

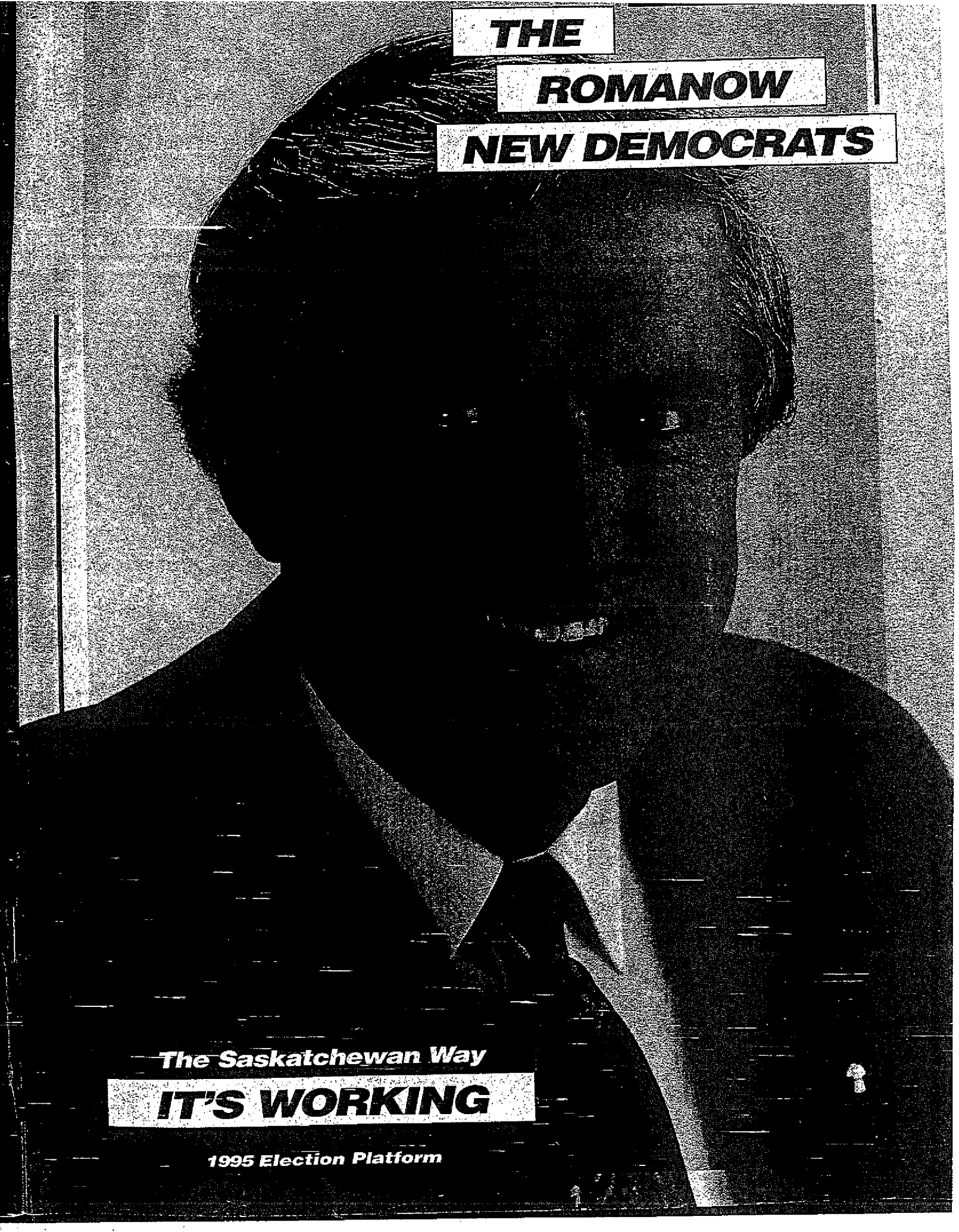


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The Saskatchewan New Democratic Party**

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A large, high-contrast, black and white portrait of Tommy Douglas, the first Premier of Saskatchewan. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a suit and tie, with his head slightly tilted. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

# **THE ROMANOW NEW DEMOCRATS**

**The Saskatchewan Way  
IT'S WORKING**

**1995 Election Platform**



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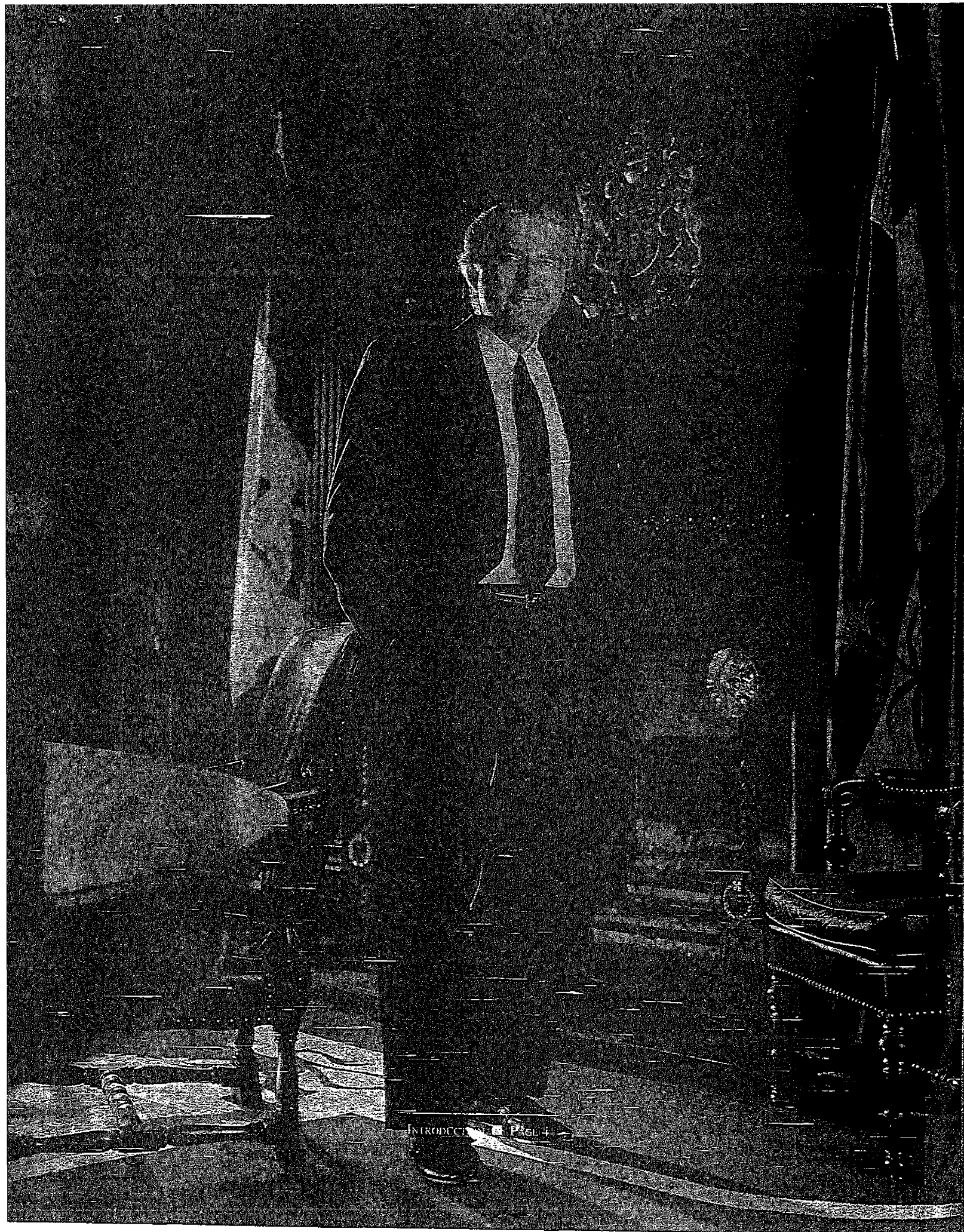
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1995 provincial election -  
Sask NDP





# A New Day Dawning In Saskatchewan

BY ROY ROMANOW

My friends, this election is about Saskatchewan's future. It's about who has the most credible plan to create jobs for young people; to reduce taxes and debt; to improve health and education; to maintain a balanced budget.

There's a new day dawning in Saskatchewan. A day which holds the promise of jobs and opportunities for all.

We stand at this new dawn of hope and opportunity because we have come together as a community these last four years.

We have met enormous challenges threatening our province. The Saskatchewan way of community, partnership and co-operation is working.

Four years ago, your New Democratic government took office and found Saskatchewan's finances and administration in chaos.

The people of Saskatchewan attacked the problem with determination.

In 1995 we introduced Saskatchewan's first balanced budget since 1982. The process has been tough, but together Saskatchewan people have regained the freedom to pursue our hopes and vision for this province.

Now, we come before you to seek a new mandate to keep the recovery going.

If you give us your support, I commit to you that your government will show the same determination in meeting Saskatchewan's job challenge as it has shown in meeting the deficit challenge.

## An Impressive Comeback

Things are looking up in Saskatchewan — our province is enjoying a real comeback. We're gaining thousands of jobs. Agriculture is diversifying. Our population has been growing for nine straight quarters. And our province is a leader in finding innovative ways to serve families and communities.

We can all be proud of the progress our province has made in the last four years — but there's a great deal of work still to be done.

Our plan builds on this progress, and sets out an agenda for the next four years.

## ■ Job creation and health care.

Our plan allocates one-third of all provincial surpluses to job creation and better health care.

## ■ Tax reduction.

Our plan allocates one-third of all provincial surpluses to tax relief.

I commit to you  
that we will show  
the same  
determination in  
working for jobs  
as we showed in  
eliminating the  
deficit.





■ **Debt reduction.** Our plan allocates one-third of all provincial surpluses to repay debt.

#### **The Realities We Still Face**

Let me add a word of caution about the challenges we still face. We have a mountain of unpaid 1980s debt. The interest on it costs almost as much, every year, as we invest in education.

That's why New Democrats are committed to a long-term plan to retire Saskatchewan's debt. It's also why our plan must be prudent and affordable.

Don't be misled by politicians who make expensive promises. Saskatchewan followed that path in the 1980s, and we'll be paying for it for many years.

#### **A New Approach To Governing**

There are sweeping changes today in Canada and the world, changes that put stress on families, communities and our way of life.

It's the duty of government to find the right policies and programs for a changing world.

As we look ahead to the next century, I see that the role of government will increasingly be to work in partnership with local communities.

In Saskatchewan we are making government more flexible, allowing for local input and decision-making.

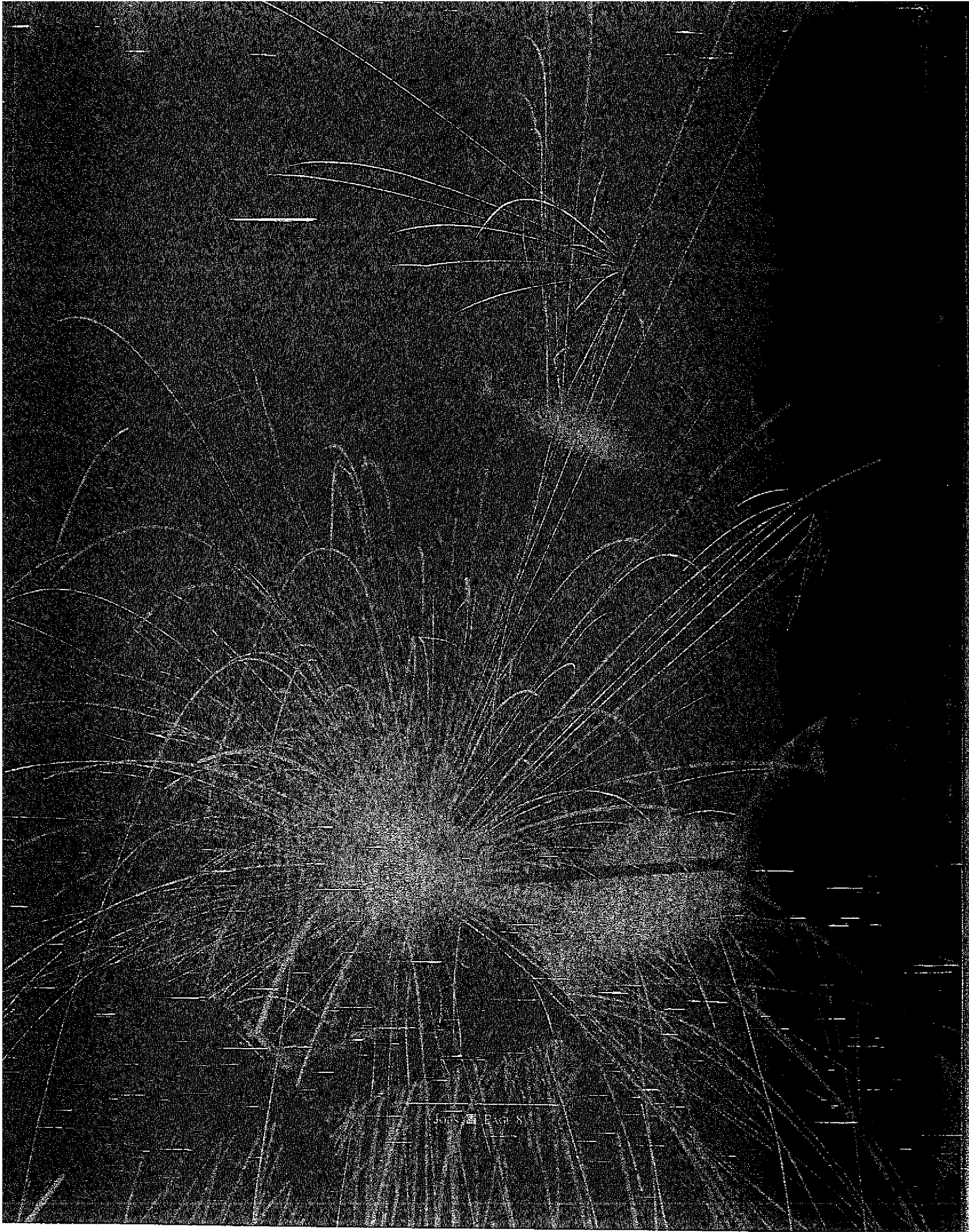
New Democrats believe in enabling people to find local solutions. That's why we have focused on new approaches, such as regional authorities for economic development; encouraging elected health boards to develop innovative local services; and helping parents design their own programs to keep their children in school.

Government based on partnership, on co-operation, and on communities – we've made an exciting start in the last four years. It's the Saskatchewan way, and it's working.

Together we have laid a foundation for an expanding economy, effective government, and strong communities. I invite you to join with us and help build our future together.

*Roy Romanow*





**S**askatchewan's economy is making a remarkable comeback. Our province has a balanced budget. We have Canada's lowest unemployment rate. Key industries are growing rapidly. We need to build on that progress — the Saskatchewan way. And we need to make sure that young people, in particular, have jobs and opportunities right here at home.

# Jobs

**The Romanow New Democrats' goal is full employment.**

We want all of our province's young people to have the opportunity to start careers and families right here in Saskatchewan.

We want every family to enjoy dignity and self-reliance. These are the building blocks of community and co-operation, the Saskatchewan way.

The Romanow New Democrats have made real progress towards these goals.

Four years of hard work and sacrifice has paid off for our province. We have balanced the budget — and it's going to stay that way. Our economy is growing rapidly. Saskatchewan has Canada's lowest unemployment rate.

There is more work to do.

Our plan for the next four years builds on the gains of our first term, and commits the government to working on job creation with the same energy and determination we used to balance the budget.



**Elected to office, we implemented a plan to get our province's house in order, and to restore confidence**

Four years ago, Saskatchewan's economy was in a lingering recession, worsened by the previous government's fiscal irresponsibility.

**\$842 million  
DEFICIT**

91-92

**\$592 million  
DEFICIT**

92-93

**\$272 million  
DEFICIT**

93-94

**94-95:  
DEFICIT  
ELIMINATED**

## A balanced budget

Real job creation couldn't begin until the province's financial mess was cleaned up.

That was the fundamental reason for the Romanow NDP government's balanced budget plan.

It's working. We eliminated the deficit in less than four years. Saskatchewan has a solid, sustainable, balanced budget for the first time since 1982 - and we are projecting surpluses for the rest of the decade.

It hasn't been easy. But by pulling together, the people of Saskatchewan have laid the groundwork for better times.

Saskatchewan's hard-won balanced budget is translating directly into growth and jobs, for three reasons.

● **We are regaining our financial freedom.**

We can invest in our province according to Saskatchewan priorities, with less and less worry about the bankers and bond dealers in Toronto and New York.

● **The pressure is off taxes.**

A balanced budget now permits us to plan what to do with surpluses.

Our plan for those surpluses: one-third of each year's surplus to pay down the debt; one-third to fairly and equitably reduce taxes; and one-third for jobs, better health care, and other services.

● **Uncertainty is ending - confidence is returning.**

With stability and a balanced budget, confidence is returning. So are jobs and investment.

**We moved quickly to help small business**

Having set the course on the deficit, your New Democratic government looked for ways to help our main job creators - small and medium-sized enterprises.

We acted to help small and medium-sized business in the most direct and effective way possible. We reduced their costs, by reducing their taxes.

● **We eliminated provincial sales tax on books, children's clothing, and restaurant meals. And we cancelled the previous government's GST "harmonization" plan to tax services - everything from taxi rides to haircuts.**

● **We cut small business income taxes by 20 percent, leaving more money to be reinvested in our best job-creating enterprises.**

We also moved to reduce the paper burden, and to simplify access to information for small and medium-sized business. For example, we created a "single window" system to deliver business support services through the Canada/Saskatchewan Business Service Centre. This "single window" will be expanded throughout the province during 1995.

