

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Committees LEG](#)
Subject: liquor store privatization
Date: Friday, May 27, 2016 3:18:34 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my disagreement with the Saskatchewan government privatizing the SLGA. The government is cutting its nose off to spite its face. Selling off these stores will only be a one-time increase in revenue. The annual revenue received from the stores in question will be sorely missed by schools, hospitals, highways and provincial parks. The sale of these stores will end up costing the people of Saskatchewan more in taxes to replace the lost revenue. The employees who will lose their jobs due to privatization will be hard pressed to find another job which pays a living wage never mind the health benefits they will lose, this too could end up costing the government more when said employees cannot afford the high cost of living in this province. Privatization will end up costing us socially as well, as the sales-driven economy will make it a lot more probable that minors will be served. When privatized, profit is the name of the game, not social responsibility. As the current situation stands, refused sales are common place due to the customer being underage or intoxicated.

I find it hard to believe that the current government is so short-sighted that it cannot see that it needs to be keeping things the way they currently are and use the profits generated from these 40 stores they plan to sell off. Mr. Wall and company said only a couple of years ago that his government would not privatize the SLGA, but that any new stores opened would be privately owned. This government has also said that this move would be revenue neutral. I cannot see how throwing away \$30 million annually can be revenue neutral. They cannot possibly generate that same amount of income wholesaling the liquor to these 40 newly private stores or the 12 new stores in "underserved" communities. It is socially irresponsible for the government to sell off these publicly-owned assets that bring much-needed revenue that benefits every person in this province. Making liquor more accessible is not socially responsible, especially when Saskatchewan has the highest rate of drinking and driving in the country. Take one for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Wall, and put aside your pride and admit you were ill advised when you made this decision.

Thank you.

Bernadine Grona