

RESTORING HEALTH TO SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Liberal Action Plan

for Lower Taxes

Better Health Care

More Jobs

Smaller Government

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Liberal

An Invitation

from Lynda Haverstock

The Liberal candidates and I have a vision for Saskatchewan. With the support and involvement of Saskatchewan people, we plan to make Saskatchewan a better place to live with opportunity and security for everyone.

Saskatchewan is one of the richest provinces in Canada. We have creative, hardworking people, agricultural abundance, extensive mineral, forest, energy and cultural resources, clean air, wonderful communities and, in recent years, rising commodity prices. With all of these advantages, Saskatchewan should have a bright future. But, years of oversized, wasteful governments have built a mountain of debt that has reduced growth, killed jobs and driven our taxes to the highest levels in the country. Western Canada, and indeed, the nation, are growing, while Saskatchewan watches from the sidelines. Opportunities continue to pass us by.

This Liberal Action Plan details the problems and outlines Liberal solutions. Our goal is simple. A Liberal Government will restore health to Saskatchewan. Fiscal health and economic well-being will be restored by taking a tough approach to reducing government spending, lowering taxes and the Provincial debt. Just like families paying off a mortgage, we know that the faster we pay our debt, the more money we can save on interest...and the more we can reduce taxes and protect our basic services like health care and education.

Our Liberal Action Plan is a careful, compassionate and innovative approach to restoring health to Saskatchewan...its people and their communities. I hope you will invest the time to read and discuss it before you choose the candidate and the political party that offers the best plan to meet the challenges we must face together. We are committed to politics with principle. We will restore the values of honesty, hard work and respect for one another...values that built Saskatchewan.

I invite each of you to carefully review our Action Plan for lower taxes, more jobs and better health care. There will be no surprises and no disappointments if we can all agree on what it is that we want from government and how we, as taxpayers, can afford to pay for it. If you are expecting gimmicks and handouts, this is not the plan for you. If you want common-sense, practical government that puts politics aside and people first, then I think you will be pleased with what you will read in the pages to follow.

We can create a healthy Saskatchewan...TOGETHER. THERE IS A BETTER WAY.



Lynda Haverstock
Saskatchewan Liberal Leader

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Leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party

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Further copies of this **Liberal Action Plan for Lower Taxes, Better Health Care, More Jobs and Smaller Government** and a shorter summary of the document are available from your local Liberal Constituency Office or the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan at 2054 Broad Street, Regina, Sask. S4P 1Y3. Phone: (306) 522-8507 Fax: (306) 569-9271.

The text of the Liberal Action Plan is also available on the Internet at http://www.wbm.ca/sask_liberal

Introduction

Lost Opportunities and New Approaches

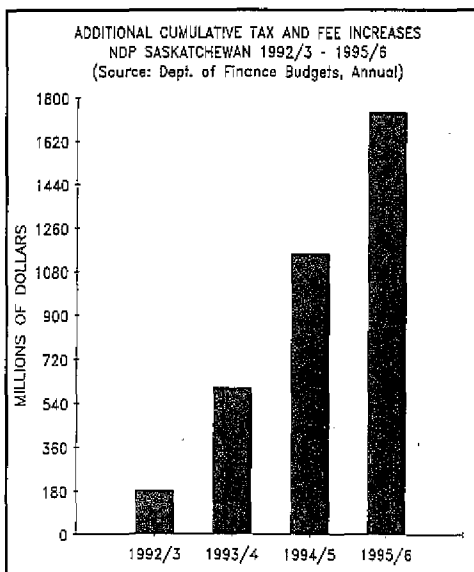
Saskatchewan has been called "Next Year Country" – a place where opportunity is always over the horizon. For those of us who live and work in this province, we know that these should be times of opportunity.

Everyone knows that the agricultural, mineral and energy abundance of the land combined with a smart, resourceful and educated people should provide opportunities for work and quality of life that are unsurpassed in Western Canada and the world. Saskatchewan should be growing with more jobs and lower taxes.

Yet, what do we find?

In 1991, an NDP Government was elected on promises to renew the economy. People wanted government to live within its means. We wanted an economy that created sufficient jobs to allow our young people to work at home. We expected to see a sense of cooperation and community restored to our society. We wanted hope restored for the future.

THE NDP RECORD



During four years of Romanow NDP Administration, it has mattered little what people think. Election promises and ethical behaviour have been sacrificed to narrow political, bureaucratic and party interests. Health care has been decimated. Gambling is at the centre of provincial economic policy. Some of the highest tax rates in Canada now means the government keeps more of our hard-earned paycheques than we do.

Between the first NDP Budget in 1992 and the last NDP Budget in 1995, the Romanow Administration will have taken over \$1.7 billion from Saskatchewan people and businesses through increased taxes. That is \$3,777 for every taxpayer in Saskatchewan!

The NDP promise to balance the budget in 1995 will have been achieved by the largest tax grab in Saskatchewan's history.

Saskatchewan job creators – farms, small businesses and corporations, struggling to be competitive, saw their tax contribution more than double. They were forced to give nearly half a billion dollars to a government unwilling to restructure to make itself smaller, use new technology and become more efficient.

Increases in personal and business taxes were only the tip of the iceberg as utility rates rose. Government fees increased.

In spite of the massive tax grab, the NDP did little to reduce the province's debt. The debt actually rose \$2.5 billion higher than when the NDP were elected. This can now be added to the inherited \$12.4 billion of Conservative debt. The provincial debt in 1994 reached \$14.9 billion. Each year nearly nine hundred million dollars is being paid to service the interest on the government share of the debt.

"Since 1991, cumulative NDP deficits added \$2,800 of additional debt for every taxpayer in Saskatchewan who are still financing the \$12,400 of per capita debt left over from the Conservatives."

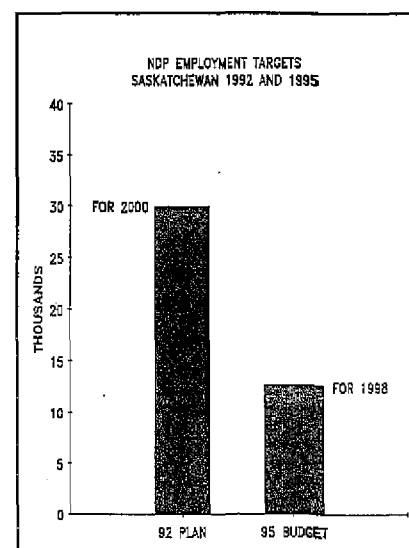
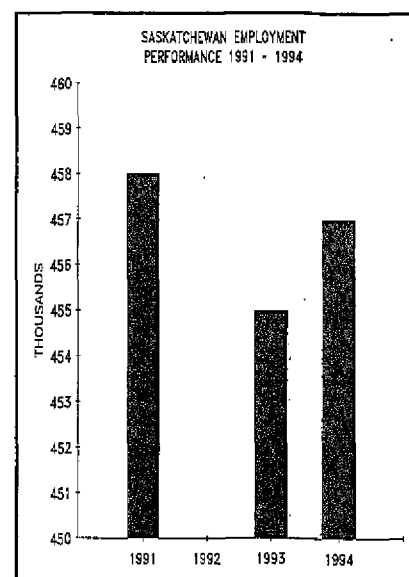
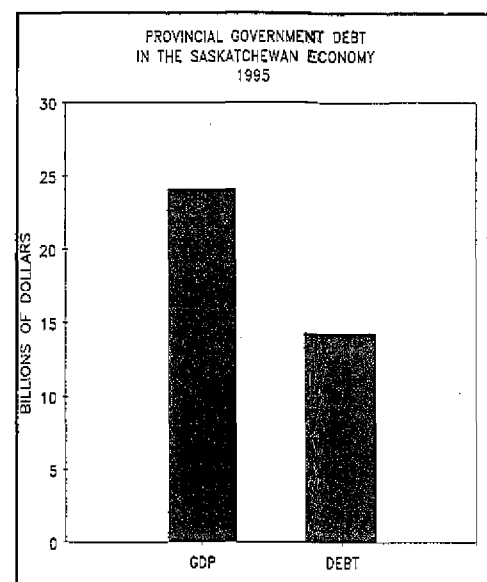
Saskatchewan's provincial debt now amounts to over 60% of the provincial gross domestic product. These high levels of debt force massive interest payments to offshore lenders of nearly \$900 million dollars each year. This amount of interest on the provincial debt would operate the entire basic and post-secondary education system in the province for a year.

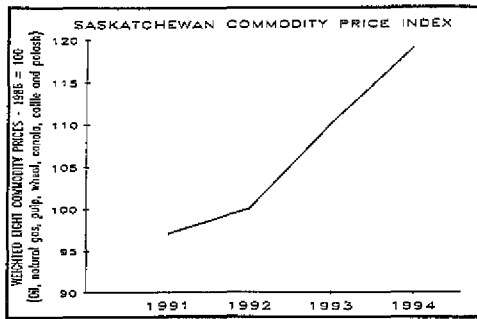
High debt and interest payments require high revenues. The NDP have chosen to get these revenues by raising taxes rather than cutting their own government spending. The NDP have now increased annual government expenditures to over \$5 billion – over \$500 million dollars more than Mr. Romanow's proud pronouncement in the 1991 election that:

"\$4.5 billion simply has to be enough"
Roy Romanow, 1991 Election Campaign

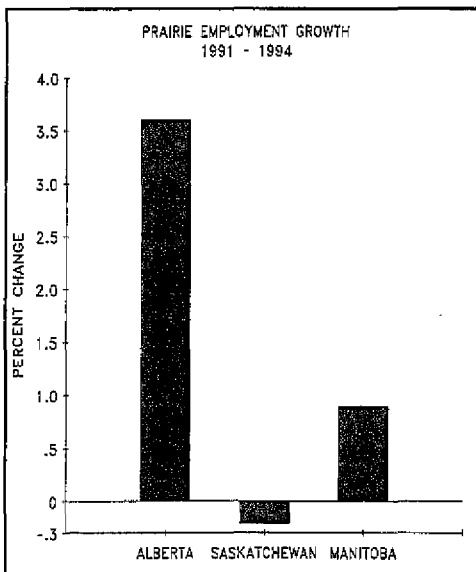
Some of the highest taxes in Canada have killed jobs and business. The NDP is stuck in old style **"tax and spend"** government. Job creation has not been a priority in spite of their promise to create 30,000 jobs by the year 2000. The reality is that the Romanow government has the slowest job creation record in Canada.

By the end of 1994, the NDP were still one thousand jobs below the number they inherited on election in 1991. The NDP have failed at job creation. Further proof is in the 1995 Provincial Budget where the NDP reduced their employment expectations for Saskatchewan by 30%. They now call for only 12,700 new jobs between 1994 and 1998. Little wonder that over 84,137 people have left the province since the NDP were elected. Despite massive out-migration, youth, First Nations and Métis unemployment remain at alarmingly high levels.





Between 1991 and 1994, Saskatchewan lost 1,000 jobs while Manitoba gained 5,000 and Alberta created 47,000.



WHAT WENT WRONG?

The lacklustre fiscal and economic performance by the NDP has occurred at a time of restored farm income, rising grain and commodity prices and increased fiscal transfers from Ottawa. Western Canadian, Canadian, US and Pacific Rim markets have all been booming. The Canadian dollar has been low compared to the US dollar – a condition in which export sales always show some increase. Saskatchewan should have been showing rapid growth with jobs, especially for young skilled workers.

Other provinces in Western Canada did grow and much faster. In Manitoba job creation was **five times faster**, while Alberta's growth was a massive **sixteen times faster** than in Saskatchewan. No wonder so many left Saskatchewan to find work elsewhere on the Prairies. This is why Saskatchewan has a low unemployment rate, not because of economic success for which the NDP try to take credit!

CENTRALIZING CONTROL IN GOVERNMENT

Part of Saskatchewan's problem lies in the transfer of spending from people and companies to the government. The NDP has taken us back to a highly centralized and controlling form of government. It is NDP philosophy to shift spending decisions and control to government in Regina and away from individuals and communities.

According to the last Report of the Provincial Auditor, the NDP took an extra \$4,880 more in 1994 than it did in 1991 from every family of four in the province. Government has involved itself in nearly every decision made by Saskatchewan families, companies, employers and employees in the economy and in society.

Imagine what an extra \$4,880 dollars would have meant for the financial health of your family in 1994!

Imagine how much domestic consumption would have increased in Saskatchewan and employment would have grown if we had all spent our own \$4,880 dollars instead of giving it to the government to spend or to send away to pay the interest on the debt!

The NDP has used its control to protect the interests of its political friends. Provincial labour legislation is a classic example. The Romanow government's decision to change labour laws ignored the added expense to small business, school boards and municipal governments. Doing so, cost taxpayers more, reduced investment and killed jobs.

The same element of control is found in health care reform, gambling policies and local government. In health care, the NDP government has control of the funding but has abdicated all responsibility for quality of care. NDP gambling policies have taken \$90 million in VLT revenues from local communities who now are forced to ask the government for money. Local governments struggle under provincial off-loading. Decisions have been taken from communities and centralized in Regina.

BARRIERS TO BUSINESS GROWTH AND LACK OF JOBS

Losing Competitive Position

NDP "tax and spend" policies have shown little understanding of the broader social and economic trends underway in society. Around the world new technologies are freeing companies and employees from centralized locations. Decentralized production and employment becomes possible.

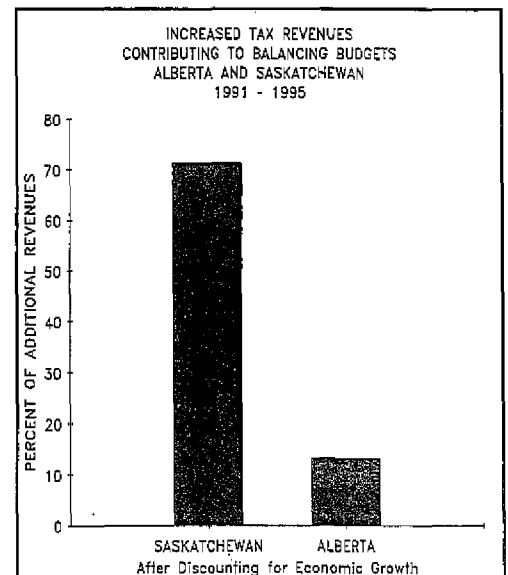
Business and the related employment have become more mobile. Trade liberalization under the North American Free Trade Agreement and falling interprovincial trade barriers inside Canada results in greater competition and mobility for business and jobs. There is now greater opportunity to attract investment and employment.

However, we also risk losing jobs, business and essential services when government policies make Saskatchewan uncompetitive. Today, success in trade, investment and employment depends on having an environment in which the tax, employment and regulatory environment are stable, predictable and competitive with others.

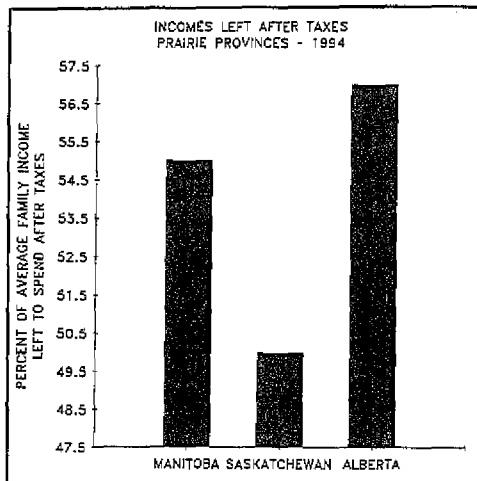
The NDP has systematically worked to reduce the competitive position of Saskatchewan in so many areas. Taxes, utility rates, fuel costs, labour legislation, Workers Compensation costs, paperburden, environmental and business regulation, compliance costs, farm input costs are all part of the problem. A short comparison with our Prairie neighbours tells a small part of the story.

Manitoba and Alberta have raised extra revenues in moving towards balanced budgets. These extra revenues have come from a combination of reducing the size of government expenditures, growth in the economy and tax revenues.

In Saskatchewan, 70% of the increased revenues necessary to balance the budget came from taxes. In marked contrast, Alberta obtained 85% of the extra revenues for its fiscal improvement from expenditure cuts. In Manitoba, most of the extra revenues to balance the budget came from economic growth rather than tax increases.



Clearly, the NDP Saskatchewan government has been unwilling to cut the size and cost of government to reduce the deficit. The result has been higher taxes.

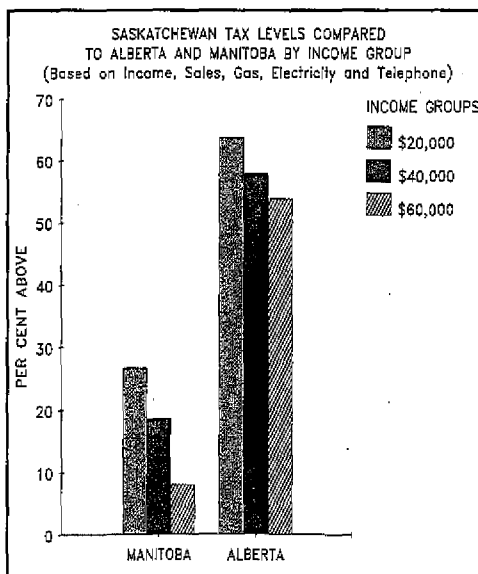


In the 1994 budget comparison undertaken by the Fraser Institute, the average family in Saskatchewan made \$48,701 in cash income. After taxes \$24,542 was left for food, shelter and clothing. Saskatchewan families spent only 50% of what we earn. In other words, we have to work for half the year before we start to pay ourselves and we give half of our income to the government to make spending decisions for us.