**We spelled out a detailed plan to rebuild the economy - and got to work on implementing it**

In 1992 the Romanow government set a new course for Saskatchewan's economy with a detailed long-term economic plan - *Partnership for Renewal*.

We identified the strengths of the Saskatchewan economy and went to work systematically to build them up.

No more money-wasting mega-projects. This province found out in the 1980s that there are no short-cuts for jobs.

Instead, we are steadily building on Saskatchewan's strengths - the things we do best - through sector partnerships.

Hard work, co-operation, and a comprehensive plan are the keys.

Under our comprehensive economic plan, real jobs are being created by the key "clusters" in Saskatchewan's economy:

- agriculture and agri-food
- biotechnology
- information technology
- oil and gas
- mining
- forestry
- tourism

Sector-by-sector strategies are paying off in jobs for Saskatchewan.

The expansion of our province's economy has been highlighted by a number of important announcements this year.

## Job Growth

*Our economy is now producing new jobs consistently, month after month. Here are the last six months, compared to a year before:*

Month	Increase over a year ago
April	+6,000 jobs
March	+9,000 jobs
February	+9,000 jobs
January	+12,000 jobs
December	+15,000 jobs
November	+11,000 jobs

Four examples:

● **Flexicoil** announced an \$18 million expansion of its farm implements plant in Saskatoon. The expansion, over two years, will create 100 to 200 jobs a year, plus construction and spin-off jobs.

This Saskatchewan company, with more than 1,200 employees, is now Canada's largest farm machinery manufacturer.

● **In Biggar, Microgro International Research Inc.** opened a new, cutting-edge \$1.5 million greenhouse facility, with a specialized laboratory to follow (15 to 20 new jobs).

● **The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce** announced it will open an important new telephone banking centre in Regina.

CIBC came here because of our province's highly competitive cost of living, tax and utility rates, and skilled work force. This means 500 new jobs for Saskatchewan.

● **Hitachi Canadian Industries** announced it will invest in state-of-the-art production equipment for its Saskatoon plant - diversifying and modernizing its product line.

Major announcements like these are encouraging signs of a strong economy, but the best sign is strong growth across the board, in all key sectors - as we are now seeing in Saskatchewan.

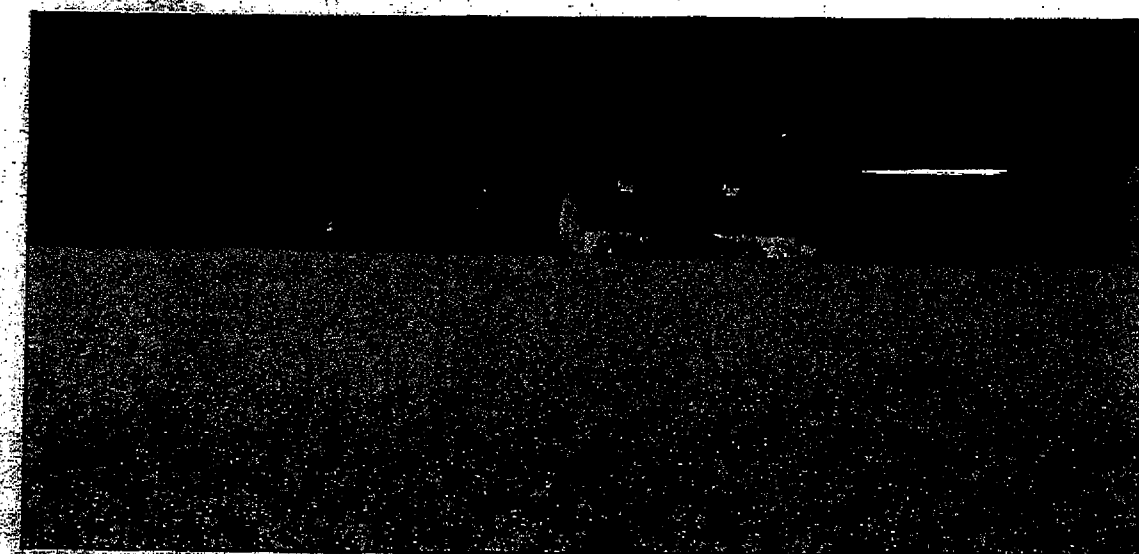
Our economic plan targets the key "clusters" of the Saskatchewan economy. Here's a progress report on each sector.

### The agriculture and agri-food strategy

Agriculture is the foundation of our province's economy. Your New Democratic government is working with the farm sector to build a stable, prosperous future for producers and the whole agri-food industry. The keys: diversification and new, value-added production.

Farmers today are making astute, market-oriented crop decisions. Diversification has given





a new face to agriculture in Saskatchewan.

Acres seeded to canola in 1994 increased by 42 percent over 1993. Field pea acreage was up 48 percent. Flax was up 57 percent. Durum was up 58 percent. Canary seed was up 60 percent. And mustard was up 75 percent.

Saskatchewan's cattle herd is the largest in 17 years.

The Saskatchewan pork industry is raising more animals than it has for 22 years.

We're helping this evolution by working towards market-neutral farm support programs.

● We implemented a new farm safety net including improved crop insurance.

That safety net provides producers with security while encouraging them to diversify and take advantage of market opportunities. The reward: producers are supported as they build a more stable, prosperous farm sector.

One example: in 1994 canola receipts increased by 85 percent over the previous year.

That made a major contribution to net farm income, which at over \$925 million was nearly double the 5-year average.

● We moved to build up the value-added side of our province's agriculture industry.

We are steadily, systematically and successfully building on Saskatchewan's strengths.

We are building towards expanding the value-added processing of farm products here in Saskatchewan — one of our province's best opportunities to create jobs. Durum wheat becomes pasta. Canola seed becomes cooking oil, margarine and other products. Grain becomes ethanol and mash for cattle.

Products like these can be processed here, and they repre-

sent some of our best opportunities to improve farm income and to create jobs.

● We are supporting new ideas in agriculture through the Agriculture Development Fund.

This \$12 million-a-year fund — focused on primary research — is our main provincial agricultural research program.

Through this fund, Saskatchewan is supporting applied research and development in all aspects of agriculture and food, in locations around the province.

This work is absolutely fundamental to the future of agriculture in Saskatchewan, as it has been in the past.

The development of new products, like canola; new livestock technology; improvements to dryland cultivation; and continuing work on diversification of cropping options are just a part of Saskatchewan's on-going research effort, in partnership with private researchers and other governments.

● We created the Agri-Food Innovation Fund to generate new ideas for markets, products, and jobs.

This \$27 million fund helps producers, co-operatives, and companies get new ideas and products ready for market.

● We created the Ag Equity Fund to get more value-added businesses up and running.

This \$20 million venture-capital fund will provide people in rural Saskatchewan with equity they need to turn good ideas into operating businesses.

These three programs work together, a step at a time, to move new ideas and products along, until they are put to work creating jobs and wealth for rural Saskatchewan.

In 1995 thousands of Saskatchewan people are employed in value-added, agri-food enterprises — and this is only the beginning.

## The biotechnology strategy

The Romanow government is encouraging the expansion of agricultural biotechnology, the business of improving existing farm products and inventing new ones.

As a tool to add value to farm production — and as an industry in its own right — biotech is a sector for the 21st century.

Innovation Place, at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, has developed a critical mass of biotechnology companies and research facilities that will provide our farmers with state-of-the-art technology and our manufacturers with products that have a global demand.

There are now 26 biotechnology businesses in Saskatchewan.

almost all of them involved in agricultural biotechnology, compared to five in 1989.

Saskatchewan is now home to 30 per cent of Canada's agricultural biotechnology sector. Saskatoon has fast become Canada's number one agricultural biotechnology centre.

Over 1,200 scientists and technicians are working on agricultural biotechnology projects in Saskatoon alone.

A key challenge the industry is regulated by three different federal departments: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada and Environment Canada.

A number of different directorates, laws and regulations are applied by each of these departments, depending on the product.

As a tool to add value to farm production, biotech is a sector for the 21st century.

## New products, new ideas for Saskatchewan

Some of the areas Saskatchewan scientists are working on include:

**Food:** New products, new food-processing techniques, enhanced taste and quality; production of vitamins and health supplements.

**Crops:** Reduced maturation time, increased stress tolerance, increased disease and pest resistance, increased yields, new crops, new growing techniques.

**Animals:** Increased disease resistance, increased feed efficiency, improved stock genetics, improved animal health.

**The environment:** Environmentally-friendly bioherbicides and bioinsecticides, improved use of soil/root relationships, waste management by natural means, bioprocessing of forestry products.

— The Agbiotech Infosource, AgWest Biotech, Saskatoon



The result is a stringent, but sometimes overly complex, approval and regulatory process.

Your government has been working hard in partnership with scientists and Saskatchewan firms to negotiate a tight, effective product approval process.

### The information technology strategy

The world economy is changing and Saskatchewan has an opportunity to be at the forefront.

- Computers have become essential tools in most enterprises, and are increasingly common in the home.
- Saskatchewan has over 10,000 kilometres of fibre optics, the highest per capita application of this technology in the world.
- We also have the largest interactive distance training network in Canada: the Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN).

Tie these together – wide use of computers, a world-class network, information and training resources – and we have the infrastructure we need for the economy of the 21st century.

The world economy is changing, and Saskatchewan has an opportunity to be at the forefront.

Putting Saskatchewan on the "information highway" means new skilled jobs.

- In 1995, we're taking a step towards that future as SaskTel makes Internet available to every household. Internet connects people to information and millions of computer users around the world.

- We set up a Software Technology Centre in Regina to promote one of the world's fastest-growing industries – the development of software.

- And we introduced a Research and Technology Commercialization Plan to help firms develop and market new technological products.

Saskatchewan is building a world reputation in information technology. Some highlights:

SaskTel was a contractor on the France-to-Britain "channel." SaskTel and its partner, Nortel, secured a \$46 million contract to build fibre-optic networks in Chicago and Detroit.

Recently SaskTel won a \$36 million contract to help build a national telecommunication in the Philippines, and a \$10 million contract in Tanzania – examples of how our rural experience provides a competitive advantage.

This international marketing of Saskatchewan expertise brings in export dollars and creates jobs here. From 1991-93 our information technology sector grew at most 10 percent from 34,000 to 37,414 jobs.

### The oil and gas strategy

Our oil and gas industry is a key part of our provincial economy.

In 1993, we implemented a balanced package of royalty, tax and incentive changes.

Those changes encouraged the industry to reactivate old wells and drill new ones, on fair terms for Saskatchewan taxpayers who own the resource.

The response was dramatic.

Sales of Saskatchewan crude oil were up 15 percent in 1994 over the previous year. Natural gas was up almost 10 percent.

Investment in Saskatchewan's oil and gas sector topped \$1 billion in 1994 – a 30 percent increase in one year.

All this means jobs. For example, jobs in the oil and gas sector in the Swift Current area almost doubled between 1992 and 1994 – from 1,200 to more than 2,000.

Growth in the oil and gas industry helps the whole economy. Businesses and co-ops are hiring to fill orders from the oil and gas sector. Provincial revenues from oil and gas were up \$225 million in 1994.

Oil and gas is a volatile industry. Activity will continue to accelerate and decelerate in step with international prices. But the trend is clear: in 1991 there were 9,900 people employed in the oil and gas industry in Saskatchewan. In 1994 there were 13,200.

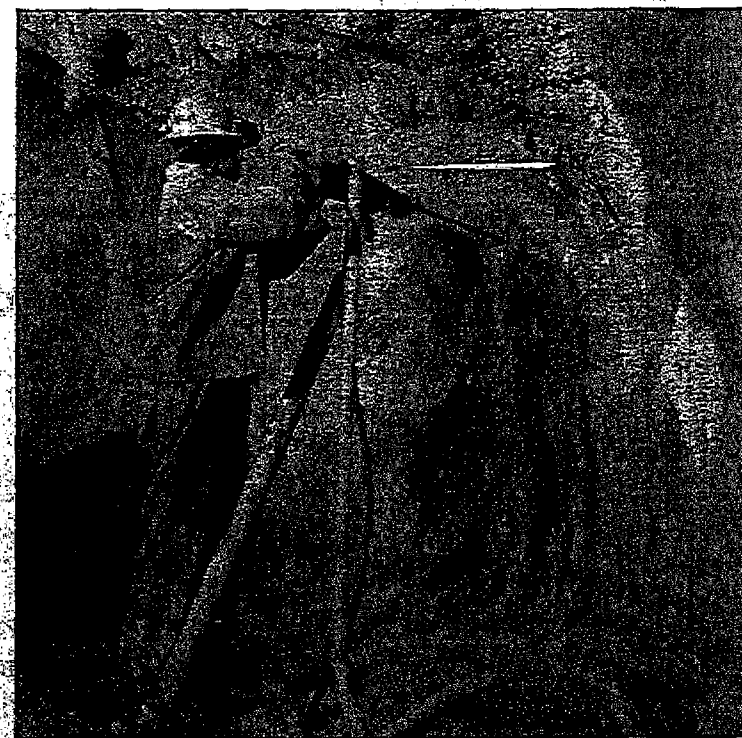
### The mining strategy

Saskatchewan's mining industry received a major boost in the past four years, with new mines at Contact Lake, Cluff Lake and McLean Lake.

Operating under strict environment and safety standards, these mines provide training and hundreds of jobs to Northerners.

Equally important, the new mines send a strong signal to the industry that safe, modern mining has a real future in Saskatchewan.

The reward: the industry is growing again. Province-wide, mineral staking tripled last year.



Potash sales reached \$1.1 billion in 1994, up from \$799 million the previous year.

Gold sales are set to boom in 1995 as the largest gold mine ever developed in Saskatchewan (Contact Lake) reaches full production.

In 1991 there were 16,000 people employed in mining in Saskatchewan. In 1993 there were 17,150.

### The forestry strategy

Your New Democratic government has worked steadily to develop a sustainable, modern Saskatchewan forest industry.

An example: In May of this year the Government of Saskatchewan and MacMillan Bloedel announced a partnership to build a new, oriented strandboard mill in Hudson Bay (150 new jobs).

Oriented strandboard is made from layered thin strands of poplar and birch, combined with a bonding agent, and pressed into panels – an increasingly popular, more environment-friendly, value-added construction material for roofs, walls and floors.

Another example: In February 1995, the NDP government announced an ambitious reforestation program. Over 2 million seedlings will be planted annually under this program, creating over 200 jobs targeted to youth in Northern Saskatchewan.

Exports of manufactured Saskatchewan wood products were up 30.6 percent in 1994 over the previous year.

In 1991 there were 12,136 people employed in forestry and wood products industries in Saskatchewan. In 1994 there were 12,676 employed.





## The tourism strategy

In 1994 the NDP government established Canada's first provincial Tourism Authority—a partnership with industry to market Saskatchewan's tourist attractions.

Tourism in Saskatchewan is on the upswing. For example, over 6,000 tourists visited the T-Rex near Estevan, generating more than \$700,000 in additional business for the local community. Outfitters report that their business doubled in 1994.

## Expanding trade: A key to economic recovery

Saskatchewan derives 35 percent of its gross domestic product by selling to out-of-province customers. The key economic "clusters" targeted by the NDP government in our development strategy are all export-oriented.

To create more jobs, we are expanding our traditional markets and developing new ones in the United States, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Pacific Rim.

Government can help by working with Saskatchewan exporters to find new customers.

- We are setting up Saskatchewan's new Trade Development Corporation as part of our strategy to implement a comprehensive export strategy. In partnership with Saskatchewan enterprises.
- We also set up the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation to help businesses expand into new markets.

The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation has \$6 million available to invest in helping Saskatchewan enterprises launch products into export markets.

## Overall, our plan is making good progress — with more to come

Instead of sky-high deficits and soaring debt, the Romanow government has balanced the budget and is working to shrink the debt.

In place of hit-and-miss mega-projects, the NDP government is following a comprehensive development strategy.

Here is one of the most encouraging signs of a province on the rebound. We are maintaining Canada's lowest unemployment rate, and our population has grown for nine straight quarters. It now stands at 1,017,200 — up more than 12,000.

Good progress for a first term. But there is more to do. Our plan makes jobs the top priority for the next term — we'll work on creating them with the same determination we applied to balancing the budget.

# New Jobs Initiatives For A Second Term

Our province is enjoying a strong economic comeback — and we're doing it the Saskatchewan way.

We'll build on that success, working on job creation with the same energy and determination we applied to balancing the budget. Under our plan:

- We'll take care of the basics. A balanced budget, help for small business, and a systematic plan to build up the key sectors of our economy.
- We'll make jobs for young people a top priority.
- We'll improve workforce training.
- We'll make careful targeted investments in research and development and infrastructure — the basic building blocks of our economy.
- And we'll encourage community economic development — where government becomes a partner to help local people achieve their economic and social goals, and build their communities.



## JOB CREATION: THE FIRST PRIORITY

Our goal is full employment in an economy in which our young people will have the chance to start their careers and then find the right place in Saskatchewan.

To achieve our goal, we have to take care of basics that's exactly what we'll do, through:

**Balanced budgets:** Our commitment is to maintain a balanced budget for each of the next four years.

**Small and medium-sized business:** To help provide a good climate for small business.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Encourage job creation with targeted tax reductions, one-third of all budgetary purposes over the next four years.

Our balanced budget plan allocates \$262 million over four years for tax reduction.

Our plan targets 20 per cent of this sum directly to tax incentives for small and medium-sized enterprise. So far we have:

- Reduced the manufacturing and processing profits tax.
- Created an investment tax credit for manufacturing and processing, and
- Reduced the aviation fuel tax.

