

Call to New Government to Address Poverty

Regina groups call for poverty fixes from new provincial government. "Pretty much everybody that we're working with feels worse off now than they did four years ago," said Peter Gilmer of the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry.



Peter Gilmer (left) gives a statement beside Russell Mitchel-Walker during a news conference hosted by the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry in conjunction with End Poverty Regina, the Warm Welcome Centre and the Newo Yotina Friendship Centre on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Photo by KAYLE NEIS /Regina Leader-Post

Four anti-poverty agencies in Regina have made a passionate plea to candidates campaigning to be in the next provincial government to commit to fixing a list of problems contributing to growing poverty in Saskatchewan. "We don't feel that these issues have received enough focus in this election campaign," said Peter Gilmer of the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry at a press conference held Thursday.

He was joined by Florence Stratton from End Poverty Regina, co-chair Russell Mitchell-Walker of the Warm Welcome Coalition, and Emile Gariepy, harm reduction manager at Newo Yotina Friendship Centre.

Together, they called for action to fix the [Saskatchewan Income Support \(SIS\)](#) and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) programs, to add renter protections, [back supportive housing](#) and fund harm reduction — all linked as major contributing factors to poverty and homelessness in Saskatchewan.

“Comparing today to a decade ago, things are much worse for people on income security,” said Gilmer. “And pretty much everybody that we’re working with feels worse off now than they did four years ago.”

Gilmer said the coalition purposely voiced its concerns Thursday — on the United Nations’ International Day to Eradicate Poverty — to reiterate how interconnected all of these issues remain amidst this provincial election period.

“When governments set income assistance, disability benefits and living wages too low, they are legislating poverty,” he said.¹

¹ Regina leader Post, Larissa Kurz, Oct 18, 2024

<https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/sask-politics/regina-groups-call-for-poverty-fixes-from-new-provincial-government>