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RENEWING THE SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNITY

A New Democratic Vision for the 90's

INTRODUCTION

When the Devine PC government came to office in 1982, Saskatchewan had balanced budgets, a strong economy, and a bright future. Today, we are deep in debt, our economy is unable to generate enough jobs and opportunities, and the future is uncertain for many farm families, wage earners, professionals, and small business people.

That is why in this election campaign, New Democrats are asking Saskatchewan people a very important question: "Can you afford four more years of Devine PC government?" The issue is the Devine PC government's ten year record of wasteful spending, uncontrolled deficits, unfair taxes, financial mismanagement, patronage, and a lack of economic opportunities for ordinary people.

People are saying no way to the PC way, and yes to our positive alternative.

They know Saskatchewan deserves better and that we can do better.

With this document, "Renewing the Saskatchewan Community -- A New Democratic Vision for the 90's", we are outlining our alternatives to the failed policies of the 1980's.

Working together, we can turn our economy around in the 1990's and rekindle the spirit of community which built Saskatchewan. The values of co-operation, compassion and fairness can help build a future of hope, opportunity and prosperity for all Saskatchewan people.

The Saskatchewan Way is community -- people coming together to accomplish that which they cannot accomplish alone. It is the fundamental belief that everyone in our province has something to contribute to the good of the community overall. When an individual or family prospers, we all prosper. When an individual or family suffers, we are all the lesser for it. The community divisions of the last decade -- fostered by a government determined to drive a wedge between people for the sake of politics -- must be put behind us, and a new era of co-operation must be our goal.



As a united community, Saskatchewan is unbeatable. Our history proves it. Against all odds we overcame harsh climate, long distances from markets and sparse population to build a province which has been home to some of North America's greatest accomplishments. On the threshold of a new decade, our renewal as a province demands a new era of community and co-operation.

Let's do it the Saskatchewan way!

Here are the first-term commitments of a New Democratic Party government to the people of Saskatchewan:

**1. *FIRST THINGS FIRST --
COMMON SENSE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT***

- ▶ Open the Books. A public, independent audit of the province's financial affairs to cut government waste and mismanagement.
- ▶ A comprehensive review of all PC privatizations and business deals, to determine if they are in the public interest.
- ▶ A balanced budget in our first term of office, and a 15-year plan to eliminate the accumulated Devine Deficit.

2. *NEW DIRECTIONS -- NEW PRIORITIES*

Jobs, Fair Taxes, Wealth Creation

- ▶ A commitment to save 7,500 jobs threatened by the expanded, 7 per cent PST (Provincial Sales Tax). We will repeal this unfair new tax.
- ▶ Work with local manufacturers and businesses to increase the value-added processing of our resources and commodities for both the domestic and export markets.
- ▶ Jobs and savings through a comprehensive energy conservation strategy and the development of new technology to improve the application of renewable resources.

A Better Quality of Life

- ▶ Work with students, families and educators to develop a world class, accessible education system.
- ▶ Commitment to a new, community-based health care system based on the "wellness" model.
- ▶ A commitment to Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people to honour land entitlements and promote self-government.
- ▶ Introduce an Environmental Bill of Rights to guarantee the public access to information and participation regarding environmental impacts.
- ▶ Fair labour laws, developed in consultation with working people and employers to promote harmony in the workplace.

3. *FIGHTING FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITIES*

- ▶ Fight for a \$500 million cash payment from the federal government -- Ottawa must make good on its promise of a "Third Line of Defence" payment.
- ▶ Negotiate improvements to GRIP and NISA.
- ▶ Work with farmers and their organizations to design a debt restructuring program to keep farm families on the land.
- ▶ Fight to protect the Canadian Wheat Board and other agricultural programs from American threats under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Deal.
- ▶ Fight federal cuts in services to our rural communities.

4. OPEN, HONEST AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

- ▶ A Code of Ethical Conduct for elected representatives and public servants.
- ▶ General elections every four years, and by-elections required to be held within six months of any vacancy.
- ▶ Restore fair and open tendering for government contracts.

This four-part program is responsible. It is a common sense approach to economic and social renewal, and it is within our means as a province.

Now let's look at these first-term commitments in the context of our longer-term goals and objectives for the 1990's.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND FAIR TAXATION

Saskatchewan farmers, small business people, and working families know the importance of sound financial management. They know that our province's future depends on the ability to develop a solid financial management plan and stick to it. Unfair tax increases and huge provincial deficits are threatening our future. Economic prosperity requires fair taxation and sound financial management.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government's record of unfair tax increases and financial mismanagement has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan families and on our economy.

- * The Devine PC government's ten straight deficit budgets have created a cumulative budget deficit of five billion dollars.
- * The Devine PC's have increased more than 500 provincial taxes, licenses, fees, and charges, and they have made the overall provincial tax system more unfair.
- * The Devine PC's supported the Mulroney government's GST, and introduced the 7 per cent, expanded PST.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the goal of financial management and fair taxation for the long-term economic security of our people and our province. The first job will be to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments.

A New Democratic government will:

- ▶ Undertake a public, independent audit of the province's financial affairs.
- ▶ Review all PC privatizations and business deals to determine if they are in the public interest.
- ▶ Repeal the new, expanded 7 per cent PST. This will save the average family \$740 a year, boost Saskatchewan business, and protect the 7,500 jobs threatened by this PC tax increase.
- ▶ Work to balance the provincial budget within a first term of office, and work to eliminate the accumulated Devine Deficit within fifteen years.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Saskatchewan people want to work, and to contribute to the well-being of their families and the prosperity of our province. We don't have to wait for big business or wealthy outside investors. We need a provincial government that is able to provide sound economic management for our future. Together, we can get Saskatchewan working, providing jobs and prosperity for all.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the Devine PC government's record of economic mismanagement has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan families and on the Saskatchewan economy.

- * From 1981 to 1990, Saskatchewan had the worst job creation record in Canada, and the number of unemployed people in Saskatchewan jumped by 62%.
- * Since the Devine PC's first took office, there have been more than 10,000 business and consumer bankruptcies in Saskatchewan.
- * The Devine PC's economic mismanagement has forced tens of thousands of Saskatchewan young people and families to move out of the province, in search of jobs and opportunities elsewhere.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to work with all the sectors of our economy to provide jobs and opportunities for Saskatchewan people, and long-term economic prosperity for our communities and our province. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments.

