

# **A Plan for Saskatchewan's Future**

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**"The NDP believes that Saskatchewan's prosperity should be shared by the people who helped create it."**

Saskatchewan  
**New  
Democrats**

Positive Change  
Where You Benefit

**saskndp.ca**



## A Plan for Saskatchewan's Future

Thanks to our abundant natural resources and hard-working people, Saskatchewan continues to be prosperous. The NDP believes that Saskatchewan's prosperity should be shared by the people who helped create it. We have a plan for change - change that benefits you. The Saskatchewan NDP will build on our prosperity in three simple ways - putting people first with better health and social programs; managing our finances wisely for future generations; and making strategic investments that will serve us well as we move into the future.

Here's how it works:

### Putting People First

- Ensuring people have access to health care where they need it and when they need it.
- Offering programs that make life more affordable, including rent controls and affordable housing.
- Offering tax breaks to families raising children or taking care of elderly loved ones.
- Making sure essential utility services are available at the lowest cost in the country.
- Investing in programs to ensure vulnerable individuals can access the services they need to live with dignity.

### Managing Our Finances

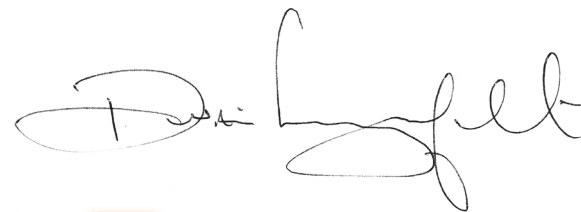
- Establishing the Bright Futures Fund by setting aside a portion of resource royalties for future generations.
- Keeping the government books balanced and paying down debt.

## Investing in Services and Infrastructure

- Funding early learning and child care, and post-secondary education so our children have the best start possible, and so they can get the kind of education that prepares our province for the future.
- Providing money for safety, roads, and water & sewer systems to keep our communities strong and safe.
- Establishing a bold approach to build a future in which half of our electricity comes from green sources, recycling is built into our everyday lives, and our habitat is preserved.

We have a platform that provides for a healthy Saskatchewan and a more affordable province. It's an approach that supports families and communities; delivers excellence in education; extends opportunity and prosperity to all; builds a green future; and will renew your trust in government.

We're offering a path for change – positive change where you benefit; responsive change that helps out neighbours and families; and responsible change in financial management to ensure our future generations will continue to prosper.



# **Positive Change Where You Benefit**

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# Positive Change Means Making Life More Affordable

Thanks to our vast natural resources and the hard-working people of Saskatchewan, we have weathered the economic storm better than most. The relative prosperity of the provincial economy is something we should all be proud of and share in.

Our economic growth has brought opportunity, but also challenges that the current government is failing to address. An NDP government will introduce an Affordable Homes Plan that will deal with skyrocketing rents and the high cost of home ownership. We will also offer approaches to help seniors who are finding it harder to make ends meet, and assist families in dealing with the rising costs of living. An NDP government will:

## **Make Home Ownership a Reality, Not a Dream, by:**

- Encouraging more starter homes that people can afford by:
  - Rebating the PST on construction materials for new houses to be priced under \$280,000; and
  - Rebating the PST on the first \$10,000 in repairs to homes more than ten years old.
- Investing \$20 million into co-operative and community organizations to buy land for housing.
- Providing first-time homebuyers a \$2,000 grant to cover closing costs and other related expenses for homes purchased for under \$280,000.

- Offering interest-free loans to co-operatives and community organizations building new housing stock.

## **Keep Rents Affordable by:**

- Ending unfair rent increases through next-generation rent control. We will introduce rent control that makes allowances for new construction and non-corporate landlords.
- Investing \$230 million to create 2,500 new public rental units, with 1,000 units dedicated to student accommodation, and to upgrade existing units by working with community organizations and co-operatives.
- Making a commitment to end homelessness with \$20 million targeted to a "Housing First" approach, based on the belief that a stable place to live is a basic right and a critical building block to helping individuals gain stability in their own lives.

### **Ensure Affordability for Seniors by:**

- Adding 750 new subsidized affordable assisted-living units, with special attention paid to building these onto long term care homes so that couples who require different levels of care can stay together.
- Providing a property tax rebate of \$500 per year to senior homeowners and renters.

