

Saskatchewan

Scott Moe downplayed Sask.'s rural-urban election divide. Here's what the polls show

Experts say Saskatchewan is among other provinces facing rural-urban split



Dayne Patterson · CBC News · Posted: Oct 30, 2024 5:00 AM CDT | Last Updated: October 30



Scott Moe downplayed the divide between rural and urban ridings in Monday's election, stating everyone voted in what they thought was Saskatchewan's best interest. (Liam Richards/The Canadian Press)

In Saskatchewan we have just had a disconcerting election campaign followed by disappointing results. If ever there has been a moribund, dead-in-the-water government it is the Scott Moe Sask Party (SP) one. Its “governing” has been atrocious, at times willfully so, rendering government services so weak as to leave people convinced there can be no fixing them with more tax money proving effective. (The only sources of more revenue considered are resolutely restricted to the taxes paid by working class people, and the NDP refused to challenge this.) This “divide” is not as pronounced as it is made out to be; many city dwellers grew up on a farm or in a small town. Less crude divisive “progressive” policies susceptible to wedge politics would have increased NDP totals, and margins, in urban ridings.

That the NDP could make no inroads in SP strongholds—essentially rural ridings—or even claim seats in the smaller cities, attests to how misguided the party became under Ryan Meili’s bunch. In the 2017 leadership contest I bought a party membership and brought both Ryan and Trent Wotherspoon out to Rocanville to meet people. At the Convention I watched Ryan mobilize his “social justice” coalition to win the leadership before they all headed down to the Regina Gay and Lesbian Alliance Centre to celebrate. I resigned my membership because this would prove the kiss of death for the NDP in the next election(s).

Beyond first getting Diversity issues sorted out properly—the loudest advocates on both sides prevent this, each taking advantage of children in the process—there are ways to advance such human rights without alienating the (straight) bulk of the electorate rendering the NDP unable to form government. The fallout should be the resignation/retirement of both leaders, Mr. Moe and Ms. Beck. He resorted to pathetic tactics to obtain a hollow, crumpled victory and totally killed off any “SK Liberal” component in the original SP coalition; she, however good a soul, couldn’t provide the charismatic leadership needed to win an election even against a party as compromised and sick as the Saskatchewan Party. Time to pass the torch. TJB