

Keep Saskatchewan Strong

Saskatchewan Party 2016 Election Platform



saskparty.com



 **Brad Wall** and the
Saskatchewan
Party

Authorized by the Chief Official Agent for the Saskatchewan Party



Message from Premier Brad Wall

KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

The question facing Saskatchewan voters on April 4th is both simple and important: who will keep Saskatchewan strong?

Do we work to secure the tremendous progress achieved over the past eight years or go back to a path where our province performed well below its great potential?

Saskatchewan has come so far in the past eight years. Today, low oil prices are creating a challenge for our economy. Who will keep Saskatchewan strong through this challenging time?

Saskatchewan has faced similar challenges before. During the worldwide recession in 2009, oil prices dropped to similar levels as today and potash sales were virtually zero.

In spite of these challenges, Saskatchewan's diverse economy remained strong. Our population continued to grow, unemployment stayed low and we led the country in job creation at a time when other provinces were losing thousands of jobs.

Compare that to what used to happen when we faced similar challenges under the NDP. Saskatchewan would lose people, jobs and investment to other provinces. The NDP government continued to tax too much, invested too little in infrastructure and closed dozens of schools and hospitals. Lost jobs, declining population and a weak economy — that was the NDP record.

On April 4th, Saskatchewan voters have an important choice. Do we stay on the path that will keep Saskatchewan strong: keeping taxes low, controlling operational government spending and continuing to invest in much-needed infrastructure projects that will strengthen our economy, or do we go back to an NDP government that will weaken our economy and drive people, jobs and investment out of Saskatchewan?

The Saskatchewan Party election platform builds on the successes achieved over the past eight years while recognizing there is more work to be done. It is a targeted, affordable plan that will keep taxes low, make life more affordable for young people and seniors, fix more highways, make further improvements in health care and keep Saskatchewan strong.

We have achieved much as a province. Let's not turn back. Let's stay on the path of a growing province with a strong economy and a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people. Let's keep Saskatchewan strong.

Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan



New Commitments to Keep Saskatchewan Strong

Highways 2020 Plan

- Invest \$2.7 billion in highways and transportation infrastructure over the next four years, in addition to construction of the Regina Bypass.
- Fix more highways by increasing funding for highway repair and maintenance through a \$70 million surge in funding over the next three years.

Keeping Young People in Saskatchewan

- Create the Graduate Retention Program (GRP) First-Home Plan to allow post-secondary graduates to use up to \$10,000 of their GRP credits towards the downpayment on the purchase of their first home in Saskatchewan.
- Increase the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship for all high school graduates continuing their education in Saskatchewan from \$500 to \$750, as the province's finances strengthen.

Making Housing More Affordable for Seniors and Helping Them to Stay in their Own Homes Longer

- Allow seniors with household incomes under \$70,000 to defer the education portion of their property taxes.

Improving Health Care

- Reduce wait lists for CT scans by allowing patients to pay for private CT scans under the two-for-one model recently announced for MRIs.
- Reduce administration in regional health authorities by \$7.5 million annually and re-direct savings towards hiring more continuing care aides, RNs and LPNs in long-term care facilities.
- Extend job protection under the *Saskatchewan Employment Act* for employees caring for a family member who is in the final stages of life from two non-consecutive eight week periods to 26 weeks per year.
- Increase funding to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), to integrate vision loss rehabilitation services into the mainstream health system.
- Expand the remote presence medical robotic technology pilot project underway in Pelican Narrows to additional northern communities.

Growing Saskatchewan's Economy and Creating Good Paying Jobs Through Innovation

- 🏡 Create a new growth tax incentive – the first innovation tax rate in North America – to grow jobs and investment through the commercialization of patents and intellectual property in Saskatchewan.
- 🏡 Make the first \$100,000 of the research and development tax credit refundable on eligible expenses to support research and innovation in Saskatchewan, as the province's finances strengthen.

Building More Green Solar Power

- 🏡 Expand the use of solar power in Saskatchewan by extending the current net metering program for residential and commercial customers for another two years. The net metering program provides a 20 per cent rebate on the installation of solar power equipment up to \$20,000.
- 🏡 Continue to work towards the target of having 50 per cent of Saskatchewan's power generation capacity produced by renewable power by 2030.



Growing Local Home-Based Food Businesses

- 🏡 Grow the number of home-based food businesses in Saskatchewan by allowing home-based food producers to sell low-risk foods like cookies, candy, pies and buns prepared in their home directly to consumers and retailers such as coffee shops.

Supporting Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Emergency First Responders

- 🏡 Introduce a new non-refundable income tax credit worth \$330 per year to assist volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical first responders in Saskatchewan, as the province's finances strengthen.

Expanding Private Liquor Stores in Saskatchewan

- 🏡 Convert 40 government-owned liquor stores to private stores and add 12 new private liquor stores in Saskatchewan to provide more choice, more convenience and more competitive pricing to Saskatchewan consumers.

Providing Individualized Funding for Children Under Six with Autism Spectrum Disorder

- 🏡 Introduce individualized funding for children under the age of six who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), beginning at \$4,000 per child and growing to \$8,000 per child by 2019-20.

Keep Saskatchewan Strong

The choice for Saskatchewan people in this election is whether to keep Saskatchewan strong with Brad Wall and a Saskatchewan Party government that has a strong track record of managing the economy and fostering growth, or go back to the NDP, whose government had the worst job creation record in Canada, the longest surgical wait lists in Canada and a declining population.



Under the NDP, Saskatchewan's economy moved backwards and people left the province. Instead of promoting growth, the NDP raised taxes and cut investment in highways and infrastructure, closed hospitals and schools and reduced revenue sharing with Saskatchewan's cities, towns and rural municipalities.

While lower oil prices will continue to put pressure on provincial government revenues over the next year, other sectors of the economy remain resilient. That resiliency speaks to the benefit of a diversified economy and natural resource base in our province.

Now more than ever, Saskatchewan people need a government they can trust to manage the economy and keep Saskatchewan strong.

The Saskatchewan Party plan will make it more affordable for young people to buy their first home here after they graduate. Investments in highways and infrastructure will boost our economy and create jobs, while building the infrastructure Saskatchewan needs to sustain growth.

Keeping taxes low is a cornerstone of the Saskatchewan Party's plan for growth. Allowing seniors to defer their education property taxes will help them to stay in their homes longer.

New growth tax incentives targeted towards the commercialization of innovation will stimulate jobs and investment while helping to diversify our economy.

In addition to measures to accelerate growth, it's important that government continue to exercise discipline and not undertake unsustainable new spending. The Saskatchewan Party platform contains targeted, affordable initiatives that build on our record of success while recognizing that there is more to be done. Controlled spending and prioritizing government investments, while at the same time continuing to pursue new and innovative ways to deliver public services, will deliver better results and better value for Saskatchewan people and will keep Saskatchewan strong.



A Plan for Growth and the Economy

Saskatchewan has been an economic and population success story in Canada over the past eight years. That success is due to the hard work of individuals and families across our province and the growing number of people who have made Saskatchewan ‘the place to be.’

