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September 25, 2018

Doyle Vermette, MLA
Cumberland Constituency
Official Opposition Critic for Northern Saskatchewan and
Associate Critic for First Nations and Métis Relations
265 Legislative Building
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Doyle Vermette:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the New Democratic Opposition Critic for Northern Saskatchewan and Associate Critic for First Nations and Métis Relations.

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.

Northern Saskatchewan is a source of incredible wealth for our entire province, yet the people who live in the North have not experienced the benefits of that wealth. Instead, they face high rates of unemployment and poverty and the accompanying health and social troubles. Northerners deserve a government that listens to their concerns and advances their interests to ensure that everyone in Saskatchewan has access to good jobs and affordable services.

As Critic for Northern Saskatchewan and Associate Critic for First Nations and Métis Relations, 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:

- Promote sustainable development in Northern Saskatchewan and ensure that the concerns of Northerners are heard by the Sask. Party government.
- Push for real action to address the unacceptable gaps in health, income, poverty, and wellness between Northerners and the rest of Saskatchewan.
- Work collaboratively with First Nations and Métis leadership, communities, and the Treaty Commission to advocate for government action to close the gap in health, education, and economic outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

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