



Saskatchewan Politics - Week in Review Week ending May 16, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This week's political conversation in Saskatchewan increasingly revolved around one issue: affordability. Whether it was high gas prices and rising fertilizer prices tied to instability in the Middle East, concerns about interest rates potentially staying higher for longer, debates around power rates and SaskPower's coal strategy, or continued frustration over the industrial carbon tax, there is a growing sense that many of the financial pressures Saskatchewan families hoped were easing may now be starting to build again. And in a province built heavily around agriculture, energy, and exports, global instability tends to hit Saskatchewan very quickly and very directly.

Provincially, the biggest political fight this week centered around SaskPower and the increasingly heated debate over the province's coal extension strategy and future path toward nuclear power. The Saskatchewan NDP continues aggressively pushing the leaked "\$26 billion" number tied to long-term coal extension costs, while the Sask. Party government and SaskPower leadership are trying to explain the difference between direct refurbishment costs and broader long-term system planning costs. Politically, however, once a large number like \$26 billion enters the public conversation, the communications challenge for government becomes extremely difficult...especially on a highly technical issue most people do not fully understand.

Federally, Western alienation and frustration with Ottawa continue growing. Major energy CEOs are now openly criticizing federal energy and regulatory policies in ways corporate Canada normally avoids, with TC Energy warning that Mexico is now faster and easier to build pipelines in than Canada. At the same time, Alberta's separation referendum fight escalated after a judge blocked the process despite more than 300,000 Albertans signing the petition. Combined with growing criticism around the Carney government limiting Parliamentary committee debate behind closed doors, there is an increasing perception in parts of Western Canada that Ottawa is becoming less interested in listening to perspectives it disagrees with politically.