Under Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party, Saskatchewan’s population has grown by over 128,000 in just eight years to an all-time high of over 1,138,000. Saskatchewan had the second-highest rate of population growth in Canada in 2015.

The Saskatchewan Party understands that government has an important role to play in keeping the economy strong and creating an environment that encourages the private sector to create jobs and invest in our province. Because of confidence in Saskatchewan, private and public investment increased by 115% from 2007 to 2014, housing starts increased by 50% and Saskatchewan created over 68,000 new jobs in eight years.

The Saskatchewan Party’s growth agenda and plan for growth moving forward consists of:

Investing in infrastructure

Government and Crown investment in infrastructure has totaled nearly \$18 billion since 2007.

Developing Saskatchewan’s labour force to create jobs

Saskatchewan had the second strongest job creation record in Canada between 2007 and 2015. The number of people working in Saskatchewan has grown by over 68,000 people or 24 new jobs per day since 2007. Saskatchewan also has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada.

Keeping taxes low and Saskatchewan’s economy competitive

Total taxes in Saskatchewan will be \$785 million less in 2016 than they were in 2007. Total tax reductions since 2008 will have put over \$5.9 billion back into the hands of Saskatchewan taxpayers. A family of four with \$50,000 annual income paid \$2,300 in provincial income tax in 2007 under the NDP. Today, they pay no provincial income tax.

Growing Saskatchewan’s agricultural and natural resource advantage while increasing trade and exports

Exports have increased by nearly 65% since 2007, from just under \$20 billion in 2007 to over \$32.5 billion in 2015, making Saskatchewan the largest per capita exporter in Canada.

Innovating and diversifying our economy around our economic strengths

Manufacturing sales grew to \$16.5 billion in 2014. From 2009 to 2014, manufacturing sales rose by almost 47 per cent. This was the second strongest growth amongst all provinces. Saskatchewan’s diversified economy means that 85% of the province’s economic activity is generated outside the oil and gas sector.

Controlling spending and maintaining fiscal discipline

The general operating debt of the province has been reduced by \$2.7 billion, nearly 40%, since 2007 – resulting in cumulative savings of over \$1 billion in interest payments.

SAME OLD NDP

Brad Wall and the
**Saskatchewan
Party**

NDP BACKWARD

OR

KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

56,000 more people moved out of the province than moved in from 1991 to 2007.



POPULATION

NDP
BACKWARD

SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD



Saskatchewan's population has grown by over 128,000, with 83,000 more people having moved into the province than moved out since 2007.

The worst economic growth rate in Canada from 2001 to 2007, averaging just 1.7% per year – well below the national average of 2.5%.

**WORST
IN CANADA**

NDP
BACKWARD

SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD

**2nd BEST
IN CANADA**

The second best economic growth rate in Canada from 2008 to 2014, averaging 2.9% – well above the national average of 1.6 per cent

The worst job creation record in Canada from 2000 to 2007 – about half the national average.



NDP
BACKWARD

SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD



The lowest unemployment rate in Canada and the second strongest job creation record amongst the provinces from 2007 to 2015 – about double the national average.

Raised taxes 21 times during their 16 years in power, including raising the PST four times and the gas tax twice.



NDP
BACKWARD

SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD



Tax reductions since 2008 have put over \$5.9 billion back into the hands of Saskatchewan taxpayers. Total taxes in Saskatchewan will be \$785 million less in 2016 than they were in 2007.

Invested 45% less in infrastructure over 16 years than the SaskParty has in eight years.



NDP
BACKWARD

SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD



Total investment in infrastructure has been nearly \$18 billion over the past eight years.

Shortchanged municipalities by nearly \$485 million through reduced municipal revenue sharing funding from 1992 to 2006.



NDP
BACKWARD

SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD



Revenue sharing with municipalities more than doubled from 2007 to 2015.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING

Keeping Young People in Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- 🚩 The Graduate Retention Program is the most aggressive youth retention program in Canada for new graduates and has provided over \$200 million to approximately 58,000 young people to stay in Saskatchewan after they graduate.
- 🚩 The Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship provides \$500 per year to Saskatchewan high school students who stay in Saskatchewan and attend post-secondary education. Over \$13 million has been provided to over 16,000 students since the scholarship's introduction.
- 🚩 The First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit provides \$1,100 to people purchasing their first home in Saskatchewan. First-time homebuyers in Saskatchewan have saved over \$25 million since the tax credit was introduced in 2012.



NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

GRP First Home Initiative

A Saskatchewan Party government will allow Graduate Retention Program (GRP) recipients to use up to \$10,000 of their GRP benefits towards the downpayment on the purchase of their first home in Saskatchewan.

Beginning May 1, 2016, GRP recipients can apply to the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) to access up to \$10,000 in unused GRP tax credits. A first-time home buyer is defined as someone who has not owned a home in the current year or in any of the previous four years.

Once eligibility has been verified, SHC will advance up to \$10,000 per applicant in the form of an interest-free loan, which will be forgiven provided the person continues to own their home for a period of time. People purchasing their first home together (for example, a married couple) can pool their credits towards a down payment to a maximum of \$10,000 per individual.

The term of the interest-free loan will be four years or the remaining period of GRP eligibility, whichever is less. If the graduate maintains ownership of the home for the entire loan period, the loan will not have to be repaid.

GRP First Home beneficiaries who sell their home but remain in Saskatchewan and buy another home will be able to transfer the First Home Plan downpayment to their new home.

Individuals accessing the GRP First Home Initiative will not be eligible to claim the First-Time Homebuyers tax credit.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

Increase the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship

A Saskatchewan Party government will increase the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship from \$500 to \$750 per year, as the province's finances strengthen.

Every graduating Saskatchewan high school student who chooses to go on to post-secondary education in Saskatchewan is eligible to have their tuition reduced by \$500 per year for up to four years under the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship, saving the student up to \$2,000 in tuition costs. Once it is increased to \$750 per year, students will save up to \$3,000 in tuition costs.

Since being introduced by the Saskatchewan Party in the 2011 election campaign, the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship has provided over \$13 million in scholarships to over 16,000 students. These benefits are administered by our post-secondary institutions and automatically reduce the tuition payable by a student.



Investing in Highways and Infrastructure

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

Since 2007, the Saskatchewan Party government has made record investments into highways, municipalities, schools and hospitals in every part of Saskatchewan.

Over \$345 million has been invested in municipal infrastructure projects such as wastewater and water treatment plants, lagoon development and expansion and new municipal and recreational facilities.

Revenue sharing to municipalities has more than doubled from \$127 million in 2007 to \$271 million in 2016 – the highest amount in Saskatchewan history. Over \$1.7 billion has been provided to Saskatchewan municipalities since 2008 – almost a 170% increase over what the NDP government provided in their last eight years of government.

Priority Saskatchewan is ensuring that there is a level playing field for local Saskatchewan-based businesses when contracting with government and Crown Corporations so that procurement is fair and taxpayers get the best possible value.

Since 2007, over \$10 billion has been invested to upgrade Crown Corporation infrastructure. This is over 140% more than the NDP invested in their last eight years of government.