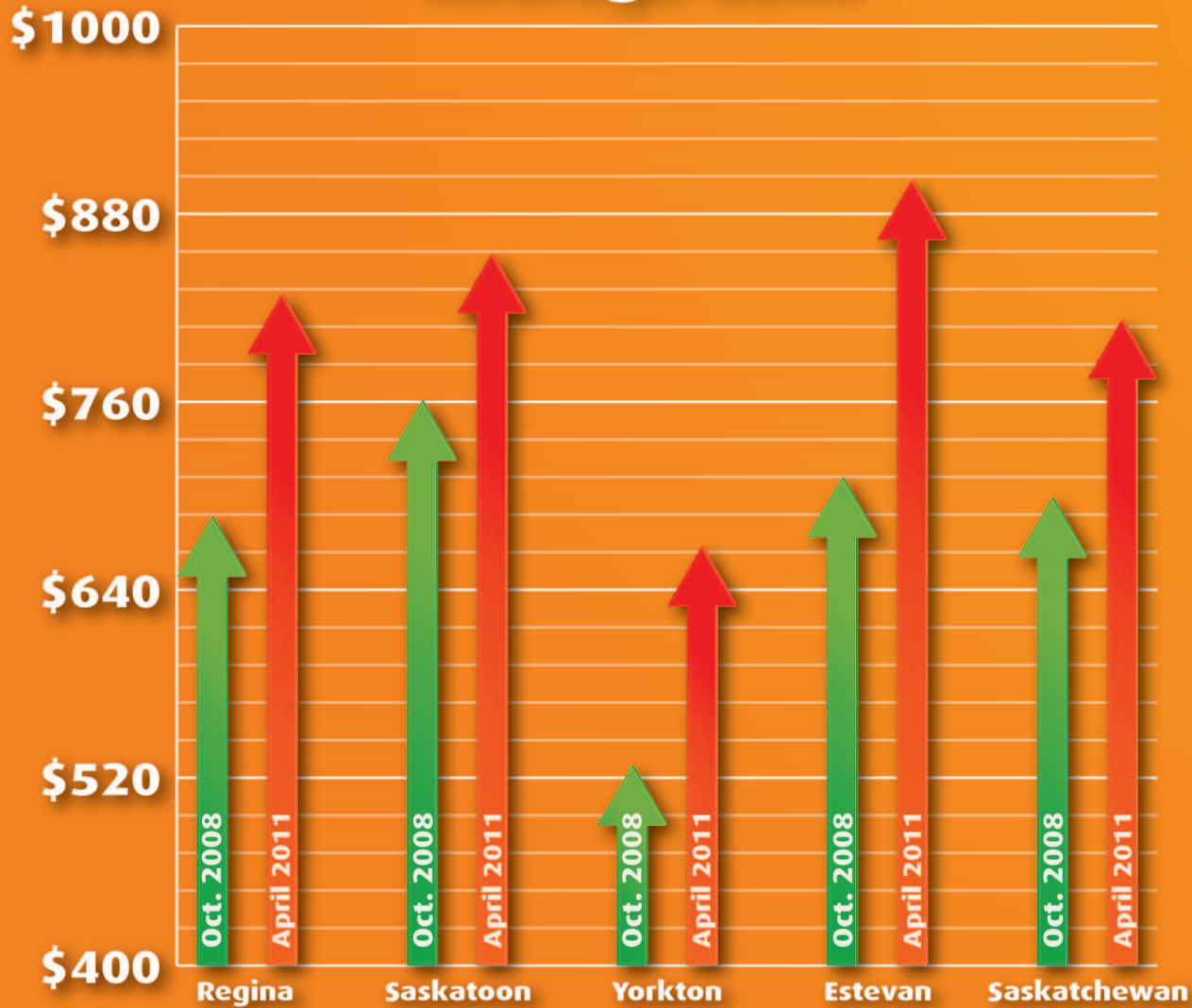
### **Respond to Family Needs by:**

- Introducing the Credit for Caring refundable tax credit of up to \$1,000 per year to individuals providing care to elderly or disabled relatives or friends.

### **Reaping the Benefit of Our Crown Corporations by:**

- Guaranteeing Saskatchewan residents the lowest-cost bundle of utilities in the country.

## Average Rent



**“An NDP government will introduce an Affordable Homes Plan that will deal with skyrocketing rents and the high cost of home ownership.”**

# Positive Change Means Building a Healthier Saskatchewan

We are seeing our public health care system being turned over to private interests. People are still waiting too long to have needed surgery. Communities are struggling to find doctors and often finding themselves in bidding wars with one another. There are not enough long-term care beds to meet the needs of a growing senior population. And the government continues to ignore all of the research that shows prevention at a young age means a healthier population and lower long-term costs. An NDP government will:

## Provide Health Care You can Count On by:

- Creating more “Doctors within our Borders” by investing an additional \$24 million into physician recruitment, including incentives for relief doctors, establishing a provincial team of doctors, retraining, additional bursaries, community facilities, rural supplements, and keeping our home-grown graduates here in the province.
- Establishing Community Access Hospitals that will allow communities facing a shortage of doctors to keep their hospitals open using nurse practitioners and emergency medical staff in consultation with doctors.
- Doubling the number of primary health care clinics over the next ten years, with thirty new clinics added in the first

term of office. These clinics provide a team approach so that residents can see a health care professional sooner and get one-stop care that meets their needs.

