

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Party: NDP Election Year: 1971

AA = Alberta Alliance
CON = Conservative Party
LP = Liberal-Progressive Party
PC = Progressive Conservative Party
SKP = Saskatchewan Party
UFM = United Farmers of Manitoba

CCF = Cooperative Commonwealth Federation
LIB = Liberal Party
NDP = New Democratic Party
SC = Social Credit
UFA = United Farmers of Alberta
WCC = Western Canadian Concept

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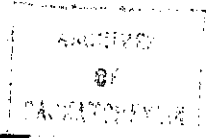
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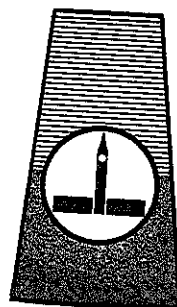
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NEW DEAL FOR PEOPLE



new democratic party of
saskatchewan
program for progress

**NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF SASKATCHEWAN
NEW DEAL FOR PEOPLE**

This booklet contains the main planks in the program that a New Democratic government will launch during its first term of office.

We believe it represents a realistic, yet imaginative blueprint for the 1970s, designed to put Saskatchewan once more in the forefront of social and economic progress.

It represents a **New Deal** — and a **Good Deal** for the People of Saskatchewan!

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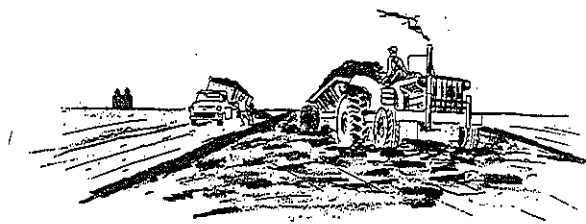
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AGRICULTURE

PROVINCIAL

The continuing degradation of Saskatchewan agriculture and the related decline of our rural communities are the most critical issues before the people of the province.

Liberal policy makers, in the name of "economic efficiency", are doing everything in their power to promote ever larger, corporately managed farms, and to hasten the depopulation of rural Saskatchewan. Witness the recommendations of their Task Force on Agriculture.

It is time to take a stand. The New Democratic Party rejects the capitalist economic doctrine that human values must be sacrificed if they stand in the way of technology and "efficiency".

Technology and efficiency are means, not ends. We need to shape and control them to build, not destroy, our rural communities. An NDP government will give highest priority to stabilizing agriculture and developing our rural community centres on a rational basis.

A primary objective of the NDP program will be to create the conditions which will promote the maximum number of viable family farms in Saskatchewan.

As first steps, an NDP government will:

1. Restrict corporate ownership to family farms and groups of families farming co-operatively.
2. Keep farm ownership in Canadian hands.
3. Establish a Land Bank Commission which could purchase land offered voluntarily on the market at competitive prices and lease this land, guaranteeing tenure, on the basis of need, with option to buy, with the objective of promoting the maximum number of viable family farms in Saskatchewan.
4. Control unnecessary duplication of farm services and improve their quality.
5. Provide capital credit to farmers on terms at least as favourable as those offered to industry; specifically to enact an Agricultural Incentives Act which will make available low cost credit with loan-forgiveness features (similar to those provided in

industry) for young farmers entering agriculture, for farmers making major shifts in production, and for under-capitalized farm enterprises.

6. Enact a Farmers' Bill of Rights which will:

- (a) set up an information and legal advisory service for farmers in financial difficulty;
- (b) help forestall bankruptcies by reactivating and strengthening the Provincial Mediation Board;
- (c) in emergencies, provide for governmental ability to declare a provincial debt moratorium;
- (d) guarantee the provision of electric power and other essential services to farmers unable to pay their bills because of circumstances beyond their control.

7. Re-establish and expand the functions of the agricultural machinery testing program and appoint a farm machinery Ombudsman to investigate complaints.

8. Co-operate with other prairie provinces in setting up a positive program to encourage the manufacture and importing of farm machinery by such firms as CCIL and other machinery manufacturing agencies on the prairies.

9. Establish a market research agency to assist forward production planning by farmers, and expand extension work to get this market information to farmers for their use.

10. Establish a new research and development agency that will work toward finding and promoting new uses and markets for agricultural products.

11. Increase and expand the availability of agricultural information through a new comprehensive agricultural representative program.

12. Establishment of a Provincial producer-controlled Hog Marketing Board.

13. Sharply reduce property tax mill rates for basic school operating costs on homes, farms and small businesses.

FEDERAL

A New Democratic provincial government will press the federal government to:

1. Institute a continuing system of guaranteed price supports for farm products.

2. Establish a policy to share the cost of maintaining an inventory of grains, specifically wheat, barley and rapeseed in commercial positions so that we are able to meet changing world market demands.