Our plan also maintains our 20 per cent reduction in the small business corporation income tax rate. Saskatchewan's small business tax rate is now the second lowest of all provinces west of Quebec.

**A sectoral strategy:** We'll stay on track with our economic plan, *Partnership for Renewal*, building the key clusters of our economy.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Provide broad support for diversification and value-added production in our agriculture industry.
- Maintain competitive royalties, taxes and incentives in the oil and gas industry.
- Encourage expansion in the information technology sector.
- Promote the expansion of biotechnology.
- Encourage mining development.
- Pursue value-added development in the forestry sector.
- Promote the tourism and hospitality industry.
- Continue to build and implement an interprovincial and international export strategy in partnership with Saskatchewan enterprises.

## A PLAN TO CREATE JOBS FOR YOUTH

We are committed to making jobs for young people a top priority.

A major obstacle facing young people in the job market today is lack of prior work experience.

Our initiatives will provide training, reduce barriers to entering the workforce, and give young men and women real work experience.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

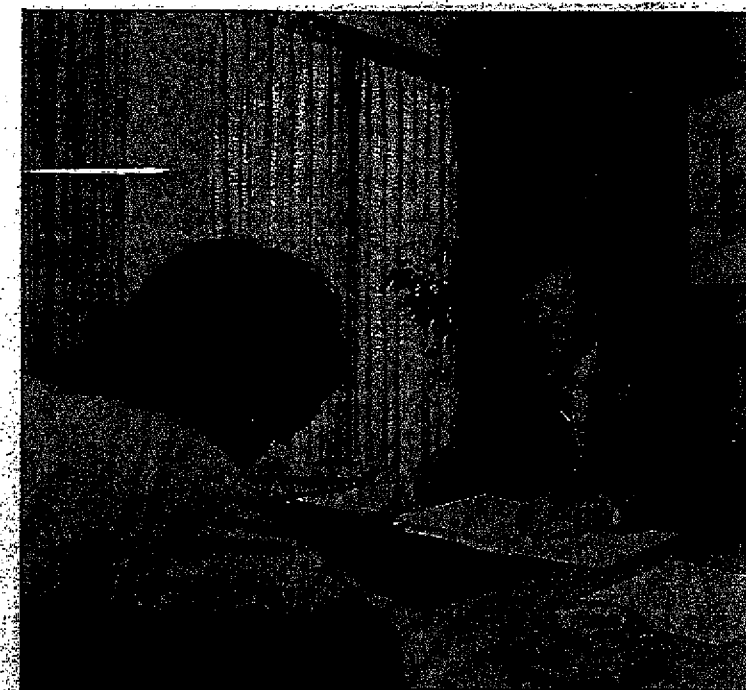
- Implement JobStart, an integrated set of job and training opportunities for youth.

JobStart will help ensure that young men and women have the opportunity to live, work, and build their futures here in Saskatchewan.

JobStart will match up youth who are ready to work, with employers who have work and training to offer. The program has several parts:

- **The Quick Skills training option:** Helps high school graduates and youths who have been out of school for at least a year. It provides classroom and/or worksite training for up to 20 weeks, providing young people with the skills to meet immediate industry needs.
- **Youth at Work** is designed for young people aged 17 to 25 on provincial social assistance. Financial assistance of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per job is available to employers to help with training costs and wages to provide new jobs and a new start.
- **Bridges to independence** is designed for young, single parents on social assistance. Our goal is to offer a wide range of help for these people who face extra problems finding meaningful work. Up to 50 support groups will be established throughout Saskatchewan.

Many new jobs require an ever-rising level of skill.



der our plan to help develop career plans and to explore ways to overcome barriers to employment and to create business opportunities.

## NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Many new jobs—and almost all of the best jobs—require an ever-rising level of skill.

In today's economy, people with jobs need to continuously upgrade their skills. People looking for work can better their chances of finding it by improving their skills. That's why training is key to a brighter future for Saskatchewan people.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Expand training, make it more responsive to the needs of the economy, and emphasize on-the-job training in key growth sectors.



We'll get to work on this through the Future Skills program, which links training directly to real jobs.

Future Skills will help businesses provide training to meet the immediate needs of Saskatchewan industries for skilled workers. Unemployed workers and social assistance recipients have priority for on-the-job and skills training.

As of April 30, 1995, 52 projects were already approved under the Future Skills training program, and another 19 projects were in the development stage.

SEATE technical institutes and regional colleges will be able to make quick responses to industry needs, with training programs that result in immediate employment.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Work to provide coherent, improved, single-window access to training.

Currently there are many overlapping federal and provincial training programs.

We'll address this by completing and implementing a Labour Force Development Agreement to co-ordinate training programs and to eliminate duplication.

This agreement will also pro-

vide for community involvement in planning improved information and counselling.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Implement a Multi-Party Training Plan for Northern Saskatchewan.

Northern Saskatchewan has a rich resource base and high unemployment. To create special measures to make sure Northern people can get jobs in the North.

Under our plan governments, Aboriginal agencies and the mining industry will work together to provide Northerners with skills they need to secure jobs in mining and other Northern industries.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Work with employers, workers, men and women, and communities to devise new, improved approaches to training.

We'll co-operate with these partners to improve work-based training for real jobs. We'll work with them to improve education and training levels, because time off work to upgrade skills is critical in today's economy.

## **INVESTING IN SASKATCHEWAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

A trading province like Saskatchewan needs efficient roads, transportation, and utilities.

Infrastructure investments create jobs today while building a competitive economy.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Co-ordinate and focus investment in Saskatchewan roads, transportation, and utilities.

In 1994-95, the Saskatchewan government and crown corporations spent over \$700 million on infrastructure improvements.

Under our plan, the Saskatchewan government and crown corporations will invest over \$825 million in capital projects in 1995-1996.

This sum, as announced in the Saskatchewan budget in February 1995, is generated from within existing crown corporation and government budgets.

Capital spending under our plan is prioritized to achieve the maximum effect in improved transport, communications, and utilities, and new jobs.

Investments include projects like:

- Saskatchewan's \$128 million gas reserve development in northwestern Saskatchewan.
- The Wakaw-Humboldt water supply project.
- A bioremediation facility in Saskatoon to help the biotechnology sector grow.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Create a \$30 million fund to support a new Saskatchewan Transportation 2000 Corporation. And:
- Work to double the entire length of Highway One and the Yellowhead Highway.

Saskatchewan has already invested over \$54 million double-laning these highways in the past three years.

We will press the federal government to live up to its responsibilities to work in partnership to continue developing these national transportation corridors.

In the meantime, we will continue the work ourselves.

The Saskatchewan Transportation 2000 Corporation will work in partnership with municipalities and potential private sector partners to continue work on double-laning highways 1 and 16.

The Corporation will also provide our province with a new instrument to begin to deal with the impacts of the Liberal Crow-Benefit elimination (for more on this, see our section on Northern and Rural Saskatchewan).



## **SUPPORTING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

Information technology and agricultural biotechnology are "sunrise industries" that demonstrate the benefits of research and development.

R & D builds the future in every economic field. That's where new ideas and new products come from. In today's economy, advances are dramatically changing both resource and manufacturing activities into knowledge-intensive, information-rich, value-added activities — changing the way things are done in sometimes revolutionary ways.

Here's one example: the application of missile guidance technology from France to the oil sector helped produce horizontal drilling.

Horizontal drilling has enhanced the recovery of oil from previously non-economic wells — dramatically improving results.

Approximately \$150 million is invested annually in research and development in Saskatchewan from all sources.

A key part of our plan to build diversification and prosperity involves ensuring our economy gets the best possible value from this investment.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

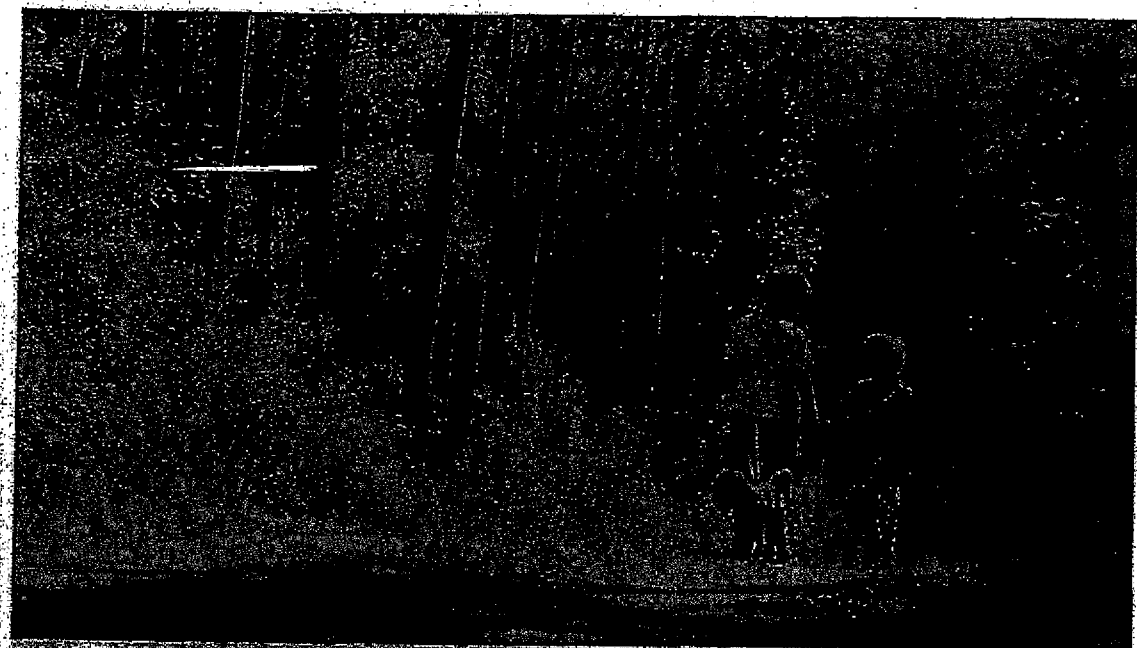
- Co-ordinate and focus investment in research and development by implementing and building on a Research and Technology Commercialization Plan.

Priorities for the next term under this plan:

- Getting players involved in R&D in Saskatchewan to work together in partnership, including industry, research organizations, educational institutions, governments, and crown corporations;







● Through these partnerships, focusing research and technology resources around our province's economic priorities, value-added jobs in our key clusters using industry-led task forces.

● Increasing access by small and medium-sized businesses to research and technology through a comprehensive technology commercialization service, and establishment of an advanced technology industry association; and

● Helping to ensure investment in R&D earns a return, by supporting the conversion of new research ideas into competitive products and processes.

## SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Ensuring jobs in the future depends on sensible management of our province's resources. One of the ways we'll do this:

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

■ Work with industry to make a long-term commitment to sustainable management of forests, and dramatically increase reforestation.

Our 2-million seedling reforestation program, announced in February 1995, is a start on this priority.

## GOVERNMENT AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNITIES

Increasingly, communities have to take charge of their own economic destiny.

The provincial government can provide a stable environment, supportive policies, and good infrastructure, but most jobs will be created locally.

New Democrats aim for government that helps local communities fix their own problems.

...will be to direct an

An NDP government will provide the tools local communities can pick them up and use them to build their own futures and their own kinds of development.

It's called community economic development, and it's an approach we'll continue to build on.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

■ Commit government to a helping role in community economic development.

The Romanow government will do this by working with locally based organizations to promote community participation in development — especially participation by those groups that have a direct stake in community job creation.

During our first term, we implemented a key component of our economic development strategy, *Partnership For Renewal*, by helping to launch 11 "Regional Economic Development Authorities" (REDAs) across Saskatchewan.

REDAs are run by elected officials and leaders drawn from local communities.

Their job is to put local communities in the driver's seat, planning and implementing their own development.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

■ Complete the network of locally-run development authorities to cover areas of the province that want them.

■ Implement a skills and staff upgrade program to make sure development authorities have the staff resources to do their job.

This will involve matching funding to maintain skilled development staff in local communities.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

■ Build community economic development into our jobs training and education initiatives.

This way we'll not only train people for jobs — we'll also train those interested in creating their own jobs and improving their communities.

## Our commitments:

Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

■ Continue with a comprehensive economic plan, building on Saskatchewan's strongest economic sectors:

- Our province will maintain a balanced budget and reduce the debt.
- The government will continue to lower costs and taxes for small business and co-ops.
- Saskatchewan will continue our "Partnership for Renewal" strategies in agriculture and agri-food, oil and gas, information technology, mining, ag biotech, forestry, and tourism.

■ Introduce a Saskatchewan Youth Jobs Initiative, JobStart — linking young people to jobs that provide useful work and good experience.

■ Expand training by implementing Future Skills and by bringing government, employers, and labour together to provide more effective training for real jobs.

■ Focus Saskatchewan Infrastructure Investment in transportation, communication, and utilities, geared to meet the needs of the economy and to create jobs.

We'll launch a Saskatchewan Transportation 2000 Corporation, with a \$30 million fund.

■ Focus Saskatchewan research and development investment to develop new products, services, and technology.

■ Work with industry for sustainable resource management, beginning with reforestation. And

■ Put communities in the drivers' seat of their own development, by offering them the tools they need for local job creation.



**S**askatchewan has a balanced budget for the first time since 1982. We did it the Saskatchewan way – by living within our means. The challenge now: to begin paying down the debt, and to make sure Saskatchewan never gets into this kind of financial mess again.

# Balanced Budgets

## **The New Democratic Party's goal is financial freedom for Saskatchewan.**

We want our province to be free from deficits and excessive debt for some very good reasons:

■ High deficits lead to a regressive and unfair transfer of wealth from taxpayers to bondholders.

■ High deficits mean high interest payments, which squeeze out funding that should go to provide high-quality public services.

■ And high deficits undermine democracy. In a heavily indebted province bankers and brokers call the shots, not the voters.

Financial freedom liberates us to build our province: to create jobs; to reduce taxes; to invest in infrastructure, education and training, in improved health care and other initiatives for the 21st century.

Escaping from deficits, debt, and interest means we are free to build prosperity and to improve the quality of life of citizens. That's what frugal, common-sense good government in Saskatchewan is all about.

We've come a long way in just four years – balancing the budget for the first time since 1982. We need to build on that progress – and make sure we never end up in the same mess again.



## Elected to office, we found Saskatchewan's finances in a mess

Four years ago, our province had the highest per capita deficit in Canada — \$842 million.

It was the tenth deficit in a row.

Between 1982 and 1991, Saskatchewan accumulated an average of a billion dollars a year in debt.

Those billions were borrowed from investors like mutual funds, insurance companies, and trust companies — mostly outside Saskatchewan.

Every year we have to pay those investors interest. In 1994, interest payments cost Saskatchewan taxpayers \$881 million.

Big numbers are just big numbers, but consider what paying \$881 million in interest payments every year really means:

- That \$881 million is equal to 80 percent of all provincial income taxes collected from individuals in Saskatchewan (1994: \$1.072 billion).

- Those interest payments cost more than our province collected in sales taxes (\$850 million in sales and tobacco taxes in 1994).

- The government spends almost as much on interest payments as on education (\$902 million).

We're no further ahead for spending money on interest payments. Most of it goes straight out of the province.

This was a financial mess we couldn't permit to continue.

It wasn't fair. Interest payments come from the taxes of working families in Saskatchewan, and end up in the pockets of mostly

higher-income, out-of-province bondholders.

It wasn't good government. Every dollar of that \$881 million is a dollar that's not available for tax relief or better services.

It was going to keep getting worse. Each new deficit would increase the accumulated debt — increasing the yearly interest costs.

This was a financial mess we couldn't permit to continue.

It was threatening our province's democracy. Every year we went back to borrow more from the brokers and bankers, they were getting a bigger say in how Saskatchewan ran its affairs.

## We implemented a coherent, long-term plan

In March 1992, Premier Roy Romanow introduced a deficit elimination plan. That plan was built around four key policies:

### ■ We introduced common sense good management

We committed the government to eliminating wasteful and unnecessary spending — and we meant it, achieving real savings.

### ■ We straightened out mega-projects

We got to work on renegotiating mega-project deals that needlessly wasted taxpayers' money.

### ■ We imposed spending control

We began the difficult job of ensuring that health, education, family services and other programs live within the province's means.

Provincial programs now cost \$4,200 per citizen in Saskatchewan — the lowest "cost of government" in Canada. Every other province in Canada spends more (see table on next page for details).

### ■ We moved to paying as you go

Finally, we established a basic goal. We committed ourselves to ending Saskatchewan's dependence on debt to pay for programs.

Instead, our goal is to pay for frugally administered, well-managed services as we go, through a system of fair, sustainable taxes — based on ability to pay.

## Common sense good management

The Roy Romanow government cut waste and inefficiency in hundreds of ways, big and small, in every government department and in every crown corporation. Here are just a few examples:

- We froze MLA salaries. We cut cabinet ministers' salaries by 5 percent and froze them at the new, lower level.

- Instead of sending out brand new health care cards to all Saskatchewan residents, we are sending a sticker so that people can keep on using the cards they already have. This simple measure saved taxpayers \$200,000 a year.

- We cut spending on government advertising and polling, saving an average of \$8 million a year.

- We added two years to the service life of highway signs, and saved \$400,000.

## The Leanest, Most Efficient Government In Canada

After four years of careful management, our provincial government is now the most efficient and frugal in Canada.

Province	Operating expenditures per citizen — 1995/96
British Columbia	\$5,441
Newfoundland	5,138
Quebec	5,076
Prince Edward Island	4,982
New Brunswick	4,864
Alberta	4,401
Nova Scotia	4,396
Ontario	4,339
Manitoba	4,251
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	<b>4,200</b>

Source: Saskatchewan Finance Department

- SaskEnergy and SaskPower returned to mailing bills in the same envelope, saving \$725,000 a year.

