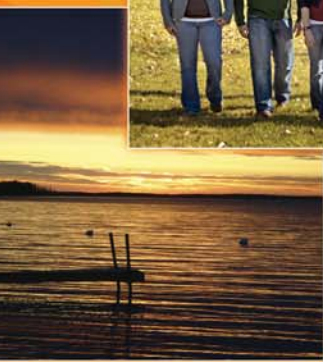


Moving forward together.  
Making life better  
for Saskatchewan families.



**Lorne Calvert**  
and your

 **Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**



Authorized by the Chief Official Agent as a joint candidate expense on behalf of all candidates of the New Democratic Party, Sask. Section.



# A Message from Saskatchewan New Democratic Party Leader Lorne Calvert

Dear friends,

New Democrats are guided by a fundamental principle: Saskatchewan families must feel real benefits from our booming economy.

When I came into office, it was my conviction that having spent a decade restoring Saskatchewan's fiscal health, our challenge in the current decade was to re-invigorate our economy to serve as the foundation for making life better for all Saskatchewan families.

I am very proud of our record of results for Saskatchewan families.

Saskatchewan's economy has been transformed. We have sharpened our competitive edge, and the results are all around us for everyone to see. Let there be no doubt: hard work and careful planning have paid off. Our economy is booming like never before.

But with our economic strength comes a greater responsibility. How to make sure that everyone benefits from our shared prosperity? And how to ensure that our economic growth is both lasting and sustainable?

For the voters of Saskatchewan, we lay out a plan that builds on our record of results for Saskatchewan families and charts a course for our future.

**Our commitments to you:**

- **more opportunities for young people**
- **more money in your pocket**
- **better public health care for everyone**
- **a greener Saskatchewan**
- **a strong and prosperous Saskatchewan**

New Democrats have a proud record of fulfilling our commitments. I invite you to read more about what we have achieved together – accomplishments that are truly making life better for Saskatchewan families and building even brighter futures here for young people.

**We have a strong new team and an innovative and affordable plan to make life here even better.** I invite you to read our plan – it will have long-lasting and far-reaching benefits for Saskatchewan families. You can trust us to deliver on our commitments.

We have been building on our record of results for Saskatchewan families since 2003, and today we have a strong and prosperous economy whose benefits are being felt across the province.

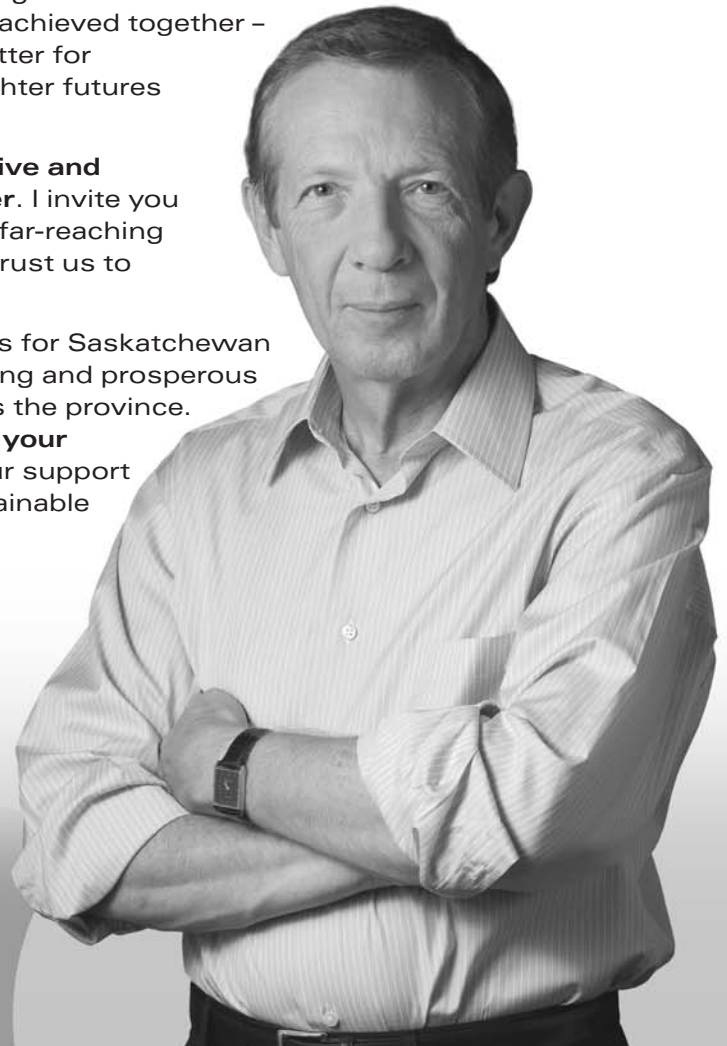
**There has never been a better time to fulfill your dreams at home in Saskatchewan.** With your support we will help lead the way to a bright and sustainable future for all Saskatchewan families.



Lorne Calvert, Premier



**Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**



# Table of contents

<b>Letter from Saskatchewan New Democratic Party</b> Leader Lorne Calvert	page 1
<b>Moving forward together:</b> Making life better for Saskatchewan families	3
<b>More opportunities for young people</b>	5
<b>More money in your pocket</b>	9
<b>Better public health care for everyone</b>	15
<b>A greener Saskatchewan</b>	23
<b>A strong and prosperous Saskatchewan</b>	29
<b>Platform commitments cost information</b>	36

# Moving forward together.

## Making life better for Saskatchewan families

### **1 More opportunities for young people**

- \$1,000 university tuition cut
- 10,000 new training opportunities
- \$100,000 in income provincial tax-free for post-secondary graduates who stay in, or move to, Saskatchewan for five years (saving up to \$5,500)

### **2 More money in your pocket**

- reduced education property taxes, with a 30 per cent provincial income tax credit for homeowners and renters
- 2,000 new affordable childcare spaces
- a minimum wage increase to \$9.25 by 2009
- the most affordable utility bundle – phone, electricity, home heating and car insurance – in Canada
- continue education property tax relief for farmers
- invest directly in creating more housing for families
- expand affordable housing choices for Saskatchewan families

### **3 Better public health care for everyone**

- Universal Drug Plan – capping all drug costs at \$15 per prescription in the Saskatchewan formulary for everyone, saving hundreds of dollars for families and seniors each year
- two new public surgical centres to further reduce wait times by performing up to 30,000 surgical and diagnostic procedures annually
- train, recruit and retain more doctors, nurses, technologists and other health care workers - building on our \$500 million investment
- complete the Academic Health Sciences Centre to help recruit and retain more health professionals
- complete the new Maternal and Children's Hospital so more women and children can access specialized care
- expand cancer screening and prevention programs to keep people healthier and detect and treat cancer early

### **4 A greener Saskatchewan**

- provide incentives and rebates for energy efficient products, helping Saskatchewan families protect our environment and save money on their power bills
- provide low interest loans for homeowners, businesses and farmers for energy efficient products and systems
- provide grants of up to \$25,000 to match community contributions for energy efficient upgrades or renovations to recreational or cultural facilities, lowering utility bills
- continued Canadian leadership in wind power and other renewable energy - expanding wind power production by almost 60 per cent or 100 new megawatts by 2012. When complete, Saskatchewan will generate enough electricity from wind to power 115,000 homes.
- achieve highest per capita greenhouse gas reduction targets of any province
- continued investments in safe water
- build on our Green Strategy

### **5 A strong and prosperous Saskatchewan**

- keep Saskatchewan strong and prosperous through strong Crowns, more skilled workers, and investments in green technologies
- improve transportation infrastructure to meet current and future needs of our vibrant economy, and to help move people and goods more efficiently
- complete the most aggressive business tax cuts in Saskatchewan history
- create options for democratic renewal with a Citizens' Assembly on Democratic Reform
- safer communities with more successful targeted strategies to reduce crime
- invest in more police and prosecutors through an expansion of our successful gang suppression and organized crime fighting units
- continued balanced budgets, building upon 14 years of consecutive balanced budgets – we refuse to go back to the days when Brad Wall's party bankrupted the province



# 1 More opportunities for young people

- \$1,000 university tuition cut
- 10,000 new training opportunities
- \$100,000 in income provincial tax-free for post-secondary graduates who stay in, or move to, Saskatchewan for five years (saving up to \$5,500)



There has never been a better time to be a young person in Saskatchewan. Our first-ever Youth Summit, held in February 2007, showcased the immense talent of our young people and the leadership role they will play in our province's future. We want to continue to provide solid foundations upon which people can build their careers, raise their families, and have strong futures.

