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Advocacy Bulletin: The Saskatchewan Party Listens to WRLA Advocacy

Dear WRLA Members;

September 30, 2020

Scott Moe, Leader of the Saskatchewan Party announced today that if the Saskatchewan Party is re-elected, the government will introduce a Home Renovation Tax Credit.

From the beginning of the pandemic, the WRLA has been advocating for a renovation and eco-retrofit tax credits as a strategic way to support economic recovery. We are very pleased that the government listened to our requests and took our proposals to support economic recovery into consideration. Should the Saskatchewan Party be re-elected, we look forward to further collaboration on the implementation of this tax credit.

Proposed Program Details

Under the new Saskatchewan Home Renovation Tax Credit, homeowners will be able to claim a 10.5 per cent tax credit on up to \$20,000 of eligible home renovation expenses incurred between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022, saving them up to \$2,100. Eligible expenses will include permanent additions to the home but does not include items like furniture, appliances, hot tubs, tools or maintenance like carpet or furnace cleaning.

The new program is estimated to cost \$124 million over three fiscal years.

Eligible renovations to a property must be of an enduring nature that are integral to the dwelling, including expenditures for the cost of labour and professional services, building materials, fixtures, equipment rentals and permits.

Examples of eligible expenditures:

- Renovating a kitchen, bathroom or basement
- Shingling a roof or renovating outdoor fixtures to a home
- Installing new carpet or hardwood floors
- Building an addition, deck, fence or retaining wall
- Purchasing and installing a new furnace, water heater or solar panels (mechanical items considered to be of an enduring addition to the home)
- Painting the interior or exterior of a house
- Resurfacing a driveway
- Laying new sod

Examples of non-eligible expenditures:

- Routine repairs and maintenance typically performed on an annual or more frequent basis (such as carpet cleaning)

- Furniture, draperies, appliances and mechanical items not considered to be an enduring addition to the home (i.e. refrigerator, stove, jacuzzi)
- Audio-visual electronics
- Expenditures that have a value independent of the renovation, such as construction equipment and tools
- Maintenance contracts (furnace cleaning, snow removal, lawn care, pool cleaning, etc.)
- Financing costs

The WRLA is hosting a virtual townhall for members to discuss other industry issues that need to be presented to the various party platforms for the upcoming election. Please contact Liz Kovach @ lkovach@wrla.org to participate in this discussion on Monday, October 5 at 9 a.m. CST.

Best regards,

Liz Kovach
President WRLA
Director Prairie Provinces, Building Materials Council of Canada