

PRESS RELEASE | Saskatchewan

### Methodology:

Results are based on an online survey conducted from October 25 to October 27, 2024, among a representative sample of 500 likely voters in Saskatchewan, including 474 decided voters in the 2024 provincial election. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region in Saskatchewan. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is +/- 4.4 percentage points for likely voters and +/-4.5percentage points for decided voters, nineteen times out of twenty.

If the provincial election were held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your constituency? – Decided Voters

New Democratic Party (NDP) – 48% (+5) Saskatchewan Party – 46% (-5) Another party / An independent candidate – 5% (=)

### **Approval Ratings**

Carla Beck – 56% (-2) Scott Moe – 52% (-2)

# **Most Important Issue**

Health care – 30% (+3) Housing / Homelessness / Poverty – 23% (-3) Economy / Jobs – 19% (+1) Crime / Safety – 9% (-1)

## Late Surge Gives Saskatchewan Its Closest Election Since 2003

On the "Best Premier" question, Scott Moe and Carla Beck are separated by just four points.

Vancouver, BC [October 27, 2024] – Voters in Saskatchewan head to tomorrow's provincial election with the two main parties locked in a statistical tie, a new Research Co. poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative provincial sample, 48% of decided voters would cast a ballot for the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate in their constituency, while 46% would support the governing Saskatchewan Party. Across Saskatchewan, 5% of decided voters would back other parties or independent candidates.

Since the previous Research Co. survey <u>conducted in early</u> <u>October</u>, province-wide support for the NDP has risen by five points, while backing for the Saskatchewan Party has dropped by the same margin.

Among male decided voters, the Saskatchewan Party has an eight-point lead over the NDP (52% to 44%). The NDP is now ahead of the Saskatchewan Party among female decided voters (51% to 42%).

The race is extremely close among decided voters aged 55 and over (Sask. Party 46%, NDP 45%) and decided voters aged 35-to-54 (49% for each party). The NDP is in first place among decided voters aged 18-to-34 (55% to 40%).

On a regional basis, the NDP holds the upper hand in Regina (59% to 37%) and Saskatoon (56% to 41%). The Saskatchewan Party remains ahead in the rest of the province (62% to 30%).

"The retention rate for the Saskatchewan Party has dropped from 85% in early October to 71% on the eve of the election," says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. "The NDP has been stable on this indicator, with 91% of those who voted for the opposition party in 2020 saying they will remain there this year."

As was the case in the early stage of the campaign, more than half of likely voters have a positive opinion of the performance of both Official Opposition and NDP leader Carla Beck (56%, -2) and Premier and Saskatchewan Party leader Scott Moe (52%, also -2).

The numbers moved drastically on the "Best Premier" question. Moe is still favoured by just over two-in-five likely voters (44%, +2), but Beck is now just four points behind (40%, +11).



### **Best Premier**

Scott Moe - 44% (+2) Carla Beck - 40% (+11) Someone else – 9% (-7) Not sure – 7% (-6)

Beck posts a momentum score of +16 (35% of likely voters in Saskatchewan say their opinion of her has improved since the start of the campaign, while 19% say it has worsened). Moe posts a score of -11 (21% "improved", 32% "worsened").

Three-in-ten likely voters in Saskatchewan (30%, +3) identify health care as the most important issue facing the province, followed by housing, poverty and homelessness (23%, -3), the economy and jobs (19%, +1), crime and public safety (9%, -1), education (6%, +1), the environment (4%, +1) and accountability (3%, +1).

The Saskatchewan Party has won the last four provincial elections with more than half of all ballots cast (51% in 2007, 64% in 2011, 63% in 2016 and 61% in 2020). The last election where a party formed the government without a majority of the vote was 2003, when the NDP secured 45% of the vote and 30 of the 58 seats at stake.

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### About Research Co.

Simply put, we are curious about what people think and the decisions they will make. Some call it public opinion, others call it polling or public affairs. We never compromise facts for profit. Our agenda is the truth.

We have a global network of partners in the qualitative, data collection and data visualization specialities.

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