We are surrounded by opportunity. Our population is increasing and is at its highest point in decades. We have more jobs than at any other time in Saskatchewan's history. Unemployment is at its lowest point in thirty years. Youth employment is up. But it's not just young people who are benefiting. More women are working. More Aboriginal people are entering the workforce. More and more people are moving to Saskatchewan, choosing to raise their families and build their careers right here. **Our future truly is a bright one.**

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats are meeting the challenges of our strong economy head-on. We have made record investments in our training system. We have traveled far and wide, promoting our province to road-weary Albertans, and other Canadians, inviting them to "go where the jobs are". We have consulted with parents, students, and educators about making our post-secondary system even more accessible and affordable. We are making Saskatchewan the most youth and family friendly province in all of Canada.

Our cost of living, our vibrant cultures, and our combination of professional, educational, and training opportunities make Saskatchewan a land of abundant opportunity. It is the vision of Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats that every young person realize the promise of a bright future, and have the opportunity to meet their potential.

**Calvert cares.  
Calvert delivers.**

 **Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**

## Here's our plan to create more opportunities for young people:

### \$1,000 university tuition cut

Students and parents across the province have been loud and clear: our post-secondary system has to be both affordable and accessible if it is to benefit students. An affordable and accessible system helps to ensure that our young people have every opportunity they need to reach their potential.

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will make Saskatchewan the first province in recent years not just to freeze, but to cut undergraduate university tuition. We will reduce undergraduate university tuition by \$1,000 in the 2008-2009 school year. Undergraduate tuition will drop below the Canadian average. And by limiting future tuition increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), tuition won't reach 2004-2005 levels for a decade, assuming an annual CPI of 2.3 per cent.

Reduced tuition keeps the cost of post-secondary education within the reach of more students, and helps make Saskatchewan an attractive place to young people across Canada who are considering university. Last year alone, our tuition freeze saved students an average of \$1,500. An additional \$1,000 savings for each university undergraduate student will help young people and students access the education they need to build their futures right here.

### 10,000 new training opportunities

Five years ago, Saskatchewan had more people than jobs. Today we have more jobs than trained people to fill them. Since 2003, we have created over 6,300 new training opportunities – an increase of 24 per cent. But parents, learners, and employers have told us that we need an even more accessible training system.

That's why Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats commit to a significant expansion of our training system. We will work with our partners in the training sector, including educators and institutions, to create 10,000 new education and training opportunities where they're needed most. Regional colleges will expand their course offerings through regional campuses. And First Nations and Métis students will benefit from new training and career opportunities through institutions such as the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) and the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI).

Investments in training for health professionals will also build on the province's health workforce recruitment and retention efforts.

Ten thousand new opportunities will help build a more accessible training system, and ensure that our young people have the resources they need to build their careers right here in Saskatchewan.

**\$100,000 in income provincial tax-free for new post-secondary graduates who stay in, or move to, Saskatchewan for five years (saving up to \$5,500)**

Saskatchewan New Democrats are committed to helping people build their futures and their careers right here. The Graduate Tax Exemption does just that, by giving graduating students yet another reason to stay and work in Saskatchewan, or to move or return here after graduation.

Introduced by Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats in 2007, the Graduate Tax Exemption is a valuable tool to keep and attract educated young people. Graduating students from any accredited institution, inside or outside of Saskatchewan, can earn up to \$100,000 in income provincial tax-free over five years after they graduate. That's up to \$5,500 in the pockets of new graduates working in Saskatchewan.

Graduates are already benefiting from the Graduate Tax Exemption. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will make sure that benefit continues.

**You can trust Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats to deliver on our promises.**



**Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – giving people the tools they need to succeed in our booming economy:**

- **Created over 6,300 new training opportunities since 2003, an increase of 24 per cent** - making the largest ever investment by a Saskatchewan government in skills training
- **Increased funding to schools by 52 per cent, or more than \$200 million, in the last 10 years** – investing heavily in the future of Saskatchewan's elementary and secondary students
- **Became the first province in Canada to bring free wireless internet to its campuses and urban core areas** – launching Saskatchewan! Connected
- **Forged groundbreaking partnerships with, and made record investments in, First Nations and Métis learners** – including directly investing \$4.2 million to provide adult basic education and training for Aboriginal learners; providing training on-reserve for the first time ever; and purchasing two new mobile training labs to serve remote Aboriginal communities

Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – building a future for our young people right here:

- **Created the Family Day holiday** – providing Saskatchewan families with a mid-winter day off
- **Froze university tuition for three consecutive years** – saving students around \$1,500 this year in tuition costs
- **Established Canada's first Literacy Commission** – building on our commitment to create in Saskatchewan the highest levels of literacy in Canada
- **Strengthened our ambitious immigration efforts** – helping to build diverse and growing communities, meeting the needs of our labour market, and well on our way to meeting our commitment to attract 5,000 newcomers to our province every year by 2008
- **Launched the Provincial Youth Advisory Committee and held the province's first ever Youth Summit** – consulting directly with young people about their vision for the future of our province



- **Introduced the Graduate Tax Exemption** – saving graduates up to \$5,500 over five years and giving young people one more reason to build their future right here in Saskatchewan

## What's at risk with the Sask Party agenda?

While Lorne Calvert and the NDP have been busy promoting Saskatchewan across Canada, the Sask Party never misses an opportunity to complain and to bad-mouth our province. It seems that the only people who don't know about our boom are in the Sask Party. Brad Wall even held a Calgary fundraiser where he disrespectfully told the audience that Saskatchewan people and their voting habits are "certifiable."

Good news for Saskatchewan is treated like bad news by the Sask Party.

Maybe that's why Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party have consistently opposed NDP initiatives aimed at building stronger futures for our young people right here. They voted against the Graduate Tax Exemption and the tuition freeze for our university students. They said we didn't need a Family Day holiday. They can't be trusted to do what's right for Saskatchewan families.

**The Sask Party's right wing agenda of cuts and privatization won't keep young people here – it will drive them away.**

 **Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**

## 2 More money in your pocket

- reduced education property taxes, with a 30 per cent provincial income tax credit for homeowners and renters
- 2,000 new affordable childcare spaces
- a minimum wage increase to \$9.25 by 2009
- the most affordable utility bundle – phone, electricity, home heating and car insurance – in Canada
- continue education property tax relief for farmers
- invest directly in creating more housing for families
- expand affordable housing choices for Saskatchewan families



Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats have worked hard to ensure that Saskatchewan families are feeling real benefits from our strong economy, whether it's through lower taxes, more jobs, a strong social safety net, or Crown corporations that deliver the lowest cost bundle of utility rates in the country.

Over the last four years, Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats have been guided by a fundamental belief that our prosperity is not complete until it benefits everyone. We will keep working to ensure that life continues to be more affordable for Saskatchewan families.