Saskatchewan people not only earn less, the NDP government takes more of our hard-earned paycheques. In Alberta, the average family earned \$60,230 and in 1994 was left with \$34,278 to spend.

That is about 57% of what they earned. In Manitoba, the average family earned \$55,153 and was left with \$30,368 to spend, or about 55% of what they earned. Saskatchewan tax rates are leaving the province in an uncompetitive position with our neighbours, killing jobs and losing investment.

"If Saskatchewan families paid the tax rates of Alberta or Manitoba, this study suggests that they would be left with about \$3,000 more. In addition, we also pay higher energy, power and basic telephone charges." Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers, March 1995



Today, according to the Minister of Finance's own calculations, Saskatchewan has the second highest tax level in Canada, after Newfoundland. Saskatchewan now has:

Highest Flat Income Surtax in Canada
Highest Sales Tax in Western Canada
Highest Gasoline Tax in Western Canada
Highest Capital Tax in Canada

A comparison of the Prairie provincial budget documents for 1995 for the tax effects on different income levels reveals that Saskatchewan taxpayers not only pay more than Manitoba and Alberta, but that poorer people pay relatively more.

Saskatchewan Taxes on Income, Sales, Gasoline, Electricity and Phones by level of income, Prairie Province Budgets (\$'s/annum)

Income Level	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
\$20,000	2303	2919	1782
\$40,000	5056	6000	3798
\$60,000	9346	10098	6559

These NDP tax rates hurt families and businesses. They cut spending, reduce investment and kill jobs. Reducing taxes returns decision making to the individual, increases consumption and employment and strengthens the Saskatchewan economy.

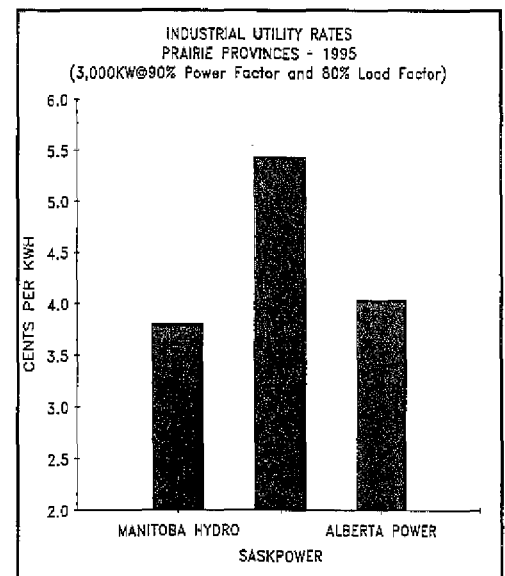
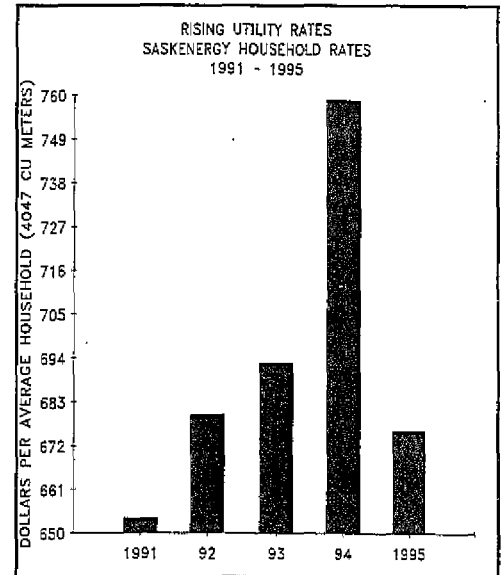
In Saskatchewan, the tax burden of the provincial government has been made worse by persistent increases in the government owned Crown Corporation utilities. For individuals, farms and small businesses, annual bills rose steadily in an economic climate when interest rates and inflation were low and private sector fees were falling. The Annual SaskEnergy bill facing an average consumer grew by almost 20% between 1991 and 1994 to reach \$758.

The Romanow Cabinet increased these rates without public scrutiny or any public regulation. In 1995, a possible election year, the growing public outrage over the rising utility rates forced the government to agree reluctantly to roll back their gas price increases.

What is the point of government owned utilities when the government must be pressured to be fair?

Not only have these basic utility rates risen through the Romanow administration, but they are now much higher than our neighbours. Saskatchewan industrial utility rates are now 35% higher than Alberta and 43% higher than Manitoba.

The NDP high tax story extends to many areas of the economy with the 15 cent a litre highest fuel tax in Western Canada affecting farm input and transportation costs. High locomotive fuel taxes cost farmers railway investments and over 600 jobs to Manitoba. Workers Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety levies have increased the cost of business. Together, the NDP high tax policies are killing consumption, incomes and jobs in the Saskatchewan economy.



NEW APPROACHES TOWARDS GOVERNMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Vision Statement Saskatchewan Liberal Party Policy Review

"We see a future for Saskatchewan people that provides every individual with the opportunity to rise to their potential, with opportunities to achieve personal and corporate success, personal empowerment and where dependency is replaced with independence and where support systems promote responsibility.

We see a government that creates excitement and confidence between investors and entrepreneurs and cultivates an economy that generates quality jobs, a government that creates the environment for the development of the potential that lies in our natural resources, in our agricultural base and in the intelligence of Saskatchewan people.

We see a government that acts wisely and efficiently with leadership committed to integrity as it seeks and respects the guidance of the people, where communities, institutions and a Saskatchewan way of life contribute to building our nation and a better future for our children.

We see a province where there is science with humanity, commerce with morality and politics with principle – people with a vision."

Liberals and many others in Saskatchewan believe that there is **"A Better Way"** to run government, restore fiscal economy and work for all the residents of the province. A Haverstock Liberal Government accepts the new realities of the Saskatchewan, western Canadian and global economies. It understands that government must be smaller for the economy to grow.

Today, much of the world has already changed. Women have joined the workforce. Single parent families are a part of our society. The information and communications revolution has brought the world to our doorstep. Free trade in Canada, North America and around the world requires a competitive economic environment at home. Industrial and export subsidies are no longer a part of fair competition. New opportunities exist to create jobs in information, service and cultural industries, agricultural processing, energy and waste disposal.

Individuals, families and businesses have adjusted to meet many new realities in the economy and society.

Government must also change.

A Liberal Government in Saskatchewan will restructure the public sector to meet today's social and economic needs. It will promote the abilities of people, families and communities to be responsible for their own decisions. It will not simply return to the tax, spend and control philosophies of the old style big governments.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration believes that individuals, families, communities and businesses can become independent, rise to their potential and achieve personal and corporate success. This leads towards an empowered and healthy society. It requires government to restructure away from Regina towards communities and individuals. It means allowing people to make their own spending, saving and investment decisions.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will not be driven by ideology or partisan politics. It will be a government for all the people of Saskatchewan... for people on farms, in villages, towns and cities.... for the young and the old... for First Nations and Métis people and new immigrants... for business and labour.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will encourage enterprise and still retain a social conscience and common sense. A new approach to government and politics will encourage Saskatchewan people to reach beyond the low economic and social expectations of a centralizing, controlling NDP Administration.

It is time for the people of Saskatchewan to let go of the past and develop a positive vision for the future. Recent years under Conservative and NDP administrations have not been easy on the people of Saskatchewan.

Liberals believe that given the richness of Saskatchewan, its people should be able to enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world without having to carry the burden of excessive taxes from large government.

Together, there is a Better Way.

The following chapters of this Liberal Action Plan outline some changes that many people in Saskatchewan have told us will improve prospects for our province. It is a platform designed to lower taxes, create jobs, restore hope, improve confidence and provide for a higher level of personal and community participation in our collective future.

This **Saskatchewan Liberal Action Plan** involves:

- ***Fiscal Fitness for Government***
Lower Taxes and Less Debt
- ***Economic Growth for Saskatchewan***
More Jobs and Economic Recovery
- ***Healthy Communities***
People-Centred Government
- ***Trimming the Fat from Government***
Smaller, More Accountable Government

Taken together, we sincerely believe that these actions can provide Saskatchewan people with a stronger and more positive vision for the future.

"I see a Saskatchewan in which individuals are empowered to realize their dreams within our province, where communities have the funding and resources to offer health care, public services and education locally; where businesses want to stay, invest and hire; where our children see a future and, we all look confidently towards the next century.

I look forward to running a Saskatchewan Government that has put an end to the counterproductive, immoral and expensive political games played at taxpayers' expense.

I will lead a principle-centred government with ethics, accountability and a shared sense of provincial purpose."

Lynda Haverstock

The Liberal Action Plan

Part One

Fiscal Fitness for Government Lower Taxes and Less Debt

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE:

Saskatchewan Liberals believe that over \$14 billion of Public Debt for the Province of Saskatchewan places an unnecessary burden on the people. The gross provincial debt, including unfunded pension plan liabilities, now exceeds \$20,000 for every man, woman and child. Interest payments on the debt are over \$800 million dollars each year. All the revenues from the provincial sales tax and more are required just to pay the interest on the debt.

Reducing the Public Debt is necessary to lower taxes.

The NDP debt reduction plan in the February 1995 Budget is not acceptable.

In just three years the Romanow NDP government added \$2.5 billion dollars to the debt. If re-elected, the 1995 NDP debt reduction plan only reduces the debt by a mere \$700 million by 1999.

This means that after eight years of NDP government, the debt would still be \$1.8 billion higher than when they took office in 1991.

Two and possibly three generations can expect to have higher taxes than necessary in order to finance this debt. No wonder the young think of leaving to escape the debt and tax burden of their parents.

Any small increase in interest rates, reductions in resource revenues or federal transfers would leave the province highly vulnerable. This is not prudent or responsible debt management!

"High debt requires financing. The NDP use high levels of taxation to pay the interest on the debt. But high taxes are killing jobs and removing incentive and entrepreneurship from the economy."

High taxes reduce domestic consumption and remove financial decision-making from the individual to the government. Yet, the NDP have refused to reduce the size of government. In their last budget, the cost of an NDP government had risen to over \$5.1 billion dollars with annual interest payments of \$873 million.

REDUCING THE SALES TAX TO 5%

A Haverstock Liberal Administration is committed to substantially reducing the debt, to save interest payments and lower taxes. This strategy will start by reducing the sales tax from the NDP 9% **to 5% in the first term of a Liberal Government.** This requires a replacement for up to \$340 million in lost revenues. Cutting spending, increased consumption, more jobs and taxpayers can provide those revenues. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will achieve this result with the following actions.

THE LIBERAL DEBT REDUCTION PLAN (LDRP)

The LDRP aims to increase the NDP rate of debt repayment within its first term. Comparison of the NDP and Liberal Debt Reduction Plans shows that the NDP will cut \$700 million off the debt between 1995 and 1999. The Liberal Plan calls to cut \$1.9 billion from the debt over the same period. This faster rate of paying down the debt will save over **\$240 million dollars in interest payments.** A Haverstock Liberal Administration anticipates reducing the debt by the following measures.

DEBT REDUCTION FUND

The **Debt Reduction Fund** will be created to capture savings and retire debt as current financing obligations come due. Contributors to the fund would include:

- Crown assets no longer central to government operations such as government aircraft, office buildings, industrial investments of the Crown Investments Corporation or the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation;

- windfall revenue gains that will be allocated to debt reduction, rather than general government operations;

- withheld Liquor Board profits;

- gambling revenues after tax collection, regulation, policing and addiction costs have been covered and half has been returned to the communities; and,

- Crown Corporation Payments to Government.

DEBT FINANCING BONDS

Transfer of some debt financing to Saskatchewan people with Saskatchewan **Debt Financing Bonds**. This allows Saskatchewan people to voluntarily participate in debt reduction, keeps interest payments at home and generates taxable interest income in Saskatchewan. It will cut interest payments to offshore bankers. Increased tax revenues from this source will all be directed towards debt reduction.

The more money the Saskatchewan government borrows inside the province, the more interest income Saskatchewan investors earn. That not only allows Saskatchewan people greater control over their outstanding debt, but it allows the Government of Saskatchewan to earn revenue from taxable interest income. By paying less interest to offshore bankers and more to Saskatchewan people, the Government has more revenue to apply to the debt.

GAMBLING REVENUES

Gambling revenues will no longer be used to finance general provincial government operations. Half of these revenues, currently running at \$90 million, will be devoted to debt reduction. Part of the savings in debt financing costs will be directed towards gambling addiction, policing and regulation requirements. The other forty-five million dollars will be returned to the communities. This funding for community development can help create local employment and improved local facilities and services.

This would mean that many small communities, currently sending in several hundred thousand dollars to Regina, would gain access to those funds for community infrastructure, services and recreational activities as they see fit.

Liberals believe that communities can make better use of the revenue from gambling than the provincial government can. Rather than take the money from local communities and spend it on big government as the NDP have done, communities will be able to address their own priorities.

TAX REFORM

Tax reform will ensure that all Saskatchewan people and corporations pay a fair minimum share of taxes. This will involve a simplified and more equitable tax form so that 90% of Saskatchewan tax-filers, whether individuals or companies, can complete the Saskatchewan tax form on two pages.

The current tax system is not fair to those paying the majority of taxes. The Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers reported that:

"Only 23.4% of Saskatchewan income tax-filers pay 72% of the total federal and provincial income tax"

Increasing tax burdens are being carried by an increasingly small share of provincial workers, families and businesses. The tax base of the province also erodes when hardworking and often young taxpayers are forced to leave the province to find work.

Liberals understand that lower taxes will mean more jobs. Working people pay income tax and spend money on goods and services. When tax rates are lower, people spend more at home and the Government gets a share of a bigger pie.

Reducing taxes can also increase overall revenues. When taxes are too high, people try to avoid them. If people think that \$90 is too much tax to pay on a \$1,000 sofa, they might cross the border to shop in Alberta. Then the Saskatchewan government gets nothing. By starting to bring tax rates in line, a Liberal Government will reduce the incentive to shop outside the province, collect sales tax on more transactions and improve government revenues.

Tax reform means making specific changes to taxation to produce specific results. Liberals will begin with tax reform that stimulates consumer activity and discourages cross-border shopping. Sales and gasoline taxes are obvious places to start since they add to consumer and producer costs and drive away tourists. In addition, the Romanow government has doubled the gas tax and left us with the highest sales tax in Western Canada during its short time in office.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will also assess the impact of corporate taxation on various sectors of the economy and bring forward time lines to make Saskatchewan taxes competitive. This will begin in areas with the greatest potential for job creation and growth.

A Liberal government will restructure and restore equity to the tax system in its first term. Tax reform will start with the progressive reduction of the Provincial Sales Tax from 9% to 5% in the first term of a Liberal Government.

SMALLER GOVERNMENT

There are savings to be made by reducing the size of government. Restructuring government can make savings without a loss in public services. It will provide for an overall 10% saving in the cost of government program operations equivalent to \$408 million in the first year of operations. The **Liberal Government Restructuring Plan** will follow a comprehensive review of all government operations with stakeholder groups in the first three months of a Liberal Government and will include the following elements:

"Premier Romanow now has more political staff for a province of one million people than the Prime Minister of Canada has for a country of twenty-nine million."

SMALLER CABINET

A smaller Cabinet of no more than 15 will cut the political cost of government. All backbenchers will have a meaningful role in Ministers' offices and All-Party Committees.

FEWER POLITICAL STAFF

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will cut the political staff in the Premier's Office by 50%.

Furthermore, the political staff for each Minister will be reduced to two and a secretary with a savings from the current Romanow political Administration. Since 1991, political staff in the Premier's Executive Council has grown to 88.

FEWER DEPARTMENTS

Reducing the number of departments and agencies will create more efficient government. Currently, there are twenty-seven departments and agencies in Executive Government on top of which are the Crown Corporations. Fewer departments and agencies of government will reduce the management and internal coordination costs and increase the accountability, responsibility and purpose for the remaining public service.

LESS DUPLICATION & OVERLAP

The systematic removal of duplication and overlap between federal, provincial and municipal governments will ensure that Saskatchewan people only pay for the services through one level of government.

In Alberta; a detailed Treasury Board Study identified \$4 billion dollars of federal and provincial overlap on a budget of \$11.9 billion. Federal/Provincial overlap and duplication affected nearly one-third of their provincial budget.

In Saskatchewan, this kind of duplication and overlap between federal, provincial and municipal governments also exists in the Departments of Agriculture, Economic Development, Labour, Environment, Health and Justice. Identifying even 10% of the overlap in a Liberal first term of office would amount to over \$50 million in savings in annual operating expenditures.

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

A full review of governmental roles for the federal, provincial and municipal governments in Saskatchewan will be **undertaken and completed within the first year of office** providing for savings in the second Liberal budget.

MUNICIPAL CHARTERS

Municipal Charters will be developed following the reviews of roles to provide a **new basis for the level of financing and activity in municipal government** to help bring services and decision-making closer to the people.

CO-TERMINUS BOUNDARIES

Part of the cost of duplication and overlap comes within the provincial government and the maze of departmental and program boundaries that have been allowed to develop. Today, the regional program map for government service delivery is almost black from overlapping boundaries. It seems that no two boundaries are co-terminus. As a result, each program must be delivered by a staff unique to each program, who all operate in isolation from each other. Clients and customers commonly have to travel backwards and forwards between communities in order to obtain services.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will examine the opportunities that will exist by creating boundary efficiency thereby reducing the size of government through a coordinated delivery system.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY

EFFICIENCY AUDITS

The Provincial Auditor currently examines the Province's books to account for authorized spending. This role will be supplemented with efficiency audits to address the more basic questions of:

- Is this public service being delivered in the most efficient way?
- Is this public service still necessary?
- Is this public service achieving the results it is supposed to?

