



## Saskatchewan Politics - Week in Review

### Week ending January 31, 2026

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This week's GSD Insider is shaped by a growing disconnect between Ottawa's national messaging and the economic and political realities being felt in Western Canada. Federal affordability announcements, trade positioning, and agricultural policy decisions collided with rising Prairie frustration, while Alberta's separation debate moved from background noise to a serious political signal. At the same time, meetings between Canada's premiers and Prime Minister Mark Carney, and a highly unified Conservative convention shows that the country continues on a more polarized and uncertain phase.

On the federal stage, Carney met with Canada's premiers in Ottawa as Western leaders, including Scott Moe, pressed for trade diversification, resource development, critical minerals, and respect for provincial jurisdiction. Days later, Ottawa rolled out a new grocery affordability package, including a rebranded GST credit and a promised national food security strategy. While income supports offer short-term relief, the announcement landed awkwardly, as frustration continues to grow over federal decisions like the planned closure of key crop research farms. Meanwhile, Alberta's push toward a potential separation referendum gained visible momentum, with large urban and rural turnouts that contrast sharply with how the story is being portrayed by the mainstream media...specifically the CBC. Regardless of where the movement ultimately leads, the underlying sentiment is real...and rooted in years of federal overreach.

Politically, the contrast sharpened over the weekend as Conservatives gathered for their national convention, delivering Pierre Poilievre an 87.4% leadership approval vote and signalling election readiness. For many Prairie voters, it reinforced the sense that Western concerns are finally being taken seriously by at least one federal party. Provincially, Saskatchewan politics remained steady and pragmatic. Government announcements focused on infrastructure, community safety, health access, and long-term energy planning, including SaskPower's formal evaluation of large-scale nuclear technologies. The Saskatchewan NDP leaned into crime, healthcare safety, affordability, and Crown corporation oversight, while also opposing federal agriculture cuts. Taken together, this week reinforced a familiar Prairie conclusion: Saskatchewan continues to plan and build with a long-term lens, but remains highly exposed to federal decisions...and patience with Ottawa's disconnect continues to wear thin.