

# *Securing **the Future***

**NEW IDEAS FOR SASKATCHEWAN**



**Brad Wall  
Leader**

# A Message from Brad Wall

**S**askatchewan is a great province with tremendous potential for the future.

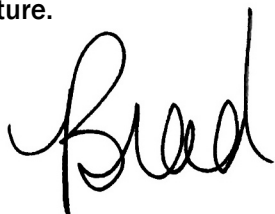
But ask yourself this question: **Are we really going to achieve our potential under this tired, old NDP government?**

**OR, is it time for a new government with new ideas to grow our economy, keep our young people in Saskatchewan, fix our ailing health care system and make sure Saskatchewan takes its place as a leader in Canada?**

For too long, the NDP has squandered Saskatchewan's tremendous potential and recorded the longest hospital waiting lists, crumbling highways, the highest crime rates, the largest population loss and the worst job creation record in the country.

The Saskatchewan Party has a team of men and women with new ideas to help our province achieve its potential and secure a bright future for Saskatchewan and its people.

Thank you for reading our platform and the Saskatchewan Party's new ideas for securing Saskatchewan's future.



# **Securing *the Future***

## **Table of Contents**

*Click on chapter title to jump directly to each section.*

<b>Page 3</b>	<b>New Ideas to Keep <i>Young People</i> in Saskatchewan</b>
<b>Page 7</b>	<b>Writing a Prescription for <i>Better Health Care</i></b>
<b>Page 12</b>	<b>New Ideas for <i>Families</i></b>
<b>Page 16</b>	<b>New Ideas for <i>Jobs and Economic Growth</i></b>
<b>Page 23</b>	<b>Building <i>Pride</i> in Saskatchewan</b>
<b>Page 28</b>	<b>Publicly Owned <i>Crowns</i> that Work for Saskatchewan</b>
<b>Page 31</b>	<b>Making our <i>Communities Safer</i></b>
<b>Page 35</b>	<b>New Ideas to Help Saskatchewan Go <i>Green</i></b>
<b>Page 39</b>	<b>More <i>Accountable</i> Government</b>
<b>Page 43</b>	<b>Four Year <i>Fiscal Forecast</i></b>
<b>Page 44</b>	<b>Saskatchewan Party Plan - Four Year <i>Detailed Costing</i></b>
<b>Page 45</b>	<b><i>Fiscal Sustainability</i> - Opinion from the Centre for Spatial Economics</b>



# ***New Ideas to Keep Young People in Saskatchewan***

✓ ***Rebating up to \$20,000 in post-secondary tuition for graduates who stay in Saskatchewan for seven years.***

✓ ***Providing a \$10,000 tax-free exemption each year for five years, for young entrepreneurs and self-employed young people under the age of 30.***

✓ ***Keeping post-secondary tuition affordable, by increasing post-secondary funding by 28%.***

✓ ***Creating a Saskatchewan scholarship fund.***

✓ ***Increasing entrepreneurial and business education in schools.***



# New Ideas to Keep Young People in Saskatchewan

**R**etaining young people is critical to the long-term growth and prosperity of our province.

Under Lorne Calvert and the NDP, young people have continued to leave Saskatchewan to build their careers and start families. Since 2001, Saskatchewan has lost over 35,000 people to other provinces – most of those young people – and a survey conducted by Canada West Foundation indicated that a quarter of young people under the age of 35 anticipate leaving Saskatchewan within the next five years.

A Saskatchewan Party government will launch the most aggressive youth retention plan in Canada to keep more young people in Saskatchewan by rebating up to \$20,000 in tuition costs for post-secondary graduates who stay in Saskatchewan for seven years and introducing a five-year \$10,000 per year tax exemption for young people under the age of 30 who own a business or who are self-employed.

To keep post-secondary education accessible and affordable and reduce waiting times for training programs, a Saskatchewan Party government will invest \$125-million over four years in post-secondary education, including the creation of a Saskatchewan scholarship fund to retain our best students.

## The Tired, Old NDP

### More than 35,000 people have left Saskatchewan

✕ Since Lorne Calvert became Premier in 2001, Saskatchewan has lost more than 35,000 people in net outmigration to other provinces – most of them young people. (*Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics*)

✕ Waiting lists of 10 years for some training programs at our post-secondary institutions have forced young people to leave the province to get their education. (*Regina Leader Post, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006*)

✕ A Canada West Foundation survey of young people under the age of 35 found that 25% of young people anticipate leaving Saskatchewan in the next five years. (*Canada West Foundation*)

✕ The provincial government estimates that 24% of post-secondary graduates leave Saskatchewan two years after graduation, including 32% of university graduates. (*McCall Review Interim Report, Government of Saskatchewan*)

**“Out-migration strips many of the best-educated and highly trained young people from Saskatchewan, leading to a potential shortage in the workforce.”**

**- Saskatoon Star-Phoenix, July 1, 2006**

# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **Rebating Tuition Costs for Post Secondary Graduates Who Stay in Saskatchewan**

A Saskatchewan Party government will launch the most aggressive youth retention plan in Canada by rebating up to \$20,000 in tuition costs for post-secondary graduates who stay in Saskatchewan for seven years after graduation.

✓ Under the Saskatchewan Party Plan, an average of 11,000 post-secondary graduates each year will be eligible for a rebate on the cost of the tuition they've paid. Refundable tax credits will be paid out to graduates each year for seven years if they stay in Saskatchewan, up to a maximum of \$20,000 per graduate.

✓ The maximum tuition rebate per student will be tied to the cost of their program. Graduates in one-year certificate programs will be eligible for a \$3,000 tuition rebate, graduates from two-year programs will be eligible for up to \$6,400 in rebates, graduates from three-year undergraduate programs will be eligible for \$15,000 in rebates, and graduates from four-year programs in Saskatchewan will be eligible for up to \$20,000. Students must have graduated from an accredited Saskatchewan post-secondary institution from 2006 onwards to be eligible for tuition rebates.

✓ 2006 and 2007 graduates will still be eligible for the current Graduate Tax Exemption for this year. Beginning in 2008, the Saskatchewan Party Graduate Tuition Rebate will replace the Graduate Tax Exemption.

### **Keeping Post-Secondary Education Accessible and Affordable**

A Saskatchewan Party government will keep tuition affordable for students by increasing operating funding to post-secondary institutions by \$125-million over four years – a 28% increase in funding.

As part of the Saskatchewan Party's commitment to making Saskatchewan the place to be for students, a Saskatchewan Party government will:

✓ Designate \$3-million per year in increased post-secondary funding for the creation of a Saskatchewan scholarship fund, to be matched by scholarship funding raised by post-secondary institutions; and

✓ Work with post-secondary institutions to create more co-op and applied learning opportunities.

### **Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship**

A Saskatchewan Party government will help young people to start a business or a career in Saskatchewan, by allowing young entrepreneurs and self-employed youth under 30 to earn \$10,000 per year tax free for five years.

### **Promoting Career Education, Entrepreneurial Education and Business Literacy**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with local school boards, the business community and community based organizations such as Junior Achievement, to enhance business literacy, entrepreneurial and career education in Saskatchewan schools.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

# **Writing a Prescription for Better Health Care**

✓ **Hiring 800 new Registered Nurses and training 100 new doctors.**

✓ **A \$15 cap on prescription drugs for children aged 14 and under.**

✓ **A \$15 cap on prescription drugs for seniors with incomes under \$64,000.**

✓ **Focusing more of your health care dollars on improving front-line care.**

✓ **An additional \$40-million for cancer care and prevention.**

✓ **Promoting healthy living.**

✓ **A long-term care strategy for seniors.**

✓ **A 10-year plan for health care equipment and infrastructure.**

✓ **Creating a health care ombudsman.**





# Writing a Prescription for Better Health Care

Saskatchewan citizens deserve high quality and accessible publicly funded, publicly administered health care. Yet under Lorne Calvert and the NDP, the quality of health care has gotten worse, not better.

Emergency rooms are overflowing. Saskatchewan is experiencing a shortage of nurses and doctors. Patients often lay on stretchers in hallways for hours waiting to see a doctor. EMS workers are being asked to fill in for nurse shortages in emergency rooms, and rural hospitals continue to have their services reduced and are forced to close temporarily, creating dangerous situations for patients.

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide the quality of care that all citizens are entitled to receive under the Canada Health Act. That means providing all citizens with access to a comprehensive, publicly funded, and publicly administered health care system that ensures high quality, timely health services are universally available and accessible throughout the province.

## The Tired, Old NDP

### The Longest Waiting Lists in Canada

The NDP:

- ✗ Created some of the longest waiting lists in Canada. Saskatchewan residents wait an average of 20 weeks from an appointment with a specialist to treatment – the longest wait time of any province in Canada. (*The Fraser Institute, 2006*)

- ✗ Closed 52 hospitals and forced nurses and other health care workers out of province.

- ✗ Closed 421 hospital beds since 1999.

- ✗ Eliminated 136 long-term care beds since 2002 and tried to increase long-term care fees to 90% of seniors' net income.

- ✗ Forced rural hospitals to reduce services and temporarily close due to ongoing staff shortages.