- Sask Property Management Corporation reduced the use of government vehicles for a saving of \$177,000.

- Government departments were reorganized to eliminate duplication and overlap, saving \$5 million a year.

## We straightened out the mega-projects

During the 1980s, the previous government committed some \$1.5 billion of taxpayers' money to mega-projects in the form of equity loans and loan guarantees.

Many of these projects were simply bad deals for the taxpayer — poorly negotiated and over-priced. We committed ourselves to getting a better deal for the taxpayer.

So far, so good. Four years and many well-publicized battles later, we have improved the taxpayers' position by over \$500 million.

## We set the goal of living within our province's means

We said during the 1991 election campaign that the provincial government should be able to live on \$4.5 billion — roughly the amount the Saskatchewan government spent in 1990.

In the past four years, the Romanow government lived within less than that amount.

Spending on programs other than interest payments dropped from \$4.39 billion in 1991 to \$4.27 billion in 1994.

Stabilizing spending was no easy achievement.

Our province owes the people who work in health, education, municipal government, and other public services a real debt of gratitude for their efforts to maintain and improve services, now that the days of ever-increasing spending are over.

## We set the goal of paying as you go

New Democrats' goal is to run the provincial government's finances with the same frugal common sense that the people of Saskatchewan use to run their own households. That means putting away the provincial credit card, and paying as we go for what we really need.

Four years after the election of the NDP government, we have a balanced budget, and we are paying for provincial investment in education, health, and services with one of the fairest tax and utility rate systems in Canada.

One of the key benefits of a balanced budget is that it makes it possible to start reducing taxes.

At the end of the Romanow government's first term, things are looking a lot better than they did four years ago. Our province is paying as we go for the first time since 1982, with a balanced budget. Good progress for a first term — but there is more to do.



# New Finance Initiatives For A Second Term

Our province has a balanced budget for the first time since 1982.

The Romanow New Democrats will continue to manage public finances in a responsible, balanced and frugal manner if re-elected. And we'll build on Saskatchewan's impressive financial turnaround with a comprehensive plan to address four key issues:

- We need to get to work paying down Saskatchewan's debt. Every \$100 million we can pay off saves about \$10 million a year in interest costs.

- We need to begin easing back on tax rates, as the debt comes down and financial resources are freed up.

- We have to maintain affordable budgets in areas like job creation, health, and education, while financing the improved services that Saskatchewan will need for the 21st century.

- We need to carry through on new budget rules that will prevent future governments from ever again getting Saskatchewan into the financial mess we saw in the 1980s.

BALANCED BUDGET

## A FORMULA FOR PROSPERITY

Saskatchewan's budget has been balanced. This means that continued good financial management can start producing small, hard-earned budget surpluses.

In the 1995 provincial budget, the Romanow New Democrats set out a four-year financial plan for Saskatchewan.

Our financial plan provides for budget surpluses every year through to the end of the century.

It specifies that these budget surpluses will be used for three priority areas:

- \$289 million over four years is allocated to pay down debt. In addition, we forecast that crown corporations will reduce their debt by about \$900 million.

- \$262 million over four years is allocated to reduce taxes.

- \$232 million over four years is allocated for jobs and health care.

This financial management plan outlines the formula Saskatchewan would follow under our plan: one-third of surpluses for debt retirement. One-third for tax reductions. One-third for jobs and health care.

The four-year financial management plan provides the framework for securing Saskatchewan's financial future. Achieving it is not automatic. For success, it requires good management and a government that has proven it is willing to hold the line on spending.

Politicians who promise irresponsible giveaways or unaffordable tax cuts will put us back to 1982 — right back on the deficit treadmill.

Saskatchewan New Democrats are committed to a government that lives within its means.

## DEBT REDUCTION

During the free-spending and irresponsible Conservative government, an average of \$1 billion per year was added to Saskatchewan's total debt.

Spending will be \$175 million lower in 1998-99 than in 1990-91 — the last full year of the Conservative government.

In the New Democrats' first term in office, we stopped adding to this debt.

The budget is now balanced. In fact, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1995 a surplus of \$119 million was achieved.

Balancing the budget is not enough.

As a result of the Conservative government's spending spree, we have government debt, Crown corporation debt, and outstanding loan guarantees totalling over \$14 billion.

For every \$100 million in debt we repay, we save about \$10 million per year in interest charges. \$10 million per year, forever. That money can be used to lower taxes, improve services, or pay down even more debt.

The process of paying down Saskatchewan's debt has begun. In 1994-95, the total debt of the province was reduced by over half a billion dollars.

BALANCED BUDGETS ■ PAGE 29

The financial management plan calls for the total debt of Saskatchewan to be reduced by \$1.2 billion from 1994 to 1999 — \$289 million by government, approximately \$900 million by crown corporations.

This means that our total provincial debt will decline from 70 percent of our Gross Domestic Product in 1994 to 51 percent in 1999.

## Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Devote approximately 1/3 of budget surpluses to repaying the province's debt.

- We will implement the financial management plan to reduce Saskatchewan's total government and crown corporation debt by \$1.2 billion by 1999.

## TAX REDUCTION

Eliminating the deficit and reducing the debt also means that taxes can be reduced.

However, we must not forget the lessons of the 1980's, when irresponsible and unaffordable tax cuts started the deficit spiral.

Unaffordable tax cuts lead to deficits, and ultimately to more taxes.

Any tax cuts must be affordable, and sustainable. Affordable tax cuts are ones that are here to stay.

The process of reducing taxes has already begun. In the 1995 budget, the NDP reduced the Debt Reduction Surtax by up to \$300 for families with two income-earners.

This tax cut was affordable — it can be sustained into the future.



This tax cut was fair – every person who pays income tax will receive a tax break. The level of saving was capped to ensure that high income earners did not receive disproportionate benefits.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Devote approximately one-third of budget surpluses towards fair and sustainable tax reductions.

As the province's finances allow, we will target the Debt Reduction Surtax for further cuts, as well as the Education and Health Tax.

### **JOBS AND BETTER HEALTH CARE**

There are many things that need doing in the province of Saskatchewan to prepare this province for the 21st century.

This platform outlines the New Democrats' priorities for the future.

Job creation and training.

Improvements in Health Care.

Building for the future.

These are the priorities for Saskatchewan people. However, any program improvements must be affordable and sustainable.

Our financial management plan earmarks about one-third of future surpluses towards improvements in vital programs.

Implementing our financial management plan, including our commitments to jobs and health care, will mean that government operating expenses will still be \$175 million lower in 1998-99 than they were in 1990-91 – the last full year of the Conservative government.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Devote approximately one-third of budget surpluses to jobs, better health care and other investments in people.

During the past term in office, we implemented the practice of providing long-term, advance notice about funding to our partners in education, health, and municipal governments.

Because of the financial crisis that faced the province, the news has not always been good.

However, these levels of government have had the benefit of extensive notice to prepare and do their own financial planning. That's good management.

With the 1995 budget, the NDP government has told school boards, health districts, and municipal governments that the most difficult phase is over. The deficit has been eliminated.

Unless unpredictable circumstances intervene, there will be no further spending reductions in third party transfers to these services and levels of government.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Provide a stable, multi-year provincial funding environment for key public services like health, education, and municipal government.

### **A BALANCED BUDGET LAW**

The best guarantee of balanced budgets is to elect leaders who are responsible financial managers. No matter what laws might say, you still need a government that can live within budgets, manage

effectively, and use public money wisely.

The Romanow New Democrats were the first government in Canada to balance a budget in the last five years.

We delivered Saskatchewan's first balanced budget since the last time New Democrats were in office in 1982.

Saskatchewan people want some assurance that the 1980s, with irresponsible tax cuts made for political gain, spending that was out of control, and runaway deficits, will not happen again.

Some politicians say the solution to balancing the budget is just to pass a law saying that it should be balanced.

New Democrats believe that the correct approach is to balance first, legislate second, and manage wisely always.

In the 1995 session of the Legislature, after the budget was balanced, the Romanow government introduced a balanced budget law that compels the government to continue with balanced budgets.

The *Balanced Budget Act* requires the government to do the following:

- Present a four-year financial plan and a debt management plan to the legislature;
- Balance the General Revenue Fund over the four years;
- Present annual reports on the status of the four-year financial plan, and present mid-year interim reports on the status of the current year's fiscal situation; and
- Present a special report to the legislature in the event of emergency or extreme circumstances – like a severe crop failure and other natural disaster – that make

it impossible to meet the four-year balanced budget plan.

The legislation closes loopholes other governments have used to get around legislative requirements to balance the budget. The government's accounting practices can't be changed in mid-stream to hide the size of the deficit. And one-time gains from the sales of crown corporations can't be used to hide deficits – proceeds have to go straight to the provincial debt.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Respect both the letter and the spirit of the balanced budget law. There will be no return to the carefree fiscal irresponsibility of Tory and Liberal governments. The Romanow government will keep the books balanced over the next term of office.

### **SPENDING ECONOMIES**

In 1991, we committed ourselves to eliminate waste, to run government more efficiently, and to ensure taxpayers' money is wisely spent.

Every year for the past four years, the NDP government has found and eliminated between \$10 million and \$15 million worth of administrative inefficiencies from within government.

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

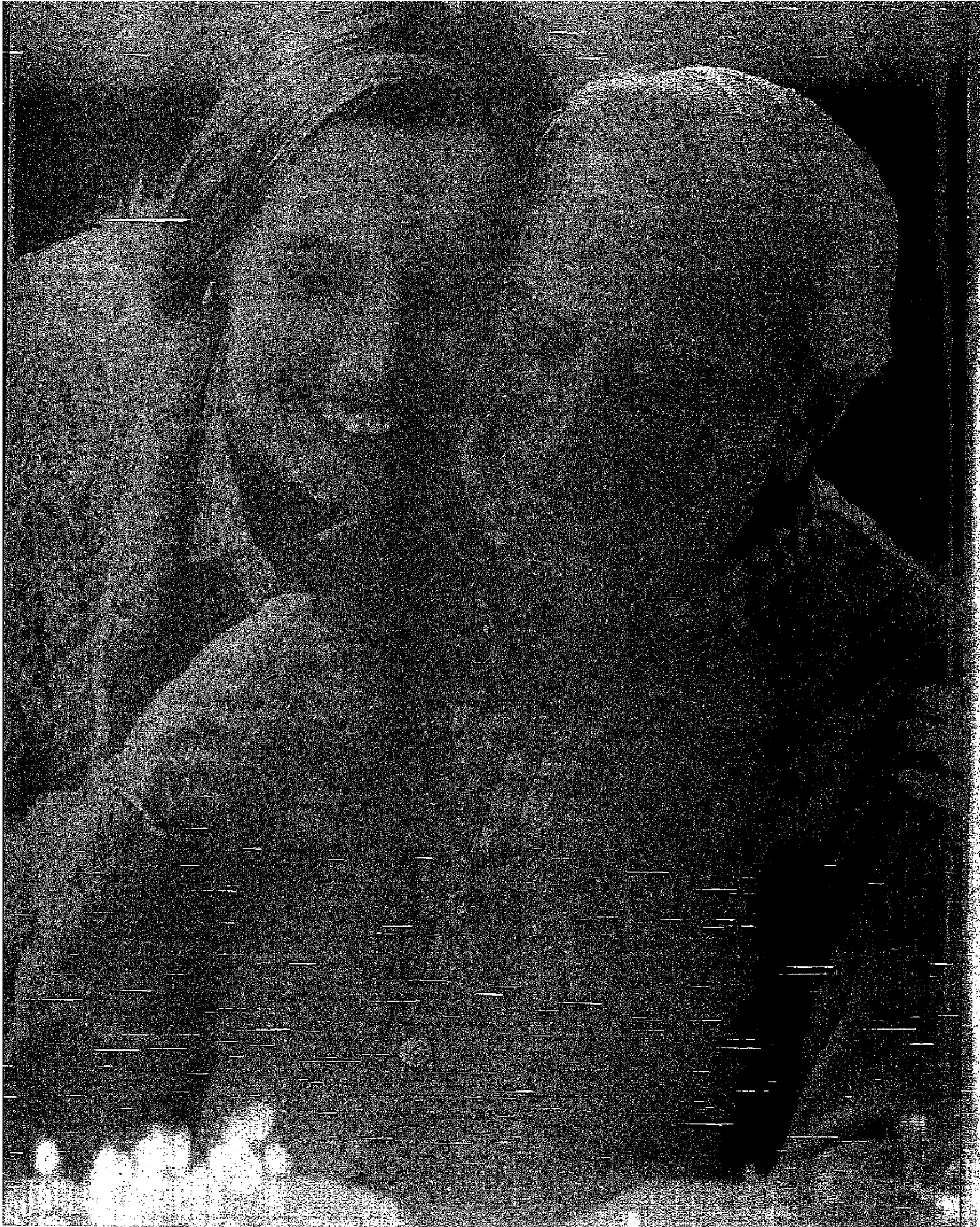
- Set the goal – and meet the goal – of reducing government spending by at least a further \$40 million over the next four years, through increased government efficiencies.

## **Our commitments:**

#### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Look at first things first: Four more years of balanced budgets;
- Allocate one-third of surpluses to reduce provincial debt;
- Allocate one-third of surpluses to reduce taxes;
- Invest in people: one-third of surpluses for jobs and health care;
- Ensure we never get into this mess again, by implementing and respecting the letter and spirit of our balanced budget law; and
- Commit to reducing government spending by at least an additional \$40 million over the next four years, through increased government efficiencies.





**S**askatchewan's health care was in urgent need of reform when we came to office. Four years later, we are on track to a sustainable health system that helps people stay well.

# Health

**The Romanow New Democrats' goal is to ensure that health care helps people keep well, and ensures that quality care will always be there when people need it.**

The CCF-NDP founded Medicare in Canada, starting here in Saskatchewan. Comprehensive public health care was one of the core commitments of Tommy Douglas' 1944 election platform – and one of the proudest accomplishments of his and Woodrow Lloyd's governments.

Implementing Medicare was also one of the biggest political fights in our province's history. We fought tooth and nail for Medicare then – and we have ever since.

When we were returned to office in 1991, we faced a crisis in health care every bit as tough as in Douglas' day.

Between 1982 and 1991, spending on the health care system doubled – from \$741 million to more

than \$1.5 billion – with no significant improvement in people's health.

By the end of the 1980s, Saskatchewan had as many hospitals as Ontario does – with one tenth of Ontario's population. People were beginning to say that our province couldn't afford Medicare.

Health services were often poorly coordinated, making it difficult for people with multiple health needs. Health dollars were being wasted on empty hospital beds, instead of being invested in services that actually help people keep well.

This was the challenge we took up in 1991: to preserve the health care system itself. And to get to work on new health measures that give people a better chance to stay healthy.

We've come a long way since then. Health reform has saved Medicare for the people of Saskatchewan. And we are getting on with the job of helping people keep well.



## Elected to office, we knew the time had come to take a fundamental look at health care

In 1982, Tommy Douglas said this:

*"When we began to plan Medicare, we pointed out it would be in two phases. The first phase would be to remove the financial barrier between those giving the service and those receiving it."*

*"The second phase would be to reorganize and revamp the delivery system — and, of course, that's the big item. That's the thing we haven't done yet."*

No truer words were spoken. In 1991, the time had come to step up to the challenge.

Here is what we found when we came to office.

Our health system was governed by more than 400 separate health boards, which operated hospitals, nursing homes, home care and other services. Some of these boards offered similar services in the same communities, duplicating care. Other communities had gaps in their health services.

Saskatchewan had as many hospitals as the province of Ontario, to serve a population one-tenth the size.

The cost of our health system had doubled during the term of the previous government, and was growing at 13 per cent a year — threatening the future of medicare.

While we were overinvesting in bricks and mortar, we were underinvesting in new, community-based services that help people stay well.

Here is what we did about it.

We dramatically simplified the way health care is managed. In place of 400 health boards, we established 30 health districts, and put them in charge of meeting all of the health needs of the people in each district. That means decisions on health services are made closer to home. Duplication is being eliminated. Gaps in service are being filled in.

**In 1995-96, the health budget is \$1.561 billion — lower than in 1991-92, and \$400 million less than if spending had continued to grow at the rate it did before 1991.**

We made some tough decisions about how fast the health budget would continue to grow. More, we redirected funding from empty hospital beds to a wide range of health services in communities and at home. Here's what that meant:

In 1995-96, Saskatchewan's health budget is \$1.561 billion — lower than in 1991-92. This is \$400 million less than if spending had continued to grow at the rate it did before 1991.

Within that budget, spending on hospitals is down by \$42 million.

These funds were transferred to health services in communities, like home care, respite care, home intravenous programs and physiotherapy. Investment for these services has grown by 41 per cent since 1991-92, to \$142 million from \$101 million.

## How health care looks today, after health reform

Today, communities have much more control over their own health care. And district health board elections in 1995 are going to further increase community control.

We've stabilized the health care budget, ending any danger that we won't be able to afford our health care system. And we've done it in a way that preserves the services people need.

Within that budget, we can maintain a hospital network tailored to our relatively widely-dispersed population. Saskatchewan will maintain an ample number of hospitals, more per capita than any other province (77.9 hospitals per million people. The Canadian average is 30.7 per million).

For the same reasons, we are also maintaining more acute care and nursing home beds in use than most of the provinces (20 per cent above the Canadian average).

We are maintaining and expanding new, high-technology health services. Funding was recently provided for a new mobile unit to break up kidney stones without surgery; for 20 new kidney dialysis machines; for new hospital equipment in 14 districts; for a major renovation of the Allan Blair Cancer Centre in Regina, and for expanded coverage of cancer drugs.

