



 **Brad Wall** *and the*  
**Saskatchewan**  
**Party**

**Brad Wall**  
**Moving Saskatchewan Forward**

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# **Message from Premier Brad Wall Saskatchewan is Moving Forward**

Over the past four years, your Saskatchewan Party government has pursued a growth agenda – but growth is not the end goal. Our goal is to ensure that all Saskatchewan people share in the benefits of growth, to secure our province’s future, and to improve the quality of life of everyone in our province.

- Today in Saskatchewan, more people than ever are calling our province home, and we have the lowest unemployment rate in the country.
- Today in Saskatchewan, our economy is leading the nation, and is predicted to lead the nation again next year. Over the last four years, 24,500 new jobs have been created.
- Today in Saskatchewan, surgical wait lists are getting shorter.
- Today in Saskatchewan, people with disabilities have a new and dignified income support program.
- Today in Saskatchewan, one-third of our schools have been repaired or renovated, and there are more than 3,400 new child care spaces.
- Today in Saskatchewan, our post-secondary system is seeing record investments, student loan limits have been increased, and new student housing is being built.
- Today in Saskatchewan, we’re building more long term care facilities and seniors housing projects, and low income seniors have seen their benefits double.
- Today in Saskatchewan, rural communities are growing and thriving, and farm and ranch families are receiving the support they deserve.
- Today in Saskatchewan, taxes are lower: income tax, education property tax, and small business taxes have all been reduced.
- Today in Saskatchewan, debt has been reduced by 44% and the budget is balanced.

In this platform you will read about our government’s record and about our plan for the next four years. It is a plan that focuses on growth and opportunity, making life more affordable, improving the quality of life of Saskatchewan people, and providing responsive and responsible government.

There is more work to do, but today in Saskatchewan our province is looking forward to the future with optimism and with hope.

Because the only day better than today in Saskatchewan is tomorrow in Saskatchewan.



**Brad Wall,  
Premier of Saskatchewan**

## Our Vision



The Saskatchewan Party vision for our province is a strong and growing Saskatchewan – over 1.1 million people by 2015. Saskatchewan will continue to be a “have” province and will continue to move toward becoming debt-free.

We will be a province where young people have the best educational and career opportunities, a province where we treat our seniors with dignity and respect. And a province that leads the nation in quality of life for people with disabilities and where we care for those in need. Communities will be safer, health care will be better and surgical wait times will be shorter.

Our vision is for a Saskatchewan that is an economic leader in Canada and is providing leadership in a world that needs food and energy security.

Simply put, our vision is that Saskatchewan will be the best place in Canada - to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life. These are the new ideas to achieve that vision and to keep Saskatchewan moving forward.

## New Ideas to Keep Saskatchewan Moving Forward

### Post-Secondary Education Affordability Plan

#### Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship

- Beginning in 2012, provide up to \$2,000 over four years to new high school graduates to reduce the cost of post-secondary tuition in Saskatchewan.

#### Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings:

- Match up to 10% of the annual contribution to a child's RESP account, to a maximum of \$250 annually. This is in addition to the basic Canada Education Savings Grant.

### Seniors Affordability Plan

- Increase the maximum Saskatchewan Seniors Income Plan benefit up to \$80 per month or almost \$1,000 annually.
- Provide a Seniors in Personal Care Home Benefit, a \$3,000 annual benefit to low income seniors residing in personal care homes, beginning next year.

### Children and Youth Affordability Plan

- Expand the \$150 per year Active Families Benefit to children and youth under 18.
- Expand the PST exemption on children's clothing to youth under 18.
- Fund 2,000 new child care spaces.

### First Time Homebuyers Tax Credit

- Introduce a new \$10,000 tax credit for first time homebuyers – a saving of \$1,100.

# Tomorrow in Saskatchewan

## Faster Access to Quality Health Care

- Reduce wait times for surgery to no more than three months.

### Better access to health care in rural and remote communities:

- Create a new 20 doctor rural locum pool to provide additional physician coverage and assistance to rural doctors.
- Forgive up to \$120,000 in Saskatchewan student loans for new doctors that practice for five years in underserved rural and remote communities.
- Forgive up to \$20,000 in Saskatchewan student loans for new nurses and nurse practitioners that practice for five years in underserved rural and remote communities.
- Add 20 new training seats for Nurse Practitioners.
- Expand pilot projects to increase the use of emergency medical technicians and mobile health service personnel in health care facilities and communities.
- Launch STARS emergency helicopter service to improve medical coverage across Saskatchewan.

### Reducing Costs for People with Diabetes:

- Move long acting insulin from Exception Drug Status listing to full Formulary listing.
- Expand access to the Children's Insulin Pump Program to people 25 years old and under.

## Improving the Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities

- Increase benefits and access to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Program.
- Increase funding for Autism services by \$4 million over four years.

## Safer Communities

- Reduce crime by hiring more police officers and prosecutors to target high risk violent offenders.
- Support community mobilization projects to reduce crime.

## Improving Saskatchewan Parks and Making Community Rinks More Affordable

- Invest an additional \$10 million over four years to build new campsites and improve showers and bathrooms in provincial parks.
- Provide an annual \$2,500 grant for community indoor rinks.

## Investing \$2.2 Billion into Saskatchewan's Highways and Transportation Infrastructure

- Continue to improve the quality of Saskatchewan's highways and contribute to Saskatchewan's economic growth by investing \$2.2 billion over the next four years.

## Securing Saskatchewan's Natural Resource Advantages and Protecting the Environment

- Develop a 25 year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan to ensure water resources in the province are protected and managed for the long term benefit of Saskatchewan people.
- Support the establishment of an institute for Global Food Security at the University of Saskatchewan.
- Support enhanced oil recovery research at the University of Regina.



# Growth and Opportunity

## Today in Saskatchewan

Under the leadership of Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party, Saskatchewan's economy and population are growing.

- █ Saskatchewan's population reached a new all-time record of 1,057,884 on July 1, 2011.
- █ From January 2008 to July 2011, Saskatchewan's population grew by over 50,000 - the highest sustained growth in 80 years.
- █ There were more people working full time in August of 2011 – 454,300 – than ever before in Saskatchewan's history.
- █ Saskatchewan has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada.

### **The Royal Bank expects our economy to grow by 4.3 per cent this year and 4.1 per cent next year - the highest in Canada**

- █ Saskatchewan's economy grew by 4.4 per cent last year - the second highest growth in Canada. The Conference Board of Canada expects Saskatchewan to have the highest economic growth next year.
- █ Private sector capital investment has grown by 40 per cent since 2007, from \$10 billion in annual investment to a forecasted \$14 billion this year.
- █ Saskatchewan exports grew by almost 50 per cent or over \$75 billion since 2007.
- █ Saskatchewan leads the West in supporting entrepreneurship. According to a CFIB survey, 79 per cent of Saskatchewan small businesses are confident their provincial government has a vision that supports small business, compared to 56 per cent of small businesses in BC, 44 per cent in Alberta and only 21 per cent in Manitoba. Saskatchewan also had the highest percentage of businesses (89 per cent) who said they would recommend starting a business within their province.

**Saskatchewan is on the right track with a growing population, more jobs being created, more people working and more investment in our province.**

# Tomorrow in Saskatchewan

## The Saskatchewan Advantage Growth Plan

For the past four years, the Saskatchewan Party government has pursued a growth agenda in order to make life more affordable and improve the quality of life for Saskatchewan people. Through the Saskatchewan Advantage Growth Plan, Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party will keep Saskatchewan moving forward by:

- Keeping taxes low and resource royalties stable.
- Reducing red tape and barriers to growth.
- Promoting trade in key export markets.
- Investing \$2.2 billion in highway and transportation infrastructure.
- Upgrading Crown utility infrastructure.
- Securing Saskatchewan's natural resource advantage.
- Attracting investment and telling Saskatchewan's story to the world.

## Don't Risk Going Backwards with Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP:

In this election Saskatchewan people have a choice: Continue moving forward with Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party or risk going back to the past with Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP.

### Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP:

- ✗ The NDP raised taxes 17 times while Dwain Lingenfelter was in government.
- ✗ The NDP is proposing a massive 50% to 80% resource tax hike that would kill jobs and threaten investment.
- ✗ Dwain Lingenfelter will cut a special deal to give part of Saskatchewan's resource wealth just to First Nations.
- ✗ Saskatchewan suffered net out-migration in every one of the 13 years Dwain Lingenfelter was in government.
- ✗ The NDP left a "billion dollar pothole" in our highways.
- ✗ Tens of thousands of people left Saskatchewan to pursue opportunities elsewhere.
- ✗ Saskatchewan was a 'have not' province.

### HAVE or HAVE NOT?

Saskatchewan was forced to rely on equalization payments in every one of the 13 years that Dwain Lingenfelter was in government.

## ***The Saskatchewan Party Plan: Moving Forward Through Growth and Opportunity***

Through the Saskatchewan Advantage Growth Plan, a Saskatchewan Party government will continue to foster economic and population growth

### **Competitive Taxes, Fiscal Management and a Positive Economic Climate**

- ▀ Keeping taxes low, and reducing taxes as it becomes affordable within a balanced budget, to encourage investment and make life more affordable.
- ▀ Balancing the budget and reducing debt.
- ▀ Keeping natural resource rates stable and encouraging investment and job creation in resource industries.
- ▀ Reducing red tape on businesses and barriers to growth by legislating red tape accountability measures, public reporting and targets for red tape reduction.
- ▀ Establishing a one-stop business portal to streamline government services for business.
- ▀ Promoting trade and opening global markets for Saskatchewan's world-class resources and commodities.

### **Highways and Infrastructure Investment**

- ▀ Investing \$2.2 billion in highways and infrastructure over the next four years.