***“The message and evidence that a nursing shortage was looming in Saskatchewan was clearly communicated to government many times over the last decade....We feel like our warnings have mostly fallen on deaf ears....Is [the NDP government's] inaction simply an organized effort to use the nursing shortage as an excuse for closing beds and closing rural facilities?”***

**- Rosalee Longmoore, President of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses**

**“Source: - Rosalee Longmoore, President, SUN, “Condition Critical: The Nursing Shortage and Saskatchewan's Health Care System.” (www.sun-nurses.sk.ca)**



# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **Publicly Funded, Publicly Administered Health Care that Delivers Better Results**

A Saskatchewan Party government will improve publicly funded health care in Saskatchewan, and will deliver publicly funded, publicly administered health care services under the Canada Health Act.

### **A Ten Year Health and Human Resources Plan**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with health care stakeholders to develop a 10 year comprehensive health human resources plan to get health care back on track.

### **Training and Hiring More Nurses**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work in partnership with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses and other nursing stakeholders to create a recruitment and retention program that works for nurses and benefits patients, while investing an additional \$200-million over four years to:

- ✓ Hire 800 Registered Nurses, by filling the existing 600 Registered Nurse vacancies and hiring an additional 200 Registered Nurses within the first term of government;
- ✓ Ensure that new graduates have permanent full-time employment opportunities;
- ✓ Undertake a significant recruitment campaign to bring non-practicing RNs and LPNs back into the health care system;
- ✓ Recruit expatriate nurses back to Saskatchewan;
- ✓ Recruit more immigrant nurses;
- ✓ Provide incentives for senior nurses to stay in the workforce longer such as recognizing long-term service and providing opportunities for mentoring new grads and immigrant nurses;

✓ Establish a bridging program to make it easier for LPNs to become RNs;

✓ Provide assistance and training opportunities for professional development such as obtaining the specialized skills required in intensive care units, emergency rooms, and operating rooms;

✓ Increase the use of nurse practitioners; and

✓ Improve workplace conditions for nurses by improving nurse/patient ratios, addressing safety issues, and providing up-to-date equipment that works.

### **Expanding Nursing Education Seats**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with the province's post-secondary institutions to fast-track the Integrated Health Sciences Facility at the University of Saskatchewan and provide almost \$40-million over four years to work towards the goal of creating 300 new Registered Nurse education seats in Saskatchewan over the next four years.

### **Creating 40 New Physician Training Seats and 60 New Physician Residency Positions in Saskatchewan Hospitals**

A Saskatchewan Party government will invest almost \$33-million over four years to create 40 new physician training seats at the College of Medicine over four years and fund 60 additional residency training positions. This will provide Saskatchewan with a comparable number of physician training seats to Manitoba and restore the residency ratios to former levels to allow more opportunities for doctors to do their residency training in Saskatchewan.

### **Recruiting and Retaining More Doctors**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with stakeholders, including the Saskatchewan Medical Association, to strengthen recruitment and retention efforts to increase the number of doctors in Saskatchewan by:

- ✓ Enhancing efforts to recruit expatriate physicians back to Saskatchewan;
- ✓ Taking steps to facilitate the transition phase for foreign doctors, including opportunities to take upgrading in the province;
- ✓ Increasing the number of doctors working in rural areas, including locums for relief situations;
- ✓ Increasing the number of specialists where shortages exist; and
- ✓ Implementing physician exit surveys to improve future retention rates.

### **Premier's Council on Health Care Workplace Issues**

A Saskatchewan Party government will hold quarterly meetings between the Premier and/or Minister of Health and health care worker representatives to discuss workplace issues such as new graduate integration, ratios of part-time and full time workers, and other work-related issues that affect health care providers.

The purpose of the Council will be to reach consensus decisions to deal effectively with issues that affect health workers and their ability to provide the best health care possible for Saskatchewan people.

### **Patient Exit Survey**

A Saskatchewan Party government will conduct patient exit surveys to measure the quality of a patient's experience with the health care system. The information will be compiled and made public in a 'report card' and will be used to help improve the health care system.

### **Keeping Prescription Drug Costs Fair and Affordable for Seniors and Children**

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide a \$15 per prescription cap on prescription drugs covered under the province's drug plan for all children aged 14 and under, as well as seniors with net incomes under \$64,043. The income threshold of \$64,043 is the same threshold at which seniors qualify to claim a full or partial federal age tax credit. Under the Saskatchewan Party plan, 95% of Saskatchewan seniors will be eligible for the \$15 cap on prescription drugs.

In addition to continuing to increase funding for the provincial drug plan on an annual basis, a Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$40 million over four years to expand the number of drugs covered under the provincial formulary.

### **Strengthening Support for Cancer Care & Prevention**

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$40-million over four years to strengthen cancer care in Saskatchewan and provide additional funding for approved cancer drugs.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with the federal government and health care providers to strengthen cancer prevention strategies in Saskatchewan.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with other Western provinces to collaborate on the research, planning and implementation of an inter-provincial approach to radiation therapy.

### **Renewing the Focus on Prevention**

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$4-million over four years in funding to strengthen provincial efforts to promote wellness and preventive care through education, nutrition and physical activity.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with school boards to increase healthy food options in schools.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with school boards towards the goal of ensuring that children and youth in schools engage in 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily.

### **Developing a Seniors Care Strategy for Saskatchewan**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with Regional Health Authorities, community based agencies and seniors organizations to create a seniors care strategy for Saskatchewan that will focus on:

- ✓ Identifying and addressing gaps in the current continuum of care provided through homecare, community care and long-term care;

- ✓ Developing an intermediate and long-term care facilities plan that addresses the care needs of our aging population;
- ✓ Improving the coordination of long-term care beds to allow senior couples to stay together;
- ✓ Supporting non-profit agencies that provide long-term care;
- ✓ Working with the federal government to increase long-term care capacity on First Nations reserves; and
- ✓ Undertaking a pilot project to provide government funding for Level Three and Level Four beds in personal care homes to reduce waiting times for long-term care beds.

### ***Investing in Health Care Facilities and Equipment***

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with Regional Health Authorities to develop a 10-year capital plan for health care, and make construction of an integrated health sciences facility and a children's hospital a priority. The 10-year plan will also include investments in new emergency medical equipment such as an air ambulance helicopter.

### ***Conducting a Patient First Review of the Health Care System***

Writing a better prescription for health care in Saskatchewan requires more accountability in the health care system, so that health care dollars are directed away from bureaucracy, red tape and unnecessary duplication and into improving front-line care for patients and health care providers.

To ensure greater efficiency and accountability in health care spending and improve front line care, a Saskatchewan Party government will undertake a Patient First Review of the health care system, with input from health care professionals, to determine how best to:

- ✓ Reduce surgical wait times and ensure patients get more timely access to the care they need;

- ✓ Direct more of your health care dollars from bureaucracy to front-line care; and
- ✓ Create quality work environments for health care professionals.

### ***Creating a Health Care Ombudsman***

Under the NDP, patients with concerns about the quality of care they've received have been forced to go the Legislature to ask for help. A Saskatchewan Party government will take the politics out of health care by establishing an independent health care ombudsman who reports directly to the legislature.

The Health Care Ombudsman will:

- ✓ Provide a clear independent authority for patients to turn to when concerns arise about the health care system;
- ✓ Assess whether or not Saskatchewan Health fairly adjudicates its policies, including policies such as out-of-province medical coverage;
- ✓ Act as an independent investigator to ensure patients are being treated fairly within the health system;
- ✓ Identify systemic problems in the health care system and make recommendations for improvements; and
- ✓ Assist patients in navigating the system and getting the care they need in a timely way.

### ***Enforcing Performance Targets for Health Care Agencies and Regional Health Care Authorities.***

The Provincial Auditor has stated that Regional Health Authorities should be accountable for the services they deliver and report publicly on results and performance objectives in a timely way. A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that Regional Health Authorities are responsible and accountable for the care they provide.



# New Ideas for Families

✓ **Doubling education property tax rebates, saving the average homeowner \$450 a year.**

✓ **Eliminating the PST on used cars and trucks, saving families an average of \$450 every time they buy a used vehicle.**

✓ **Providing an annual \$150 per child Active Families Benefit, to help parents with the cost of sports and cultural activities for children aged six to 14.**

✓ **Maintaining funding levels for child care, early learning and early childhood development – a \$267-million investment over four years.**

✓ **Doubling the caregiver tax credit, saving families that care for elderly parents and dependent adult children at home \$884 per year.**

✓ **Increasing K-12 education operating funding by 20%.**

✓ **Lowering prescription drug costs for children.**

✓ **Reducing child hunger and protecting children at-risk.**

✓ **Supporting community based organizations.**



# New Ideas for Families

**S**askatchewan families work hard every day to build a more secure future for themselves and their children. The Saskatchewan Party understands the importance of making it more affordable for families to own a home or purchase a vehicle, as well as the importance of ensuring that children have every opportunity to succeed through good schools, quality childcare and by participating in sports or cultural activities.

Under Lorne Calvert and the NDP, Saskatchewan families are overtaxed. A Saskatchewan Party government will reduce taxes for families, by doubling property tax rebates and eliminating the PST on used cars when the tax has already been paid once. To make it easier for families to care for elderly parents or adult children with infirmities at home, a Saskatchewan Party government will double the caregiver tax credit.

