



September 25, 2018

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Yens Pedersen, MLA
Regina Northeast Constituency
Official Opposition Critic for Agriculture, Environment,
and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation
265 Legislative Building
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Yens Pedersen:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the New Democratic Opposition Critic for Agriculture, Environment, and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

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 has abundant wind, sun and other sources of renewable energy. We are also sustained by our soil and water, our forests and fields. The Sask. Party is increasingly taking rural Saskatchewan for granted, and ignoring the environmental impact of human activity, and this has real impact on all of our lives. Issues such as illegal drainage, access to markets by rail and preparation for the impact of climate change have seen much talk and no serious action. The farmers and ranchers that are the lifeblood of our agricultural economy deserve better support to ensure their long-term success.

The Sask. Party government has consistently failed to provide effective environmental stewardship and leadership in our province, with inaction on climate change and weakened regulations. We must stand up to shortsighted government policies that fail to address the threat of climate change, that pollute our environment, and that degrade our ability to support ourselves from the land. Saskatchewan is missing enormous opportunities to become a leader by planning for the economy of the coming century, because the Sask. Party is stuck in the ideas of the past.

As Critic for Agriculture, Environment, and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation 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:

- Stand up for our agricultural producers to promote the strength and vibrancy of the sector and promote the good stewardship of our land, water, and air for future generations.
- Show leadership in pursuing smart and proactive policies to guide our transition to the clean energy infrastructure of the future.
- Advocate for policies that will build capacity for farms, small towns, First Nations communities and cities to meet their energy needs with local renewable power generation.

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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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Ryan Meili
Leader of the Official Opposition