- Funding surgical care centres in smaller Saskatchewan cities so that residents can get the surgery they need closer to home.
- Bringing chiropractic care back into covered health services.
- Providing an additional \$6 million annually targeted to additional staffing in major trauma centres and regional emergency rooms so there is stronger capacity throughout the province.
- Increasing access to midwifery services.

## Assure Care for Our Children by:

- Introducing a children’s dental health program to provide free dental care to children aged five to twelve.
- Investing an additional \$2.5 million a year to increase the number of speech and occupational therapists in the province with new publicly-funded positions and expanded recruitment and retention initiatives.



- Implementing a \$2.5 million annual increase in funding support for specialized programming and equipment for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, cerebral palsy, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and other childhood disabilities.

### **Improve Long-Term Care Support in Our Communities by:**

- Adding 750 new and replacement long-term care beds over the next four years, especially targeting under-served communities.
- Increasing access to respite care so that caregivers get needed breaks more often.
- Providing a refundable tax benefit of up to \$1,000 per individual for private special care home fees.
- Providing funding to the Alzheimer's Society of Saskatchewan for eight First Link program co-ordinators to assist those newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases to access services.

### **Address Mental Health Services by:**

- Committing an additional \$45 million over four years for community mental health services, and working with mental health advocates and community organizations to develop a ten-year plan for mental health services, including the use of primary care teams for mental health.
- Creating and funding 40 new community-based intensive mental health services beds and 80 supportive-living unit beds.

- Completing a major rebuild of the province-wide mental health centre based in North Battleford.

# Community Access Hospitals



**“Establishing Community Access Hospitals that will allow communities facing a shortage of doctors to keep their hospitals open...”**

# Positive Change Means Extending Opportunity and Prosperity to All

We live in a “have” province, so why is it that so many people feel like they have less? It’s time to extend the prosperity of this province to all people and to make investments now that will create opportunities in the future. An NDP government will:

## **Ensure a Fair Return from Our Potash and Forestry Resources by:**

- Changing and simplifying the tax and royalty structure for potash to make sure that Saskatchewan residents are getting their fair share.
- Implementing a “Use It or Lose It” policy on forestry resource leases.

## **Create New Jobs by:**

- Helping small business thrive and grow by eliminating the small business tax in the first term of an NDP government.
- Creating a Northern Economic Strategy to expand opportunities in tourism, forestry, mining, aquaculture and processing.

- Working with businesses to provide on-the-job skills training programs for new jobs or where retraining is required to retain jobs.

## **Stand Up Against Poverty by:**

- Increasing the income payments to citizens with disabilities living on their own to achieve a fair standard of living, starting with a \$200 a month increase.
- Doubling to \$400 a month the level of working income that recipients can keep while receiving assistance, so they can better make the transition out of poverty.
- Increasing the basic income supplement for low-income working families by \$100 a month.

## **Ensure Fairness By:**

- Immediately setting a fair minimum wage to bring it over the poverty line, and then indexing it annually to the cost of inflation.
- Bringing back balance for essential workers by repealing Bill 5.

- Repealing Bill 6 to remove barriers to forming a union and participating in union activities. Repealing the changes of Bill 43, which threatens the rights of citizens to demonstrate or rally.
- Repealing Bill 80, which provides an unfair advantage to out-of-province companies.

### **Strengthen Co-operatives by:**

- Establishing a Social Economy and Co-operative Development Fund to provide start-up grants and expansion funding to our co-operative enterprises and community-based organizations.

### **Renew Vibrant Family Farms by:**

- Revamping crop insurance to provide more coverage options, including greater relief for spot-loss hail and wildlife damage, and extending coverage to more producers, such as market gardeners.
- Supporting the Canadian Wheat Board.

### **Partner with First Nations and Métis Communities by:**

- Negotiating a possible Resource Revenue Sharing arrangement with First Nations communities.
- Honouring our constitutional duty to consult and accommodate when making decisions that directly affect First Nations and Métis communities.

