

Elections -- Sask --
New Green Alliance

-- 2003

NGA Election Platform Adopted at Convention 2003



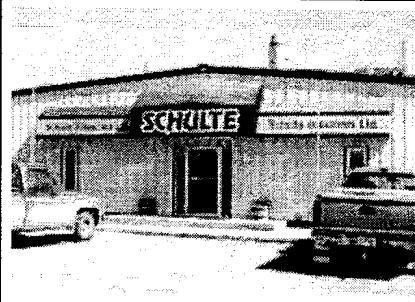
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Click on Platform Short Statement link (underlined) to find full text of the NGA Electoral Platform.

Platform "Short Statements"

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Saskatchewan can have an energy plan that protects jobs and our environment



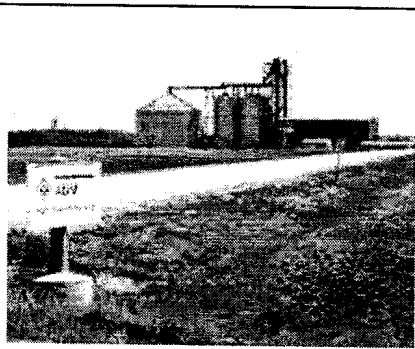
The Saskatchewan's enviro and resources belong to Saskatchewan people of to all future generations; let give them away to large fo corporations!

Taxes must be fair! Property taxes are too high and wealthy resource industries continue to get tax reductions.



Saskatchewan farmers can Saskatchewan-grown pro prized, world-recognized c food. To realize this we ne control the spread of large agribusiness which degra quality of our environment quality of our food produc the health of local econom

A "quality" Saskatchewan society will exist when we ensure that the economically and socially marginalised members of our community are treated in the just and supportive manner we all deserve.

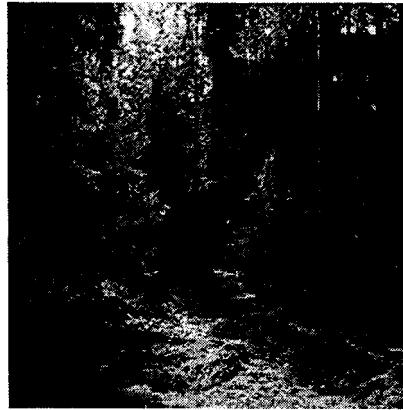


Food insecurity affects all Food Charters point the w creative solutions.

Saskatchewan is a land of great people, resources, beauty, and with fantastic

Saskatchewan's vast fores to be managed now in a m

communities and institutions. Now is the time to certify this fact and let the rest of Canada and the world know that "Saskatchewan" means "Quality".



that will ensure the long-term survival of this great resource that it can continue to nourish spirits and support much of the economy.

Saskatchewan surface and ground water resources belong to all of us and sustain our economy and our very lives. We must protect this vital resource for the present and the long-term future according to the United Nations declaration on water rights.



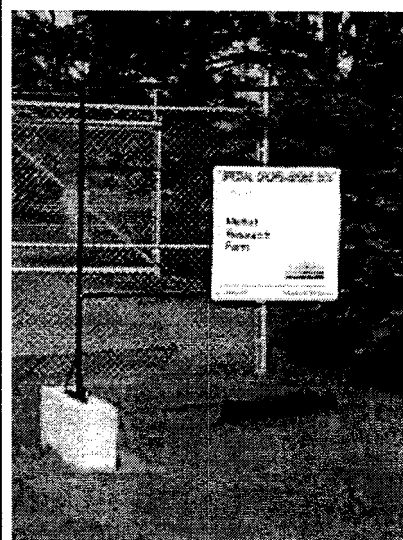
Quality and affordable education for our young people continue to be a top Saskatchewan priority. Funding fairness and the needs of the local community need to be restored.

Saskatchewan people deserve an electoral system which ensures that every voter's voice is heard in government. Saskatchewan deserves a proportional representation electoral system!