More than this, we've shifted resources into new, better health services.

People now have much better access to services in their homes, through home care, respite care, and home intravenous programs. Home care is available at any time, day or night, for urgent or planned needs.



Day programs for seniors, physio and occupational therapy, counselling for mental health, addictions, and health education are more widely available to people right in their own communities.

Health services like breast cancer screening and a mobile wellness unit travel across rural Saskatchewan, ensuring better access.

1200 First Responders are in place in the province. There will be 2,500 in 1996. First responders provide support to accident and injury victims while an ambulance is en route.

This spring, we provided health boards with funding to establish a "health ombudsman" in each district. These ombudsmen are there to help citizens obtain the local health services they want, and to help solve problems with the health care system. The Sas-

katoon, Battlefords, and Moose Jaw District Health Boards have already hired their health ombudsmen, and other boards will follow suit in the weeks to come.

For the first time, citizens now have somebody inside each district whose job it is to go to bat for them if they feel they aren't getting what they need from the health care system.

At the end of last year, there were 1,207 physicians practising in Saskatchewan, up from 1,177 in 1993. The number of rural family practitioners has risen steadily, from 221 in 1991 to 242 at the end of 1994.

Approximately 99 per cent of people in the 30 health districts live within 30 miles of a hospital, health centre or ambulance service. Approximately 99 per cent of this population is within 50 minutes of a hospital.

## District boards are introducing innovative health programs across the province

Through new district health boards, local people and communities are making more health decisions for themselves.

The result: an explosion of new ideas about how to improve health care in local communities. A sample:

● In Regina, the Regina Health District has opened a new Stroke Prevention and Management Unit at the Plains Health Centre.

Its goal is to work with patients who are at risk of having a stroke and to help those who have already had one to reduce the chances of recurrence.



● In Vibank, a first responders program has been up and running since 1993. Volunteers have already been involved in over two dozen cases.

● In Moose Jaw, Providence Hospital has set up a new Geriatric Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit. The team's goal is to help frail seniors so they can return home instead of remaining in hospital or a long-term care home.

● Around Weyburn, the South Central Health District is working on expanding Weyburn General Hospital's "Lifeline" program, a telephone-linked service that allows seniors and others to get urgent emergency services even when they can't reach the phone. Subscribers wear an emergency water-proof button around their neck, waist or wrist. If the device is hit, an automatic phone call is made to get help.

● In Nipawin, a new pre-assessment clinic is helping make

same-day surgery a lot smoother. The clinic handles all pre-operative testing and assessment of patients well ahead of time — and that means patients can be admitted to the hospital the morning of their surgery instead of the previous day. The result: health savings and patients who don't have to spend as much time in hospital beds.

● Saskatchewan Health District set up a Community Development Unit to pave the way for low-income and Aboriginal people to have better access to the health care they need.

### What health reform is all leading to

Our vision for health care will make way after only four short years, thanks to five key goals.

First, public spending on health services and will remain sustainable.

Second, hospitals will always be there when they're needed. When people need expensive technology or specialized expertise, services are available at a local or regional hospital, or a base hospital.

Third, community health care centres will increasingly provide many new kinds of wellness services. Child health clinics, walk-in treatment clinics, doctors, counsellors and therapists — a range of community-based services that are right for each community.

Fourth, home care is and will be available any time of day or night — part of an integrated approach to helping people with independent living and protection at home. People will have the option to enjoy the warmth of home nursing, the convenience of home treatments. Home services will help people live independently in their own homes longer.

Fifth, illness and accident prevention will play an increasing role in helping people keep well. Saskatchewan will pay increasing attention to prevention.

For example, effective programs to help people quit smoking, safety audits in homes and farms, and getting communities to consider the health impacts of decisions. Housing, education and recreation activities are all part of health planning.

### Overall, we are making good progress

We are well on the road to sustainable health care that will be there when people need it — and will help them keep well in the first place. But there is more to be done.

## New Health Initiatives For A Second Term

Our Saskatchewan health care system is on the mend. We are hard at work on innovative new health programs. We have given health a new governance structure that will be responsive and efficient. We've introduced new, better services. And we've stabilized the health care budget.

New Democrats will continue these policies. And we'll build on them with new health initiatives for a second term to address the following issues:

● More needs to be done to expand and improve home care services, which are essential in helping seniors, especially, to remain independent and keep well.

● More needs to be done to ensure nurses, doctors, and other health care providers are full partners in managing the health system, and full partners in designing new and better health programs.





## AN UNBENDING COMMITMENT TO DEFEND MEDICARE

At a time when loose talk about dismantling universal public health care is increasingly fashionable among Liberals and Conservatives, and at a time when the Liberals in Ottawa are planning to cut \$7 billion from the health care system, you know where the New Democratic Party stands.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Defend and protect medicare.

Saskatchewan is for a public, universal, accessible, comprehensive and portable health care system.

## STABLE HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Romanow. New Democrats will ensure that quality health services are available in every part of Saskatchewan when people need them.

To achieve that goal, our first commitment is to ensure that health district boards can plan on stable and adequate funding for health care services.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Commit to stable provincial funding for health care over the next four years – a guarantee of budgetary stability for health services.

We gave this commitment in our February 1995 budget, projecting no reductions to the health care budget during the next term. Stability and predictability in the budgets of basic services like

health care is one of the key benefits of a balanced budget.

## A MAJOR EXPANSION OF HOME CARE

New Democrats are committed to ensuring that health care is always there when all people – and especially seniors – need it. And we are committed to helping seniors live independently at home wherever possible.

We want to ensure that nurses, doctors, therapists and other health care providers are full partners in the process, from the ground up.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Invest an additional \$20 million this year into home care services.

The key benefits of this commitment:

- Home care fees for services like meals and housekeeping will be reduced by an average of 17 percent. Nursing and medical home care will continue to be provided without charge.
- Home care will be available to meet urgent or planned needs any time, day or night.

For example, a home care aide may return home with a patient after that patient gets emergency hospital care at night.

- People will be able to return home from hospitals sooner. For example, someone who needs daily intravenous medicine could get treatments at home with help from a nurse.

This investment will put more than 400 health care workers to work helping thousands of additional people, including seniors and disabled people, to remain more independent and vital in their homes.

## A PROVINCE-WIDE 911 SYSTEM

It is important for people in remote areas to know that emergency health services are only a phone call away.

Many communities lack a single, easily remembered number to phone in case of an emergency.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Implement a province-wide 911 emergency system during the next term of office.

Our goal is to launch the first phase of the system within twelve months.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Professional health-care providers such as doctors, nurses and therapists are critically important partners in rebuilding Saskatchewan's health care system.

We know the past four years have been challenging. We also know that health care providers

were the first to agree the health care system had to be changed.

Now that the major structural changes to health care are finished, the focus is on enhancing existing services, and implementing new services that promote wellness.

We want to ensure that health care providers are full partners in the process, from the ground up.

Health board elections will be held in the fall of 1995, for eight seats out of twelve on each health district board. The remaining four seats will continue to be appointed by the provincial government.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Guarantee health-care providers at least one representative on each district board, either through direct election, or, if no health provider is elected, through appointment. Also, we will:
- Mandate each district board to set up a health services consultative committee.

These committees will be made up of representatives chosen by and accountable to the district's doctors, nurses, and other health-care providers.

They will meet regularly with the health board to help design and implement health services, and to advise on issues of concern to health care providers.

## Our commitments

Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- **Defend and protect medicare.** Saskatchewan is for a public, universal, accessible, comprehensive and portable health care system.
- **Commit to stable provincial funding for health care over the next four years** – a guarantee of budgetary stability for health services during the next term of office.
- **Invest an additional \$20 million this year into home care services.**
- **Implement a province-wide 911 emergency system during the next term of office.**
- **Guarantee health-care providers at least one representative on each district board,** either through direct election, or, if no health provider is elected, through appointment. And
- **Mandate each district board to set up a health services consultative committee.**



It is time to put family issues at the top of the agenda: jobs and economic security; "family-friendly" workplaces; better education for our children, and safe communities.

# Families

## **Romanow New Democrats are committed to helping families.**

First and foremost, that means building economic security. We will work on job creation with the same energy and determination we applied to balancing the budget.

Helping families also means helping parents cope with the increasing burdens placed on family life by the work world. There are a variety of ways to help families with these burdens — from safe child care to more flexible work.

Helping families means working with them to help provide their children with the best possible education. Education is an increasingly critical part of building a good future for children.

Helping families means helping them to build safe communities. That includes dealing effectively with domestic violence, and reducing crime by young offenders.

We've made progress on these issues during our first term, but we must do more.



## Building economic security for families

The best way government can help families is to help them achieve economic security.

The challenges facing many Saskatchewan families will begin to recede when poverty and unemployment have declined.

In our first term, we worked toward those goals.

- Our economic development plan is helping to produce a real economic comeback.

We balanced the budget; helped small business; implemented growth strategies for our economy's key economic "clusters"; improved workforce training; and supported R&D.

The payoff for Saskatchewan families: higher economic growth, a rising population, and Canada's lowest unemployment rate.

We've supplemented our economic development plan with targeted programs to help families. For example:

- Saskatchewan's *Action Plan for Children* is giving help to families and new hope to vulnerable children.

Through support for almost a hundred projects, school-based services are improving the quality of life and helping children get a head start. Some examples:

- In Prince Albert's West Flats, parents and the community formed an organization to work on projects. Today there is a community pre-school for ages three to four; a community centre in what was a vacant school; and other initiatives focused on meeting the needs of families.

- In Saskatoon at Princess Alexandra School, teachers, social workers, parents, and Aboriginal elders are working to encourage vulnerable children to stay in school, and to improve the quality of life in the inner city.

- In La Loche, a community-based preschool program helps children who may be at risk get a head start on a better life.

Raising a family and earning a living are hard to juggle these days. Government can't and shouldn't try to take over the job of parenting. But government can make it a little easier, by working with parents and employers to make the work world more "family friendly."

Projects like these open the door to community and parent participation. They offer realistic hope to break the cycle of poverty that results in family breakdown.

An international organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), has singled out these Saskatchewan programs as models for the future of education and community services.

- An improved auto insurance system reduces the insecurity families face about how to cope when family members are injured in accidents.

Insurance will now replace up to \$550 a week of lost earnings (up from \$200 under the old system) and provide \$500,000 for medical rehabilitation (up from \$10,000).

The new insurance covers homemakers, too, who weren't covered under the old system because they had no measurable income. Try telling a family it doesn't make a difference when a full-time mother is incapacitated.

Now auto insurance can cover the cost of child care and help in the home when a parent is injured.

Protection covers self-employed entrepreneurs and farmers for the first time.

## Building a more "family friendly" economy

Raising a family and earning a living are hard to juggle these days. Government can't and shouldn't try to take over the job of parenting. But government can make it a little easier, by working with parents and employers to make the work world more "family friendly."

In our first term:

- We worked to stabilize Saskatchewan's child care network.

Finding a safe and nurturing place to have children cared for during the workday is a constant pre-occupation for working parents.

We improved access to information about child care, to help parents find quality, safe care, and to monitor that care.

We increased funding for day care centres and day homes that serve infants and toddlers—a part of our child care network that needs particular attention.

And we are investing in pilot projects to improve services in rural and northern areas.

- We helped employers and employees become more knowledgeable about the "bottom-line" benefits of providing for family responsibilities.

Community groups, the Women's Secretariat and the Social Services *Action Plan for Children* brought people together to learn about the importance of paying attention to the needs of staff who worry about caring for children and for elderly parents.

Workplaces are more productive when the stress between family and work can be reduced.

- We also improved workplace rules to help parents.

New rules make it easier for women to take maternity leave without losing their jobs.

More fathers can take time off to be with their families during childbirth.

And it's now easier for parents to receive time off to deal with family emergencies.

## Progress toward better schools

Next to economic security, nothing matters more to parents than making sure their children get a good education.

Everyone in Saskatchewan has a stake in building the best possible school system. A literate, flexible, well-educated workforce is

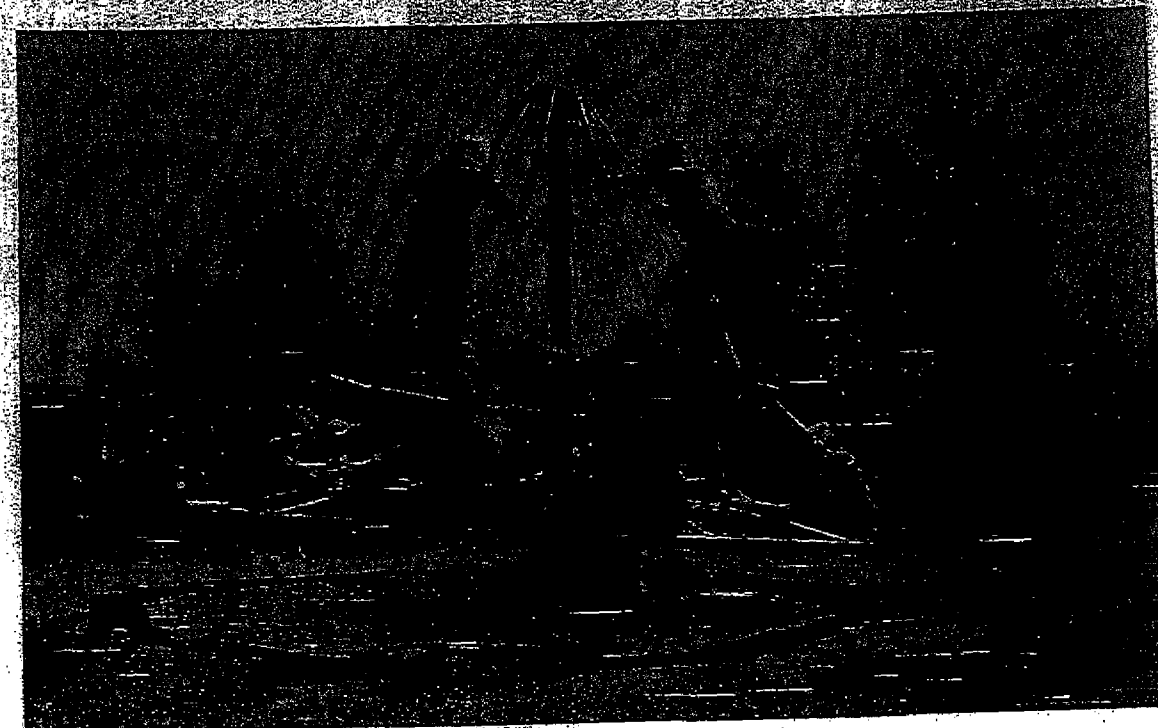
one of our province's best assets in attracting investment and building our economy.

- Core curriculum: The Romanow government has worked closely with parents and educators to build a new, modern core curriculum in our schools.

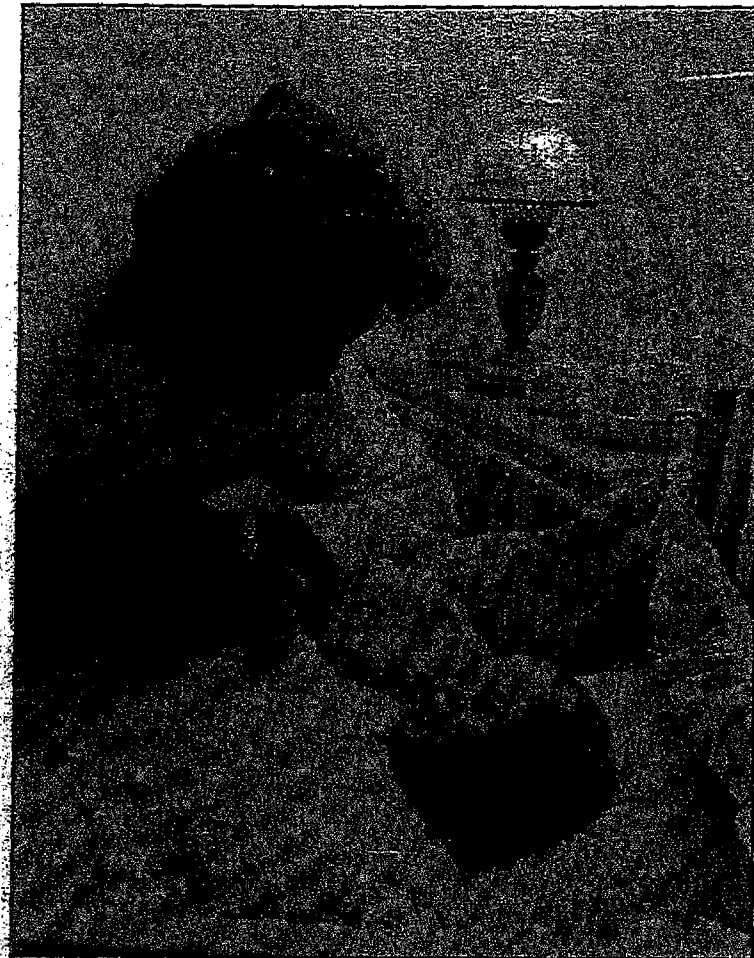
The curriculum, being developed with parents and educators, focuses on fundamentals: reading and writing, math, science, social studies, health, physical education, and the arts.

The core curriculum we're building together also aims to teach six basic skills: communication, numeracy, critical and creative thinking, computer and technological literacy, personal and social skills and values, and independent learning.

We're working to ensure children with special needs are integrated into schools and classrooms.







● We're building on Saskatchewan's distance education system as one way to provide the best possible schooling to all students, regardless of where they live.

The Saskatchewan Government Correspondence School provides students in remote locations, and students unable to attend school for medical reasons, with high-quality education.