3. Establish a realistic two-price system for wheat, with the domestic price to be \$1.00 per bushel higher than the export price.

4. Place oil seeds and all grains including feed grains, under the Canadian Wheat Board with a minimum support price.

5. Provide capital grants to assist farmers, as is done for industrial development.

6. Direct the Canadian Wheat Board to take the initiative in selling wheat abroad and provide it with a budget and staff to do so.

7. In the longer term, establish meaningful farm production guides with guaranteed prices for agreed levels of production.

8. Convert a substantial portion of the defence budget to food aid for hungry populations.

9. Control farm machinery prices.

10. Set up national marketing board legislation which would permit producer-controlled National Marketing Boards for farm products.

VALUES OF RURAL LIFE

Saskatchewan is at the crossroads. Rural life is being threatened as never before by governments in Ottawa and Regina which are devoted to a cheap-food policy and unfettered operation of the market economy. Only a major effort by the government and people of this province will head off this threat.

The Ottawa Liberal government, with the help of its Regina counterpart, has set a deliberate course, based solely on short-sighted economics. That course will lead to the takeover of Saskatchewan by agribusiness. Instead of family farms, there will be huge corporate enterprises run by a few hired hands. Small communities — and consequently rural life — will vanish. Only giant "service centres" will dot the landscape — centres dominated by the same corporations that own the land.

Federally, the Liberal government (a) has closed large numbers of rural post offices, (b) has allowed or encouraged shutdowns of railway stations and branch lines, (c) is actively considering a plan calling for cutback in the number of Saskatchewan grain delivery points from 1,000 to about 100, (d) has begun to implement parts of the Task Force on Agriculture report, written by economists whose "solution" to the farm problem is to eliminate two-thirds of the farmers.

Provincially, the Liberal government has accepted or encouraged this erosion. It has shut down small hospitals without consultation; it has imposed stringent pupil-teacher ratios, thus forcing closure of classrooms; it has failed to mount any effective opposition to the federal Task Force Report.

The New Democratic Party believes the time

has come for Saskatchewan citizens to unite in a common effort to fight the present trends.

A New Democratic government will:

1. Strengthen and improve family farming as the most desirable method of food production. Prohibit foreign ownership of farms, and restrict corporate ownership to family groups or co-operatives.

2. By programs of loans, grants and other assistance, encourage more people—particularly young people—to engage in farming.

3. Implement a comprehensive program to revitalize many rural Saskatchewan communities; for example:

- (a) make every effort to keep small hospitals open, and to provide adequate ambulance service. When hospitals are closed attempts will be made to keep in the community a nursing home, an out-patient clinic or geriatric centre.
- (b) eliminate the pupil-teacher ratio plan and where feasible, make every effort to keep local schools operating.
- (c) investigate methods of assisting farmers and local farm machinery dealerships by a rationalization plan. One possibility would be to arrange for some dealers to carry more than one line of machinery parts.
- (d) assist the development of housing projects, including rental housing.
- (e) make communities better places in which to live by providing funds for street paving, sidewalk construction, parks and recreational facilities.
- (f) actively decentralize provincial government functions and relocate them in appropriate regional centres.
- (g) encourage development in smaller centres of secondary business and industry.
- (h) assist communities to develop regional education centres to make both university and technical education more readily available to the people.
- (i) undertake a study of the problems and needs of the small businessman with a view to formulating a program of assistance.

LABOUR

Since taking office, the Liberal government has conducted a deliberate and systematic campaign against labour. It has made virtually no improvements in Labour standards. It has enacted viciously restrictive anti-union legislation. Political interference in industrial relations has become the order of the day.

As a consequence, we have had a sharp upswing in industrial strife. In six years of Liberal government more man-days have been lost due to strikes than in 20 years under a CCF government. Relations between the government and its own employees are poor, and morale low. Much of Saskatchewan's skilled and most qualified labour force has left the province, and the exodus continues. The labour force is shrinking and unemployment is higher.



The Department of Labour is weak. It is under-financed and understaffed—particularly in high-skill positions.

The New Democratic Party believes that government has a responsibility to treat all citizens fairly. The government has an obligation to plan for full employment and to establish fair labour standards. Workers need protection of the law, not exploitation by the law. We believe in free collective bargaining and good industrial relations. To this end a New Democratic government will:

1. Enact a new Trade Union Act—guarantee free collective bargaining—repeal Bill 2—remove political interference—strengthen conciliation and mediation—provide for industry-wide bargaining.

2. Sharply increase the Department of Labour budget, upgrading both numbers of employees and levels of skills to provide improved services in industrial relations, to enforce labour laws and to undertake necessary research.