**Calvert cares.  
Calvert delivers.**

 **Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**

# Here's our plan to put more money in your pocket

## Reduced education property taxes, with a 30 per cent provincial income tax credit for homeowners and renters

Education property tax is a significant concern for homeowners and renters. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will expand residential education property tax relief by introducing a 30 per cent refundable provincial income tax credit for all education property tax paid on principal residences.

### Homeowners will save:

Location	Assessed Value	School mill rate	Education property tax	Apply 30% tax credit	Your credit or refund
Saskatoon	\$100,000	18.07	\$1,807.00	X 30%	<b>\$542.10</b>
Meadow Lake	\$80,000	19.30	\$1,544.00	X 30%	<b>\$463.20</b>

Families living in rental properties also pay education property tax indirectly through the rents they pay to their landlords. We assume that 20 per cent of what you pay in rent goes to pay for education property taxes. That's why our relief program will apply the 30 per cent refundable income tax credit to that 20 per cent of total rent paid.

### Renters will save:

Monthly rent	Annual rent	20% of rent	30% tax credit	Credit or refund
\$700	\$8,400	\$1,680.00	X 30%	<b>\$504.00</b>
\$550	\$6,600	\$1,320.00	X 30%	<b>\$396.00</b>

The residential property tax relief will be a universal refundable tax rebate – every Saskatchewan household subject to education property tax will benefit. You don't have to pay income taxes in order to receive the benefits. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will put money back into your pocket!

## Add 2,000 new affordable childcare spaces

Families across the province told us that more childcare spaces must be added to the system. Since 2003, Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats have added funding for over 2,600 childcare spaces, an increase of 36 per cent.

A New Democratic Party government will create 2,000 new childcare spaces across Saskatchewan. Childcare spaces give children a good start in life, and help to form strong building blocks for future learning. At the same time, they help parents participate more easily in our booming economy.

## A minimum wage increase to \$9.25 by 2009

As our economy grows and prospers, it is important that all Saskatchewan residents benefit. But even with our province's low cost of living, low-wage earners are often still struggling to make ends meet.

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats have increased the minimum wage three times since 2005, almost a 20 per cent raise. We will raise it again in three stages, to \$8.25 per hour on January 1st, 2008, to \$8.60 per hour on May 1st, 2008, and to \$9.25 per hour on May 1st, 2009. By the end of 2009, the minimum wage will have increased by almost a third since 2005.

When the cost of living increases, the minimum wage should follow. In 2009, an adjustment will be made to bring the minimum wage up to the Low Income Cut-off. And we will index the minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), so that it rises automatically with the cost of living.

This will provide crucial protection for Saskatchewan's lowest-income earners and will help 12,400 minimum wage earners benefit from our booming economy.

## The most affordable utility bundle – phone, electricity, home heating and car insurance – in Canada

Saskatchewan people enjoy a high quality of life and a low cost of living. Our Crown corporations, like SaskTel, SaskEnergy, SaskPower, and SGI, have benefited people through affordable utility rates, career opportunities, and hundreds of millions of dollars in dividends each year to support our province's social programs and infrastructure. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats guarantee that Saskatchewan residents will continue to enjoy the lowest-cost utility bundle in Canada.

The lowest-cost utility bundle is a key component of our commitment to ensure Saskatchewan remains the best and most affordable place to live, work and raise a family. Our pledge to provide the lowest bundle of utilities includes electricity, natural gas, telephone services and car insurance rates.

Four years ago, we promised that Saskatchewan people would benefit from the lowest utility costs in Canada. We have delivered. We will continue to deliver.

**Saskatchewan's utility bundle costs in 2006 averaged \$3,418.31.  
Compare that to other provinces:**

Province	Average Bundle Cost in 2006	How much more you would pay
Saskatchewan	\$ 3,418.31	\$ 0
Manitoba	3,453.95	35.64
British Columbia	3,994.17	575.86
Quebec	4,152.84	734.53
Alberta	4,479.08	1,060.77
New Brunswick	5,325.50	1,907.19
Prince Edward Island	5,530.35	2,112.04
Nova Scotia	5,725.18	2,306.87
Newfoundland	5,974.86	2,556.55
Ontario	6,599.35	3,181.04

\*Source: [www.cicorp.sk.ca](http://www.cicorp.sk.ca)

## Continue education property tax relief for farmers

Agriculture and our rural communities are core elements of our provincial economy. But our farm families are facing very real pressures, including unfair international subsidies and rising input costs. We have introduced innovative new programs, like SaskBIO, to help farmers find new marketing opportunities and grow the rural economy.

Farm families have asked for a 60/40 education funding formula, which would see 60 per cent of K-12 education funded through provincial tax and 40 per cent from the property tax base. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats have delivered, by providing long-term, sustainable education property tax relief on agricultural land. This has meant over \$60 million in real benefits for farm families in 2007.

Education property tax relief on agricultural land will continue as a permanent program, and will keep providing tangible benefits to farmers and farm families, helping them to meaningfully contribute to our economy.

## Invest directly in creating more housing for families

Some families are facing housing challenges due to a hot housing market throughout the province. Fortunately, our strong economy and increased revenue mean we can afford to make significant investments where the need is greatest.

In 2004, Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats launched HomeFirst, a five-year \$200 million housing strategy. HomeFirst is meant to improve housing conditions for low and moderate income households across Saskatchewan. Already, almost 1,500 affordable housing units have been built to help Saskatchewan families in the inner cities of Regina, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Prince Albert, and in several northern communities. We are supporting our inner cities through a revitalization that will provide both immediate benefits and important opportunities for years to come.

Our recent \$60 million expansion of HomeFirst will create hundreds more housing opportunities for Saskatchewan families. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats commit to continuing support for families through HomeFirst.

## Expand affordable housing choices for Saskatchewan families

The province's booming economy has led to housing cost increases for some Saskatchewan families in recent months.

That's why Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats recently increased shelter allowances and rental housing supplements for families receiving assistance through the Social Assistance Program (SAP), Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA), Provincial Training Allowance (PTA), and the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement. This includes increases for most SAP and TEA recipients by \$5 to \$75 per month; increasing the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement by \$6 to \$21 per month; and increasing the PTA by \$20 to \$35 per month. These changes will automatically benefit more than 16,000 households in Saskatchewan.

We have also launched a HomeFirst Secondary Suites program to help Saskatchewan people build secondary suites in their homes, and an expanded HomeFirst Homeownership program to help up to 500 eligible families purchase a home with forgivable loans and a deferred, repayable low interest mortgage.

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will continue making quality housing more accessible for low-income families.