Families invest a lot in their children's future and want a government that will do the same. A Saskatchewan Party government will increase funding for K-12 education by 20% over four years while investing in childcare and early learning to ensure that families benefit from good schools and high quality childcare and education. A Saskatchewan Party government will make it easier for parents to afford the cost of sports and cultural activities for children aged 6 to 14, by introducing a \$150 per year Active Family Benefit.

## The Tired, Old NDP

### High Taxes and Broken Promises

✘ Property owners in Saskatchewan are forced to shoulder a greater share of education costs than any other province in Canada. (*Boughen Commission, page 38*)

✘ Lorne Calvert hiked the PST in his first budget after the 2003 election. This was after replying "No. No." when asked if he had a mandate to raise or change the PST. (*CBC Radio, January 8, 2004*)

✘ The number of children using food banks in Saskatchewan has increased 84.1% since Lorne Calvert became Premier. (*HungerCount 2006*)

**"We're located in the Premier's riding. I haven't been able to get the Premier here for two-and-a-half years ... I'll just say it the way it is."**

**- Bob Pringle, Executive Director, Saskatoon Food Bank and former NDP Cabinet Minister (CKSW Radio, Nov. 25, 2004).**

# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **Lowering Education Property Taxes**

A Saskatchewan Party government will reduce the education portion of property taxes for Saskatchewan families by doubling property tax rebates over four years. Once fully implemented, the Saskatchewan Party plan for property tax relief will:

- ☒ Save the average homeowner with a \$200,000 home more than \$450 per year; and
- ☒ Save farm families with two sections of cultivated land \$3,544 per year.

The Saskatchewan Party plan to increase education property tax rebates is the first step in our commitment to achieve a fairer balance for education funding. A Saskatchewan Party government will work with school boards and consult with Saskatchewan people to determine the best way to ensure K-12 education is properly funded and that the education portion of property taxes is further reduced.

### **Eliminating the PST on Used Light Vehicles**

A Saskatchewan Party government will eliminate the PST on the purchase of used cars and trucks, if the PST has already been paid once on that vehicle in Saskatchewan. Taxing the same vehicle over and over again every time it is sold in Saskatchewan costs 100,000 Saskatchewan residents \$45-million a year. Under the Saskatchewan Party plan, 100,000 Saskatchewan residents each year will save an average of \$450 every time they buy a used light vehicle.

### **Helping Families with the Cost of Children's Sports and Cultural Activities**

A Saskatchewan Party government will assist families with the cost of their children's participation in cultural, recreational and sports activities by providing a \$150 per year/per child Active Saskatchewan Families Benefit for children aged six to 14.

### **Supporting Families that Care for Elderly Parents and Dependent Family Members**

A Saskatchewan Party government will double the Caregivers Amount Tax Credit from \$4,019 to \$8,038 per year, saving families that care for aging parents and dependent family members living at home \$884 a year.

### **Strengthening K-12 Education**

A Saskatchewan Party government will take action to strengthen K-12 education in Saskatchewan, by:

- ☒ Increasing K-12 education operating funding to school boards by 20% over four years – a \$118-million investment in education;
- ☒ Revising the Education Act to improve the consultation and assessment process before significant changes are made to school facilities;
- ☒ Providing dedicated provincial funding for schools that meet stringent criteria as schools of opportunity or necessity;
- ☒ Reviewing the foundation operating grant provided to school boards to ensure that it is fair, and achieves a better balance between classroom expenses and transportation costs when calculating per pupil funding;
- ☒ Working with school boards to increase distance education and tele-learning opportunities in rural schools; and
- ☒ Making Treaty education mandatory in the K-12 curriculum.

### **Investing in Education, Early Learning and Childcare**

A Saskatchewan Party government will maintain funding levels for childcare and early childhood learning and development initiatives in Saskatchewan – a \$267-million investment in Saskatchewan children over four years.



## **Reducing Child Hunger**

With children now making up almost half of food bank users under the Calvert NDP, the Saskatchewan Party believes that action needs to be taken to reduce child hunger in our province. A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$2-million in over the next four years to community schools across the province for school lunch and anti-hunger programs.

## **Protecting Children At-Risk**

In the wake of repeated instances where vulnerable children in safe houses have been neglected and placed further at risk by the NDP government, a Saskatchewan Party government will:

- ☒ Request that the Provincial Auditor undertake an immediate audit of all service agreements with third-party organizations delivering services to children at-risk;
- ☒ Request that the Children's Advocate investigate and report publicly on the quality of care in facilities that deliver care to children at-risk;
- ☒ Provide the Children's Advocate with the authority to undertake random checks of safe houses and other provincially-funded facilities that provide services to children at-risk; and
- ☒ Reconvene the Saskatchewan Legislature's Special Committee to Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade, which first provided recommendations to the government in 2002, to determine whether the recommendations have been effectively acted upon and identify further action that can be taken to prevent the abuse and exploitation of children through the sex trade.

## **Supporting Community Based Organizations**

Thousands of community based organizations help to secure the needs of families and children, and build strong communities where everyone is able to realize their full potential.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with community based organizations to improve the delivery of services to Saskatchewan families by moving to long-term, stable and predictable funding for organizations, while increasing the role of the Provincial Auditor to ensure greater accountability for the dollars that are spent.

A Saskatchewan Party government will empower community based organizations, by holding a summit of community based organizations within the first six months of a Saskatchewan Party government to develop a new social policy direction for Saskatchewan.

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$20-million over four years to food banks and community based organizations that provide life skills, development and employment training to under-skilled individuals.

# **New Ideas for Jobs and Economic Growth**



**Enterprise Saskatchewan: a new vision and partnership for economic growth.**



**Investing an additional \$125-million in post-secondary institutions.**



**Establishing Innovation Saskatchewan, a new provincial innovation and research authority.**



**Providing new funding to cities and municipalities for lot development and road repair.**



**Building careers for Saskatchewan people by investing in training and developing our natural resources.**



**Making Saskatchewan a leader in the New West.**



**Providing better support for agriculture and farm families.**



# New Ideas for Jobs and Economic Growth

**S**askatchewan needs a government with a vision for turning the recent resource boom into a long-term plan for economic growth that will create good paying jobs and careers for more Saskatchewan people.

Under Lorne Calvert and the NDP, Saskatchewan has failed to realize its full potential. Despite rising natural resource prices, Saskatchewan has the worst job creation record in Canada since Lorne Calvert took office and Saskatchewan has suffered a net outmigration of more than 35,000 people to other provinces during the same period — most of those being young people.

Securing the future requires a government that is committed to a new economic vision for our province; a vision that puts control of the economy back into the hands of industry, labour, First Nations, post-secondary institutions, municipalities and other economic stakeholders in the province.

A Saskatchewan Party government will make innovation and education a driving force in the economic growth of our province, while investing in cities, communities and rural Saskatchewan. A Saskatchewan Party government will keep taxes competitive, while ensuring that Saskatchewan becomes a leader in the New West.

## The Tired, Old NDP

### The Worst Job Creation Record in Canada

✗ The NDP have the worst job creation record in Canada since Lorne Calvert took office. (Statistics Canada)

✗ Since Lorne Calvert took office in 2001, Saskatchewan has lost more than 35,000 people to net out-migration - most of those being young people. (*Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics*)

✗ Lorne Calvert and the NDP tried to impose the 'job killing monster' of most available hours legislation on businesses, municipalities and post-secondary institutions in 2004.

✗ Funding for cities was cut in half by the NDP during the 1990s. (*SUMA*)

✗ Lorne Calvert doesn't believe Saskatchewan can succeed or be a leader in the New West, calling us a "wee" province that "will always be in and out of equalization."

**"Governments, I firmly believe, should not be risking taxpayers' dollars by picking economic winners and losers, especially since the record shows that governments of all stripes pick their share of losers."**

**- Former NDP Finance Minister  
Janice MacKinnon, *Minding the Public Purse*.**



# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **Enterprise Saskatchewan:**

#### **A New Vision and Partnership for Economic Growth**

A Saskatchewan Party government will create Enterprise Saskatchewan, a new public-private partnership between government, business, labour, First Nations, municipalities, post-secondary institutions and economic stakeholders. Enterprise Saskatchewan will be Saskatchewan's central economic development agency.

#### **The Enterprise Saskatchewan Plan: Developing Saskatchewan's Potential**

##### **Developing Our Labour Force**

✓ Enterprise Saskatchewan will act as the lead agency for developing a long-term provincial labour force development strategy to ensure Saskatchewan has enough well-trained workers to fill jobs and sustain economic growth in our province. Enterprise Saskatchewan will:

- Facilitate direct partnerships between post-secondary institutions and industry to address training needs in growth sectors of the economy;
- Develop a long-term provincial initiative between First Nations, post-secondary institutions and industry to increase the number of First Nations workers in the labour force; and
- Increase training and employment opportunities for apprentices, including reviewing the current journeyman to apprentice ratio in consultation with industry and labour.

✓ A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$20-million over four years to food banks and community based organizations that provide life skills, development and employment training to under-skilled individuals.