A 5% efficiency dividend on the Saskatchewan program budget of \$4,080 million would amount to \$204 million.

*"Policy Costing Extra \$23,000 winning bidder claims",
Regina Leader Post
Headline on Government
Tendering Policy,
March, 1995.*

Experience with municipal government audits reveals that significant savings can be made through efficiency audits. The state of Texas facing a \$4.6 billion deficit over their two year budget cycle in 1992 and 1993, found a \$4 billion dollar saving on a \$60 billion budget – a 6% saving through an efficiency audit. Clearly, efficiency audits make good, economic common sense.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Regional cooperation with neighbouring western provinces provides opportunities for further savings through the administrative costs of some government activities such as the Workers Compensation Boards, Curriculum Development, Health Care information and purchasing, trade development and promotion, licensing and securities regulations. These would be developed with reciprocal program arrangements with participating provinces. Savings from the regional administrative cooperation might not be expected until year three of the term but could amount to \$50 million with widespread application across government.

OPEN TENDERING

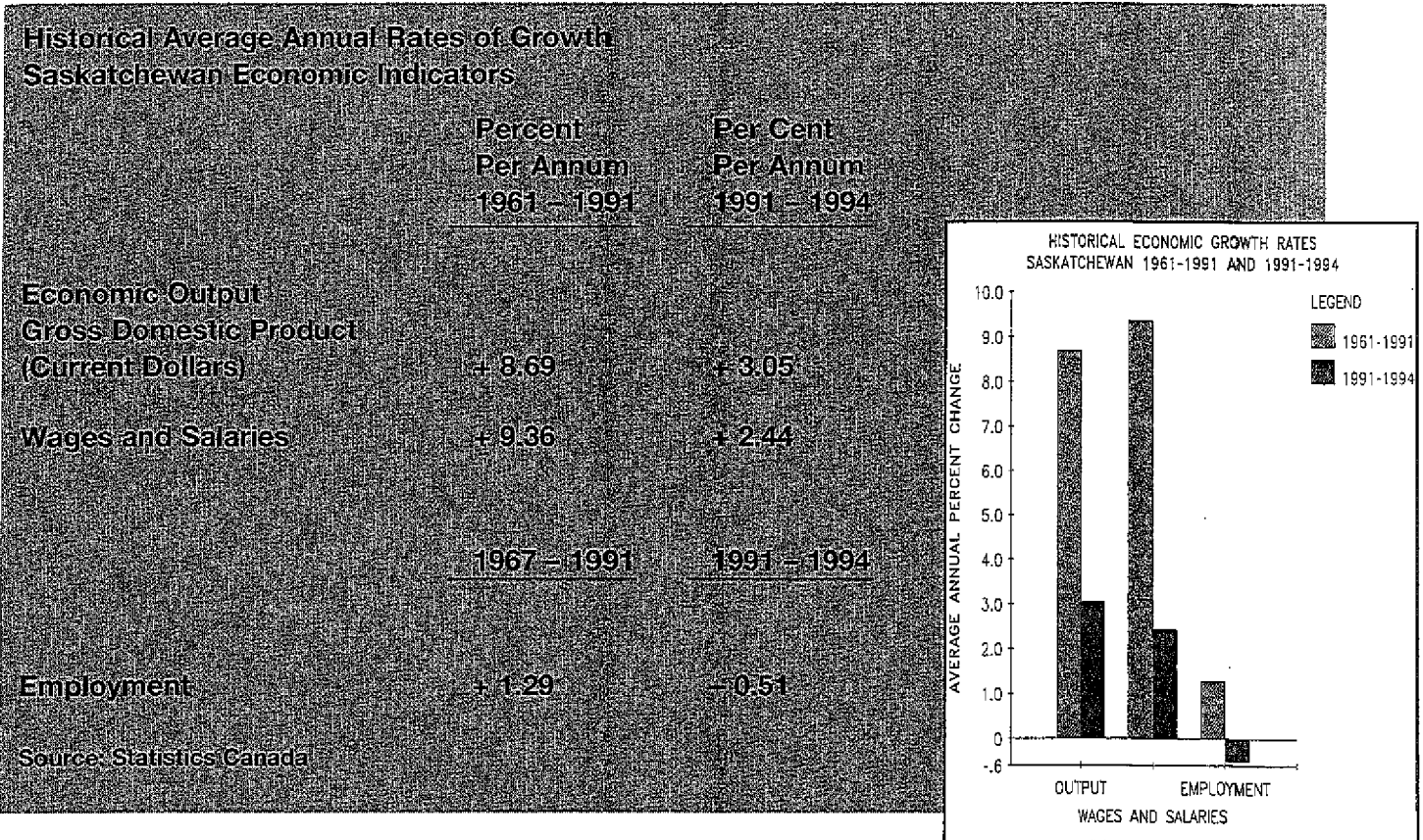
Open and competitive tendering for the provision of all government supplies and services will ensure that Saskatchewan people are receiving the highest quality services at the lowest cost from either the public or the private sector. With the province spending over \$300 million on operating goods and services, nearly \$200 million on capital expenses and over \$2 billion in grants to SPMC, Local Authorities and Other Third Parties, a five percent saving from open tendering to union and non-union companies and suppliers could yield a \$125 million in annual savings.

CROWN RETURN PAYMENT

A minimum annual payment from Crown Corporations to Government starting at \$100 million and rising to \$200 million will return the public's financing of the Crown sector. This would amount to an annual return of about 1% on current assets of the Crown sector. This is considered to be a modest and fair payment for the billions of dollars the public have invested in the Crown sector over the years and still well below the current rate of financing.

INCREASING THE RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

A Liberal Government will target an average increase in annual economic growth in Saskatchewan to 8% each year. This will be achieved with the **Liberal Economic Growth Strategy**.



* Employment for 1967-91

The record of the NDP government this term has been to achieve a real annual rate of real economic growth of 1.034% to 1994. This is understandable given the punitive rate of taxes and the lack of priority for economic growth and development.

The Saskatchewan economy has the capacity to grow faster.

A Liberal government will target an annual 8% rate of average annual economic growth.

It is possible pay down the debt and have lower taxes if we cut the size of government.

Over the years, in periods of high and low commodity prices, drought and flood, "have" and "have-not" equalization payments, Saskatchewan has been able to show positive rates of growth in economic output, earned income and employment. Under the Romanow NDP high tax economic policies in the 1990s, these average rates of growth have all fallen dramatically.

Clearly, the Saskatchewan Provincial Economy has the capacity for output, income and employment growth within its historical range and well beyond the performance of the early 1990s under an NDP Administration.

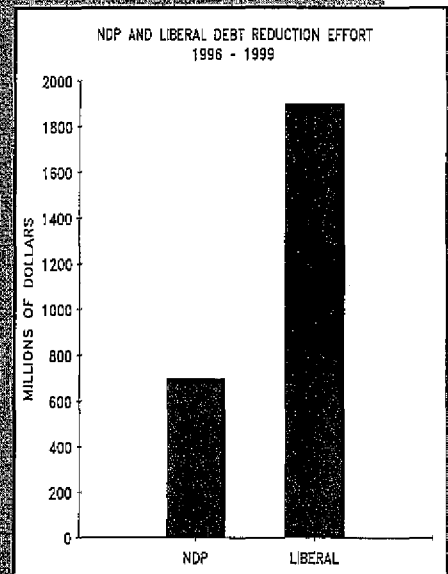
Higher rates of annual provincial economic growth will generate additional revenues for debt reduction.

Working together these measures are estimated to be able to reduce the debt by \$1.9 billion in the first term of A Haverstock Liberal Government. This compares to the \$700 million outlined in the 1995 NDP Budget.

This Liberal Debt Reduction Schedule will save taxpayers \$240 million in interest payments over the NDP plan. It reduces the General Revenue Fund Debt by nearly 20%.

LIBERAL AND NDP DEBT REDUCTION PLANS COMPARED

		1996	1997	1998	1999
Liberal Debt Schedule					
	(\$ Billions)	13.5	12.8	12.5	12.5
NDP Debt Schedule					
	(\$ Billions)	14.3	14.2	14.0	13.7
Estimated Liberal Interest					
Payments	(\$ Billions)	0.87	0.81	0.75	0.71
Estimated NDP Interest					
Payments	(\$ Billions)	0.87	0.86	0.84	0.81
Liberal Savings					
	(\$ Millions)	0	50	90	100



(Interest costs based on General Revenue Fund financing at 10% per annum which is the current average cost of borrowing for Government Operations)

Part Two

Economic Growth for Saskatchewan Jobs and Economic Recovery

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE:

The Liberal Party and the majority of Saskatchewan people believe that most employment growth should come from the private sector. Lynda Haverstock understands that it is the private sector that creates lasting jobs in Saskatchewan. Government job creation may be a useful short-term fix, but at the end of the day this is nothing more than taxpayers paying for jobs decided upon by government officials.

Government should not be involved in every economic decision.

In fact, the NDP government job creation route, proposed in the last budget, means continued higher taxes to pay for government jobs.

Government is already too large. Lasting jobs can only come from investment, wealth creation and trade in the private sector. These private sector jobs can be helped by a supportive government that sets the right environment for hiring, job creation, investment and trade. Increasing the rate of economic growth and job creation in Saskatchewan requires:

a positive economic vision for the province with the support and promotion of all the province's economic leadership;

the province to target 8% annual growth in order to create the jobs necessary to allow our young people to work at home; and consequently,

levels of investment, consumption and exports must increase.

Employment growth in a strong economy is more than just economic policy. Work in society represents the most effective form of social welfare. Too many people slip through cracks in the social safety net without meaningful work, income or a sense of purpose and hope in the future.

The lack of effective economic policies and sustainable quality employment is at the root of many of our social problems.

This is a difficult challenge for any government. But we can be sure that we won't get there if we don't try. We know that the economy has worked better in the past and it can again. It is time to raise expectations. It is time to empower Saskatchewan people and communities to be more involved in developing and financing the growth of our economy.

THE LIBERAL ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY

With your help and active participation, the **Liberal Economic Growth Strategy** can create a stronger economy by taking action in ten areas:

- **Lowering Taxes**
- **Planning for Sustainable Growth**
- **Agricultural, Rural & Community Development**
- **Northern Development**
- **The Labour Environment**
- **Paperburden and Regulations**
- **Economic Infrastructure**
- **Investment and Entrepreneurship**
- **Education, Training and Youth**
- **Leadership, Promotion and Cooperation**

LOWERING TAXES

The Tax Environment Facing Saskatchewan People and Business

Increased domestic consumption is essential to higher rates of provincial economic growth. This cannot be achieved when "tax and spend" governments remove these spending choices from individual citizens with sustained high taxes and centralized decision-making. The **Liberal Tax and Debt Reduction Plan** is, therefore, essential for the economic strategy and will:

increase consumption

reducing sales tax provides an incentive to shop at home. When taxes are fair, people do not try to avoid paying them;

improve Saskatchewan's Competitive position

lower taxes and utility rates will place Saskatchewan businesses and people in a competitive position with our neighbours;

increase exports

Saskatchewan goods will now be cheaper in world markets. The more we sell, the more jobs will be created at home; and,

financially empower individuals, families and communities to make their own spending decisions outside of government. Consumers with money to spend, not government collecting taxes, is what drives an economy.

A start at lower taxes to create a competitive tax environment in Saskatchewan will make Saskatchewan attractive for investment, encourage entrepreneurial spirit and improve the level of job creation.

PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Creating a Positive Environment for Economic Development

Over the years, economic development planning in Saskatchewan has been undertaken in back-rooms, through private consultations and partisan negotiations. Public involvement has been limited, economic decisions deferred to political interests and no positive sense of direction developed for the future. Many job opportunities for our young people were lost when fibreoptics and uranium refining passed the province by. An information and service economy is now essential for job creation. Agricultural biotechnology, food processing, clean coal, nuclear research and waste management represent further opportunities in today's world where decisions or lack of decisions by government become important and affect millions of dollars of investment.

For years, economic development has been a political football. Taking the politics out of economic policy in Saskatchewan is now in the public interest. This term the NDP budgeted nearly \$150 million for the Department of Economic Development without any obvious effect on employment or economic growth. **Planning for Economic Development will, therefore, be placed into a non-partisan framework.** The provincial Department of Economic Development will be replaced by a new smaller agency.

SASKATCHEWAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The **Saskatchewan Economic Development Agency (SEDA)**, will be created independent of government to manage economic policy and public investment in the economy. SEDA will be established as a non-profit corporation with one half of the existing resources of the Economic Development Department of Government. The SEDA Board will be comprised of business, labour, government, industry and sector organizations, the universities, equity groups and First Nations.

SEDA will undertake the following activities:

ECONOMIC BLUEPRINT

Initially establish and then annually publicly monitor, evaluate and review a **Long Term Blueprint** for Saskatchewan including specific targets for growth, investment and employment.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Saskatchewan must become an attractive and competitive commercial environment for business, research, development, marketing and wealth creation. This will provide a basis for improved job creation for some sectors of the Saskatchewan economy in which we can expect to develop a lasting and sustainable economic advantage. Government will play a role in ensuring that the essential policy, public infrastructure, training and, at times, financing is in place to support the growth and expansion of these sectors. **Priority sectors** will be supported to develop long-term plans to allow the development of necessary public infrastructure, policies, regulations and investments. **Strategic sectors** will be evaluated to maximize the level of value-added processing, forward and backward linkages, service and policy activities developed in the province.

COMPETITIVE POSITION

A comparison of the Saskatchewan commercial environment with neighbouring western jurisdictions, provincial and municipal, will be completed within Year One of a Haverstock Government. This will provide a basis for further changes in government policy towards business. **Annually monitoring Saskatchewan's competitive position in the budget** will also retain the focus to remain competitive.

INDUSTRY COUNCILS

Establish and Co-ordinate Industry Councils and the **Regional Economic Development Authorities** in key sectors and regions of the Saskatchewan economy to develop long-term plans for their industries and regions for incorporation in the Provincial Economic Blueprint.

MONITOR PROGRESS

Discuss and explain with the public, communities, labour, industry and others the Provincial economic blueprint and **annually monitor progress** towards the blueprint, making recommendations for changes to government policy.

PROMOTION

Promote the Saskatchewan economy inside and outside of the province.

AIMING FOR #1

Saskatchewan will aim to be **#1 in the world** in some aspects of its economy. Key sector complexes for expansion and development in Saskatchewan would include:

the agricultural complex including value-added food processing, agricultural biotechnology, technology, fertilizers, farm machinery, policy, economic information, marketing, new crop varieties, regulation, transportation and training;

the energy complex of industries including production, research, waste disposal, power generation of oil, gas, coal, hydro, hydrogen, renewable, uranium and nuclear;

the tourism and cultural complex including ecological, First Nations, geological, prehistoric, ethnic, film and video and arts communities; and,

the economic information and communications complex including developments in electronic and economic information, exchange, financial and insurance services, geographic and remote information systems and electronic marketing.

The common theme with all of these areas is that they provide real and immediate opportunities for significant investment and job creation at levels sufficient to provide work inside the province.

Saskatchewan people are extremely bright and entrepreneurial. Developments around the world are transforming the economic base of many nations.

There are many new technologies emerging in engineering, communications, energy development, waste and spent fuel disposal. Saskatchewan has opportunities to apply these technologies in the agricultural and food processing, agricultural biotechnology, uranium and nuclear industries.

Too many stories have been written of Saskatchewan being on the leading edge of development while others capitalize on the opportunities and the employment.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will not sit on the fence while these opportunities pass the province by again.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Given our natural resource economy, Saskatchewan people understand the need for sustainable development to manage our resources for future generations. Too often governments have paid lip service to the needs of the environment.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration believes that most Saskatchewan people recognize the need for sustainable development practices. Today, many of these practices are also in the best economic interests of society in such areas as recycling, energy conservation, soil and forest husbandry.

Sustainable development requires the close integration of society, community, economy and environment. The Liberal Action Plan has developed a strong focus on community development initiatives for all sections of the economy, society and the province. This will provide a vehicle for integrated community development initiatives at the local level where sustainable development practices in agricultural, forest and northern mining activities can be developed and applied.

GREEN FUNDS

There are significant new economic development opportunities with potential to contribute to sustainable development in Saskatchewan and the world. These include clean coal technologies, renewable energy, consumer recycling and forest management and harvesting. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will, therefore, enact the Environmental Financing Provisions of the Community Bonds Act to allow for the development of **"Green Funds"**. These can provide a financial vehicle to support the development of these sustainable development activities and environmentally friendly services.

CLEAN AIR

The **"Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit"** targeted a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. In Canada, the **federal government** has agreed to a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1988 levels by the year 2005.

Meeting these new global clean air standards requires action on greenhouse gases. While Saskatchewan cannot resolve global problems alone, it can lead by "acting locally". Initiatives in two areas can make major contributions to improving the environment and to economic development and job creation in the province.

Clean Coal

Clean coal technologies are highly efficient, very clean and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They have application all over the world and can be developed and exported from Saskatchewan.

A Haverstock Liberal Government would place the development of clean coal technologies on a positive decision path for a SaskPower/industry consortium evaluation with the objective of creating a new industry in the province.

Ethanol

In addition, a Haverstock Liberal Government will develop a **timetable in its first year of office to introduce a 10% ethanol content into the Saskatchewan fuel market** with the objective of developing cleaner burning fuels, removing the carcinogens currently present in gasoline additives and providing new local value added processing markets for agriculture and forest producers.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC DECISIONS

Opportunities for sustainable growth, investment and job creation exist in many areas of the Saskatchewan economy, but often require decisions on the part of government to allow development to proceed. Many of these development opportunities are internationally significant and could provide new engines to create sustainable growth, employment and tax revenues for Saskatchewan people if fully realized.