**You can trust Lorne Calvert and the  
Saskatchewan New Democrats to deliver on our promises.**

## Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – making Saskatchewan more affordable for average families

- **Guaranteed that Saskatchewan people would enjoy the lowest cost utility bundle in Canada** – helping make Saskatchewan the best and most affordable place to live, work, and raise a family
- **Made the largest personal income tax cuts in Saskatchewan history** – saving the average family almost \$1,200 in provincial tax compared to 2001
- **Helped people pay for energy retrofits through Saskatchewan EnergyGuide grants** – helping Saskatchewan people save energy and money and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions
- **Introduced a 38 per cent education property tax credit for agricultural land and a 10 per cent property tax credit to all Saskatchewan home owners and commercial property owners** – saving Saskatchewan families, businesses, and farmers over \$120 million in 2007 alone
- **Added funding for over 2,600 child care spaces** – giving our children the best possible start in life, and helping families participate in our booming economy
- **No health care premiums** – the only 'have' province to keep health care premium-free

## Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – sharing the benefits of our booming economy

- **Cut PST from 7 per cent to 5 per cent** – saving Saskatchewan families an average of \$300 every year. This is the lowest rate of any province with a sales tax
- **Raised the minimum wage regularly** – helping lift low-income working people out of poverty
- **Invested an additional \$30 million in Community Based Organizations** – helping valuable organizations attract employees and provide services to Saskatchewan people
- **Brought in the largest increase to social assistance in decades** – including increases to the Social Assistance Program (SAP), the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA), the Provincial Training Allowance (PTA), and the Rental Housing Supplement
- **Extended health benefits for up to 30,000 low-income workers** – ensuring they get the health services they need
- **Committed \$100 million towards revitalizing Saskatchewan neighbourhoods** – including a \$60 million expansion of HomeFirst and \$40 million towards inner city capital initiatives
- **Increased revenue sharing from Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) casinos from 37.5 per cent to 50 per cent** – supporting economic development, health, education, culture and other First Nations initiatives, resulting in nearly \$40 million more in revenues over the next five years
- **Provided \$18 million to increase support for vulnerable children and families** – including enhanced foster care rates, extended family caregiver rates, developing more residential options for children in need of protection, and 60 new caseworkers to improve service delivery

## What's at risk with the Sask Party agenda?

Saskatchewan people benefit from the most affordable utility bundle in Canada. But Sask Party MLA Donna Harpauer said of the lowest cost utility bundle “we do not believe that’s good public policy”.

The Sask Party backers are asking for more privatization. And the Sask Party doesn’t believe government should ‘compete’ with the private sector. How long before their backers get what they want, at the expense of your affordable utility bundle?

In 2003, Saskatchewan voters didn’t trust Elwin Hermanson or Brad Wall to be in charge of our Crowns. Brad Wall even said that he’d be “open to anything”. But after four years of trying to hide their agenda, MLA Dan D’Autremont came out in September and talked about “winding down” profitable Crowns and “stopping Crowns” from competing with the private sector.

Without our public Crowns to help keep utilities and car insurance affordable, you would pay more and get less.

**The Sask Party’s agenda to privatize the Crowns will take our province in the wrong direction.**

The logo for the Saskatchewan New Democrats. It features a stylized 'S' made of three horizontal bars of increasing height, followed by the text 'Saskatchewan' in a sans-serif font, and 'New Democrats' in a larger, bold, sans-serif font below it.

**Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**



# 3 Better public health care for everyone

- Universal Drug Plan – capping all drug costs at \$15 per prescription in the Saskatchewan formulary for everyone, saving hundreds of dollars for families and seniors each year
- two new public surgical centres to further reduce wait times by performing up to 30,000 surgical and diagnostic procedures annually
- train, recruit and retain more doctors, nurses, technologists and other health care workers - building on our \$500 million investment
- complete the Academic Health Sciences Centre to help recruit and retain more health professionals
- complete the new Maternal and Children's Hospital so more women and children can access specialized care
- expand cancer screening and prevention programs to keep people healthier and detect and treat cancer early



45 years ago, when Saskatchewan first introduced Medicare, we were told it couldn't be done. We were told that the cost was too high and that the program was unsustainable. But we persevered, because of our fundamental belief that a person's ability to pay shouldn't determine the quality of their health care. Decades later, Canadians value public health care above any other institution.

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats are proud of the role we have played in creating and building a world-class public health care system. Since 2003, we've been busy strengthening the system so that Saskatchewan patients get the care they need when they need it.

*continued on next page*

**Calvert cares.  
Calvert delivers.**

 **Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**

Saskatchewan people benefit from one of Canada's best health care systems. Our health care system employs over 37,000 doctors, specialists, nurses, allied health care professionals and support workers. Thirty-three thousand services are provided to Saskatchewan citizens every day – that's like the entire city of Moose Jaw receiving service in a single day. Twenty-one hundred patients are in hospital beds on any given day. There are 4.5 million visits to physicians and over 120,000 MRIs and CT scans every year.

The Saskatchewan New Democrats' investments in health care professionals and medical equipment are leading to more procedures and shorter wait times. In the past year, health regions have provided 22 per cent more MRI exams, 16 per cent more CT scans, and 37 per cent more bone mineral density tests. There are 3,000 fewer patients on wait lists than there were three years ago. Waits for MRIs have dropped most dramatically – a drop of 42 per cent over the past two years. Half of all surgeries are performed within four weeks; 80 per cent within six months; and over 90 per cent of patients get the surgery they need within 12 months. The number of physicians practicing within our system has increased by over 100, or 7.4 per cent, since 2002. And over 90 per cent of our nursing graduates are finding work in Saskatchewan.

We have strengthened the health care system and made record investments – all the while rejecting the health care premiums and hidden health care taxes applied in places like Alberta. **Saskatchewan is proud to be the only 'have' province in Canada that doesn't charge its citizens a health premium.**

It's time to build on Saskatchewan's proud legacy. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats envision a Saskatchewan that once again leads the way forward for the rest of Canada.

## Here's our plan to lead Canada with better public health care for everyone:

**Universal Drug Plan – capping all drug costs at \$15 per prescription in the Saskatchewan formulary for everyone, saving hundreds of dollars for families and seniors each year**

New and existing prescription drugs are helping improve the quality of life for those who need them. But prescription drug costs are often high. This year we created a Seniors' Drug Plan, capping the prescription drug costs of Saskatchewan seniors at \$15 per prescription within the province's formulary. Now Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will expand that program by creating a Universal Drug Plan.

The Seniors' Drug Plan works, and the time has come to extend its benefits to everyone in Saskatchewan. A family's ability to pay will no longer determine whether they get the prescription drugs they need. Starting July 1st, 2008, the Universal Drug Plan will ensure that no one will pay more than \$15 per prescription for the more than 3,500 drugs in the Saskatchewan formulary. And if your prescription cost is less than \$15 you will continue to pay the lower amount. If you already have coverage, your premiums will drop, or you'll see expanded benefits.

As we did with Medicare, Saskatchewan will lead the nation towards an even stronger health care system. A Universal Drug Plan will bring the benefits of affordable prescription drugs to all Saskatchewan citizens.

**Here are some examples of the benefits Saskatchewan families will receive from our proposed Universal Drug Plan:**

<b>Common Prescription For:</b>	<b>Current Cost</b>	<b>Universal Drug Plan Cost</b>	<b>You Save</b>
Blood pressure	\$ 57.29	\$15	\$ 42.29
Cholesterol	73.15	15	58.15
Diabetes	85.72	15	70.72
Depression	54.92	15	39.92
Stomach acid	28.28	15	13.28

**And that's just for one prescription. Imagine your family's savings over a whole year.**

**Two new public surgical centres to further reduce wait times by performing up to 30,000 surgical and diagnostic procedures annually**

About 75,000 operating room procedures were completed last year – more than half were day surgeries. Once it is fully operational, Regina's day surgery centre will perform up to 10,000 surgical and diagnostic procedures, relieving stress on Saskatchewan's operating rooms. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will complete Regina's day surgery centre and build a second one in Saskatoon.

Publicly funded and operated day surgery centres make good sense. They provide a patient-centred approach, where patients receive their day procedures more quickly, in a centre specifically dedicated to day surgery and ambulatory procedures. These procedures may include cataract surgeries, ear, nose and throat surgeries, joint arthroscopies, biopsies and hernia repairs.

By relieving pressure on other hospitals and freeing up resources for more complex surgeries, these surgical centres will help to shorten health wait times for people in Saskatchewan.

### Train, recruit, and retain more doctors, nurses, technologists, and other health care workers – building on our \$500 million investment

While the shortage of health care providers is a worldwide issue, our province has been innovative in its partnerships which attract much needed professionals to our health care system and keep them working here.

