



The United Church of Canada

Saskatchewan Conference

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Saskatchewan United Churches ask the Legislature to review taxation policy

The Saskatchewan Conference of The United Church of Canada is raising concerns about the gap between rich and poor in Saskatchewan. In the church's Annual Brief to the Government of Saskatchewan it is suggesting another provincial tax bracket for high-income earners and higher royalty rates on non-renewable resources. While Saskatchewan has been experiencing an economic boom in recent years this does not automatically translate into better health and quality of life indicators for people. There is a growing body of public health research that shows that beyond a minimal level of wealth, the health and well-being of a society has less to do with economic growth than with how equitably wealth and income is distributed. Societies and the people in them are healthier when there is a narrower socio-economic gap. Governments should take this into consideration when developing tax and social policies.

In addition, Saskatchewan Conference will also be addressing the Saskatchewan Legislature regarding:

- ensuring that all people have access to professional spiritual care in Saskatchewan hospitals
- asking the Government of Canada to reconsider its recent change of retirement age from 65 to 67
- the practice of forcing people who access social assistance to apply for early Canada Pension Plan benefits at 60 rather than 65 as this has no financial benefit for the individual, and because there is an early withdrawal, CPP benefits are lowered for the rest of that individual's life
- ensuring there is advocacy services in all places with social services offices to help those who need assistance

Saskatchewan Conference of The United Church of Canada is grateful for this opportunity to meet with members of the Saskatchewan Legislature. This helps us to live out our Christian calling to seek justice, stand with those who are oppressed and give voice to those who have not been heard.

For more information, please contact Jim Tenford, Brief Convenor
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Mission and Service Fund