\$5.2 billion has been invested in Saskatchewan's provincial highway network – \$1 billion more in eight years than the NDP government invested in 16 years in government. Since 2007:

- Nearly 10,000 kms of provincial highways have been improved.
- Primary weight highway networks have been expanded by over 60%.
- Nearly \$350 million invested in northern highways – 30% more than under the NDP in their last eight years in government.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

Highways 2020 Plan

A Saskatchewan Party government will invest \$2.7 billion in highways and transportation infrastructure over the next four years. This funding is in addition to funding for construction of the Regina Bypass.

Beginning next year, a Saskatchewan Party government will also initiate a surge in highway repair and maintenance as part of our Highways 2020 plan.

Starting with an additional \$30 million funding next year and \$40 million over the following two years, a Saskatchewan Party government will invest an additional \$70 million to repair and maintain highways in Saskatchewan. This represents over a 20% increase next year from the current highway maintenance and repair budget of \$145 million.

Priorities for Federal Infrastructure Funding through the Building Canada Fund

A Saskatchewan Party government will make highways and municipal water and wastewater projects a priority for future federal infrastructure funding through the Building Canada Fund. The provincial government will explore options to utilize a P3 model to build and bundle municipal water projects or wastewater projects to determine if this model can save money and provide for quicker construction.

Developing Saskatchewan's Labour Force to Create Jobs

Even with the economic challenges in the oil sector, employment in Saskatchewan averaged 573,700 in 2015. There were 68,000 more people working in Saskatchewan in 2015 than when the Saskatchewan Party took office in 2007. That was the second-best rate of job growth in Canada over that period. From 2000 to 2007 under the NDP, Saskatchewan had the worst rate of job growth in Canada.

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- 🇺🇸 Funding for post-secondary institutions increased by 61% over eight years – an average increase of 7.5% annually compared to an average increase of just over one per cent annually in 16 years under the NDP.
- 🇺🇸 \$400 million in additional direct support has been provided for students since 2008 – a 160% increase over the last eight years compared to the last eight years under the NDP.
- 🇺🇸 \$360 million has been invested in First Nations and Métis education and skills development in the last eight years. This represents a 96% increase since 2007.
 - Funding for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies has increased by over 120% since 2007.
 - Over \$66 million was provided for First Nations and Métis employment, post-secondary education and training last year.
- 🇺🇸 Total training capacity for apprentices reached 7,000 seats last year – an increase of 84% since 2007.
- 🇺🇸 The number of Adult Basic Education training seats has increased by almost 50% since 2007. Last year funding to provide foundational skills training for Saskatchewan people was over \$25 million.
- 🇺🇸 Over \$10 million was provided last year to address disability-related obstacles to education, training or employment for persons with disabilities.
- 🇺🇸 Over \$20 million was provided last year for skills training including the skills training allocation, trades and skills centres, early childhood education training, northern skills training and training support of older workers. This includes 100 new seats at Parkland Regional College's new Trades and Technology Centre.



Lower Taxes and a Competitive Economy

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- Personal income tax reductions will have saved Saskatchewan taxpayers over \$3.8 billion from 2008 to 2016.
- Approximately 112,000 low-income Saskatchewan residents no longer pay any provincial income tax due to income tax reductions introduced since 2008.
- Because of reductions in personal income taxes:
 - Individual taxpayers now pay no Saskatchewan income tax on their first \$19,220 of income.
 - A family of four pays no Saskatchewan income tax on their first \$49,800 of income — the highest tax-free income threshold for a family of four in Canada. If they deduct child-care expenses, that family of four will pay no provincial income tax in 2016 compared to \$2,300 they paid in 2007 under the NDP.
- When income tax savings are combined with new tax reduction programs introduced since 2007 (including the refundable Low-Income Tax Credit and the Active Families Benefit):
 - A single person with \$25,000 annual income will see tax savings of over \$900 in provincial income tax in 2016 compared to 2007.
 - A family of four with \$50,000 in combined income will see tax savings of \$2,977 in provincial income tax in 2016 compared to 2007.
 - A family of four with \$75,000 in combined income will see tax savings of \$2,709 in provincial income tax in 2016 compared to 2007.
- Under the NDP, property taxpayers funded 60% of the cost of K-12 education. In 2009, the Saskatchewan Party government delivered the largest education property tax reduction in our province's history, reducing the amount to 35%.
- Because of education property tax reductions, Saskatchewan taxpayers will save almost \$150 million this year. Since education property tax reforms were introduced, Saskatchewan taxpayers will have saved a total of almost \$1.18 billion from 2009 to 2016.
- Saskatchewan residents continue to save when they buy in Saskatchewan:
 - PST exemption on children's clothing: The Saskatchewan Party's extension of the PST exemption on clothing for children up to 18 years of age will save Saskatchewan families \$3 million this year and \$15 million in total since it was introduced.
 - Used Light Vehicles: Since 2007, Saskatchewan residents have saved over \$430 million on the purchase of a used car or truck since the Saskatchewan Party introduced the PST exemption on the purchase of used light vehicles.
- The small business tax rate was reduced to 2% in 2011, saving small businesses \$480 million in taxes since 2011.
- Saskatchewan people enjoy a lower cost for utilities than all other provinces except Manitoba.
- The Government of Saskatchewan was commended by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) for being one of the few provinces that has continued to make regulatory accountability a priority. Saskatchewan reduced regulatory costs for businesses by \$12.4 million in 2015-16, exceeding its target of \$5 million.
- The New West Partnership was created in 2010 between Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia to lower interprovincial trade barriers and harmonize regulations, making it easier for businesses and consumers to benefit from economic growth. Over the past five years the partnership has resulted in commitments to pursue international co-operation, innovation and joint government purchasing.

Advancing Saskatchewan's Agricultural and Natural Resource Advantage while Increasing Trade and Exports

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

Supporting Increased Trade, Investments and Exports Through International Engagement

Exports have increased by nearly 65% since 2007, from just under \$20 billion in 2007 to \$32.5 billion in 2015. This includes a 40% increase in Saskatchewan exports to Japan, a 218% increase to India, a 47% increase to the United States, a 280% increase to Brazil, a 123% increase to Indonesia and a 293% increase to China and the second in the world in 2015 for the second straight year.

Saskatchewan is the top agriculture and agri-food exporter in Canada. The province recorded \$15.1 billion in agri-food exports in 2015 – a 136% increase from 2007.

In 2015, crop production in Saskatchewan was 32 million tonnes. In 2014, Saskatchewan supplied:

- 65% of the world's lentil exports
- 55% of the world's pea exports
- 39% of the world's durum exports
- 21% of the world's canola seed exports

Livestock receipts are estimated at \$3 billion in 2015 – an 87% increase from 2011.

Saskatchewan increased vegetable deliveries through the grocery store / supermarket network from 25,000 lbs in 2012 to 1.2 million lbs in 2014.

From 2008 to 2015, Saskatchewan's wholesale trade totaled \$175.8 billion, an increase of 92% from the previous eight years under the NDP.

Saskatchewan's merchandise exports to countries other than the United States totaled \$14.8 billion in 2015, surpassing the \$12.3 billion posted by Alberta last year and setting an all-time record for the province.

