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September 25, 2018

Carla Beck, MLA
Regina Lakeview Constituency
Official Opposition Critic for Education, Early Learning and Childcare, and Advanced Education
265 Legislative Building
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Carla Beck:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the New Democratic Opposition Critic for Education, Early Learning and Childcare, and Advanced Education.

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.

From early childhood development to lifelong learning, education is the single most important investment we can make in our long-term economic and social well-being. In Saskatchewan, education needs a champion willing to work to see that every child has their best chance to succeed. Sask. Party cuts have led to the closure of preschool programs for high-needs children, crumbling infrastructure, crowded and complex classrooms, low teacher morale, and the highest university tuition in Western Canada.

As Critic for Education, Early Learning and Childcare, and Advanced Education, 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:

- Work with school boards, teachers, parents and students to improve relationships and promote predictable and sufficient investment for our schools to return Saskatchewan to a leadership role in K-12 education.
- Advocate for universally accessible, affordable, high-quality childcare and early childhood education.
- Advocate for the essential role that colleges and universities play in promoting individual fulfillment, economic growth, technological innovation and a highly trained workforce, and work to ensure that anyone with the dedication to further their education has access to the opportunity.

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