A New Democratic government will:

- ▶ Introduce a Premier's Council on Economic Co-operation to renew the economic partnership among Saskatchewan businesses, co-operatives, farmers, labour, and government.
- ▶ Create a new mandate for SEDCO to make it more accountable to the public and more responsive to the needs of local business.
- ▶ Work with local manufacturers and businesses to increase the value-added processing of our resources and commodities for both the domestic and export markets.
- ▶ Jobs and savings through a comprehensive energy conservation strategy and the development of new technology to improve the application of renewable resources.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is Saskatchewan's number one industry, and provides a unique way of life for thousands of farm families. The severe cost-price squeeze, high interest rates, and unfair taxes are causing financial hardship to farm families and driving hundreds of them off the land. We need a provincial government that is committed to the long-term economic security of farm families, and to the long-term prosperity of Saskatchewan agriculture.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Mulroney and Devine governments have failed to provide adequate long-term stability and security for Saskatchewan farm families.

- * The PC's Free Trade deal with the United States caused the end of the two-price system for wheat, undermined the Canadian Wheat Board, and failed to address the international grain subsidy war that has driven down world prices.
- * There is a serious farm debt crisis in Saskatchewan. Since 1985, the Saskatchewan Farm Land Security Board has received more than 7,000 formal notices of foreclosure.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the long-term security and prosperity of Saskatchewan agriculture and Saskatchewan farm families. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the financial resources available for our priority commitments.

A New Democratic government will:

- ▶ Fight for a \$500 million cash payment from the federal government -- Ottawa must make good on its promise of a "Third Line of Defence" payment.
- ▶ Negotiate improvements to GRIP and NISA.
- ▶ Work with farmers and their organizations to design a debt restructuring program to keep farm families on the land.
- ▶ Fight to protect the Canadian Wheat Board and other agricultural programs from American threats under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Deal.
- ▶ Encourage farmers to diversify by increasing production of specialty crops.

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Rural communities are a fundamental part of Saskatchewan's unique way of life. People in these villages, towns and small cities are proud of their communities. They want a government that is committed to traditional Saskatchewan values and to community economic development.

The PC Record: Can you Afford Four More Years?

The PC government's record of poor economic performance has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan's rural communities.

- * Provincial government job cuts in rural Saskatchewan, and the closure of rural post offices and rural schools have undermined our rural communities.
- * The PC government has unfairly shifted the tax load on to local municipalities and local property taxpayers. That PC tax shift has caused property taxes in Saskatchewan to become the second highest in Canada.
- * Instead of developing a long-term economic development plan, the PC government has betrayed local communities and pursued its mega-projects with big outside corporations like Cargill Grain.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a positive vision for rural communities for the 1990's. By building on Saskatchewan's traditional values, we can improve the economic opportunities and quality of life in our rural communities. The first job will be to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments.

As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Improve provincial government services and community-based economic development opportunities.
- ▶ Provide effective support for Main Street businesses and for rural co-operatives.
- ▶ Provide effective support for community economic development committees.
- ▶ Relieve the property tax burden in rural Saskatchewan.

URBAN COMMUNITIES

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As our towns and cities grow and change, the problems facing them become more complex. In order for our urban communities to become even stronger and more dynamic, they need a government that is sensitive to their concerns and responsive to their needs.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

For ten years the PC government's record has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan's urban communities.

- * The PC government's cutbacks in provincial funding for municipalities has put severe pressure on local services and local property taxes.
- * Instead of developing a long-term economic development plan, the PC government has betrayed local communities and pursued its mega-projects with big outside corporations.
- * The PC government has undermined local democratic government, by arbitrarily abolishing the possibility of the ward system for local municipal elections.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to working together with urban municipalities and community groups to improve economic opportunities and the quality of life for all urban residents as we move into the 1990's. The first job will be to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments.

As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Work to keep down property taxes by working with municipalities to develop a fair and stable revenue sharing program they can count on, and by providing an increased share of school costs from provincial grants.
- ▶ Improve provincial government services and community-based economic development opportunities.
- ▶ Attack the problems of family poverty and child hunger in our urban communities.
- ▶ We will respect the democratic rights of local residents by permitting local communities to choose to elect municipal councils under the ward system.

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

Saskatchewan's North is a proud part of Saskatchewan's past, and an important part of our future. The North and northern people have enormous potential. But to realize that potential requires a provincial government that is sensitive to their concerns and responsive to their needs.

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The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the PC government's record has imposed hardships on northern communities and northern people.

- * Instead of working with communities to develop local economic opportunities, the PC government has entered into "sweetheart" deals with big outside corporations like Weyerhaeuser, giving this company control over thirteen million acres of forest land.
- * The Devine PC government has given subsidies to big corporations, but eliminated the Northern Fresh Food Transportation Allowance. Today a loaf of bread costs as much as \$1.82 in northern communities.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a positive vision for northern people and communities. We offer a government committed to working closely with northern people, in order to improve the economic opportunities and quality of life in our northern communities. The first job will be to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Work with northern people to develop new revenue sharing arrangements for northern communities.
- ▶ Work with northern communities to implement a sustainable economic development plan to benefit all northern people.
- ▶ Work with northern communities to improve the accessibility and quality of important community-based services, like health care and education.
- ▶ Establish appropriate northern transportation subsidies for food, health care products, and other basic necessities.

EDUCATION

Saskatchewan people know that education is an investment in our communities and in our future. Our world is changing rapidly, and in order for our young people to achieve their full potential, we must improve the quality and accessibility of our education system.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Devine PC government has undermined Saskatchewan's education system, and has betrayed our young people and our future.

- * The PC government's underfunding of local school boards has threatened the quality of education and caused property taxes in Saskatchewan to be the second highest in Canada.
- * The PC's cutbacks and underfunding have caused overcrowding and enrolment quotas in our universities, and the elimination of more than 1,100 training spaces in our technical institutes.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to work with students, families, and educators to develop an accessible and first class education system for the future of our young people and the future of our province. We must invest in our future without imposing an unfair cost burden on local property taxpayers, students, and families. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Work with teachers, parents, and school boards to improve the quality and accessibility of elementary and secondary education, and relieve property taxes by working towards providing more school costs from provincial grants.
- ▶ Work with our universities, technical institutes, and regional colleges, and provide adequate funding to improve the quality and accessibility of post-secondary education for all qualified students.
- ▶ Improve opportunities for distance education and extend the range and accessibility of education services at all levels for young people and adults in rural Saskatchewan.
- ▶ Relieve the financial burden on students and their families by providing student loans and bursaries for post-secondary students.