The following discussion illustrates the basis for a significant and expanding new direction for the economy in some sectors of the Saskatchewan economy.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND AGRI-FOOD COMPLEX

Agriculture is central to the Saskatchewan economy. With the ending of the Crow/WGTA subsidy, massively expanding Asian markets, new information and biotechnologies, the opportunities for new crops, expanding export markets and local processing can be widespread in the right economic and tax climate. The fundamental changes in the agricultural infrastructure, while bringing new challenges for the farmer, can be more than counterbalanced by the array of new technologies available now and emerging in the immediate future to increase farm productivity.

Examples of the range of further processing opportunities range from traditional animal feeding and food processing to agricultural fuels, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Historically, many of these value added activities have been undertaken in larger markets far away from the producers. New technologies of transportation, information and processing, combined with economies of scale can allow these increased commercial activities to occur in the Saskatchewan agricultural community.

Recent developments in Canola crushing illustrate the possibilities. The proposed Cargill plant at Clavet, south of Saskatoon will crush 2,000 tonnes of canola per day. This means that about 15% of Saskatchewan's total canola production won't have to be shipped to the west coast for export but can be further processed. Similar opportunities exist in many other areas of food processing and for many rural areas and communities. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will actively promote the development of food processing value added and supply in the province and the expansion of bio-technology employment.

AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

Farming is the original agricultural biotechnology industry. It uses biological systems such as seeds or animals to create wealth, employment and incomes. Today, research is providing Saskatchewan agriculture with new tools to cut costs and to create new exporting industries. Saskatchewan is a world leader in these technical developments.

There are many opportunities. The agricultural biotechnology complex developing in the province includes the University of Saskatchewan, the Plant Biotechnology Institute and the Agri-Food Canada Research Station. In addition, a number of companies, large and small, are emerging in the community. Other industry organisations such as AgWest Biotech, the BioProducts Centre and the Saskatchewan Research Council provide further infrastructure for development.

Agricultural biotechnology is already creating crop varieties that can transform agriculture in Saskatchewan. Development of Canola is well known. New opportunities include genetically modified Canola with resistance to herbicides, mustards that can produce quality oils, drought and fungus resistant varieties, high yielding milling quality wheats, artificial varieties of beans and chickpeas and many other diversification opportunities.

Biological fertilizer and pesticides hold immediate application for Saskatchewan farmers and provide export opportunities. Dandelion and broad leaf weed control, biological fungicides, animal disease prevention and feed supplements are all further applications of science to modern agriculture in the form of agricultural biotechnology. Biological science today has been compared to the early days of the computer industry – on the verge of substantial growth based on solid science behind relevant products to meet the needs of the customer.

The potent science, technology and commercial base already established in Saskatoon is already a major economic opportunity for the province.

EXAMPLES OF CURRENT AND EMERGING AGRICULTURAL VALUE ADDED PROCESSING OPTIONS

Commodity Type	Raw Material Input	Value Added Products
Current Technologies		
High Volume Grain Products	Canola	Oil
	Wheat	Pasta or Flour
	Barley	Malt or Beer
	Feed Grains	Animals
	Animals	Meats
Intermediate Volumes	Alfalfa	Cubes
	Forage	Hay
	Grain	Ethanol
	Edible Flax	Oil
	Oilseeds	Lubricants
Smaller Volumes	Oats	Cosmetics
	Borage	Health food oils
	Peas	Mushy Peas
	Berries	Jams
	Edible Flax	Bread
	Potatoes	Chips
Emerging Technologies	Oilseeds	Biodegradable Fuels and Plastics
	Wheats	Specialty Starches
		Pharmaceuticals
		Oriental noodles
		Pastas
	Mustard	Oils

Realizing these opportunities require a competitive tax, research and financial environment to allow industry to invest and create careers in the industry, a Haverstock Liberal government will:

work with the industry to establish plans for an appropriate fiscal, **research and training** climate for long term development;

recognize the **long term risks** involved in the extended commercialization process that extends from laboratory bench, through field trials, regulatory approval and final commercialization. These risks should be reflected in the **tax treatment** of the industry;

work with the federal government to **shorten the time for regulatory approval** of new products;

provide new **equity financing alternatives** to address the special needs of a research intensive industry; and,

obtain the maximum return from the **federal research and technology \$30 million fund** dedicated for innovation in agriculture.

ENERGY

Saskatchewan has abundant energy reserves including oil, heavy oil, hydro power, coal, natural gas, thermal power, uranium, biomass, wind and solar. New technologies are offering a large number of significant energy and industrial development opportunities that could significantly increase investment and employment in the province. These include for example:

- coal gasification
- sulphur and carbon di-oxide production
- waste fuel recycling and reprocessing
- waste fuel disposal and storage
- hydrogen, methanol and ethanol fuels
- power and power generating equipment for nuclear, thermal, solar, wind or biomass power
- clean coal technologies

Many energy development decisions have for too long been deferred by Conservative and NDP governments, nearly to the point where opportunities have once again passed the province by. Today, it is critical that public policy decisions be made, and not deferred by indecision, to create a stable investment climate.

OIL AND GAS

The oil and gas industry is an important part of the Saskatchewan economy. Oil and gas is Saskatchewan's second largest export in dollar value. While second to grains, it surpasses potash, uranium and forest products. The industry provides jobs for 13,000 people. It buys goods and services around the province and is the lifeblood of many smaller rural communities. A Liberal Government will encourage the oil and gas industry to make additional investment in production, research and employment in the province.

Encouraging oil and gas exploration and production in Saskatchewan requires fiscal terms and costs for key inputs including utilities, taxes, transportation and environmental compliance to be reasonable and in line with other producing areas. Much of Saskatchewan's oil and gas is low quality or low value with high production costs. Netbacks are key to producers. A Haverstock Liberal Government will ensure that:

rules and regulations regarding oil and gas development will be clearly spelled out and the oil and gas industry will be fully consulted regarding any changes to environmental, regulatory or taxation policy affecting their industry; and,

property taxation burdens will not be shifted to the oil and gas industry from other sectors in the current reassessment process being undertaken by Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency.

Saskatchewan is a relatively unexplored province. A Haverstock Liberal Government will work with industry to develop an additional leasing/permitting system to encourage seismic and true "wildcat drilling" in very high risk areas of the Province with oil and gas potential. A form of concession will be developed similar to those used internationally to encourage greenfield exploration.

Research and technology is one of the keys to enhancing the value and life of existing production and adding to exploration potential. Government can provide a catalyst for oil and gas industry research and development in Saskatchewan for both existing production and new fuels such as hydrogen from natural gas.

The oil and gas industry in Saskatchewan faces **very high input costs**. Current Saskatchewan industrial electricity rates for the oil and gas industry are currently about 160% of those same rates in Alberta. A Haverstock Liberal Government will take the following steps to control these input costs and keep them competitive with neighbouring jurisdictions by:

reviewing the pricing and operating practices of all Saskatchewan utilities (SaskPower, SaskEnergy, TransGas, SaskTel, SaskWater Corp) to assess their competitive position, to determine their roles and to separate their utility, tax and social service provision requirements;

directing SaskPower to develop an incremental **industrial development rate** for new economic activity in the province (e.g. oil, gas and pipeline activity). This pricing structure would encourage the use of electrical drivers and at the same time make use of the idle "spinning" capacity that SaskPower has already invested capital in and is not using. This would lower the overall cost of electrical power in the province through higher use of existing capital facilities; and,

reviewing the discriminatory practices and high tariffs charged by some feeder pipelines in the Province. Not only do these practices reduce netbacks to producers in the province, but they effectively reduce the royalties otherwise owed to the government. A new Liberal Government will ensure that there is a mechanism to monitor, appeal and voluntarily negotiate these monopolistic practices.

A Liberal government would **reward oil and gas companies with Head Offices in Saskatchewan** or those performing principal administrative functions in Saskatchewan based offices by providing Capital Tax Rebates related to their level of activity in the province.

The **regulatory structure** facing the oil and gas industry would be closely reviewed to provide a modern and competitive environment for the industry and would include:

- review of the effectiveness of the minimum royalty on natural gas;

- introducing a streamlined and accountable environmental review process with fixed time lines for approval and ensuring a science based environmental monitoring and regulatory system to protect the physical environment;

- ensuring that municipal barriers are not erected to discriminate against particular industrial sectors;

- ensuring that final SAMA decisions reflect the original intent that there should be no significant swings in taxation between economic sectors and that the industry has full opportunity to assess the impact of changes in advance of their introduction; and,

- establishing a basis to harmonize interprovincial differences in regulations in such areas as the environment, labour standards, occupational health and safety and transportation that would reduce compliance costs for business.

COAL

Thermal coals have long been a staple Saskatchewan fuel with the large reserves in the Southeast of the province. Today, opportunities exist for Saskatchewan to be a world leader in clean coal technologies. This would involve producing coal gas to be burned in gas turbines, removing sulphur for sale and producing the carbon di-oxide and water bi-products for use in enhanced oil recovery.

Clean coal technologies are highly efficient, very clean and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They have application all over the world and can be developed and exported from Saskatchewan. Clean coal technologies are probably essential if Canada is to:

meet the **"Rio de Janiero Earth Summit"** targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000, or reduction in greenhouse gases; or,

meet the new **federal targets** for a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1988 levels by the year 2005.

A Haverstock Liberal Government would, therefore, place the development of clean coal technologies on a positive decision path for a SaskPower/Industry consortium evaluation with the objective of creating a new industry in the province.

THE NUCLEAR CYCLE SAFETY AND OPPORTUNITY

Saskatchewan uranium is used around the world in nuclear generating plants. Today, nuclear energy accounts for 17% of the world's electricity. There are 418 reactors that operate throughout the world and have a total generating capacity of 325,000 megawatts of electricity. An additional 100 units currently under construction or on order will increase world capacity by 25% by the end of the century with the largest market located south of the border in the United States. While Saskatchewan missed earlier opportunities for refining investment that has now passed by, significant opportunities exist in other parts of the nuclear fuel cycle using safe, environmental friendly technologies that have proven safety records. These include the manufacturing of reactors for export, reprocessing of used fuel and waste storage. The investment and employment opportunities associated with these industries could make a major change in the employment, investment and revenue outlook facing the province.

The scope of the opportunities is diverse. For example, a CANDU 6 nuclear generating station requires about 40,000 person years of manufacturing work on the project and in supply companies. It involves no work with radioactive materials, but rather involves extensive production of pipes, valves, doors and steel vessels and prefabricated buildings.

Reprocessing is currently absent in North America with most demand currently being satisfied from Europe. Major markets exist in the United States. Reprocessing involves recovery of reusable energy material (uranium and plutonium) from spent fuel, with the additional benefit of significant natural resource conservation. One metric tonne of spent fuel equals 20,000 metric tonnes of oil equivalent. The remaining wastes after reprocessing are then turned into qualified and safe solid forms for final disposal. Spent fuel storage is a growing problem throughout North America offering significant investment and commercial opportunities.

The Saskatchewan Energy Conservation Authority was established by the NDP to provide clear decisions on these important new energy development options facing the province. Once again, a lack of decision is allowing opportunity, investment and employment to pass the province by.

A Haverstock Liberal government will conclude a major social, economic and policy evaluation of the nuclear cycle opportunities for Saskatchewan and establish a basis for decision within its first term of office.

FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Saskatchewan forests provide important and continuing opportunities for sustainable community development. For years, much forest development and processing has been based on large projects, often financed directly and indirectly by governments. However, many small forest operations have the potential to sustain communities and create local jobs from a range of small scale forest operations including lumber mills, small board plants, forest planting, management and research operations.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will adopt a holistic approach towards the forests recognizing the widespread uses that are made of forest lands including forestry, recreation, wildlife habitat and many others.

A Liberal Government will therefore examine the potential to provide community-based forest management licenses for sustainable community development. This would allow for the integration between communities and their natural resource economies and provide new sources of employment.

TOURISM AND CULTURE

The Tourism and Cultural industries of arts, crafts, entertainment, film and video are one of the fastest growing sources of employment in the province. Tourism already accounts for one in seven jobs in Canada and 38,400 in Saskatchewan. Significantly, the tourism and cultural sectors are highly labour intensive and offer employment opportunities for many different skill levels.

Saskatchewan is well positioned to take advantage of the continuing growth in the tourism and cultural industries. A pristine natural environment, international rivers, First Nations history and prehistoric artifacts are just a few of the significant international tourism destination opportunities evolving in the province. Many local communities throughout the province offer significant local attractions. Capturing the full range of employment and investment opportunities in the industry will require more than just interesting attractions.

One recent movie set in Regina last year employed 170 people with many different skills including construction workers, welders, art directors, artists, set builders, actors, editors, make-up and wardrobe people.

Historically, governments have not always recognized the important employment and economic contributions that service, tourism and cultural industries are making to the economy. A Haverstock Liberal Administration understands their importance and would, therefore, give priority to the investment in planning, facilities, training and services shown to be essential for the sustained growth of the industry.

ECONOMIC INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

New technologies in communication, information and finance provide important opportunities for growth, investment and employment in Saskatchewan. These include developments in electronic and economic information development and exchange, financial and insurance services, geographic and remote information, multi-media management and training systems and electronic marketing. Currently many of these industries are showing rapid growth in many parts of the world.

These industries can all overcome many of the traditional barriers of distance that for years limited growth in many urban and rural locations. Deregulation of the communications industries, falling transport costs and the new access technologies of the Internet, satellite communications and global data banks are opening new employment opportunities in urban and rural areas.

Saskatchewan has developed high quality information and communications infrastructure and a highly qualified human resource pool. The province is also a hub in the North American communications system and a potential interconnect point for east-west and north-south communications. SaskTel, the universities and many companies can provide the basis for a long term strategic direction given focus and resources.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will therefore:

- undertake a review of **competitive access provisions** for new communication technologies in urban and rural areas and with neighbouring provinces;

- examine ways in which the large, highly segregated information technology market in government, can be better served by a government industry partnership; and,

- work with industry to develop improved information systems for some government priorities such as economic development and health care.

AGRICULTURAL, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The rural and agricultural communities have been challenged through this NDP Administration. Essential concerns over the future of rural Saskatchewan are not being addressed. As industry and communities restructure, government infrastructure and financing in transportation, health care, social and municipal services are being withdrawn or centralized.

Rural Saskatchewan longs to develop diversified jobs, to encourage entrepreneurship and to make better use of local resources. In an aging rural society, it becomes critical that future employment opportunities exist for rural youth both on and off the farm. Rural people and rural communities must be empowered to become more directly involved to realize new growth in rural areas.

Key issues remain in rural and agricultural Saskatchewan. They include:

- Transport costs with the removal of the Crow
- Lack of local markets for agriculture
- Continuing debt and rural financing requirements.
- Municipal financing and community development needs

Even though the Romanow NDP have long known that the Crow subsidy would end, they have not prepared for the opportunities that are now available. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will address these issues in the first term with strategies designed to:

- lower export delivery and input costs
for Saskatchewan producers;**
- create local markets for Saskatchewan
agricultural production; and,**
- provide new instruments for agricultural financing.**

REDUCING INPUT COSTS

FARM FUEL TAXES

High provincial fuel taxes in Saskatchewan increase the export delivery costs facing farmers. These taxes at the pump and on the railways take money directly out of farmers pockets and are an export tax on farms. They make our farmers less competitive on world markets. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will work to reduce and simplify fuel taxes.

Currently, farm fuel rebates for up to \$900 each year must be claimed back through an administratively complicated and bureaucratically expensive rebate system. This rebate is becoming increasingly inadequate for fuels that already carry a fifteen cent a litre Provincial Sales Tax. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will therefore:

increase the **farm fuel rebate** to \$1500 each year for farming operations; and,

examine ways for the rebate to be **administered directly through accounts with bulk fuel dealers** to avoid the expensive book keeping, administrivia and bureaucracy of the rebating process. This could, for example, take the form of a deductible on bulk fuel purchases to provide farmers with immediate benefits and allow the fuel companies to claim the rebate in bulk from the government.

Railway fuel taxes eventually end up reducing returns to farmers. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will consider lowering these taxes given sustained investment by the railways in the Saskatchewan export delivery system, fair pricing and competitive service.

A LOWER COST EXPORT DELIVERY SYSTEM

The ending of the Crow in 1995 requires a comprehensive transport development strategy to allow Saskatchewan to put in place a "low cost export delivery system". The recent railway strike and continuing strikes on the West Coast reduce incomes for thousands of Saskatchewan producers. **A Provincial Intermodal Transport Development Strategy** will be developed jointly between farm organizations, business, rural and urban municipalities and the federal and provincial governments in Year One of a Haverstock Liberal Administration.

Immediate changes are also required to a number of provincial policies that prevent the development of a low cost, competitive export delivery system. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will use the period of the federal railway freight rate freeze to develop an efficient, Saskatchewan-owned export delivery system.

This involves immediately concluding a **Saskatchewan Bulk Movement Plan** with the participation of local municipalities, transport companies, agricultural and mining industries and others. With the removal of the Crow, there will be an immediate demand for changes to the road and rail infrastructure in the province. The efficiency of the intermodal road, rail, air, pipeline and water systems are central to the level of exports from the province.

Sky rocketing road maintenance costs cannot be simply left to the reduced resources of local municipalities. Working together, the Saskatchewan Bulk Transport Industry, producers, governments and communities can establish a cost-effective system for expanding exports into the 21st Century.

Export delivery turn-around times on grain cars can be reduced with benefits for farmers. At present, there is a 40 day turnaround time for car allocation, pick-up, transit to the west coast, unloading, cleaning, storage and loading. Improved grain planning can reduce these times by one half and achieve "just in time delivery" for vessels arriving at the West Coast. This could benefit farmers with lower freight costs, lower demurrage charges and a smaller railcar fleet requirement.

