

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: ☐ Alberta ☒ Saskatchewan ☐ Manitoba

Party: SKP Election Year: 1999

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

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

Type of Document:

☒ Platform

☐ Constitution

☐ Speech

☐ Brochure / Leaflet *PP*

☐ Newspaper

☐ Advertisement

☐ Other: _____

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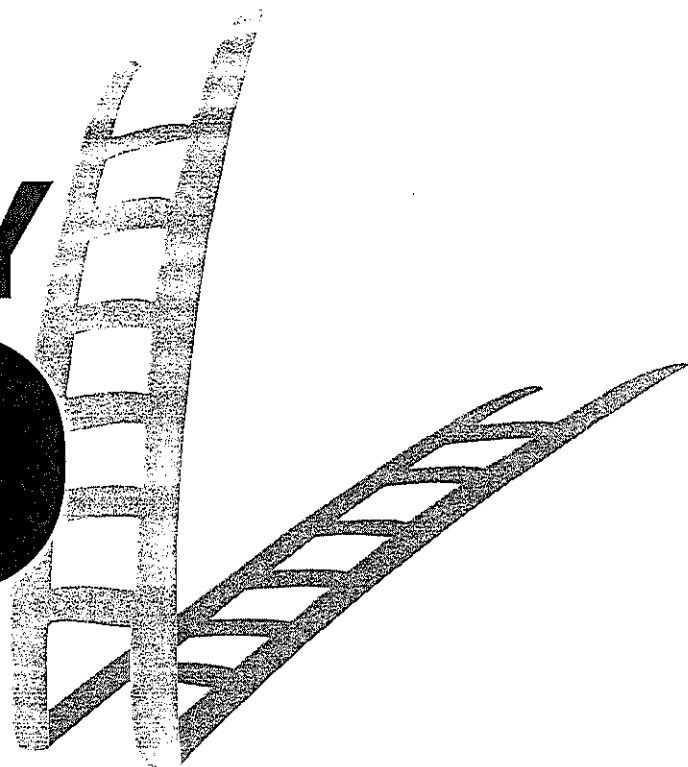
Source: the party

AB = Alberta
SK = Saskatchewan
MB = Manitoba

UofA = University of Alberta
UofC = University of Calgary
UofR = University of Regina
UofS = University of Saskatchewan
UofM = University of Manitoba
BU = Brandon University

PARC = Provincial Archives
LEG = Legislative Library
SPC = Special Collections
ULIB = University Library

**THE WAY
UP**



**Election Platform
of
The Saskatchewan Party**

Fall '99 Election Edition



A Message From Saskatchewan Party Leader Elwin Hermanson

If you believe Saskatchewan deserves a
brighter future, join the Saskatchewan
Party on *The Way Up!*



Saskatchewan people deserve a strong economy that creates jobs. We deserve high quality health care, safe roads, fair taxes and a strong agriculture industry.

Saskatchewan people deserve to keep more of the money they work hard to earn. But after eight years of NDP government, Saskatchewan families pay the second highest taxes in Canada — taxes that cripple economic growth and drive people out.

The NDP promised to make health care a priority. Now Saskatchewan has the longest waiting lists in the country and the NDP health reform process has been a disaster.

The NDP promised better highways. Today our highways and roads are falling apart.

High taxes. The longest hospital waiting lists. The worst highways. This is the NDP record.

Saskatchewan deserves better.

The Saskatchewan Party was created to give people a choice. The NDP is keeping Saskatchewan families on the bottom rung of the ladder. The Saskatchewan Party is offering *The Way Up!*

The Way Up! is a realistic, achievable plan to promote economic growth and new jobs, improve health care, ease the tax burden and put more money back into the pockets of Saskatchewan families.

The Way Up! has been evaluated by one of Canada's leading economic forecasters (see page 20). The analysis shows this plan will work within a **balanced budget every year.**

The Saskatchewan Party is taking a bold new approach to the future. If you believe Saskatchewan deserves a brighter future for ourselves and our children — I invite you to join us on *The Way Up!*

Elwin

The Saskatchewan Party

The Way Up!