In 2005, we released *Working Together: Saskatchewan's Health Workforce Action Plan*. The comprehensive plan focuses on aggressive recruitment, retention and training, including bursaries for health professionals, increased training seats, funding for workplace improvements, and recruitment/relocation grants. Since 2005, we have created 120 new nursing seats, 30 new psychiatric nursing seats, 86 new licensed practical nursing (LPN) seats, 28 new medical seats, and 12 new medical diagnostic seats. There are 7.4 per cent more physicians licensed in Saskatchewan than there were four years ago. We have strengthened our bursary programs, and in the past year almost 400 health care workers have received recruitment grants and will be providing care to Saskatchewan residents. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will keep adding more doctors, nurses and other health professionals and training spaces to strengthen the health care system.

Greater access, better quality, and shorter waitlists are just a few of the many benefits of more health professionals working in our health care system.

### Complete the Academic Health Sciences Centre to help recruit and retain more health professionals

The new state-of-the-art centre will bring together equipment, facilities, enhanced library space and teaching space. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats have already invested \$100 million in this facility – the largest single capital contribution to a university in the province's history. Work has already begun at the new Centre, housed at the University of Saskatchewan. Upon completion, it will help us compete for new medical specialists, support important health research and provide state-of-the-art learning facilities for our health science students. The Centre will also contribute to the province's priorities of research and patient-centered health services.

This new building will strengthen the quality of health care in Saskatchewan. It also builds on the vision laid out by our *Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health*, a vision of health care that is innovative, integrated and multi-disciplined.

## Complete the new Maternal and Children's Hospital so more women and children can access specialized care

Pediatric health care is a priority for New Democrats. Meeting the needs of a comparatively small and dispersed child population is a challenge – a challenge Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will meet by completing the construction of a Maternal and Children's Hospital in Saskatoon.

The Maternal and Children's Hospital will be located at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. It will house a variety of services for mothers, newborns and children – with a view to improving the pediatric care available to all Saskatchewan people. Consolidation of specialized pediatric services in a single site is the most efficient use of resources, and has proven in other provinces to be an effective way to provide excellent pediatric care. While the centre will be located in Saskatoon, its benefits will be felt throughout the province.

This project will result in improvements in quality of care for Saskatchewan parents, newborns and children.

## Expand cancer screening and prevention programs to keep people healthier and to detect and treat cancer early

The incidence of colorectal cancer has increased significantly over the past ten years – it is now the second-most common cancer in men and women in Saskatchewan. However, the disease has no evident symptoms in the early stages, often leaving it undiagnosed until it reaches more advanced stages.

Early detection of colorectal cancer through screening can save lives. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will launch an organized colorectal cancer screening program. This program will increase awareness about the importance of colorectal cancer screening and ensure Saskatchewan residents have access to a quality screening program.

Working together with the federal government, we will also implement a free human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program to help protect women against cervical cancer.

A province-wide colorectal cancer screening program and an HPV vaccine program will build on our successful Screening Program for Breast Cancer and Prevention Program for Cervical Cancer and help save lives.

**You can trust Lorne Calvert and the  
Saskatchewan New Democrats to deliver on our promises.**

Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – investing in health care providers to attract and retain critical health professionals

- **Invested more than \$500 million over three years** – attracting and retaining health care workers as part of the Health Workforce Action Plan
- **Supported 600 return-in-service bursaries** – keeping our newly-trained health professionals working in the Saskatchewan health care system
- **Established a provincial recruitment agency, Health Careers in Saskatchewan** – helping health professionals secure employment in Saskatchewan
- **Created and invested \$6 million in the Relocation and Rural, Northern and Hard-to-Recruit Programs** – drawing our professionals where we need them the most
- **Invested over \$100 million towards the new Academic Health Sciences Centre at the University of Saskatchewan** – strengthening the province's ability to recruit and retain health professionals, faculty and students

Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – promoting public health so people stay healthier longer

- **Led the fight against tobacco-related illness and death** – banning smoking in public places, banning tobacco displays in stores, and passing groundbreaking legislation allowing the province to hold tobacco companies accountable for health care costs
- **Launched The Premier's Project Hope and nearly doubled addictions and substance abuse funding** – preventing and treating substance abuse, and adding a total of 74 beds to the province's existing 260 addictions services beds
- **Launched a new children's dental sealant program** – providing dental care in our community schools

Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – improving access to quality health care so you get the care you need when you need it

- **Invested significantly in our hospitals and health facilities** – including Assiniboia, Athabasca Basin, Battlefords, Cumberland House, Fort Qu'Appelle, Herbert, Hudson Bay, Humboldt, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Maidstone, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Moosomin, Outlook, Preeceville, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn and Yorkton
- **Introduced a free and confidential 24-hour HealthLine** – handling up to 250 calls every day and providing families with health information and advice from registered nurses 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- **Enhanced mental health services and expanded home care** – providing necessary care and supports for those who need them
- **Invested over \$78 million in the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency last year** – increasing funding by almost 50 per cent since 2003 to help pay for cancer treatment and reduce cancer wait times
- **Developed TeleHealth** – creating links between remote communities and health professionals through a variety of technologies

## Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – leading the charge for a stronger Canadian health care system

- **Improving our quality of care through Canada's first Health Quality Council** – maintaining high standards in health care delivery
- **Developed Canada's first Diagnostic Imaging Network** – helping to target resources where they're most needed and reducing waiting lists
- **Introduced the Seniors' Drug Plan** – saving our province's 115,000 seniors an average of \$400 per year



## What's at risk with the Sask Party agenda?

The Sask Party wants to weaken our public health care system. They said that lower drug costs through the Seniors' Drug Plan were "reckless" and "unsustainable" and they opposed it. They also opposed record investments in health care professionals and hospitals.

Brad Wall now denies that his party is in favour of for-profit health care. But when his deputy leader was asked in 2005 whether private, for-profit health care was part of their agenda, he told reporters that "I guess it's being ruled out right now," but in the future "it could be or it couldn't be."

Their candidate in Lloydminster even said that he "sees nothing wrong in working hard, making good money, and receiving quick care for his wife and daughter" by paying for private health services. Does that mean he doesn't see anything wrong with someone else making less money and not being able to afford private treatment for their families?

The Sask Party knows that they can no longer come right out and say they want to privatize our public health care system. Instead, they hide their agenda behind phrases like "efficiency review" and "health audit". But make no mistake, they cannot be trusted to protect public health care.

Like right-wing governments in other provinces, we can expect the Sask Party's agenda of cuts and privatization to lead to private for-profit hospitals and privatization of hospital cleaning and food services.

**The Sask Party agenda costs taxpayers more, risks hospital cleanliness, and lowers the standards of patient care.**

 **Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**



[saskndp.ca](http://saskndp.ca)

# 4 A greener Saskatchewan

- provide incentives and rebates for energy efficient products, helping Saskatchewan families protect our environment and save money on their power bills
- provide low interest loans for homeowners, businesses and farmers for energy efficient products and systems
- provide grants of up to \$25,000 to match community contributions for energy efficient upgrades or renovations to recreational or cultural facilities, lowering utility bills
- continued Canadian leadership in wind power and other renewable energy - expanding wind power production by almost 60 per cent or 100 new megawatts by 2012. When complete, Saskatchewan will generate enough electricity from wind to power 115,000 homes
- achieve highest per capita greenhouse gas reduction targets of any province
- continued investments in safe water
- build on our Green Strategy



New Democrats believe that a prosperous economy and a sustainable environment go hand-in-hand. Just as economic progress must benefit people, so too must it be long lasting and sustainable.