REMOVING LABOUR SUCCESSOR RIGHTS IN THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY

Changing and amending the new provincial labour legislation will remove the requirements for successor rights. The existence of these successor rights to carry the labour benefits from CN and CP prevents the development of an efficient short-line railway industry in Saskatchewan. In contrast, both Manitoba and Alberta are rapidly developing their short-line rail industries to provide their farmers with an improved competitive position over Saskatchewan.

LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL IN TRANSPORTATION

For years, Saskatchewan farmers have faced export delivery systems owned by Eastern Canadians. Current federal proposals for the sale of Canadian National and the removal of the Crows Nest Freight Rate subsidy provides a unique opportunity for a province that is ready and willing to meet the challenge to capture the ownership rents associated with the export delivery system. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will therefore:

- support the development of **locally-owned and controlled short-line railways** and will make them **eligible for Community Bond financial support**; and,

- provide a detailed assessment of the benefits that could be available to Saskatchewan and Western Canada of a regionally based coalition **to purchase the assets of Canadian National**.

MARKET COMPETITION

A Provincial Framework for market competition in freight movements will be achieved by:

- making public investments in **North South Commercial Public Highways** to allow access to competitive U.S. carriers to ensure competition and lower rates by Canadian Carriers;

- making public investments in the **Regional Highway Network** to provide all producers with access to high volume low cost highways;

- restructuring the provincial regulatory structures to ensure **common standards and regulations** between prairie carriers;

- encouraging the development of an **Inland Bulk Container Delivery and Assembly Port** to provide export rate reductions for exporters and improve opportunities for backhauls; and,

improving access to the Port of Churchill as a cost-effective option for Saskatchewan producers requires consideration of a private or cooperative short-line railway for the Hudson Bay Route and private construction of a sustainable, low maintenance rail-line to the Port of Churchill.

In addition, a Haverstock Liberal Administration will work closely with Ottawa to ensure that the full benefit of the **WGTA \$300 million Adjustment Fund** is focused on those key Saskatchewan issues that exist in the eastern half of the province, for alfalfa dehy producers, in rural roads, in trucking and in the advancement of short-line rail industry in the province.

REDUCING REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS ON THE FARM

There is an expanding body of urban regulations, paperwork and cost being extended into farming operations. The environmental policies that saw many rural gas stations close because they couldn't afford to replace their storage tanks is being extended into the farm yard. Labour regulations for occupational health and safety are being extended to farm workers.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will review and reduce the costs associated with the continued expansion of the regulatory framework and base decisions and requirements on sustainable common sense.

A COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR FOOD PROCESSING INVESTMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN

Part of the solution to the loss of the Western Transportation Subsidy will lie in creating a significant market for Saskatchewan grains within the province.

This requires major changes in the competitive position of Saskatchewan for food processing. Both Alberta and Manitoba are well positioned to take advantage of the economic opportunities created by the removal of freight subsidies. Fiscal measures to reduce debt and lower taxes are central to restoring the competitive position of the province.

Saskatchewan requires an effective **agri-food strategy** to increase the level of value added production from our farm products. Canadian food processors have far less real value added per worker than their U.S. competitors. While the gap is closing much more can be done. Food processing can provide a major new source of investment and employment for rural Saskatchewan. Markets in Asia, Europe and Latin America are growing rapidly and others are already supplying them. Growth is in consumer-oriented food products rather than bulk commodities.

If farmers have high volume, local markets for Saskatchewan grains and agricultural products the cost of transportation to market will fall.

Over the past thirty years, the Netherlands, with about 1% of the arable land of Canada, has almost doubled their share of world food manufacturing production. At the same time, Canada's share has declined. It has only been since the removal of the Crow that we have seen major food processing investments in Saskatchewan in Canola and Malt.

Saskatchewan must become much better at producing and marketing the right products. It requires new and sophisticated research, processing, water, information and policy infrastructure for the food processing industries. It requires stronger links throughout the food chain to ensure that the research, marketing, education, training, finance and transportation facilities are all in place.

To **strengthen and expand Saskatchewan Food Processing**, a Haverstock Liberal Administration will:

establish an **Agri-Food Processing Unit** within the Department of Agriculture with the objective of doubling the level of food processing investment in the province; and,

create the physical and regulatory infrastructure for eight food processing regional agri-food parks to provide attractive low cost industrial locations for new food processing investment in Saskatchewan. These food processing Parks will be privately owned commercial facilities in which much of the pre-planning, for access location and distribution has been completed. They will provide locations to compete with neighbouring and international competition.

Strengthen the incentives for **ethanol production** in Saskatchewan to encourage the development of energy from biomass. This will also develop new agri-foods in the form of dietary supplements, health industry grade alcohols and animal feeds.

"Hog Town, Saskatchewan" could provide the environmentally approved infrastructure, financing, marketing and processing facilities for high volume Asian exports.

NEW INSTRUMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL FINANCING

Levels of accumulated farm debt remain too high to allow the farm economy to invest in the opportunities offered by the post-Crow environment. For many older farmers looking towards retirement after years of working hard on the land, the tax structures make the inter-generational transfer of farms a financial nightmare.

With an aging provincial population, it is essential that there be an orderly transition of commercially competitive farmland to maintain the competitive position of agriculture and to provide for the new private sector investment in the rural economy:

The Romanow NDP Administration has been negligent in not creating the economic and fiscal climate to allow the passage of farmland between generations or to encourage the essential investment in new research to keep the farm economy competitive.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will immediately take measures to address the provincial farm debt and inter-generational financing issues by:

***AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT BONDS
(AGRIBONDS)***

Currently, most investment capital is directed towards urban investment. Agricultural Development and Investment Bonds (AgriBonds) will create a financing pool for agricultural research and food processing investments. AgriBonds will be guaranteed by the government and used to both finance the commercial operations of the FDRTB and invest in the Agricultural Research and Processing Fund.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND PROCESSING FUND

The Agricultural Research and Processing Fund will be a public-private partnership between the people of Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan and the private sector. It will create a commercial venture capital fund to invest in commercially viable agricultural research projects.

FARM DEBT RESTRUCTURING AND TRANSITION BOARD

A Farm Debt Restructuring and Transition Board (FDRTB) to assess how a new financing vehicle could assist in the inter-generational transfer of agricultural lands in the province. This becomes an increasing priority with an aging rural population.

All of these measures allow rural people to more directly participate in and finance the transition and development of their rural economy.

"We have to begin the process of community development in both the economic and social development sense. More benefits must flow directly to the community so that they themselves can develop the local based industries. The ideas that local people have in the communities are tremendous. However, there is no money, no commitment and no plan to change the current system."
Buckley Belanger, Mayor, Ile a la Crosse.

***NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY INITIATIVE***

Northern Saskatchewan is a land of great natural beauty, wealth and opportunity, where many communities and too many people do not share in the benefits of the land or its resource wealth. Too many northern people live on welfare and are unemployed. Too many decisions about Northern Saskatchewan are made in Regina.

Community development represents a sensible and viable approach towards northern development problems that has shown excellent results in many areas. The shift from a dependent to an independent society is not easy, but a start must be made. Liberals believe that the place to start is with local people and communities who understand the issues and opportunities.

There is a requirement for sustained community initiatives to create jobs in a new northern economy. Opportunities exist in the form of fish and forest operations, management and processing, working in and servicing the northern mining economy, tourism and eco-tourism development, handicrafts and agriculture. All of these can contribute to the new northern employment base. In addition, many more government, social and community services can and should be delivered by northern communities.

A Haverstock Liberal Government will work with northern communities to access resources to proceed with community economic development initiatives that will lead to more employment, less dependency and better health in the North. Constructive partnerships with the existing northern economy will be encouraged.

The **Northern Development Fund** will be restructured as a northern initiative to fund business, economic and community development projects. The Fund will provide a basis for northern community development to integrate social and economic development initiatives. It will be an action based approach in support of democratically controlled organisations and communities to play a leadership role in the development of their areas.

Community revenues will be supplemented from a **share of northern resource revenues** to be retained by local communities for community economic development initiatives that provide immediate improvements to the health, welfare, employment and growth prospects for the north. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will allow local priorities to determine the use of these funds.

Strengthening communities will also involve **the restructuring of the provision of some government and social services** into northern communities. An examination of the opportunities for local and community delivery will be a priority.

Departments of **Justice, Social Service and Health** will be encouraged to work with northern communities in **pilot projects** that attempt to restructure public spending away from welfare and dependency towards independence, training and growth.

"In the North, we need to maximize support for local development corporations and the local business community on an equal basis"

THE LABOUR ENVIRONMENT

Attempts to reform labour legislation in Saskatchewan have done little other than complicate labour relations, increase the costs of compliance and create uncertainty with employers who might think about expanding in Saskatchewan. Business groups and major employers including the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Independent Business and major industries have at one time or another opposed the present legislation and its regulations.

After a meeting between Government Ministers Shillington and Lingenfelter and major restaurant chains, Joyce Reynolds of the Canadian Restaurant and Food Services Association was quoted in the Regina Leader Post to say:

"Saskatchewan will be a less attractive place to invest because of this legislation...the legislation restricts employer flexibility in scheduling work hours, hurts customer service and employee relations. It forces us to be filling out forms instead of filling out food orders."

Regina LeaderPost, January 18, 1995

*From 1988 to 1993
American states with
"fair employment
legislation" created 77%
of the new manufacturing
jobs even though they
had only 35% of the US
population.*

People generally join unions because they want job security and decent wages. Sometimes, individuals feel that they have no alternative but to join the union. It is more important to most people to have a well-paying, secure job than it is to go on strike. Liberals believe that the best way to achieve job security and good wages is not through government imposing rules on industry that destroy jobs. Collective bargaining and a thriving economy offer the best opportunity for fair wages and long term security of employment.

Liberals believe in a **"Fair Employment"** environment for all workers in Saskatchewan in which individuals cannot be compelled to join or pay dues to unions as a specific condition of employment. Current Saskatchewan Labour Legislation slows the rate of job creation in the province.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will therefore:

introduce legislation to **reform labour legislation including the Labour Standards Act and the Trade Union Act** and all of their related regulations, agencies and boards. Equity will be established for the treatment of all workers in Saskatchewan.

make provision for health, safety and gender protections in the workplace consistent with realistic and modern fair employment practices in today's labour market;

introduce a **Labour Code of Conduct** to govern Labour relations in Saskatchewan developed jointly by Business and Labour;

establish a Labour/Business Council. **A Saskatchewan Industrial Relations Council** will once and for all take politics out of labour issues and administer the Code of Conduct; and,

revise **Crown Tendering Policy** to provide for equal treatment of union and non-union employers. The current policy contradicts basic Liberal values for fairness and equity in the workplace and economy and specifically allows unions to act as the spokesperson for all employees, forces employment of union employees, introduces involuntary taxation for union dues, contradicts current

labour laws in its no-strike, no lockout provisions and requires hidden taxation in the forms of fees to the council set up by the government to administer the process.

Legislating special interests in labour markets is not consistent with cost effective purchasing to obtaining public goods and services at least cost for the taxpayer. It distorts the economy, destroys jobs and raises taxes. Liberals will put an end to these policies.

Attempts will be made to **regionalize across Western Canada, Labour Legislation and the system of Workers Compensation and Labour Relations Boards** to remove politics from their operations.

Review all forms of **payroll costs** to simplify and reduce them. Lowering payroll costs of all types will improve the environment for employment.

SGEU CONTRACT REVIEW

Public Service Collective Agreements will be reviewed to ensure that they are "fair" for the standards of the day. Government employees are valued public servants and will receive benefits consistent with the standards of the day. The proposed benefits for the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union Contract go well beyond these standards and include:

- 100% coverage for all physician prescribed drugs
- \$1,000 in diabetic supplies
- \$200 of optical coverage
- \$1,500 of orthodontic coverage
- \$7,500 of private duty nursing

At a time of health care cut-backs, \$1,700 drug plan deductibles for ordinary citizens, the provisions of the SGEU contract go well beyond the "fair standard" expected and experienced by most Saskatchewan people. It sets a double standard where a privileged group of public servants, paid for through the tax system, receive comprehensive health coverage, while everyone else has to make do with less.

The NDP have claimed that these benefits are in lieu of pay increases. However, government employees in neighbouring provinces have experienced wage rollbacks and pay for most of their health benefits through Blue Cross.

"At a time when everyone is tightening their belts and making do with less, this is just not realistic. This government has made choices once again at the taxpayers' expense."

Lynda Haverstock

The best job security and wage benefits come from strong economies.

"The time that must be spent to learn and accommodate provincial labour laws takes away otherwise productive time from a small business owner. This problem is multiplied exponentially in cases where a company does business in different jurisdictions. A common system of labour laws would be a major productivity gain for the many companies who market their products and services throughout the region."
Canadian Federation of Independent Business,
January, 1995

PAPERBURDEN AND REGULATIONS

Paper, regulatory and compliance costs on small and medium sized business in Saskatchewan continue to grow. This will be addressed by:

introducing a **single electronic business information system** for government to remove the duplication of inquiries. This would involve a menu-driven, electronic information system available by phone, by modem or Internet connection;

harmonizing federal and provincial information and tax compliance requirements;

establishing a **Paperburden and Regulatory Commissioner** to reduce paperwork, simplify business interactions with government and approve any new information or data requests of business by government departments, Crown corporations or agencies;

introducing **financial penalties** for government departments taking longer than 30 days to pay bills;

examine with the Federal Government, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Professional Accountants and other business organisations developing a system of **"flat filing"** for small business. **Flat filing** would simplify the paper and accounting costs associated with current federal and provincial tax systems. Today these accounting requirements have simply become excessive compliance costs that often detract from business development and job creation. Flat filing would allow small businesses to make voluntary declarations and make flat tax payments without the expensive and time-consuming accounting and compliance requirements; and,

undertake a review of **business phone charges** in Saskatchewan for small business to ensure that they are fully competitive with neighbouring jurisdictions.

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A growing and competitive economy needs to make public investments in infrastructure. This will involve:

an **upgraded inter-city road system** to work towards divided highways with **raised speed limits** for inter-city travel to reduce the costs of communications. This will be a key element in the Integrated Rural Transport Plan. Access to high volume, high speed transportation is essential for all parts of the provincial economy in urban and rural areas;

introducing **competition in provincial phone markets** to reduce the cost of business communications to levels comparable with neighbouring jurisdictions. A Haverstock Liberal Administration will examine the technical feasibility of removing long distance calling rates from in-province calls;

establishing **E-Mail and Internet connections for rural areas** through local Regional Economic Development Authorities to provide them with access to global information and data. **Cellular phone coverage** can be extended into many rural areas. This can reduce the costs of rural communications and provide an improved level of access to Western Canada, Canada and the World;

concluding in Year One of office, the **major intermodal transportation strategy** for Saskatchewan transportation with the objective of ensuring that Saskatchewan producers and exporters have access to state of the art, competitive and cost-effective road, air, rail and electronic modes of transportation; and,

reviewing the **SGL/Highways/Highways Traffic Board overlapping mandates** to simplify licensing and regulations affecting motor vehicles, drivers and shippers.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will make representations to Ottawa and the regulatory agencies to **improve the airline connections** within Western Canada and the Western United States and to increase the level of price competition for consumers. The full fare cost of \$750 Regina-Calgary return works against economic development in the larger region.

INVESTMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A Haverstock Liberal Administration understands that for the economy to grow, creating the private sector revenues necessary to lower taxes and to create jobs, the level of provincial investment must increase. It is also apparent that Saskatchewan people would wish to invest in the development of their community, economy and province if safe investment instruments and projects were available to them.

Widespread public participation in the financing of economic development in Saskatchewan is one way for more Saskatchewan people to contribute to growth and employment. Individual residents will be empowered to invest locally and make their own decisions on the future of the province, in marked contrast to the tax and redirect investment policies of the NDP.

The **Liberal Investment Program of Public Investment** will be achieved by:

- improvements to the **tax and incentive framework** facing Saskatchewan people and business to invest at home. This will build on the success of programs such as the Small Business Loans Associations and Community Bonds that reflect high levels of community involvement and management and local financial participation;

- introducing government guaranteed **Saskatchewan Development Bonds** as a financial instrument to allow Saskatchewan residents the opportunity to safely invest in job creation in their own communities. This small business equity financing will be directed towards commercially viable community and business projects. It builds upon the principles of Community Bonds that empower local people, rather than government bureaucrats to become directly involved in the economic development of Saskatchewan;

- a **small business equity investment tax incentive** will encourage equity participation in small and medium sized Saskatchewan companies;

- requesting Ottawa to **replace the offshore RRSP allowance** with a domestic small business equity investment RRSP allowance to divert equity capital towards small business investment in Saskatchewan;

- arranging for the development of a **Saskatchewan-based RRSP eligible provincial mutual fund** to invest in priority commercial development sectors such as food processing, tourism, energy and cultural industries; and,

- ending **capital grants** from government to business and, therefore, **abolishing the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation.**

The Growth Foundation will provide small scale repayable loans for micro business start-ups and expansion of less than \$10,000. This will remove a major barrier to those at the start of their economic careers or looking for options to welfare in self employment.

Export financing initiatives will be necessary to ensure that Saskatchewan exporters have full access to federal industrial and agricultural export financing and to fill gaps where federal programs do not meet Saskatchewan needs. Together, these initiatives allow Saskatchewan people to have safe and profitable new instruments to put their savings to work in Saskatchewan, and at the same time, create jobs at home, instead of offshore.

