



September 25, 2018

Trent Wotherspoon, MLA  
Regina Rosemont Constituency  
Official Opposition Critic for Finance, Municipal Relations, and the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program and Associate Critic for the Economy and Jobs  
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Dear Trent Wotherspoon:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as the New Democratic Opposition Critic for Finance, Municipal Relations, and the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program and Associate Critic for the Economy and Jobs.

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.

For a party that claims to care about the economy, the Sask. Party has real trouble with economics. The austerity approach of cutting key people services like health, education and services for the most vulnerable while cutting taxes for the wealthy and well-connected has been shown to hurt people and slow down economic recovery.

The Sask. Party's surprise cuts to municipalities have deeply damaged relations between the province and our cities and hometowns, forcing them to raise rates and reduce services. The relationship between the province and rural and urban municipalities needs to be built on mutual respect and understanding of the interdependent nature of these levels of government, not finger-pointing and the indiscriminate downloading of costs.

As Critic for Finance, Municipal Relations, and the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program and Associate Critic for the Economy and Jobs, 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:

- Scrutinize the financial dealings of government, including the rising debt, overspending on P3s and pet projects, and procurement practices that outsource jobs while Saskatchewan unemployment is on the rise.
- Identify and promote opportunities to improve and ensure sustainability of our public finances, invest in people, and make sure those who benefit the most in our economy contribute their fair share.
- Seek opportunities to create good jobs and for investment in programs that will grow our economy while improving the lives of Saskatchewan people.
- Work alongside leaders in our cities, towns and rural municipalities to identify current problems and identify ways of improving access to key services.

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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 that reads "Ryan".

Ryan Meili  
Leader of the Official Opposition