3. Immediately increase the minimum wage to \$1.75 per hour and by appropriate steps eliminate differentials and increase the minimum wage to \$2.00 per hour.

4. Reduce the legal work week, initially to 40 hours, without reduction in take-home pay.

5. Provide for three weeks annual vacation after one year of service and four weeks after 10 years.

6. Modernize Workmen's Compensation, legislation—re-organize the administration—increase pensions and benefits—establish meaningful appeal

procedures—introduce new safety and rehabilitation programs.

7. Protect workers adversely affected by automation or other technological change—require they be given adequate advance notice and that such changes to be a subject of negotiation.

8. Establish an industrial relations research organization to study industrial relations problems.

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is both tragic and wasteful. Tragic because it deprives the worker of his right to make a living for himself and his family. Wasteful because society loses the productive capacity of his energy and skill.

Saskatchewan is the victim of mass unemployment—unemployment deliberately created by Liberal governments in Ottawa and Regina. The result is that thousands of our people are without work, and many more, especially skilled tradesmen and young people, have left the province to seek jobs elsewhere. Liberal policies have been instrumental in driving nearly 100,000 people out of the province since 1964.

What are these Liberal policies?

Ottawa Liberals wage a deceptive "fight" against high prices while actually attacking workers' living standards.

Regina Liberals make deals with U.S. potash interests whereby American mines run at full capacity while Saskatchewan's American-owned mines lay off one-third of their workers.

The result: lost jobs and lower incomes for Canadians.

A New Democratic Party government will restore employment in the following ways:

1. End the present government collaboration in a potash cartel that restrict Saskatchewan output and jobs. Because the present owners have generally shown unconcern about jobs for Saskatchewan miners, and because they have used their power to force farmers to pay exorbitant fertilizer prices, an NDP government will consider the feasibility of bringing the potash industry under public ownership.

2. Finance public works construction programs, including technical schools, education centres, university construction, public buildings and improvements to local school and hospital facilities.

3. Launch a massive public and private housing construction and urban renewal program with emphasis on elimination of substandard housing, both urban and rural.

4. Introduce a program to modernize and redevelop many Saskatchewan towns and villages, including construction of needed community centres and sports facilities.

5. Extend and improve parks and outdoor recreational areas.

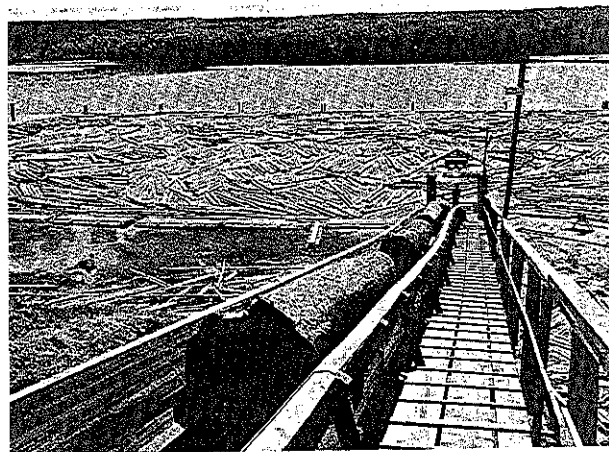
6. Improve technical training and upgrading programs—not only for the unemployed, but also provide new work for those displaced from their present jobs by technological change.

7. Overhaul the administration of apprenticeship programs and expand training to cover many more areas than at present.

8. Provide incentives to municipal governments to engage in publicly desirable projects during slow employment periods by implementing a provincial winter works scheme.

RESOURCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Saskatchewan's natural resources are the rightful heritage of the people of our province—not the preserve of private interests. The New Democratic Party believes that Liberal policy of selling out our birthright is both unwise and unnecessary.



We have faith in Saskatchewan people. We believe them capable of developing their own resources for their own benefit. Outside help is sometimes necessary, but a sellout is not. Development must be aimed at maximizing benefits for people—not maximizing profits for big business and its promoters.

New Democrats recognize the need for research and planning, and the folly of "growth for the sake of growth". We must take into account all aspects

of the well-being of citizens, including their right to a healthy environment.

Toward these ends, a New Democratic government will:

1. Establish a Department of Economic Development to plan and encourage orderly economic growth, and to integrate and co-ordinate such programs as northern development, and urban and rural planning.

2. Establish a Saskatchewan Development Corporation which will mobilize capital for public investment in economic development from a variety of sources, including direct investment by the Province and by shares offered to individuals, organizations and companies.