The Way Up ! will:

- ✓ ***Cut the Basic Provincial Income Tax by 20%*** over four years giving Saskatchewan the lowest basic income tax rate in Canada
- ✓ ***Cut the PST to 5%*** in our first budget
- ✓ ***Make Saskatchewan a Small Business Tax Free Zone*** by eliminating the eight percent Small Business Tax over four years
- ✓ Provide \$300 million in new funding over five years to restore our roads and highways
- ✓ Demand changes to AIDA to provide an immediate \$20 per acre payment to all Saskatchewan Farmers
- ✓ Create an environment that promotes and encourages the creation of new jobs for Saskatchewan people
- ✓ Demand the federal Liberals restore the millions of dollars they have cut out of Saskatchewan health care since 1993
- ✓ Ensure health care dollars are spent on patient care instead of administration by directing the Provincial Auditor to launch a comprehensive, ***Value-for-Money Audit*** of the health care system
- ✓ Reform the welfare system and move employable people from welfare to work through our ***WorkFirst Plan – A Hand Up not a Handout***
- ✓ Implement an independent utility rate watchdog to ensure fair utility rates for Saskatchewan families and businesses
- ✓ Stop patronage and bring professional management to Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations to protect against further multi-million dollar debacles like Channel Lake, Guyana and SPUDCO.
- ✓ Provide the courts, police and community groups with the tools they need to crack down on property crime and make our neighbourhoods safe for families and seniors

An independent economic analysis shows ***The Way Up!*** is achievable, affordable and can be accomplished within a balanced budget each year (see page 20).

The Way Up!

Cutting Taxes For Saskatchewan Families

Saskatchewan families shoulder one of the highest tax burdens in all of Canada thanks to the NDP. Saskatchewan's Tax Freedom Day – the date you finish paying taxes to all levels of government and start working for yourself – is June 29. Almost half of the money you earn goes to pay your taxes. This can't go on.

The average Alberta family keeps \$11,273 more in after-tax income than the average Saskatchewan family. The NDP tax burden is hurting families, crippling our economy and driving Saskatchewan people to other provinces. It's time to cut taxes for Saskatchewan families.

The Way Up! cuts taxes for Saskatchewan families by:

- ✓ **Cutting the Basic Provincial Income Tax by 20% over four years.** This will be achieved by reducing the basic provincial income tax rate from its current level of 48% of federal income tax down to 38% of federal tax over four years, giving Saskatchewan the lowest Basic Income Tax Rate in Canada.
- ✓ **Cutting the PST to 5% in our first budget.**

The Saskatchewan Party believes your family will spend your hard earned money better and smarter than the government will every time.

The Way Up! includes further steps to address the issue of tax fairness by:

- ✓ **Calling on the federal Liberal government to allow families to split income between spouses.** This would ease the overall tax burden on Saskatchewan families and provide fair tax treatment to families who choose to have one parent stay at home with children or work part-time.
- ✓ **Requiring Status Indians to begin paying the PST on purchases made off-reserve.** This policy is currently in place in all other provinces (except Alberta, which has no PST) and was recently upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada.

- ⇒ *Cutting the PST will ease the problem of cross-border shopping.*
- ⇒ *Lower personal taxes means more money being spent in Saskatchewan.*
- ⇒ *The combination of lower income and sales taxes will help to create new jobs.*

The Way Up!

More Effective and Affordable Government

- ✗ The NDP government has stopped listening to Saskatchewan people. Worse, the NDP has demonstrated its willingness to spend taxpayers' money and disregard the best interests of the province to reward political friends.
- ✗ *Tens of millions of dollars have been lost by the NDP on disastrous business deals like Channel Lake, Guyana and SPUDCO. Taxpayers pay for this mismanagement through higher taxes and utility rates.*
- ✗ The Provincial Auditor has been demanding more complete financial reporting of government activities for many years so the public will have an effective measuring stick to evaluate the government's performance.

The Way Up! will make government smaller, more effective and more accountable to the people by:

- ✓ Amalgamating the Department of Finance and the Department of Economic Development into one new Department of Finance and Economic Growth. This new department will be responsible for growing the economy by cutting taxes. The money saved by the amalgamation will be used to pay for the elimination of the Small Business Tax.
- ✓ Reducing the size of cabinet by 20 percent. Saskatchewan only needs one Minister of Finance and Economic Growth, one Minister of Health, one Minister of Education and one Minister responsible for gaming. The NDP currently has two Ministers in each of these areas.
- ✓ Ending patronage in the appointment of Crown Corporation Boards of Directors.
- ✓ Requiring all subsidiaries of Crown Corporations to be subject to the same financial reporting and *Freedom of Information* requirements as the parent Crown Corporations.
- ✓ Requiring all government departments, agencies and Crown Corporations to publish four-year business plans including annual performance targets and objectives as recommended by the Provincial Auditor.
- ✓ Establishing an independent utility watchdog to examine and approve utility rate changes, evaluate the performance of SaskPower, SaskTel and SaskEnergy and report to the Legislature on an annual basis.
- ✓ Introducing stronger legislation that requires balanced budgets on an annual basis.

