

Backgrounder: Broten pledges to cut \$59M per year in private consultants

Today:

- 303 per cent increase in spending on consultants under Sask. Party
- \$129 million spent on consultants in 2014-15
- \$32 million spent on consultants in 2007-08
- Top amounts spent were in the ministries of Highways (\$60.8 million), Health (\$18.1 million) and Education (\$7.8 million)

The Provincial Auditor says:

- In 70 per cent of the Sask. Party's consultants, there's no documentation about why they were hired
- In 90 per cent of the cases the consultants aren't reporting to anyone and there's no process to monitor or evaluate their work
- The Provincial Auditor said this government's approach to using consultants means taxpayer dollars "may be spent unnecessarily or inefficiently" and that this government's approach risks "greater expense" to Saskatchewan families

"If there are no policies or effective processes for identifying the need for consultants, specifying required services, and defining projects, then **resources may be spent unnecessarily or inefficiently**. Failing to properly assess requirements and existing capabilities could result in the use of a consultant when existing staff could complete the project/task, or using a consultant without reasonable justification of the need for a consultant's specialized expertise or services.

"If the Ministry does not have processes to retain or transfer needed skills or knowledge, then it may rely on consultants for longer periods at a **greater expense** than hiring permanent employees."

- Saskatchewan Provincial Auditor
Provincial Auditor's Report, Volume 2, December 2014, Page 164

Cam Broten's plan:

- The NDP platform cuts 70 per cent of the Sask. Party's increases in consultants in most ministries
- Savings will be between \$59 million and \$63 million per year on consultants
- Four-year savings will total \$244 million

Sources:

Provincial Auditor's Report, Volume 2, December 2014 (starting on Page 163)

https://auditor.sk.ca/pub/publications/public_reports/2014/Volume_2/2014v2_Full_Report.pdf

Government responses to written questions 809 and 811

<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/legislative-business/written-questions-returns-2014-15.pdf>

<http://docs.legassembly.sk.ca/legdocs/Legislative%20Assembly/Orders/27L4S/150401Orders.pdf>

For more information contact:

Erin Morrison

306.527.2084

emorrison@saskndp.ca