3. Oppose any further sellout of our resources. With respect to new development, the NDP will give first priority to public ownership through crown corporations. Co-operative ownership will be encouraged. Partnership arrangements between government and co-operatives or private developers will be undertaken when appropriate. Limits will be established with respect to foreign equity capital, and every effort will be made to limit foreign investment in resource development to non-equity capital.

4. Vigorously oppose the "continental energy policy".

5. Review existing royalty and other arrangements with a view to renegotiating, where necessary, those not in the interests of Saskatchewan people. Where feasible, we will reclaim ownership and control of foreign-owned resources.

6. Spare no effort in renewing those resources that are renewable, such as fish and forests, while conserving non-renewable resources, such as oil and other minerals.

7. Require all business and industry—both government and private—to adhere strictly to policies consistent with the protection of our environment with special emphasis on policies designed to eliminate all types of water, air, soil and noise pollution.

8. Encourage Saskatchewan and Canadian investment in business and secondary industry, emphasizing public and co-operative initiative.

9. Recognizing the importance of small business to our economy, institute a study to determine the best means of assisting small businessmen, through financial aid and research and technical assistance programs.

10. Co-operate with other prairie provinces in setting up a program to encourage the manufacture and importing of farm machinery by such firms as CCIL and other machinery manufacturing agencies on the prairies.

11. Develop a comprehensive northern development program with emphasis on the needs of our native people, seeking the full advantage of available federal financial assistance.

SMALL BUSINESS

Independent business plays an essential role in the economic and service structure of Saskatchewan. The health of independent business is especially important to smaller centres and their rural communities. The present government has almost totally ignored the needs of this sector, while at the same time extending a variety of subsidies, tax advantages and free services to giant corporations, foreign and domestic.

The New Democratic Party believes this emphasis should be reversed. Big business least of all needs government assistance. Certainly the needs of small business seldom coincide with the needs of big corporations. Indeed, their interests are often diametrically opposed.

A New Democratic government will:

1. Create a new division of government to promote the interests of small businesses and provide services geared to their needs.

2. Appoint regional business representatives to provide technical services useful to small businessmen and information concerning government programs, legislation and regulations.

3. Establish a lending agency to provide long-term capital for smaller businesses which are not manufacturers or primary producers.

4. Provide for representation of small business on provincial government agencies concerned with freight costs, such as the Highway Traffic Board.

5. Regulate and control pyramid selling and other forms of direct selling by persons who have no place of business in the community.

6. Study the problems faced by franchise businesses, with a view to enacting laws regulating the sale or granting of franchises.

7. Undertake a study jointly with independent business representatives of the nature of problems faced by small business in Saskatchewan and consider additional ways in which government could help meet them.

TAXATION

In comparing promises with actual performance, the Liberal government has earned its strongest condemnation in the field of taxation. Prior to 1964, Liberals spread the myth that Saskatchewan taxes

had been "oppressively high" and they promised "massive reductions". Since their election, almost every tax, license and fee has been raised and dozens of new ones introduced. In total, per capita taxation has more than doubled.

New Democrats recognize that taxation is necessary. But in a democratic society, taxes should be levied on the principle of "ability to pay", and citizens are entitled to maximum value for dollars spent in terms of services rendered. If new revenues are required, they should be raised from resource royalties, income and corporation taxes, and other taxes related to ability to pay.

In the field of taxation, a New Democratic government will:

1. Sharply reduce property tax mill rates for basic school operating costs on homes, farms and small businesses.
2. Replace present piecemeal municipal grants, such as those given for police, snow removal, and libraries, with a program of overall grants, after consultation with rural and urban municipalities.
3. Abolish deterrent fees.
4. Remove sales tax from meals, children's clothing, soaps and cleansers, books and farm grain storage facilities.
5. Review the list of provincial fees, licenses and taxes with a view to removing nuisance taxes, such as fees charged for writing Grade 12 examinations and the application fee required for a journeyman's certificate.
6. Remove the \$2.00 driver's license surcharge and the \$25.00 surcharge on package policy insurance for persons under 25, except where a bad driving record is indicated.
7. Eliminate government waste and mismanagement, particularly in areas such as highway spending and partisan political propaganda.
8. Simplify government budgeting to show the public as clearly and honestly as possible the true picture regarding revenues and expenditures from all sources.
9. Limit estate tax rebates to the tax respecting the first \$200,000 of any estate, and to estates where the beneficiaries are Saskatchewan citizens.
10. Allow purple gas to be sold through service station pumps.
11. Reduce automobile insurance rates 25 per cent by assessing a one-cent per gallon tax on gasoline.
12. Urge the federal government to increase the income tax deductions to \$2,000 for single persons; to \$4,000 for families; to \$500 for each dependent and that these be converted to tax credits.

