

## Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province:  Alberta  Saskatchewan  Manitoba

Party: LIB Election Year: 1938

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

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

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and willing to conduct their own affairs in their own way, and through the instrumentality of their own political organizations without the interference of outside governments.

#### Preservation of Democracy

The Liberal Party is absolutely opposed to any form or system of Government which would establish a Dictatorship in Saskatchewan, and which would take away from our people the exclusive right to designate the type of Government they desire. The Democratic System of Government is the best system yet evolved by the mind of man for the conduct of affairs of the State.

This Government believes in freedom of speech, a free press, the right of assembly, freedom in matters of religion, and the right of citizens to pursue their selected avocation in life. The Liberal Party pledges continued support and adherence to these principles.

#### Conclusion

Because of conditions beyond the control of any government, the Province is passing through a very serious crisis. To successfully meet and solve the problems facing the people and the Government of the Province, it is necessary that there be stability of government in Saskatchewan. Such government can be given only by the supporters of one Party which commands a majority in the Legislature. A Government composed of Groups has been a failure wherever and whenever tried.

Only by the return of a Liberal Administration can Saskatchewan be brought safely through its present difficulties, stability of government be assured, and a full measure of democratic freedom be maintained.

W. J. PATTERSON,  
Premier.

# ELECTION MANIFESTO

— by —

## THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

May 16th, 1938

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE  
SASKATCHEWAN LIBERAL ASSOCIATION, REGINA, SASK.

# Election Manifesto

— by —

## The Government of Saskatchewan

MAY 16th, 1938

To the Electors:

The Legislature of Saskatchewan having been dissolved and an Election called for June 8th, the Government appeals to the people for endorsement of its record of administration and for its return to office in the Province.

Its term of office has been the most trying and difficult period in the history of Saskatchewan. The Government, nevertheless, has met the situation and dealt with the problems arising therefrom in a manner which, it believes, merits and should receive the approval of the people.

The first responsibility of the Government during this troublesome period has been to see that all who required assistance were adequately cared for, provision made for the sustenance of their livestock, and the seeding of their crops.

Coincident with this primary duty, the Government pursued a policy of maintaining the credit of the Province, a consideration essential to the securing of sufficient funds to provide for the enormous and extraordinary expenditures that the magnitude and widespread character of the assistance demanded.

In this appeal to the people, the Government desires to make a statement of policy in respect to issues which, in its opinion, must receive consideration during the term of the next Legislature.

### Disposal of the Proceeds of the 1938 Crop

The Government has already taken steps to secure supplies of feed grain and tractor fuel for 1938 summerfallowing.

The proceeds of the 1938 crop, in the opinion of the Government, should be utilized first, for the maintenance of the farmer and his family until another crop is harvested, and for the rehabilitation of the industry of agriculture.

The Government's policy in respect to this matter is, therefore, that, notwithstanding any share of crop agreements, leases or contracts of any kind, the proceeds of the 1938 crop must be protected

to enable the producer, not only to maintain himself and family, but to meet the expenses of producing this year's crop, to make reasonable provision for the rehabilitation of his home and equipment, to support municipal and school services, and to carry on his farming operations until another crop is harvested. All of these matters should be provided for before any other distribution of the proceeds of the 1938 crop is made.

The Legislature has empowered the Government to grant the necessary protection to enable the farmer to pursue such a plan of carrying on and re-establishing himself. To ensure that this protection may be readily and easily secured, if and when required during the fall of 1938, the Government has decided that a representative of the Debt Adjustment Board will be available in every municipality in the Province. It will be his duty to grant immediate protection to any producer who honestly and fairly endeavours to pursue the plan outlined, and who is being interfered with in any way by any person to prevent him from doing so.

### Debt Adjustment

The Government, during its term of office, has made rapid advances in the solution of the debt adjustment problem. At the first session of the Legislature, The Debt Adjustment Act was completely revised, facilities decentralized, and debt adjustment representatives placed in each of the judicial districts of the Province, thus making these facilities easily and quickly available to all the people as promised.

Since the enactment of this legislation, the courts have ruled that arbitrary power to scale and write down debts is vested in the Dominion. This power is being exercised by the Board of Review under The Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act; facilities for the operation of this Act are being enlarged in Saskatchewan.

Over and above these legislative facilities, the Government has effected a large scale voluntary debt adjustment. This policy has resulted in a measure of debt adjustment greater than in any other province of the Dominion.

This plan of debt adjustment was carried out in expectation of a normal crop in 1937, and the Government realizes that the crop failure of that year necessitates a further review of the whole problem throughout the entire Province; negotiations to this end are now proceeding.

