

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Committees LEG](#)  
**Subject:** [Suspected Spam] stop the privatization of liquor stores in Saskatchewan!!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 07, 2016 5:38:31 AM  
**Importance:** Low

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to express my concern over the privatization of 40 government run liquor stores in Saskatchewan. Due to the following reasons, I believe this will influence our great province very negatively.

1. Our province stands to lose out on millions of dollars that could be used to support our public services – hospitals, road, schools, and much more.

We have yet to see the government produce any evidence that the liquor system will not lose out on revenues., The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has calculated that privatization will cost Saskatchewan \$115 million in revenue in the first five years alone The government says that privatization will actually be revenue neutral -- but hasn't produced any evidence to back up its claim. Our province is only growing, and needs the revenue these liquor stores provide to keep infrastructure growing and improving. Our hospitals are already overwhelmed, our roads are terrible, and now with all this revenue lost, the condition will worsen, not improve.

2. Privatization will cost communities decent, well-paying jobs.

While there may be some new jobs at private stores, there will likely be a net loss of jobs with this move. In communities of less than 2,000 people (which is 27 of the 39 communities facing privatization), new private retailers will be allowed to sell liquor from an existing business – which can be done by the staff they already have. Jobs at private stores will almost certainly offer much lower wages and benefits than at publicly-owned stores. Instead of earning a living wage, liquor store workers will spend less in their communities, pay less income tax, and struggle to support their families.

I would love to see a document which can illustrate how keeping the majority of people making minimum wage benefits the economy as a whole. Im curious to know how having the majority of people in a lower tax bracket, (or unemployed, so therefore only taking from the social assistance pot, not contributing to it), will allow the economy to grow? Seems to me you want people making a living wage, so that they contribute more to taxes, and have more money for discretionary spending, rather than living basically on the poverty line. Please show how keeping people in the lowest tax brackets, or without a job at all, will benefit the province. If these private retailers are going to make up the difference in tax payment to province, or in charitable donations to the hospitals, social programs, infrastructure improvement, then great, but I would like to see actual proof and documentation of this.

3. If the government wanted to improve liquor retailing, it already has the authority to do so under the public system. The promised improvements of better hours, better selection, new locations, and more refrigerated product can all be done under a public liquor system – while keeping government revenues strong. But the government isn't actually interested in fixing the system, just selling it off.

Government has also taken almost every penny in liquor store revenues as a dividend, leaving no money to renovate and expand existing stores, or open new ones.

4. Prices and selection are likely to worsen in smaller towns.

Outside the big cities, communities would still only have one liquor store under privatization. It's unlikely that these stores, lacking any local competition, would start charging less than what they already know people will pay. Prices are likely to increase, in fact, rather than decrease. Of course, why would you improve service when there is no competition?

And if liquor retailing is absorbed into existing businesses, how much shelf space will be dedicated to liquor, compared to what a full-line public store offers? And if it is absorbed into an exsisting business, the government will have all these empty buildings, which im sure they still have to or will pay to have services (water, power, heat), for absolutely no reason...again wasting tax payers money on absolutely nothing, similar to the correctional facilites they shut down.

5. Every single store slated for privatization is a profitable public asset.

Each of the 40 stores facing privatization generates hundreds of thousands of dollars in public revenue each year.

Six of the stores reliably bring in more than \$1 million each year.

The private sector wouldn't be interested in buying up unprofitable businesses. This isn't about the government losing money in the liquor retailing system – it's a handover of profitable publicly-owned businesses to private buyers.

If this government cares at all about its people, its services, its improvement, and has any pride at all in this province, it will seriously reconsider the privatization of the liquor stores. This will only be a downfall to this great province that we all love and call home.

Sincerely a concerned tax payer and Saskatchewan resident,  
Sonya Horner