##### **Developing Our Natural Resources**

✓ Enterprise Saskatchewan will act as the lead agency for enhancing the value-added potential of Saskatchewan's natural resources. Enterprise Saskatchewan will:

- Support research, development and the commercialization of innovation in activities related to energy, forestry, mining and agriculture;
- Work with the federal government to increase the number of value-added initiatives for Saskatchewan's natural resource industries;
- Explore and identify uranium value-added opportunities; and
- Review and address tax measures, infrastructure barriers and export barriers to assist in the value-added development of our natural resources.

✓ A Saskatchewan Party government will reinstate the Saskatchewan Mineral Exploration Tax Credit which was eliminated by the NDP, to encourage ongoing, sustainable development of Saskatchewan's mineral resources.

## **Building a Competitive Economy**

- ✓ Enterprise Saskatchewan teams will review key sectors of Saskatchewan's economy, to identify barriers to growth and make recommendations to government for their removal.
- ✓ Enterprise Saskatchewan will consistently act to measure and report on Saskatchewan's tax and regulatory environment to ensure that Saskatchewan's economy remains competitive within the New West.

## **Capitalizing on the Benefits of Saskatchewan's Energy Resources**

A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that Saskatchewan people reap the benefits of our energy resources, by:

- ✓ Ensuring the continued, sustainable development of Saskatchewan's conventional oil and oilsands resources;
- ✓ Working with the federal government to develop a national energy grid to increase provincial revenues from power exports; and
- ✓ Ensuring Saskatchewan is a member of North American and international energy and economic organizations.

## **Strengthening Saskatchewan's Forest Sector**

Through Enterprise Saskatchewan, a Saskatchewan Party government will work with stakeholders and northern communities to strengthen Saskatchewan's forest industry, including identifying barriers to growth in the industry and initiatives such as:

- ✓ Aiding in the construction of infrastructure necessary for the success of the forest industry;
- ✓ Developing niche markets where the Saskatchewan forest industry could flourish; and
- ✓ Examining the benefits of co-generation for the forest industry, as well as other uses for left over wood waste, such as in ethanol production.

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide a more defined accounting of our allowable sustainable cut. This government surveyed inventory will be aimed at finding where Saskatchewan's forest industry fits into the world forestry market.

A Saskatchewan Party government will increase First Nations involvement by ensuring that government and industry consults with First Nations on forest industry projects.

## **Supporting Agriculture**

A Saskatchewan Party government will fully fund the provincial government's share of the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAIS) and new federal-provincial programs to replace CAIS, while pressing the federal government to increase its share of funding for farm income stabilization and disaster relief programs.

A Saskatchewan Party government will maintain current levels of funding for crop insurance, while conducting an immediate review of the program to determine how to increase coverage and reduce premiums for producers.

A Saskatchewan Party government will double property tax rebates on agricultural land over four years, saving farm families with two sections of cultivated land \$3,544 per year once fully implemented.

A Saskatchewan Party government will invest \$1.8-billion over four years in highways and transportation infrastructure to rebuild our crumbling highways.

## **A Fair and Balanced Labour Environment for Workers and Employers**

A Saskatchewan Party government will establish a fair and balanced labour environment in Saskatchewan that respects the rights of workers and employers by:

- ✓ Ensuring a balanced labour environment in Saskatchewan that is fair to workers and employers and competitive with other Canadian jurisdictions;
- ✓ Respecting the right of labour and management to negotiate collective agreements, by removing legislated limits on the length of collective bargaining agreements;

✓ Protecting public safety by working together with the province's public sector unions to ensure essential services are in place in the event of a strike or labour action;

✓ Reviewing the Workers' Compensation Board to ensure that it is responsive to the needs of both workers and employers; and

✓ Ensuring democratic workplaces by:

- Requiring secret ballots on any vote to certify a union in a workplace and a 50% plus one result for successful certification; and

- Ensuring freedom of information in the workplace during any unionization drive, by allowing unions and management the opportunity to fairly communicate with employees.

## ***Investing in Innovation and Building a Knowledge Economy***

### ***Investing in Our Universities, Colleges and Training Institutes***

A Saskatchewan Party government will increase operating funding for Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions by \$125-million over the next four years to build an innovative economy, increase training and educational seats and keep tuition affordable for students.

Through SaskTel, a Saskatchewan Party government will work with Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions to develop the innovative telecommunications infrastructure that universities, regional colleges and technical institutes need to make Saskatchewan an innovation leader.

### ***Innovation Saskatchewan***

A Saskatchewan Party government will create Innovation Saskatchewan, a new innovation and research authority within Enterprise Saskatchewan, to coordinate government support for research, development and the commercialization of innovation in six priority areas:

✓ The life sciences, including biotechnology and the health sciences;

✓ Environmental technology and sustainable environmental practices;

✓ Mining and energy, including uranium;

✓ Agriculture;

✓ Synchrotron-related initiatives; and

✓ Information Technology.

### ***Increasing Private Sector Investment in Research and Development***

A Saskatchewan Party government will increase the research and development tax credit from 15% to 20% to encourage more private sector investment in R&D.

### ***Making Saskatchewan a Global Innovation Leader in Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources***

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide \$22-million over four years to create a Global Institute for Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, in partnership with post-secondary institutions and industry, to develop Saskatchewan's research capacity in uranium and energy resources and build a skilled workforce in these important sectors of the economy.

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$4-million in funding over four years for the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and the International Test Centre for Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Capture at the University of Regina.



## ***Investing in Municipalities***

### ***Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative for Municipalities***

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide \$300-million in five-year interest-free loans through the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative, to assist municipalities in developing the infrastructure needed to meet the demand for new housing, commercial and industrial construction

### ***Repairing Roads in our Cities***

A Saskatchewan Party government will dedicate \$140-million over four years from the provincial government's share of the New Grade upgrader to improve road and highway infrastructure. A significant portion of this will go directly to municipalities to assist in the construction of road and transportation infrastructure.

### ***A New Revenue Sharing Deal for Municipalities***

A Saskatchewan Party government will commit to negotiating a new revenue sharing deal with municipalities that will include a percentage of the provincial government's own source revenue.

To provide immediate assistance to municipalities while a new revenue sharing agreement is being negotiated, a Saskatchewan Party government will commit to increasing funding for municipal revenue sharing by seven per cent annually. This will increase provincial government transfers to municipalities from \$122.2-million in 2007-08 to almost \$140-million in 2009-10.

## ***Making Saskatchewan a Leader in the New West, Canada and the World***

### ***Working with Western Provinces***

A Saskatchewan Party government will reduce inter-provincial trade barriers, while protecting public ownership of Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations and the ability of municipalities and the Government of Saskatchewan to utilize new growth tax incentives to stimulate new economic growth.

A Saskatchewan Party government will be an active participant in inter-provincial Western Canadian initiatives that expand economic opportunity, improve the effectiveness of public services and enhance security for Saskatchewan people, including initiatives related to:

- Protecting and furthering Western Canadian interests within Confederation;
- Labour market development;

- Post-secondary education;
- Emergency response; and
- Joint purchase of pharmaceuticals.

### ***Promoting Saskatchewan in the New West***

A Saskatchewan Party government will host a New West Summit within the first year of a Saskatchewan Party government to engage Western provincial governments, industry, post-secondary institutions and other economic stakeholders in a strategy to develop the New West.

A Saskatchewan Party government will streamline and enhance the Government of Saskatchewan's websites to create a one-stop "electronic embassy" that will promote Saskatchewan and provide easy access to individuals and businesses seeking to locate in Saskatchewan.

## **A Fair Deal for Saskatchewan**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with the federal government to secure a Saskatchewan Energy Accord modeled on the Atlantic Accord, or its financial equivalent, to support economic growth initiatives in Saskatchewan.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work to establish a new partnership with the federal government focused on the following priorities:

- ☒ Increased federal support for Saskatchewan's economic growth agenda, including post-secondary education, infrastructure and agriculture;

- ☒ Increased federal funding to support health care and protect the environment; and

- ☒ The development of a new partnership between the federal and provincial government and First Nations to improve health and educational outcomes for First Nations people in Saskatchewan.

# ***Building Pride in Saskatchewan***

- ✓ ***Strengthening the partnership with First Nations.***
- ✓ ***Doubling tourism funding.***
- ✓ ***Investing in our provincial and regional parks.***
- ✓ ***Rebuilding our highways.***
- ✓ ***Investing in arts and culture.***
- ✓ ***Creating a provincial capital commission.***



# Building Pride in Saskatchewan

**S**askatchewan people have pride in our province. They believe in the tremendous potential that Saskatchewan offers, and deserve a government with a positive vision for the future that will realize this potential.

The Saskatchewan Party recognizes the Treaties as the foundation of the partnership between First Nations and non-First Nations people in our province.

A Saskatchewan Party government will respect the Treaties and develop economic policies in the spirit of the Treaties to achieve the shared goal of prosperity for all people in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's natural advantages and cultural heritage draw tourists from around the world to our province. A Saskatchewan Party government will double tourism funding, create a provincial capital commission, invest in arts and culture and provide an additional \$20-million over four years in our parks to promote pride in our province.

