



CATHOLIC ACTION CAMPAIGN: Interviews with party representatives for the 2020 Saskatchewan provincial election

Questions

1. Life and Dignity

Catholics believe that at the moment we are conceived, we have been made in the image and likeness of God. Each of us is an incomparable, irreplaceable, unique child of God, and as such we are each imbued with an inherent and inviolable dignity. This dignity of all human life is the heart of Catholic social teaching, and it must be respected across the entirety of a person's natural life: from conception to youth, to adulthood and professional life, through to their elderly years and the end of their life. All of us are born from God, and spend our lives returning to Him.

Given this inherent dignity, Catholics care deeply about the sanctity of human life.

Recognizing the division of powers between the Federal and Provincial Governments, would your party support any of the following policies to ensure the protection of the sick, marginalized, elderly and vulnerable persons in our province?

- *Requirements for parental consent to abortion procedures on minors;*
- *Conscience and employment protection for all health care professionals and institutions whose personal or corporate ethos does not permit them to be complicit in the taking of human life; and,*
- *Adequate funding for palliative care in all areas of the Province and increased provision of hospice end-of-life care, not including euthanasia.*

2. Stewardship of Creation

As Catholics, we believe that humanity's relationship with creation and the creatures of the earth "requires the exercise of responsibility; it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation." Pope Francis has been clear that the sinful exploitation of our natural world—and resulting ecological crises, like climate change—threaten the existence of the human

family. “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue,” says Pope Francis, “It is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” This is why Catholics are deeply engaged in the work of building more sustainable communities.

How does your political party propose to achieve an ecologically sustainable future for Saskatchewan, to protect the God-given dignity of coming generations and our fellow children of God around the world?

3. Community and the Common Good

Catholic thinking on community and the common good is rooted in the principle of subsidiarity and participation. Caritas Canada says, “Subsidiarity holds that [the] functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible, as long as they can be performed adequately. When they cannot, higher levels of government must intervene. This principle goes hand-in-hand with Participation, the principle that all peoples have a right to participate in the economic, political and cultural life of society, and in the decisions that affect their community.”¹ This starts with the family—the most important unit of society according to Catholic social teaching—and also forms the heart of the Catholic commitment to education, and the development of the full person: spiritually, morally, intellectually, and socially.

How does your party propose to ensure the continued right of Catholic education in Saskatchewan, for Catholics and/or for others, and how will you strengthen education of the whole person for coming generations?

4. Option for the poor and vulnerable

In the words of Pope Francis, “Money must serve, not rule.” This statement puts simply the Catholic belief that our economy must be at the service of people—especially the most vulnerable and economically fragile among us—and not for the sake of accumulating wealth. Catholics are called to remember Jesus’ own words: What we do to the least among us, we do to Him. And for too many Saskatchewanians, a living wage and dignified work which supports a family are beyond reach. The result is that many are unjustly excluded from full participation in our society.

¹ [Development & Peace](#)

What does your party propose to do to ensure a living and fair wage is available for all Saskatchewan’s workers; to address the injustice of poverty in our province; and to ensure that our economy serves people rather than the other way around?

5. Rights & Responsibilities

Catholic social teaching recognizes a wide range of rights, inherently owed to every person in respect of their dignity as a child of God: a right to life; a right to live in a united family, and in a moral environment conducive to growth; the right to share in the work which makes wise use of the earth’s material resources; the right to food and drinkable water, to housing and personal security. The Church also teaches that human rights are indissolubly linked to human duties, underlining the contradiction inherent in affirming rights without acknowledging corresponding responsibilities. “Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other.”² In this way, working towards the common good of all is a responsibility for each and every one of us, and every institution in Saskatchewan society.

In that spirit, how does your party propose to encourage and enable the great breadth of civil society in Saskatchewan to employ their time, talents, and treasure in the service of the common good, and promote the full participation of every Saskatchewanian in our society?

6. Solidarity

Solidarity is acceptance of the truth that because all peoples are part of the same human family – part of the one body of Christ – what happens to others affects us as well, regardless of differences in location or life circumstances. Solidarity is found in a commitment to the good of one’s neighbour. The good of one is the good of all, and the other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. And Catholics stand in solidarity with the unique injustices and sufferings facing so many Saskatchewanians: whether our Indigenous communities, our poorest neighbours,

² Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

immigrants and refugees escaping persecution abroad, and those living in isolated communities in places like northern Saskatchewan—and the extraordinary challenges to human dignity they all face.

We want to ask about this latter group for our next question. How does your party propose to work in partnership with the people of northern Saskatchewan, to reduce suicide rates in their communities, address the suffering they face, and support local initiatives to build a better future for northern Saskatchewanians?

7. Justice & Peace

The Church teaches that public administration must be oriented towards the service of citizens: being at the service of its citizens, the State is the steward of the people’s resources, which it must administer with a view to the common good. This is the fundamental purpose of government, according to Church teaching: to provide a legal and economic framework in which the common good can flourish. To respect both subsidiarity and solidarity, “the State’s intervention in the economic environment must be neither invasive nor absent, but commensurate with society’s real needs.”³

Central to the State’s stewardship of the people’s resources is its management of the provincial budget. How does your party propose to address the budgetary imbalances within our province resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, and how do you propose to steward the enormous fiscal resources of the state?

³ Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church