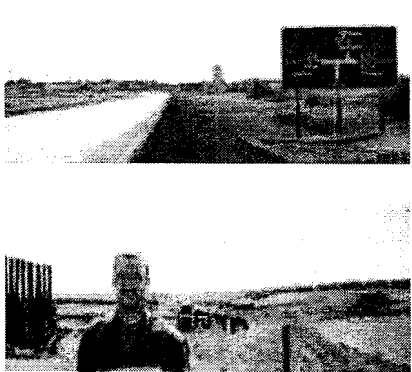
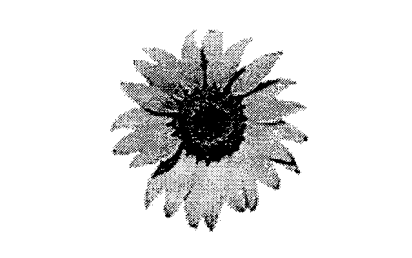



A sound health system requires a healthy environment. We must focus our efforts to prevent illness and restoring the vitality of local communities in the decision-making process.

A prosperous and positive future for all Saskatchewan people requires a profound respect for the historic and present relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens. Our shared society will benefit from meaningful dialogue which will help us find better ways to live together on this land.



When government applies revenues to community development, all Saskatchewan citizens must benefit.

<p>We need to <u>control our own economic future</u>. Saskatchewan people need to take back democratic control of our economy from large corporations and their international trade rules.</p>		<p>It is the energy and creativity of <u>Saskatchewan workers</u> in sectors of our community that creates the wealth and all the things our land provides. We need laws and an economy that promotes fair and sound labor policies and practices.</p>
<p>Saskatchewan Crown Corporations serve us well when they provide our society with basic services and invest any profits in the local Saskatchewan economy.</p>		<p>The international <u>uranium</u> industry operates in Saskatchewan in a manner that threatens the long-term health of Saskatchewan residents and the Saskatchewan environment. This must change.</p>
<p><u>Gambling</u> is a destructive and regressive form of taxation. Decisions about gambling must be returned to communities.</p>		<p><u>Biotechnology</u></p> <p>Genetically engineered wheat, including test plots, and all other new genetically engineered organisms must be banned from Saskatchewan!</p>

<p>Full Platform Statements adopted at Convention 2003 are printed below. To see the complete policy resolutions that are the basis for this platform see Convention Resolutions on the NGA site at www.nga.sk.ca</p>	<p>Click on "BACK" to return to previous page</p> <p>Click on (Additional 1, 2 etc.) to go to background reference article.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A Green Energy Policy</p> <p>A New Green Alliance Government will develop a Green Energy policy that protects the environment and creates sustainable jobs, with emphasis on energy conservation and the development of wind, solar and other renewable energy sources, and which encourages the establishment of small-scale, equitable power production.</p> <p>The New Green Alliance supports the implementation of the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A Community-based Economic Policy</p> <p>A New Green Alliance Government will create a task force to establish a participatory process for developing a sustainable economic policy for Saskatchewan. The new policy is to cease treating Saskatchewan's ecosystem and communities as commodities for trade and exploitation by both trans and multi-national corporations. The NGA supports local economic c</p>

Kyoto agreement in Canada. ([Backgrounder 1](#) , [Backgrounder 2](#) [Backgrounder 3](#) , [Backgrounder 4](#))

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opposes globalization. (e.g. international trade organizations and agreements such as NAFTA ar WTO which reduce local sovereignty) ([Backgrou](#)

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Agriculture and Food

A New Green Alliance Government will support the family farm system of production and will encourage the Federal Government to also finance the transition to ecologically sound, sustainable and organic agriculture that supports independent farms and farm cooperatives rather than large agri-business ventures, and so will:

- support a food production, processing and distribution system which encourages a Saskatchewan grown and processed food industry
- support the creation of a provincial "Food Charter" and then will work with local communities to ensure that the safe food and nutrition guarantees of the Food Charter are met for all Saskatchewan citizens.
- limit non-resident ownership of farm lands and prohibit foreign ownership of farm land
- limit the spread of intensive livestock operations and carefully monitor those already in operation to ensure that they will adhere to sound, humane, environmental and health considerations. We will encourage smaller scale and environmentally sound operations.
- oppose all patent claims on living organisms or genetic information.
- subsidize the building of solar-heated straw bale greenhouses at appropriate latitudes to grow vegetables in all seasons, particularly in the winter, to provide fresh certified organic food, to create employment, and to reduce energy used in transporting food from California and Florida. ([Backgrounder 1](#) , [Backgrounder 2](#) , [Backgrounder 3](#) , [Backgrounder 4](#))

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A Progressive Taxation System

A New Green Alliance Government will reform Saskatchewan's taxation system so that it is more effectively supports the development of local communities and sustainable, self-sufficient local economies.