- ▀ Building new power infrastructure, including a new clean coal plant, and continuing improvements to Saskatchewan's cellular and high speed Internet coverage.

### **Innovation and a Knowledge Economy**

- ▀ Investing in innovation, post-secondary institutions and Saskatchewan's knowledge economy.
- ▀ Support enhanced oil recovery research at the University of Regina and work with the University of Saskatchewan to establish an Institute for Global Food Security.
- ▀ Creating more training opportunities, including improving education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.

### **Making Saskatchewan the Place to Be**

- ▀ Growing Saskatchewan's population through incentives for young people to stay and move to Saskatchewan, promoting job opportunities in Saskatchewan and attracting new Canadians to Saskatchewan.

## ***The Saskatchewan Party Record: A Strong Economy, a Growing Province***

Lower Taxes to Encourage Business Growth and Investment

- ▀ The Saskatchewan Party government reduced the small business tax rate by more than half - from 4.5 per cent to 2 per cent.
- ▀ Today, Saskatchewan has the third-lowest small business tax rate in Canada.
- ▀ The Mineral Exploration Tax Credit was reintroduced and the Saskatchewan Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit was made fully refundable.

### **Strong Fiscal Management**

- ▀ Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party have delivered four consecutive balanced budgets.
- ▀ Government debt has been reduced by \$3 billion or 44 per cent since 2007.
- ▀ Standard & Poor's has upgraded Saskatchewan's credit rating to 'AAA' – the highest rating possible – for the first time in our province's history.

# Growth and Opportunity

## Reducing Red Tape and Making it Easier to do Business in Saskatchewan

### In addition to lowering taxes, the Saskatchewan Party government has taken action to reduce barriers to growth:

- Introduced the Regulatory Accountability Initiative to reduce red tape for business.
- Business Registrations Saskatchewan was created to provide one easy-to-use online process to register a business in Saskatchewan. This is the first phase in the plan to provide business owners with a single online access point to government services.

## Investing in Higher Education, Skills Training and the Knowledge Economy

### Increased Funding to Post-Secondary Institutions

- The Saskatchewan Party government has provided \$2.8 billion in funding to Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions over the past four years. This is a 40 per cent increase since 2007.
- The Saskatchewan Party government has invested \$356 million in capital funding for the post-secondary system.
- In partnership with the Government of Canada, \$118 million has been dedicated to 21 projects at 13 institutions across the province through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program.
- A \$300 million investment towards a new Academic Health Sciences Building is the largest ever contribution to a capital project in University of Saskatchewan history.

### Increasing Training and Apprenticeship Opportunities, Support for Skills Training

- Today in Saskatchewan, there are over 35,500 training opportunities - an increase of over 6,000 since 2007.
- The Saskatchewan Party government will provide over \$95 million for training opportunities this year.
- This year's budget provides over \$21 million for Adult Basic Education (ABE) to support the approximately 7,600 individuals who will access ABE this year.

### First Nations and Métis Education and Employment Strategy

In May, 2011 the Saskatchewan Party government signed an historic agreement with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to establish a joint task force on improving education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people, with a commitment to:

- Improve early childhood outcomes and transition to school.

- Increase high school and post-secondary completion rates.
- Improve participation in the labour force and employment.
- Provide greater quality of life and enhanced self sufficiency.

### This year through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership, the Saskatchewan Party government will provide support for:

#### Northern Career Quest Partnership

- \$6.3 million to prepare northerners for employment opportunities in northern resource industries. This program will link an estimated 1500 people to employment opportunities.

#### Bridges and Foundations ASEP

- \$3 million in existing and new spending by the province to provide approximately 400 underemployed First Nations and Métis people with training and work experience.

## Investing in Innovation and the Jobs of Tomorrow

### Over the last 3 years, the Saskatchewan Party government has invested \$273 million into innovation

This demonstrated commitment to innovation and the jobs of tomorrow will help fuel future economic growth.

#### New initiatives include:

- \$30 million over the next seven years to establish a new research centre for nuclear medicine and material science at the University of Saskatchewan.
- \$2 million to the Canadian Light Source in Saskatoon to explore producing medical isotopes.
- \$10 million for the cyclotron research centre at the University of Saskatchewan.
- \$4 million for a new Positron Emission Tomography – Computed Tomography facility in Saskatoon.
- \$4.5 million over three years for the Petroleum Technology Research Centre at the University of Regina.
- In 2009, \$14 million was provided to fund IPAC – the International Performance Assessment Centre for CO2 Geologic Storage – also at the University of Regina.
- The Saskatchewan Party government has also invested \$1.24 billion in the clean-coal Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Project.

## Building Saskatchewan's Infrastructure

The NDP left "a billion dollar pothole" in Saskatchewan's roads and highways; they collected more than \$1 billion more in fuel tax than they re-invested in our province's highways. Since 2007, the Saskatchewan Party government has dedicated all the fuel tax and more towards repairing and improving our highways and transportation infrastructure.

Beginning in 2008, with a \$1 billion 'Ready for Growth' Initiative, significant infrastructure investments have been made to ensure our schools and hospitals, highways and communities are ready to support a growing economy and a growing population.

In February 2009, the Ready for Growth investment was boosted by an additional \$500 million 'Booster Shot'. Additional stimulus projects were entered into under Canada's Action Plan with the federal government.

In total, the Saskatchewan Party government has invested over \$4 billion in the province's infrastructure over the last four years – the largest investment in infrastructure in Saskatchewan's history. Continued improvement of Saskatchewan's infrastructure remains a top priority.

### Highways and Transportation Infrastructure

- 🚧 The Saskatchewan Party government's four-year highways investment of over \$2.2 billion is the largest in the province's history.
- 🚧 Over 6000 kilometres of Saskatchewan highways have been improved in the past four years.
- 🚧 An additional \$66 million was allocated this year to fix roads and highways affected by unprecedented flooding.

### Major highways projects include:

- 🚧 Twinning Highway 11 north of Saskatoon to Prince Albert.
- 🚧 The Lewvan Interchange project in Regina.
- 🚧 A new South Bridge in Saskatoon.
- 🚧 Replacing the St. Louis bridge.

## **PROMISE ... PLUS!**

In the 2007 election, the Saskatchewan Party promised to invest \$1.8 billion in our roads and highways over four years. Total highways investments since 2007 actually total over \$2.2 billion.



## The Global Transportation Hub

The Global Transportation Hub (GTH) west of Regina is a world-class transportation and logistics centre that connects Saskatchewan to global export markets. To date, three major tenants have already signed on to the project: Canadian Logistic Services – which serves the Loblaws group of companies, Canadian Pacific, and Yanke. The GTH is attracting hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment and creating hundreds of new jobs. To support the project, over \$170 million in road work in southwest Regina has been undertaken.

**The Saskatchewan Party government invested 64 per cent more in highways and transportation in its first four years than the NDP government did in its last four years.**

## Crown Infrastructure

Four years ago, the Saskatchewan Party inherited a massive infrastructure deficit within our province's Crown Corporations. SaskPower alone faced billions of dollars in needed improvements. Capital improvements were required across the entire Crown sector to ensure Saskatchewan people were receiving the high quality, affordable utility services the Crowns are meant to provide.

The Saskatchewan Party government put a plan in place to address these infrastructure needs and today the results are showing:

### SaskPower

- █ SaskPower is developing its largest infrastructure project ever – the \$1.2 billion Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Sequestration project.
- █ \$9.8 billion in capital investment at SaskPower will be undertaken over the next 10 years to expand and refurbish existing infrastructure and develop new infrastructure.
- █ The Saskatchewan Party government is committed to doubling the province's wind power capacity by the year 2015.
- █ The Saskatchewan Party government, SaskPower and the newly established First Nations Power Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will help the province's First Nations advance power generation projects on-reserve.

### SaskTel

- █ The Saskatchewan Party government provided SaskTel with \$48 million to develop 56 new digital cellular sites in rural communities. The Rural Infrastructure Program will ensure 100 per cent of the population have access to high speed Internet and 98 per cent have access to the wireless phone network.
- █ Announced the launch of the new 3G+ high-speed wireless network on August 16, 2010. By the end of 2011, 98 per cent of the province will be covered by this network.

## Northern Infrastructure

- █ \$150 million has been invested to build, operate and maintain the northern transportation system, including highways, airports and the Wollaston Lake Barge.
- █ The Saskatchewan Party government is advancing a Northern Transportation Strategy to prioritize northern transportation investments.
- █ Under the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP), Northern Communities received \$1.8 million to enhance local infrastructure. In cooperation with the Government of Canada (Building Canada Fund), \$15 million was invested in Northern Communities to improve water treatment facilities, wastewater treatment plants and recreational facilities.



## Securing our Natural Resource Advantage

### Potash

In a world that desires food security, Saskatchewan is home to over 50 per cent of one of the most sought after nutrients for fertilizer. Global development of the potash industry is increasing and Saskatchewan must remain competitive in order to benefit from this strategic resource for years to come.

**FACT: Saskatchewan already has the highest potash taxes in the world.**

The Saskatchewan Party government has maintained the resource royalty and tax structures that were implemented in 2003 and 2005 by the Calvert NDP government.

This stable royalty structure is the reason for the nearly \$13 billion capital investment in the Saskatchewan potash industry over the next decade which will result in nearly 20,000 person-years of construction work and over 2,000 permanent jobs.

The NDP are proposing massive increases to our resource royalties - even musing about an 80 per cent resource tax hike. Dwain Lingenfelter has even gone so far as to suggest that if companies were to leave Saskatchewan because of these punitive tax hikes, an NDP government would nationalize the potash industry. These backward-looking economic policies would risk billions of dollars in new investment in the potash industry and kill thousands of jobs.