EDUCATION

"There are no greater issues . . . than those involved in determining educational purposes and defining the functions of the schools."

The New Democratic Party accepts that statement and the priority it proposes. Saskatchewan Liberals have either failed to give leadership, or have perversely led in the wrong direction. The result has been conflict, confrontation, crisis and controversy. Morale and enthusiasm among trustees, students, teachers and Department of Education staff have suffered severely as a result. Progress has halted.



If the "great issues" of education are to be fully discussed and decided, there must be design and support for local participation. The Liberal government has steadily, sometimes stealthily, eroded the authority of school boards, discouraging planning and strangling initiative. On occasion, academic freedom—even at the University—has been threatened.

The Liberal promise to "drastically reduce" school taxes must be placed at the top of the list of promises not kept. Instead the government has steadily shifted the tax burden to the local level. This trend, the NDP will halt and reverse.

A New Democratic government will:

1. Sharply reduce property tax mill rates for basic school operating costs on homes, farms and small businesses.
2. Withdraw any arbitrary student-teacher ratio as a basis for determining school grants.
3. Enact new legislation to replace the Teacher Salary Agreements Act which will permit free collective bargaining and remove political interference from the bargaining process.
4. Provide bursaries for university students in conjunction with the Canada Student Loan Plan, and create additional loan funds and grants for other post-secondary students.
5. Increase employment opportunities for students.
6. Assist in establishing regional education

centres to bring educational opportunities closer to the people of Saskatchewan.

7. Provide for continued study and planning to meet the challenging demands of education and provide assistance and guidance so these studies may be carried out by trustees, teachers and students.

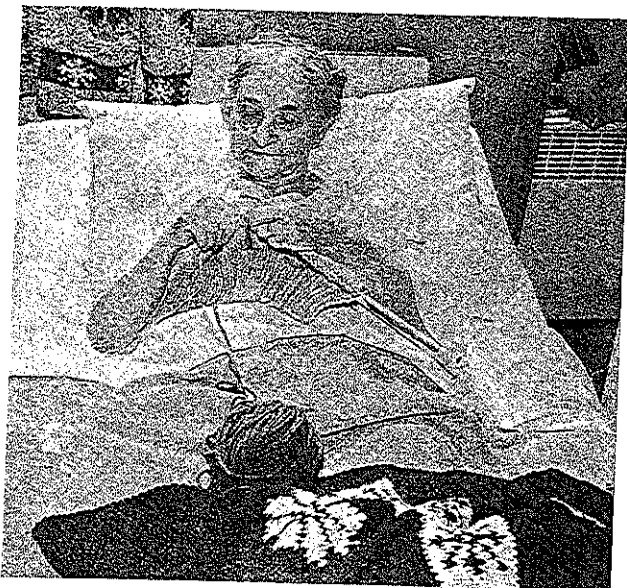
8. Expand opportunities for adults seeking to upgrade their education or for those requiring technological retraining. These would include:

- (a) improved personal counselling;
- (b) facilities and staff to eliminate long waiting periods;
- (c) adequate expense and sustenance payments during the training period.

9. Provide sustaining grants to approved auxiliary educational associations which are providing an essential service.

HEALTH

Until recently Saskatchewan led North America in the provision of health services. In the guise of fighting escalating health costs, the present government has abdicated this leadership. But the rising cost of medical and hospital care that has occurred in Saskatchewan, as elsewhere, is largely the result of



outmoded organization and delivery of health care. This is reflected in overlap, wastage and duplication of medical facilities. As a result, many essential services are either nonexistent or deficient.

The New Democratic Party will institute a

program to provide a *health* rather than a sickness service, and will develop an organization which assures that Saskatchewan citizens receive more value for their health dollar.

A New Democratic government will:

1. Abolish deterrent fees.
2. Establish a prescription drug program based on a drug formulary and central purchasing to provide drugs at greatly reduced cost.
3. Provide hearing aids, eye glasses, braces and wheel chairs at greatly reduced cost.
4. Establish an insured dental care service, initially for those under the age of 12.
5. Give better care to our senior and chronically disabled citizens through including extended nursing care (Level 4) as an insured service and by increasing government support of public and non-profit nursing homes and geriatric centres.
6. Develop community services for the mentally ill, young and old, and those disabled by drugs and alcohol, through the provision of day and night care centres, through workshop and rehabilitation facilities, and through increasing the number of community-based health workers.
7. Establish regional health planning councils composed of providers and consumers of service to be responsible for unified planning of public health, medical care and hospital services.
8. Re-examine all proposals to close small hospitals and undertake any closures only after full consultation with communities concerned and provision for satisfactory alternative services to handle emergencies.
9. Expand health education programs with greater use of the media.
10. Review and redefine roles of health workers and, where necessary, retrain them. Ensure adequate family physician services, so that maximum use is made of their specialized and expensive skills.
11. Through assistance in capital expenditure and through alternative methods of payment, encourage community health centres and other new forms of delivery of care that have demonstrated their ability to provide a high quality of care at reduced overall cost.
12. Improve accident and emergency services, including adequate ambulance services in both urban and rural areas.
13. Provide an adequate occupational health service.
14. Include chiropractic services as an insured benefit under Medical Care Insurance.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