These reforms would include:

- a reduction of regressive PST and property tax
- subsequent shift of education funding to general revenues.
- reduced taxes on environmentally "friendly" purchases
- the elimination of municipal business taxes,
- The establishment of a scaled (graduated) revenue that would apply above a given threshold to replace current municipal business tax system.
- a return to communities of a percentage of the F "Community Development Tax Return", enabling local and community groups to provide services to citizens according to locally determined needs and priorities
- the implementation of a more progressive income system based on ability to pay,
- a minimum tax imposed on all profitable corporations
- a luxury value-added tax,
- higher royalties applied to the extraction of natural resources to support local communities, and a carbon based economy. ([Backgrounder 1](#) , [Backgrounder 2](#) , [Backgrounder 3](#) , [Backgrounder 4](#) , [Backgrounder 5](#) , [Backgrounder 6](#) , [Backgrounder 7](#) , [Backgrounder 8](#))

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Reduce Poverty

A New Green Alliance Government will:

- immediately raise the social assistance rates to satisfy basic needs and index it to the cost of living.
- provide free publicly funded childcare with fairly paid and competent staffing, and increase the number of spaces in day

Food Security for Saskatchewan People

A New Green Alliance Government will immediately state its intention to eliminate the need for food banks, and seek to meet on-going food and nutrition needs of disadvantaged citizens through new initiatives arising from a province-wide food charter, and from the transformation of existing food banks into "community kitchens" and

care centers to at least the Canadian average.
 – support affordable, quality housing through rent controls and inspection systems and the development of social housing. and programs will be established to encourage home ownership and co-operative housing.
 – support a “guaranteed annual income” system of social support. ([Backgrounder 1](#) , [Backgrounder 2](#))

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community nutrition education centres.

A New Green Alliance Government will support in create community food production cooperatives a cooperative ventures with farmers to grow, store & distribute organically produced vegetable crops, a produce organic dairy and meat products. ([Backg 1](#), [Backgrounder 2](#) [Backgrounder 3](#) , [Backgrounder 3](#))

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Making “Saskatchewan” Mean “Quality ”

A New Green Alliance Government will support a series of initiatives which would result in the creation of a “Quality Saskatchewan” program which will promote Saskatchewan agriculture, industry, products, institutions and communities nationally and internationally as being certified high quality, environmentally responsible and economically sustainable products, institutions and communities. ([Backgrounder 1](#) , [Backgrounder 2](#) , [Backgrounder 3](#) , [Backgrounder 4](#) , [Backgrounder 5](#) , [Backgrounder 6](#))

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Certification for all of Saskatchewan’s Forestry Operations

A New Green Alliance Government will initiate a program that will result in all of Saskatchewan’s Crown forest products achieving certification by the Forest Stewardship Council of Canada, and subsequently Crown forest operation license holders will be required to follow operation procedures compliant with these certification standards in all of their forest operations in Saskatchewan. ([Backgrounder 1](#) , [Backgrounder 2](#) , [Backgrounder 3](#))

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Declaring Our Water Rights

A New Green Alliance Government will support the rights of the citizens of Saskatchewan and the world by declaring that:

“because water is a common heritage of human kind,
 – earth’s fresh water belongs to all living species and therefore must not be treated as a commodity to be bought, sold and traded for profit as an economic good.
 – local human communities have the primary responsibility to guarantee that water is treated as a common heritage.

“because water is a fundamental human and social right,
 – the right to water in quantity and quality sufficient to life is an individual and collective inalienable right which cannot be submitted to any constraint of social (sex, age, income) political, religious or financial nature.
 – the cost to satisfy such a right for all must be financed by the collectivity.

“because water is essential to the security of our communities and societies,

Education

A New Green Alliance Government will accept responsibility for funding early childhood intervention and “pre-school programs” where required, in addition to traditional government responsibility for the K-12 education system.

A New Green Alliance Government will ensure the implementation of an “Ecological Literacy” curriculum also has practical application components, in all Saskatchewan schools.

A New Green Alliance Government will mandate the democratic establishment of “School Councils” for Saskatchewan school, these School Councils to have responsibility , along with adequate funds, to make appropriate school-based decisions.

