



September 25, 2018

Nicole Rancourt, MLA  
Prince Albert Northcote Constituency  
Official Opposition Critic for Social Services, Housing, Community-Based Organizations,  
and Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI)  
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Dear Nicole Rancourt:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the New Democratic Opposition Critic for Social Services, Housing, Community-Based Organizations, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI).

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.

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.



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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.

One in four Saskatchewan children live in poverty. Poverty costs us nearly \$4 billion per year in additional costs in health, justice and social services and decreased economic activity. And this says nothing of the human cost, measured in shortened lives, greater suffering, and frustrated potential. The Sask. Party has failed to take action on a poverty reduction strategy and is instead seeing rising numbers of people needing to access social services. The response has been to cut key supports such as special diet coverage for people with chronic illnesses and the rental housing supplement. They have also looked seriously at selling off SGI rather than doing the work to use this crown to keep auto insurance affordable.

As Critic for Social Services, Housing, Community-Based Organizations, and Saskatchewan Government Insurance, 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:

- Consult closely with frontline organizations and people with lived experience of poverty to develop and advocate for policy proposals that meet their real needs.
- Push for policies that address the growing challenges in housing affordability and homelessness and advocate for an increased supply of safe, affordable and adequate social housing.
- Fight to keep SGI public and work to keep insurance affordable for Saskatchewan 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