The proper role for social security and welfare programs is to provide aid to disadvantaged members of society—the poor, the ill, the aged, the orphaned, the unemployed, the handicapped, the widowed, the deserted parent, the released prisoner, the retarded.

The main burden of direct contact with welfare clients is taken by social workers and social work aides. The role of the social workers should extend far beyond provision of money; he should also have the capacity—and the time—to understand emotional and social needs.

A first big change needed is a change of attitude. The Liberal government is callous, looking on welfare clients as lazy and taking advantage of the system. This leads to a rejecting attitude toward those who need help; it destroys their dignity and alienates them from society.

A second change needed is the decentralization of authority. Well-qualified social workers should have enough leeway to meet the needs of their clients flexibly and humanely. Social workers are in short supply and will not stay under a tight-fisted, authoritarian administration.

Specifically, a New Democratic government will:

1. Humanize and make more efficient the administration of social welfare by improving the quality and calibre of assistance to recipients.
2. Establish more counselling services, speed up welfare case handling and develop a more efficient appeal procedure.
3. Develop a School of Social Work at the university.
4. Emphasize rehabilitation and vocational retraining to help recipients to become more self-sufficient, and investigate and eliminate abuses of social welfare.
5. Initiate plans to provide income to those who are ill—a sick-pay insurance plan.
6. Provide child-care centres for children of working parents, and provide after school programs.
7. Turn provincial penal institutions into rehabilitation centres.
8. Allow greater earnings and assets without loss of welfare benefits.
9. Develop a plan to assist farmers in need.
10. Make all homes for the aged either public or non-profit, and enforce provincial standards.

11. Encourage organization of welfare clients for community development.

12. Urge the federal government to provide:

- (a) a guaranteed annual income;
- (b) increased old age pensions related to the cost of living and productivity;
- (c) income tax rebates for child care expenses of working parents.

SENIOR CITIZENS

The treatment accorded senior citizens by society has often been callous—at times inhumane. Governments, although recognizing that older people need some care, too often take a reluctant, minimum course.

New Democrats believe that society has a major responsibility for the well-being of all citizens who have reached retirement age. Decent pensions, proper health care, adequate housing, recreation — these should be provided as a matter of right to those who have reached retirement age; they should not depend on some artificial “means” or “needs” test.

To help senior citizens, a New Democratic government will:

1. Abolish deterrent fees.
2. Establish a prescription drug program based on a drug formulary and central purchasing to provide drugs at greatly reduced prices.
3. Provide hearing aids, eye glasses, dentures, braces and wheelchairs at greatly reduced prices.
4. Include extended nursing care (Level 4) as an insured service.
5. Require that all major nursing homes be operated as public or non-profit institutions, increase government support to such homes, and enforce provincial standards.
6. Increase government financial help to encour-



age more community-sponsored senior citizens housing and low-cost rental housing.

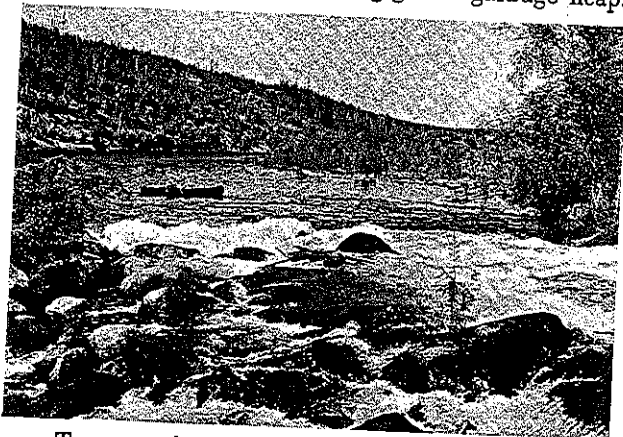
7. Provide a travel card to all persons over 65, entitling them to ride half-fare on STC buses Monday through Thursday, and on a standby basis the rest of the week.

8. Strongly urge the federal government to provide a decent standard of living for senior citizens by providing an adequate pension with a built-in cost of living bonus.