Once regarded as “The World’s Bread Basket”, our economy has diversified and we are now a thriving economic powerhouse. Careful planning has helped us go from the near bankruptcy of the Conservative-governed 1980s to a

boom unlike any we have seen before. Saskatchewan is now one of the most competitive places to do business in all of North America.

But economic prosperity is not secure until it is environmentally sustainable. Saskatchewan is not immune to climate change. We have a stake in this too. We face the prospect of more droughts, declining surface water, an increased number of forest fires and more severe weather of all kinds including floods and tornadoes.

**Saskatchewan can be a leader for the rest of Canada to follow.** Our province is blessed with abundant natural resources, which provide us with jobs and a thriving economy. But we must act to ensure that future generations enjoy the benefits of a clean and healthy environment.

Nothing short of bold vision and concrete action will enable us to meet the challenges of global warming and climate change. It will not be easy, but Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats have the tools necessary to build a green and prosperous economy. It can be done. It must be done.

**Calvert cares.  
Calvert delivers.**

 **Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**

## Here's our plan to ensure a greener Saskatchewan:

**Provide incentives and rebates for energy efficient products, helping Saskatchewan families protect our environment and save money on their power bills**

Over 16,000 homeowners have already benefited from our rebates and grants for programmable thermostats, EnergyStar® appliances, and EnerGuide for Houses home upgrading programs. In addition, over 500 homeowners in 19 communities have received assistance in improving the energy efficiency of their homes. And we have been encouraging Saskatchewan people to use compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) – including giving away thousands in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Regina, Yorkton, and Saskatoon.

We will expand our existing program of energy efficiency and conservation grants, rebates, and exemptions to include qualifying home-use products including fridge buy-back programs for old energy guzzling fridges; energy efficient lights and fixtures; programmable light switches and timers; energy efficient electronics and appliances; and qualifying wind, solar and geothermal installations.

By expanding the program to cover more purchases, we are helping families use energy more efficiently and save their hard-earned money. We are also helping our Crown utilities meet future energy needs by reducing our energy consumption now.

**Provide low interest loans for homeowners, businesses and farmers for energy efficient products and systems**

Saskatchewan is committed to curbing our greenhouse gas emissions. While technological advancements and green developments will help meet our targets, we must also encourage greater energy conservation if we are to reduce our emission levels.

Energy conservation not only saves money, it helps reduce our consumption and save our environment. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will establish a new \$40 million low-interest energy loan program to help homeowners, farmers, and businesses pay for energy conservation and efficiency upgrades such as retrofits of wind and solar installations, heating installations, and energy efficient irrigation systems. Loans will be assessed based on their ability to pay for themselves over a seven year period through the energy savings.

All projects approved under the Energy Conservation Loan Program must be designed to reduce greenhouse gases.

**Provide grants of up to \$25,000 to match community contributions for energy efficient upgrades or renovations to recreational or cultural facilities, lowering utility bills**

Recreational and cultural facilities play a vital role in our communities' cultural, social and historic makeup. The EnerGuide for Houses program has already helped over 6,000 households make energy-efficient upgrades to their homes. Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will expand EnerGuide to include recreational and cultural facilities.

The new Greening Communities Fund will help communities to upgrade facilities such as rinks and museums, in order to increase their energy efficiency. Under this new program, we will provide a grant of up to 50 per cent of the costs of retrofitting recreational and cultural facilities. This will particularly help rural communities pay the costs of upgrading their facilities and save money on their energy bills. We will provide up to \$25,000 per facility.

**Continued Canadian leadership in wind power and other renewable energy - expanding wind power production by almost 60 per cent or 100 new megawatts by 2012. When complete, Saskatchewan will generate enough electricity from wind to power 115,000 homes.**

When Lorne Calvert became Premier, the province didn't produce a single megawatt of wind power. We now produce enough wind-generated electricity to power 73,000 homes. We were the first province to mandate ethanol use in gasoline. And we have introduced a net metering program to allow people to return any excess electricity they generate to the electrical grid for a credit on their power bill.



Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will increase Saskatchewan's wind power production by 100 megawatts - by 2012 we will generate enough electricity through wind to power 115,000 homes; we will generate 50 megawatts of power through waste heat recovery projects by 2010 - enough to power both Moose Jaw and Yorkton; we will generate 20 megawatts through biomass forestry projects by 2010 - more than enough to

power a city the size of North Battleford; and we will promote more research, innovation and commercialization in biofuels, polygeneration, hydrogen, solar and other green energy sectors.

## Achieve highest per capita greenhouse gas reduction targets of any province

Saskatchewan must live up to our global responsibility to combat climate change. That's why our Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Plan sets ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Saskatchewan's Energy and Climate Change Plan commits to stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 and reducing emissions by 32 per cent of 2004 levels by 2020. This will mean a reduction of 22 tonnes per person, by far the largest per capita emissions reduction in Canada. We will then move beyond this to an 80 per cent reduction by 2050, a reduction of 55 tonnes per person, the most ambitious target in Canada.

A new Climate Change Secretariat will provide the leadership and coordination needed to implement our ambitious agenda and meet our aggressive targets. To meet our targets, we will invest significantly in alternative energy and renewable power sources. We will promote energy conservation and we will promote innovative green technologies such as carbon storage, where carbon from large point sources is captured and stored underground rather than being released into the atmosphere.

It will not be easy. There is no single "magic bullet" to reduce emissions, but it can be done. Addressing climate change is of paramount importance to our future, to our children's future here in Saskatchewan, and to the planet.

## Continued investments in safe water

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats are dedicated to providing a safe and clean water supply for our communities. Since 2003, we have invested over \$40 million to provide communities with water and sewage infrastructure.

We will build on those supports by continuing to invest in safe water projects and municipal and regional water and waste water infrastructure.

## Build on our Green Strategy

The Green Strategy is about making life better for Saskatchewan families and building a secure future for our youth by conserving, protecting and when necessary, restoring the air, land and water of our great province. It provides a solid foundation for wise resource use, conservation, wealth creation and job creation.

The Green Initiatives Fund provides almost \$7.5 million in funding for people, communities, and businesses so that we can work together to create a green and prosperous future. It builds on the things we already have in place, such as the Office of Energy Conservation, our work on water conservation, the Biodiversity Action Plan, SaskPower's wind energy development and carbon storage.

The Green Strategy contains over 100 actions that demonstrate the government's commitment to conserve, protect and restore the health of our environment and build a green economy. More importantly, it charts a course for a green and sustainable future.

**You can trust Lorne Calvert and the  
Saskatchewan New Democrats to deliver on our promises.**

## Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – taking responsibility for our environment

- **Set a goal of having one-third of our energy needs met by renewable energy by the third decade of the 21st century** – establishing the most ambitious target set by any province for renewable energy
- **Led in the development of renewable energy and alternative fuels** – producing enough wind power for 73,000 homes
- **Pioneered carbon capture and clean coal technology** – developing technology that is being recognized across the world for its potential to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions
- **Led the way by becoming the first province to mandate ethanol use in gasoline** – helping to clean our air and launching the \$80 million SaskBIO plan to assist rural communities in capturing jobs and opportunities in biofuels
- **Promoted energy conservation** – helping Saskatchewan families save energy and money
- **Laid out an ambitious Green Strategy and a visionary Energy and Climate Change Plan** – charting a course for Saskatchewan's next 50 years
- **Created a \$320 million Green Future Fund through Crown Investments Corporation (CIC)** – helping achieve Saskatchewan's emission reduction and climate change goals
- **Improved waste management** – leading the nation in recovering non-refillable beverage containers; supporting the successful scrap tire recycling program which disposes of over one million tires a year; and developing ground-breaking industry-led paint and electronic waste recycling programs
- **Invested in safe water** – upgrading and improving the safety of Saskatchewan's approximately 130 kilometers of conveyance channels and 45 dams

## What's at risk with the Sask Party agenda?

Like their federal Conservative friends in Ottawa, the Sask Party doesn't take environmental protection seriously at all. Only a few short years ago, their MLAs were warning us that there wasn't really a "trend to global warming." Sask Party MLA Don Toth even went so far as to say that it was "one big hoax", and that if global warming was even happening, it was "nice to have a nice winter".