HEALTH CARE

Saskatchewan has a proud tradition of making high quality health care accessible to all Saskatchewan people. Our province pioneered universal hospital insurance and universal Medicare. But the PC government has undermined and threatened our health care system. The PC record has caused increasing concerns about rising costs, inadequate accessibility, and cutbacks in services.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government has undermined Saskatchewan health care, and betrayed Saskatchewan people.

- * The PC government eroded basic health care services by attacking the

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Prescription Drug Plan, and privatizing the School-Based Children's Dental Plan.

- * PC mismanagement and misplaced priorities threaten our health care system. Underfunding and understaffing in our hospitals has threatened accessibility of services, and the quality of care.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a new positive vision for Saskatchewan health care in the 1990's: By working together, we can improve health care services and improve the health of Saskatchewan people. A New Democratic government will protect the fundamental principles of Medicare, and will address the fundamental social, economic, and environmental conditions that cause health care problems.

The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Create a Provincial Health Council to bring together health care users and providers to develop a health care system based on the "wellness" model.
- ▶ Work with communities to establish local, community-controlled health centres which will include health care services and programs for those with special needs.
- ▶ In consultation with health care professionals and local communities, establish a School-Based Children's Dental Program.
- ▶ Improve benefits and services under the Prescription Drug Plan.
- ▶ Expand and improve home care services for seniors and others with special needs.

THE ENVIRONMENT

We must protect our environment today, in order to pass on a healthy world to our children tomorrow. Long-term jobs and economic prosperity can only be based on sustainable development, working with our environment, not against it.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the PC government's record with respect to the environment has been a deep disappointment to Saskatchewan people.

- * It failed to establish effective public environmental impact assessment

hearings on its mega-projects with big outside corporations like Cargill Grain and Millar-Western.

- * Cutbacks to environmental services and programs have shown that the PC government's priority is politics, not protection.
- * The Devine government has spent more time fighting against environmental laws than in working to protect our environment.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to protect and enhance our environment. We offer a government committed to economic development that is sustainable over the long-term, and committed to protect the public's right to information. The first job will be to open up the books of the province to determine the resources available for our priority commitments.

As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Establish an independent Environmental Protection Commission, as an effective watchdog to assure environmental protection.
- ▶ Introduce a comprehensive long-term strategy for energy conservation, alternative energy development, and sustainable jobs.
- ▶ Empower local communities to participate in decisions about the environmental impacts of local economic development.
- ▶ Introduce a Saskatchewan Environmental Bill of Rights to guarantee the public's access to information and participation regarding environmental impacts.

DEMOCRATIC REFORM

Saskatchewan people are proud of the rights and liberty we enjoy in our free and democratic society. Over the past ten years, however, those fundamental rights have been undermined by the actions and practices of the provincial government. We need a government that is sensitive to the rights and interests of the public, and that has the necessary courage to implement genuine democratic reform.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Devine PC government has undermined the basic democratic rights of Saskatchewan people, and has refused to be publicly accountable.

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The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Devine PC government has undermined the basic democratic rights of Saskatchewan people, and has refused to be publicly accountable.

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- * The PC record of patronage has given expensive government jobs or contracts to fourteen former PC MLA's, including jobs at \$97,000 a year for former Cabinet Ministers Bob Andrew and Graham Taylor.
- * The Devine government refused to be accountable to the Provincial Auditor for its financial management, and cut the Auditor's staff by 30%.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to protect and enhance the fundamental right of Saskatchewan people to participate fully in our free and democratic society. We will take concrete positive steps to strengthen the rights of ordinary people, and to ensure that elected officials and the government are publicly accountable.

A New Democratic government will:

- ▶ Implement Freedom of Information legislation and a Code of Ethical Conduct for provincial elected officials and senior civil servants.
- ▶ Ensure that voters have the right of democratic representation, by requiring in law that provincial by-elections be held within six months of a vacancy, and that provincial general elections be held every four years.
- ▶ Fight to eliminate patronage by strengthening the Public Service Commission to ensure that the public service is competent and hired on qualifications, not on political affiliation.
- ▶ Eliminate improper use of special spending warrants and improve government financial reporting to the public.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Saskatchewan's rich cultural identity is strengthened by our diverse Aboriginal people. They are a proud part of our provinces's past, and an important part of our future. They want a provincial government that will respect their diversity, and that will help ensure that they realize their full potential as participants in the future development of Saskatchewan.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the Devine PC government has failed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people.

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* The PC government has failed to provide adequate services and effective support for Aboriginal people. The annual death rate of status Indians is one and a half times higher than it is for the rest of Saskatchewan's population.

* The PC government has cut Grants for Indian Economic Development by more than half.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to working with Aboriginal people and their community-based organizations to enable them to realize their full potential in the future development of Saskatchewan. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments.

As resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Support the inherent right of Indian people to self-government, and recognize the governments of Indian Nations.
- ▶ Negotiate a fair settlement to Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Land Claims.
- ▶ Commit to negotiate self-government and land claims with the Metis people of Saskatchewan, under the concept of inherent rights.
- ▶ Work with Indian and Metis people to establish comprehensive and sustainable economic development strategies, and expand education and training opportunities and employment equity programs.

WOMEN

Saskatchewan women have a proud history of outstanding contributions to their families, to their communities, and to the development of our province. Today, women want a provincial government that recognizes their accomplishments, and understands their concerns. They want a government that will enable women to achieve economic and social equality. They deserve no less.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Devine PC government has failed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan women, and has broken its promises to treat women fairly and to provide jobs and opportunities for all.

- * The PC government has failed to provide adequate education and training opportunities that meet women's needs for adequately paid, long-term jobs.
- * For the past six years the PC government has frozen Family Income Plan benefits to low-income working families with children. Yet fifty-nine per cent of Saskatchewan families headed by women are living in poverty.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan women, in order that they may realize their full potential and continue to contribute fully to the development of our province's future.

The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available to meet our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Work to achieve the goal of full employment for Saskatchewan working women and men.
- ▶ Implement pay equity, starting in the public sector.
- ▶ Provide additional child care spaces for working families and increase funding to existing child care centres.
- ▶ Strengthen and improve support for victims of family violence by establishing a comprehensive and community-based system of shelter services, and a Family Violence Crisis Line.