More and more adults are also taking advantage of this system to upgrade their schooling.

In our first term of office, we worked to improve this system, enhancing traditional print-based school materials with videos, toll-

free telephone lines, fax equipment, interactive satellite television, speaker phones, and teleconferencing.

● We're working to help schools cope with some tough new problems, especially in communities with high numbers of children at risk.

A growing number of children are coming to school with diverse problems: hunger, emotional and physical abuse or neglect, language and cultural needs, family breakdown, violence, and physical and learning disabilities.

The Romanow government's *Action Plan For Children* draws in help from the community and

from throughout government (including social services, health and justice) to help schools help students. In a number of successful pilot projects, we're working with schools and communities on new ways to integrate education, health and social services within schools.

### Ground-breaking action on domestic violence

On February 1, 1995, the new *Victims of Domestic Violence Act* came into force.

This is a ground breaking approach to the problem of domestic violence. Abused spouses, children, seniors and people with disabilities can get help and immediate protection at any time of the day or night.

Victims of domestic violence can contact trained Justices of the Peace and other resources through the police and through mobile crisis units — who can help with the full force of the law.

### Good progress for a first term

Your government has made a clear commitment to building economic security for families. We've made a start at making work more "family friendly."

Together we've made progress towards a strong, modern core curriculum in our schools, and better education in general.

We've also pioneered new initiatives to help vulnerable families, and to help families experiencing domestic violence.

Good progress for a first term — but there is more to do.



## New Family Initiatives For A Second Term

The economic comeback which Saskatchewan is enjoying is making our province a better place for families. So are the other family initiatives pioneered by the Romanow New Democrats. We'll build on them.

● More needs to be done to ensure all Saskatchewan families benefit from better economic times.

● There's an ongoing challenge to help people juggle work and family by making the economy more "family friendly";

● Education in general, and a modern new core curriculum in particular, need to be a top priority; and

● Effective action is needed from government to ensure safe communities for families. In particular, Saskatchewan families want action on the problems posed in their communities by young offenders.



## MAKING SURE BETTER TIMES ARE WIDELY SHARED

The best way to make sure all families share in our economic recovery is to make sure more of them have access to meaningful, adequately paid employment.

Saskatchewan has one of Canada's lowest "dependency rates".

Our province has the third-lowest welfare rate in Canada, 20 percent below the national average.

Our province has the lowest percentage of its population on unemployment insurance in Canada — 33 percent below the national average.

Saskatchewan people value self-reliance. We all take pride in our relatively low dependency rate. But we must do more.

Current welfare and assistance programs are still poverty traps for too many Saskatchewan families. We've taken care of the first order of business: our province has its financial house in order, and better times are here.

Now the time has come to take a hard look at the welfare system.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Work to eliminate barriers to work in the social assistance system.

For example, entry-level jobs sometimes pay less than welfare benefits. Solutions could include phasing out rather than cutting off benefits when recipients find jobs.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Work with Ottawa and other partners to improve training for good jobs.

Our training plans include bridging programs to help people on social assistance move from welfare to work with a range of programs, including support and counselling.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Build on the work already begun to help single parents gain lasting employment and independence.

This includes a \$600,000 initiative under New Careers as well as training and job placement for young single parents under JobStart — both announced in the February 1995 provincial budget.

The best way to  
help families is  
to help them  
achieve  
economic  
security.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Look for ways to help people who are underemployed receiving unemployment insurance or social assistance to create their own work.

Many Saskatchewan families face extra barriers to finding jobs. New structures like the inner-city Community Development Corporation created in Saskatoon in 1995 offer ways to bridge these barriers.

We'll explore the potential for new businesses, co-operatives, and Community Economic Development Corporations to enable people to create new jobs for themselves in local neighbourhoods and communities.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Work with communities to develop new ideas to prevent family breakdown, so that families can break the cycle of dependency.

Preschool education, with parental involvement, seems to be a place to break the cycle.

Every dollar invested in "head-start" preschool programs saves six dollars down the road, because more children grow up able to stand on their own two feet. Progress can be achieved by refocusing existing resources toward prevention.

## FAIRNESS FOR WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

Women don't share equally in the economy — Statistics Canada reports that women earned an average of 76 cents for every dollar men earned in Saskatchewan in 1993. That's not fair, either to women or to the families who count on their earnings.

This isn't a problem that can be solved overnight. But the time has come to begin.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Continue to work with government employees to implement pay equity for workers in the public sector during our next term; and

- Bring employers, labour, and other concerned groups and organizations together to advise the government on the method and timetable for ensuring workers — men and women — are paid equally in the wider economy.



## Measures to make work more "family friendly"

These days it's hard to balance earning a living and raising a family.

For a lot of families, finding good child care is crucial.

A key factor in high-quality child care is the training and commitment of those who provide the care.

The work is demanding; salaries do not reflect the responsibility and trust of caring for children.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Improve salaries and benefits for child care employees.

We'll dedicate \$500,000 a year in new resources to this purpose.

Not every family needs to find child care. But almost everyone juggles work and family responsibilities.

Some face the need for flexible hours to cover care for children or elderly dependents. High school students face conflicts between school, home, and part-time jobs.

Leaders from business, the community, and labour made a start on these issues at a March 1994 conference in Saskatoon.

They heard that work and family affect the bottom line. "People who have high levels of conflict between work and family demands are absent from work twice as often."

If we can find ways for work to be more accommodating of family responsibilities, people will be better workers and better parents.

Families will be healthier.

Our economy will be more productive and more competitive.

It's time for employers, employees, and families to sit down together and think through "family-friendly" work.

We need to publicize good initiatives by employers; promote family-friendly practices; and provide government with advice on how to do a better job.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Set up a Task Force to examine Family-Friendly Work.



We'll involve employers, parents, youth, children, seniors, working men and women, and community organizations in setting a direction for the future.

## ENSURING OUR SCHOOLS TEACH THE BASICS — FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Parents know what they want from the school system. They want a strong core curriculum to ensure children master the basics.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Complete and implement a strong new core curriculum.

That new core curriculum will concentrate on the basics — for the 21st century.

That means reading and writing, mathematics, hard and social sciences.

It means computer and technological literacy.

And in a world that puts a premium on acquiring new skills throughout life, the key skill may be the ability to learn independently.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Work with schools and parents to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered by new technologies.

Schools teaching the basics in this day and age need to get full value from new technologies, including the interactive computer network that is going to be a big part of our economy in the very near future.

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

More and more often college or university are the prerequisites to a good job and quality of life.

This new core curriculum will concentrate on the basics — for the 21st century.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Reduce the financial barriers to university and college programs by improving student aid, as announced in the February 1995 Saskatchewan budget.

We'll change the program to ensure student loans reflect the cost of living. These changes will ensure that most students will receive greater assistance.

We'll target a special program of grants for high-need, under-represented students and those with disabilities.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Improve consumer protection and strengthen regulation of the private vocational school system.

We'll do this by implementing and enforcing the *Private Vocational Schools Regulation Act*, introduced in 1995.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Work with students, parents and educators to protect our universities and colleges from the Liberal government in Ottawa.

The Liberals in Ottawa propose to require students to pay for post-secondary education by going tens of thousands of dollars deeper into personal debt. We have consistently opposed this plan, and will continue to do so in a second term.

The federal debt is a problem that needs to be addressed urgently — and fairly.

It cannot and shouldn't be offloaded, one way or another, onto the backs of our children.

## MEASURES TO BUILD SAFER COMMUNITIES

Safety is a concern today for many people, both in our cities and in remote areas of the province.

Many communities lack a single, easily remembered number to phone in case of an emergency.

We intend to solve this problem by implementing a province-wide 911 emergency system.

When this system is in place, all communities, including rural and northern ones, will have a single number to call for emergency responses.

Crime is a particular worry for many people.

Burglaries, car thefts, assaults and robberies are a concern in many communities.

Victims find it hard to understand how the justice system deals

with the young offenders responsible for many of these crimes.

We want to open the door wider to restitution and rehabilitation, involving the young offender, the victim and the community.

We also want the justice system to take careful account of the impact of crimes on victims in making decisions about sentences.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Reform provincially-regulated court procedures to ensure crime victims are consulted and heard in the sentencing of young offenders.

To reinforce and improve community policing in rural communities.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Allocate an additional \$1 million each year for the next four years to provide additional RCMP coverage in rural Saskatchewan.

## Our commitments

Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

### ■ Work to ensure prosperity is widely shared by Saskatchewan families.

- Work to eliminate barriers to work in the social assistance system.
- Improve counselling, support training and bridging for people to move from welfare to work, and for single parents to find jobs and independence.
- Invest in breaking the cycle of dependency.
- Implement pay equity in the public sector, and set a direction for pay equity generally.

### ■ Take steps toward family-friendly workplaces.

- Improve child care.
- Appoint a task force to develop practical ideas for family-friendly workplaces.

### ■ Act to ensure our school system teaches the basics — for the 21st century.

- Make completing and implementing a new modern core curriculum a top priority.
- Ensure that schools are up to date with the best technology.


### ■ Support post-secondary students.

- Improve student aid.
- Provide more protection for students in private vocational schools.
- Work with students and parents to protect colleges and universities from the Liberal government in Ottawa.
- Implement Job Start to help students find more job opportunities in Saskatchewan.

### ■ Work to ensure safer communities.

- A province-wide 9-1-1 emergency system.
- Reformed court procedures to give victims of young offenders the right to be consulted in the sentencing process.
- Expanded RCMP coverage in rural Saskatchewan.





**R**eal, long-term jobs are the top priority in Rural Saskatchewan. Building on the base of a strong, diversifying agriculture industry, we are working with rural communities to build a future in which young people can stay in rural Saskatchewan.

# Northern & Rural Saskatchewan

**Romanow New Democrats are committed to ensuring a bright future for rural communities.**

The way to ensure that future is to continue to build a balanced, diversified, prosperous rural economy. Rural quality of life is at the heart of our Saskatchewan culture. In today's world, keeping communities vital and making them attractive places in which to live means creating sustainable jobs and services.

Building a new rural economy starts with farm families, the bedrock of rural Saskatchewan. We've been working hard with farm families to build a stronger, more diversified agriculture — with excellent results so far.

Building a new rural economy also means expanding rural jobs off the farm. Adding value to agricultural products offers people in rural Sas-

katchewan some of their best job opportunities. We're working in partnership with rural communities, co-ops and entrepreneurs to launch and expand rural value-added businesses.

Building a new rural economy means a broad, comprehensive commitment to sustainably developing rural Saskatchewan's resource industries: agricultural biotech, mining, forestry, oil and gas, and tourism. All are major job creators in rural communities. All are priorities. All prospered during the past four years.

Efficient, continuously modernized infrastructure and utilities are critical to the new rural economy we are building in Saskatchewan. So are locally controlled and locally responsive schools and health care services.

We've made progress on all of these fronts — but there is a great deal more to do.



## A future for farm families through strong, diversified agriculture

Agriculture is Saskatchewan's first and most important industry. Romanow New Democrats see a prosperous agriculture and agri-food sector as a key part of Saskatchewan's future.

In 1994, net farm income topped \$925 million — the reward for hard work and fortune by farm families during the hard times of recent years. This success is the result of stronger prices, effective marketing by the Canadian Wheat Board, and a spectacular rise in diversification.

Prices rise and prices fall, but by continuing to build on the strengths that are within our control — pooled marketing and pooled financing — and by continuing to spread risk by developing and marketing a wider range of products, rural Saskatchewan can continue to build on a strong, prosperous farm economy.

Saskatchewan farm families have taken this to heart, moving aggressively into new products.

In 1994, net seed to canola increased by 12 percent over 1993. Field peas, mustard, canary seed, flax and durum went up even more.

The effect of diversification on farm income has been spectacular. Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food estimates that change from wheat to other crops permitted farmers to reap \$584 million more from the marketplace last year.

The Romanow government has worked with farm families to help make this success happen. We spelled out our strategy in our plan, *Agriculture 2000*.

The keys: diversification and value-added.

Farmers today are making astute, market-oriented crop decisions. We're trying to help by working toward market-neutral farm support programs and encouraging research, development and value-added processing.

By continuing to work on the strengths within our control, we can build a strong, prosperous farm economy.

Three new initiatives stand out first.

● **Leaseback:** When we came to office in 1993, many farmers were on the verge of foreclosure and eviction.

To help pull them through to the better times we are now enjoying, we introduced the six-year lease-back program.

Leaseback saved a lot of farms. There were still 1,321 active leases registered with the program this year. It allowed us to get on with the job of building a stronger industry.

● **Better crop insurance:** We are continuing to work with producers to ensure better service and better products from Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

Three new insurance options were introduced for producers in 1994: the multiple crop average

option; a spot loss hail option; and a diversification option.

● **Better farm support:** We are closing in on our goal of a new "whole farm" support system that will provide security, while supporting and encouraging farmers to diversify and take advantage of new markets and new opportunities.

We made major progress towards this goal in 1994 with a federal-provincial agreement on an interim program.

## Agricultural biotechnology

Biotechnology adds value to production by improving agricultural products and by creating new ones.

It's also an industry in its own right that will employ growing numbers of Saskatchewan people.

New Democrats have strongly supported the expansion of agricultural biotechnology.

Saskatchewan's biotechnology sector grew by 286 percent between 1991 and 1993. Almost one-third of all Canadian biotech firms are located here.

Saskatchewan has always been a leader in agriculture, and we are moving into the 21st century as a leader in agricultural biotech.

## A future for rural families through value-added enterprise

Farming is the foundation of rural Saskatchewan. But rural Saskatchewan is more than farmland — it is also people living in small communities, working in rural businesses, teaching in public schools,



to enrich vibrant communities and a good quality of life, we need jobs that keep people, especially young people, in rural Saskatchewan.

Value-added enterprise offers rural communities some of their best job opportunities.

The Romanow government has supported startups and expansions of value-added and manufacturing enterprises across rural Saskatchewan.

We've helped rural businesses find export markets. We've helped fund research, development and commercialization.

We're working to ensure potential employees have the skills they need to fill new jobs.

We've cut small business taxes, and created a much better economic climate.

We're co-ordinating our work with local communities, local Regional Economic Development Authorities, and with entrepreneurs and co-ops themselves.

Here's a sample of what's started and expanded since the NDP took office:

● In St. Bruno, *Four Oaks Industries* ambitiously expanded its business designing and manufacturing air seeders (400 new jobs).

● In Anaheim, *Doepker Industries* is designing and manufacturing trailers (225 new jobs).

● In Yorkton, *Morris Rod-Weeder* is designing and manufacturing cultivators and seeding equipment (100 new jobs).

● In Humboldt, *The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute* has become a national load-cell certification facility — giving load-cell manufacturers access to internationally-recognized certification in Canada (20 new jobs).

● In Clavet, east of Saskatoon, *Cargill Limited* is building a new \$53.6 million canola crushing plant (550 new jobs).

● In Biggar, *Microgro International Research Inc.* opened a

new, state-of-the-art, million greenhouse facility, with a specialized laboratory to follow (15 to 20 new jobs).

Enterprise by enterprise, community by community, this kind of solid economic development, encouraged by our government, adds up to a more balanced, steady, prosperous rural economy.

● In 1994, to help turn more good ideas into lasting jobs, we introduced the \$20 million *Ag Equity Fund*.

The *Ag Equity Fund* is a pool of investment money, available to help co-ops and entrepreneurs turn new ideas into jobs and enterprises in rural Saskatchewan.

● In 1995 we created the *Agri-Food Innovation Fund* to generate new ideas for markets, products and jobs.

By encouraging a diverse range of local economic development, we'll keep working towards a wide, steadily diversifying rural economy.



## A future for rural communities through sustainable resource development

In our chapter on jobs, we detail our strategies for the key resource industries in rural Saskatchewan — mining, forestry, oil and gas, and tourism. More than 4,000 new jobs have been created in oil and gas and mining alone.

## Locally controlled, responsive health care and schools

Health and education are focal points of rural life. We're working to make sure these services are modern and sustainable into the future, so they'll always be there when rural people need them.

● **Health:** Preserving Medicare and rebuilding it on new and better lines has been a tough, challenging process in rural Saskatchewan.

The process hasn't been easy, but we now have a financially sustainable health care system, that is beginning to develop new and better health services.

We also have a health care system that offers rural communities a unique opportunity — to take control of their own health care and shape it to their needs, through elected, locally accountable health district boards.

● **Education:** Ensuring that our children have mastered the basics is critical to their future, and is the focus of the NDP government's work on a new core curriculum.

In rural Saskatchewan, making sure schools can take advantage of that new curriculum means balancing two issues.

Larger, amalgamated schools often provide more resources; smaller schools close to home are sometimes easier on children.

We think decisions about how to structure rural schools should be left up to parents and local communities — and that's exactly what we've done.

We required (and will continue to require) school boards to hold public meetings before making major decisions about schools.

**The new program provides farm families with a flexible safety net, enabling them to move into new farm products.**

## Crisis support for rural families

Isolation and stress can detract from rural quality of life. Living in a rural area shouldn't mean you're on your own when you need help.

That's why the Romanow New Democrats introduced a Farm Stress line (1-800-667-4442) — a place where families can find help.

We listened to rural women and found ways to make services more accessible.

Like transition houses in smaller centres.

Like the new *Victims of Domestic Violence Act*, which means help can be obtained from a local Justice of the Peace by police or mobile crisis services, only a phone call away.

## Infrastructure and utilities for a new rural economy

The new rural economy we are constructing in partnership with rural communities is placing new and different demands on our transport network, our communications system, our power grid, and our water system.

Our rail and highway system are handling a rising volume of diversified produce, value-added products, and manufactured goods from rural communities.

Your New Democratic government is doing its part to make sure the transportation system meets current needs and the future.