Advancing Saskatchewan's Agriculture Advantage

Saskatchewan and the federal government are investing \$388 million over five years for Growing Forward 2, which includes risk management programs as well as strategic initiatives for producers and agribusiness, such as \$9 million to build a new Food Industry Development Centre in Saskatoon.

The Saskatchewan Party government introduced the seven largest agriculture budgets in the province's history from 2009 to 2015. Ten new agricultural extension services offices have been opened under the Saskatchewan Party government. By comparison, the NDP closed 31 rural agriculture offices.

Education property taxes on agricultural land have been reduced by 80%.

Average coverage levels for Crop Insurance has more than doubled to \$216/acre from only \$88/acre under the NDP. Coverage for unseeded acreage has been doubled to up to \$100/acre, compared to only \$50/acre under the NDP. At the same time, premium rates are down by 20% in the past two years.

Advancing Saskatchewan's Natural Resource Advantage

The Fraser Institute ranked Saskatchewan as the most attractive jurisdiction for mining investment in Canada and the second in the world in 2015 for the second straight year.

The value of mineral sales in Saskatchewan increased from \$4.4 billion in 2007 to an estimated \$8.3 billion in 2015 – over a 90% increase.


Saskatchewan forest product sales increased from \$388 million in 2010 to \$652 million in 2015.

The uranium mining industry employs more than 4,000 people, with almost half of its mining workforce residents of northern Saskatchewan.


The Saskatchewan Party reintroduced the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit and created the Global Institute for Food Security at the University of Saskatchewan.

Opening New Markets for Saskatchewan Products and Expanding Trade

 Promoted access to China and India for Saskatchewan uranium. Under the new Canada-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, India received its first uranium shipment in December 2015 under a five-year contract to supply 7.1 million pounds of uranium concentrate to India.

 Strongly supported free-trade deals with the European Union, Korea and the Trans Pacific Partnership:

- The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) will increase access for Saskatchewan exporters and keep them on a level playing field with their competitors, particularly in the agricultural value-added sector. Saskatchewan exported more than \$25 billion in goods to TPP countries in 2014 – 71% of Saskatchewan's international exports.

 Premier Wall has undertaken trade missions to India, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Singapore and Bangladesh to promote trade and increased market access for Saskatchewan products. These missions have helped pave the way for many benefits to the province and Saskatchewan companies, some of the results include:

- Canpotex signing a \$60 million USD deal with Bangladesh – its first contract in that market in 22 years.
- Agropur (Singapore) building a new \$11 million high-speed leading and grain handling facility in Moose Jaw which opened in 2013.

 Missions to the United States continue to ensure continued market access for Saskatchewan products and the elimination of protectionist measures. The Government of Saskatchewan has consistently pressed the United States to repeal mandatory Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) rules which unfairly discriminates against Saskatchewan cattle and hog exports. COOL was recently repealed by the United States.

**NEW INITIATIVES TO
KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG**

***Reducing Red Tape to Grow
Home-Based Food Businesses
in Saskatchewan***

A Saskatchewan Party government will eliminate restrictions that currently prevent local food businesses, individuals and voluntary organizations from preparing low-risk foods like cookies, candy, pies, bread and buns in their own home for direct sale to consumers or to third parties such as coffee shops for re-sale.

Under current rules, home-based food producers are only allowed to sell their products at farmers markets, from the farm-gate or through word of mouth. Food safety regulations require the use of commercial kitchen facilities if the food is to be sold to the public other than through these exceptions. Public health inspectors in Saskatchewan have routinely deemed low-risk products like pies, buns and candy to be ineligible for sale directly to consumers. Advertising is also prohibited. These restrictions limit the growth of smaller independent local food businesses and the potential for fundraising by non-profits.

42 U.S. states have laws that allow cottage food operations. The introduction of cottage food laws in California have allowed new businesses to flourish. Statewide, over 1,200 homemade food businesses have been approved.

Low-risk foods are those with low water activity and a low pH level that inhibit the growth of potentially dangerous micro-organisms. In practical terms, this covers all non-perishable foods that you would normally not keep in a refrigerator in your own home.



Innovating and Diversifying Our Economy Around Economic Strengths

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

Manufacturing sales grew to \$16.5 billion in 2014 – an increase of over five per cent from 2013. From 2009 to 2014, manufacturing sales rose by almost 47%. This was the strongest growth amongst all provinces and significantly higher than the national average of 27.4%.

The new Manufacturing and Processing Exporter Tax Incentive provides a \$3,000 tax credit to eligible businesses that expand the number of M&P employees beyond 2014 employment levels. This incentive increases to \$10,000 for each incremental new head office job that is created.

A new tax incentive for primary steel producers that make a minimum capital investment of \$100 million in new or expanded productive capacity in the province has been established.

The Manufacturing Centre of Excellence was established in 2014 in partnership with the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) at Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Saskatoon campus.

Provincial research and development funding totaled almost \$230 million between 2013 and 2015.

Research and development initiatives under the Saskatchewan Party government include:

- The International Minerals Innovation Institute, which was created with an \$8.8 million commitment from industry and \$3.7 million in funding from Innovation Saskatchewan. The institute has created mining skills training opportunities for over 850 people. To date there have been over 100 graduates, 60% of which are Aboriginal.
- The Sylvia Fedoruk Centre was launched in 2011, with a provincial government commitment of \$30 million over seven years for nuclear research focused on nuclear medicine, material science, nuclear safety and small/smart reactor technology.
- Over \$20 million was provided by Innovation Saskatchewan for the construction of a cyclotron that will produce isotopes, including medical isotopes for Saskatchewan's new PET/CT facility at Royal University Hospital.
- The budget for agricultural research under the Saskatchewan Party has doubled since 2007.

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█ The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) is one of Canada's leading providers of applied research, development, and technology commercialization. In 2014-15 the SRC worked with almost 1,500 customers around the world. Its impact on the provincial economy was almost \$520 million while assisting with the creation or maintenance of over 830 Saskatchewan jobs.

█ The Government of Saskatchewan provided \$2 million in funding support for the Petroleum Technology Research Centre in the 2015-16 Budget. The PTRC was established to foster research and development into technologies that reduce the environmental footprint of the oil and gas sector as well as technologies that increase investment and resource recovery in Saskatchewan.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

The Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive

A Saskatchewan Party government will introduce North America's first "innovation patent box" tax incentive by reducing the Corporate Income Tax rate from 12 per cent to 6 per cent on taxable corporate income earned from the commercialization of patents and qualifying intellectual property into new products.

The *Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive* (SCII) is a new growth tax measure designed to stimulate the commercialization of intellectual property such as patents into new products that provide a substantial contribution to economic development in the province through job creation and new investment.

The SCII will provide a lower tax rate on income earned from the commercialization of intellectual property for a period of 10 years. Companies will be able to extend the length of the incentive to 15 years if the qualifying intellectual property was substantially developed in Saskatchewan.