In 2010, Premier Brad Wall said no to a foreign takeover of PotashCorp because it provided no net benefit to the province. Today, potash companies are undertaking new investment by building new mines and creating new jobs.

Keeping Saskatchewan's potash industry moving forward by maintaining the current royalty structure will ensure new investment continues to develop this vital Saskatchewan commodity.



## **Potash Royalties... What others are saying:**

*"To encourage investment in potash mines or expansion, it is necessary for the companies to have some relatively predictable understanding of their income flow over the entire lifetime of the mine. While there are reasonable expectations of price fluctuations and other variables, having the royalty in constant flux is not conducive to investor confidence."*

**Murray Fulton and Ken Rasmussen,  
Johnson Shoyama professors,  
March 31, 2011**

*"I don't think there is very much merit in it (NDP wanting to change potash royalty structure). It is more of a political posture than it is an economic one. The NDP has been looking for some kind of an issue, a wedge issue, to hang its hat on and potash came along."*

**Paul Martin,  
Business Analyst,  
February 15, 2011**

## **P.A. mill to see new life**

Prince Albert Daily Herald, March 7, 2011

*"We are now seeing a resurgence, a rebirth, of faith in the industry, which will not only begin with the announcement today, but it will encourage clusters of industries associated with the milling operation to call Prince Albert their home."*

**Prince Albert Mayor Jim Scarrow**

## **Oil and Gas**

Other Canadian jurisdictions have suffered the negative economic consequences of raising oil and gas royalty rates. The Saskatchewan Party government's decision to maintain royalty stability has led to increased activity in our oil and gas sector:

- The Fraser Institute considers Saskatchewan the number one jurisdiction in Canada for oil and gas investment and number 11 in the world.
- The Saskatchewan Party government introduced new incentives for horizontal gas wells that took effect June 1, 2010.

## **Forestry**

When the Saskatchewan Party first formed government in 2007, the province's forestry sector was struggling - pulp and saw mills had closed, jobs had been lost, and the NDP government was willing to risk \$100 million of taxpayer money on an 11th-hour deal to re-open the Prince Albert pulp mill.

Over the past four years, positive steps have been taken to renew and re-establish Saskatchewan's forestry industry:

- The Prince Albert pulp mill, Carrot River saw mill, Hudson Bay plywood mill and the Big River saw mill are under new ownership or have plans for new mill development.
- The Saskatchewan Party government assigned management of the Prince Albert Forest Management Agreement to a new entity: Sakaw Askiy Forest Management Inc. This group consists of forest industry companies and First Nations groups.

## **Uranium**

The uranium industry employs hundreds of people in Saskatchewan's north – including many First Nations people. The Saskatchewan Party government:

- Struck the Uranium Development Partnership to look at opportunities for growth in the industry and ways to add value to Saskatchewan uranium.
- Launched a Centre of Excellence at the University of Saskatchewan to examine nuclear medicine and other valuable uses for uranium.
- Maintained stable royalty and taxation rates to ensure future growth in the industry.

## ***Telling the Saskatchewan Story: Engaging Canada and the World***

Saskatchewan's exports have increased by almost 50 per cent to \$75 billion since 2007.

Saskatchewan is now an economic leader in Canada and is providing leadership in a world that needs food and energy security.

### **New West Partnership**

The Saskatchewan Party government joined with Alberta and British Columbia to create the New West Partnership (NWP) in April 2010. The NWP creates an economic powerhouse of nine million people with a combined GDP of about \$500 billion.

The New West Partnership is an ambitious and enterprising agreement that creates Canada's largest inter-provincial barrier-free trade and investment market for the benefit of workers, businesses and investors in all three provinces.

### **Promoting Saskatchewan on the Global Stage**

Over the last four years, Premier Brad Wall has been telling the Saskatchewan story and promoting opportunities in Saskatchewan to audiences, investors, and government officials in key trade and export markets. Saskatchewan has

also been a leader in forging stronger partnerships with other Western provinces through joint Cabinet meetings and participation in the New West Partnership.

### **Highlights of the last four years include:**

- Leading a trade mission to India and Bangladesh that included 41 Saskatchewan companies, 3 post-secondary institutions and 5 industry associations.
- Participating in a joint trade mission to China and Japan with British Columbia and Alberta to promote trade and commerce opportunities in western Canada.
- Forging a stronger relationship with the United States, including a Saskatchewan mission to Washington DC to meet with United States Secretaries for Energy and Agriculture and members of Congress and hosting two congressional delegations to Saskatchewan.
- Joint cabinet meetings with Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba.
- A trade mission to London to promote investment in Saskatchewan.



## Growing Saskatchewan's Population

Under the NDP, Saskatchewan suffered from population decline, losing thousands upon thousands of our residents – especially young people – to other provinces. With the worst job creation record in Canada and a stagnant economy, young people and young families left in pursuit of opportunities elsewhere.

Today, Saskatchewan's population is growing. The province's population reached a new all time-record of 1,057,884 in July, 2011.

Since the Saskatchewan Party government took office (January 2008 to July 2011), Saskatchewan's population grew by over 50,000 -- the highest sustained growth in 80 years.

Net interprovincial in-migration (people moving into the province less people moving out) has been 7,191 during that period - a complete turnaround from the 47,122 net-outmigration in the 13 years Dwain Lingenfelter was in government.

### Incentives for Youth to Stay in Saskatchewan

🇨🇦 In 2008 the Saskatchewan Party government introduced the Graduate Retention Program (GRP) – the most aggressive youth recruitment and retention program in Canada.

The GRP provides up to \$20,000 for post-secondary graduates who live and work in Saskatchewan after graduating. The program has now been expanded to include graduates from across Canada and around the world who move to Saskatchewan.

Over the past four years the Saskatchewan Party government has issued nearly 50,000 GRP certificates and provided \$53.5 million to post-secondary graduates who stay in Saskatchewan. By comparison, the former NDP government's program benefited 33,357 individuals, and provided only \$19 million in rebates.



### Attracting New Canadians to Saskatchewan

🇨🇦 Under the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program, 11,000 new Canadians have come to Saskatchewan since November 2007. Including family members, over 30,000 new Canadians have been invited to Saskatchewan in the past four years. This is a 300 per cent increase in the number of nominees compared to the NDP's last nine years in government.

# Affordability



## *Today in Saskatchewan*

Since 2008, Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party government have provided income tax relief for everyone in Saskatchewan and have removed 114,000 low-income earners from the tax rolls.

Today in Saskatchewan, families, farmers and businesses are benefiting from record education property tax reductions. Saskatchewan has the second-lowest utility rates in Canada. More low-income housing, seniors housing and student housing is being constructed. Benefits for low-income seniors, and those who care for a dependent family member have been increased. Average wages are higher and the minimum wage has gone up nearly 20 per cent since 2007.

# Tomorrow in Saskatchewan

## Keeping Life Affordable in a Growing Economy

A Saskatchewan Party government will make life more affordable for Saskatchewan residents by keeping taxes low, utility rates as affordable as possible, as well as delivering on the Saskatchewan Advantage Housing Plan while undertaking new affordability initiatives:

- Post Secondary Education Affordability Plan.
- Seniors Affordability Plan.
- Children and Youth Affordability Plan.
- First Time Homebuyers Tax Credit.

## Don't Risk Going Backwards with Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP:

### Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP:

- ✗ The NDP raised taxes 17 times while Dwain Lingenfelter was in government.
- ✗ The NDP failed to increase the Caregiver Tax Credit or rates for the Seniors Income Plan for 16 years.
- ✗ Under the NDP, Saskatchewan people paid the highest education property taxes in the country.
- ✗ Raised the PST in 2004 after they promised they wouldn't in the election campaign.
- ✗ No adjustments were made to student loan limits for 13 years.

## The Saskatchewan Party Plan: Moving Forward on Affordability

### Post-Secondary Education Affordability Plan

#### Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship

Beginning in 2012, every new Saskatchewan high school graduate will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 (maximum of \$500 in any single year) to be applied towards tuition fees at any Saskatchewan post-secondary institution or recognized training course.

#### Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings

A Saskatchewan Party government will match up to 10% of the annual contribution to a child's RESP account, to a maximum of \$250 annually.

### Seniors Affordability Plan

#### Increasing the monthly Saskatchewan Seniors Income Plan Benefit:

The maximum monthly benefit for single seniors will increase from \$190 per month to \$270 per month, and for senior couples from \$155 to \$235 each per month – an increase of almost \$1,000 annually and triple what it was worth under the NDP.

The Seniors in Personal Care Home Benefit will provide low income seniors residing in personal care homes with over \$3,000 annually beginning next year.

#### Work with Regional Health Authorities to improve home care services.

### Children and Youth Affordability Plan

Expanding the \$150 per year Active Families Benefit to all children and youth under 18.

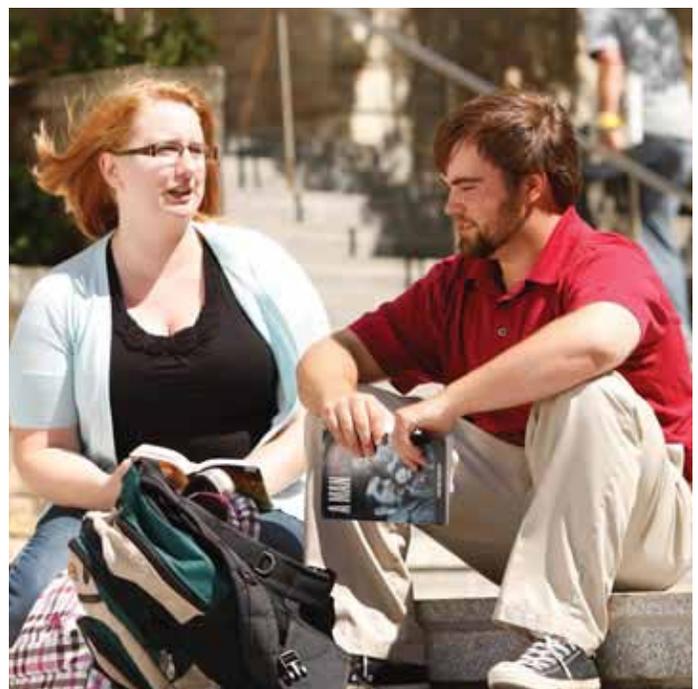
Expanding the PST exemption on children's clothing to youth under 18.