The Way Up!

Welfare Reform That Really Works

- ✗ The NDP has been the most successful government in the history of Saskatchewan at getting people onto the welfare rolls and keeping them there.
- ✗ Since 1991, the number of people on welfare has jumped from 57,000 to over 66,000 — an increase of more than 16% while other provinces have reduced their welfare rolls dramatically.
- ✗ Since 1991, the number of fully employable but unemployed welfare recipients has jumped by a whopping 43%. Today the NDP spends \$188 million more on Social Services than in 1991 — a 48% increase.

The Saskatchewan Party's *WorkFirst Plan* is a fundamental departure from the NDP's commitment to expand the welfare system. *WorkFirst* is based on the premise that the existing welfare system is failing those it serves and must be replaced with a true employment system.

WorkFirst is a Welfare-to-Work program based on a simple philosophy: Work First.

For all fully employable and able-bodied welfare recipients, any job is better than no job. The best way to succeed in the labour market is to join it.

- ✓ Under *WorkFirst*, the mission of welfare offices across Saskatchewan will shift from the NDP approach of paying cash assistance to moving employable welfare recipients into the workforce immediately.
- ✓ *WorkFirst* will replace the existing welfare system with a true employment system that both requires and enables fully employable welfare recipients to work.
- ✓ All fully employable, able-bodied welfare recipients will be required to participate in the *WorkFirst* Program.
- ✓ Replacing welfare with an employment system will move people from a life of dependency on government to self-sufficiency. *WorkFirst* will replace the stigma of joblessness with the dignity of work and it will reward initiative instead of punishing it.
- ✓ Implementation of our *WorkFirst* plan in combination with new job creation will reduce welfare rolls by 25% and save taxpayers \$50 million over four years. More importantly, it will return thousands of people to the workforce as productive members of our economy.

The Saskatchewan Party

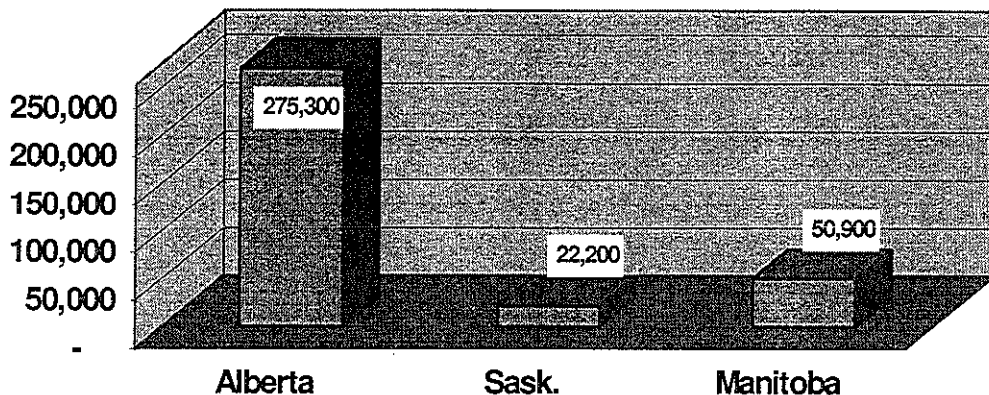
The Way Up!

New Jobs For Saskatchewan People

The NDP has the second worst job creation record in Canada. Since the NDP took office in 1991, there have been just 22,200 new jobs created in Saskatchewan (July 91– July 99). During the same period, Alberta created 275,300 new jobs and Manitoba created 50,900 new jobs.

Eight years of NDP government in Saskatchewan has produced bulging welfare rolls and a continuing exodus of Saskatchewan people to other provinces. We need more from our provincial government than tax increases, worn out slogans and squandered opportunities.