Saskatchewan's highways are the lifelines of our province, connecting communities and playing an essential role in ensuring economic growth and maintaining public safety. Yet the NDP have allowed our highways to crumble, risking the security of Saskatchewan people. A Saskatchewan Party government will secure the future by dedicating all of the fuel tax to rebuilding our province's highways while investing in transportation innovation.

## **The Tired, Old NDP**

### **Failing Saskatchewan People**

✘ The NDP took in a billion dollars more in fuel taxes over the last decade than it spent on highways and transportation. (CAA Saskatchewan – Annual Highways Review)

✘ In 2003, the provincial government estimated that nearly 11,000 km or 41% of the provincial highways network was not in good repair. (Saskatchewan Department of Highways)

✘ Lorne Calvert acknowledged in March 2007 that the NDP has had no plan for highways and that previous highways spending had been done on an ad hoc basis. (CBC)

✘ Funding for tourism under the NDP is the second lowest per capita in the country. (calculations from provincial budgets)



# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **Rebuilding Saskatchewan's Highways**

#### **Rebuilding Our Highways**

A Saskatchewan Party government will dedicate all of the fuel tax collected in the province to highways, roads and transportation infrastructure, as part of a minimum four year \$1.8-billion commitment to rebuilding Saskatchewan's highway and roads that will include:

- ✓ Establishing a rolling five-year plan for the province's road construction and maintenance program to improve the safety of the province's highways and invest in infrastructure that supports economic growth;
- ✓ Placing an emphasis on quality construction and the implementation of new highway construction technology designed to meet the demands of Saskatchewan's climate and large scale truck traffic; and
- ✓ Negotiating with the federal government to increase federal funding for road, highway and infrastructure investment, to push funding beyond the minimum \$1.8-billion Saskatchewan Party commitment.

#### **Investing in Transportation Innovation**

A Saskatchewan Party government's four-year \$1.8-

billion commitment to improve Saskatchewan's highway and transportation network will include the creation of a partnership between the Department of Highways and Transportation and the province's post-secondary institutions to develop a Transportation Centre of Excellence.

- ✓ The Transportation Centre of Excellence partnership will focus on developing new highways and road construction technologies and techniques to make Saskatchewan a world leader in road construction.
- ✓ The partnership will include support for innovative urban road construction initiatives at the Communities of Tomorrow research centre at the University of Regina.

#### **Investing in Additional Funding for Municipal Road Construction and Highways**

A Saskatchewan Party government will dedicate \$140-million over four years to municipal road and highway infrastructure from the proceeds of the provincial government's sale of its share in the New Grade upgrader.

### **Strengthening the Partnership with First Nations**

#### **Strengthening the Partnership with First Nations**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work to strengthen the partnership between First Nations and non-First Nations people in our province in the spirit of the Treaties. A Saskatchewan Party government will:

- ✓ Honour and support the Bilateral Protocol between the FSIN and the Province of Saskatchewan;

- ✓ Work with First Nations and Métis peoples to develop a protocol that will protect their rights and interests, ensuring the provincial government fulfills its duty to consult and accommodate;
- ✓ Ensure that First Nations, through the FSIN, will be represented on the Board of Enterprise Saskatchewan, the new public-private economic development agency that will guide economic growth;

- ✓ Consult with First Nations and Métis peoples in the development and implementation of all provincial legislation and policy that impacts or has the potential to impact their jurisdiction;
- ✓ Make instruction in the history and content of the Treaties signed between First Nations and the Government mandatory in the provincial K-12 curriculum;
- ✓ Establish a joint federal-provincial-First Nations partnership to improve the social, economic

and health outcomes of First Nations people in Saskatchewan;

- ✓ Work with First Nations' leadership and elders to encourage the Federal government to provide funding for a map of traditional First Nations lands in Saskatchewan; and
- ✓ Work with the federal government and First Nations to establish a First Nations' cultural centre that will serve as a "keeping house" for important, sacred and ceremonial artifacts.

## ***Building Pride in Saskatchewan***

### ***Doubling Tourism Funding***

A Saskatchewan Party government will capitalize on our tourism advantage by immediately doubling funding for tourism in the province - an additional \$32-million investment over the next four years for:

- ✓ Additional marketing activities to promote tourism in the province;
- ✓ Capital investment in ecological, paleontological, museum and heritage facilities;
- ✓ Improved and consistent signage promoting tourist attractions on Saskatchewan highways;
- ✓ Enhanced strategic partnerships with urban and regional tourism organizations in the province;
- ✓ Support for First Nations tourism initiatives;
- ✓ Increased northern and eco-tourism; and
- ✓ Greater support for event-hosting.

A Saskatchewan Party government will also work with the federal government to facilitate development of ecological and heritage attractions.

### ***Building Pride in Our Parks***

A Saskatchewan Party government will invest an additional \$20-million in funding to parks in Saskatchewan over four years to:

- ✓ Create an additional 1,000 electrified campsites in provincial parks;
- ✓ Increase the number of non-electrified and seasonal campsites in our provincial parks;
- ✓ Eliminate the "wiener roast tax" on firewood purchased at provincial campgrounds, saving campers over \$1.4-million over four years;
- ✓ Provide an additional \$10-million over four years to improve park programming, improve park infrastructure, hire more summer students and increase security in our parks during long weekends;
- ✓ Provide \$2.4-million in long-term stable funding for regional parks over four years – triple the NDP's current level of funding; and
- ✓ Work with communities and stakeholders to establish new provincial parks in Saskatchewan, including a new wilderness park to accommodate extreme camping.

To keep camping rates affordable for Saskatchewan residents and extend free park entry to seniors for another four years, a Saskatchewan Party government will charge out-of-province residents more to camp in Saskatchewan parks.

### ***Building Pride in Saskatchewan Arts and Culture***

A Saskatchewan Party government will maintain funding for provincial arts organizations, and will work with stakeholders through Enterprise Saskatchewan to ensure that the arts and culture sector continues to grow in Saskatchewan.

A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that Saskatchewan's arts and cultural organizations are part of efforts to promote Saskatchewan in the New West and across Canada.

A Saskatchewan Party government will amend the Status of the Artist Act to:

- ☒ Protect the intellectual property rights of artists that contract with the Government of Saskatchewan and its agencies; and
- ☒ Require written contracts between engagers and professional artists.

### ***Creating a Provincial Capital Commission***

A Saskatchewan Party government will create a provincial capital commission in Regina to preserve and promote the history and culture of our province and ensure that our provincial capital continues to remain a source of pride for the people of Saskatchewan and visitors to our province.

# ***Publicly Owned Crowns that Work for Saskatchewan***



***Keeping our Crowns publicly owned to provide high quality utility services to Saskatchewan people at the lowest cost.***



***New ideas for Crown investment in innovation at our universities, colleges and technical institutes.***



***Crown Corporations that invest in better internet access and cell coverage in our communities.***



***New ideas for our Crowns to help Saskatchewan Go Green and protect our environment.***





# Publicly Owned Crowns that Work for Saskatchewan

**K**eeping Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations public and working for Saskatchewan people is an important part of the Saskatchewan Party's plan for Securing the Future.

In 2004, the Saskatchewan Party voted in the Legislature to support the Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act.

Lorne Calvert and the NDP continue to gamble away the future of our Crowns through money losing investments like SPUDCO. In fact, the NDP have gambled and lost more than \$283-million on bad investments.

The Saskatchewan Party will ensure Crown Corporations continue to provide Saskatchewan people with the highest quality utilities at the lowest cost, while directing Crown dividends towards priorities like health care, highways and education. A Saskatchewan Party government will also strengthen Crown investment in our communities and post-secondary institutions to build an innovative economy, while helping Saskatchewan Go Green through initiatives by SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SGI to help Saskatchewan people make smart environmental choices in their homes and when they drive.

## The Tired Old NDP

### Gambled and Lost Hundreds of Millions of Dollars on Business Failures

✗ The NDP promised to build three new ethanol plants in a partnership with Broe industries before the last election. Instead the NDP lost \$866,000 and none of the plants were ever built.

#### ✗ NDP Failed Crown Investments

- \$15 million lost - Channel Lake— SaskPower natural gas subsidiary
- \$2 million lost - Guyana—South American power company
- \$16 million lost - NST Chicago—US Midwest fibre optics company
- \$9.4 million lost - Persona Inc—Newfoundland cable company
- \$24.7 million lost - Retx.com—Atlanta dot-com
- \$6.7 million lost - Tappedinto.com—Nashville dot-com
- \$3 million lost - Clickabid.com— failed internet auction business
- \$5.6 million lost - Soft Tracks Enterprises Ltd— wireless electronic payment company
- \$72 million lost - Navigata Communications— BC telecommunications company
- \$10 million lost - Craig Wireless— Manitoba internet company
- \$17.2 million lost - Coachman Insurance— Ontario insurance company
- \$8.9 million lost - AgDealer— farm equipment internet site
- \$35 million lost - SPUDCO— failed potato company
- \$8 million lost - Mega Bingo— failed NDP bingo scheme
- \$40 million lost - Austar Communications— Australian stock market gamble
- \$7.6-million lost - Minds Eye Entertainment - money losing movie company
- \$2.42 million lost - Business Watch International - pawn shop money loser

**Total: \$283.5 million of your tax dollars lost on failed NDP Crown investments.**

On Spudco: **"To be sure, the scale of this affair – the mismanagement, lies, years of cover-ups and failure of governing politicians to take full responsibility – cry out for answers and accountability."**

– Saskatoon Star Phoenix, October 16, 2004

# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **Strong Publicly Owned Crown Corporations that Keep Utility Costs Affordable**

A Saskatchewan Party government will keep our Crowns publicly owned and ensure that Saskatchewan people continue to enjoy high quality utility services at the lowest cost.