POLLUTION

Compared to many other regions in North America, our air, water, soil are relatively clean, undamaged and uncluttered. This is no cause for pride or complacency. It is more the result of delayed exploitation and slow growth than it is of any virtue or foresight on the part of governments and citizens.

But, whatever our immediate advantages, the delicate balance of our environment is affected by many factors, some of which are outside the province's control. The physical facts are obvious: air, water and wildlife pass freely across all political boundaries, carrying with them man's pollutants. But perhaps more important is the fact that we are bound up in larger economic, political and technological systems, the products and values of which threaten to turn North America into a gigantic garbage heap.



To turn the tide—even in Saskatchewan—will require the combined efforts of individuals, organizations and governments on a scale approaching a modern-day crusade. A New Democratic government pledges to provide the kind of leadership in this crusade which its CCF predecessors provided in achieving public hospital and medicare plans.

As a start, a New Democratic government will:

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1. Establish a new government department to have overall responsibility for pollution control and maintenance of the quality of the environment.

2. Provide financial assistance to agricultural producers and fishermen where control measures result in increased costs or lower yields.

3. Require that all new industrial developments as well as new chemical and other technological innovations be evaluated for their effects on the ecology *before* their introduction.

4. Set up a monitoring system to measure and report changes in environmental conditions and provide early warning of potential problems in air, water and soil pollution.

5. Establish, and strictly enforce, firm standards of permissible levels of industrial and domestic pollution.

6. Immediately ban the use of non-returnable bottles and cans for beverages.

7. Engage in an educational campaign dealing with pollution and its relation to the profit system.

8. Regulate and control the disposal of pollutants by potash mines and other industrial concerns which adversely affect the rural community.

9. Establish and provide grants to an Ecological Advisory Council, independent of industry and government.

10. Build a new central planning agency of government which will, as one continuing function, assess long-term environmental effects of all government programs.

HOUSING



For too long, Liberal governments have viewed housing policy only as an economic lever to speed up or slow down the economy, rather than as the centrepiece for an over-all social policy. Combined with this stop-start performance, Liberal governments have ignored the housing needs of families with incomes below \$8,000.

New Democrats believe that every citizen is entitled to a decent home. Because of federal failure in this field, the province must fill the gap. We must reverse the "socialism for the rich, free enterprise for the poor" philosophy which has characterized Liberal housing policy.

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A Saskatchewan NDP government will:

1. Establish a Land Bank Commission to undertake land assembly, in co-operation with municipalities, and to curb private land speculation.
2. Establish a provincial housing authority to:
 - (a) provide low cost loans and low-down-payment plans for families who cannot qualify for N.H.A. loans;
 - (b) undertake special farm, village and town housing programs to help sustain rural life, and place special emphasis on the housing needs of native people;
 - (c) build more student housing;
 - (d) develop lower-cost construction methods for prairie dwellings and introduce a standardized building code;
 - (e) provide a program of low-cost rental housing;
 - (f) encourage more community-sponsored senior citizens' housing with the provincial government assuming more of the financial burden.
3. Overhaul the Landlord and Tenant Act to provide for:
 - (a) Rent Review Boards;
 - (b) the right of tenants to organize and bargain;
 - (c) limiting security deposits and requiring payment of interest on deposits;
 - (d) standard lease forms.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

A New Democratic government will:

1. Immediately establish a Consumer Affairs Agency to administer consumer protection legislation, to investigate consumer complaints, to enforce truth in advertising and to advance the consumer interest in all spheres.
2. Regulate and strictly control pyramid selling.
3. Enact a new *Landlord and Tenant Act* to provide for:
 - (a) a Rent Review Board;
 - (b) the right of tenants to organize and bargain collectively;
 - (c) limiting security deposits and requiring payment of interest on deposits;
 - (d) standard lease forms.
4. Restore the agricultural machinery testing program (AMA).
5. Press the federal government to institute controls on farm machinery prices.

6. Add a program of consumer education to the school curriculum and adult education programs.

7. That stringent regulations be applied to protect consumers from the deprivations of lending agencies and loan sharks.

INDIAN AND METIS

The New Democratic Party believes the policies of the present government toward the native people are failing and doomed to failure.

They are failing because:

- they are policies imposed by the government rather than policies developed co-operatively with native people and their leaders;
- they are policies rooted in the middle-class values of the white majority;
- they are policies which fail to recognize the wide variation in the conditions and aspirations of people of Indian ancestry, ranging from treaty Indians on a reserve in rural Saskatchewan to urban Metis locked into poverty on the fringes of Saskatchewan towns and cities.