### First Time Homebuyers Tax Credit

A new \$10,000 tax credit for first time homebuyers – a saving of \$1,100.

### Create More Affordable Housing

The Saskatchewan Advantage Housing Plan will create more than 4,600 housing units over the next five years.



## The Saskatchewan Party Record: Lowering Taxes to Make Life More Affordable

### Lower Income Taxes for Everyone

In 2008, Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party delivered the largest single-year income tax reduction in Saskatchewan history – providing tax relief to every person who filed a tax return in the province.

Lower personal income taxes allow families to keep more of what they earn and give Saskatchewan a competitive advantage in attracting new workers and new businesses.

As a result of personal income tax reductions undertaken by the Saskatchewan Party:

- 🚩 An average Saskatchewan family of four will pay no tax on their first \$45,500 of earned income – that is the highest tax-free income threshold in Canada.
- 🚩 A single income earner will pay no income tax on the first \$17,580 he or she earns.
- 🚩 Over the past four years, a family of four that makes \$50,000 annually has paid \$8,000 less in tax than they would have under the NDP's old income tax rates.

### Lower Taxes for Persons with Disabilities and Caregivers

- 🚩 The Supplement for Disabled Children has more than doubled from \$4,095 to \$8,563.
- 🚩 The Infirm Dependent Tax Credit has more than doubled from \$4,095 to \$8,563.
- 🚩 The Caregiver Tax Credit has more than doubled from \$4,095 to \$8,563.
- 🚩 The Disability Tax Credit has increased from \$7,021 to \$8,563.

### NDP said rent controls don't work.

*"...the general conclusion was that rent controls create uncertainty and will lead to a decline in housing availability and quality as rent controls would be a disincentive for investment."*

The NDP's own report on Housing in Saskatchewan: Consultations Summary, September 19, 2007

### Lower Education Property Taxes

Under the NDP, property taxpayers funded 60 per cent of the cost of K-12 education. Following the largest education property tax reduction in our province's history delivered by the Saskatchewan Party government, that amount has been reduced to 35 per cent.

While relieving the tax burden on property owners, total provincial education funding has been increased by 15 per cent since 2007.

Prior to 2008, each school division in the province established its own education property tax rate. This meant that homeowners across the province paid different levels of education tax even if the value of the home was exactly the same. Homeowners now benefit from a lower and consistent education tax rate across the province. As a result:

- 🚩 The total residential tax levy has dropped from \$377 million in 2008 to \$267 million in 2011.

## Making Housing More Affordable

In the NDP's last full year in government, the average resale price of a home in Saskatchewan increased by almost 42 per cent. After consulting with housing industry stakeholders and community organizations across the province the NDP rejected the introduction of rent controls.

In fact, past NDP governments have consistently rejected rent control and Dwain Lingenfelter introduced the NDP legislation that eliminated rent control in Saskatchewan in 1992.

Rent control wasn't the right answer to address housing affordability then, and it's not the right answer today because studies show it actually reduces the supply of rental housing.

Over the last four years, Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party have taken action to increase the supply of housing in our province and increase housing benefits to those most in need.

### These measures include:

- 🏠 Five increases to the Rental Housing Supplement for low-income families as well as individuals with disabilities, and indexing those rates to reflect local housing market conditions.
- 🏠 Construction of over 850 new affordable rental housing units with another 1,100 units currently under development.
- 🏠 Construction of 650 student housing units / beds completed or underway.
- 🏠 Lowering the income threshold to allow more seniors to access social housing.
- 🏠 Limiting landlord rent increases to twice per year.

As a result of these actions, one-third of all rental households in Saskatchewan today benefit from government assistance through social housing or housing benefits to help with costs.

The Saskatchewan Party government has also added 650 new student housing units across the province in just four years. By comparison, the NDP added only 60 new units in the seven years between 2000 and 2007.

The Saskatchewan Party government has launched a long-term housing strategy to create more affordable housing by bringing together municipalities, builders and housing stakeholders to create a positive environment for affordable housing. This builds on the Saskatchewan Advantage Housing Plan announced earlier this year.

## The Saskatchewan Advantage Housing Plan will create over 4,600 new housing units over the next five years in entry-level and rental housing, including:

- 🏠 1,000 new entry level homes through the Head Start on a Home program.
- 🏠 600 new homes through matching home ownership grants to municipalities.
- 🏠 300 units in 2011-12 and 650 new rental units in each of the next four years through the Rental Construction Incentive to increase the supply of new rental housing.
- 🏠 Providing \$34 million in funding to develop more affordable rental housing in communities with a long-term housing need and rejuvenate government-funded housing throughout 100 communities in Saskatchewan.
- 🏠 Partnering with Habitat for Humanity, \$3.5 million has been invested to help 70 families achieve home ownership.

## Keeping Utility Costs Low

The average residential energy bill was reduced by seven per cent last year - the third decrease in two years.

Saskatchewan currently has the second-lowest utility rates in Canada:

### 2011 Utility Cost Comparison Across Canada

#### Provinces Ranked by Lowest Average Utility Cost

Manitoba	\$2,928.70
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	<b>\$3,230.52</b>
B.C.	\$3,404.44
Quebec	\$3,609.28
Alberta	\$4,362.82
New Brunswick	\$4,587.90
Nova Scotia	\$4,939.92
P.E.I.	\$5,739.08
Newfoundland	\$6,196.50
Ontario	\$6,495.89

Source: [www.cicorp.sk.ca](http://www.cicorp.sk.ca)

## Helping with the Cost of Children's Sports, Recreation and Cultural Activities

The Active Families Benefit came into effect in 2009 and provides families with up to \$150 per year per child (age 6 to 14) to improve the affordability and accessibility of participation in culture, recreation and sport activities. The Active Families Benefit saved almost 26,000 Saskatchewan individuals and families over \$5.5 million in the 2009 tax year alone.

## Saving You Money

### Buying a Used Car or Truck

🇺🇸 In 2007, the Saskatchewan Party campaigned on a promise to eliminate the PST on the purchase of used cars and trucks. More than 242,000 used light vehicles have been purchased PST free, saving buyers over \$148 million.

### Children and Seniors Drug Plan

🇺🇸 Under the Saskatchewan Party government's seniors' and children's drug plan, approximately 113,000 seniors and 46,000 children have benefited from the \$15 per prescription cap.

## Increased Benefits for Low Income Seniors

🇺🇸 The Saskatchewan Seniors Income Plan (SIP) provides benefits to low-income seniors, including a monthly income supplement and access to extended health benefits. The Saskatchewan Party government increased the income threshold so more seniors could benefit from the plan while doubling SIP benefits from \$90 to \$190

per month for single seniors and \$72.50 to \$155 each per month for couples. The NDP provided no increase to the Seniors Income Plan for 16 years.

## Supporting Saskatchewan Students

Over the past four years, the Saskatchewan Party government has provided post-secondary institutions with over \$66 million dollars to keep tuition rates reasonable.

In addition, this year:

- 🇺🇸 Funding for students totals \$125 million, including \$24.6 million to limit tuition increases to an average of about three per cent at Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions.
- 🇺🇸 \$3 million has been dedicated for a new scholarship fund, bringing the Saskatchewan Party government's funding for provincial scholarships to \$5 million.
- 🇺🇸 Almost \$98 million is being provided to support students through student loans, grants, bursaries, the Provincial Training Allowance, the Apprenticeship Training Allowance, the Skills Training Benefit and the Graduate Retention Program.

## The Saskatchewan Party government has:

- 🇺🇸 Increased borrowing limits on student loans – something the NDP government did not do for 13 years.
- 🇺🇸 Added 650 new student housing units across the province. By comparison, the NDP added only 60 new units in the seven years between 2000 and 2007.



# Quality of Life

## *Today in Saskatchewan*

Over the past four years, as Saskatchewan's economy and population have grown, Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party have invested the dividends of growth to improve the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people today and in the future. Improving access to health care, providing more child care spaces, increasing funding for K-12 education, and supporting those with disabilities are just some of the ways your Saskatchewan Party government is improving the quality of life for Saskatchewan families.



# Tomorrow in Saskatchewan

## Moving Saskatchewan Forward and Improving Quality of Life

Our quality of life in Saskatchewan is second-to-none. Our natural resources, our land, and our people make our province the best place in Canada to work, live and raise a family. But there is always more work to do. Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party will continue to make the health and well being of Saskatchewan people a priority by:

- ✦ Reducing wait times for surgery to no more than three months.
- ✦ Providing better access to health care in rural and northern communities.
- ✦ Lowering costs for people with Diabetes.
- ✦ Adding more doctors and investing in health care infrastructure.
- ✦ Increasing funding for Autism services by \$4 million over 4 years.
- ✦ Building safer communities by supporting community mobilization and cracking down on high-risk violent offenders.
- ✦ Creating 2,000 more childcare spaces.
- ✦ Investing an additional \$10 million over four years to build new campsites and improve provincial park infrastructure such as showers and bathrooms.
- ✦ Making Saskatchewan's community rinks more affordable for municipalities.