If it comes to deciding to protect the environment in the face of pressure from large corporations that want to make more money faster, whose side will they be on?

**The Sask Party is too big of a risk for Saskatchewan families and our environmental future.**

The logo for the Saskatchewan New Democrats. It features a stylized 'S' made of three horizontal bars of increasing height, followed by the text 'Saskatchewan' in a sans-serif font, and 'New Democrats' in a larger, bold, sans-serif font below it.

**Saskatchewan  
New Democrats**

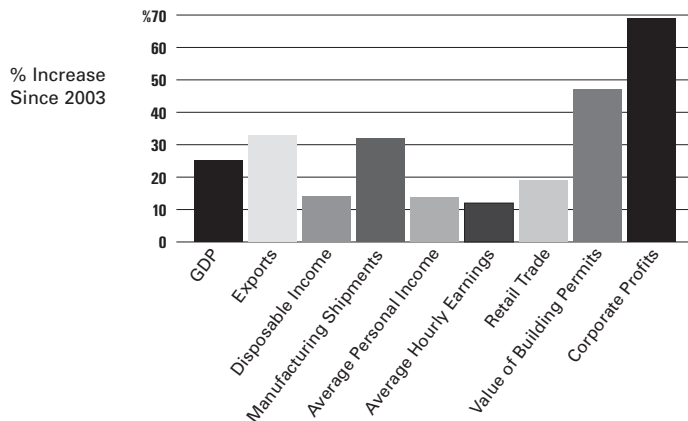


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# 5 A strong and prosperous Saskatchewan

- keep Saskatchewan strong and prosperous through strong Crowns, more skilled workers, and investments in green technologies
- improve transportation infrastructure to meet current and future needs of our vibrant economy, and to help move people and goods more efficiently
- complete the most aggressive business tax cuts in Saskatchewan history
- create options for democratic renewal with a Citizens' Assembly on Democratic Reform
- safer communities with more successful targeted strategies to reduce crime
- invest in more police and prosecutors through an expansion of our successful gang suppression and organized crime fighting units
- continued balanced budgets, building upon 14 years of consecutive balanced budgets – we refuse to go back to the days when Brad Wall's party bankrupted the province

When the NDP government was elected in 1991, the province had a debt of over \$14 billion. Saskatchewan's budget books were a mess, our credit rating was falling, and more importantly, the public was losing faith in the institutions of government.



Source: Saskatchewan Economics Indicators, Saskatchewan Finance.

Since we were elected, we have delivered strong leadership, good government, accountability, transparency, and strong fiscal management. **But Saskatchewan families wouldn't be sharing in the benefits of the boom if we were back in the days of bankrupt governments.**

*continued on next page*

Calvert cares.  
Calvert delivers.

 Saskatchewan  
**New Democrats**

Our economy is robust, consistently outperforming the Canadian average. We are leaders in innovation, research and development. Jobs have never been more plentiful. Private sector investment is up. Exports are up. Our resource sector is booming. And people want in on the action: our population is growing and our net in-migration is at its highest point since the mid-1970s. Saskatchewan is a strengthened province. We have invested record amounts in our province's infrastructure, whether it be highways, internet, or cell phone coverage. We are meeting the demands of our new economy and we are planning for the future.

Saskatchewan is a good place to work and invest, with low taxes for business and a good wage market for workers. And with more investment in skills training for workers, we are expanding the labour pool to drive more growth and prosperity, for everyone.

A strong community is also a safe community with an unbreakable social fabric, where neighbours care about neighbours and where everyone benefits from our shared prosperity.

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will build a strong and prosperous Saskatchewan, where everyone benefits from our shared prosperity.

# Here's our plan to keep Saskatchewan strong and prosperous for everyone:

## Keep Saskatchewan strong and prosperous through strong Crowns, more skilled workers, and investments in green technologies

A strong and prosperous Saskatchewan builds on our other commitments.

Strong Crowns – together and public – help provide economic benefits for all Saskatchewan families and make life here even more affordable.

Expanded skills training and programs encourage young people to build their careers here in Saskatchewan and ensure that business has the labour force it needs to thrive.

Saskatchewan's booming economy must be green and sustainable. We will promote the industry and opportunities of the future, while protecting Saskatchewan families from pollution, greenhouse gases, and waste.

## Improve transportation infrastructure to meet current and future needs of our vibrant economy, and help move more people and goods more efficiently

Strong and dependable roads and infrastructure are cornerstones of a vibrant economy and of a healthy province. Our infrastructure has to keep up with the demands of our transformed economy.

That's why we launched *Transportation for Economic Advantage*, a 10-year \$5 billion plan to realign our transportation network to meet the current and future needs of our vibrant economy. Our plan is to invest in international gateways and corridors, to help manufacturers and producers get their product to national and international markets. We will invest in urban economic corridors, to ensure that traffic moves quickly without delays or urban congestion. We will invest in rural economic corridors, to connect rural, regional, national, and international markets. We'll develop our Roads to Prosperity program to build our Northern infrastructure. We'll invest in roads connecting First Nations to the provincial highway system. And we'll invest in regional short line railways and airports, which are also vital links in Saskatchewan's transportation system.

Better transportation networks will improve access to economic, social, recreational, and cultural opportunities and will help our young people build their futures here at home. Better transportation networks will reduce pollution and improve access to, and delivery of, health care services.

## Complete the most aggressive business tax cuts in Saskatchewan history

Saskatchewan has one of the most favourable business climates in Canada today. According to a KPMG report, Saskatchewan's four major cities have the lowest costs for businesses in North America, Europe and Japan. At the same time, we've made Saskatchewan one of the best places to live, work and raise a family, thanks in part to labour laws that provide fairness for workers.

In 2006, we launched the most aggressive round of business tax cuts in Saskatchewan history.

Our balanced approach allows business to flourish and workers to be protected, while ensuring that everyone benefits from our shared prosperity.

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will build on that positive investment and employment environment by completing our recent round of business tax cuts.

## Create options for democratic renewal with a Citizens' Assembly on Democratic Reform

When significant change to our democracy is being proposed, it is vital that the process be led by the citizens, and not the politicians, of Saskatchewan.

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will convene a Citizens' Assembly to review and make recommendations about a variety of democratic reform proposals, including representative models, voting age, and fixed election dates.

## Safer communities with more successful targeted strategies to reduce crime

Statistics show that our integrated, targeted and community-based approach to combating crime is working.

Property crime is at its lowest point in more than 25 years. Our crime rate has fallen by 12 per cent since 2004. Lorne Calvert and the New Democrats will continue to reduce crime through integrated, targeted, community-based responses that are tailored to the needs of the community. We will build on our successes, such as the Regina Auto Theft Strategy, Promoting Youth Success in the Battlefords, the Saskatoon Crime Reduction Strategy and the Prince Albert Crime Reduction Strategy. We will build on these successful strategies, and apply them throughout the province.

Safe and secure communities are cornerstones of a strong province. Our targeted strategies to reduce crime are making our communities and our families safer.

## Invest in more police and prosecutors through an expansion of our successful gang suppression and organized crime fighting units

Keeping our neighborhoods safe is a top priority for Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats.