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WORKING PEOPLE

Saskatchewan's working men and women are the strength of our economy. In every community, it is working people who produce the goods and services we need for today, and for our future. Working families want a government that is sensitive to their concerns, and that is committed to basic fairness.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the PC government's record has imposed unfair hardship on Saskatchewan working people.

- * The PC government's poor economic record has caused lost jobs, and forced thousands of working families to leave Saskatchewan to find jobs and opportunities elsewhere. Since 1985, the net out-migration to other provinces has been 81,000 people.
- * The PC government has failed to enforce the basic laws of the province which should protect the rights of working people with respect to labour standards and occupational health and safety.
- * The PC government has granted costly favours and privileges to big outside corporations and its special friends, but has imposed extensive freezes on the minimum wage which directly affects 60,000 Saskatchewan working men and women.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to fairness for Saskatchewan working men and women. The first job is to open up the books of the province to determine the resources available for our priority commitments.

As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Introduce fair labour laws, developed in consultation with working people and employers to promote harmony in the workplace.
- ▶ Strengthen and improve Occupational Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation, for the protection and security of working people.
- ▶ Implement pay equity, starting in the public sector.
- ▶ Establish an effective Minimum Wage Board with equal representation from employees and employers, and ensure pro-rated benefits for part-time workers.

ATTACKING THE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND POVERTY

Saskatchewan people have a proud tradition of sharing and compassion for those who have become the victims in our society. People are deeply concerned by a government that has sharply increased the tragic problems of family poverty and child hunger, and then has turned its back on the poor and the hungry. That's why Saskatchewan people are saying no way to the PC way.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

For ten years, the PC government's record of misplaced priorities and economic mismanagement has left too many Saskatchewan families and children suffering poverty and hunger.

- * The PC government's record of lost jobs, social program cutbacks, and unfair tax increases has destroyed the security and dignity of thousands of families. Saskatchewan has 64,000 children living in poverty.
- * Since the Devine PC government took office, eight food banks have opened up in Saskatchewan -- a tragedy for families, and a shameful indictment of the PC government's record.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to attack the problems of hunger and poverty in Saskatchewan. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Work to achieve the goal of full employment for working people in all Saskatchewan communities.
- ▶ Work to eliminate the need for food banks in Saskatchewan.
- ▶ Provide adequate funding for lunch programs in schools and child care centres which identify the needs of hungry children.
- ▶ Work to end child poverty in Saskatchewan by providing increased income supplements to working families with children who are living below the poverty line.

CHILDREN AND THE FAMILY

Strong families make strong communities and a strong future for our province. Saskatchewan people are proud of their families. They work hard to build a secure family life in which our children can grow up to be healthy. Today, however, there are more stresses than ever before on Saskatchewan families, and government policies are adding to the pressure.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the PC government's record has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan families and children.

- * The Devine government's failure to provide job opportunities for working families has forced many into poverty and caused the need for eight food banks to open up in Saskatchewan communities.
- * Saskatchewan has the second highest rate of family poverty in Canada, and has 64,000 children living in poverty.
- * For the past six years the Devine government has frozen Family Income Plan benefits for low-income working families with children.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to improving the protection and services available to Saskatchewan children and families. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Work to achieve the goal of income security through full employment for working families in all Saskatchewan communities.
- ▶ Establish a Children's Advocate service for children who are wards of the province.
- ▶ Improve and expand options to meet the differing child care needs of families in all Saskatchewan communities.
- ▶ Strengthen and improve support for victims of family violence by establishing a comprehensive and community-based system of shelter services, and a Family Violence Crisis Line.

INCOME SECURITY

Saskatchewan people are committed to the goal of income security for the families in our communities. They know that inadequate family incomes have caused the tragic problems of family poverty and child hunger, and have contributed to other social problems. They want a provincial government that is responsive to the needs of Saskatchewan families for basic income security.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the Devine PC government has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan families, and its poor economic record has undermined their basic income security.

- * For the past six years the PC government has frozen Family Income Plan benefits for low-income working families with children.
- * The PC government's poor economic record has failed to create sufficient job opportunities for young people and working families, and has forced thousands of families to leave Saskatchewan in search of jobs and economic security elsewhere.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the goal of basic income security for families in all Saskatchewan communities. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Work to achieve the goal of full employment for Saskatchewan men and women.
- ▶ Ensure that people who can work receive more income from working than from not working.
- ▶ Work to end child poverty through increased income supplements to working families with children who are living below the poverty line.

SENIORS

Saskatchewan is proud of its senior citizens. They are our pioneers. Their hard work and determination helped to build our communities and our province. Their lives have demonstrated the strength of the traditional Saskatchewan values of co-operation, compassion, and courage. They have earned the right to a retirement of dignity and security. They deserve no less.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan senior citizens.

- * The Devine government supported the Mulroney government's attempt to de-index the pensions of our senior citizens, and supported the Mulroney government's GST.
- * The Devine PC government attacked the Prescription Drug Plan, and made needed prescription medication more expensive for seniors.
- * The PC government directly hurt the lowest-income seniors, by eliminating the scheduled \$1.1 million increase in Saskatchewan Income Plan benefits.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to provide the assistance, support, and services our seniors need and deserve. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments.

As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Support seniors who wish to remain in their own homes, and increase the range of options for senior citizens' housing, including home modifications, home care, and appropriate nursing home services.
- ▶ Fight any attempts by the Mulroney government to undermine or reduce federal pension plans or old-age security benefits, and ensure the integrity of provincial pension plans.
- ▶ Improve benefits and services to senior citizens under the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan.
- ▶ Establish a Seniors' Protection Service, to provide consumer information and assistance to seniors.

SHELTER

All Saskatchewan families deserve decent and affordable housing. Whether it's young families just starting out, or senior citizens wishing to retire in dignity and security, people know that decent and affordable shelter is an important part of the quality of life in our communities. They want a provincial government that is responsive to their needs.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government has neglected the needs of Saskatchewan people for decent, affordable shelter, and its poor economic record has threatened the housing industry in our province.

- * Since the PC government took office, basic housing and residential utility costs in Saskatchewan have jumped by 91%.
- * In 1990 Saskatchewan had the lowest number of new housing starts in our history. That means lost jobs for working families and lost opportunities for small businesses in our communities.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to ensuring that Saskatchewan families and individuals have access to decent and affordable shelter. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Develop new options to facilitate home ownership through public housing and rent-to-own programs.
- ▶ Strengthen co-operative housing programs, including "sweat equity" co-operatives, and co-operative apartment units.
- ▶ Relieve the burden of residential property taxes in all Saskatchewan communities.
- ▶ Increase the range of options for senior citizens' housing, including home modification, home care, and appropriate levels of nursing home care.

LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Saskatchewan has a proud tradition of respect for the basic rights of individuals and minority groups. We want our provincial government to enhance those fundamental rights, and to strengthen the important democratic institutions that protect them.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government has shown its disregard for the fundamental rights of individuals and minority groups in Saskatchewan. It has undermined the independence and effectiveness of provincial institutions and services which protect those rights.

- * The Devine PC government has undermined the independence of the Ombudsman, and has cut the staff of the Ombudsman's office by 20%.

- * The Devine PC government has eroded the effectiveness of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission by failing to appoint sufficient commissioners and by cutting its staff.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the Saskatchewan tradition of respect and protection for the fundamental rights of individuals and minority groups in our free and democratic society. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- ▶ Improve access to legal services with adequate counselling for all who require legal aid.
- ▶ Strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the Ombudsman and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ Promote education services to eliminate discrimination, sexism, and racism.
- ▶ Work to remove political patronage from judicial appointments.

CONCLUSION

The commitments in this document are a working plan for a New Democratic government in Saskatchewan in the 1990's. They tell you the kind of government we want to provide for you and your family; they give you targets or objectives by which to judge our performance.

As we have stated repeatedly throughout this document, first things first. We will have to set about cleaning up the financial and economic mess left behind by ten years of Devine PC government before we implement many of these commitments.

However, as you can see from **Renewing the Saskatchewan Community**, there is no end of good ideas or of work to be done.

We would welcome your ongoing discussion of these commitments, and look forward to serving you in the 1990's.



Aboriginal People

Saskatchewan's rich cultural identity is strengthened by our diverse Aboriginal people. They are a proud part of our province's past, and an important part of our future. They want a provincial government that will respect their diversity, and that will help ensure that they realize their full potential as participants in the future development of Saskatchewan.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the Devine PC government has failed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people.

* The PC government has failed to provide adequate services and effective support for Aboriginal people. The annual death rate of status Indians is one and a half times higher than it is for the rest of Saskatchewan's population.

* The PC government has cut Grants for Indian Economic Development by 57%.

Our Commitment to Aboriginal People

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to working with Aboriginal people and their community-based organizations to enable them to realize their full potential in the future development of Saskatchewan. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

* Support the inherent right of Indian people to self-government, and recognize the governments of Indian Nations.

* Implement a fair settlement for Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Land Claims.

* Negotiate a just settlement to the claims of Metis people.

* Work with Indian and Metis people to establish comprehensive and sustainable economic development strategies, and expand education and training opportunities and employment equity programs.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to working with Aboriginal people in order to ensure that they can realize their full potential and continue to contribute to the development of our province. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91





Agriculture

Agriculture is Saskatchewan's number one industry, and provides a unique way of life for thousands of farm families. The severe cost-price squeeze, high interest rates, and unfair taxes are causing financial hardship to farm families and driving hundreds of them off the land. We need a provincial government that is committed to the long-term economic security of farm families, and to the long-term prosperity of Saskatchewan agriculture.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Mulroney and Devine governments have failed to provide adequate long-term stability and security for Saskatchewan farm families.

* The PC's Free Trade deal with the United States caused the end of the two-price system for wheat, undermined the Canadian Wheat Board, and failed to address the international grain subsidy war that has driven down world prices.

* There is a serious farm debt crisis in Saskatchewan. Since 1985, the Saskatchewan Farm Land Security Board has received more than 7,000 formal notices of foreclosure.

Our Commitment to Agriculture

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the long-term security and prosperity of Saskatchewan agriculture and Saskatchewan farm families. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the financial resources available for our priority commitments. A New Democratic government will:

- * Work with farmers and their organizations to improve GRIP and NISA, including a demand that Ottawa pay its fair share of the cost.
- * Work with farmers and their organizations to design a debt restructuring program to help keep farm families on the land.
- * Press Ottawa to provide a Grain Price Deficiency Payment.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to protect farm families and the long-term future of Saskatchewan agriculture. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Attacking the Problems of Hunger and Poverty

Saskatchewan people have a proud tradition of sharing and compassion for those who have become the victims in our society. People are deeply concerned by a government that has sharply increased the tragic problems of family poverty and child hunger, and then has turned its back on the poor and the hungry. That's why Saskatchewan people are saying no way to the PC way.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

For ten years, the PC government's record of misplaced priorities and economic mismanagement has left too many Saskatchewan families and children suffering poverty and hunger.

* The PC government's record of lost jobs, social program cutbacks, and unfair tax increases has destroyed the security and dignity of thousands of families. Saskatchewan has 64,000 children living in poverty.

* Since the Devine PC government took office, eight food banks have opened up in Saskatchewan -- a tragedy for families, and a shameful indictment of the PC government's record.

Our Commitment to Attack Hunger and Poverty

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to attack the problems of hunger and poverty in Saskatchewan. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Work to achieve the goal of full employment for working people in all Saskatchewan communities.
- * Work to eliminate the need for food banks in Saskatchewan.
- * Provide adequate funding for lunch programs in schools and child care centres which identify the needs of hungry children.
- * Work to end child poverty in Saskatchewan by providing increased income supplements to working families with children who are living below the poverty line.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to attack the problems of hunger and poverty, so that all Saskatchewan families and children can live in security and dignity in the 1990's. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91





Children and the Family

Strong families make strong communities and a strong future for our province. Saskatchewan people are proud of their families. They work hard to build a secure family life in which our children can grow up to be healthy. Today, however, there are more stresses than ever before on Saskatchewan families, and government policies are adding to the pressure.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the PC government's record has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan families and children.

* The Devine government's failure to provide job opportunities for working families has forced many into poverty and caused the need for eight food banks to open up in Saskatchewan communities.

* Saskatchewan has the second highest rate of family poverty in Canada, and has 64,000 children living in poverty.

* For the past six years the Devine government has frozen Family Income Plan benefits for low-income working families with children.

Our Commitment to Children and the Family

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to improving the protection and services available to Saskatchewan children and families. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

* Work to achieve the goal of income security through full employment for working families in all Saskatchewan communities.

* Establish a Children's Advocate service for children who are wards of the province.

* Improve and expand options to meet the differing child care needs of families in all Saskatchewan communities.