### **Increasing Crown Investment in our Schools and Communities**

SaskTel is a world leader in telecommunications infrastructure. Under a Saskatchewan Party government, SaskTel will increase investment in innovative communications infrastructure at our post-secondary institutions, while expanding high-speed internet access and improving cell coverage throughout Saskatchewan.

### **Crowns that Help Saskatchewan Go Green**

SaskPower and SaskEnergy have an important role to play in helping Saskatchewan people reduce energy and power consumption and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Through the Saskatchewan Party's Go Green plan:

- ✓ SaskPower and SaskEnergy will work together to help homeowners, schools, hospitals and business Go Green, by providing low interest loans of up to \$25,000 for Saskatchewan residents to install geothermal heating, solar power and small scale wind generation equipment. This will help homeowners to save up to 70% on the cost of a monthly heating bill, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and keeping electricity green and affordable through the use of renewable power;
- ✓ SGI will provide a 20% discount on the cost to insure 2006 and later model hybrid and high-fuel efficiency vehicles, saving the average green driver \$200 per year; and
- ✓ SaskPower will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing more renewable power, developing net metering to promote residential, commercial and institutional use of renewable power and making sure that new power generation facilities reduce Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions and keep power costs as low as possible for Saskatchewan people.

# ***Making our Communities Safer***

- ✓ ***120 more police on our streets.***
- ✓ ***\$1-million more every year to get rid of gangs in our communities.***
- ✓ ***Crack down on gangs and drugs in jails.***
- ✓ ***Funding 100 new addiction treatment beds over four years.***
- ✓ ***Increasing home security for seniors.***
- ✓ ***Protecting children from sexual exploitation over the internet.***
- ✓ ***Better support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.***
- ✓ ***Seizing the vehicles of repeat drunk drivers.***



# Making our Communities Safer

**S**askatchewan was built on community – places where children, families and seniors could feel safe.

Under Lorne Calvert and the NDP that has changed. For nine straight years under the NDP, Saskatchewan has had the highest crime rates in the country. Gang violence is spreading from our larger cities to smaller communities. Children are being sexually exploited over the internet and by dangerous offenders. Crystal meth and other dangerous drugs continue to contribute to the highest rate of substance abuse in the country. And nearly half of offenders who leave prison, end up back in jail.

A Saskatchewan Party government will make our communities safer, with more police officers on the streets and more resources for police to fight gangs. To protect those most at risk, a Saskatchewan Party government will increase funding to protect children, introduce new initiatives to protect seniors in their homes, increase the number of addiction treatment beds and provide better support to the victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. A Saskatchewan Party government will also crack down on repeat drunk drivers by seizing their vehicles and hire more corrections workers to combat gangs and drugs in jails.

## **The Tired, Old NDP**

### **The Highest Crime Rate in Canada**

✗ Saskatchewan continues to have the highest crime rate in Canada under the NDP, including the highest rate of:

- Violent crime and murder;
- Break and entry;
- Sexual assaults; and
- Criminal Code incidents involving impaired operation of a vehicle. (*Statistics Canada*)

✗ The NDP still haven't fulfilled their 1999 promise to hire 200 new police officers. (*Statistics Canada*)

✗ Saskatchewan has the highest concentration of youth gang members according to the Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan. (*Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan, Vol.1, Issue 1, Winter '05*)

✗ Saskatchewan has the highest rate of substance abuse of any province, under an NDP government that closed youth addiction treatment beds and SADAC, the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. (*Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*)

✗ Revolving Door Prisons: Half of the offenders released from jail in Saskatchewan end up back in jail and 93% of prisoners are estimated to have a substance abuse problem. (*Department of Justice's 2007-08 Performance Plan and Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse*)



# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **More Police on the Streets**

A Saskatchewan Party government will fulfill the NDP's broken promise to hire 200 new police officers, while adding 100 new police officers — a total of 120 new police officers over four years.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with municipal police forces, the RCMP and the Criminal Intelligence Service of Saskatchewan to develop a long-term policing strategy that clearly identifies the current and emerging needs of local police forces and guides provincial government support for crime fighting initiatives.

### **Tackling Gang Violence**

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$4-million over four years – almost a 50 per cent increase – to combat organized crime and gangs in Saskatchewan.

A Saskatchewan Party government will develop a Western Canadian partnership to reduce the presence of gangs in our cities, including the development of a Western Canadian gang member database to assist police in identifying gang members.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work to strengthen legislation and enforcement to allow the provincial government and police forces to seize assets that are used to commit crimes, are a proceed of crime or that pose a threat to public safety.

### **Cracking Down on Drunk Drivers**

A Saskatchewan Party government will toughen penalties for repeat drunk drivers, by directing Crown Prosecutors to seek the forfeiture of a vehicle for persons convicted of three or more drunk driving convictions under the Criminal Code.

### **Combating Gangs and Drugs in Prisons**

A Saskatchewan Party government will toughen security in prisons and make rehabilitation more effective by:

- ☒ Hiring more corrections workers to eliminate drugs and gangs in jails;
- ☒ Tightening security to stop drugs from coming into jails;
- ☒ Re-charging offenders caught with drugs in prison;
- ☒ Instituting mandatory drug testing for offenders;
- ☒ Increasing treatment and counseling for offenders with addictions;
- ☒ Banning gang colours and paraphernalia in jails by instituting jail uniforms; and
- ☒ Increasing life skills, education, trades training and job skill training for offenders in prison.

### **Tougher Sentences for Dangerous Offenders**

A Saskatchewan Party government will support the federal government's efforts to implement tougher sentences for serious crimes, crimes that involve use of a firearm and repeat dangerous offenders. A Saskatchewan Party government will also lobby the federal government to toughen sentences for sexual offenders who commit crimes against children, home invasions and crimes of violence against a police officer.

### **Better Support for Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence**

A Saskatchewan Party government will strengthen services to women who are sexually assaulted or the victims of domestic violence, by providing a 25% funding increase – \$4-million over four years – for transition houses and sexual assault centres.

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide \$100,000 in annual funding to support the creation and operation of a provincial umbrella association for sexual assault services.

### **Increased Home Security for Seniors**

A Saskatchewan Party government will undertake a four year \$2-million initiative to provide free home security devices and home safety audits to low-income seniors and seniors who have been victims of break-ins or home invasions.

### **Better Support for the Victims of Crime**

A Saskatchewan Party government will increase the Victim Impact Surcharge on offenders by five per cent, to increase support and services for the victims of crime.

A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that restitution orders charged to criminals are enforced and a tracking system is put in place to collect millions of dollars in unpaid fines.

### **More Addiction Treatment Beds and Services**

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$16-million in funding over four years to:

☒ Fund 100 new long-term addiction treatment beds operated by community-based and First Nations organizations;

☒ Re-establish an independent provincial addictions agency to measure the results of addiction programs in the province, coordinate education campaigns about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and oversee FASD initiatives; and

☒ Provide increased funding for addictions treatment and counseling for youth and adult offenders.

### **Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation Over the Internet**

A Saskatchewan Party government will double existing funding for police resources and work with other provinces to share resources and develop a coordinated Western Canadian response to protect children from sexual exploitation over the internet.

# ***New Ideas to Help Saskatchewan Go Green***

- ✓ ***Providing \$70-million for the Green Initiatives Fund.***
- ✓ ***Meeting Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.***
- ✓ ***Low interest loans through SaskPower and SaskEnergy to install geothermal heating and renewable power in homes, businesses and institutions.***
- ✓ ***A 20% SGI rebate for hybrid and high fuel efficiency vehicles.***
- ✓ ***Continuing support for energy conservation.***
- ✓ ***Making Saskatchewan a biofuels leader in Canada.***
- ✓ ***Protecting and conserving our natural resources.***
- ✓ ***Green leadership in government.***





# Helping Saskatchewan Go Green

Saskatchewan people deserve a government that will take action to promote a sustainable environment and assist Saskatchewan residents to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by going green at home and on the road.

Despite promising to create a green and prosperous economy, Saskatchewan's NDP government has been cited as the worst per capita emitter of greenhouse gases in Canada by Environment Canada. According to figures released by the federal department, Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions increased by 62% between 1990 and 2004. Pollution Watch has also identified SaskPower as one of the top five air polluters in Canada.