## Don't Risk Going Backwards with Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP:

Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP would take us back to the past; back to a time of out-migration and economic decline which led to tax increases, longer wait lists for surgeries, school and hospital closures and the elimination of child care spaces.

### Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP:

- ✦ Closed 52 rural hospitals.
- ✦ Closed almost 1,200 long-term care beds.
- ✦ Drove doctors and nurses out of Saskatchewan.
- ✦ Closed 176 schools while raising education property taxes.
- ✦ Reduced child care spaces in Dwain Lingenfelter's last year of government .
- ✦ Brought in a 'Wiener Roast Tax' while neglecting parks infrastructure.

## ***The Saskatchewan Party Plan: Improving Quality of Life Moving Forward***

### **Faster Access to Quality Health Care**

- 🚩 Reducing wait times for surgery to no more than three months by 2014.

### **Better Access to Health Care in Rural and Remote Communities:**

- 🚩 New 20 doctor rural locum pool to provide additional physician coverage and assistance to rural doctors.
- 🚩 Forgiving up to \$120,000 in Saskatchewan student loans for new doctors that practice for five years in underserved rural and remote communities.
- 🚩 Forgiving up to \$20,000 in Saskatchewan student loans for new nurses and nurse practitioners that practice for five years in underserved rural and remote communities.
- 🚩 Adding 20 new training seats for nurse practitioners and expanding their scope of practice to keep more hospital facilities open in rural communities.
- 🚩 Expanding pilot projects to increase the use of emergency medical technicians and mobile health service personnel in health care facilities and communities while ensuring EMT compensation is competitive across the province.
- 🚩 Launching STARS helicopter service to improve emergency medical coverage across Saskatchewan.

### **Reducing Costs for People with Diabetes:**

- 🚩 Moving long acting insulin from Exception Drug Status listing to full Formulary listing.
- 🚩 Expanding the Children's Insulin Pump Program to people 25 years old and younger.

### **Additional Funding for Autism Services**

- 🚩 Increase funding for Autism services by \$4 million over 4 years.

### **Safer Communities**

- 🚩 Adding new police officers, prosecutors, support staff and using GPS to reduce crime by high-risk violent offenders.
- 🚩 Supporting the Prince Albert Community Mobilization model and expanding it across the province.

### **Investing in Child Care and Education**

- 🚩 Continue to invest in K-12 education while improving student achievement.
- 🚩 Create 2,000 new child care spaces to bring the total number of new licensed child care spaces to over 5,400 since 2007.

### **Protecting the Environment**

- 🚩 Develop a 25 year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan to ensure water resources are protected and managed for the long term benefit of Saskatchewan people.

### **Improving Saskatchewan Parks and Community Recreation Infrastructure**

- 🚩 Investing an additional \$10 million over four years to build new campsites and improve park infrastructure.
- 🚩 Providing an annual \$2,500 grant to make community indoor rinks more affordable.



## ***The Saskatchewan Party Record: Improved Services, A Better Quality of Life***

### ***Better Health Care***

In 2007 the Saskatchewan Party campaigned on promises to improve the health care system after 16 years of NDP government neglect. Under the NDP, hospital and long-term care beds were closed, training seats were reduced, doctors and nurses left the province and Saskatchewan's surgical waiting lists were the longest in Canada.

While there is more work to be done to ensure every Saskatchewan resident can receive timely access to the quality health care services, today in Saskatchewan:

- 🇺🇸 Wait times for surgery are shorter.
- 🇺🇸 Over 900 new nurses have been hired.
- 🇺🇸 There are over 200 more doctors working in Saskatchewan than just four years ago, and more training seats for doctors and nurses have been added.

In addition to addressing the need for more health professionals, the Saskatchewan Party government has taken steps to improve health care facilities in Saskatchewan.

Over \$732 million has been invested in health care infrastructure, including:

- 🇺🇸 a new Children's Hospital.
- 🇺🇸 a new Humboldt Hospital.

The Saskatchewan Party government has also advanced construction of a new Academic Health Sciences Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, and planning dollars have been advanced for a new Hospital in Moose Jaw and a new Saskatchewan Hospital for psychiatric rehabilitation in North Battleford.

### **The NDP Health Care Record:**

- ✗ Surgical waiting lists grew to the longest in Canada.
- ✗ The worst doctor and nurse retention rate in Canada.
- ✗ 52 hospitals closed.
- ✗ 420 hospital beds closed.
- ✗ Nearly 1,200 long-term care beds eliminated.
- ✗ Almost 400 nurse training seats eliminated.
- ✗ Refused to even set a target for nurse recruitment:

"Even if we put a number on it (targets for more nurses), there's no guarantee that we would be able to meet that number in any case."

Len Taylor. Former NDP Minister of Health,  
Regina Leader Post,  
March 16, 2006



## Wait Times for Surgery are Shorter

The Saskatchewan Party government launched the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative in April 2010. The cornerstone of this initiative is a bold goal to reduce surgical wait times to no more than three months by 2014.

Today, the overall provincial surgical wait list is at its lowest level since the current data measurement system was put in place in 2004.

### Since 2007:

- 🚩 The number of patients waiting more than 18 months has dropped 75 per cent.
- 🚩 The number waiting more than 12 months has dropped 56 per cent.
- 🚩 The number waiting more than six months has dropped 41 per cent.
- 🚩 The number waiting more than three months has dropped 27 per cent.

## New Surgical Care Approach is Reducing Waiting Lists

Saskatchewan patients are now able to have certain day surgeries outside of a hospital setting. Third-party publicly funded but privately delivered services were introduced under the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative to help shorten wait times and help eliminate the backlog of people on the surgical wait list.

These surgeries are being provided and funded within our public health system. Patients are not required to pay for services and no one is allowed to jump the queue.

The total number of patients waiting for surgery is down 13 per cent compared to Dec., 2007.

- 🚩 85 per cent of all patients (including emergency cases) that had surgery received their procedure within 6 months.
- 🚩 94 per cent of all patients received it within one year. By Spring 2012, the goal is to reduce all surgical wait times to less than 12 months.

## More Nurses and Doctors Working in Saskatchewan

Under the NDP, Saskatchewan had the worst nurse and doctor retention rate in Canada. Over the last four years the Saskatchewan Party government has delivered on commitments to hire more nurses, increase the number of doctors in the province and train more doctors and nurses.

## PROMISE.... PLUS!

In the last provincial election, the Saskatchewan Party campaigned on a promise to hire 800 new nurses over four years. Today, there are over 900 more nurses practicing in Saskatchewan.

## Under the Saskatchewan Party government:

- 🚩 300 new nursing training seats have been created.
- 🚩 Saskatchewan has over 200 more doctors and enrollment has increased at the College of Medicine.
- 🚩 The provincial government is on track to create 40 new physician undergraduate seats and 60 new residency positions. This represents a 65 per cent increase in undergraduate seats and 100 per cent increase in residency positions since 2007.
- 🚩 There is now a made-in-Saskatchewan assessment process for internationally trained physicians.

## Recruiting and Retaining More Doctors in Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Party government launched the Physician Recruitment Strategy in 2009 to attract and retain more doctors. Goals of the strategy include:

- 🚩 Reducing the annual turnover of physicians in Saskatchewan to less than 10 per cent.
- 🚩 Increasing the number of University of Saskatchewan medical students and residents who train outside of Saskatoon by 25 per cent.
- 🚩 Increasing the number of U of S medical graduates establishing practices in Saskatchewan by 10 per cent.
- 🚩 Increasing the percentage of Canadian-trained doctors working in Saskatchewan by 10 per cent.

## Record Investments in Health Care Infrastructure

The Saskatchewan Party government has increased the amount that the provincial government will contribute to the cost of regional health infrastructure projects such as long-term care homes from 65 per cent of costs to 80 per cent. This new policy will reduce financial barriers to the revitalization of health facilities in towns and cities across Saskatchewan.

- Since 2008, over \$732 million has been invested in capital funding for health care infrastructure.

Major health care infrastructure projects completed or under development include:

- A new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan.
- The Academic Health Sciences building at the University of Saskatchewan.
- A new Humboldt District Health Complex.
- A new Saskatchewan Hospital for psychiatric rehabilitation in North Battleford.
- A new Moose Jaw Hospital.
- Improvements to emergency and local mammography services at the Lloydminster Hospital.

- A new Mother Baby Unit at the Regina General Hospital.
- The new Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health in Saskatoon.

## Strengthening Emergency Care

The Saskatchewan Party government has dedicated \$5 million this year to purchase two Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) medical helicopters to allow quicker response to medical emergencies in remote and rural areas. This new service will be coordinated with Saskatchewan's existing ground and fixed wing air ambulance services. STARS in Saskatchewan is also receiving support from the community and corporate sector, including \$5 million from lead donor Crescent Point Energy and \$5.5 million from Mosaic.

- In addition to the new air ambulance service, more than 100 road ambulance services provide emergency medical transportation for patients across the province, and Saskatchewan Air Ambulance operates three fixed-wing aircraft based in Saskatoon.
- A new pilot project is providing Emergency Medical Technician coverage seven days a week to residents of Eastend and the surrounding area in the Cypress Health Region.





## Lower Prescription Drug Costs

The Saskatchewan Party government fulfilled its 2007 campaign promise to cap the cost of prescriptions for seniors with annual incomes below \$64,000 and children age 14 and under. Approximately 113,000 seniors and 46,000 children have benefited from the \$15 per prescription cap.

The provincial government is also implementing a plan to lower generic drug prices in Saskatchewan, which will result in savings to Saskatchewan residents and the provincial drug plan.

