legislative review was completed and titled Child Welfare Review proposals. What is your response to these proposals and how do you intend to move these recommendations forward?

For the purposes of brevity I will focus here on Recommendation #2 of the 12 put forward in the Child Welfare Review. This was to: “Make safe, culturally appropriate care for all Aboriginal children and youth a priority through a planned and deliberate transition to

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First Nations and Metis control of child welfare and preventative family supports.”

I have already spoken to the engagement of First Nations Child and Family Services organizations in the delivery of services to First Nations families. I would also add that intensive wrap around supports for families in crisis – rather than the apprehension of children – would go a long way towards safeguarding the family unit and building a longer term success plan.

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