Through Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations, a Saskatchewan Party government will provide a 20% rebate on the cost of insuring hybrid and high fuel efficiency vehicles, while providing low interest loans to SaskPower and SaskEnergy customers to install geothermal heating and renewable power in homes, businesses and institutions. A Saskatchewan Party government will make Saskatchewan a biofuels leader in Canada, while conserving and protecting our natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

## **The Tired, Old NDP**

### **The Worst Per Capita Emitter of Greenhouse Gases in Canada**

✘ The highest rate of growth in greenhouse gas emissions since 1990, more than every other province and territory. (*Environment Canada*)

✘ According to the NDP's own numbers, "Saskatchewan's emissions are 62 percent above 1990 levels." (2007/08 Saskatchewan Environment Performance Plan)

✘ The highest greenhouse gas emissions of any province or territory on a per GDP basis. (*David Suzuki Foundation*)

• **"... an environmentally regressive Premier and cabinet whose NDP orange verges on brown."**

– **Sierra Club of Canada,  
RIO Report Card 2006**



# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **Providing \$70 million for Saskatchewan's Green Initiatives Fund**

A Saskatchewan Party government will more than double the Green Initiatives Fund by providing an additional \$40-million over four years, for a total contribution of \$70-million over four years, to support:

- ✓ An additional \$4-million in funding over four years for the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and International Test Centre for CO2 Capture at the University of Regina;
- ✓ Programs underway through the Municipal Energy Efficiency Initiative, including energy efficient lighting and heating programs, assistance for energy efficiency in rinks and solar water heating;
- ✓ Environmental awareness and sustainable community initiatives, including local recycling programs;
- ✓ Research, development and the commercialization of environmental innovation through Innovation Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan's new provincial research authority which will operate through Enterprise Saskatchewan; and
- ✓ Energy conservation initiatives.

### **Go Green at Home and Work**

#### **Assisting Customers with the Cost of Installing Geothermal and Solar Heating**

SaskPower and SaskEnergy will work together to help homeowners, schools, hospitals and businesses Go Green, by providing low interest loans of up to \$25,000 for Saskatchewan residents to install geothermal heating, solar power and small scale wind generation equipment.

Installing geothermal heating will help homeowners to save up to 70% on the cost of a monthly heating bill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Installing renewable power sources will allow homeowners and power customers to keep power bills affordable and generate more green electricity in our province.

### **Conserving Energy**

A Saskatchewan Party government will extend current provincial initiatives to help improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses for another five years, including:

- ✓ Providing low-interest loans to customers who install Energy Star qualified furnaces and boilers;
- ✓ Rebating the PST for purchases of Energy Star qualified appliances and heating systems; and
- ✓ Energy efficiency initiatives for new, low income and affordable housing.

### **Go Green on the Road**

Through SGI, a Saskatchewan Party government will help Saskatchewan drivers Go Green on the Road, by lowering the cost to register and insure a 2006 or later model hybrid or high fuel efficiency vehicle. This measure could save drivers up to \$200 a year and will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the percentage of green cars and trucks on our roads over the next four years.

### **Supporting Saskatchewan's Biofuels Industry**

A Saskatchewan Party government will develop Saskatchewan's biofuel industry through short-term loan assistance, new growth tax incentives and the infrastructure needed to support the development of biofuel facilities.

A Saskatchewan Party government will require a mandatory 2.5% bio-diesel blend on diesel fuels sold in Saskatchewan once provincial production capacity is capable of meeting demand.

### **Meeting Saskatchewan's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets:**

A Saskatchewan Party government will invest in environmental innovation and energy conservation measures while working with industry and the province's Crown Corporations to meet the province's greenhouse gas emission reduction target to:

- ☒ Stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010;
- ☒ Reduce greenhouse gases by 32 per cent from current levels by 2020; and
- ☒ Reduce greenhouse gases by 80 per cent from current levels by 2050.

A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that carbon offsets or penalties imposed by the federal government on heavy greenhouse gas emitters stay in Saskatchewan and contribute to the Saskatchewan Green Initiatives Fund.

A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure SaskPower plays a leading role in providing consumers with low cost power that reduces greenhouse gas emissions by:

- ☒ Continuing to meet additional immediate and short-term power needs through renewable power sources such as wind and hydro, as well as lower emission power sources such as gas fired turbines;
- ☒ Expanding the purchase of renewable energy and co-generated power from industrial sources;

☒ Supporting the development of net-metering to support small scale renewable power generation and conservation; and

☒ Ensuring that new power supply developed to replace retired power generation facilities reduces Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Protecting our Natural Resources**

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with municipalities and stakeholders across the province to protect and conserve our natural resources. A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure Saskatchewan communities have access to safe and clean water supplies, enforce conservation standards to prevent overfishing in our lakes and work with farmers to improve conservation measures and implement green initiatives on agricultural land.

### **Green Leadership in Government**

A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that environmental education, conservation and sustainability are taught in schools as part of the curriculum.

A Saskatchewan Party government will work with municipalities and institutions across the province to ensure that new public buildings in the province are constructed to the Model National Energy Code.

A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that all new vehicles purchased by the provincial government are hybrid or high fuel efficiency vehicles.

A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure that all government departments follow the lead of the Crowns in establishing measurable goals and targets to reduce their environmental footprint and report publicly on their initiatives.

# More Accountable Government

- ✓ **Establishing fixed election dates.**
- ✓ **Banning pre-election government advertising.**
- ✓ **Balanced budgets every year, with surpluses dedicated to debt reduction and economic growth.**
- ✓ **Paying down \$250-million in debt immediately.**
- ✓ **Ensuring the size of government doesn't grow faster than the population.**
- ✓ **Investing in a professional public service.**
- ✓ **Protecting public servants through a public integrity commissioner.**



# More Accountable Government

**S**askatchewan people expect their government to be open, honest and accountable. A Saskatchewan Party Government will provide Saskatchewan people with more transparency and accountability than any previous government, by introducing legislation to pay down debt, taking the ‘guesswork’ out of election timing by introducing fixed election dates and providing more transparency in Government and Crown Corporations.

Accountable government means balanced budgets with a dedicated plan for future surpluses and a government that ensures the size of government doesn’t grow faster than the population. Since Lorne Calvert took office, the number of people working in government has increased, while the number of people in Saskatchewan has actually dropped. At the same time, the NDP have wasted millions on government advertising like the \$1 million “exclamation mark” campaign, while ignoring many recommendations from the Provincial Auditor.

Lorne Calvert and the NDP refuse to support fixed election dates and have spent your tax dollars on advertising to promote the government in the run up to the provincial election. A Saskatchewan Party government will ensure greater democratic accountability by instituting fixed election dates and banning government advertising before an election.

## The Tired, Old NDP

### Wasting your Money

✗ Lorne Calvert has spent over \$11-million on self-serving advertising since becoming Premier.

- “It’s hard to imagine a bigger waste of money.” – *Regina Leader Post*, October 13, 2006. (referring to the *Imagine Campaign*)
- “Advertising that’s really little more than thinly-veiled propaganda designed more for the benefit of the governing party’s re-election chances than the benefit of the public.” – *Regina Leader Post* columnist Murray Mandryk, September 15, 2007. (referring to the *Health and Learning government ad campaigns*)

✗ The Calvert NDP has failed to be accountable to Saskatchewan people.

- “Calvert lacks accountability” – *PA Daily Herald*, January 27, 2005.
- “Why is NDP insisting on lying to us?” – *Regina Leader Post*, October 23, 2004.
- “Government too lenient on Accountability” – *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*, March 17, 2006.

✗ **Murdoch Carriere Scandal:** Lorne Calvert delivered a \$275,000 severance cheque to Murdoch Carriere, a senior government official who was fired for harassing women and convicted of assault.

✗ **NDP Fraud Scandal:** The Calvert NDP promised to deliver another big severance cheque to Jim Fodey, the former NDP Caucus Chief of Staff who lost his job in the wake of the NDP fraud scandal and cover-up, which is still under RCMP investigation.



# **Securing the Future:**

## **The Saskatchewan Party's Plan and New Ideas**

### **Fixed Election Dates**

A Saskatchewan Party government will establish fixed provincial election dates every four years to end political gamesmanship surrounding the timing of provincial elections.

### **Paying Down the Provincial Debt**

A Saskatchewan Party government will pay down \$250-million of the province's debt in the first year.

### **The Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act**

A Saskatchewan Party government will pass the *Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act* to ensure the budget is balanced every year, surpluses are dedicated to debt repayment and economic growth initiatives and that government departments and agencies remain accountable to Saskatchewan people for the services they deliver.

The *Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act* will be passed in the first legislative session of a Saskatchewan Party government, to:

#### **Balance the Budget Every Year and Dedicate Surpluses to Debt Reduction and Economic Growth**

✓ The *Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act* will require the budget to be balanced every year, instead of over four years as is now the case.

✓ The *Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act* will establish a fixed plan for budget surpluses, by ensuring that half of all surpluses are dedicated to reducing provincial government debt and half are dedicated to economic growth initiatives such as additional funding for infrastructure.

### **Ensure the Size of Government Does not Grow Faster than the Rate of Population Growth**

✓ The *Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act* will limit increases in the size of Saskatchewan's civil service to the rate of population growth. For example, a one percent increase in the size of Saskatchewan's population would provide the provincial government with the option to increase the net number of people working in the civil service by an equal amount.