## Promoting Healthier Lifestyles

Since 2007 the Saskatchewan Party government has taken action to reduce smoking and tobacco use:

- Two smoking cessation prescription drugs – Champix and Zyban – are now covered under the provincial drug plan and new legislation has made it illegal to smoke in vehicles when children under the age of 16 are present. Tobacco sales are also now prohibited in pharmacies.

The Saskatchewan Party government has also taken action to promote physical activity and healthy food choices for children:

- The Healthy Kids School Challenge has encouraged more than 700 students from 83 schools across Saskatchewan to get active and make healthy food choices. Students involved in the challenge reported close to 309,000 healthy food choices and more than 55,000 hours of physical activity.

## Investing in Better Care for Seniors

The Saskatchewan Party government has allocated funding for new long-term care beds and doubled benefits to low-income seniors through the Seniors Income Plan. Since 2007:

- \$152 million has been committed for 13 new long-term care facilities to replace outdated facilities throughout Saskatchewan. More than 600 long-term care beds will be created through this investment.
- A new pilot project, Samaritan Place, will bring 100 new long-term care beds to Saskatoon. Samaritan Place is a unique approach that includes plans for up to 20 suites that will accommodate couples and includes a model for “aging in place”, where the needs of seniors are met over time within the facility resulting in dignity and stability for the residents.

## Helping Those With Extraordinary Health Needs

### Cancer Care

- Funding to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency has increased by 55 per cent - or over \$43 million - under the Saskatchewan Party.
- The Saskatchewan Party government now covers the colorectal cancer drug Avastin and vaccinations for HPV (Human Papillomavirus) to prevent cervical cancer.
- Saskatchewan recently became the first province to license a blood test for colorectal cancer risk.



## Autism

When the Saskatchewan Party government first took office, funding for Autism services through the Ministry of Health totaled about \$500,000. Today, funding levels have been increased to nearly \$6.5 million - an increase of 1,200 per cent.

The Saskatchewan Party government has launched a three-year pilot project to enhance supports and services for children and their families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. These supports include more respite care for parents and expanded seasonal programming like summer camps for children with ASD.

## Spinal Cord Injury

Saskatchewan is taking a leadership role in research and funding for spinal cord injuries with a recent investment of more than \$4.3 million for a comprehensive five-year Saskatchewan-based initiative, in partnership with the national Rick Hansen Institute.

## Multiple Sclerosis

Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to commit funding toward MS clinical trials for liberation treatment. Saskatchewan will provide funding for MS patients in our province to participate in an upcoming clinical trial in Albany, New York.

## Caring for Communities and Those With Addictions

### Addictions Treatment and Beds

The Saskatchewan Party government is dedicating \$57 million toward alcohol and drug services this year. This funding builds on other investments which include:

- A 45-bed detoxification facility in Regina.
- Six youth stabilization beds at Saskatoon's Calder Centre.
- A 14-bed detox facility in Prince Albert.
- Two additional facilities in Prince Albert (an eight-bed family treatment facility and, in co-operation with Prince Albert Grand Council, a 15-bed youth inpatient treatment centre).

### Healthy Communities

The Saskatchewan Party government provided a grant of \$250,000 to help the Saskatoon Community Clinic cover costs associated with the relocation and expansion of its Westside Clinic location. This funding will help inner-city Saskatoon residents access health and dental services.

### Suicide Prevention Initiatives for Northern Youth

Work is underway between the Saskatchewan Party government and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to develop a youth suicide prevention project in the North. The project will place three health promotion coordinators in Cumberland House, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Buffalo Narrows.

# Quality of Life

## Greater Accountability and Efficiency in Health Care

Under the leadership of the Saskatchewan Party government, health regions are taking steps to reduce costs and find greater efficiencies -- freeing up more money and time to provide better care to patients. Health care costs were reduced by \$35 million last year through general program and administrative efficiencies.

Releasing Time to Care was launched by the Saskatchewan Party government with a goal to increase the time health care providers spend on direct patient care. Health regions have been asked to implement Releasing Time to Care in all medical and surgical wards in the province by 2012, and the initiative is already producing impressive results:

- The Pasqua Hospital's orthopedics unit decreased staff injuries by more than 50 per cent within six months. The hospital's oncology unit increased the amount of time nurses spend on direct patient care during a shift from 26 per cent to 41 per cent.
- An estimated 270 hours of nursing time will be saved by improving access to rooms on the surgical ward of Prince Albert's Victoria Hospital.

## Improving the Quality, Timeliness and Safety of Care:

- The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region also reduced the number of cancelled MRIs from 12 per week to 1 per week. The region was able to perform an additional 650 scans per year using existing resources.

## K-12 Education, Childcare and Pre-Kindergarten

In 2007, the Saskatchewan Party campaigned on promises to achieve a fairer balance in education funding. Since 2007, the province's portion of K-12 operating funding has grown to over \$1 billion. The Saskatchewan Party government has also increased the number of professional support staff for intensive needs students by 340 full time employees since 2007.

### **PROMISE.... PLUS!**

In 2007, the Saskatchewan Party campaigned on a promise to increase K-12 education operating funding to school boards by \$118 Million. Today, we have increased the provincial share of K-12 operating funding by nearly \$375 million.



*"...a Saskatchewan government has finally decided to bear something closer to its fair share of the cost of K-12 education – a move that means you, the taxpayers, who fund school boards through your property taxes, finally will pay less after years of contributing a disproportionate share of the cost of running schools."*

Murray Mandryk,  
Leader-Post,  
March 21, 2009

Additionally, the Saskatchewan Party government has delivered on promises to strengthen the K-12 school system for students and communities:

- Dedicated funding for Schools of Opportunity and Necessity.
- Provided additional funding for anti-hunger programs in community schools.
- Treaty education is now mandatory in the K-12 curriculum.

## Historic Investments to Build and Repair Saskatchewan Schools

Over the past four years the Saskatchewan Party government has invested over \$376 million into the construction and improvement of Saskatchewan schools. This is the largest four year capital investment in schools in Saskatchewan history.

Since 2007, over one-third of all Saskatchewan schools have benefited from repairs, renovations, or a new school building:

- 38 major school capital projects are completed or underway.
- 580 smaller school capital projects have been undertaken across Saskatchewan.

## More Child Care and Pre-Kindergarten Spaces

The Saskatchewan Party government has allocated funding for the development of 3,435 childcare spaces over the last four years. This brings the number of childcare spaces operating or in development in Saskatchewan to 12,740.

- The Saskatchewan Party government created more licensed child care spaces in four years than the NDP government did over 16 years. Since 2007 under the Saskatchewan Party, the number of licensed childcare spaces has increased by 35 per cent.
- On-campus child care spaces have increased by 30 per cent.
- 115 pre-kindergarten programs have been created since 2007 – an increase of nearly 75 per cent. The 270 programs being funded today benefit 4,320 children.

## Increased Support for Public Libraries

Operating grants to the ten public library systems in Saskatchewan have increased by over 45 per cent since 2007.

### The NDP Child Care Record:

- In Dwain Lingenfelter's last year as Deputy Premier, the number of childcare spaces decreased by 182.

"Saskatchewan has the poorest record when it comes to child day care, and Mr. Speaker I take some responsibility for that because I was a part of a government that did not put a lot of new resources into child daycare."

Former NDP Education Minister Pat Atkinson, Hansard, March 29, 2011

**There has been a 181 per cent increase in pre K-12 education infrastructure spending under the Saskatchewan Party.**

*\$133.8M: Last four years of the NDP government*

*\$376.5M: First four years of the Saskatchewan Party government*

## Safer Communities

**Over the last four years the Saskatchewan Party government has delivered on promises to:**

- Hire 120 more police officers.
- Dedicate more resources to combat gang activity, including creation of a new Northern Drug and Gang Unit.
- Provide more support to the victims of crime and abuse.

## More Police Officers in Our Communities and New Measures to Combat Crime

- 120 new police have been hired over the past four years, fulfilling the Saskatchewan Party's 2007 campaign promise.
- The Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit was increased to 11 officers. Since its establishment, the ICE unit has conducted over 300 investigations, laid over 60 charges, and participated in the confirmed rescue of a number of children, both here in Saskatchewan and across Canada.
- The RCMP has added members to its canine, organized crime, commercial crime, and major crimes sections, as well as to the front line in rural detachments.
- An additional seven positions have been added to the Safer Communities and Neighborhoods (SCAN) unit to combat organized crime and increase the seizure of the proceeds of crime.
- Saskatchewan is now a participant in the Western Canadian Gang Database.
- The new Regina Correctional Centre was opened and improvements have been made to tighten security at correctional centres and courthouses throughout the province.



## Protecting Public Safety

- The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2008 now allows the Crown to apply directly for forfeiture of property that is either the proceeds of unlawful activity, or that is being actively used for an unlawful activity.
- The Witness Protection Act, 2008 provides support for witnesses who require protection but not extreme measures (such as identity change and permanent relocation offered by the RCMP under the federal Witness Protection Program).
- The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act ensures that any profits earned from the recounting of a crime, such as writing a book about a crime, do not go back to the criminal.
- New measures have been introduced to crack-down on repeat drunk drivers, including allowing the government to seize the vehicle of repeat offenders.
- Legislation is now in place that bans hand-held cell phone use and texting while driving.

## More Support for Victims of Crime

The Saskatchewan Party government increased the victim surcharge fines collected from criminals convicted of provincial offences and dedicated the additional dollars collected to improve services to the victims of crime.

## Protecting and Preserving Saskatchewan's Environment

In 2007, the Saskatchewan Party campaigned on promises to promote a sustainable environment and help Saskatchewan residents 'Go Green'.