New Job Creation by Province July 1991 to July 1999 – A Graphic NDP Failure (Source: Statistics Canada)



The Way Up! will put an end to eight years of lost opportunities by:

- ✓ **Making Saskatchewan a Small Business Tax Free Zone by eliminating the eight per-cent Small Business Tax over four years.**
- ✓ Growing Saskatchewan's economy and creating new jobs with our combination of income, sales and small business tax cuts.
- ✓ Making business more competitive by eliminating bureaucratic red tape and reducing the paper burden of unnecessary government regulation.
- ✓ Repealing oppressive labour legislation such as the NDP's union preference tendering policy.

More jobs and an expanded tax base means greater opportunities for our young people; a brighter future for our communities, more government revenue to pay for health and education and a better quality of life for everyone in Saskatchewan.

The Way Up!

Potholes to Pavement: Rebuilding Our Highways

Nowhere can the failure of the NDP government be seen more clearly than on our crumbling highway system. Saskatchewan people depend on the highways. This is especially true with the closure of so many hospitals, schools, elevators and other essential services throughout Saskatchewan.

The NDP government has shown no real commitment to making our highways safe in spite of numerous examples of vehicle damage and even bodily injury due to unsafe highway conditions. The federal Liberals have also failed in this area, refusing to establish a much needed National Transportation Program.

The NDP spends only 63 percent of the money they collect in fuel taxes on highways. Three years ago, the NDP made promise to spend \$250 million a year on highways. But the NDP has already fallen \$98 million short of that promise and our highway system continues to deteriorate. Now Roy Romanow is making the same promise again. Romanow broke his promise last time. Why should we trust him now?

***The Way Up!* makes a true commitment to restoring our highways by:**

- ✓ Increasing the highway construction and maintenance budget by \$250 million over five years (\$50 million a year), an increase of 23 per cent over the current NDP funding commitment.
- ✓ Increasing funding for rural roads by \$50 million over five years (\$10 million per year).

There is a critical need in Saskatchewan to complete the twinning of the Trans-Canada and Yellowhead highways. Saskatchewan has about 162 of 187 kilometres (86%) of two lane highway on the Trans-Canada between the Ontario/Manitoba border and the Rocky Mountains. Increasingly high traffic volume has made these two-lane stretches extremely dangerous and has led to many serious vehicle accidents and loss of life.

The NDP has said they will complete the twinning of the Trans-Canada and Yellowhead highways in 15 years. That is not good enough. *The Way Up!* will take fast action by:

- ✓ Doubling the current funding for highway twinning projects. This will result in completion of twinning the Trans-Canada highway and a large portion of the Yellowhead highway in 8 years as opposed to the NDP's unacceptable 15-year plan.
- ✓ Demanding the federal Liberal government match our funding commitment. If the federal Liberals live up to their responsibility for our two national highways, twinning could be completed in four years rather than eight.

***The Way Up!* commits \$300 million in new funding over five years to begin repairing the damage caused by eight years of NDP neglect.**

The Way Up!

Agriculture: Strong Leadership and Support for Farm Families

Saskatchewan agriculture, our province's most important industry, has been devastated by international trade wars, falling commodity prices and a lack of support from the federal Liberals and the provincial NDP.

Ever since the NDP tore up GRIP contracts and took hundreds of millions of dollars from farmers, Saskatchewan producers have been without an adequate safety net program. The NDP's latest effort — the AIDA program — has been a total failure.

The Way Up! will give farmers and agri-businesses the support they need to grow and succeed by:

- ✓ Working to renegotiate the Liberal-NDP Farm Aid Program (AIDA) so that it works for Saskatchewan farmers by simplifying the application process and making acreage based payments.

If elected, Premier Elwin Hermanson will IMMEDIATELY lead a delegation of farm groups and producers to Ottawa to demand that AIDA be changed to provide an immediate acreage payment of at least \$20 per acre.

- ✓ Providing strong leadership in the development of an effective long-term safety net program to protect farm families against the International agricultural trade war.
- ✓ Ending provincial off-loading of education tax onto property taxpayers.
- ✓ Lobbying the Federal Liberal government to give farmers a choice in how and where they market the crops.
- ✓ Investing \$300 million in new funding for highways and rural roads through our Provincial Road Strategy to meet the demands of increased agricultural traffic.
- ✓ Encouraging the establishment of short line rail companies which will strengthen rural communities by helping to preserve local rail lines and elevators.
- ✓ Ensuring Saskatchewan Crop Insurance is affordable and effective in serving the needs of farmers in the event of a crop failure.

