

A Digest of the Saskatchewan Green Party Monthly Newsletter

To minimize our environmental impact and honour copyright, the newsletter has been condensed.

If you value the newsletter, please consider donating to offset printing and mailing costs.

**A Message from Our Leader**

*By Naomi Hunter*

Dear Fellow Greens,

We are starting this New Year with a new website, a new format to our newsletter The Weaver, and a growing team of aspiring MLA candidates about to seek nomination for the 2024 election.



We are better prepared ahead of an election than ever before. Fully one-third of our constituencies are spoken for. At this point, between elections, seemed like the perfect time to improve our communications systems, and to confirm and train candidates. I’ve spoken numerous times of my “Ten Year Vision” plan I had when I became leader, and today I see much of this plan rolling out faster than the ten years I had originally accounted for.

Our new website has the ability to send out press releases, as well as this newsletter and other announcements. It has the capacity to help our candidates store data so that we will be on a more even footing with the other provincial political parties and present a polished, professional look. Here is a link to our new website www.saskgreen.ca. We are in need of help managing and maintaining our new website, so if you would like to volunteer please follow the link and reach out on the “volunteer” link found there.

This is the first edition of our now monthly newsletter. It will be easily readable and best of all, shareable on-line. We invite interested members and supporters to submit articles to share with our readers, or to contribute their own research, or “Letter to the Editor” they may have written. Members are also welcome to volunteer on our newsletter committee and help with this important communication. Click HERE to be taken to our Volunteer page to sign up for this opportunity.

We are getting ready to make a series of announcements in the upcoming months regarding candidates and the constituencies in which they will run. If you live in those constituencies, these are candidates who intend to start door knocking very soon. They will need volunteers to help them with this and other aspects of campaigning.

Reach out to us if you are interested in volunteering to be a candidate or help with your local candidate’s campaign. Even if you don’t see what your role might be, meeting with your local candidate and having them see they are not alone can help a lot. It may even lead to a group of like-minded individuals forming a Constituency Association. Candidates need our support, if we want to grow as a Party in Saskatchewan this is how we do it!

I am ready to announce my intention of running in Saskatoon Riversdale (after many phone calls and emails and messages from members) this is a constituency in which I now live and operate a business. Riversdale is currently held by a SaskParty MLA, Mark Friesen. The demographics line up beautifully as an area where a tireless Green campaigner can see excellent results. It is also an impoverished neighbourhood that lights my heart on fire to affect real change for the constituents as their MLA. I am asking that we focus as much volunteer effort as possible on this key campaign, and of course can use all the volunteer support I can get!

Our incredible Deputy Leader, Valerie Brooks, is ready to announce her intention of running in the constituency of Yorkton. I am incredibly proud to stand beside this outstanding woman as we launch campaigns together. Valerie was a powerhouse Federal Green candidate in the snap 2021 fall election. She then stepped up to volunteer her time on our Saskatchewan Green Party executive in the role of Deputy Leader. Valerie Brooks is an educator in Yorkton who exemplifies dedication in that role and her belief in our 6 core Green values. She’s organized, brilliant, and a true leader!

Together, Valerie and I, along with each and every one of you, will nurture relationships with community and professional groups, call the current government to task, and continue to build our base of support in advance of the 2024 Saskatchewan Election.

As always, I look forward to hearing from all of you. Feel welcome to reach out anytime by email, [leader@saskgreen.ca](mailto:leader@saskgreen.ca), phone 1-306-561-8880, or social media, [Facebook,](https://www.facebook.com/NaomiHunterGPC?mibextid=LQQJ4d)[Instagram](https://instagram.com/naomi.ness6?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=), Twitter **@GpcHunter**, or TikTok **naomihunter04**

I believe in all of you and this party,

Naomi Hunter

Leader, Saskatchewan Green Party

**Help Wanted: Auditor**

The Saskatchewan Green Party is looking for an Auditor. The successful candidate will be:

* a licensed member in good standing of a recognized accounting profession regulated by CPA Saskatchewan.
* familiar or willingness to become familiar and comply with the regulations found in section 222(2)(a) of the Election Act.
* able to handle a workload with an annual audit and up to 61 campaign audits during election years.

We are always looking for like-minded people to join our growing movement as members, volunteers, donors, and supporters to further the message of a sustainable future for all! Please connect with Naomi (1-306-561-8880) if you are or know an auditor.

**Upcoming AGM Information**

Keep an eye out here for information about our upcoming AGM at the end of May or early June in Regina. Save these dates and start planning for our first Post-Covid in-person AGM.

**Feature Article: Unlivable Housing**

*By Whitney Greenleaf*



Image by [István Kopeczny](https://pixabay.com/users/ixti007-21229886/?utm_source=link-attribution&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=image&utm_content=6231781) from [Pixabay](https://pixabay.com/?utm_source=link-attribution&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=image&utm_content=6231781)

Homelessness is not just one thing. It doesn’t affect just one gender, it doesn’t affect one age group, it doesn’t affect one race. At the bottom line it, affects us all. We see it everyday, even if you don't pay attention it's still there. That man you see sitting on the side of the sidewalk. Yeah he may very well be homeless. I guarantee everyone has at least one person close to them who has known someone who was homeless or has experienced housing insecurity at one point in their lives. If they have not, then they have privilege that most of us will never understand. Here are some articles that I have found that reveal major factors of homelessness. Rather than trying to cover the subject of homelessness entirely, I've chosen to introduce these articles by asking: What is the definition of housing? What are the basics meant to be?