Above all, they are doomed to failure because they do not recognize that the goals to be pursued must be those arrived at freely by the native peoples themselves, not those prescribed by an alien society "for their own good".

An NDP government will:

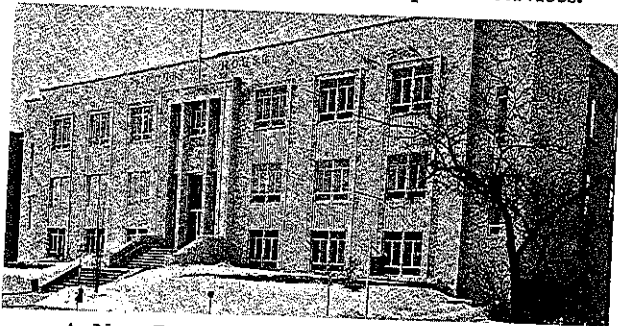
1. Drastically overhaul or abolish the Indian and Metis Department.
2. Provide substantial grants to the central organizations of the Indian people and the Metis people to assist them in building a basis of close communications among their respective constituents.
3. Ensure that Indian and Metis organizations are effectively involved in planning and implementing programs which affect Indian and/or Metis people; and further, provide for native representation on welfare advisory and appeal boards.
4. Provide specific grants to central organizations of the Indian and Metis people for the purpose of placing legal social workers and court translators in close conjunction with courts handling substantial numbers of cases involving Indians and/or Metis people.
5. Specifically with respect to treaty Indians, provide substantial grants and technical assistance to Indian organizations to enable them to undertake a thorough study of treaty rights, aboriginal rights and other special rights which Indian people may possess by reason of their being Indians.

6. Provide funds for programs worked out in co-operation with Indian and Metis leaders, and where feasible and desired by them, administered by their organizations. These might include:

- (a) an intensified program of training, re-training, up-grading and acquiring of academic and manual skills;
- (b) a job placement service without enforced quotas, which engender resentment against Indian and Metis people; instead to stress the competence and desirability of the applicant as an employee;
- (c) effective community development programs on or near reserves to provide employment without requiring Indians to cut all ties with their reserve, their band and their culture;
- (d) setting up ways to improve co-operation with Federal officials to avoid forcing Indians to deal with two separate agencies acting without enough co-ordination;
- (e) a stepped up use of co-operatives as a vehicle for Indian and Metis people to control the places where they live, work and buy their goods.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Saskatchewan led the way in Human Rights legislation in the 1940's and 1950's with the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights and Fair Employment and Fair Accommodation Acts. But the needs of the 70's are not being met. We need broader legislation with more teeth. Every citizen should have easy access to information and to redress for grievances. We need to "open up" government so that there is true equality of rights, remedies and access to public services.



A New Democratic government will:

- 1. Enact a Human Rights Code which will:
 - (a) Extend fair employment practices to prohibit discrimination because of sex, and to guarantee employed women leave of absence for pregnancy;

- (b) Prohibit discrimination because of political belief, and guarantee leave of absence from employment for candidates for political office;
- (c) Protect rights of privacy;
- (d) Legislate a comprehensive Bill of Rights gathering together all anti-discrimination laws.

2. Set up a Human Rights Commission to administer the Code and provide an accessible remedy for any person with a complaint.

3. Establish the office of Ombudsman, responsible only to the Legislature, to investigate grievances against any activity of the provincial government.

4. Set up a government information and referral centre, with a toll-free "hot line", to give citizens ready access to information about government services and to assist in dealing with problems.

5. Give provincial government encouragement and assistance to local governments for the training of municipal police forces.

ELECTORAL REFORM

The need to take the "politics" out of fixing electoral boundaries is long overdue. The federal government and most provinces have recognized this fact and, accordingly, have allocated this task to an independent body.

The Saskatchewan Liberal government consistently refuses to take such action. Instead boundaries are gerrymandered as a deliberate political act, designed to perpetuate Liberals in office. All past governments have taken partisan actions respecting boundaries. But no government—of any political stripe, anywhere in Canada—has so blatantly and so excessively misused its power, as has the Liberal government of Saskatchewan. Its actions have seriously endangered the principle of "representation by population" and the very foundations of democracy. It is conceivable that this government could maintain itself in office in perpetuity, thwarting the wishes of a majority of Saskatchewan people.

To restore democratic representation in Saskatchewan, a New Democratic government will enact legislation to provide for:

- 1. An independent electoral boundaries commission to complete a fair redistribution before the next election and periodically thereafter.
- 2. A system of supervision of election expenditures.
- 3. The right of all citizens to engage in political activity and seek political office without discrimination.