The Government of Saskatchewan will undertake consultations with Saskatchewan businesses and research community prior to introduction of the incentive to determine which forms of intellectual property (for example trade secrets or registered trademarks) might be included in the incentive beyond patents. These consultations will also be important to ensure that the rules and regulations of the initiative support the objective of creating substantial new benefit to the province as measured by new jobs and investment.

The Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive will be available to all economic sectors. However, it should appeal to Saskatchewan's key economic strengths in agricultural biotech, manufacturing, energy and mining.

Changes to the Research and Development Tax Credit

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will also provide a refundable tax component to the provincial Research and Development Tax Credit of up to 10% of eligible research spending (up to a maximum of \$100,000 per business annually), as the province's finances strengthen.



Growth to Build a Better Quality of Life



“Too often, enterprise-oriented governments appear to seek growth for the sake of growth. This is a mistake – one that can cause governments to lose focus and discipline. The purpose of growth is to secure a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.”

— Premier Brad Wall,
the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth:
Vision 2020 and Beyond

Growth is the engine that affords government the opportunity to invest in a better quality of life.

Saskatchewan’s economic strength and growing population since 2007 has resulted in record investments to provide a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people.

Today in Saskatchewan, there are more doctors and nurses working in our province. Support for K-12 and post-secondary education is at record levels. Surgical wait times are lower and our communities are safer with more police officers on the street and crime rates lower than they were in 2007.

In contrast, population loss and economic stagnation under the NDP resulted in the closure of hospitals, long-term care beds and schools and the longest wait times for surgery in Canada.

SAME OLD NDP

**Brad Wall and the
Saskatchewan
Party**

NDP BACKWARD

OR

KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

Saskatchewan had the longest surgical wait times in all of Canada.



SURGICAL WAIT TIMES

**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



In 2015, surgical wait times in Saskatchewan were the shortest in Canada.

Between 2001 and 2006, the province lost 450 nurses and 173 doctors – the worst doctor and nurse retention rate in Canada.



DOCTORS AND NURSES

**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



Since 2007 there are 650 more doctors and nearly 3,000 more nurses of all designations working in Saskatchewan along with 40 more physician training seats and 272 more nurse training seats.

Closed 52 hospitals, resulting in a reduction of nearly 1,000 beds. Eliminated 1,200 long-term care beds. Attempted to raise monthly fees for seniors in long-term care facilities to 90 per cent of the senior's income.



HOSPITALS AND LONG-TERM CARE

**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



More than doubled investments in hospitals and health care infrastructure compared to the NDP, including construction and development of 15 new long-term care facilities, construction of a new Children's Hospital in Saskatoon and new and renewed hospital projects in Moose Jaw and North Battleford.

Closed 176 schools from 1991 to 2007 – an average of about one school closure every month.



SCHOOLS

**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



Has invested nearly \$1 billion in 40 brand new or replacement schools and 25 major school renovations. Over half of Saskatchewan schools have been repaired since 2007.

Saskatchewan lost 400 teachers between 2000 and 2007.



TEACHERS

**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



Since 2007 there are 600 more teachers and 200 more student support teachers teaching in Saskatchewan schools.

Created just 2,856 new licensed childcare spaces in 16 years – fewer than 180 new spaces per year.



CHILDCARE SPACES

**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



Created nearly 5,000 new childcare spaces in eight years – an average of over 600 new spaces per year.

**SAME OLD
NDP**

**Brad Wall and the
Saskatchewan
Party**

NDP BACKWARD

OR

KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

HOUSING

Just over 1,000 rental starts in the NDP's last 13 years in government.



**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



Over 6,900 rental starts since 2007 combined with government funding to develop and repair 14,000 low income rental units in the province.

SENIORS

Froze the Seniors Income Plan at \$90 per month for 16 years.



**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



Tripled the Seniors Income Plan to \$270 per month.

**PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

No income assistance program specifically for persons with disabilities and allowed the waitlist for services for persons with an intellectual disability to grow to 440 people.



**NDP
BACKWARD**

**SASKATCHEWAN PARTY
FORWARD**



Created the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program specifically for persons with disabilities, providing \$700 million since 2007 to 14,000 clients now accessing this program. Eliminated the NDP's 440 person waiting list for persons with intellectual disabilities by ensuring services are provided to these individuals.

More Healthcare Professionals and Lower Surgical Wait Times

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

🚩 \$1.2 billion has been invested in healthcare infrastructure to replace and repair aging facilities, including:

- \$235 million for the Children's Hospital in Saskatoon.
- \$100 million for the Moose Jaw Hospital.
- \$250 million to replace 15 long-term care facilities.
- \$108 million for the new integrated healthcare facility in Swift Current.
- A new Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford.

🚩 Since the introduction of the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative in 2010, the number of patients waiting more than three months for surgery is down 76% and the number of patients waiting more than six months is down 91%.

Part of the improvement in surgical wait times is due to expanded access to surgical services through third party surgical clinics. By the end of this fiscal year (2015-2016):

- 47,000 surgeries will have been performed in a third-party clinic
- Almost 8,700 MRIs will have been performed in a third-party clinic; and
- Almost 31,000 CT exams will have been performed in a third-party clinic.

🚩 Since 2007, there are 40 new physician training seats, 272 new nurse training seats and the number of medical residency positions has doubled from 60 to 120.

🚩 Homecare funding has increased by almost 50% since 2007. This includes introduction of the Home First/Quick Response program in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and the Prairie North Health Region. This innovative program aims to improve access for seniors to supports in their communities that will allow them to safely age within their own home.

🚩 Since its introduction to Saskatchewan in 2012 by the Saskatchewan Party government, the STARS air ambulance service has transported over 2,100 emergency patients to hospitals.

🚩 Funding for autism programs has grown from \$500,000 to \$8.1 million since 2007.

🚩 The provincial government has set an ambitious target to significantly reduce Emergency Room (ER) wait times by 2019. Current actions include:

- Seniors House Calls Program: Provides support for at-risk seniors at home, so they don't have to present to the emergency room frequently.
- Police and Crisis Teams (PACT) in Regina and Saskatoon: Provide community support to mental health patients. PACT diverts patients who would previously either go to the emergency department or to a holding cell to more appropriate supports.
- Connecting to Care (hot-spotting): Targets at-risk individuals who are frequent users of the health care system, but do not necessarily need to be. Connecting to Care provides these clients with appropriate community supports in order to divert them from the emergency room.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

***Increased Choice for Patients:
Allowing People to Pay Privately
for CT Scans***

A Saskatchewan Party government will amend the province's *Health Facilities Licensing Act* to allow individuals to pay privately for CT scans using the "two for one" model now in place for MRI scans. Under this model, for every scan paid for privately, the clinic must provide one scan at no charge to a patient on the public list, thereby reducing the public wait list. This is the same model charged to the Saskatchewan Roughriders when they pay for a private MRI scan to be done for a football player.

For the period September 1st to November 30th, 2015, the average wait time for patients to receive a non-emergency CT scan in Saskatchewan was 26.5 days.

***Support the CNIB to Provide Post
Vision Loss Rehabilitation Therapy***

A Saskatchewan Party government will increase funding to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), to integrate vision loss rehabilitation services into the mainstream health system.