### Urban Debt Adjustment

While a great deal of debt adjustment has been carried out in the Urban Municipalities, there is still a considerable problem to be dealt with. The Government has been giving this matter special study and consideration with a view to working out a plan which would more effectively deal with this problem in the urban centres.

### Reduction of Interest on Farm Lands

As a result of negotiations conducted by the Government, interest on farm loans throughout the whole Province has been reduced to six per cent., thus making an estimated saving, to the farmers of Saskatchewan, of four million dollars annually.

### Assessment of Land

Realizing that the assessed value of farm lands of the Province is, in many cases, considerably in excess of actual value, arrangements are being made for re-assessment of all such lands, the object being to bring the assessed value more in line with the actual productive value.

### Agriculture

For the past four years the heaviest responsibility of the Department of Agriculture has been that of supplying feed and fodder for livestock, and seed and seeding supplies for the drought areas. In the current relief year alone, expenditures for these purposes will exceed thirty million dollars.

Even while carrying through this enormous programme of assistance, the Department has maintained, and even expanded, its normal services to the farmers of the Province. Under the leadership of the Department, alfalfa seed production in the North has developed rapidly; weed control demonstrations have been conducted on many farms; effective pest control campaigns have been carried out; the Seed Exchange Plan has been expanded; egg grading has been restored, and poultry flock inspection greatly increased; creamery inspection and dairy promotion work have been maintained at a high standard; livestock shows, sales and improvement projects have been supported; new areas have been tested for bovine tuberculosis, and old areas retested to hold ground already gained; the great majority of apiaries have been inspected and disease infected material destroyed; with greatly increased honey production, markets have been found in Great Britain.

With a return of normal crop conditions and a corresponding decline in relief work, the Government will extend these and other services with a view of improving both the production and marketing of farm products.

### Implement Prices

With the object of reducing the retail price, the Government will continue to press upon the Federal Government the necessity of removing all tariff duties on farm implements. Should such action fail to bring about reasonable reduction, the Government will further press the Federal Government to take the necessary action to control the prices of such implements.

### Gasoline Prices

The Government will continue to utilize every effort to reduce the price of petroleum products, now such a very important factor in the cost of production of wheat and other commodities. It has already facilitated the procuring of tax-free gasoline by farmers by the institution of tax-free coupons. To further expedite this policy, the Government is now engaged in making available, for actual distribution, an identified type of gasoline for Agricultural purposes, free of taxation, thus doing away with the necessity of applying for a refund and for tax free gasoline coupons.

### Crop Insurance

An exhaustive study has been made of crop insurance, and as a result, the Government recognizes that, to put into practice and operation a financially sound system of crop insurance, financial aid must be rendered by both the Province and the Dominion. The Government feels that, in years of non-production, an extremely heavy burden, that of providing necessary relief, is cast upon the treasuries of both the Province and the Dominion. Recent years have necessitated tremendous expenditures by the Government for these purposes. It is, therefore, essential that steps be taken to provide against the repetition of such heavy demands, and to ensure that reserves be built up in the years of plenty to take care of shortages in the years of non-production.

The Government believes that, in the ultimate, the burden of such conditions must be borne by the Treasury of Canada, and that it is in the interests of all Canada that provision be made for crop insurance to provide against contingencies of the future.

Special recommendations were made to the Rowell Commission by the Government for a three-way plan providing for contributions from producers, the Province, and the Dominion. This policy will be pressed.

### Farm Rehabilitation

The Government will continue, in co-operation with the Dominion, to carry out, on an even greater scale, the work of rehabilitation of the prairie farming industry under The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act.

The Government has set up a Land Utilization Board for the purpose of removing unsuitable lands from cultivation and transferring the settlers upon such lands to other lands upon which they will be able to maintain themselves. This policy will be continued.

### Northern Settlers' Re-establishment

The Government is at present engaged in dealing with the problem of re-establishing large numbers of farmers who have moved into the timbered areas of the North and who find it impossible,

from their own resources, to bring sufficient land under cultivation to enable them to maintain themselves. This policy of re-establishment will be continued.

#### Industrial Development

Experience of recent years has indicated the desirability of a more evenly balanced economic life of the people of Saskatchewan. The development of what may be termed secondary industries in addition to that of the primary industry of Agriculture will be a step towards this end, and our greatest present opportunity lies in the great wealth and diversity of our natural resources.

The Government promises to pursue an active policy of development of these resources and to this end, undertakes to provide means of transportation into northern Saskatchewan believing that this will be an important initial step towards augmenting interest and in providing greater opportunity for exploration, prospecting and the actual work of development.

The Government will also continue to follow an aggressive policy of insuring that, as far as possible, activities connected with the development of the resources of Northern Saskatchewan and those sections of the North West Territories tributary to Saskatchewan, shall be directed into and through the Province of Saskatchewan.

