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September 25, 2018

Buckley Belanger, MLA
Athabasca Constituency
Official Opposition Critic for Highways and Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, and Forestry
265 Legislative Building
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Buckley Belanger:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the New Democratic Opposition Critic for Highways and Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, and Forestry.

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.

The current government has overspent massively on pet projects while neglecting rural roads and interurban connectors. For the work that has been done, they have relied heavily on out-of-province workers for highways while unemployment has grown in Saskatchewan. They have presided over a giveaway of our natural resources, and as a result we face the end of a decade of booming markets with the largest debt our province has ever seen.

As Critic for Highways and Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, and Forestry, 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:

- Advocate for the effective and affordable management of Saskatchewan highways and roads, built by Saskatchewan workers, to ensure safe and convenient access to cities, farms, towns and reserves.
- Promote successful, sustainable development of our resource sector and a fair return to Saskatchewan people from the sale of our natural resources.
- Work closely with the forestry sector to seek opportunities for value-added industry and increased employment.

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