* Strengthen and improve support for victims of family violence by establishing a comprehensive and community-based system of shelter services, and a Family Violence Crisis Line.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to improving the needed protection and services for Saskatchewan children and families. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91





Democratic Reform

Saskatchewan people are proud of the rights and liberty we enjoy in our free and democratic society. Over the past ten years, however, those fundamental rights have been undermined by the actions and practices of the provincial government. We need a government that is sensitive to the rights and interests of the public, and that has the necessary courage to implement genuine democratic reform.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Devine PC government has undermined the basic democratic rights of Saskatchewan people, and has refused to be publicly accountable.

* The PC record of patronage has given expensive government jobs or contracts to fourteen former PC MLA's, including jobs at \$97,000 a year for former Cabinet Ministers Bob Andrew and Graham Taylor.

* The Devine government refused to be accountable to the Provincial Auditor for its financial management, and cut the Auditor's staff by 30%.

Our Commitment to Democratic Reform

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to protect and enhance the fundamental right of Saskatchewan people to participate fully in our free and democratic society. We will take concrete positive steps to strengthen the rights of ordinary people, and to ensure that elected officials and the government are publicly accountable. A New Democratic government will:

* Implement Freedom of Information legislation and a Code of Ethical Conduct for provincial elected officials and senior civil servants.

* Ensure that voters and taxpayers have the right of democratic representation, by requiring in law that provincial by-elections be held within six months of a vacancy.

* Fight to eliminate patronage by strengthening the Public Service Commission to ensure that the public service is competent and hired on qualifications, not on political affiliation.

* Eliminate improper use of special spending warrants and improve government financial reporting to the public.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to genuine democratic reform. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Education

Saskatchewan people know that education is an investment in our communities and in our future. Our world is changing rapidly, and in order for our young people to achieve their full potential, we must improve the quality and accessibility of our education system.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Devine PC government has undermined Saskatchewan's education system, and has betrayed our young people and our future.

* The PC government's underfunding of local school boards has threatened the quality of education and caused property taxes in Saskatchewan to be the second highest in Canada.

* The PC's cutbacks and underfunding have caused overcrowding and enrolment quotas in our universities, and the elimination of more than 1,100 training spaces in our technical institutes.

Our Commitment to Education

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to work with students, families, and educators to develop an accessible and first class education system for the future of our young people and the future of our province. We must invest in our future without imposing an unfair cost burden on local property taxpayers, students, and families. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

* Work with teachers and school boards to improve the quality and accessibility of elementary and secondary education, and relieve property taxes by working towards providing 60% of school costs from provincial grants.

* Work with our universities, technical institutes, and regional colleges, and provide adequate funding to improve the quality and accessibility of post-secondary education for all qualified students.

* Improve opportunities for distance education and extend the range and accessibility of education services at all levels for young people and adults in rural Saskatchewan.

* Relieve the financial burden on students and their families by providing student loans and bursaries for post-secondary students.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to achieve a positive vision for education in Saskatchewan. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



The Environment

We must protect our environment today, in order to pass on a healthy world to our children tomorrow. Long-term jobs and economic prosperity can only be based on sustainable development, working with our environment, not against it.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the PC government's record with respect to the environment has been a deep disappointment to Saskatchewan people.

- * It failed to establish effective public environmental impact assessment hearings on its mega-projects with big outside corporations like Cargill Grain and Millar-Western.
- * Cutbacks to environmental services and programs have shown that the PC government's priority is politics, not protection.
- * The Devine government has spent more time fighting against environmental laws than in working to protect our environment.

Our Commitment to the Environment

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to protect and enhance our environment. We offer a government committed to economic development that is sustainable over the long-term, and committed to protect the public's right to information. The first job will be to open up the books of the province to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Establish an independent Environmental Protection Commission, as an effective watchdog to assure environmental protection.
- * Introduce ENERGY 2000, a comprehensive long-term strategy for energy conservation, alternative energy development, and sustainable jobs.
- * Empower local communities to participate in decisions about the environmental impacts of local economic development.
- * A New Democratic government will introduce a Saskatchewan Environmental Bill of Rights to guarantee the public's access to information and participation regarding environmental impacts.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to work with Saskatchewan people to protect our environment for today and for the future. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Financial Management and Fair Taxation

Saskatchewan farmers, small business people, and working families know the importance of sound financial management. They know that our province's future depends on the ability to develop a solid financial management plan and stick to it. Unfair tax increases and huge provincial deficits are threatening our future. Economic prosperity requires fair taxation and sound financial management.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government's record of unfair tax increases and financial mismanagement have imposed hardships on Saskatchewan families and on our economy.

* The Devine PC government's ten straight deficit budgets have created a cumulative budget deficit of five billion dollars.

* The Devine PC's have increased more than 500 provincial taxes, licenses, fees, and charges, and they have made the overall provincial tax system more unfair.

* The Devine PC's supported the Mulroney government's GST, and introduced the 7% provincial PST.

Our Commitment to Financial Management and Fair Taxation

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the goal of financial management and fair taxation for the long-term economic security of our people and our province. The first job will be to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. A New Democratic government will:

* Undertake a public, independent audit of the province's financial affairs.

* Review all PC privatizations and business deals to determine if they were in the public interest.

* Repeal the new, expanded 7 per cent PST. This will save the average family \$740 a year, boost Saskatchewan business, and protect the 7,500 jobs threatened by this PC tax increase.

* Work to balance the provincial budget within a first term of office, and work to eliminate the accumulated Devine Deficit within fifteen years.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to sound financial management and fair taxation, to ensure economic prosperity for our future. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Health Care

Saskatchewan has a proud tradition of making high quality health care accessible to all Saskatchewan people. Our province pioneered universal hospital insurance and universal Medicare. But the PC government has undermined and threatened our health care system. The PC record has caused increasing concerns about rising costs, inadequate accessibility, and cutbacks in services.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government has undermined Saskatchewan health care, and betrayed Saskatchewan people.

* The PC government eroded basic health care services by attacking the Prescription Drug Plan, and privatizing the School-Based Children's Dental Plan.

* PC mismanagement and misplaced priorities threaten our health care system. Underfunding and understaffing in our hospitals have threatened accessibility of services, and the quality of care.

Our Commitment to Health Care

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a new positive vision for Saskatchewan health care in the 1990's. By working together, we can improve health care services and improve the health of Saskatchewan people. A New Democratic government will protect the fundamental principles of Medicare, and will address the fundamental social, economic, and environmental conditions that cause health care problems. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

* Work with communities to establish local, community-controlled health centres which will include health care services and programs for those with special needs.