The Way Up!

The Health Care Crisis: An Attack by Two Governments

The Saskatchewan health care system is in crisis. It has been under attack on two fronts: the federal Liberals have slashed hundreds of millions of dollars out of the provincial health care budget and the NDP's so-called health reform has resulted in mismanagement of health care dollars in Saskatchewan.

Where is the Money Going?

NDP health reform has been a disaster. The NDP is now spending \$1.9 billion a year on health care - \$1,900 for every man, woman and child in the province — yet health care services keep getting worse..

- ✗ **The NDP closed 52 hospitals in communities throughout the province.**
- ✗ **The NDP closed the 300 bed Plains Hospital in Regina.**
- ✗ **Nurses, beds and services have been cut back in every area of the province. Doctors are leaving. Nurses are striking.**
- ✗ **The NDP continues to move emergency services further away from rural people .**
- ✗ **Waiting lists have grown dramatically. Saskatchewan now has the longest medical waiting lists in the entire country according to a recent independent study.**
- ✗ **Almost half of Saskatchewan people expect the health system to deteriorate further over the next 10 years according to the government's own polling.**

Saskatchewan people want to know — where are the benefits of NDP health reform? Where is all the money going? Why is the NDP spending more tax dollars on administration while front line services continue to get worse?

Saskatchewan people simply cannot afford to keep paying more for health care only to receive deteriorating services.

We must begin to address both the federal Liberal cuts to health care and provincial NDP's mismanagement of the health care system.

The Saskatchewan Party

The Way Up!

Restoring Confidence in the Health Care System

The Way Up! will put the health of Saskatchewan people first and restore confidence in our health care system by:

- ✓ Demanding the federal Liberal government restore the millions of dollars they have cut from health care since 1993. Every dollar in restored federal funding will be provided directly to health districts to improve front line services including the hiring of more nurses.
- ✓ Ensuring health care dollars are being spent on patient care instead of administration by directing the Provincial Auditor to launch a comprehensive, *Value-for-Money Audit* of the health care system. This audit will identify where the system is failing and make recommendations to address the problems. The Provincial Auditor will have the authority to consult with health care specialists and economists as required.
- ✓ Implementing the Provincial Auditor's recommendations within six months of receiving the results of the *Value-for-Money Health Care Audit*.
- ✓ Passing legislation ensuring that ALL health board members are elected by the people they serve. (Currently, some board members are appointed by the government.)
- ✓ Further reducing expensive administration cost by eliminating government appointed board positions.
- ✓ Providing no-strings-attached block funding to health districts so that locally elected board members can make health care spending decisions in the best interests of the people they serve instead of having those decisions dictated to them by politicians and bureaucrats in Regina.
- ✓ Appointing an independent health care ombudsman to investigate public complaints about the health care system and make recommendations on how to address those complaints.

All Saskatchewan residents deserve access to high quality health services. *The Way Up!* is designed to ensure Saskatchewan people receive high quality health care by addressing the dual problems of Liberal funding cuts and NDP mismanagement of the health system.

The Way Up!

Security and Quality of Life for Seniors

- ✗ The NDP's high taxes and utility rate hikes are a direct attack on the pocketbooks of Saskatchewan seniors. Every time the NDP raises taxes or increases SaskPower rates, seniors on fixed incomes are forced to do with less.
- ✗ NDP health reform has meant deteriorating health services in rural Saskatchewan. Seniors are forced to travel longer distances to receive medical attention. Crumbling highways make travel for seniors even more difficult.
- ✗ Seniors are especially vulnerable to crime, theft, assault and fraudulent business activity. The NDP has failed to act while crime in our communities escalates, threatening the safety and security of families and seniors.

***The Way Up!* supports Saskatchewan seniors by:**

- ✓ Cutting the basic provincial income tax rate by 20% over four years and cutting the PST to 5%. These tax cuts will put money back into the pockets of seniors immediately.
- ✓ Establishing a utility rate watchdog to protect against unnecessary power, gas and telephone rate increases that cut deep into the fixed budgets of most seniors.
- ✓ Redirecting health funding to patient care rather than administration to improve quality and access of health services for seniors and families.
- ✓ Strengthening laws and working with police and local community groups to make our neighborhoods safer by preventing property crimes, home invasions, vehicle thefts and assaults from happening.
- ✓ Exploring opportunities for seniors to invest in the future of Saskatchewan through investment options that also cut their tax bills and put money back into their pockets immediately.