#### The Timber Industry

The Government recognizes the value of this industry to Saskatchewan, and pledges itself to support such industry in every possible way, and to utilize, as far as feasible and practicable, the products of the forests of Saskatchewan, for all required Provincial purposes.

#### Highways

The Government will continue to make annual expenditures for new road construction and gravelling with the object of completing the entire Provincial Highway System as rapidly as possible.

#### Education

The Liberal party has always recognized that education is one of, if not the greatest Provincial responsibilities and, as a consequence, the Liberal Government, during these exceedingly difficult years, has increased grants to all schools of the Province by one hundred dollars per room per year, except only in districts providing six or more rooms, in which districts the increase is on a *pro rata* basis. This increase of grants paid by the Province to the school districts amounts to a total of eight hundred thousand dollars annually.

In addition prepayments have been made on account of current grants; fuel was provided to over twenty-five hundred schools during the winter of 1937-38; and school districts have been assisted in the

retirement of teachers' arrears of salary. Every dollar of the expenditure for these services has been necessary and desirable. When, however, such problems as providing for the purchase of fuel and the payment of teachers' salary arrears have disappeared larger amounts of public funds will be available for further improvement and development of our educational system.

Because of the smaller area and lower land value of some school districts, there remain certain inequalities of cost and, in some cases, of educational opportunity. The Government's educational policy includes a removal of these inequalities so far as may be practical and possible.

To further advance the policy of equality of opportunity in education, the Government has decided to extend educational facilities in rural areas and smaller urban centres, by special grants for the purchase of equipment for the practical teaching of such subjects as agriculture in the high school grades, by extending the scope and practical character of the work of the Government Correspondence School to provide courses in farm accounting, bookkeeping, and in certain optional subjects for pupils enrolled in schools where these cannot be readily provided, and by special grants to enable rural pupils to attend nearby continuation or high schools.

Adverse conditions have rendered it impossible for many school boards to pay reasonable salaries to teachers. The additional assistance already provided by this Government and that indicated in this manifesto will, with an improvement in general conditions of the Province, make it possible for trustees to improve the situation in this respect. Legislation, however, will be introduced to provide for a minimum teacher's salary on a schedule basis.

The Government will undertake a review and study of school district organization with the object of making such changes as may better fit the geographical, economic and social conditions of the Province.

The elementary and high school curricula is being revised for the coming school year, 1938-39. The agriculture course in grades VII and VIII is being extended; the subject of shop mechanics is introduced. In the high school grades IX, X and XI, prominence is given to commercial, industrial, and agricultural subjects. In grade XII modern problems, geology, mineralogy and agricultural economics are among the options being provided. Further revision is under way to meet changing conditions.

#### Youth Problems

The Government realizes that, owing to crop failure and depression which has affected the basic industry of agriculture, a large number of young people are not gainfully employed, and that every effort should be made to provide work for them.

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This problem cannot be completely solved until the industry of agriculture once more reaches a point of production on a remunerative basis. In the meantime, the Government will continue to urge upon the Dominion the need for expending public funds upon a comprehensive scheme of useful public works to provide the maximum amount of labour for those unemployed.

The Government proposes to continue the Federal-Provincial Youth Training Plan now in operation, and to provide for the enlargement of the scope of this plan. It also believes that provision must be made for long term credits to enable young people to become established in the Province.

**Public Health**

In order to meet adverse conditions as a result of crop failure the Government is granting substantial financial aid to maintain medical, dental, and hospital services. The objective is to institute as soon as possible further provision for state aid in connection with medical, dental and hospital care.

At the last session of the Legislature an Act was passed making provision for the organization of Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Associations.

**Treatment of Cancer**

The Government has been investigating the possibilities of improving the diagnostic and treatment services now available for cancer patients, and proposes to enlarge facilities for treatment now being provided to cope more definitely with this problem.

**Mental Hygiene**

In order to prevent the development of mental illness and so obviate the need of hospital care, as well as to provide a service to assist certain types of personality to adjust themselves to their environment and every day problems, it is proposed to establish mental hygiene and child guidance clinics in the Province.

**Infantile Paralysis**

During the past year the province experienced an epidemic of infantile paralysis which resulted in a large number of partially paralyzed patients. Emergency provision was made for expert orthopaedic service for these cases, free of charge. This service will be maintained in order that facilities may be available to meet any future need which may arise.

**Social Services**

The Government believes that the people of this Province are entitled, at all times, to receive and enjoy that measure of social

services which present day standards require. It is the policy of the Government, therefore, to continue and expand all existing social services as may be practical and as occasion may require.

