



September 25, 2018

David Forbes, MLA
Saskatoon Centre Constituency
Official Opposition Critic for Ethics and Democracy, Diversity, Equality and Human Rights,
Parks, Culture and Sport, and Tourism Saskatchewan
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Dear David Forbes:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the New Democratic Opposition Critic for Ethics and Democracy; Diversity, Equality and Human Rights, Parks, Culture and Sport, and Tourism Saskatchewan.

We are two years away from a provincial election and our team of NDP MLAs continues to grow. Everywhere we travel in the province, we hear more people saying it's time for a change. New Democrats are leading that change. Over the next two years, we must continue to point out the failings of the outgoing government while clearly articulating our vision, highlighting our new ideas, and sharing our plans to deliver on them.

Saskatchewan people want and deserve strong representation and accountability from their elected leadership. The harmful choices and lack of transparency we've seen from the current government has led many to lose trust. In your role, you have the opportunity and responsibility to hold this government to the higher standard that Saskatchewan people expect, while championing the policies that will build a better future for Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan is a province blessed with tremendous wealth. We are the stewards of abundant natural resources and home to caring, innovative, hard-working people. Despite these strengths, and despite a decade of record revenue, the people of our province have been burdened by significant struggles. Debt has grown to nearly \$20 billion, doubling in the last five years. This government continues to hire out-of-province workers while unemployment in the province is at its highest level in years. The Sask. Party's response to difficult times has been to cut health, education, job training, and supports for the most vulnerable, while cutting taxes for the wealthy and well-connected. This approach has been shown, around the world and here at home, to hurt people and slow down our economic recovery.

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We have been told that we have no choice but to accept that we will pay more and get less. New Democrats know better. We understand how to make the investments that will strengthen our economy and improve our lives well into the future. We are ready to lead the change that will see Saskatchewan people enjoying the full benefit of our province's many strengths.

Our next two years will consist of laying the groundwork for an NDP government that delivers real improvements in the lives of Saskatchewan people.

This will include working in the Legislative Assembly and in the community to build strong relationships with leaders in your critic areas and advocate for the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

Saskatchewan's lack of campaign finance regulation undermines our democracy and erodes faith in our decisions and institutions. In spite of our province's motto — From Many Peoples, Strength — too many people face barriers and challenges keeping them from participating fully in the political, cultural, social and economic life of our province. Saskatchewan was once seen as a beacon of innovative policy and thriving human potential, and can become such a beacon once again.

As Critic for Ethics and Democracy; Diversity, Equality and Human Rights; Parks, Culture and Sport; and Tourism Saskatchewan; you will be standing up against the harmful choices of the Sask. Party and promoting the New Democratic vision of a better way forward as you:

- Serve as a strong and vocal watchdog holding the Sask. Party government to account, investigating any wrongdoing, and proposing steps that would restore public trust in politics.
- Advocate for comprehensive campaign finance reform that gets big money out of politics and ensures that political decisions reflect what's best for people rather than what's best for big donors.
- Work to bridge the divides and heal the divisions that keep us from working together as equals across lines of race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and ability.
- Defend Saskatchewan parks from further defunding and commercialization and advocate for adequate provincial supports for culture, sport, and tourism.
- Work towards the restoration of the Film Tax Credit to restore Saskatchewan as a leader in film production.

I am grateful for your commitment to our province and our opposition team. I look forward to working alongside you as we build towards the formation of a New Democratic government that will deliver lasting improvements in the lives of Saskatchewan people.

Sincerely,



Ryan Meili
Leader of the Official Opposition