Is it just 4 walls and a roof? It's way more than that. Here's buildings with exactly that: a dog house, a shed, a cabin... you get the picture. If you check Wikipedia the definition of housing goes “Housing, or more generally, living spaces, refers to the construction and assigned usage of houses or buildings individually or collectively, for the purpose of shelter. Housing ensures that members of society have a place to live, whether it is a home or some other kind of dwelling, lodging or shelter.” In order for landlords to even be able to legally rent an apartment it must be equipped with running water and heat (it’s a lot more than that, but that should be the bare minimum).You can't just give people a place to live. It has to be a safe place to live.

CTV reported that, because of the poor condition of much government housing, it wasn’t livable :

<https://regina.ctvnews.ca/poor-conditions-could-be-contributing-factor-to-vacancy-rate-of-government-owned-housing-1.6163359>

Murray Mandryk reported in Regina about a vacant four-plex that blew up:

<https://leaderpost.com/opinion/columnists/murray-mandryk-vacant-shc-houses-during-homeless-crisis-unfathomable>

Here’s a report from the 2021 Census on housing conditions among First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada:

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-X/2021007/98-200-X2021007-eng.cfm>

CBC reports a woman dying from effects of a bed bug infestation:

<https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.6676505>

Housing in Saskatchewan is not being maintained properly. The Sask Housing Authority and the various social housing companies only charge 30% of a tenant’s income. The income for a a single person is $915 or for a couple with 2 kids it is $1,445 (source:<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/financial-help/saskatchewan-income-support-sis> ) These companies don’t make enough money to afford the repairs. That’s why these places have become uninhabitable. If there were a guaranteed livable income -- say around $2,000 as we saw with CERB -- that would double the rent and these companies would be making more money for repairs.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-its-time-for-ottawa-to-seriously-study-how-a-guaranteed-basic-income/>

**Links to Published Articles and Multimedia**

*Shortage in Saskatchewan school funding causes growing pains, educators say*

A Saskatoon teacher says his job has become more challenging has class sizes continue to grow. As Kabi Moulitharan tells us, educators are pointing fingers at the government for not doing enough to achieve quality education.

[Shortage in Saskatchewan school funding causes growing pains, educators say | Globalnews.ca](https://globalnews.ca/news/9424740/saskatchewan-school-funding-shortfall-class-sizes/)

*Ground search at Sask. First Nation gets 2,000 'hits,' more work required to determine which are graves*

A ground search of a former Saskatchewan residential school site found more than 2,000 anomalies, some of which could be unmarked graves. During a site search, a jawbone was discovered that's been confirmed as the remains of a child from over 100 years ago.

[Ground search at Sask. First Nation gets 2,000 'hits,' more work required to determine which are graves | CBC News](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/star-blanket-cree-nation-announcement-1.6710662)

*Green Technology: Solar reactor converts both CO2 and plastic waste into useful products*

"Greenhouse gases and plastic waste are two of the biggest environmental problems the world faces today. A new reactor from Cambridge is designed to tackle both at once, converting CO2 and used plastic bottles into useful materials, powered entirely by sunlight."

[Solar reactor converts both CO2 and plastic waste into useful products (newatlas.com)](https://newatlas.com/environment/solar-reactor-co2-plastic-waste-useful-products/)

*#1 Higher Voter Turnout (Picture It: Canada with Proportional Representation)*

Evidence shows us that countries using proportional representation (PR) have higher voter turnouts. Using Golden Girl's Sophia's famous catchphrase "Picture It", #1 High Voter Turnout explores the road not taken in 1921 when the Liberals recognized the unfairness of first-past-the-post and promised electoral reform with PR. (Yes, 1921!) It imagines Canada with 100 years of PR.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbpREMj4-MU>

*Transcript reprinted with permission.*

1921: The first all-party committee on electoral reform

Picture it—Canada 1921. The upcoming election will be the first with not two but three major parties vying for power. The Liberal Party approved electoral reform with proportional representation in 1919. Proportional representation is a system in which voters are represented in proportion to how they vote. The Liberal campaign promises that 1921 will be the last election using first-past-the-post where votes may fail to legitimately reflect voter choice.

After the election, the Liberals keep their campaign promise. They keep the promise even though it was clear to them that the old system, the undemocratic, unfair, winner-take-all system, could deliver 100% of the power with a minority of votes while wasting the majority of votes. After all, they reasoned, how could they ethically and legitimately represent people who had not voted for them?

Calendar

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The federal election in 1925 used a proportional representation system. If 20% of Canadians voted for a party, that party got 20% of the seats. Our representatives elected to govern, oppose, question, and engage, legitimately speak for their voters. For 100 years now, Canada, like other countries using proportional representation, has ranked high for voter turnout.

Canadian voters trust proportional representation to make their votes count because the number of seats a party gets is proportional to the number of votes they get.

If you wish this picture were true, help make it true. Support electoral reform with proportional representation.

**To Our Readers**

We are hoping you feel inspired to share your thoughts with all Green members and supporters. Don't let our new, newsletter-style, election-ready format let you doubt us. We are just as ready to dig deep with you and to share out your hopes and priorities to all our readers. I will work with you as much as you'd like with discussion and editing help.

Dave Walther, Weaver Team Copy Editor

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