This approach shifts investment decisions from the government in Regina to individuals in communities. Widespread public participation in community, commercial public infrastructure and private diversification projects will be encouraged.

The tax and redirect practices of an NDP administration will be replaced in the investment market with support for individuals to invest directly. In this manner community values, local involvement and a much greater depth of financial responsibility is involved. In addition, political involvement and patronage will be removed from these essentially economic decisions.

This is a locally empowering partnership between Saskatchewan investors and their provincial government to mobilize an increased level of provincial savings for economic development and job creation.

EDUCATION, TRAINING & YOUTH

Education and training are essential in an economy and society in rapid change. The training systems of the universities, colleges and schools are not keeping pace with the changes. This requires new approaches towards course development and training. Skill shortages were identified in over forty trades and professions by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce in late 1994. The ties between the economy, society, education, government and business are too distant. Where they do exist, they are rigid and often only work through government as an intermediary.

Youth unemployment in Saskatchewan in 1994 stood at 10% or double the provincial unemployment rate. As many young people have lost jobs in Saskatchewan as the entire town of Humboldt. A SIAST graduate survey indicated that 55% of their graduates were either unemployed or under-employed after their training. Without meaningful work-related experiences, continuing education is pulling people into the trap of higher student debts, education inflation and discouraging and wasting scarce human resources.

For Saskatchewan, much of the public sector training and educational establishment has become a training facility for other provinces.

It's difficult to stay in Saskatchewan and make student loan payments. After three or four years of university we still only make minimum wages. Alberta and Manitoba both offer more better paying jobs and fairer tax treatment.

A Liberal government has an interest in seeing the education and labour training markets work better. This would be achieved by:

developing meaningful early work experiences for youth through an increased amount of **apprenticeship, cooperative and internship training** employment. Provisions will be made to ensure that provincial labour legislation or collective agreements do not place barriers to entry for this type of early work experience;

interest paid on **Saskatchewan Student Loans** should be **income tax deductible** for students working in Saskatchewan. This will help offset the lower wages paid to young people and encourage students to remain in Saskatchewan;

Business Training Councils will be supported in each sector involving labour, education, business and government interests to advance curriculum and training development and to improve the take up rate of Saskatchewan graduates in the province. Too many provincial training facilities have become out-of-province training subsidies for other provinces;

Personal Registered Training Plans (PRTPs) will be introduced into the tax system for individuals to recognize the life-long nature of training and retraining in the new economy. This will provide a tax credit account that can be developed through the years of employment to share training costs with government;

a **Business Training Tax Credit** will be introduced for business to increase the amount of in-house training, particularly in strategic sectors and industries experiencing shortages;

developing more **effective curriculum, training and re-training programs** in such areas as information management and electronic communications that essential for many new industries;

establishing **An Education/Economy Council** to improve the application of the research, training and education to Saskatchewan economic concerns and issues. Public investments in the Higher Education system now warrant an increased return for the provincial economy. The Presidents of both Universities will be asked to co-chair the Council and work with all levels of the education system to bring forward recommendations for action;

the Canada/Saskatchewan Labour Development Board will continue to provide a focus to improve the coordination of federal and provincial training funds in the province;

Distance Education will be increased to allow more training to occur in the work place and in homes for northern and rural residents. A pilot project will be developed for regional access points to high-speed, multi-media communications necessary for both education and modern industrial and economic information management; and,

changing government loan and grant criteria to **include part-time students**, recognizing the fact that there are now three part-time students for every one full-time student.

integrating and simplifying the bureaucratic and complex **credit transfer procedures** to reflect the increased mobility of students.

LEADERSHIP, PROMOTION AND COOPERATION

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will work cooperatively with the federal Liberal Government in Ottawa to reform the federal provincial equalization formulas and transfer arrangements to provide benefits and incentives for wealth creation and economic growth. Federal transfer payments to Saskatchewan should not inhibit economic growth and wealth creation. Governments should increasingly cooperate in developing regional interests within Canada and sharing the costs of services and infrastructure. Cooperative intergovernmental initiatives of a Saskatchewan Liberal Government would include:

Pan Western Economic and Administrative Initiatives with neighbouring western provinces to strengthen Saskatchewan presence in international markets, to promote Saskatchewan economic opportunities and to create new specialist regional health care, tourism and administrative facilities in Western Canada. This could include, for example the development of:

a "Mayo Clinic" style specialist health care facility in Saskatchewan to serve Western Canada;

the Moose Jaw CFB Air Base as a training base for regional air ambulance training in addition to pilot training; and,

ratifying and implementing the federal-provincial **Internal Trade Agreement** for Canada in order to maximize provincial access to growing regional markets across Western Canada.

Inviting other western provinces and the federal government to participate in a pan western **Cooperation Program** of administrative and policy research in order to strengthen western Canada's position within Confederation.

Working with the federal government to retain **Quebec in Canada**.

LEADERSHIP AND THE LIBERAL EXPERIENCE FACTOR

The senior economic leadership of Saskatchewan in both the public and private sectors must actively promote the economic development of Saskatchewan within the province, across Canada and around the world.

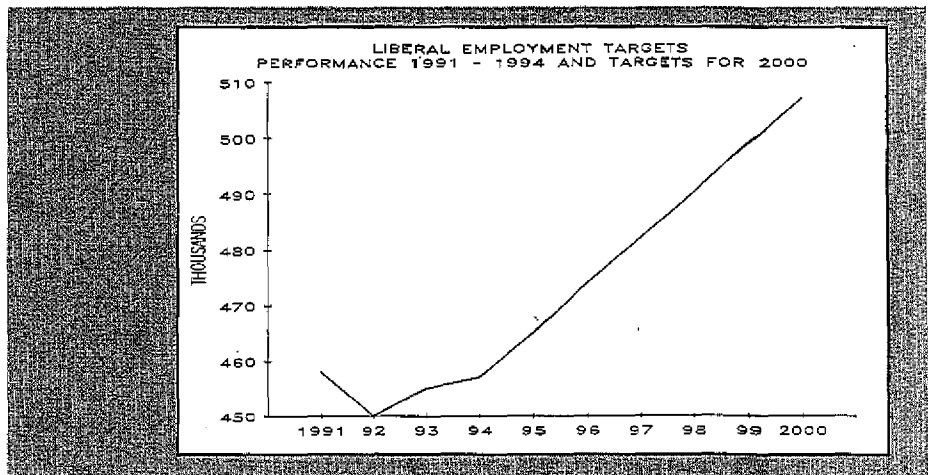
Lynda Haverstock is a competent, articulate and understanding spokesperson for Saskatchewan who can effectively and vigorously market its economic advantages for investment, employment and wealth creation.

Liberal candidates are experienced in all aspects of the economy. They include business people, agriculturalists, health care providers, senior managers, municipal and aboriginal leaders, educators, clergy and entrepreneurial and enterprising men and women.

SETTING TARGETS FOR THE ECONOMY TO GROW

Improving the climate for economic growth in all of the areas previously discussed will provide additional public revenues to lower taxes, increase investment and consumption, and create employment options for our young people to work at home.

The Liberal Economic Growth Strategy is, therefore, targeting a growth in employment of 50,000 jobs by the year 2000. This is well above the 20,000 target included in the last NDP Budget or even the 30,000 jobs in the NDP Partnership for Renewal Economic Strategy.



It is significant that this rate of economic growth in Saskatchewan is the rate at which private sector economists suggest would allow our young people to work at home.

Part Three

Healthy Communities People-Centred Government

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE:

The goal of the Liberal Government will be to protect and preserve the high quality of service in health care and education that people expect for their tax dollars. We intend to achieve our goal by implementing the Liberal Action Plan for smaller government and lower taxes. We will create a healthy, thriving economy that will produce more jobs and more taxpayers to support the services in our communities.

Our fiscal and economic plan will strive to offer everyone in Saskatchewan the dignity of employment. Liberals recognize that working people are happier, healthier, more productive members of society. We also recognize that people want safe communities.

Liberal policies respecting health care, education, justice, the environment, transportation and the economy will focus on building safe, healthy communities that offer citizens a high quality of life.

Liberals are committed to involving local people, their values, attitudes, beliefs, priorities and organisations in policies, programs and initiatives that make for healthy communities across Saskatchewan.

Liberals plan to make the sensible choices about government spending so that quality care and compassion can be quickly restored to our health care system. We will redirect money spent on bloated NDP political bureaucracy to better bedside nursing.

Liberals will secure the long-term financial resources we will need to protect funding levels for health care and education in our communities today and for the future.

HEALTH CARE REFORM WITH A HEART

Restoring the Human Touch to Health Care

Saskatchewan people accept the fact that health care must undergo changes to make it more efficient and effective. The new technologies in health care have made treatments available that were previously not possible. But with new treatments and services have come new costs, training requirements for staff and demands on their time. Also, some new technology has reduced hospital stays for patients recovering from surgery. All of these changes mean that we have to re-examine the delivery of health care services to determine what we can afford and what traditional services we cannot afford to lose.

In pursuing positive change, it is important to look for savings and efficiencies, but we must not lose sight of the human face of health care the way the NDP have done.

When change happens, it is important that everyone affected by the changes understands what the goals are and the process that will be used to reach them. People should be able to feel secure about the changes and not fearful that changes will put health care out of their reach because of where they live, how old they are or how much they can afford to pay.

The NDP started from the wrong end of the system. They began at the top and made decisions about how to protect the bureaucracy and administration. They politicized health care by appointing boards and dictating from the Department of Health in Regina about hospital closures and staff cuts before people had a chance to assess their needs in communities. Budgets were set before front-line professionals, patients or the local community had a chance to participate.

Liberals believe that the process of health care reform must change. Political health care reform must be replaced with health care with a heart.

We must clearly identify what services are essential to the system. We must consult with the professionals in the health care system to find the maximum distance for emergency coverage. We must ensure that full-care regional hospitals are available to everyone.

The first rule in patient care is to assess and stabilize the patient. Some of our communities are still in shock from NDP political health reform. Liberals will immediately ensure that all communities are returned to the "safety zone" for emergency care and then act with the guidance of professionals and communities to restore caring and common-sense to our Saskatchewan Health Care.

"The Saskatchewan Liberal Health Care Policy will protect the principles of Medicare. Access to Health Care services will be available regardless of where you live. Local communities and health care professionals on the front lines of patient care will be involved in decisions about health care under a Liberal Government in Saskatchewan."

HEALTH CARE REFORM – THE THREE C’S

Putting Care, Concern and Community Back into the Health System

Health Care has become a political football between Saskatchewan partisan interests. Everyone agrees that health care reform is necessary. However, reform of the system must, at the very least:

- listen to caregivers and those in need;
- not add layers of expensive bureaucratic and political complexity; and,
- not add cost to the system.

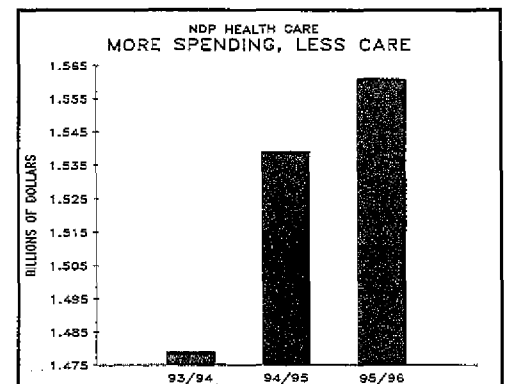
There are ways that can return care, concern and community to Saskatchewan Health Care! The NDP pursuit of a “wellness model” neglected to involve the taxpayers who foot the \$1.6 billion bill, the patients who use the system, and the health care system professionals who care for patients each day. Instead, the Department of Health working with NDP Politicians, established a new course of politicized and state directed medicine.

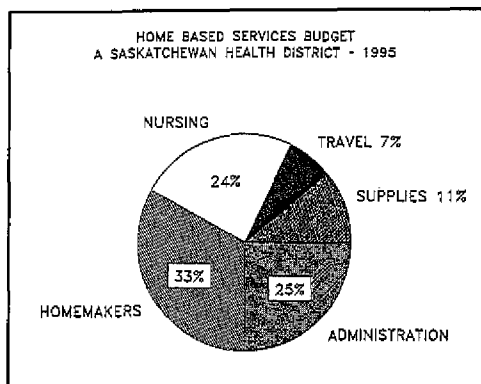
In the process of “NDP led reform” there is uncertainty for workers, increased cost and a reduced level of care for too many people and a massive increase in health care bureaucracy and cost in the District Boards.

The process of health care reform is not easy. But the NDP did not have to introduce another layer of expensive NDP politics in the regional health care boards and layers of bureaucratic administritivia; institute an administratively-driven NDP process from the Department of Health often ignoring the needs of physicians, health care professionals, patients and families; and, increase fear and uncertainty for patients and care providers with the never-ending reorganization and restructuring of the system.

Reform was made more difficult by closures before alternative services, such as ambulance service and home care, were put in place. The changes were made at added expense and at great emotional distress to both the health care workers and those in need of their care. Expensive and time-consuming travel was forced on patients, families and workers.

*“This blunderbuss method has meant a lot of people have suffered. It’s too bad because it didn’t have to be this way.”
Saskatchewan doctor*





"One small integrated health care facility used to require one level of decision making to make payments. Today, there are seven."

The current realities are that the NDP Wellness program is increasing health care costs, providing for a higher level of care in urban than rural areas, removing community and volunteer involvement and has introduced layers of bureaucracy into health care management.

"Costly government administration and a politicized system has been put in place at the expense of the essential needs of front-line care-givers and patients."

In spite of hospital closures, the cost of health actually increased by \$89 million dollars between 1993/4 and the 1995/96 Budget while service has declined under the Romanow NDP Administration.

In Saskatchewan, home-based health care has always involved many local and community volunteers and service organisations. Overhead costs have been low, work rules flexible and community-based home care has been highly cost effective. Under the NDP, the administrative and coordination costs now account for 25% of the cost of home-based services – money obtained at the expense of nursing and homemakers' salaries.

Today, administrative, accounting and personnel services are being duplicated and Health Districts are developing their own overlapping bureaucracies. Scarce tax dollars fund bureaucracy while front-line providers lose their jobs.

The public expect quality, affordable health care for the \$1.6 billion they spend on the system each year. The Liberal solution for health care involves removing politics and bureaucracy from the health care system by returning more power to communities which will allow for a "community-driven, care provider, patient-driven system".

A Liberal Government will put the brakes on and let the people catch up to what has happened, will assess which changes are working, and go back and fix what isn't. A team with hands-on experience in health care delivery will help to assess each region, one at a time, and listen to people's concerns about where the problems are medically, financially and socially. We can fix the NDP created problems in health care if we slow down, identify the problems and listen to one another.

LIBERAL PRINCIPLES FOR HEALTH CARE

A Liberal Government will build on the traditional Saskatchewan values of community, cooperation and volunteerism to improve the Health Care System by:

removing politics and restoring local involvement to ensure that health services are designed and controlled by the people they are meant to serve;

amending the Health Districts Act to allow Health Districts to fulfil a facilitative role for community identified initiatives and priorities;

re-establishing access to health care services in urban, rural and northern areas;

providing the public with improved health care information and incentives for health; and,

halting the exodus of physicians, health professionals and surgeons from Saskatchewan.

A Liberal Government is committed to:

maintaining quality health care in all parts of the province with first class regional hospitals in all regions;

ensuring that communities who have lost their hospitals or had them converted have sufficient emergency and back-up services like 911 and air ambulance access;

providing an increased level of security and certainty to the front-line workers who deliver the system;

removing those layers of politics and bureaucracy that take away from patient care to save on politics, not on patient care.

LIBERAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Specific Health Care Initiatives of a Liberal Government will be:

HEALTH CARE BUDGET

The \$1.6 billion Health Care Budget will be maintained for the Health Care System. Savings that will be made in administrative costs and political overhead will be directed towards front-line care, not the Treasury Board in Regina.

Saskatchewan people expect better performance from the \$1.6 billion of tax dollars spent on health care in Saskatchewan. When Federal funding moves towards block funding, a Saskatchewan Liberal Government will be ready to act on the opportunities that system improvements will provide for better health care in Saskatchewan.

FORUM

Saskatchewan health care has been in turmoil for too long. Rather than imposing another round of disruptive changes on the system, a Liberal Government will convene a Health Care Forum to annually review and make recommendations on new directions for the New Saskatchewan Medicare. Unlike the NDP who have limited topics for discussion, the **Health Care Forum** will address all issues of significance to the health care system. This would include topics such as level and growth of administration, decision making, community interests, new financing options, quality control, approved activities,

"Purely as a physician, I consider it dangerous to have no acute care between the U.S. border 30 miles south of Mankota and Moose Jaw (165 miles) and Swift Current, 130 miles the other way. At the other end there is too much pressure on beds in Swift Current and Moose Jaw."
Dr. Lewis Draper,
Gravelbourg.

physician and professional requirements, tax treatment, direct investment and information systems. It will bring together all of the stakeholders in the system to participate in the decision making process.

REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICTS

New roles will be defined for **Regional Health Districts** with revisions to the Health Districts Act including their role as service agencies, facilitators and cooperative arrangements for management. Volunteer health boards will be re-introduced into the system to ensure that community, church and other social agencies are welcomed, accommodated into, and respected within the health care system. Agreements with members of the Rural Health Coalition and church affiliates will be respected and accommodated in the new framework. District boundaries will be based on regional service delivery areas and the natural flow for trade and commerce.

Elections on District Boards will proceed to remove the political appointments and to allow real local participation by communities.

PROVINCIAL STANDARDS

Provincial standards for health care will be defined and monitored to ensure that the current two stage rural urban level of health care provision does not continue and that equal and reasonable access is made available to all residents of the province regardless of their location.