- An additional \$40 million over four years has been dedicated to the Go Green Fund for a total investment of \$70 million.
- Low interest loans to install geothermal heating and renewable power in homes, businesses and institutions.
- 20 per cent SGI rebate for hybrid and high fuel efficiency vehicles.

The Saskatchewan Party government passed legislation that will ensure environmental sustainability for future generations, including new Greenhouse Gas Reduction legislation.

## Go Green Fund

Since 2007, Go Green initiatives include:

- An additional \$4 million in funding for the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and International Test Centre for CO2 Capture at the University of Regina.
- \$2 million for the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative.
- Providing a \$50 rebate to Saskatchewan families for replacing conventional toilets with low-flush alternatives. 38,000 toilets have been replaced to date, with a target of 100,00 by the end of the program. The program has saved 1.6 billion litres of water so far and reduced carbon emissions by almost 5,000 tonnes.
- \$850,000 for the Solar Heating Initiative for Today program that helps large energy consumers harness solar energy to heat water and indoor air for use in their facilities.

# Quality of Life

## Support for Local Recycling Programs Across the Province

Over the past four years the Saskatchewan Party government has provided more than \$5.8 million to local recycling programs.

## Working with the Crowns to Help Saskatchewan Go Green

Saskatchewan's Crown Corporations are a vital component of Saskatchewan's environmental initiatives.

- 🚧 SGI now provides a 20 per cent green rebate on the cost of insurance and registration for Saskatchewan people who drive a hybrid or high fuel efficient vehicle.
- 🚧 As promised in the 2007 election campaign, SaskPower now provides loans for homeowners that choose to install geothermal heating. These loans are available for new home construction or for retrofits on existing homes.
- 🚧 The Saskatchewan Party Government renewed the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses Program until the fall of 2013. This program encourages Saskatchewan homeowners to make energy efficient upgrades through grants from SaskEnergy of up to \$5,000.

## Protecting Communities and Businesses from Flooding

An Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program was created in 2010. This proactive program ensured that communities and businesses could undertake work to prevent flooding. Over 1000 applicants took advantage of the \$22 million investment. Flood damage that occurred in 2011 would have been much worse if this program was not in place.

***"There are several hundred farmyards and rural residences at flood risk in rural municipalities. This program will help those individuals to protect themselves and their property."***

SARM President Dave Marit, February 22, 2011

# Pride in Saskatchewan: Investing in Parks, Tourism, Recreation and Sport

Saskatchewan's parks, recreation opportunities and tourist attractions draw visitors from across Canada and around the world and provide opportunities for Saskatchewan residents to experience the pristine beauty of our province. Since 2007, the Saskatchewan Party government has:

- 🚧 Created over 1,000 new electrified campsites.
- 🚧 Invested \$33 million in provincial park capital projects.
- 🚧 Provided increased funding for regional parks.
- 🚧 Doubled funding for tourism.

## Record Investments in Saskatchewan Parks

Over the last four years the Saskatchewan Party government has provided a record investment of \$91.5 million to Saskatchewan's parks. This is 90 per cent more than the previous NDP government spent on parks in their last four years of government. Since 2007, the number of visitors to provincial parks has increased by nearly 240,000 visits annually and visitor satisfaction ratings have increased by 10 per cent.

## **PROMISE... PLUS!**

In the 2007 election, the Saskatchewan Party promised to add 1,000 new, electrified campsites in provincial parks. By this fall, almost 1,100 new electrified campsites will be up and running.

## Highlights of new investments undertaken over the last four years include:

- 🚧 \$33 million invested in improving park infrastructure.
- 🚧 Over \$3 million provided to Saskatchewan's regional parks.
- 🚧 New Reserve-a-Site Program allows campers to pre-register and pre-pay their camping spots in 19 provincial parks.
- 🚧 Nearly \$18 million committed to parks programs in the last 4 years -- \$6.2 million more than the last four NDP budgets.
- 🚧 A 45 per cent increase to urban parks in Saskatchewan compared to the last four years under the NDP.

## Increased Support for Tourism and Event Hosting

### **PROMISE.... PLUS!**

In 2007, the Saskatchewan Party promised to double tourism funding to \$32 million. Over the past four years, \$34 million in tourism funding has been delivered.

### **The Saskatchewan Party government has capitalized on Saskatchewan's tourism advantage by:**

- Increasing annual funding to Tourism Saskatchewan by 50 per cent since taking office.
- Committing \$10 million to upgrade community and tourism access roads.
- Investing almost \$6 million to the hosting of 55 events, including next year's Brier, the 2010 World Junior Hockey Championships which injected \$86 million into the local economy, and the Back to Batoche event which attracted over 20,000 people.
- Supporting the Saskatchewan Pavilion at the Vancouver Olympics that attracted more than 120,000 visitors.

## Supporting Children and Youth Fitness, Sport and Saskatchewan Athletes

To assist parents with the costs of children's sports, cultural and recreational activities, the Saskatchewan Party government created the Active Families Benefit. The benefit provides up to \$150 annually for children aged 6 to 14. This is one of several actions taken over the last four years to promote fitness, sport and culture.

- In 2009, the Saskatchewan Party government signed a new five year lottery agreement which will provide an additional \$4.5 million for sport, culture and recreation programs.
- In conjunction with SaskSport, the Saskatchewan Party government is providing \$350,000 annually to the Saskatchewan Program for Athletic Excellence and \$250,000 a year to the Accessibility Program for athletes with a disability.

### **The Active Families Benefit... What others are saying:**

*"The Active Families Benefit provides opportunities for families and communities to enjoy recreational activities and take advantage of some of the many programs that we have to offer."*

YMCA Regina CEO Randy Klassen

*"The Active Families Benefit program will help enhance participation and reduce barriers to program access."*

Sask Sport Inc. President Ian Cook

### **The Facts on Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks**

*SGEU ads claim that the provincial government is privatizing parks and cutting services.*

**Fact: Not a single Saskatchewan provincial park has been privatized. The Saskatchewan Government will continue to own and manage all park land and operate basic park services.**

**Fact: No new park user fees have been implemented for Saskatchewan residents since 2007.**

- The provincial Community Initiatives Fund is providing \$1.4 million annually to Saskatchewan in Motion and \$300,000 a year for Physical Activity grants.
- The Community Vitality Program provides grants for small capital projects to address recreational infrastructure needs. The government contributed \$15 million via the Recreation Infrastructure Canada program for recreation infrastructure.
- The Saskatchewan Legacy Fund was created to support youth – particularly those at risk – to get involved in sport, culture and recreation programming.
- Saskatchewan Roughrider Gene Makowsky led a project to examine and expand the role of minor football in developing positive values in children and youth.
- The Saskatchewan Party government contributed \$750,000 to the "Own the Podium" program to support athlete development for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

## Promoting Heritage and Culture

Over the last four years the Saskatchewan Party government has increased funding for arts and culture organizations and has provided funding to promote Saskatchewan artists. Steps were also taken honour Saskatchewan's proud military history and build pride in the rich heritage of our province.

### Honouring Saskatchewan's Military Heritage

- Appointed Saskatchewan's first government Military Liaison and proclaimed Canadian Forces Day, Reserve Forces Day, and formally recognized outstanding Cadet Squads in Saskatchewan.
- Created the "Scholarship of Honour" for returning soldiers and the children or spouses of fallen/injured Canadian Forces members.

### Celebrating and Promoting Saskatchewan's History

Over the past four years the Saskatchewan Party government has increased heritage funding by over 20 per cent compared to the last four years under the NDP. Initiatives include:

- Creating the Office of the Provincial Capital Commission to better promote the distinct history of Saskatchewan's Capital City.
- Increasing funding for the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation by 74 per cent in the last provincial budget.
- Increasing funding for the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and investing in heritage sites such as Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Duck Lake Interpretive Centre and Claybank National Historic Site.
- Preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Legislative Building and the 120th anniversary of Government House.

### Promoting Saskatchewan's Arts Community

Funding for the arts and culture sector increased by \$21 million under the Saskatchewan Party government compared to the last four years of the previous NDP government – a 35 per cent increase. Highlights include:

- Providing a 10 per cent increase in funding to SaskFilm in the last budget and increasing funding for the Film Employment Tax Credit.
- Supporting the Prairie Scene event at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa in the spring of 2011. The event showcased the work of more than 200 Saskatchewan artists at 80 different venues.



- The Arts Professions Act fulfilled a commitment to support written contracts and protect the intellectual property of artists.
- The Saskatchewan Party government developed Saskatchewan's first cultural policy in over 25 years.

### Promoting Saskatchewan's Multicultural Heritage

- In partnership with the Métis Nation, the Saskatchewan Party government proclaimed 2010 as the Year of the Métis, commemorated the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance and established the Trails of 1885.
- Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz introduced The Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act, that honours those who died during the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-1933. Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to recognize the genocide, designating the fourth Sunday in November each year as a Memorial Day.
- Created a Francophone Community Infrastructure Fund to provide assistance to capital projects that support the vitality of Francophone communities.
- The Bonjour! Website was launched in January 2010, which provides a single-access point for all government services and information available in French.