We have invested \$585 million in highway repair and construction since 1991.

Our communications system is handling a rising volume of data, as rural operations computerize and expand export markets.

From 1991 to the end of 1995 SaskTel will have invested \$303 million in the rural telecommunications system. By the end of 1995 Saskatchewan will have one of the largest serving areas in North America with a 100 percent computer-driven digital network.

Our power grid has to meet the needs of expanding rural operations. SaskPower has invested \$148 million in the rural power grid since 1991.

And our water system needs to meet rising demand as well. Sask Water has invested \$62 million in rural water projects since 1991.

All of this capital investment pulls in the same direction: the steady job of building and renewing rural infrastructure and utilities to ensure they meet the needs of rural Saskatchewan.

## Federal Liberal policies in rural Saskatchewan

The federal government is the senior partner in managing agriculture and transportation in rural Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan ought to be well-represented in Ottawa, since the immediate past Saskatchewan Liberal Leader — Ralph Goodale — is now an MP and federal agriculture minister.

But the performance hasn't been there.

● **The elimination of the Crow Benefit leaves grain producers facing a doubling of their freight rates.** The one-time buy-out which replaces the Crow benefit is inadequate to compensate producers for the loss of the Crow — more than \$5 billion short of a fair offset payment.

The federal government has no coherent plan regarding how and to whom the buy out will be paid — leaving final decisions to federal "arbitrators".

Producers were left to make their spring seeding decisions based on conjecture.

● **The Liberals have no coherent plan for transportation in Western Canada.** There is no national plan for the evolution of a new grain transportation system. There are no assurances that transportation efficiencies will be passed on to farmers.

● **Saskatchewan has taken the brunt of cuts to agriculture programs.** The cut to the Crow Benefit for Western Canada is 100 percent, while the cut to the dairy subsidy (the bulk of which goes to central Canada) is 30 percent over two years.

A Saskatchewan Liberal agriculture minister sat in Ottawa and

made this happen. The same Saskatchewan Liberal, campaigning in this provincial election, wants to be rewarded for these policies.

## The New Democratic record in rural Saskatchewan

Leaseback, a new farm safety net, and better crop insurance.

New value-added businesses across rural Saskatchewan.

Booming oil and gas, mining, forestry and tourism.

Steady, targeted investment in rural transport, communications, power and water.

Local community control of education and of a sustainable health care system.

It's a record of progress, change and adjustment. There is more to do.



# New Rural Initiatives For A Second Term

In our first term, we acted to help farm families pull through tough times, and take advantage of new opportunities. We worked with communities, co-ops and entrepreneurs to launch and expand value-added businesses. We helped promote a boom in the resources sector.

We invested in rural infrastructure and services. And we promoted local control of schools and a sustainable health care system.

We'll continue with these policies under our plan. And we'll build on them, by addressing the following issues:

- We will work with producers, other provinces and the federal government on a permanent farm safety net.
- We will keep economic renewal rolling in rural Saskatchewan.
- We will ensure rural transport, communications and other utilities meet the needs of the new rural economy.

## COMPLETING SASKATCHEWAN'S FARM SAFETY NET

In December 1994, the NDP government reached agreement with the federal government on a new interim farm support program.

The new program builds on NISA, providing farm families with a flexible safety net. It enables them to move into new farm products without penalty.

This new program is a major step forward — but a good deal of work remains to be done on farm safety nets.

The new safety net is an interim program.

We need national agreement among producers, provinces and Ottawa on a permanent program.

Our goal is a comprehensive "whole farm" safety net.

● Consistent with Canada's trading agreements.

● That does an effective job of helping farm families manage through price fluctuations, adverse weather and other factors beyond their control.

● That encourages diversification.

● That all partners can sustain financially.

**Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

■ Work with producers, other provinces and Ottawa on a permanent "whole farm" safety net.

Our goal is to complete this task and to have the program up and running within 2 years.



## ENCOURAGING VALUE-ADDED DEVELOPMENT

As described in the preceding pages, we introduced a new Agri-Food Innovation Fund in 1995 to support research and development of new products, and an Ag Equity Fund to provide rural communities with seed capital for value-added start-ups.

**Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

■ Work to develop value-added businesses in rural Saskatchewan.

Some of the opportunities we are committed to exploring in the next term of government:

● Value-added meatpacking facilities, and other food processing opportunities;

● Value-added diversification by organizations like the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, which is exploring a number of food-processing opportunities for farmers;

● Agricultural biotechnology opportunities, which will produce better crops and more competitive food products on the world market.

We'll coordinate closely with rural communities and Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDAs) to ensure investments reflect local priorities.

**Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

■ Complete the network of REDAs and provide them with staff and resources to help rural communities generate their own development ideas.

## MODERNIZING RURAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Saskatchewan is poised to be a leader on the "information highway," and that means new skilled jobs in rural Saskatchewan.

Computers and fibre optics serve to shrink distances. This will help rural people have equal access to critical information.

**Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

■ Work to improve Sask-Tel's rural internet service to ensure top-quality access for rural people, at low flat rates.



Internet connects millions of people world-wide, makes vast libraries of information available, and opens up global marketing opportunities.

**Under our plan,  
Saskatchewan will:**

- Ensure that the agriculture department and other agencies make available on the information highway key information of concern to rural people.

This will include information on market opportunities, weather and prices, and complete information on all government programs. The cost will be covered by existing budgets.

Electronic communications are about more than just information. More and more skilled workers are "telecommuting" - working from their homes, and communicating by fax and modem.

If you're hooked up to the information highway, it doesn't much matter whether you live in the city or the country.

In some fields you can do business just as well from your home in rural Saskatchewan as from an office in New York - and you can do it more cheaply.

**Under our plan,  
Saskatchewan will:**

- Hook up 100 rural educational sites to the information highway this year.

**TRANSPORTATION &  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Transportation, communications and utilities are vital to rural Saskatchewan. It is important that governments, businesses, producers and rural people work together to design the

best possible system to meet the needs of a changing economy.

The first priority is to address the damage the Liberals have caused to western Canadian transportation.

**Together with  
producers, we  
will begin work  
on solutions  
ourselves.**

**Under our plan,  
Saskatchewan will:**

- Work closely with producers to address the doubling of freight rates caused by the Liberal abolition of the Crow benefit.

New Democrats simply do not accept that Canada can do without a national transportation plan. We'll insist that the federal government live up to Canada's obligations.

Given Liberal policies, Saskatchewan can't count on Ottawa doing so in the short term.

Therefore, together with producers, we will begin work on solutions ourselves. Priorities:

- Vigilant supervision of the railroads to ensure efficiencies are passed on to producers;
- Exploration of the potential of short-line railroads and short-line rail co-ops;
- A careful evaluation of the impact of rail line abandonment on the rural road system, and how we can cope with higher traffic.

As part of our broad commitment to rural infrastructure, we'll

launch a new Saskatchewan Transport 2000 Corporation with a \$30 million fund.

This Corporation will work on double-laning highways 1 and 16 in partnership with municipalities and possible private sector partners.

It will also serve as one means through which Saskatchewan people can work together on the broader problem of managing the damage done to our transportation system by Liberal policy.

**SUSTAINABLE  
RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT**

We are committed to broad, sustainable development of mining, forestry, oil and gas, and tourism. These sectors provide jobs for many rural people.

**Under our plan,  
Saskatchewan will:**

- Ensure that rural and Northern residents get the best possible access to new jobs in resource industries.

We'll make sure rural and Northern people have access to good training for real jobs. In our Jobs chapter, we describe our training plans, including our Multi-Party Training Plan leading to jobs in Northern resource industries.

**Under our plan,  
Saskatchewan will:**

- Work with industry to make a long-term commitment to sustainable management of Saskatchewan's forests, and dramatically increase reforestation.

**RURAL EDUCATION &  
HEALTH CARE**

**Under our plan,  
Saskatchewan will:**

- Remain committed to local community control of schools, and of decisions about school expansions, maintenance, and amalgamations.

We will continue to be governed by local decisions if re-elected, supporting rural schools through a strong new core curriculum, and by expanding and improving rural and northern distance education.

**Under our plan,  
Saskatchewan will:**

- Hold district health board elections in 1995. We are committed to community control of health care - and stable funding to pay for it.

We'll support rural health care by helping rural health boards develop new and better services, and by stabilizing health budgets.

**EMERGENCY  
SERVICES**

Safety is a concern today for many people, including in rural and northern communities. Many communities lack a single, easily remembered number to phone in case of an emergency. We intend to solve this problem.

**Under our plan,  
Saskatchewan will:**

- Institute a province-wide 911 emergency system.

Our goal is to launch the first phase of this system within 12 months. When it is in place, all communities will have a single number to call for emergency responses.

**Our commitments**

Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- **Work to complete the farm safety net:** our goal is a permanent national "whole farm" safety net, within two years;

- **Work to encourage rural value-added jobs and businesses;**

- **Develop a rural information highway to link rural Saskatchewan to the world;**

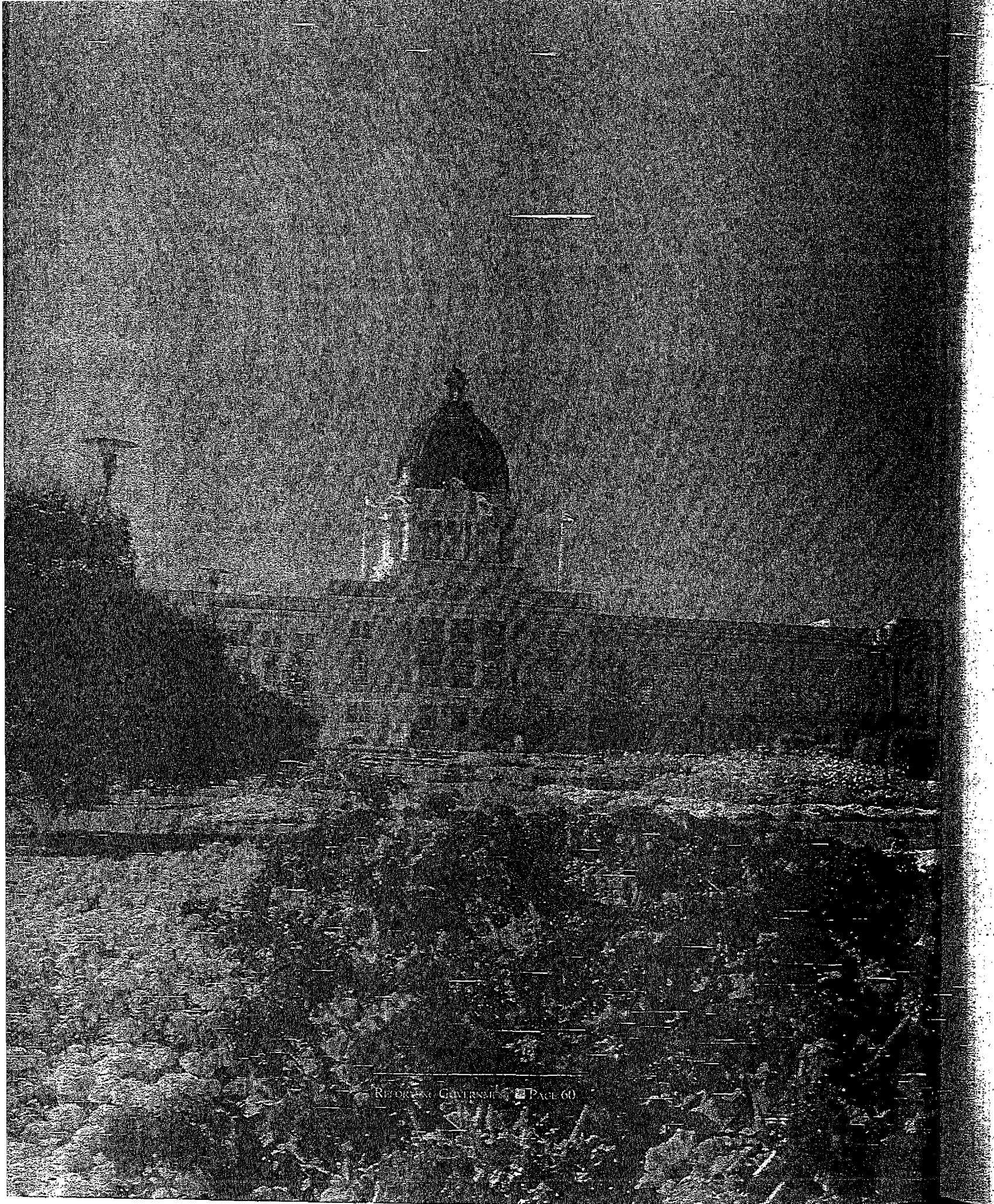
- **Ensure rural infrastructure and public utilities meet the needs of the rural economy:** that includes a new Saskatchewan Transport 2000 Corporation, with a \$30 million fund;

- **Encourage sustainable resource development:** Our plan ensures rural and northern residents get the best possible access to new jobs and workforce training;

- **Work with rural communities to ensure quality, sustainable education and health services,** that are locally controlled, locally responsive, and support local innovation and new services;

- **Ensure the availability of province-wide 911 emergency services.**





**W**e came to office committed to opening the books and getting Saskatchewan's financial house in order. We got the job done — correcting the abuses of the 1980s. Now it's time to build on new ideas about good government for the 1990s and beyond.

# Reforming Government

**The Romanow New Democratic Party's goal is good government.**

Building good government had to start by ending the abuses of the past.

The people of Saskatchewan had their faith in government sorely tested during the 1980s. They came to be cynical about the former provincial administration, which they saw as arrogant, anti-democratic and dishonest.

Elected to office in 1991, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. We opened the books. We cleaned up the mess. And we set some tough new rules for how government does business.

We need to protect and strengthen those achievements.

Good government in the 1990s is about more than just correcting past abuses. It's also about learning how to design and implement new and better services.

Good government in the future is about giving communities the power to develop new services tailored to local needs — government providing the toolbox, local people taking the tools they need to fix their own problems and build their own communities.

We need to build on those new ideas, and complete the job.



## Our first step was to open the books — a move that was long overdue

A key 1991 election commitment by Roy Romanow and the New Democrats was to open the government's books to full public scrutiny.

This was not a small issue. The previous government was hiding what it was doing with public money, both within government departments and the province's crown corporations.

The government's books obscured rather than detailed what was going on with public revenues and spending. Crown corporation annual reports were tabled late or not at all.

We moved immediately to address the issue. The best witness to our success is Saskatchewan's Independent Provincial Auditor.

Commenting on our work in his 1991-1992 Annual Report, he wrote:

*"The Government has moved from providing what the Financial Management Review Commission viewed as the weakest and least useful financial statements in Canada to providing one of the most useful financial statements issued by a senior government in Canada."*

In his spring 1993 report the provincial auditor said this:

*"The Government does publish complete financial statements. The statements are among the best in Canada. They provide a full and reliable accounting of the financial results of the government as a whole, including Crown corporations."*

## We acted to guarantee citizens their right to be represented in the legislature

You wouldn't think this should be an issue in our day and age — but it was.

Fearing defeat at the polls, the previous government refused to call by-elections to replace members of the legislature who vacated their seats.

The Romanow government passed legislation to ensure by-elections are held within six months of a vacancy.

**Opposition politicians actually complained that the NDP government was giving them too much information!**

## We acted to reduce the number of MLAs

We passed legislation to reduce the number of MLAs from 66 to 58, a 12 percent cut, making the Saskatchewan legislature the same size as the Manitoba legislature.

## We acted to redraw constituency boundaries impartially

We set up an independent, non-partisan commission, which drew new electoral boundaries to ensure that every citizen's vote counts equally.

## We opened the files, with access to information legislation

The Romanow government proclaimed the province of Saskatchewan's first *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

## We passed tough new ethical conduct rules

We implemented a *Code of Ethical Conduct* for MLAs, which commits them to the highest ethical standards.

## We passed tough new conflict of interest legislation

We introduced the *MLA Conflict of Interest Act* to ensure political representatives carry out their responsibilities honestly and fairly.

## We cut excessive severance packages

We brought in tough legislation to get taxpayers off the hook for absurdly generous severance packages promised by the previous government to selected individuals they appointed. We saved taxpayers over \$12 million in the process.

## We passed tough new legislation to make crown corporations accountable

We introduced the *Crown Corporations Act* to improve public accountability for all crown corporations.

## We gave taxpayers access to public opinion polling

We release an public opinion and market research conducted by government, every 90 days.

This new policy makes the government more accountable to taxpayers and also helps us keep in touch with the public, so that we can properly evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs.

We also cut spending on polling by more than 50 percent a year.

## We improved the legislature through open and effective committees

A well-functioning legislature depends on effective committees where members of all parties work together.

● We opened up the Board of Internal Economy, previously a closed secret body. Now it meets in open public session to make decisions about the legislature's finances and operations.

● We strengthened the Crown Corporations Committee. It used to be confined to reviewing old annual reports. Now it enquires into the past, present, and future plans of the whole crown sector — dramatically improving the level of scrutiny by elected legislators over the crown sector.

Opposition politicians actually complained to the press that the NDP government was giving them too much information about crown corporations!

● We sent legislative committees on the environment and on driver safety out of the legislative building, traveling the province to listen to the views and advice of citizens.

The tough new impaired driving rules proposed as a result are an example of the benefits of this "listen to the people" approach to legislation.

## We established a new Children's Advocate

The Romanow New Democrats took a decisive step to protect children by appointing a Children's Advocate in 1994.

The Children's Advocate can intervene in government services to uphold children's interests — a groundbreaking measure to make sure government works for children.

## A record to be proud of — and more to do

Our good government measures will stand Saskatchewan in good stead for years to come — as long as they are protected and strengthened as we propose to do. A good job so far — but there is more to do.