✓ In years when the population does not grow, the provincial government would ensure that there was no net increase in the number of civil servants employed by the provincial government. Population decreases would not necessitate a decrease in the size of the civil service under the *Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act*.

### **Ensure Accountability in the Programs and Services Provided by Government Agencies**

As part of the *Saskatchewan Growth and Financial Security Act*, government departments and agencies will be required to review all programs and services as part of the annual reporting process, to determine and document whether they are:

- ✓ Serving the public interest;
- ✓ Being provided efficiently and effectively;
- ✓ Accountable to the taxpayer; and
- ✓ Achieving the goals of a healthy, safe, innovative and prosperous province.

## **Banning Government Advertising Before an Election**

A Saskatchewan Party government will introduce legislation to restrict the amount and type of advertising a government can do in the four months preceding an election. Under the legislation:

- ☒ Government advertising will be prohibited in the month leading up to the election campaign, except in the case of an emergency or compelling public safety concern; and
- ☒ Government could not increase the amount it spends on advertising in the four months leading up to an election and will have to provide complete public disclosure of the amount it is spending on advertising during that period. Additionally:
  - Advertising would have to be non-partisan and intended only to inform the public about programs and services for the public benefit of Saskatchewan people or public safety issues; and
  - Advertising intended primarily to promote the province could only be directed to audiences outside Saskatchewan.

## **Supporting a Professional Public Service**

A Saskatchewan Party government will support the development of a professional public service by:

- ☒ Ensuring that promotion in the public service is based on merit, not patronage;
- ☒ Providing \$1-million over four years for the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy to assist in professional development opportunities for public servants and help educate the next generation of public service leaders in our province; and
- ☒ Strengthening protection for public servants and whistle-blowers in the workplace by establishing a Public Integrity Commissioner.

## **More Accountable and Transparent Government**

A Saskatchewan Party government will strengthen accountability and transparency in government by:

- ☒ Placing all orders-in-council on-line, so the public can easily review government appointments;
- ☒ Broadening the scope of the Provincial Auditor to ensure current service agreements (such as those with third party agencies relating to protective services for vulnerable children) are being complied with; and
- ☒ Ensuring Crown Corporations report to the legislature on a regular basis.

# Saskatchewan Party Government

## Four Year Fiscal Forecast

	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
<b>Revenues (in millions)</b>				
Schedule of Revenue	8494	8842	9142	9383
Disbursement Saskatchewan Growth and Security Fund	606	196	91	69
Saskatchewan Party Tax Expenditures	-86	-95	-107	-120
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>9014</b>	<b>8943</b>	<b>9126</b>	<b>9332</b>
	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
<b>Expenses (in millions)</b>				
Government Operating Expenses	7919	8065	8214	8366
Debt Servicing	540	540	540	540
Saskatchewan Party Plan	269	306	336	384
Dedicated Debt Reduction Payment	250			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8978</b>	<b>8911</b>	<b>9090</b>	<b>9290</b>
<b>Saskatchewan Party Government Surplus</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>

## Assumptions

### Revenue

Total forecasted revenue for the 2008-09 to 2011-12 period include General Revenue forecasts prepared by the Centre for Spatial Economics based on the provincial economic outlook for the next four years, forgone revenue resulting from tax expenditure measures in the Saskatchewan Party plan and disbursement of the Saskatchewan Growth and Security Fund which will be established from the balance of the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Fund and proceeds from the provincial government's sale of shares in the New Grade upgrader. The fiscal stabilization fund contains \$104-million that the provincial government has received from the federal government for future programs, but which had not been allocated as of the 2007 first quarter financial statement. This amount has been allocated as a government operating expense over four years.

Government revenue, before disbursement of the Saskatchewan Security and Growth Fund, is projected to rise from \$7869-million (based on 2007-08 budget forecast) to \$9383-million by 2011-12.

### Expenses

Government expenses include operating expenses through the general revenue fund and the net expense of capital infrastructure expenditures less amortization costs. Operating expenses arising from the Saskatchewan Party plan, debt servicing charges and a debt payment of \$250-million are also included in total expenses.

Once the Saskatchewan Party platform is combined with growth in projected government operating expenses and disbursement of the \$104-million in unallocated 2007 federal funding, total government operating expenses before debt servicing costs are forecast to increase from \$7790-million (based on 2007-08 budget figures) to \$8750-million by 2011-12.

Debt servicing costs were forecast to be \$552-million in the 2007-08 provincial government's first quarter fiscal update. The Saskatchewan Party plan contains a \$250-million in debt reduction. The fiscal forecast assumes debt servicing costs at \$540-million per year.

Included amongst the Saskatchewan Party's platform commitments but not shown in expenses, is a commitment by SGI to provide \$20-million over four years in rebates to drivers of 2006 and later modeled hybrid and high fuel efficiency vehicles. The cost of this commitment will come from surpluses that exceed target levels in SGI's rate stabilization fund. Other Crown commitments in the platform are either part of normal operating and capital expenditures or are repayable loans to consumers.

# Saskatchewan Party Plan

2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12

## Health Care

Recruitment, Retention and Training Initiatives	62.6	67	71.4	71.4
Additional Funding for Cancer Care	10	10	10	10
Additional Funding to Add New Drugs to the Provincial Formulary	10	10	10	10
Promoting Health and Wellness	1	1	1	1
Health Care Ombudsman	1	1	1	1

## Education and Innovation

Funding Increase for Post Secondary Institutions	27	30	33	35
Global Institute for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources	10	4	4	4
Funding Increase for K-12 Education	28	29	30	31

## Investing in Cities and Communities

Additional Funding for Municipal Revenue Sharing	8.5	9		
Additional Funding for Municipal Road Infrastructure and Highways	35	35	35	35
Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative	3	6	9	12

## Safe and Strong Communities

Hiring 120 New Police Officers	2	4	6	8
Additional Funding for Public Safety Initiatives	8	8	8	8
Home Security Assistance for Seniors	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Additional Assistance to Prevent Violence Against Women	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Additional Funding for School Lunch and Anti-Hunger Programs	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Additional Funding for Addictions Treatment	4	4	4	4
Additional Funding to Community Based Organizations	5	5	5	5

## Improving our Environment and Building Pride in Saskatchewan

Additional Funding for Parks	5	5	5	5
Additional Funding for Tourism	8	8	8	8
Additional Funding to the Green Initiatives Fund	10	10	10	10

## Increasing Property Tax Rebates

25	55	80	120
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## Measures to Increase Accountability and Building Pride in Saskatchewan

Includes funding commitments for: Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, increased funding for the Provincial Auditor, New West Conference and Provincial Capital Commission

4	3	3	3
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## Total Saskatchewan Party New Investments

269.2	306.1	335.5	383.5
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## Saskatchewan Party Tax Reductions

Active Saskatchewan Families Benefit	18	18	18	18
Tuition Rebates for Post-Secondary Graduates	8.5	16	27	39
Increasing the R & D tax credit	6.5	6.7	6.9	7.1
Reintroducing the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit	1	1	1	1
\$10,000 Self-Employment Tax Exemption for Youth	6	6	6	6
Eliminating the PST on Used Cars	45	46	47	48.5
Doubling the Caregiver Tax Credit	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
<b>Total Saskatchewan Party Tax Reductions</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>106.7</b>	<b>120.4</b>

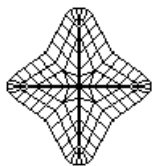
## Total Saskatchewan Party Plan Before Debt Reduction (totals have been rounded)

355	401	443	504
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## Debt Reduction Payment

250
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# The Centre for Spatial Economics

Suite 203, 15 Martin Street  
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Phone: 905-878-8292

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September 24, 2007

To: Brad Wall, Leader of the Saskatchewan Party

Dear Mr. Wall

You requested the Centre for Spatial Economics to examine the fiscal sustainability of the Saskatchewan Party policy platform for the fiscal years 2008-2009 to 2011-2012. We have completed this assignment and report here briefly on the results.

To examine the sustainability of the policy platform an economic scenario was created based on our latest provincial economic forecast for the province. This scenario was used to determine whether the platform is sustainable – the budget balance remains on average zero or greater – in the context of the economic environment as depicted in the forecast. The scenario and estimates of the fiscal impacts of your policy platform on this scenario were developed using our macroeconomic model of the Saskatchewan economy.

The Saskatchewan economic and fiscal performance depends importantly on the outlook for the key commodities that it produces. These include agriculture, oil, gas, potash, and uranium. In the scenario, agriculture prices rise slowly, oil and gas prices decline moderately and prices for potash and uranium remain near current levels. Economic growth averages 2.4 percent during the period driven by strong investment spending, particularly in the manufacturing and mining sectors. This growth performance leads to employment and population growth averaging just below 1.0 percent per year.

Government revenue increases in line with economic growth and inflation averaging about 3.3 percent per year, while expenditure growth under the policy platform averages about 3.0 percent per year. As a result, the province's annual surplus averages near \$35 million over the 2008-2009 to 2011-2012 period.

It is our opinion that under this economic scenario the Saskatchewan Party platform is sustainable within a balanced budget for the fiscal years under consideration.

Yours truly,

Ernie Stokes  
Managing Director