Post vision loss rehabilitation therapy enables clients with vision loss to develop or restore abilities or skills that are typically dependent on vision and that are critical to safety, mobility and independence. It involves training in sight enhancement / sight substitution skills and in the use of assistive devices.

***Reducing Health Care Administration
Spending and Re-Directing Savings
Towards Long-Term Care***

A Saskatchewan Party government will reduce administrative positions and costs in Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) by \$7.5 million annually, with the savings allocated towards increased front-line care in long-term care facilities. The increased funding will be used to hire additional registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and continuing care aides.

The \$7.5 million reduction target represents a five per cent reduction in administration across health regions. Re-directing \$7.5 million towards additional front-line staffing in long-term care facilities will allow RHAs to hire the equivalent of 30 Registered Nurses, 30 Licensed Practical Nurses and 35 Continuing Care aides, or 140 new Continuing Care aides.



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Expanding Health Care Innovation for Northern Communities

A Saskatchewan Party government will provide an additional \$500,000 annually to expand the remote presence technology pilot project underway in Pelican Narrows to additional northern communities.

In May 2014, the Saskatchewan Party government announced the launch of an innovative remote presence technology pilot project to deliver better health care to Pelican Narrows.

The remote presence technology pilot project uses an advanced robotics telemedicine platform. The platform allows a health care provider to connect with a patient remotely and perform real-time assessment, diagnosis and patient management.

The Pelican Narrows Pilot project is led by Dr. Ivar Mendez at the University of Saskatchewan, in partnership with Northern Medical Services (which provides physician services to communities in northern Saskatchewan) and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Extending Job Protection for Employees Caring For a Family Member Who is in the Final Stages of Life

A Saskatchewan Party government will amend the *Saskatchewan Employment Act* to increase the number of weeks that an employee can take palliative care leave to 26 weeks over a one year period. Presently an employee can take palliative care leave for two non-consecutive eight week periods annually.

Employees are currently eligible for unpaid job protected leave to care for a family member who is gravely ill and who has a significant risk of death.

Last fall, the federal government announced that effective January 1, 2016, it was extending Employment Insurance (EI) benefits to 26 weeks for people who have to be away from work because they are caring for a family who is gravely ill and at significant risk of death.

Making Saskatchewan More Affordable for Seniors

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- 🚩 The refundable Low Income Tax Credit, which benefits low-income earners and persons on fixed incomes such as seniors, has provided almost \$415 million in tax relief and refundable benefits in total since 2008.
- 🚩 The Saskatchewan Party tripled the monthly benefit under the Seniors Income Plan. After being frozen at \$90/month for 16 years under the NDP, the Saskatchewan Party government now provides \$270/month to low income seniors.
- 🚩 The Personal Care Home Benefit was introduced in 2011 to provide eligible seniors with monthly financial assistance to help them with the cost of living in a licensed personal care home.
- 🚩 The Saskatchewan Seniors Drug Plan provides a \$20 cap per prescription for seniors with net income under \$66,100.
- 🚩 \$36.5 million has been invested for 440 new seniors housing units either completed or under construction across Saskatchewan.
- 🚩 The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation owns nearly 10,500 seniors housing units and provides funding for another 2,700 seniors units owned by other groups. In addition, there are 1,400 social housing units in Regina that are dedicated for seniors.
- 🚩 Since 2007, investments in home care have increased by 50% and investments in long-term care have increased by 40%.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

Allowing Senior Homeowners to Defer Education Property Taxes

A Saskatchewan Party government will allow senior homeowners with household incomes under \$70,000 to defer the education portion of their property taxes, beginning in 2017.

The option to defer the education portion of property taxes will be available each year to seniors owning and living in a principal residence. In order to qualify, household incomes must be below \$70,000 in the previous taxation year and the owners must have a minimum of 25% equity in their home and maintain adequate fire insurance coverage on the residence.

Seniors will have a choice each year whether to defer their education property taxes and may defer them for successive years. There is no maximum limit as to how much seniors can choose to defer. Seniors can also choose to repay all or part of the total amount they have deferred at any time, without penalty.

Similar to other provinces that offer property tax deferral, interest is applied on the deferred amount but at a favourable rate that approximates the government's cost of borrowing, currently at 2%. When seniors choose to defer their property taxes, the provincial government will establish a lien against the home for the value of the tax deferral. This will ensure that the amount being deferred can be collected in the future once the home is sold.

Repayment of deferred education property taxes will occur when the residence is sold or ownership is transferred to someone other than the senior's spouse or partner, or when the senior and spouse or common-law partner no longer reside in the home.

More Police Officers and Safer Communities

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

Invested over \$95 million since 2008 on targeted policing initiatives.

Kept and exceeded the 2007 commitment to fund 120 new police officer positions. A total of 173 police officers have been added to Saskatchewan cities and communities since 2007.

Over the last eight years crime has been significantly reduced in Saskatchewan:

- Between 2007 and 2014 overall crime in Saskatchewan decreased by over 21% and the overall crime rate among youth decreased by over 36% between 2008 and 2014.
- NDP Record: Between 1998 and 2007, overall crime in Saskatchewan increased by almost 8% and youth crime increased by nearly 51%.

Saskatchewan is a leader in innovative measures to reduce crime and enhance community safety. Since the implementation of the HUB model of community safety in Prince Albert in 2011:

- Prince Albert Police Service received 3,554 fewer calls for service between 2010 and 2013.
- During the same period, overall crime rate in Prince Albert decreased by 21%, while the violent and property crime rates decreased by 38% and 29% respectively.

The HUB Community Safety model has been expanded to Prince Albert, Yorkton, La Ronge, North Battleford, Moose Jaw, Estevan/Weyburn, Nipawin, Lloydminster, Swift Current, Saskatoon, Meadow Lake and Melfort.

The Saskatchewan Party has made significant improvements to the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program, providing millions of dollars in much-needed assistance to Saskatchewan people hit by natural disasters like flooding.

- The deductible amount was lowered from 20% to 5%. The maximum amount for residential claims was raised from \$160,000 to \$240,000 and the maximum amount for business claims was raised from \$160,000 to \$500,000.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Emergency First Responder Tax Credit

A Saskatchewan Party government will establish a \$3,000 non-refundable income tax credit amount for both volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical first responders, resulting in a provincial income tax saving of \$330 per year, as the province's finances strengthen.

The federal government currently provides volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers a non-refundable income tax credit of \$450 (15% of a \$3,000 amount) but does not provide similar tax credit recognition to volunteer emergency medical first responders.