The Way Up!

A Responsible Approach to Gaming

In 1993, the NDP unleashed an unprecedented program of gambling expansion in Saskatchewan with little consideration for the impact it would have on people and communities.

Today Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) are a fact of life in almost every city and town in the province. The result: windfall revenues for the provincial government of about \$130 million per year.

Unfortunately, the NDP has sucked up these big gambling profits without evaluating the socio-economic costs for families and communities. Like a true gambling addict, the NDP refuses to acknowledge that a problem exists.

The Way Up! recognizes the social impact of expanded gambling and will take a responsible approach to the problem by:

- ✓ Undertaking a long overdue comprehensive social impact study of the NDP's gambling expansion policies and taking immediate action on the recommendations.
- ✓ Allowing communities to opt out of the province's VLT program through a community referendum, an option currently available only to remote northern communities.

Since coming to power, the NDP has reaped the financial benefits of increased gambling in Saskatchewan without accepting any responsibility for the negative social and economic impacts. *The Way Up!* will take a responsible approach to gaming.

The Way Up!

Making Our Neighbourhoods and Communities Safe

The NDP is soft on crime and soft on criminals. The result is that Saskatchewan communities have some of the highest crime rates in the entire country:

- ✗ Regina has the dubious distinction of being the crime capital of Canada. Saskatoon is number three.
- ✗ Regina is also the violent crime capital of Canada and has the highest homicide rate in the country.
- ✗ Premier Romanow and Deputy Premier Lingenfelter represent constituencies with some of the worst community crime rates in the entire country and yet have taken virtually no action in eight years to deal with the problem. Not surprisingly, Romanow and Lingenfelter choose not to live in their crime-ridden constituencies.
- ✗ The Liberals only action has been to introduce its expensive and ill-conceived gun control legislation which penalizes law abiding citizens while doing nothing to reduce crime.
- ✗ The NDP refused to get behind Saskatchewan grassroots lobby efforts for tougher penalties to *The Young Offenders Act* until their polling made it crystal clear that Saskatchewan people were demanding change.

The Way Up! gets tough on crime by:

- ✓ Supporting more severe penalties for repeat young offenders, elevating young offenders to adult court for violent crimes and reducing the age at which young offenders can be tried in adult court in the case of violent and/or repetitive criminal behavior.
- ✓ Working with police and community associations to establish Citizen Neighborhood Patrols to help prevent crimes such as home break-ins and car theft.
- ✓ Introducing new legislation to require that victims of crime be compensated for material losses by those who committed the crime.
- ✓ Introducing a Victim Impact Statement program so the Courts have the opportunity to consider the impact of the crime on the victim when passing sentence. (Saskatchewan is the only province without such a program.)
- ✓ Implementing more stringent regulations and accounting practices for second-hand retail outlets and pawn shops to stop thieves from selling stolen items to legitimate businesses. Businesses will be required to register with the Department of Justice and keep detailed records of the source of all used items purchased for resale.

The Way Up!

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Children and Families

- ✗ The NDP pays lip service to the protection of children and families in Saskatchewan but they refuse to deal with Saskatchewan's serious child prostitution and domestic violence problems.
- ✗ Children are prostituting themselves on our streets and the NDP have done very little to protect them from johns and pimps. Child prostitution is child abuse - plain and simple. We should not tolerate child abuse in the home nor should we tolerate it on our streets.
- ✗ Instead of taking proactive steps to stop sexual predators, the NDP has chosen to downplay this assault on children in the hope the federal government will do something. Both the provincial NDP and the federal Liberals are failing Saskatchewan children.
- ✗ In times of domestic crisis, abused family members often seek refuge in emergency shelters across the province. The NDP has not maintained proper funding levels to many of these shelters.

The Way Up! will put children and families first by:

- ✓ Introducing new laws that provide police with more effective tools to deal with johns. These laws will be designed to dry up demand for street prostitution through initiatives such as publication of names of convicted johns and more severe sentences for first time and repeat offenders.
- ✓ Introducing new initiatives and increasing funding to the Maintenance Enforcement Office to force deadbeat parents to honour maintenance obligations to their children on regular and timely basis.
- ✓ Introducing tough new child and spousal abuse laws that will give authorities more tools to deal with abuse situations, support victims of abuse and grant the Courts the option of stiffer penalties for those convicted of child abuse.
- ✓ Focusing government funding on organizations that provide refuge, counseling and support to families in crisis.