* Implement effective preventive health care programs and services, to prevent injury and illness and to promote "wellness" and well-being.

* In consultation with health care professionals and local communities, establish a School-Based Children's Dental Program.

* Improve benefits and services to senior citizens under the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan.

* Expand and improve home care services for seniors and others with special needs.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to develop a new positive vision for Saskatchewan health care in the 1990's. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Income Security

Saskatchewan people are committed to the goal of income security for the families in our communities. They know that inadequate family incomes have caused the tragic problems of family poverty and child hunger, and have contributed to other social problems. They want a provincial government that is responsive to the needs of Saskatchewan families for basic income security.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the Devine PC government has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan families, and its poor economic record has undermined their basic income security.

* For the past six years the PC government has frozen Family Income Plan benefits for low-income working families with children.

* The PC government's poor economic record has failed to create sufficient job opportunities for young people and working families, and has forced thousands of families to leave Saskatchewan in search of jobs and economic security elsewhere.

Our Commitment to Income Security

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the goal of basic income security for families in all Saskatchewan communities. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Work to achieve the goal of full employment for Saskatchewan men and women.
- * Ensure that people who can work receive more income from working than from not working.
- * Work to end child poverty through increased income supplements to working families with children who are living below the poverty line.
- * A New Democratic government will establish an effective Minimum Wage Board with equal representation from employees and employers, and will ensure the provision of pro-rated benefits for part-time workers.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to protect and strengthen the income security of all Saskatchewan families. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Jobs and Economic Development

Saskatchewan people want to work, and to contribute to the well-being of their families and the prosperity of our province. We don't have to wait for big business or wealthy outside investors. We need a provincial government that is able to provide sound economic management for our future. Together, we can get Saskatchewan working, providing jobs and prosperity for all.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the Devine PC government's record of economic mismanagement has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan families and on the Saskatchewan economy.

* From 1981 to 1990, Saskatchewan had the worst job creation record in Canada, and the number of unemployed people in Saskatchewan jumped by 62%.

* Since the Devine PC's first took office, there have been more than 10,000 business and consumer bankruptcies in Saskatchewan.

* The Devine PC's economic mismanagement has forced tens of thousands of Saskatchewan young people and families to move out of the province, in search of jobs and opportunities elsewhere.

Our Commitment to Jobs and Economic Development

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to work with all the sectors of our economy to provide jobs and opportunities for Saskatchewan people, and long-term economic prosperity for our communities and our province. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. A New Democratic government will:

* Undertake a public, independent audit of the province's financial affairs.

* Repeal the new, expanded 7 per cent PST. This will save the average family \$740 a year, boost Saskatchewan business, and protect the 7,500 jobs threatened by this PC tax increase.

* Develop a "Resources for the 90's" strategy to open global markets for Saskatchewan resources, creating jobs and profits here at home.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to providing jobs and economic opportunities for Saskatchewan's future. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Legal and Human Rights

Saskatchewan has a proud tradition of respect for the basic rights of individuals and minority groups. We want our provincial government to enhance those fundamental rights, and to strengthen the important democratic institutions that protect them.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government has shown its disregard for the fundamental rights of individuals and minority groups in Saskatchewan. It has undermined the independence and effectiveness of provincial institutions and services which protect those rights.

* The Devine PC government has undermined the independence of the Ombudsman, and has cut the staff of the Ombudsman's office by 20%.

* The Devine PC government has eroded the effectiveness of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission by failing to appoint sufficient commissioners and by cutting its staff.

Our Commitment to Legal and Human Rights

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the Saskatchewan tradition of respect and protection for the fundamental rights of individuals and minority groups in our free and democratic society. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Improve access to legal services with adequate counselling for all who require legal aid.
- * Strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the Ombudsman and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.
- * Promote education services to eliminate discrimination, sexism, and racism.
- * A New Democratic government will work to remove political patronage from judicial appointments.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to working with Saskatchewan people to protect and preserve the fundamental rights of individuals and minority groups. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Rural Communities

Rural communities are a fundamental part of Saskatchewan's unique way of life. People in these villages, towns and small cities are proud of their communities. They want a government that is committed to traditional Saskatchewan values and to community economic development.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The PC government's record of poor economic performance has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan's rural communities.

- * Provincial government job cuts in rural Saskatchewan, and the closure of rural post offices and rural schools have undermined our rural communities.
- * The PC government has unfairly shifted the tax load on to local municipalities and local property taxpayers. That PC tax shift has caused property taxes in Saskatchewan to become the second highest in Canada.
- * Instead of developing a long-term economic development plan, the PC government has betrayed local communities and pursued its mega-projects with big outside corporations like Cargill Grain.

Our Commitment to Rural Communities

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a positive vision for rural communities for the 1990's. By building on Saskatchewan's traditional values, we can improve the economic opportunities and quality of life in our rural communities. The first job will be to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Improve provincial government services and community-based economic development opportunities.
- * Provide effective support for rural co-operatives and business development committees.
- * Create jobs and opportunities in local communities through environmental enhancement and preservation initiatives.
- * Relieve the property tax burden in rural Saskatchewan.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a positive vision for our rural communities. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Northern Communities

Saskatchewan's North is a proud part of Saskatchewan's past, and an important part of our future. The North and northern people have enormous potential. But to realize that potential requires a provincial government that is sensitive to their concerns and responsive to their needs.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the PC government's record has imposed hardships on northern communities and northern people.

* Instead of working with communities to develop local economic opportunities, the PC government has entered into "sweetheart" deals with big outside corporations like Weyerhaeuser, giving this company control over thirteen million acres of forest land.

* The Devine PC government has given subsidies to big corporations, but eliminated the Northern Fresh Food Transportation Allowance. Today a loaf of bread costs as much as \$1.82 in northern communities.

Our Commitment to Northern Communities

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a positive vision for northern people and communities. We offer a government committed to working closely with northern people, in order to improve the economic opportunities and quality of life in our northern communities. The first job will be to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Work with northern people to develop new revenue sharing arrangements for northern communities.
- * Work with northern communities to implement a sustainable economic development plan to benefit all northern people.
- * Work with northern communities to improve the accessibility and quality of important community-based services, like health care and education.
- * Establish appropriate northern transportation subsidies for food, health care products, and other basic necessities.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a positive vision for northern Saskatchewan for the 1990's. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Seniors

Saskatchewan is proud of its senior citizens. They are our pioneers. Their hard work and determination helped to build our communities and our province. Their lives have demonstrated the strength of the traditional Saskatchewan values of co-operation, compassion, and courage. They have earned the right to a retirement of dignity and security. They deserve no less.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan senior citizens.