# New good government Initiatives For A Second Term

In four short years, we've come a long way towards making the legislature more effective, and towards restoring openness to Saskatchewan's government.

We'll defend and strengthen those achievements. And we'll build on them with three new "good government" initiatives for a second term designed to address the following issues:

- We need to continue to strengthen and further democratize Saskatchewan's legislature, to ensure it does the best possible job of representing the views of citizens.

- We need to continue opening up decision-making about crown corporations, especially when the issue is utility rate increases.

- And we need to continue to work on new ways to deliver public services — new ways that put local communities in the driver's seat, allowing them to tailor services to local needs.

## CONTINUING TO DEMOCRATIZE AND IMPROVE THE LEGISLATURE

Under our parliamentary system of government, citizens weigh candidates and platforms at election time, and choose among them, mandating a party to carry out its commitments by electing it.

In some American states, in contrast, people's frustration has led them to pass law after law specifying in minute detail how the government can tax, spend and administer.

The result, ironically, is to take power out of the hands of the people, and give it to unelected courts. Now lawyers and judges make the political decisions.

Nowhere has this been more true than in the largest American state. It's the California solution: judicialize government. California's reward: a permanent structural deficit. A government that is paralysed and can't do its job.

It's not the Canadian way. It's not the Saskatchewan way. We're lucky to have avoided California's problems. But we do need to ensure that our parliamentary system is steadily modernized and improved.

In our first term, we pioneered some important changes to the way the legislature does its work.

We opened up the secretive Board of Internal Economy.

We strengthened the important Crown Corporations Committee.

We sent committees on the road to listen to the people.

Under our plan, we'll build on these initiatives to bring about a more open, consultative, and democratic legislature.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Expand the role of legislative committees — all now meeting in open, public session — on the model of the crown corporations committee; and
- Put committees on the road to listen to, consult with, and report to citizens on key initiatives.

In our first term, we pioneered some important changes to the way the legislature does its work. Under our plan, we'll build on these initiatives to bring about a more open, consultative, and democratic legislature.

## ENSURING FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

This spring we introduced Saskatchewan's first *Balanced Budget Act*.

The *Balanced Budget Act* is a keystone for a new, reformed model of government.

It sets prudent standards for all future governments, to help ensure that the abuses of the past — for which we are all still paying — are never repeated.

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Live within the letter and spirit of the *Balanced Budget Act* of 1995 — and set an example for future governments.

## AN OPEN PUBLIC PROCESS FOR SETTING UTILITY RATES

In the 1980s, the former conservative government experimented with government by judicial process, delegating the job of setting utility rates to an unelected body, the Public Utilities Review Commission (PURC).

PURC cost \$3 million a year, and rates went up faster.

It wasn't accessible to ordinary people — it was just another layer of bureaucracy.

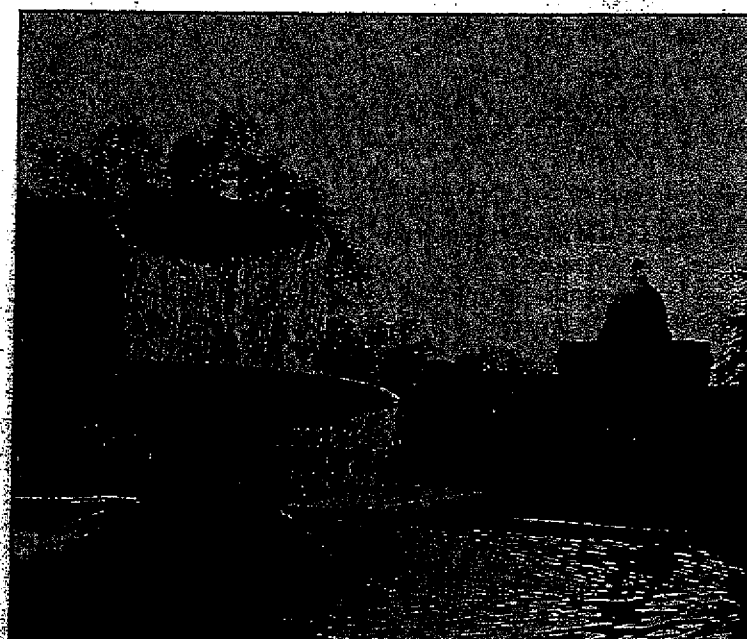
The Conservatives ended up abolishing PURC. Even they understood that more boards and agencies aren't the answer.

In order to have greater public accountability and citizen involvement:

### Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

- Require crown corporations to hold regional annual meetings, to explain their policies and their financial results to the public.
- Require crowns to notify the customers in advance before they can change utility rates for residents of Saskatchewan, and we'll provide at least 45 days for comment before the government makes any final decision.





## SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR FIRST NATIONS

New Democrats are serious about communities having more power – and this is particularly true in the case of Aboriginal communities.

It's in the interest of all Saskatchewan people to work out practical and effective models for self-government.

Decades of experience have shown that health, education and many key services work better for First Nations and Métis people when these services are run by their own communities.

Most importantly, First Nations and Métis people have strong moral and legal claims to self-government.

### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Work with First Nations and Métis people to design and implement practical models of self-government.

## EXPANDING LOCAL INVOLVEMENT AND LOCAL CONTROL

We've begun the task of retooling the way government delivers services based on three principles:

- We're serious about local communities having real power.

Government works better when people are involved. Participation by citizens is key to economic and social development.

- One size doesn't fit all.

Communities are different – solutions should be different. We need flexibility and experimentation in public services – a new approach in which government helps each community find its own answers.

Government can make a difference – when it listens to local people.

- Government provides a toolbox for communities.

Communities have problems to fix and dreams to build.

Government can't do it alone, but it can provide a toolbox, a set of programs and services, from which communities can take the help they need.

The Romanow government has begun to lay the groundwork for putting these new ideas of government into action.

We've set up regional institutions that have real powers and resources for health and job creation.

District health boards control integrated services and can plan for their regions. They have the freedom to innovate and find the best health solutions for their communities. In 1995 the first elections to these boards will be held.

Regional economic development authorities (REDAs) are community-based partnership organizations. REDAs are places where communities can think through, plan, and co-ordinate their own development.

We are pioneering new models in which local communities can shape education and social services.

The Romanow government's *Action Plan for Children* has supported innovative parent-driven programs in community schools.

These programs, which support vulnerable children, have drawn international attention. These are the kind of ideas we'll build on.

### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Work for more effective government through partnerships that put local communities in the driver's seat.
- Support the expansion of regional economic development authorities.

- Ensure elected district health boards have the autonomy to tailor services to local needs, within provincial standards (see Health).
- Make resources available to implement new, integrated services, as we are doing in the *Action Plan for Children*.

## A ZERO-SUM REGULATION POLICY

We want to cut red tape for small and medium-sized business, while maintaining protection for the public, workers and the environment. To do so, we are committed to taking a hard look at the regulatory burden in Saskatchewan.

### **Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:**

- Subject all Government of Saskatchewan regulations to a "sunset clause" taking them off the books after ten years, unless they are reviewed and restored in advance by Cabinet;
- Set the goal of reviewing 10 percent of all government regulations in each of the next ten years; and
- Set the overall goal of eliminating approximately 25 percent of all government regulations in the process, if found to be redundant, outdated, ineffective or unnecessary.

## Our commitments

Under our plan, Saskatchewan will:

### **■ Protect and strengthen the good government gains we've made so far:**

- Clear, open, and complete books, delivered on time;
- Mandatory by-elections within 6 months;
- Access to information;
- Government ethics rules;
- Conflict of interest legislation;
- Crown corporations legislation;
- Full public access to all government polling;
- Open legislative committees.

We'll also introduce:

### **■ A stronger legislature, with more effective consultative committees;**

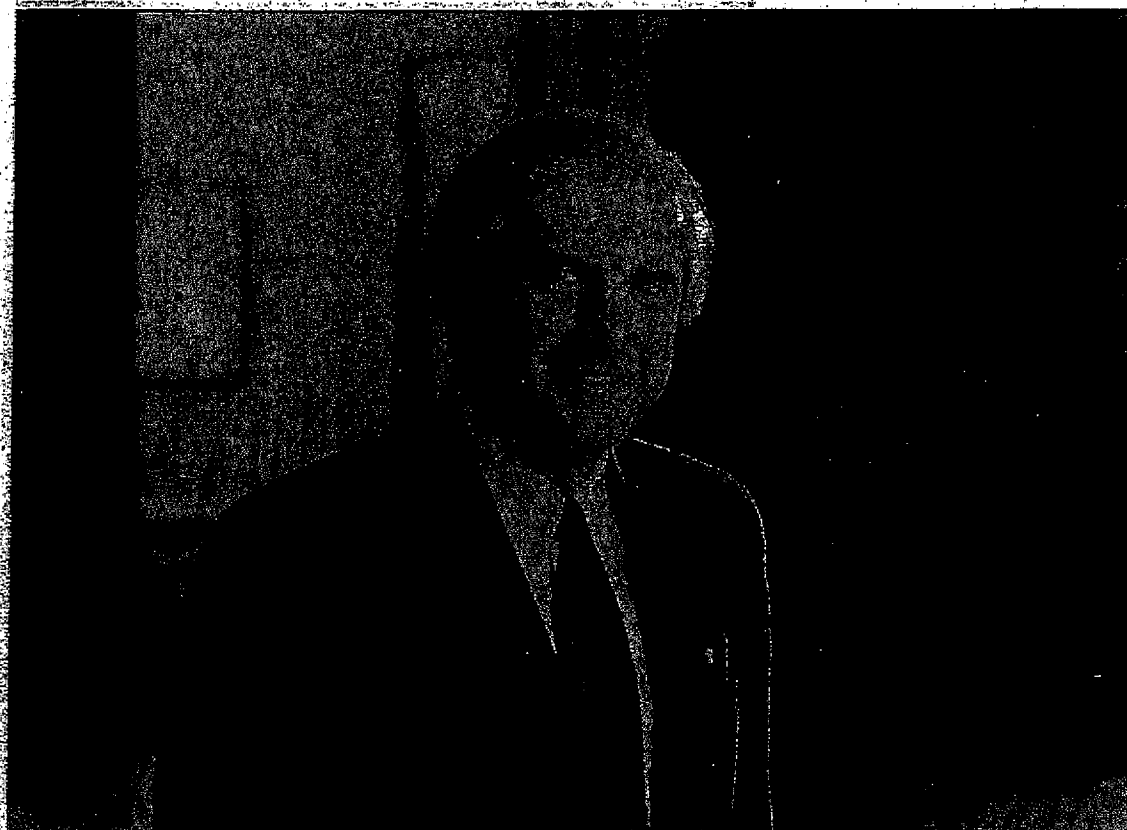
### **■ Mandatory public consultation and a public notice period before crown corporations can apply for increases in utility rates for Saskatchewan residents;**

### **■ Negotiation and implementation of practical models of self-government; and**

### **■ An across-the-board commitment to innovative public services and processes that increase local citizen input and control;**

### **■ Regulatory reform, including a ten-year regulatory "sunset clause".**





## Our Commitments, In Summary

Thanks to the hard work and determination of the people of Saskatchewan, our province can now make plans for what to do with provincial budget surpluses over each of the next four years. Under our plan, projected surpluses will be invested as follows: approximately one-third for debt reduction; one-third for tax reduction; and one-third for jobs and health care.

### DEBT REDUCTION

\$289 million over four years. Our plan allocates a projected \$289 million over four years to reduce the provincial debt.

### TAX REDUCTION

\$262 million over four years. Our plan allocates a projected \$262 million over four years to reduce taxes.

### JOBS AND HEALTH

\$232 million over four years. Our plan allocates a projected \$232 million over four years to jobs and training, health care, and other services.

## JOBS

- Economic development strategy. *Partnership for Renewal*, targeting Agriculture; Agricultural biotechnology; Information Technology; Oil and Gas; Mining; Forestry; and Tourism.
- JobStart. A comprehensive jobs program for youth. \$5 million.
- Future Skills. Skills and training program. \$10 million.
- Single window access to training.
- Multi-Party Training Plan for northern Saskatchewan. \$10 million.
- Co-ordinate and focus infrastructure investment.
- A new Saskatchewan Transportation 2000 Corporation. \$30 million.
- Co-ordinate and focus research and development investment.
- Reforestation program. \$2 million.
- Consolidate and strengthen REDAs. \$1.5 million.

## BALANCED BUDGETS

- A Balanced Budget Act.
- A financial plan to manage projected surpluses.
  - One-third to debt repayment.*
  - One-third to tax reductions.*
  - One-third for jobs, health care and services.*
- Increased efficiencies.
  - A commitment to reduce government spending by at least an additional \$40 million over the next four years, through increased efficiencies.*

## HEALTH

- We will fight to defend the principles of medicare.
- Four-year provincial funding stability for health care.
- Expanded home care services. \$20 million.
- A province-wide 911 service. \$7 million.
- Renewed partnership with health care providers.

## FAMILIES

- Review welfare programs to eliminate barriers to work.
- Support for unemployed and underemployed to create their own work.
- Review school and preschool programs to improve preschool education.
- Measures to ensure equal pay for men and women.
- Increased support for child care workers. \$500,000.
- Task force on family-friendly work. \$250,000.
- Complete and implement new core curriculum.
- Reduce post-secondary financial barriers. \$2.5 million.
- Consumer protection for private vocational schools.
- Oppose Liberal cuts to post-secondary education.
- Victims' right to be heard in sentencing of young offenders.
- Expanded RCMP coverage in rural Saskatchewan. \$1 million.

## NORTHERN & RURAL SASKATCHEWAN

- Complete "whole farm" safety net.
- Strategy to develop value-added rural businesses.
- Work with producers and rural communities to plan for consequences of abolition of the Crow Benefit.
- Rural internet service expansion. \$1 million.
- Government and agricultural information on internet. \$500,000.

## REFORMING GOVERNMENT

- Measures to democratize and strengthen the legislature.
- A commitment to self-government for First Nations.
- Public accountability in setting utility rates.
- A commitment to local involvement and control.
- A commitment to 10-year sunset clauses for all government regulations.



# YOUR ROMANOW NEW DEMOCRAT TEAM

Arm River	Bob Robertson
Athabasca	Hon. Fred Thompson
Battleford-Cutknife	Sharon Murrell
Cannington	Gary Lake
Canora-Pelly	Hon. Ron Harper, M.L.A.
Carrot River Valley	Hon. Andy Renaud
Cumberland	Hon. Keith Goulet
Cypress Hills	Carl Wenaas
Estevan	Larry Ward
Humboldt	Armand Roy, M.L.A.
Indian Head-Milestone	Lorne Scott, M.L.A.
Kelvington-Wadena	Hon. Darrel Cunningham
Kindersley	Mel Karlson
Last Mountain-Touchwood	Dale Flavel, M.L.A.
Lloydminster	Violet Stanger, M.L.A.
Meadow Lake	Maynard Sonntag, M.L.A.
Melfort-Tisdale	Hon. Carol Carson
Midville	Evan Carlson, M.L.A.
Moose Jaw North	Glenn Hagel, M.L.A.
Moose Jaw Wakarusa	Hon. Lorne Calvert
Moosomin	Glen Gatin
North Battleford	Hon. Doug Anguish
Prince Albert-Canton	Myron Kowalsky, M.L.A.
Prince Albert Northcote	Hon. Eldon Lautermilch
Redberry Lake	Walter Jess, M.L.A.
Regina Centre	Hon. Joanne Crofford
Regina Coronation Park	Kim Trew, M.L.A.
Regina Dewdney	Hon. Ed Tchorzewski
Regina Elphinstone	Hon. Dwain Lingenfelter
Regina Lakeview	John Nilson
Regina Northeast	Hon. Ned Shillington
Regina Qu'Appelle Valley	Suzanne Murray, M.L.A.
Regina Sherwood	Lindy Kasperski
Regina South	Andrew Thomson
Regina Victoria	Harry Van Mulligan, M.L.A.
Regina Wascana Plains	Doreen Hamilton, M.L.A.
Rosetown-Biggar	Hon. Benny Wiens
Rosthern	Colleen Parenteau
Saltcoats	Reg. Knezacek, M.L.A.
Saskatchewan Rivers	Jack Langford, M.L.A.
Saskatoon Eastview	Hon. Bob Fringle
Saskatoon Fairview	Hon. Bob Mitchell
Saskatoon Greystone	Marjory Gammel
Saskatoon Idylwyld	Hon. Janice MacKinnon
Saskatoon Meewasin	Carol Teichrob, M.L.A.
Saskatoon Mount Royal	Eric Cline, M.L.A.
Saskatoon Northwest	Grant Whitmore, M.L.A.
Saskatoon Nutana	Hon. Pat Atkinson
Saskatoon Riversdale	Premier Roy Romanow
Saskatoon Southeast	Pat Lorje, M.L.A.
Saskatoon Sutherland	Mark Koenker, M.L.A.
Shellbrook-Spiritwood	Lloyd Johnson, M.L.A.
Swift Current	John Wall
Thunder Creek	Dr. Lewis Draper, M.L.A.
Watrous	Eric Upshall, M.L.A.
Weyburn-Big Muddy	Judy Bradley, M.L.A.
Wood River	Allen Engel
Yorkton	Clay Serby, M.L.A.

# Join the Romanow New Democrats

Being a member of the Romanow New Democrats means joining tens of thousands of fellow citizens committed to building our province's economy the Romanow way — through community, co-operation, and fairness.

Being a member of the Romanow New Democrats means helping to implement the best plan for our province in the next four years: to create jobs, balance the budget, pay down the debt, reduce taxes, and protect health care.

## JOIN NOW!

Fill out this coupon and return it to:

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