Investing in K-12 Education and Licensed Child Care

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- ▀ Provincial funding for K-12 education increased by over 31% from 2007 to 2015.
- ▀ Nearly \$1 billion has been invested to build 40 brand new or replacement schools and undertake 25 major school renovations.
- ▀ Construction has started on nine joint-use schools in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville using a P3 model.
- ▀ Over half of Saskatchewan schools have been renovated or repaired since 2007.
- ▀ Funding for Pre-K programs in the province has doubled since 2007.
- ▀ The number of licensed childcare spaces has increased by nearly 5,000 since 2007. By comparison the NDP created only 2,856 licensed childcare spaces in total in 16 years. An additional 810 licensed child care spaces will open in the nine-joint use schools that are under construction in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville.
- ▀ The number of teachers and education support workers have grown since 2007, including:
 - 600 more teachers in the province
 - 200 more student support teachers
 - 45% increase in psychologists
 - 24% increase in Speech Language Pathologists
 - 14% increase in Social Workers
 - 53% increase in Occupational Therapists







Supporting First Nations and Métis and Northern Communities

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- ▀ Since 2007, off-reserve Aboriginal employment has increased by 26%.
- ▀ There were nearly 15,700 First Nations and Métis learners (including Adult Basic Education students) enrolled in the Saskatchewan post-secondary system in 2013-14. This is almost a 30% increase since 2007.
- ▀ Since 2007, \$345 million has been invested into northern highways – a 31% increase over the NDP's last eight years in government.
- ▀ Since 2007, over \$27 million has been spent to develop 270 additional housing units in northern Saskatchewan by partnering with municipalities and others in the housing sector. Over \$35 million has been spent by the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation to develop 313 rental and homeowner units and repair 317 homes in the north.
- ▀ The 2015-16 Budget included over \$210 million for initiatives that directly benefit First Nations and Métis people, including:
 - Almost \$20 million in revenue sharing for northern municipalities. This is an increase of over 90%, or over \$9 million, from 2007.
 - \$66 million in funding for First Nations and Métis employment, education and training. This brings funding to \$360 million since 2007 – a 96% increase.
 - \$6 million for the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes, including:
 - \$2.4 million to the Invitation Shared Service Initiative, which forms part of the government's response to the Joint Task Force on Education and Employment. Since 2013, over \$6 million has been invested in partnerships that focus on student supports in the areas of reading, literacy, graduation and early learning, as well as professional development for teachers.
 - \$17 million in funding for northern community based organizations.
 - \$1.2 million for targeted Pre-K programs (19 programs total).

Stewardship to Preserve Saskatchewan's Natural Environment

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

-  Announced an aggressive goal to have 50% renewable energy in Saskatchewan by 2030.
-  SaskPower has invested over \$1.2 billion in the \$1.46 billion Carbon Capture and Sequestration facility at Boundary Dam 3. This is the world's first commercial post-combustion CCS project on a coal-fired plant. The one-of-a-kind project will reduce emissions by 90%, which is equivalent to taking 250,000 cars off the road annually.
-  Continued implementation of the 10 year Water Management Infrastructure Renewal Program with a planned \$19 million capital investment last year. This includes a \$12.5 million investment in rehabilitation of the M1 canal.
-  Almost \$70 million has been invested into the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program (EFDRP) since 2010 to provide technical and financial assistance to help prevent flooding on homes, businesses and farms. Every dollar invested in EFDRP saves \$20-\$30 in replacement costs. The program has provided assistance to over 2,300 families, 712 municipalities, over 100 businesses and over 50 First Nations.
-  The provincial multi-material recycling program (MMRP) has been introduced to help municipalities with the costs of recycling and divert recyclables from landfills, giving landfills a longer life.
-  Creation of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code and results-based regulations focuses on outcomes instead of regulatory processes, bringing better protection to our environment and less red tape.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

More Solar Power in Saskatchewan

A Saskatchewan Party government will extend a program that assists homeowners to install renewable power for another two years. The province's net-metering program allows residential and business customers to generate their own grid-connected power using renewable power.

The extended program will focus exclusively on self-generated solar power, and will continue to:

- Provide a rebate of 20% on the installation costs of solar power, up to a maximum of \$20,000.
- Allow net-metering customers to retain credits for the excess power they generate for a period of 12 months.

Extending the net-metering program is one part of the Saskatchewan Party's plan to achieve a target of 50% renewable power generation capacity in Saskatchewan by 2030.

Increased Support for Persons with Disabilities and the Vulnerable

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- 🚩 Overall funding to assist persons with disabilities has doubled since 2007 – providing a cumulative total of over \$2.7 billion to support persons with disabilities.
- 🚩 Last year's 2015-16 Budget included \$485 million for people with disabilities – \$39.5 million more than the previous year and more than double the amount of funding in the 2007-08 Budget.
- 🚩 In 2009, the Saskatchewan Party Government created the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program:
 - Last year's budget included over \$200 million for SAID, a \$14 million increase from the year before.
 - There are now over 14,000 people enrolled in the program.
- 🚩 Since 2008, approximately 112,000 low-income Saskatchewan residents have been removed from the tax rolls entirely.
- 🚩 Enhancements to the low income tax credit (which is refundable to people with little or no taxes to pay) will have provided almost \$415 million to low income earners from 2008 to 2016.
- 🚩 Enhancements to the Disability Tax Credit have provided an additional \$27 million in tax relief to persons with disabilities since 2007.
- 🚩 Over \$62 million was directed to address the 440 person waitlist for services for people with intellectual disabilities left behind by the NDP.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

Individualized Funding for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

A Saskatchewan Party government will begin introducing individualized funding for pre-school children under the age of six who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The funding of \$4,000 annually per child, beginning in 2017-18, will grow to \$8,000 per child by 2019-20.

This funding represents the first step towards a goal of providing children under the age of six with individualized annual funding of \$15,000 to \$18,000 and school age children under the age of 18 with funding of \$4,800 annually.

The Government of Saskatchewan currently provides \$8.1 million in funding for ASD through the Ministry of Health, which includes \$5 million for professional medical support and consultants in health regions. ASD supports are also provided through the Ministries of Education and Social Services.

To facilitate the transition towards an individualized funding model for ASD services in Saskatchewan from the current model where funding is provided to health regions to hire specialists, a Saskatchewan Party government will establish a working group of stakeholders to review jurisdictions such as British Columbia, which has introduced individualized funding, and provide recommendations to government on issues involved in transitioning to the new model such as:

- Ensuring there are sufficient professional practitioners and other support providers for pre-school children with ASD in communities across the province;
- How best to support school aged children, both in the school system and through an individualized funding model;
- How existing funding for ASD in Saskatchewan can be most effectively utilized and integrated within a new individualized funding model.

Creating More Affordable Housing

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- Since 2007, over \$700 million has been spent to develop or repair over 14,600 housing units.
- Housing starts in Saskatchewan since 2008 have more than doubled compared to the last seven years under the NDP. In 2015, housing starts were almost 60% higher than the previous seven-year average under the NDP.
- The Saskatchewan First-Time Homebuyers Credit was introduced in 2012 to provide a non-refundable tax credit of up to \$1,100 to first-time homebuyers.
- Legislative changes were introduced to help renters:
 - Tenants must be given 12 months' notice for rent increases.
 - Members of the approved landlord association, the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Industry Association (SRHIA), must give tenants six months' notice.