FULL SERVICE REGIONAL HOSPITALS

The NDP promised to develop regional hospitals to provide all districts with fully-equipped surgical hospital to compensate for any services lost at the local level when hospitals were closed or converted to "Wellness Centres".

This has not been the case. Regional Hospitals have undergone dramatic reductions in nursing staff, bed closures and financing problems.

A Liberal Government will move immediately to ensure that the level of service and patient care being offered at Regional Hospitals is adequate to meet the needs of the surrounding communities. Funding will be redirected from provincial, regional and district administration and bureaucracy to patient care and health services. Major hospitals must continue to provide the research and teaching environments necessary to attract and keep specialists in Saskatchewan.

Patient Information

Establish a **consumer-based health care information system** as a preventative device to provide individuals with simple diagnostic information for routine inquiries. This can be established on a 1-800 number and as a world-wide web site on the Internet and continue Saskatchewan's leadership position in personal health care.

Part of improved information will be **Personal Health Care Plans** to provide individuals with information on their personal use of the health care system. These would be electronically connected to "smart" provincial health care and drug cards to record usage and report to users annually. This will provide residents with more information on their health care use, costs and options.

Health Care Organization

The administrative burden of health care must be shifted in favour of front-line care-givers. A smaller, publicly-funded **Saskatchewan Health Care Organization** will take over many of the functions of the existing Department of Health and the Health industry regulatory and insurance structure.

This public, non-profit organization would be financed through the tax system as at present through an annual grant from the government to the Health Care Organization. It would be a fully public provincial health care management system. It could take the form of a public non-profit corporation or a cooperative. This provides several benefits and would:

- remove the **political interference** that continues across provincial governments and by which health care spending peaks with every provincial election;

- provide for **savings on purchases** of major items for health care districts;

- provide a **streamlined, cost-effective accounting** and management control system for the whole health care system;

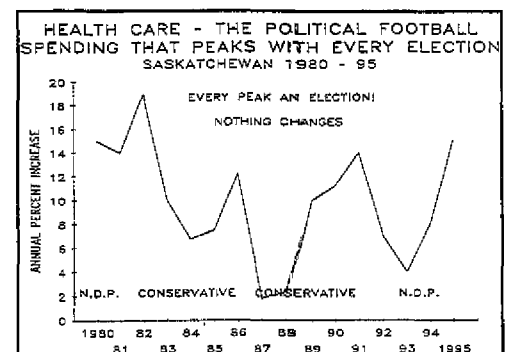
- allow for extra provincial resources to be developed by providing services through **regional treatment facilities** for Western Canada;

- allow the **public to participate directly** in the management of the health care system;

- provide for the **professional and non-partisan** management in the running of all aspects of the health care system;

- achieve **province-wide economies of scale** that may exist across regional boards; and,

- incorporate **Health Care Charities** into the system as working partners, not outsiders helping out.



Drug Costs

Examine the fiscal requirement for continuing the \$1700 annual deductible on the Saskatchewan Drug Plan and look at ways to make drug costs less of a burden for the chronically ill and seniors.

Mental Health Care

Little recognition has been given to the effects of addiction, Alzheimer's, mental and chronic illness on family units. This accounts for increased costs due to absenteeism and additional health issues. A Liberal Government will take action on coordinating existing services for family members and identifying where they are lacking to improve service.

Seniors

Saskatchewan has an aging population with increasingly specialized health care demands. Seniors are one of the fastest growing parts of the Saskatchewan population. A Liberal Government is committed to develop a Centre of Excellence on Elder Care as well as examining seniors issues with their full participation. We will explore and implement an affordable drug plan for seniors, within the first term of office.

Rural and Northern Health Care

Rural and Northern Health Care require special attention. Developments under the NDP to consolidate, regionally centralize and centrally control the health care system allowed fiscal priorities to over-ride human values.

Access to quality health care at affordable cost is now lost to many rural and northern residents. In many cases, it has never existed in the North. While there is widespread agreement that it was time for some degree of health care reform, it is apparent that in rural and northern Saskatchewan, the health care system is not working for all the people. Accordingly, a Liberal Government will:

- establish a **Rural Health Care System Council** of all the participants in the health care system including physicians, nurses, administrators, professionals, government, boards, community and volunteer interests and patients. The Council will make recommendations for changes to the rural health care system to be implemented in the 1996 Budget;

- establish a **Northern Health Care System Council** of all the participants in the health care system including physicians, nurses, administrators, professionals, government, boards, community and volunteer interests and patients. The Council will make recommendations for changes to the northern health care system to be implemented in the 1996 Budget;

- introduce an **electronic provincial Health Care Information and Diagnostic Network** to reduce the stressful emergency travel now associated with the "wellness model" and to provide specialist services in northern and rural areas; and,

"A Liberal Health Care policy will return community, care and cooperation to our Health Care System."

provide the **Emergency Access System** with access to current communications technologies involving a province-wide 911 HELP system, broader cellular coverage and in transit diagnostics. The role and cost of helicopters in emergency treatment will be examined.

Introduce rural and northern internships as part of the medical training at the University of Saskatchewan.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

As the population of rural Saskatchewan ages, moves and restructures, the community and municipal base of the province is rapidly changing. Yet, local municipalities continue to provide the level of government closest to the people and offer a great range of services often in competition with the Province.

A Liberal Government will **examine the roles and functions of the three levels of government** with the objective of moving an increased level of public service delivery and, **the related financing**, towards local authorities.

Municipal Charters in a new Municipal Government Act will define the new range of functions and financing for local government in Saskatchewan.

Community consolidation assistance will be provided for very small communities of less than one hundred people with no school, elevator, hospitals or business outlet. Relocation allowances would be paid from system savings associated with reduced demands on the road system, improved health care, municipal and retail services and police protection in the larger community. They provide a basis for the voluntary community amalgamation of the community structure of rural Saskatchewan.

FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS DEVELOPMENT

First Nations and Métis peoples are a founding and growing part of Saskatchewan society. Increasingly, they have moved into our larger cities and face problems of economic and social development. A Liberal Government in Saskatchewan will recognize their interest in managing their own resources and public services within the province.

FIRST NATIONS

Liberals are committed to:

the concept of the **inherent right of self-government** for First Nations people;

recognizing the treaties entered into by First Nations as a foundation for defining some of the basic roles and responsibilities of various levels and types of governments in Saskatchewan; and,

entering into a process of discussion and negotiations with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations with the objective of clarifying each government's areas of jurisdiction so that Saskatchewan can vacate the **areas of jurisdiction** which rightfully belong to First Nations.

These negotiations would be incorporated within a **Saskatchewan First Nations Act** to provide a new framework of First Nations/Provincial relations in Saskatchewan.

URBAN INDIANS

Urban Indians today form an important and growing part of Saskatchewan's cities. These city dwellers face special problems of employment, adjustment and housing. Liberal programs for community economic development are developed to meet the special needs of many inner city residents, including urban Indians. These urban community development initiatives will focus upon assisting local and community-based interests to improve opportunities for inner city and urban Indian development with creative and innovative community enhancement, social service and entrepreneurial employment, training and internship projects.

MÉTIS

The Métis people have always been treated as a forgotten people. Liberals recognize and support the contributions Métis have made to Saskatchewan. A Liberal Government also recognizes that there are benefits to forms of self-government for Métis people and will rapidly enter into discussions with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan on drafting and implementing a **Métis Act** to further define and facilitate self-government for Métis people.

The essential requirement for Métis registration and enumeration will be completed in the first term of a Haverstock Liberal Administration.

FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS PROGRAM DELIVERY

Too many Government of Saskatchewan social, health and legal services do not involve local involvement by some of their largest client groups. A Liberal government will work closely with First Nations and Métis organisations to examine **new forms of service delivery at the local level** in such areas as legal aid, welfare and child services, health, the criminal justice system and other social services.

FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

First Nations and Métis Economic Development will be a priority for a Liberal Saskatchewan government. In the years ahead, young aboriginal people will be the largest single group entering the Saskatchewan labour force. Many of Saskatchewan's new entrepreneurs are emerging financed through treaty settlements, progressive band management or simple hard work and enterprise. Empowering First Nations and Métis communities to assume larger roles in the Saskatchewan economy will provide for increased employment, lower taxes and benefits for the whole province.

WELFARE REFORM

Too many people in Saskatchewan are on welfare with little hope of moving towards employment. Too many children are not fed adequately through no fault of their own. A centralized bureaucracy to dole out welfare funds is simply building higher walls around what has now, for too many people, become the welfare trap. Too many employable young people receive welfare and have little incentive to work or train.

In 1991, there were 57,199 people on welfare in Saskatchewan. By December 1994, that number had grown to 80,754.

We need a system to ensure that basic needs are provided for and that will not penalize people for trying to improve themselves.

The cost of welfare in Saskatchewan is simply not affordable in either human or financial terms. Today, we have almost 84,000 people on social assistance. The money we could save by providing meaningful work to reduce those costs by even 25% would free-up huge resources to be applied to more productive ends.

It is not acceptable that children go hungry.

Children should not be penalized for the economic position of their parents.

"While the causes of poverty are deeply rooted in the international and national economic structure of our society, the potential for reclaiming and creating wealth at the local community level should not be minimized. A community economic development approach provides people with strategies for developing greater community self reliance, long term well-being and human dignity."
Community Economic Development Resource Group, 1995

A Liberal Government will focus on reforming the welfare system with the goal of using social assistance as "a leg up" to get people back into their communities as productive, tax-paying citizens with a sense of dignity and self-worth. Work is essential to a positive mental outlook, a state of well-being and healthy family units with positive role models for children.

Liberals would encourage all people to become full participants in society. A Liberal Government will, therefore, undertake the following measures to commence reform of the welfare system:

undertake a review with welfare recipients, charitable agencies and others of **Constructive Options for Reform of the Welfare System**, including introduction of a negative income tax and incentives for participating in the economic or social base of the community; and,

a **Food for Thought Program** will be introduced for all elementary schools in neighbourhoods with low incomes and a high incidence of welfare recipients.

This program will be financed by a partnership between charitable agencies, the corporate sector and government. It will be delivered locally through local community organisations or school boards who will determine the exact format of the program to meet local dietary preferences and available local resources.

Pilot projects in community, charitable, government and private sector work will be undertaken in some centres linking welfare payments to access to meaningful employment and social service. This experience will be used to develop practical program alternatives to more effectively use the current annual welfare budget that now exceeds five hundred million dollars (\$500 for every person in the province).

Examples of innovative, creative and cost-effective community economic development projects exist in many parts of Saskatchewan and Canada. They include, for example, Housing Cooperatives, the Neechi Foods Cooperative in Winnipeg, The Edmonton Recycling Society, Habitat for Humanity, New Dawn Enterprises in Cape Breton, Street City in Toronto, and many others. Developments in Saskatchewan could include greenhouse food production, inner city training programs, day-care, community and recreational programs. A Liberal Government will reform welfare program arrangements to encourage welfare recipients and other low income people to fully participate in the social and economic development of their communities.

The Growth Foundation will provide for the development of small scale micro-businesses for social welfare recipients. This approach recognizes that a Liberal government will invite all participants in society to enter "mainstream" activities and will support their individual efforts to do so. The Cal Meadows Foundation and S.E.E.D. Winnipeg are two successful operating examples of community development models. They provide enterprise development training and loan capital of \$10,000 or less for people on low incomes to set up micro-enterprises.

Local municipalities will be invited to identify social, economic and recreational projects for the betterment of their communities to provide **sustainable employment opportunities** for welfare recipients.

Options to deliver **welfare locally** will be examined with local government with the objective of tailoring welfare more closely to community values and standards.

Related initiatives will be undertaken to improve the efficiency of the current welfare system.

A higher level of **bank and credit union participation will be obtained in the welfare system.** Currently, many recipients without bank accounts lose seven to fifteen percent of their cheque on cashing the cheque. Where possible, welfare funds should be electronically transferred to accounts. This will require an improved level of training and education by banks for welfare recipients to be able to easily use their systems.

Welfare funds given to some recipients for **school fees should go directly to School Boards.** In some cases, parents spend these education funds. Inner city schools find themselves making up the difference.

*Self Employment and
Economic Development
(S.E.E.D)
During the first two
years of operation
S.E.E.D Winnipeg
helped start, stabilize
or expand 30 businesses.*

SAFE COMMUNITIES

Many Saskatchewan communities are no longer safe. Violent crime grew by nearly 20% between 1990 and 1993 to reach over 1200 crimes per 100,000 people. Much of this crime involves young people, who as young offenders, have become a major addition to court loads.

Too many people in Saskatchewan no longer feel safe in their homes, schools or communities. A Liberal government will address problems in the administration of justice, as well as the root causes of crime.

*Law and order is a
primary role of
government.*

The goal of the criminal justice system is to protect Saskatchewan residents from criminals. Too many in the province today see the system as safeguarding the rights of criminals at the cost of victims and at taxpayers expense. The costs of criminal justice in terms of administrative complexity and expense, waiting time to get to court, jail and rehabilitation costs all suggest the urgent need for reform.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will therefore work to:

- increase the use of the court system through the use of **night courts** to reduce delays in reaching justice;

- reduce the amount of **paperwork for police** to enable them to fight crime rather than paperwork;

- reduce the **processing times** necessary for arrest. This will allow police to return to policing the streets rather than processing the villains;

- develop a **community policing program** to bring the community back into the administration of local justice;

- expand the start that has been made on **local sentencing options** including sentencing circles and other effective, community based approaches that can more adequately reflect local values and more quickly administer justice;

- create **community youth justice committees** from volunteer parents, former young offenders, justice officials and community leaders. These youth committees have been shown to be able to quickly administer justice, reduce backlogs and reflect juvenile standards;

- physical, social and economic violence against children and families will be treated with zero tolerance. Extended **outreach and community shelters** will be developed as part of the provincial community development initiatives. Strengthened legislation will be introduced to **enforce maintenance** provisions in separation agreements; and,

- the **Legal Aid System** will be reviewed and restructured to better meet the needs of its clients, including the involvement of a larger number of First Nation and Metis lawyers and community leaders in the process.

Ultimately, the root causes of crime lie in the lack of development and employment opportunities for many people and communities. Social, economic and community development initiatives developed elsewhere in the Liberal Action Plan can, therefore, make major contributions to reducing levels of crime in Saskatchewan.

EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN

Children represent the future of our communities, our economy and our province. Developments in social structures, technology and skill requirements mean that local systems of education, training and retraining in the home, local schools, community, recreational, sport and business organisations must be continually improved. Progressive education provides our children and young people with a full set of social and economic skills to live successful and productive lives. It requires a re-appraisal of the pre-school, school and after-school care, education and training needs and facilities available in our communities.

A Liberal Haverstock Administration is committed to:

- improving the quality of care, education and training available to Saskatchewan children in their home communities;
- setting standards of care, education and training that meet or exceed national levels;
- providing communities with state-of-the-art education, communications and training infrastructure;
- securing the necessary resources to finance the system; and,
- increasing the level of involvement of parents, communities and business in developing the system.

Key elements in the Liberal approach to providing our children with the best care and educational infrastructure for growth are:

- a commitment to effective and **affordable child-care**, that is so essential for today's working parents and the full development and care of their children, including recognition of the importance of home-based care;
- tax treatments** reflecting the importance of child-care, education, training and retraining in society;
- increasing the level of **community and parent involvement** in education;
- reducing administrative costs** in provincial and school board management to provide additional resources for **smaller classes and more teachers**;
- co-operating with other western provinces** to share the costs of common western curricula and core subject area development with the full involvement of front-line teachers, community and economic interests;

Healthy communities grow offer care and attention to the pre-school, school and out-of-school environments available to our children.

developing **special-needs requirements** for Saskatchewan children in both urban and rural areas to develop academic, social and technical skills;

co-ordinating social service, health and law enforcement policies for children in key schools to **free-up teachers to teach**;

establishing **provincial standards** for all aspects of child care and education system that meet national and international levels;

connecting all urban and rural schools into a **provincial information highway network** to allow all children opportunities to both access global information and to develop skills for the new economy and society; and,

providing increased opportunities for **distance education** for university, apprenticeship and technical training in a wider range of urban and rural communities.

Part Four

Trimming the Fat from Government Smaller, More Accountable Government

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE:

While people, communities and business have all changed over the past twenty years, there has been little reform of Government. Farmers, large and small business and families all adjusted their budgets, behaviours and ways of doing business. Government continued to grow.

Partisan political priorities have too often taken precedence over the public interest. Politicians and bureaucrats have become increasingly distant from the taxpayers who pay their bills. Court cases resulting in criminal convictions of NDP and Conservative MLAs underline the need for reform to prevent further abuses of the political system. People no longer trust government. Public confidence in government must be restored.

No taxation without representation has been a long established tenet of democratic systems. Far too much spending in today's Saskatchewan government is away from public review and scrutiny.

In less than four years, the Romanow Administration has become more and more controlling with little interest in the people's agenda. Consultation has been a superficial exercise at best. It is time to reform government... time to change the rules for politicians... time to decentralize decision making away from Regina towards people and communities.

It is time for smaller government.

Liberals have great faith in the judgement of Saskatchewan people. We have faith in their ability to make the right decisions. We have faith in their capacity to handle the social and economic decisions of the day with fairness. The people of the province must live with, and pay for, the consequences of government policies. Their input must be respected.