**Legislation of Interest to Women**

In Legislation of special interest to women, the Province of Saskatchewan stands at the head, and it is a fact well worthy of note that every item of worthwhile social legislation originated in the Liberal Party and was placed on the Statute Books by a Liberal Administration—extension of the franchise, property rights, home-  
stead rights, making a will, exemptions, restrictions in employment, minimum wages, maintenance of parents, old age pensions, pensions for the blind, juvenile courts, education of soldiers' dependent children, and many other matters.

Maternity grants reduced by the former government have been restored, the maximum for mothers' allowances has been raised and the facilities for taking care of these important services have been enlarged.

**Labour Legislation**

The Government has, during its four year term of office, passed various pieces of labour legislation, such as provision for minimum wages for certain male and female employees, The Industrial Standards Act, The Freedom of Trade Union Association Act, The Credit Union Act and other such legislation. The Government pledges itself that it will in the future, as it has in the past, support all progressive, useful labour legislation, which will rebound to the benefit of labour within the Province.

**Relief Administration**

The Government is hopeful that the period of drought in Saskatchewan has been broken, and that, as a result of future normal production, employment will again be available for the unemployed, and that producers, as formerly, will be able to take care of their own needs and requirements. Should these hopes not be fulfilled, the Government stands ready to render the same degree of aid and assistance as it has rendered in the past, and it will consider this to be its first duty and its first consideration, regardless of anything else.



### Relief Borrowings

While part of the borrowings by the Province from the Federal Government for relief purposes have been cancelled, the Government will continue to press for the cancellation of all such loans. The Government of Canada has already acknowledged that the drought situation has assumed the proportions of a national catastrophe warranting the Federal Government in treating it as a national responsibility and assuming the cost thereof.

Because of the unprecedented conditions consequent upon continued crop failure, and to enable the Government to meet its obligations and to fulfil its proper functions, the Government of the Province requested the Government of Canada to make a contribution to the current revenues of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Canada, acceding to this request, has granted a special subsidy of one and a half million dollars annually, pending the Report of the Rowell Commission.

### Provincial Debt

The Rowell Commission, set up by the Government of Canada, is investigating, among other matters, the necessity of refunding Provincial debts. The Government of Saskatchewan, in its brief to the Commission, stressed the necessity of consolidating and refunding the debt of this Province at lower rates of interest, and feels that, as a result of the report of this Commission, refunding can be accomplished in such a manner as to avoid any suggestion of repudiation on the part of the Province.

Just a short time ago, when preparing Saskatchewan's case for presentation to the Rowell Commission, an exhaustive, impartial review and study of every department was made for the express purpose of ascertaining every possible economy that could be effected.

This thorough review and careful study revealed that present expenditures can be reduced only by materially reducing, or entirely eliminating annual expenditures on social services. The Government has not attempted to balance its budget at the expense of these services.

### Rowell Commission

The Government of Canada appointed the Rowell Commission with instructions to inquire, among other matters, into the relationship between the Provinces and the Dominion, a revision of the Constitution, the re-allocation of legislative powers, and the various governmental responsibilities and fields of taxation.

When this Commission, recognized to be the most important ever set up in Canada, has completed its work and its report is presented to Parliament, it is believed that far-reaching changes in Provincial and Dominion governmental powers and activities will be made.

This Government prepared a submission to this Commission, presenting a picture of the economic situation of Saskatchewan and its people. This brief has received the endorsement of every important body in the Province.

Other Provinces of Canada are submitting their views to the Commission. After each province has been heard, a final hearing will be held at which all provinces will be represented. In the interest of the people of this Province, the services of those who have been charged with the duty of preparing and presenting the case for Saskatchewan should be continued.

### Support of Confederation

Under the scheme of Canadian Confederation, powers of legislation and governmental activities are divided between the Provincial Governments and the Dominion Government. Briefly, all matters (legislation and governmental activities) concerning all Canada and all the Canadian people are designated to be within the power of the Dominion Parliament, while all other matters concerning a Province and its people are designated to be within the powers of each Provincial Legislature. This division of power and responsibility is essential if Confederation is to be preserved and Canadian people are to remain a united nation.

This Government deprecates the deliberate attempt made in certain provinces to usurp the powers now designated to the Parliament of Canada and to legislate upon matters known to be purely within the domain of the Parliament of Canada, all for the purpose of creating dissatisfaction among the Provinces. Undoubtedly, the persistent pursuit of such a policy will end, ultimately, in the disruption of Confederation.

It is essential that, in a country such as Canada, there should be a strong central Government empowered to deal with all matters of national scope and concern.

This Government of the Province of Saskatchewan deprecates interference in the affairs of this Province by the Government of another Province. The people of Saskatchewan are quite competent