A New Green Alliance Government will restore and increase public funding to Saskatchewan’s universities. The

– its ownership, control, delivery and management belong in the public domain.
 -- citizens must be at the heart of the decision process in water affairs.
 -- water management policies must ensure social equity such as gender equity, public health and environmental equity.” (c.f. U.N. Declaration on Water Rights)

([Backgrounder 1](#))

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corporate sector's growing stranglehold on univer-
 be eliminated. All qualified citizens of Saskatchewan
 entitled to free higher education as they are to be
 and secondary education. For all academically qu
 residents, student tuition fees will be rapidly reduc
 eventually eliminated for four years of education.
 ([Backgrounder 1](#), [Backgrounder 2](#))

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Electoral Reform

A New Green Alliance Government will introduce a system of proportional representation accepted by the people of Saskatchewan through a referendum process during its first four-year mandate.

A New Green Alliance Government will pass legislation to limit contributions to political parties to individuals and will support public funding of the electoral process by giving a grant to Saskatchewan’s official political parties equal to \$1.00 per vote received by party candidates in the previous provincial election.

([Backgrounders](#) Three articles)

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Health Policy

The New Green Alliance recognizes that an effect system requires that healthy air, water and food is to all Saskatchewan citizens.

A New Green Alliance Government will create a d participatory process for an effective community v determining health policy at the local level.

A New Green Alliance Government will support th introduction of more community health centers, pt alternative medicine, dental care and home care.

A New Green Alliance Government will support pr health care, considering social, economic and environmental factors.

A New Green Alliance Government will ensure ad funding is available to maintain the five principles Medicare and is opposed to the privatization of he services. (c.f. Canada Health Act)

([Backgrounder 1](#) , [Backgrounder 2](#))

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Aboriginal Rights

A New Green Alliance Government will immediately begin a dialogue with existing Aboriginal and Metis organizations in order to explore and address the issues associated with inherent First Nations and Metis rights, including rights to land and resources, as well as discussing urban and taxation issues.

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Sharing Resource Revenues with First Na Communities

A New Green Alliance Government will commit to fair portion of all resource development revenues by the government of Saskatchewan to Communi Development programs determined by First Natio communities to ensure that all Saskatchewan pec from “Quality Saskatchewan” and “Community De Tax Return” programs.

([Backgrounder 1](#), [Backgrounder 2](#))

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Fair Trade

A New Green Alliance Government will require that all multinational corporations permitted to operate within the borders of Saskatchewan be required to meet standards and obligations which benefit Saskatchewan people and the Saskatchewan environment, and require that they be shown to not be operating elsewhere in the world in a manner causing suffering or exploitation of people or damage to the environment.

A New Green Alliance Government will work against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank (IBRD), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which contribute to many of the problems of poverty and degradation of the world's environment.

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Workers Rights

A New Green Alliance government will pass "anti-legislation, undertake a major overhaul of the Worker Compensation Board and improve the Trade Union and Labour Standards Act."

A New Green Alliance Government will act to limit work hours to protect truckers and all citizens on our roadways. A New Green Alliance Government will pay-equity legislation ([Backgrounder 1](#), [Backgrounder 2](#), [Backgrounder 3](#))

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Crown Corporations

A New Green Alliance Government strongly supports the role of Crown Corporations where appropriate in the development of Saskatchewan and in providing essential services to Saskatchewan people, but will prohibit Saskatchewan Crown Corporations from investing their profits in out-of-Saskatchewan ventures unless it is in partnership with a Canadian firm whose primary role and operation is in Saskatchewan.

A New Green Alliance government will oppose the private corporate ownership and control of natural resources now held by the Crown for the people of Saskatchewan. ([Backgrounder 1](#))

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Uranium Policy

A New Green Alliance Government will oppose the siting of any nuclear fuel waste dump in Saskatchewan and opposes any plans to build a nuclear reactor in Saskatchewan. The mining of uranium will be quickly phased out with a just transition for affected workers. A New Green Alliance Government will hold uranium mining companies accountable for cleanup of mining sites and uranium to countries with nuclear weapons and Uranium weapons will be halted immediately.

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Gambling

A New Green Alliance Government will oppose government-sponsored gambling as socially destructive and as a regressive form of taxation. A referendum will allow the people to decide if they wish to continue to permit such gambling to continue in their community.

([Backgrounder 1](#))

Biotechnology

A New Green Alliance Government will halt all new introductions of genetically engineered organisms into the environment and ban genetically engineered wheat in Saskatchewan, including test plots. ([Backgrounder 1](#), [Backgrounder 2](#), [Backgrounder 3](#))

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