In 1969 under the last Liberal Administration of Ross Thatcher,

*Premier's office had 42 staff and
Provincial Government was 11% of the Saskatchewan Economy.*

By 1980 after the Blakeney NDP years of the 1970s:

*Premier's Office had grown to a staff of 90 and
Provincial Government had grown to 17% of Saskatchewan's Economy.*

Today in 1995, after only one term of the Romanow NDP Administration:

*Premier's office is still up at 88 staff and
Provincial Government is now 21% of the Saskatchewan Economy.*

*The Liberal Provincial Government collected \$339 million in 1969 to run its
government. Today, the NDP collect over \$5 billion to serve the same number of
people.*

There is no doubt that

Government of Saskatchewan Operating and Economic Statistics

	1969	1980	1995
Total Provincial Government Revenues (\$million)	339	2,018	5,166
Total Provincial Government Expenditures (\$million)	638	2,018	5,141
Size of the Economy (Gross Domestic Product Nominal \$million)	3,131	12,414	24,121
Government Expenditures as % of Economy (%)	1.4	17.1	20.9
Staff in the Premier's Office	42	90	88

Source: Annual Estimates, Saskatchewan Department of Finance
Economic Review, Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics

POLITICAL REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Reform of government starts with its leaders and the legislative process they show to the world. Generous pensions, large cabinets, overspending, the mockery of Question Period and the House Committee Systems, the lack of accountability of members and caucuses for expenditures, all require modernizing to meet a higher level of ethical and accountable behaviour. The following reforms to the political process represent a start at a new approach towards governing in Saskatchewan.

MLA PENSION REFORM

The Pensions for some MLAs under NDP government proposals offered the prospect of million dollar pension endowments for Mr. Romanow, Mr. Tchorzewski, Mr. Lingenfelter and others. Such pension arrangements, paid for largely with taxpayer dollars, are not fair. They are far more generous than received by the public at large for a lifetime of hard work.

Liberals believe pension arrangements made for politicians should be commensurate with the standards of the day for the public at large. Lynda Haverstock, therefore, led the public call for pension reform for the senior NDP politicians that resulted in the government introducing a modest reduction of their own pensions.

Even after the NDP were forced to roll-back their pensions with a 70% cap, this still leaves the Premier and senior Cabinet Ministers with million dollar pensions as the comparison below makes clear. These high profile NDP Cabinet Members would all receive the following amounts of money by their 80th birthday assuming they retired in 1995:

"NDP to cap MLA pensions"

Liberal Leader Lynda Haverstock credited the intense pressure in the legislature and the media for forcing the Government's hand."
Regina Leader Post, May 5th, 1995

"Opposition politicians, especially Liberal Leader Lynda Haverstock have criticized the Premier, Mr. Tchorzewski and other senior members for remaining under the plan."
Globe and Mail, May 4, 1995

NDP Pension Reform	Before <u>Roll-Back</u>	After <u>Roll-Back</u>
	dollars	dollars
Premier Roy Romanow	\$2,268,120	\$1,610,256
Deputy Premier Ed Tchorzewski	\$1,837,080	\$1,683,864
Ned Shillington	\$1,647,374	\$1,643,169
Dwain Lingenfelter*	\$1,448,570	\$1,278,150

*(Begins collecting in 1999 to 80th birthday)

After the election, a new government will again consider the McDowell Commission recommendation for salary increases that would further increase these pensions after 1999.

These “rolled-back” pension arrangements are still out of line with the standards of the day. Accordingly, a Liberal government will introduce **The MLA Pension Reform Act** to reform the Pensions for these members. While individual MLAs may make their own pension arrangements in addition to the Legislative Plan, taxpayers’ dollars should not be used to provide personal financial security for MLAs at levels well beyond the protections offered the rest of society.

SET TIMETABLES

Set Timetables for elections, sessions and budgets will be introduced to avoid the artificial manipulation of the economy and spending for short-term electoral purposes. **Set timetables** will increase accountability and will decrease costs. Constituency days will be scheduled each week to ensure local access to MLAs while the House is sitting.

The **next provincial Election** after this June election will be held in the second full week of June, 1999.

Budgets will be tabled annually in the first full week in March.

CODE OF ETHICS

The present **Code of Ethics** introduced by the NDP has no teeth. **Liberals will implement a Legislated Code of Ethical Conduct** for Members of the Legislature. This will provide clearer rules and consequences for misconduct. **Anti-Corruption Legislation** will provide sanctions for the use of public funds for partisan political purposes thus ending decades questionable financial practices. In both cases, there will be costs for breaking the approved codes of behaviour.

FREE VOTES

An increase in the number of **Free Votes** will be allowed to ensure that the views of constituents are fully reflected in the Legislature. **Free Votes** will be encouraged on issues of conscience. Elected MLAs should be encouraged, not punished, for representing the views of their constituents.

IMPROVING ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC

The process of public input into government is totally structured through the political party machinery and an increasingly political bureaucracy. Many members of the public not associated with the governing party become excluded from important decisions. A Liberal government would address these issues directly by:

- using **legislative committees** to consult with the electorate in advance of all major policy decisions;

- devoting one evening per month during sessions to public access when groups can present concerns or **briefs to the Committee of the Whole**;

- making widespread use of **1-800 numbers** to solicit input from a wider public on major issues;

- formally soliciting and releasing **public opinion** on major development issues in the province; and,

- integrating **telephone referenda** to contribute to the decision-making process.

SUNSET PROVISIONS

Transparency will be introduced into the major operations of government, including the Board of Internal Economy. Programs involving public expenditures in excess of \$20 million will include **sunset and public evaluation** provisions prior to renewal.

PATRONAGE

The Romanow NDP Administration have raised patronage to new highs with their political appointments to many Boards and the Public Service. Patronage will be addressed in a Haverstock Liberal Administration with a **Professional Appointments Code** that will govern all professional appointments.

Political appointments by a Haverstock government will be made by Order in Council with public announcements. There will be an expectation that **these appointments will end when the government calls an election**.

All other appointments will be made through the Public Service Commission and meet the requirements of the **Professional Appointments Code**.

PUTTING BACKBENCHERS TO WORK

Too many elected politicians are left on the backbenches with little role in the operation of government. A Liberal Government will make increased use of **All Party Committees** in major policy initiatives and incorporate the results of this work into government policy.

FISCAL REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Long-term fiscal security will be achieved through the following reforms:

DEBT PLAN

The **Liberal Debt Reduction Plan** will reduce the debt by \$1.9 billion by the end of the first term under a Haverstock Liberal Administration. This will be achieved through cuts to the size of government, improvements in the efficiency of government and increased revenues from economic growth. It reduce the Government's debt twice as fast as the NDP Budget Plan.

A LIBERAL TAXPAYERS' PROTECTION ACT

A **Liberal Taxpayers' Protection Act** will provide for complete disclosure of all tax rates in the province of Saskatchewan. Key requirements of the Act will be:

- tabling of the **Provincial Debt Reduction Plan** as part of the Annual Budget that details how the provincial Debt will be eliminated;

- to establish a **25 year Debt Reduction Schedule** providing for the annual payments necessary to retire the debt of Executive Government over that period. This would be similar to paying down the mortgage on a home;

- for the **Provincial Auditor** to monitor and report on progress towards meeting previous targets and explain why they have been not met, met or exceeded. Results of progress on debt reduction should be published in local newspapers to allow the public to be kept fully informed of the debt reduction schedule;

- to limit the use of **windfall or unexpected revenues** from natural resources or asset sales from government or Crown Corporations to be applied to debt reduction and not general revenues; and,

Binding Referenda on all measures to increase taxes until the provincial debt reduction target has been met. This ensures that the public have a voice in any area of increased taxation.

PUBLIC SERVICE, GOVERNMENT REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Partisan politics and patronage threatens to destroy our professional public service.

The Public Service Commission will be appointed by an All-Party Legislative Committee.

A new **Public Service Act** will provide clear protections and sanctions for the political removal of public servants employed under the Act and dismissed without professional cause.

Whistle-blower Legislation will provide protection for public servants providing information necessary to the operation and reform of government.

A strengthened **Oath of Office** will be taken by all senior managers in the Government of Saskatchewan from Deputy Minister to Executive Director. This will fully respect the ethical and fiscal interests of the public of Saskatchewan and not just one political party.

A **smaller, more accountable government** will characterize a Haverstock Liberal Administration with only fifteen Departments and agencies of government, in contrast to the current 27 Departments and agencies. This will mean fewer Ministers, fewer Deputy Ministers and less layers of management. Individual Departments of government will become financially accountable. Liberals will reduce the number of Government Departments from 27 to 15 by 1998.

"What has been created in our provincial civil service is a climate of fear and mistrust. People believe that to have a career in Saskatchewan they have two options: to support the government and wear a Party pin in their lapel, knowing that no matter how good a job they do, their career will end when the government loses, or keep their heads down and their opposing politics a deep dark secret hoping that they can hide out until their Party comes to power. This mentality and behaviour has got to be replaced or it will destroy all of the talent in our province."

Lynda Haverstock

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

Each government department will become a fully accountable cost centre for their operations. **Performance standards** will be introduced for public servants and 20% of management and out-of-scope salaries will be linked to performance. Incentives will be introduced to save taxpayers' money.

Ongoing Efficiency and Productivity Audits will be conducted in each Department under the direction of the Provincial Auditor with support from government and private sector efficiency experts.

CUTTING COSTS

Expenditure reduction incentives will be introduced for public servants who identify and realize savings for the government in operating costs. Pay increases for both politicians and public servants will be linked to their performance in reducing the cost of government. Penalties will be imposed on Ministers and their Deputies if budgets are not met.

CROWN CORPORATION REFORM

There is as much political patronage, waste and mismanagement in the Government Crown Corporations as there is in Government. Perhaps there is more. Even though our Crown utilities are publicly owned, the rates paid for telephones, power and natural gas are subject to frequent and unpredictable increases that occurred 8 times since October, 1991.

When the price of natural gas fell in October of last year, the government collected extra windfall profits until March when the rates, under considerable public pressure, were adjusted retroactively to January.

The government has another Crown Corporation called the Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) that has the right to invest in projects, many of which lose money. CIC requires no legislative approval to spend money and provides no timely or adequate accounting to the Provincial Auditor. All of these multi-million dollar companies are managed indirectly by the governing party through appointed boards with no accountability to their owners – the public.

Liberals believe that if Saskatchewan people are best served through government owned Crown Corporation utilities, then these large businesses should be run in a publicly accountable and fully efficient way.

At a minimum they must meet the public accountability requirements of other publicly traded companies in Canada. The ideal public utility would have:

- Open accountability
- Non-political management
- Fair, competitive rates
- A stable positive return on the public's investment
- Protection for the public from excessive price increases by a provincial regulatory structure to ensure fairness.

A Haverstock Liberal Administration will place Saskatchewan Crown Corporations under a more open accountability structure to provide for reporting, management and pricing responsibilities comparable to those required for publicly traded companies. These will be included in the **Crown Corporations Management Act**.

CROWN CORPORATIONS MANAGEMENT ACT

A new Liberal Crown Corporations Management Act will make provision for:

- quarterly reporting of results of Crown corporations;
- board and management compliance with normal Corporations; and Securities Law requirements for public companies;
- installing professional management and boards;
- public accounting and prior financing approval for government, policy or program initiatives delivered through Crown Corporations; and,
- the public regulation and approval of utility prices to be monitored and managed outside of Cabinet

A Public Utilities Prices Review Commissioner and All-Party Board will be established with a mandate to set utility rates on a formula to keep prices at or below competitive levels.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Regional cooperation will be explored between western utilities in the provision of service and the development of capacity with the objective of lower overhead costs and rates.

GAMBLING REFORM

Historically, gaming has been a form of community fund raising in Saskatchewan. The gambling policies of the NDP are draining financial resources from communities and people least able to afford them, creating increased demand for rehabilitation services. A recent, detailed cost-benefit analysis of the effect of gambling in Manitoba suggested that gambling creates false expectations.

The Liberal Party believes that the social problems that arise from large scale gambling in the form of casinos and unrestricted VLTs far outweigh the financial benefits. It is imperative that a fair portion of the dollars obtained through gaming be redirected back to the communities from which they were taken.

"Initially, there are new benefits, and mostly the benefit is tax revenue for government. But it also has a depressing effect on the local economy because it sucks out so much money." (University of Winnipeg economist, Regina Leader-Post, April 24, 1995)

BUILDING ON COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Liberals recognize that Saskatchewan communities have a "pitch-in and help-out" spirit that must be preserved and promoted. NDP gambling policies have set the provincial government in competition with charitable organisations and community non-profit groups working hard to improve their communities and meet local needs.

Liberal gaming policy will make the health and well-being of communities and their volunteers the number one priority. A Liberal Government will, therefore:

- appoint a **Volunteer Secretariat** to the Saskatchewan Gaming Commission to ensure that the well-being of charitable organisations remain at the core of gaming policies;

- respect any request to prohibit VLTs or casinos in a community which is supported by a **majority local plebiscite**;

- oppose a provincial referenda** on gaming because the majority of vote are cast in large cities who determine the decision for all communities. Options for smaller communities to express their views and be listened to will be maintained in a Liberal Government;

- abolish the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation**, which was created unnecessarily and apply any equity from sale of its assets against the debt;

- control casino gaming through the **Gaming Commission** managed through licensed professionals;

- guarantee 50% of the government VLT profits **up to \$45 million will be returned for community investment** (VLT revenues are shown as taking an estimated \$90 million in the 1995 NDP Budget);

- conclude an economic evaluation** of the number of casinos that could be viable in Saskatchewan. No market research has been tabled to justify the agreements entered into by the NDP Administration for five casinos in the province, in addition to the existing charitable casinos;

- a new **Provincial Gambling Act** will closely regulate the gaming industry and provide for penalties for those who break the rules; and,

- a Liberal government would **work with Saskatchewan First Nations** to ensure that all Casinos comply with Saskatchewan regulations.

Conclusion

This Liberal Action Plan for Lower Taxes, Better Health Care, More Jobs and Smaller Government has been developed following a province-wide policy process by the Liberal Party of Saskatchewan. It has involved consultations and discussion with experts and industries from across Canada, with input by concerned Saskatchewan citizens, businesses, social activists, First Nations and Métis leaders and health care professionals.

The Liberal Party of Saskatchewan thanks all who have contributed for their constructive input towards a better Saskatchewan.

Our Action Plan shows that there is A Better Way to manage Saskatchewan. Realizing the benefits for lower taxes, better health care and more jobs in the Action Plan now requires a change in Government – the election of a Haverstock Liberal Government for Saskatchewan.

Appendix A:

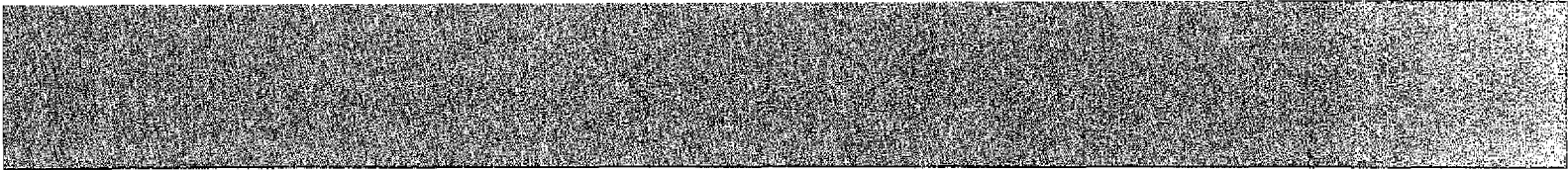
ACCOUNTING FOR A BETTER WAY TO LOWER TAXES,
REDUCE THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT,
CUT THE DEBT AND CREATE JOBS.

Summary Table	1996	1997	1998	1999
Liberal Tax Cuts				
(\$ millions)	140	270	395	520
Liberal Savings				
(\$ millions)	403	293	208	218
New Liberal Programs				
(\$ millions)	86	135	144	158
Liberal Debt				
(\$ billions)	13.55	12.89	12.5	12.5
Liberal Interest Payments				
(\$ billions)	0.87	0.81	0.75	0.71

ESTIMATED COSTS OF PROPOSED LIBERAL PROGRAMS (\$ MILLIONS)

Item	1996	1997	1998	1999
SAVINGS FROM SMALLER GOVERNMENT				
Reformed Smaller Government	61	51	51	51
Duplication and Overlap	50	30	20	20
Efficiency Audits/Sunset Legislation	104	105	60	35
Regional Cooperation	0	5	25	75
Open Tendering	125	100	50	25
SGEU Benefits Roll-back	5	2	2	2
Abolishing Departments and Agencies	46	0	0	0
Communications Budgets	12	0	0	0
Total Smaller Government Savings	403	293	208	218
TAX REDUCTIONS				
Sales Tax	85	170	255	340
Farm Fuel Rebate	50	50	50	50
Investment Tax Allowance	0	25	25	25
Personal Registered Training Plans	0	10	30	50
Business Training Tax Credit	5	15	35	55
Total Tax Reductions	140	270	395	520
FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT				
Green Funds	0	2	4	8
AgriBonds	0	10	10	10
Northern Fund	5	10	15	15
Export Financing	0	5	5	5
Debt Bonds	2	5	5	5
Community Gambling Program	45	45	45	45
Community Bonds	5	10	10	20
Total Financing Requirement	57	87	94	108
NEW SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMS				
Saskatchewan Economic Development Agency	5	10	12	12
Economic Evaluations (Clean Coal & Nuclear)	4	8	0	0
Highways Initiatives	10	20	25	25
Agri Parks	2	2	2	2
Business Information	1	1	0	0
Rural E-Mail/Internet	1	1	0	0
Growth Foundation	5	5	10	10
Food for Thought	1	1	1	1
Total New Social and Economic Programs	29	48	50	50

Yes, There is A Better Way!



SASKATCHEWAN
Liberal
Together. A better way.

