

SASKATCHEWAN'S CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

Why supporting local companies is so important



When taxpayers are paying for work to be done, they should be reasonably sure that the money they're spending is going to support other taxpayers. In other words, ***Saskatchewan work should go to Saskatchewan companies.***

While good progress has been made in this area, especially by the provincial government, still too many opportunities are going to out-of-province contractors. This needs to stop.

As a starting point, there are a number of practices that we are asking every candidate for MLA to support. Each of these practices will help support local companies while being acceptable within the trade agreement restrictions that Saskatchewan is bound by. The practices we are calling for include:

- **Requiring that any company that works on a construction site is COR safety certified.** This is an industry standard safety level, supported and governed right here in Saskatchewan by the SCSA, that guarantees the companies you're working with take safety seriously;
- **Requiring that any company that works on a construction site has a membership in a local construction association** – membership in a local association is a signal that a company is here to stay and that it has a commitment to supporting the local community too;
- **Initiating a mandatory after-action report** such that every time a project is awarded to an out-of-province company, it triggers a review that examines what happened and how the process can be improved going forward;
- **Framing procurement as a local economic development process**, not an administrative process, and making sure that everyone who works in procurement thinks of themselves as economic development officers supporting local business opportunities;



**44,400 People Working
in Construction**

Construction is a major force in Saskatchewan's economy, and is responsible for the quality of life Saskatchewan residents enjoy.

- **As of August 2020, there were 561,400 people employed in Saskatchewan.**
 - **Of those, 44,400 were employed in the construction sector.**
- **That means that approximately 8% of our working population is employed thanks to construction.**
 - **That's more than Forestry, Mining, and Oil & Gas combined!**

- **Considering the economic development impacts of selecting different vendors** (and where they might spend their profit) when awarding contracts; and

- **Investing in building relationships with local vendors prior to running a competition.** In this pre-competition phase, you can educate vendors about the opportunities, learn from them about their capabilities, and determine how to shape the competition in order to provide the best possible advantages to local vendors.



7% Sask. GDP

The construction industry has a huge impact on Saskatchewan's gross domestic product (GDP). GDP refers to the total value of goods and services produced over a specific time period. It is a primary measurement used to evaluate the health of an economy. An increase in real GDP is viewed as a sign that the economy is growing.

If we're building, that's a good thing for our economy!

- **Saskatchewan's real GDP last year was \$81,540.7M**
 - **Of that, construction was responsible for \$5,716.9M**
- **That means that approximately 7% of Saskatchewan's GDP was thanks to construction.**
 - **A healthy construction industry equals a healthy economy.**

We build Saskatchewan.