The Way Up!

Education for a New Millennium

- ✗ The NDP has cut K-12 education spending by \$358 million since 1991 resulting in school closures, lower quality education and higher property taxes.
- ✗ Thanks to an NDP government that has neglected K-12 education for eight years, Saskatchewan is producing students who score near the bottom in national tests.
- ✗ The NDP has not provided adequate teaching resources, classroom and library facilities and distance or Internet-based learning tools to Saskatchewan students and does not appear to have a plan for addressing this problem.
- ✗ Parents and post secondary-students have been telling the NDP government for eight years that the student loan system is failing middle income families and yet little action has been taken.
- ✗ University underfunding has resulted in major buildings being condemned at the University of Saskatchewan and major delays in building at the University of Regina.

The Way Up! will put Saskatchewan students first by:

- ✓ Ending provincial offloading to school divisions and property taxpayers.
- ✓ Launching a comprehensive K-12 Curriculum review to ensure students are graduating with the tools they need to compete nationally and internationally for post secondary educational opportunities and jobs in the 21st century economy.
- ✓ Launching *Education for the New Millennium* - a comprehensive analysis of Saskatchewan's post-secondary education system leading to the implementation of a long term education and training plan for Saskatchewan people and businesses.
- ✓ Encouraging expanded, long-term agreements with business and industry in the development of post-secondary training programs so that we are producing students with the skill sets necessary to be successful in the new economy.
- ✓ Reforming the student loan program so that all academically qualified students have access to funding for post-secondary education.
- ✓ Facilitating public/private partnerships to provide computer and Internet-based teaching resources for rural and northern school divisions so that students gain the benefits of information technology no matter where they live.

The Way Up!

A New Partnership with Municipal Government

- ✗ Over the past eight years, the NDP has cut funding to cities, towns, villages and rural municipalities by more than 50%.
- ✗ Deep provincial funding cuts have resulted in property tax increases and pressure on essential services like policing, clean water and garbage collection.
- ✗ With the NDP government downloading millions of dollars in costs to school divisions as well as municipalities, the property tax base is stressed to the breaking point.
- ✗ The NDP has balanced its budget on the backs of property taxpayers and turned its back on local communities.
- ✗ The Municipal Revenue Sharing formula doesn't work anymore and must be replaced.
- ✗ Capital funding programs have been developed on an unpredictable ad hoc basis.
- ✗ Massive provincial regulation has resulted in costly bureaucracy and inflated costs for municipal services.

The Way Up! will put communities first by:

- ✓ Ending provincial offloading to municipalities and property taxpayers.
- ✓ Working with municipalities to replace the outdated Municipal Revenue Sharing Program with a new funding agreement between the province and municipalities that is predictable and promotes efficient delivery of local services.
- ✓ Lobbying the federal Liberal government for a tripartite municipal capital funding program to support the maintenance and replacement of existing municipal infrastructure.
- ✓ Amending legislation and regulations to give municipalities the freedom to deliver local services with a minimum of provincial government interference.
- ✓ Implementing the Provincial Road Strategy with the investment of \$300 million in new funding for road construction and maintenance over five years.

The Way Up!

Crown Corporations That Work For Saskatchewan

- ✗ The NDP has used Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations to reward its political friends and gouge Saskatchewan taxpayers through numerous rate hikes over the past eight years.
- ✗ NDP patronage usually wins out over professional competence in the appointment of crown boards and senior managers.
- ✗ Subsidiaries of Crown Corporations operate outside the reach of *The Freedom of Information Act* and do not have the same financial reporting requirements as their parent companies, allowing the NDP to hide their money-losing activities in places like Guyana and Channel Lake.
- ✗ Crown Corporation boards are filled with NDP partisans who, for the most part, don't know how to run a large corporation. In many cases, Crown CEO's are hired for their strong NDP resumes.

- ⇒ The secret backroom deals to reward NDP friends with hundreds of thousands of dollars must stop.
- ⇒ Back door tax increases through unnecessary and unexplained utility rate increases must end.
- ⇒ Crown Corporations must be made accountable to the taxpayers they serve.