### **Help Communities Prosper by:**

- Creating a Revitalizing Communities Fund to address much-needed improvements and to repair water and sewer systems, municipal facilities and streets.
- Making disaster relief programs more responsive by:
  - Allowing up to 50 per cent of Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) payments to individuals and businesses to be paid up front to deal with costs as they occur.
  - Providing mobile water remediation units to municipalities to quickly reinstate safe drinking water when disasters hit.
  - Establishing a provincial disaster training facility to ensure emergency and other workers are better prepared to respond to massive fires or floods.

**“It’s time to extend the prosperity  
of this province to all people...”**



# Positive Change Means Supporting Families and Communities

Supporting families and building stronger communities is at the heart of growing a province of which we can all be proud. This means making flexible and affordable child care a priority, ensuring valuable services are there when people need them most and making our communities safer by investing in crime-prevention programs, emergency services and infrastructure. An NDP government will:

## **Make Affordable Child Care a Priority by:**

- Working with families, child care providers and other professionals to develop a long-term plan to make Saskatchewan's early learning and childcare program the best in the country.
- Addressing pressing needs by adding 10,000 new early learning and childcare spaces.
- Capping fees that licensed childcare facilities (both homes and centres) can charge, while ensuring these facilities have the funding necessary to provide high-quality service and conducting a review of current subsidies and income cut-off levels.
- Creating a one-stop, online registry for licensed childcare services to make it easier for parents to find and apply for spaces.

- Providing a refundable tax credit of up to \$1,000 to families in which one parent is staying at home to take care of children three years of age and under.

## **Protect Children by:**

- Ensuring that children in care are truly protected with more and better-trained staff.
- Providing more financial and staff support to foster families.

## **Recognize the Value of Community-Based Services by:**

- Investing an additional \$1 million annually in community organizations that provide assistance to newcomers to Canada who are settling in Saskatchewan.
- Investing \$10 million over four years in recreation and fitness programs to ensure that access is not limited by income.
- Working with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to expand the availability of nutritious food programs to children.
- Establishing a plan with CBOs to ensure wage equity for employees.

### **Respect our Seniors by:**

- Introducing a Seniors' Bill of Rights that will enshrine the right of seniors to age with dignity, access programs and services they need at a price they can afford, be able to remain in their communities and be protected from abuse and neglect.
- Additional funding for seniors centres to assist them with operating costs.

### **Make our Communities Safer by:**

- Working with police and community organizations to implement a violence-elimination strategy that protects against crime and addresses the root causes of violence. This will include:
  - 40 new community policing positions.
  - Additional community justice services and alternative measures programs.
  - Investing \$5 Million toward working with community organizations and police services on a gang elimination-strategy.
  - Investing an additional \$2 million a year for family violence outreach and additional safe accommodation.
- Cracking down on online child exploitation by funding additional staff and equipment for police services.
- Supporting our professional firefighters as they keep our communities safe by funding designated firefighter positions to help meet recommended safety standards.
- Extending cancer coverage currently provided to professional firefighters under Workers' Compensation to volunteer

firefighters, and providing funding to municipalities to cover these costs.

### **Keep our Highways Safe by:**

- Boosting the Highways budget to upgrade our highways so that all residents have safe access to their communities.
- Establishing a Safe Rural Roads Fund to repair and upgrade secondary and grid roads.

**“Supporting families and building stronger communities is at the heart of growing a province of which we can all be proud.”**

# Positive Change Means Building a Green Future

Saskatchewan is ideally suited to foster development in renewable energy sources. This means we have an opportunity to lead Canada in emissions reduction and join the world-wide effort to tackle climate change. A Green Future means strong communities and healthy sustainable economic development. An NDP government will:

## Create a Renewable Energy Act to:

- Establish a sustainable and efficient energy grid by expanding our clean and renewable energy sources to provide 50 per cent of Saskatchewan's electricity by 2025.
- Mandate aggressive pursuit of renewable resource opportunities, including a goal of 400 additional megawatts of windpower by 2015 in addition to expansions in biomass, geothermal and solar power.
- Work with the North to develop low-impact hydroelectricity projects, and construct biomass power plants along the forest fringe that utilize forestry residues to generate energy.
- Streamline energy-efficient renovation and construction funding by:
  - Maintaining the grants to cover 35 per cent of costs to install renewable electricity sources, up to \$35,000.

- Increasing the grant for solar hot-water systems to \$1,500 and introducing a new homeowner's grant of \$1,500 to encourage the use of solar energy in space heating systems.
- Strengthening the net-metering program by increasing payments for those feeding into the system and providing buy-back rate incentives for people to do so.
- Lifting the 100kw limit on installation size for new renewable energy projects to enable co-operative projects.

