

October 4, 2024

Colin Buschman  
National Police Federation  
Email: Cbuschman@npf-fpn.com

Dear Colin Buschman:

Thank you for submitting your questions to the Saskatchewan NDP. I am pleased to respond on behalf of our party.

*Under the Provincial Police Service Agreement between the RCMP and the Government of Saskatchewan, the Provincial Minister sets the objectives, priorities, and goals of the SK RCMP. An example of this is the provincial government's recent pledge to fund approximately 250 RCMP positions over the coming years. How does your party plan to contribute to strengthening the RCMP for the future?*

The Saskatchewan NDP is committed to ensuring the RCMP is given the tools it needs to guarantee the safety of our residents. The Sask. Party is promising more RCMP positions on the one hand, but on the other, they're setting up a rival public safety agency, the Marshals Service, to divert funding and employees from existing law enforcement agencies.

Carla Beck and an NDP government will work with the RCMP to hire additional RCMP officers, as the Sask. Party has promised. But we're going to go further and scrap the Marshals Service, and we will make \$10 million of Marshals funding available to the RCMP and municipal police agencies. Local police like the RCMP can put those dollars to use right away, unlike the Marshals which will take years to establish.

*Over 100 municipalities and thousands of Saskatchewan residents have written to the provincial government asking for more transparency and accountability regarding the Saskatchewan Marshals Service. The mandate of the Marshals seems to duplicate services already provided by existing policing agencies, raising many questions and uncertainties. How would your party ensure that the public, municipalities, and public safety organizations are properly consulted and included in decision-making about public safety?*

Effective public safety management can't be accomplished without cooperation and collaboration with existing police services. Unfortunately, Scott Moe and the Sask. Party have stopped listening to local leaders. Carla Beck and an NDP government are committed to meeting with leaders and those on the front lines, and to developing collaborative solutions to the challenges facing Saskatchewan today.

*The Saskatchewan RCMP is committed to working together for a safer Saskatchewan but is only one part of the public safety continuum. Apart from the RCMP, what are your party's top investment priorities to improve public safety in Saskatchewan?*

Being tough on crime also means being tough on the causes of crime. Scott Moe and the Sask. Party want to throw good money after bad on vanity projects like the Marshals Service, but we want to target the issues that cause crime. When we scrap the Marshals service, we're also going to take \$10 million to invest in expanding mental health and addictions services. We're going to make more public housing units available to get people off the street. And we're going to offer rebates to homes, local businesses, and places of worship to install and upgrade security equipment like cameras and lights. We want to ensure that people feel safe in their homes and their communities.

*Is there anything else you would like Saskatchewan voters to know about your plan for improving public safety in Saskatchewan?*

Under Scott Moe and the Sask. Party, public safety is getting worse. Saskatchewan leads the nation in crime severity, in violent crime, and in domestic violence. Homelessness is on the rise, and people are afraid to step outside. And despite all this, the Sask. Party refuses to work with local municipalities, police agencies, or with experts. Carla Beck and the Saskatchewan NDP know that building safer communities starts with listening to local leaders and working collaboratively to address the public safety challenges Saskatchewan is facing.

Thank you for your thoughtful questions, and for everything your members do to keep Saskatchewan people safe.

Sincerely,



Mitch Bonokoski  
Director of Research and Policy