The Way Up! will:

- ✓ Establish an independent utility rate watchdog to review and approve all changes to utility rates proposed by Crown Corporations. The utility rate review board will consist of representatives from business, industry, labour and consumer/user groups. Utility rates will be frozen until the rate review board is established.
- ✓ Ensure that subsidiaries of Crown Corporations are fully accountable and subject to the same financial reporting requirements and the same Freedom of Information access as the parent crown corporations.
- ✓ End patronage in the appointment of Crown Boards of Directors by requiring all potential board appointees be selected by the all-party Crown Corporations Committee. Senior officers will then be hired by non-partisan Crown Corporation Boards without political interference.
- ✓ Work to liquidate non-utility Crown holdings (eg. Cameco) when market conditions are favourable. Proceeds will be used to pay down debt.
- ✓ Initiate an immediate review of SGI's No Fault Insurance Program to ensure victims rights are protected.

Saskatchewan people are the shareholders of our Crown Corporations. They must be consulted directly through provincial referendum on any specific proposal to sell any Crown utility.

The Way Up!

Democratic Reform: Restoring the Voice of the People

Saskatchewan's NDP government has become arrogant and has lost touch with the people of Saskatchewan. All too frequently we see the NDP make decisions with little regard for the wishes of the people who elected them.

In many cases, the NDP government appears to be motivated not by what is best for the province, but rather what is best for NDP supporters. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the NDP's decision to pay off former SaskPower President Jack Messer with a \$300,000 severance package after he was fired over the multi-million dollar Channel Lake fiasco.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, especially backbenchers on the government side, are no longer representatives of their constituents. Instead, they have become silent defenders of government policy, forced to put the party line ahead of the best interests of their constituents.

The Way Up! will make MLAs more accountable to their constituents by:

- ✓ **Making all votes in the Legislature free votes. This will give individual MLAs the power to vote on behalf of their constituents regardless of party affiliation instead of simply toeing the party line.**
- ✓ **Implementing MLA recall, the ultimate tool of accountability. This will give voters the power to "fire" their MLA mid-term if a majority of constituents feel the MLA is failing to represent them in a fair and honest manner.**
- ✓ **Implementing set election dates on four-year cycles. This will force the government to seek the support of the people on a regular timetable rather than choosing the election date to create a political advantage for the governing party.**
- ✓ **Using binding provincial referenda where appropriate to settle major issues such as the sale of Crown Corporations.**

The Saskatchewan Party

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The Way Up!

A Balanced Plan that Works for Saskatchewan

By now you are probably thinking: "Lower taxes, new jobs, better highways and a balanced budget!
It sounds great, but is it really affordable?"

The answer is "Yes!"

The following projections of government revenue and expenditure over the next four years have been calculated by the WEFA Canada – a leading Canadian econometric forecaster used by most provincial Finance Departments including Saskatchewan Finance.

The projections include the impact of the three major financial initiatives in *The Way Up!* – the reduction in the PST to 5%, the 20% reduction in the provincial income tax, the elimination of the Small Business Tax and the \$300 million increase in spending on highway construction and maintenance. The cost of these initiatives is offset by the expanded tax base due to economic growth. The WEFA study indicates all four proposals can be achieved within a balanced budget every year.

WEFA's projections were recently updated using the province's Public Accounts as published by the Department of Finance and the most current provincial economic forecasts available.

"Personal disposable income per capita in Saskatchewan is in danger of falling below that of the Atlantic provinces. Tax reductions can be a direct and powerful tool permitting the households of Saskatchewan to escape this dubious distinction."

- WEFA Canada

Economic Forecast By WEFA Canada

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total Government Revenue (\$ 000s)	5,723,000	5,922,500	6,106,000	6,284,800
Total Government Expenditure (\$ 000s)	5,589,000	5,582,000	5,622,000	5,723,700
Surplus (\$ 000s)	134,400	340,500	484,000	561,100
Economic Growth	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	2.4%
Employment	487,200	493,900	501,100	508,900
Per Capita Disposable Income	\$16,511	\$17,261	\$17,823	\$18,597

"Income tax reductions increase the incentive to join the labour force, to work longer and work more effectively. Such increased productivity is the only route to a sustained increase in our standard of living. Sales tax reductions... increase the incentive to purchase. By increasing aggregate demand they increase economic growth and job creation."

- WEFA Canada