## Reduce Emissions to Tackle Climate Change by:

- Doubling annual funding for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, funds for research and development, and initiatives for conservation and consumption awareness.
- Legislating emission reduction targets to match those of the 2007 Saskatchewan Energy and Climate Change Plan. These include reducing emissions to 38 per cent below current levels by 2020, and then 80 per cent by 2050.

## Pursue Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Conservation by:

- Establishing energy efficiency standards in new buildings and adjusting the Building Code to legislate these standards in all new commercial and residential construction.

- Providing \$20 million over four years to support community-based recycling initiatives.

#### **Provide Protection for our Sensitive Ecosystems by:**

- Adjusting land-use legislation to better protect wetlands and other ecologically sensitive regions, and strengthening actionable environmental impact assessment legislation.
- Reinstating the protection for the 3.5 million acres of habitat that were removed from protection under the current government.





# Building a Green Future

**"A Green Future means strong communities and healthy sustainable economic development."**

# Positive Change Means Delivering Excellence in Education

Our children deserve the best and this means well-equipped classrooms; staffing that will give them individualized attention when they need it; and high quality early learning. And every student who has the desire and the motivation should have the opportunity to gain a post-secondary education. An NDP government will:

## **Make Elementary Schools More Responsive to the Needs of Parents and Children by:**

- Funding full-day kindergarten programs and expanding pre-kindergarten education.
- Reversing cuts to educational assistants to ensure children with intensive needs have the support they need in the classroom.
- Improving access to technological and specialized learning assistance for children with disabilities.
- Providing additional resources for children still learning English.
- Promoting life-skills education within the K-12 curriculum including financial literacy, citizenship, nutrition and wellness classes.

- Committing \$2.5 million annually to a four-year plan developed with First Nations and Métis communities for a 50 percent increase in the number of Aboriginal students graduating high school.

## **Make Post-Secondary Education Affordable and Accessible for All by:**

- Implementing a fully-funded freeze on tuition, and regulating the fees post-secondary institutions can charge, while ensuring adequate provincial funding is provided to maintain high-quality institutions.
- Enabling more students to access student loans and other government funding by increasing the maximum allowable family-income levels.
- Establishing a relocation subsidy to offset extra financial demands on students who must relocate to attend post-secondary institutions.
- Providing funding for 100 graduate student bursaries annually at our universities to attract top graduate students.

- Extending the income tax tuition rebates to graduates of Master's and PhD programs.
- Investing \$5 million over four years to work with First Nations and Métis organizations to offer more courses on reserves, in remote locations, and in other areas where they are needed.
- Providing regional colleges with an additional \$2.5 million in annual funding to offer more certificate, diploma, and degree credit courses so that students can stay in smaller centres and still pursue their post-secondary education.
- Enhancing the current distance-learning infrastructure for online or televised classes so that more people can learn in their own communities.

#### **Grow and Expand Our Post-Secondary Institutions by:**

- Working with all of our post-secondary partners to expand and update training opportunities with a goal of creating 10,000 new spaces.

**“Every student who has the desire and the motivation should have the opportunity to gain a post-secondary education.”**

# Positive Change Means Renewing Trust in Government

Saskatchewan people deserve a government that responds to their needs, plays by the rules and plans for the future. In the past, we've seen the damage done by a Conservative government that failed to plan and pursued its own agenda at the expense of Saskatchewan citizens.

Today, we see another government failing to live up to the financial management practices it promised to introduce. We see a government putting our public services and Crown corporations at risk through its agenda of privatization and its disregard for working families. And we see a government squandering the boom it inherited and failing to plan for the future.  
An NDP government will:

## **Bring In Solid Financial Management by:**

- Re-committing to balanced budgets.
- Introducing a long-term plan to pay down the debt.
- Reporting on a summary financial statement basis so that ALL government finances are presented in an open and transparent manner.

## **Preserve our Public Services by:**

- Stopping the privatization of our Crown corporations and public services to make sure they remain available to Saskatchewan people in the years to come.
- Returning the focus of our Crown corporations to providing affordable services to Saskatchewan residents.
- Making government services more accessible with a one-stop toll-free telephone line and making on-line services more accessible to people with physical disabilities.

## **Use Resource Revenue Today to Provide a Bright Future Tomorrow by:**

- Creating the Bright Futures Fund by designating a portion of resource royalties that is to be invested for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents in the future – resources today providing a bright future tomorrow.







**Positive Change  
Where You Benefit**

Authorized by the Chief Official Agent for the NDP