- * The Devine government supported the Mulroney government's attempt to de-index the pensions of our senior citizens, and supported the Mulroney government's GST.
- * The Devine PC government attacked the Prescription Drug Plan, and made needed prescription medication more expensive for seniors.
- * The PC government directly hurt the lowest-income seniors, by eliminating the scheduled \$1.1 million increase in Saskatchewan Income Plan benefits.

Our Commitment to Seniors

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to provide the assistance, support, and services our seniors need and deserve. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Support seniors who wish to remain in their own homes, and increase the range of options for senior citizens' housing, including home modifications, home care, and appropriate nursing home services.
- * Fight any attempts by the Mulroney government to undermine or reduce federal pension plans or old-age security benefits, and ensure the integrity of provincial pension plans.
- * Improve benefits and services to senior citizens under the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan.
- * Establish a Seniors' Protection Service, to provide consumer information and assistance to seniors.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the goals of security and dignity for our senior citizens. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91





Shelter

All Saskatchewan families deserve decent and affordable housing. Whether it's young families just starting out, or senior citizens wishing to retire in dignity and security, people know that decent and affordable shelter is an important part of the quality of life in our communities. They want a provincial government that is responsive to their needs.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years the Devine PC government has neglected the needs of Saskatchewan people for decent, affordable shelter, and its poor economic record has threatened the housing industry in our province.

* Since the PC government took office, basic housing and residential utility costs in Saskatchewan have jumped by 91%.

* In 1990 Saskatchewan had the lowest number of new housing starts in our history. That means lost jobs for working families and lost opportunities for small businesses in our communities.

Our Commitment to Shelter for Saskatchewan People

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to ensuring that Saskatchewan families and individuals have access to decent and affordable shelter. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Develop new options to facilitate home ownership through public housing and rent-to-own programs.
- * Strengthen co-operative housing programs, including "sweat equity" co-operatives, and co-operative apartment units.
- * Relieve the burden of residential property taxes in all Saskatchewan communities.
- * Increase the range of options for senior citizens' housing, including home modification, home care, and appropriate levels of nursing home care.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to the right of Saskatchewan people to decent and affordable housing. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Urban Communities

As our towns and cities grow and change, the problems facing them become more complex. In order for our urban communities to become even stronger and more dynamic, they need a government that is sensitive to their concerns and responsive to their needs.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

For ten years the PC government's record has imposed hardships on Saskatchewan's urban communities.

- * The PC government's cutbacks in provincial funding for municipalities have put severe pressure on local services and local property taxes.
- * Instead of developing a long-term economic development plan, the PC government has betrayed local communities and pursued its mega-projects with big outside corporations.
- * The PC government has undermined local democratic government, by arbitrarily abolishing the possibility of the ward system for local municipal elections.

Our Commitment to Urban Communities

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to working together with urban municipalities and community groups to improve economic opportunities and the quality of life for all urban residents as we move into the 1990's. The first job will be to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Work to keep down property taxes by working with municipalities to develop a fair and stable revenue sharing program they can count on, and by working toward providing 60% of school costs from provincial grants.
- * Improve provincial government services and community-based economic development opportunities.
- * Attack the problems of family poverty and child hunger in our urban communities.
- * We will respect the democratic rights of local residents by permitting local communities to choose to elect municipal councils under the ward system.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to a positive vision for Saskatchewan's urban communities for the 1990's. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91



Women

Saskatchewan women have a proud history of outstanding contributions to their families, to their communities, and to the development of our province. Today, women want a provincial government that recognizes their accomplishments, and understands their concerns. They want a government that will enable women to achieve economic and social equality. They deserve no less.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

The Devine PC government has failed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan women, and has broken its promises to treat women fairly and to provide jobs and opportunities for all.

* The PC government has failed to provide adequate education and training opportunities that meet women's needs for adequately paid, long-term jobs.

* For the past six years the PC government has frozen Family Income Plan benefits to low-income working families with children. Yet fifty-nine per cent of Saskatchewan families headed by women are living in poverty.

Our Commitment to Saskatchewan Women

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to meet the education, employment, and income security needs of Saskatchewan women, in order that they may realize their full potential and continue to contribute fully to the development of our province's future. The first job is to open up the books of the province, to determine the resources available to meet our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

* Work to achieve the goal of full employment for Saskatchewan working women and men.

* Implement pay equity, starting in the public sector.

* Strengthen and improve support for victims of family violence by establishing a comprehensive and community-based system of shelter services, and a Family Violence Crisis Line.

* A New Democratic government will establish an effective Minimum Wage Board with equal representation from employees and employers, and will ensure the provision of pro-rated benefits for part-time workers.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan women. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91





Working People

Saskatchewan's working men and women are the strength of our economy. In every community, it is working people who produce the goods and services we need for today, and for our future. Working families want a government that is sensitive to their concerns, and that is committed to basic fairness.

The PC Record: Can you afford four more years?

Over the past ten years, the PC government's record has imposed unfair hardship on Saskatchewan working people.

- * The PC government's poor economic record has caused lost jobs, and forced thousands of working families to leave Saskatchewan to find jobs and opportunities elsewhere. Since 1985, the net out-migration to other provinces has been 81,000 people.
- * The PC government has failed to enforce the basic laws of the province which should protect the rights of working people with respect to labour standards and occupational health and safety.
- * The PC government has granted costly favours and privileges to big outside corporations and its special friends, but has imposed extensive freezes on the minimum wage which directly affects 60,000 Saskatchewan working men and women.

Our Commitment to Working People

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to fairness for Saskatchewan working men and women. The first job is to open up the books of the province to determine the resources available for our priority commitments. As financial resources are available, Roy Romanow and the New Democrats will:

- * Work to achieve the goal of full employment for Saskatchewan working men and women.
- * Strengthen and improve Occupational Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation, for the protection and security of working people.
- * Implement pay equity, starting in the public sector, and facilitate the introduction of pay equity in other sectors.
- * A New Democratic government will establish an effective Minimum Wage Board with equal representation from employees and employers, and will ensure pro-rated benefits for part-time workers.

Roy Romanow and the New Democrats are committed to provide opportunity, security, and fairness to working people. It's the Saskatchewan way.

Election '91
