

Privatization

Privatization is the shifting of ownership, management or provision of assets and/or services from the public to the private sector. Privatization is first and foremost about guaranteeing profits for companies at the expense of Saskatchewan people.

We all pay more with privatization, and it takes many forms:

- **Selling-off** a Crown Corporation or public asset;
- **Contracting out** a service to a private firm or third party rather than keeping the service internal or in-house;
- **Outsourcing** – another term for contracting out a service;
- **Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)** – another term for private ownership or control of community infrastructure and services. With P3s, governments enter into costly contracts that are essentially rent-to-own schemes rather than building and maintaining community infrastructure directly.

Evidence shows that privatization increases costs, and leads to lower quality and a reduction in service levels. We also lose control and accountability with privatization – profit making becomes the sole priority rather than serving the needs of our communities.

Handing over control of services and infrastructure to corporations is a political goal of those that stand to profit from privatization and not a real solution to infrastructure and service needs. That's why we are often bombarded by a heavy duty sales pitch.

There is a better way. Saskatchewan people know they can count on public services to make life more affordable and deliver the services we need to improve our communities and our quality of life.

Did you know? A Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' 2010 study revealed that an individual Canadian consumes on average \$16,952 in public services per year. It's a benefit that is often overlooked.

Examples of privatization in Saskatchewan since 2007 include:

Most crown corporations have seen portions privatized or have been restricted from providing certain services in favour of private contractors.

Government-backed P3 project for long-term care in Saskatoon, known as Amicus.

Outright privatization of health care laundry services in Saskatchewan (closure of public health care laundry facilities in Prince Albert, Weyburn, Yorkton and Moose Jaw announced - over 300 jobs will be lost).

P3s announced:

- New Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford
- Civic Operations Centre in Saskatoon
- Bypass road in Regina
- Two new bridges in Saskatoon
- Nine joint-use (public/separate) schools in Regina, Saskatoon, Warman and Martensville
- Long term care facility in Swift Current

Pending privatization threats:

- No new public liquor stores
- Current public liquor stores face privatization

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