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September 25, 2018

Vicki Mowat, MLA  
Saskatoon Fairview Constituency  
Official Opposition Critic for Health, Status of Women, and Innovation  
265 Legislative Building  
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Vicki Mowat:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the New Democratic Opposition Critic for Health, Status of Women, and Innovation.

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.

We are rightly proud of Saskatchewan's legacy as the home of universal medicare, but we can't ignore the threats to our universal healthcare system posed by the Sask. Party government's underfunding, creeping privatization, and hastily imposed amalgamations. The NDP Opposition is standing up to this mismanagement while advocating for a health system that meets our changing needs and makes the upstream investments that prevent illness in the first place.

The Sask. Party has taken no action on pay equity, has downgraded the Status of Women office and has taken half measures to improve support for victims of domestic violence. There is so much more we can do to increase gender equality in our province.

As Critic for Health, Status of Women, and Innovation, 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 at the provincial level for adequate, stable and predictable funding for our universal healthcare system and expanded access to key service such as dental, hearing, and vision care.
- Advocate for universal pharmacare so that Saskatchewan patients no longer need to choose between paying the rent, paying for groceries, or paying for the medications they need to stay healthy.
- Defend and promote the status of women in Saskatchewan, viewing policies in every ministry through the lens of gender equity and advocating for policies that enhance equality.
- Promote opportunities for the diversification of the Saskatchewan economy through innovation and research.

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan".

Ryan Meili  
Leader of the Official Opposition