Since 2005, the Gang Suppression Strategy has resulted in funding of more than \$2 million annually to expand suppression of gang activity in Saskatchewan, including more resources for police and prosecutors. But there's still more work to be done. That's why Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats will dedicate an additional \$2 million towards the suppression of gang and organized crime activities.

All families will benefit from safer communities in which to raise their children.

## 14 consecutive balanced budgets – and a commitment to keep balancing budgets

We refuse to go back to the days when Brad Wall's party bankrupted the province.

Saskatchewan New Democrats have set new high standards in Canada for financial responsibility and accountability. We were the first jurisdiction in Canada to balance its books during the 1990s; we were the first to introduce balanced budget legislation.

Balanced budgets help to maintain confidence in the stability of our province and its ability to continue to provide the services Saskatchewan families rely on every day.

Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats re-affirm our commitment to sound fiscal management. We will continue to balance the budget and to make responsible debt repayments.

**You can trust Lorne Calvert and the Saskatchewan New Democrats to deliver on our promises.**

## Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – transforming Saskatchewan's economy

- **Made the biggest business tax cuts in Saskatchewan's history** – making Saskatchewan one of the most competitive and progressive business jurisdictions anywhere
- **Reformed resource tax and royalty structure** – stimulating growth of key industries like mining, oil and gas
- **Fully funded the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAIS) and invested over \$2 billion in support to agriculture since 2003** – providing real support for Saskatchewan farmers
- **Created the First Nations and Métis Economic Development Fund** – providing Aboriginal businesses and entrepreneurs the tools they need to fully participate in our economy
- **Defended the right of farmers to decide the fate of the Canadian Wheat Board** – standing up to Ottawa for farmers
- **Worked with Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDAs)** – promoting community economic development at the grassroots level
- **Expanded our organic food sector** – outlining a vision which would see 10 per cent of Saskatchewan farmers involved in organic production by 2015

## Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – infrastructure for a 21st Century economy

- **Set out a ten-year, \$5 billion plan to fundamentally realign our province's transportation system** – launching Transportation for Economic Advantage
- **Invested \$2.5 billion in highways over the last decade** – helping twin national highways and building economic infrastructure
- **Promoted a pan-Canadian environmentally-friendly E85 highway** – providing national leadership and promoting ethanol across Canada
- **Committed over \$65.5 million towards Northern economic infrastructure and \$42.5 million towards First Nations access roads** – helping Northern and First Nations communities share in our province's prosperity
- **Expanded wireless internet and cell phone coverage throughout Saskatchewan** – providing 86 per cent of Saskatchewan people with access to wireless internet by CommunityNet II's completion and bringing digital cellular service to 97 per cent of Saskatchewan people by the end of 2008
- **Doubled annual direct funding to municipalities since 2003** – helping municipalities provide quality services and infrastructure to Saskatchewan people
- **Created the \$100 million *Building Communities Fund* to invest in cultural, social, and recreational facilities** – taking the most aggressive steps in Canada to address our shared infrastructure needs

## Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – government that shares the boom

- **Paid down debt** – reducing government debt by \$1.2 billion since 2004. Our debt-to-GDP ratio is at its lowest point in 20 years
- **Balanced the books** – 14 years of balanced budgets
- **Sixteen straight credit upgrades** – reflecting our ability to handle finances and repay debt to creditors
- **Strengthened the Legislature's public accountability** – televising committee meetings, setting legislative sitting dates, enhancing the role of committees, and holding public consultations on pieces of legislation and issues such as Status of the Artist and Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)
- **Introduced the Fuel Tax Accountability Act** – guaranteeing that every dollar of Fuel Tax revenue be reinvested into our province's highways and infrastructure
- **Introduced the Public Ownership Act** – ensuring that the public keeps benefiting from our Crown corporations
- **Made Crowns more accountable** – guaranteeing that Crown corporations provide annual reporting to the Legislature and making sure that there is a Minister responsible for each Crown

## Our record of results for Saskatchewan families – building safe and secure communities

- **Increased funding for police services by more than \$52 million and added nearly 250 new policing positions since 1999** – making Saskatchewan the province with the most police officers per capita in Canada
- **Introduced Safer Communities legislation** – cracking down on illegal activities and giving police officers the tools they need to fight crime
- **Strengthened consumer protection** – substantially improving protections available to consumers and strengthening confidence in the marketplace
- **Fought child sexual exploitation** – investing \$3.4 million every year on programs to support sexually exploited children, including expanding the law enforcement, prosecution and public education components of the provincial strategy on Child Sexual Exploitation
- **Invested \$80 million to address a broad range of social, economic, cultural, and justice issues which affect First Nations and Métis people** – in response to the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform, including recruiting more Aboriginal police officers and implementing a new Public Complaints process
- **Launched a Gang Suppression Strategy** – helping keep Saskatchewan communities safe by providing funding of more than \$2 million annually to expand suppression of gang activity in Saskatchewan
- **Created a Missing Persons Task Force** – supporting families and communities to identify and respond to missing persons cases

## What's at risk with the Sask Party agenda?

Brad Wall is not up to the challenge of leading our province. The last time we had a conservative government, they recklessly sold off Saskatchewan's assets and nearly bankrupted the province. Brad Wall worked for that reckless government.

Brad Wall and the Sask Party share the same values of right wing governments of the past. They want to cut government spending on services you rely on and they want to privatize Crowns.

The Sask Party doesn't want a balanced approach to business and labour. They criticize Saskatchewan laws protecting workers, including occupational health and safety and workers compensation. Brad Wall himself said these were "foisted" onto business. That's not the way to keep and attract more workers to Saskatchewan.

**It's the same old Sask Party agenda with the same old ideas.**

# Platform commitments cost information

## Operating costs

### Estimated incremental cost over 2007-08 (\$M)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Increase training system capacity by 10,000 opportunities	31.0	49.4	66.2	<b>90.0</b>
University tuition freeze, reduction then rise by CPI (2.3%)	62.0	86.3	112.5	<b>140.8</b>
Universal drug plan <sup>1</sup>	72.2	105.9	116.5	<b>128.2</b>
Develop a second SK surgical centre			2.0	<b>21.2</b>
Cancer screening and prevention Colorectal screening program/ HPV vaccination program	9.0	6.0	6.0	<b>6.0</b>
Education property tax 30% PIT credit		100.3	105.6	<b>111.2</b>
2000 new child care spaces	2.8	6.4	9.7	<b>14.2</b>
Gang and organized crime reduction initiatives	1.8	1.9	1.9	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Total incremental operating costs</b>	<b>178.8</b>	<b>356.2</b>	<b>420.4</b>	<b>513.6</b>

## Capital & one-time investments

### Yearly capital investment (\$M)

### 4-year capital & one-time investments

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
Capital & one-time investment					
Capital to increase the training system capacity <sup>2</sup>	86.2	27	2.9	<b>1.6</b>	117.7
Capital for a second SK surgical centre <sup>2</sup>		2.5	7.5		10.0
Child care start-up & capital investment	2.8	2.5	2.5	<b>2.5</b>	10.3
Citizen Assembly on Democratic Reform	0.3	1.0	1.0	<b>0.7</b>	3.0
<b>Total one-time and capital investment</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>141.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Partial year cost in 2008-09 for the universal drug plan, which will start on July 1, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Timing of actual capital outlay may vary depending on planning and actual construction timelines.

NOTE: Costs associated with the following three new energy efficiency and conservation initiatives are funded from the CIC Green Future Fund, the Green Initiatives Fund and other already announced funds:

- Energy Conservation Loan Program
- Greening Communities Fund
- Enhancements to existing household energy efficiency and conservation initiatives