Growing Active Vibrant Communities, Investing in Parks and Promoting Tourism

The Saskatchewan Party Record:




- The Community Rink Affordability Grant provides an annual grant of \$2,500 per indoor ice service to community owned skating and curling rinks across Saskatchewan. Since 2012, the program has provided almost \$6.5 million in funding to 392 communities.
- Funding for arts and culture has increased by 43% over the past eight years. This includes:
 - Creative Saskatchewan – Nearly \$21 million has been provided to the agency since its creation.
 - Mainstreet Saskatchewan – \$550,000 per year (\$2.4 million in total) for improvements to mainstreets in 15 communities.
- Provincial park funding has more than doubled over the last eight years compared to the last eight years under the NDP, from nearly \$91 million to over \$200 million. Over \$7 million in funding has been provided to the regional park system since 2008.
- Over \$11 million has been provided since 2008 to support hosting of 13 significant national and international events in Saskatchewan with a cumulative estimated economic impact of over \$320 million to our province, including:
 - The 2013 Grey Cup, the World Junior Hockey Championships, the World Men's Curling Championship, the Brier, Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the Junos, the Memorial Cup, the Canadian Country Music Awards and the 2014 North American Indigenous Games.
- Saskatchewan's provincial parks and recreation sites set a visitation record last year, with nearly 3.9 million visits. This is an increase of more than 860,000 visits since 2007.
- Nearly \$86 million has been invested in capital projects to improve parks since 2007, including upgrading and maintenance. This includes nearly 1,800 new electrified campsites and over 1,300 upgrades to electrified campsites. By comparison, the NDP spent only \$23.5M during their last eight years in government.
- Great Blue Heron Provincial Park was designated in 2013, the first new provincial park to open in 20 years.

Expand Private Liquor Stores

A Saskatchewan Party government will convert 40 government-owned liquor stores to private stores, add 12 new private liquor stores in Saskatchewan and provide a common level playing field for liquor retailers in the province to provide more choice, more convenience and more competitive pricing to Saskatchewan consumers.

This conversion plan will be revenue neutral for the government.

A level playing field will mean:

-  Retailers (public and private liquor stores, off-sales, franchises) will be able to purchase alcohol at a common wholesale price and establish their own retail price.
-  Retailers will now operate under a common set of guidelines (for example all retailers will be able to sell cold beer and mainstream beer).
-  Retailers will be treated the same when it comes to hours of operations and product selection.

A Request for Proposal will be used to select the operators for the 52 new liquor stores. Affected government liquor store employees will have the ability to participate in and will be given preferential consideration during the RFP process for a new store.

No store will be closed during this process and a conversion plan is in place to ensure continuity of service.

The provincial government will continue to monitor the cost-effectiveness and capital requirements of the remaining public liquor stores in the province. The government will continue its policy of not using public tax-dollars to build any new public liquor stores.

To provide clarity for the proposed changes to liquor retailing, the provincial government will remove the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority from *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*.

Controlling Spending and Maintaining Fiscal Discipline

The Saskatchewan Party Record:

- Seven consecutive balanced budgets prior to the global collapse in oil prices in 2015-16, with a plan to return to balanced budgets by 2017-18.
- The general operating debt of the province has been reduced by \$2.7 billion, nearly 40%, since 2007 – resulting in cumulative savings of over \$1 billion in interest payments.
- In 2014, Moody's Investor Services upgraded Saskatchewan's credit rating to triple A, the agency's highest level, saying the upgrade "reflects the province's fiscal discipline and sustained low debt levels, which underscores prudent financial management practices." Saskatchewan enjoys the highest possible rating from both Moody's and Standard & Poor's – and, overall, has among the highest credit rating of any jurisdiction in Canada and North America.
- Saskatchewan's tax supported debt as a percentage of GDP is 7.7%. This is the second lowest amongst the provinces. By comparison, tax supported debt as a percentage of GDP is 19% in BC, over 35% in Manitoba and 44% in Ontario.
- Spending control initiatives included the workforce adjustment strategy from 2010 to 2014, which reduced the number of employees in executive government by 15%.

The sudden and dramatic drop in the price of oil means that Saskatchewan's budget will be in a deficit in 2015-16 and 2016-17, returning to balance by 2017-18 through economic growth and controlled government spending. Saskatchewan's low debt-to-GDP ratio and strong credit rating means the province is in a position to sustain modest deficits in the short term, while keeping taxes low and continuing to invest in infrastructure in order to keep the economy strong.

NEW INITIATIVES TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

Build a \$500 Million Balance in the Growth and Financial Security Fund and Pay Down Debt

A Saskatchewan Party government will use oil revenues gained by the province to build a \$500 million balance in the province's rainy day fund – the Growth and Financial Security Fund – when the price of oil exceeds a threshold of \$75 U.S per barrel (WTI). Once the fund has achieved a \$500 million balance, oil revenues received by the province above the \$75 U.S. per barrel (WTI) price threshold will be dedicated to debt repayment.



Saskatchewan Party Platform Costing

New Platform Commitments

The Saskatchewan Party four-year plan is affordable and contains modest platform expenditures totaling \$105.4 million over four years.

These new modest platform expenditures will be funded each year within the four year expense forecast contained in Budget Update and Four Year Forecast, released by the Ministry of Finance on February 29, 2016.

Platform Items	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Additional Funding for Highways Repair	30	20	20	
Graduate Retention First Home Option	0.9	1.8	2.7	3.6
Seniors Education Property Tax Deferral		3.5	3.5	3.5
Individualized Funding for Children with ASD		2.8	4.2	5.6
Health Care Innovation	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Increased funding for CNIB		0.25	0.5	0.5
Total	31.4	28.9	31.4	13.7

A Saskatchewan Party government will also undertake the following measures as they are affordable and as the province's finances strengthen:

- Increasing the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship from \$500 per year to \$750 per year at an annual cost of \$4.5 million.
- Providing a non-refundable volunteer firefighter and volunteer medical emergency first responder tax credit worth \$330 per volunteer at an annual cost of \$1 million.
- Introducing partial refundability of the R&D tax credit at an annual cost of \$4 million.

Saskatchewan Party Platform Costing Cont'd

Four Year Fiscal Forecast: 2016-17 to 2019-20 (in millions)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Revenue	14,212	14,856	15,282	15,677
Expense	14,471	14,806	15,176	15,525
Contingency			50	75
Surplus (deficit)	-259	50	56	77

The four-year forecast is based upon the Budget Update and Four Year Forecast, released by the Ministry of Finance on February 29, 2016.

Assumptions in the Ministry of Finance Four Year Forecast:

Revenue: Revenue is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 3.3 per cent over the medium term – consistent with, but at a lower rate than, the economy which is expected to average 5.5 per cent nominal GDP growth over the same period (2.3 per cent real GDP growth).

Expense: The four year forecast uses the same expense targets as the 2015-16 Budget medium term forecast. Expense growth averages 2.3 per cent per year from the 2015-16 Budget to 2019-20. This is consistent with expense growth over the previous five years. From 2010-11 to 2014-15, expenses grew at an average annual rate of 2.3 per cent.

Financial Outlook: The current four-year financial outlook projects a deficit of \$259 million in 2016-17. The Budget becomes balanced with a small surplus in 2017-18 as commodity prices begin to recover and the Saskatchewan economy normalizes. Modest surpluses are projected in the out-years of the forecast period, after a contingency allocation in the latter two years.