

Alberta 2019 General Election Questionnaire

Retail Council of Canada:

Retail Council of Canada (RCC) is a not-for-profit, industry-funded association representing retailers of all sizes and formats, including department, grocery, specialty, discount, and independent stores as well as online merchants. We speak for an industry that touches the daily lives of Albertans in every corner of the province.

Alberta Retail Facts:

- Retail is the largest private sector employer in Alberta, representing over 263,000 employees, and more than \$10.6 billion in annual payroll. For every single retail job, an additional four more jobs are created.
- Alberta retailer employees are compensated \$26.33 per hour on average, having risen dramatically in recent years.
- With over 17,200 retail locations across the province, retail trade accounts for \$80.3 billion per year in Alberta, and \$1.1 billion in capital investment in 2018 alone.

Retail Realities:

- The retail sector provides a broad range of employment opportunities, including first time skill development jobs to highly professional positions.
- Retail is a highly competitive sector, with traditionally low profit margins. Controlling costs is a high priority for retailers, as small cost increases can have a significant impact on a retailer's bottom line and business viability.

Retail's success in Alberta is driven by increased investment, strong consumer demand, as well as sensible and focused policy and regulation by the provincial government.

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Retail Council Survey

- On behalf of the retail industry, we are asking all major political parties about their views on issues that are important to retail businesses, employees and our customers.
- We publish the answers on our VoteRetail.ca website – and encourage all retailers, employees and customers to visit the site to understand the parties' positions on issues impacting our industry.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

We thank you for taking the time to answer the following questions:

1. The dramatic increase to Alberta's minimum wage has hurt businesses and resulted in lost jobs. To prevent further harm, are you prepared to freeze the minimum wage during your mandate, and link future increases to Consumer Price Index?

Yes No

Comments _____

2. The rise of minimum wage has especially hurt those entering the workforce for the first time. Are you prepared to help stimulate opportunities for Alberta's youth by introducing a training credit?

Yes No

Comments _____

3. Will you ensure the Workers Compensation Board and Labour Relations Board protect the interests of both employers and employees – providing confidence that these organizations provide fair, balanced decisions that don't undermine job creation.

Yes No

Comments _____

4. Will your party commit to protect the interests of employers and employees through the repeal of first contract arbitration and secret ballot votes for union certification?

Yes No

Comments _____

5. The layering impact of new regulations has been costly and administratively burdensome to retail businesses. Will your party commit to a dedicated resource to emphasize and streamline red tape reduction and regulatory burden throughout all government departments?

Yes No

Comments _____

6. Will your party pledge to consult through a transparent process with employers on issues that affect their businesses, to avoid rushed and poorly developed policy?

Yes No

Comments _____

7. Alberta's net debt will rise nearly 50 percent in the next three years. Will your party commit to returning to a balanced budget before any further operational spending growth?

Yes No

Comments _____

8. Will your party commit to maintaining Alberta's competitive tax advantage by not introducing a PST as part of your deficit reduction strategy?

Yes No

Comments _____

9. Will your party pledge to modernize the recycling regulation to improve diversion from landfill, and in the short-term remove fee setting from regulation that has jeopardized the viability of Alberta Recycling programs?

Yes No

Comments _____

10. Will your party pledge to work with the Retail Council of Canada to develop and implement a retail sector economic strategy?

Yes No

Comments _____