# Responsive and Responsible Government

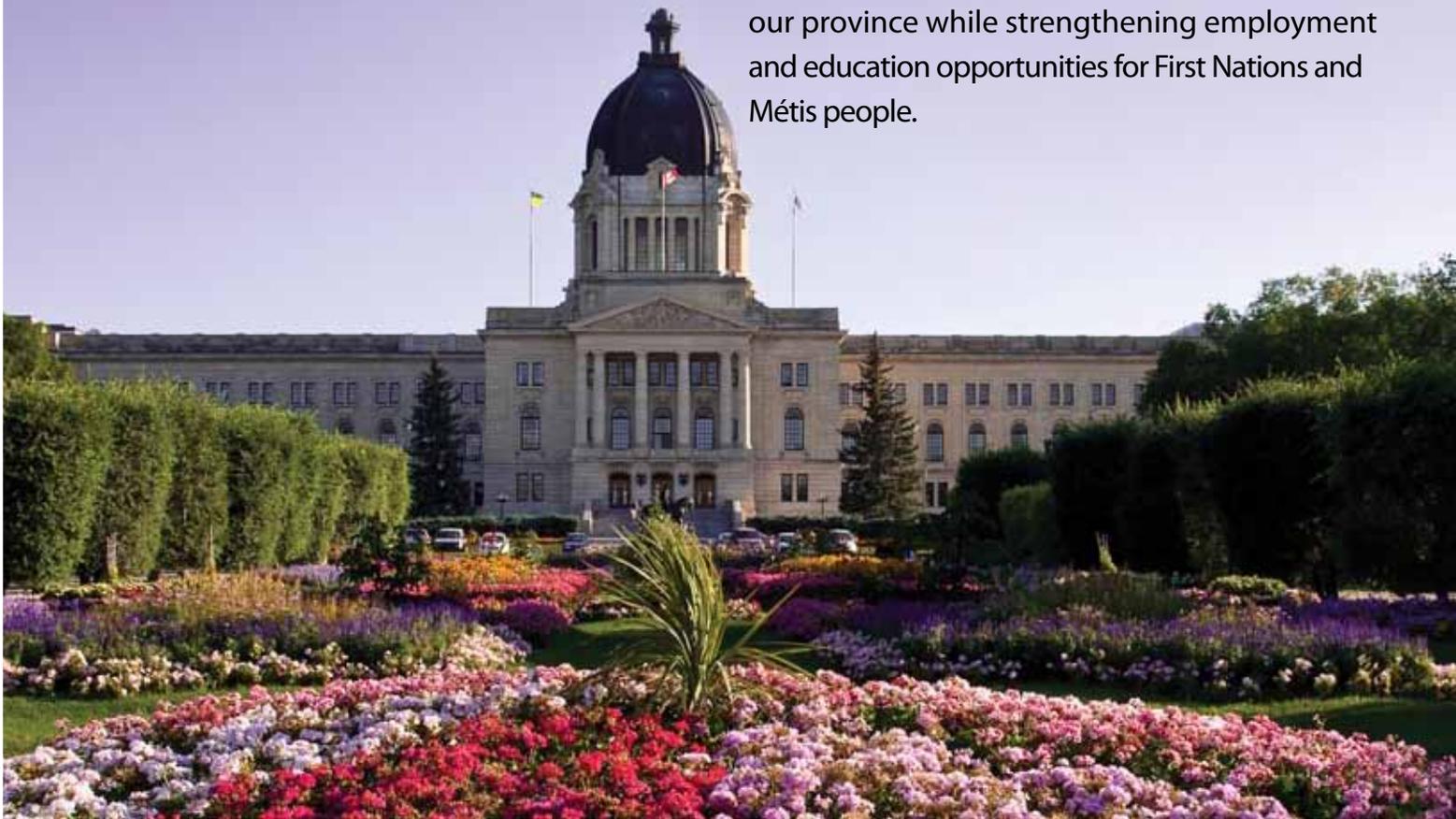
## *Today in Saskatchewan*

Since November 2007, Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party government have delivered responsive and responsible government.

The budget is balanced, government debt has been reduced by 44 per cent, and Saskatchewan municipalities have benefitted from a 70 per cent increase in funding and will continue to benefit from increased funding through a stable revenue sharing formula.

In response to unprecedented flooding in 2010 and 2011, improvements were made to the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program. After years of neglect by the NDP government, the needs of agricultural producers were addressed through improvements to crop insurance and enhancements to disaster assistance programs.

The Saskatchewan Party government has also taken action to support the most vulnerable in our province while strengthening employment and education opportunities for First Nations and Métis people.



# Tomorrow in Saskatchewan

## Moving Forward with Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party:

A Saskatchewan Party government will take action to improve the lives of persons with disabilities while balancing the budget, reducing debt and delivering responsive and responsible government.

- Provide municipalities with increased revenue sharing funding equivalent to one per cent of the PST - \$235 million next year.
- Increase benefits to adults with disabilities while expanding access to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability program to an additional 7,000 individuals.
- Ensure the budget remains balanced.
- Continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government by reducing the size of the civil service by 15 per cent over four years.
- Continue to support the Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act.
- Ensure Saskatchewan's Crown utility corporations remain publicly owned and focused on delivering high quality service to Saskatchewan people at the lowest cost.
- Continue to ensure that the principles of Saskatchewan's labour environment, including the public sector labour environment, are fairness, competitive salaries and benefits, high quality public services and accountability of all stakeholders.

## Don't Risk Going Backwards with Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP:

### Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP:

- Abandoned rural Saskatchewan - closed 52 rural hospitals, ripped up the GRIP agreement with farmers, closed 31 rural service centres, and would not commit to fully fund the CAIS program.
- Lost over \$300 million taxpayer dollars on failed government investment schemes like Navigata, Channel Lake and SPUDCO.
- Failed to keep their 1999 and 2003 election promises to hire 200 new police officers.
- Spent over \$11 million on self-serving advertising campaigns during the 2000s.
- Raised the PST in 2004 after they promised they wouldn't in the election campaign.
- Collected \$1 billion more gas taxes than they spent on highways.

## ***The Saskatchewan Party Plan: Moving Forward With Responsive and Responsible Government***

### **Improving the Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities**

- Expand access to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Program from 3,000 to 10,000 adults with disabilities.
- Increase monthly benefits for persons with disabilities in the SAID program:
  - Single Individuals: Monthly increase of \$200 starting next year, rising to \$350.
  - Couples: Monthly increase of \$230 next year, rising to \$400.
  - Persons in Residential care: Monthly increase of \$40 starting next year, rising to \$100.
- Increase funding for Autism services by \$4 million over four years.
- Work with disability organizations to recruit and retain front-line workers.

### **Responding to the Needs of Municipalities**

- Deliver increased revenue sharing funding to municipalities equivalent to one per cent of the PST – \$235 million next year – and work with the federal government to establish a new infrastructure cost-sharing program.

### **Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People**

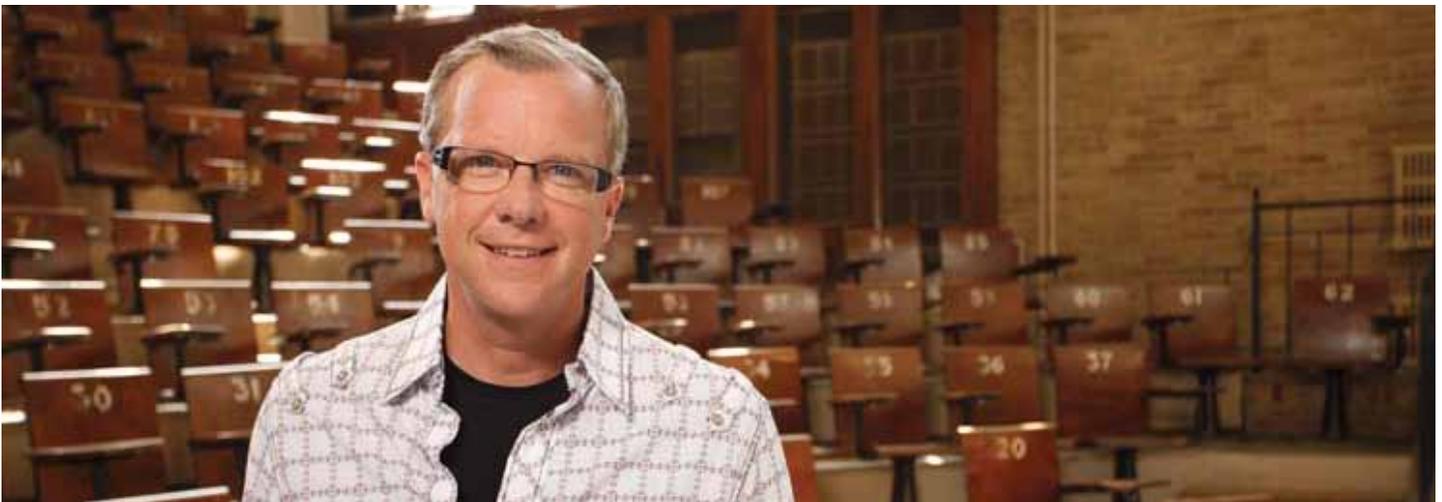
- Work with First Nations and Métis organizations to eliminate the current gaps in education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.

### **Supporting Agricultural Producers**

- Continue to improve crop insurance programs and other services for farmers and ranchers.

### **Delivering Responsible and Accountable Government**

- Continue to reduce debt and balance the budget.
- Continue to deliver smaller, smarter more effective government by continuing to reduce the size of the civil service by 15 per cent over four years.
- Continue to support the Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act.
- Keep Saskatchewan's utility Crowns publicly owned and keep Crown utility rates as low as possible while improving service for Saskatchewan people.



## **The Saskatchewan Party Record: Responsive, Trustworthy, and Accountable**

### **Responsive to Saskatchewan's Municipalities**

Over the last four years Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party have provided record support to urban and rural municipalities. After 16 years of NDP neglect, during which time funding to municipalities was slashed by over \$600 million, municipalities now have more money to keep taxes low and invest in vital services and infrastructure.

#### **The Saskatchewan Party government has kept its promise to municipalities:**

- Increasing funding for municipalities, including establishing a new predictable and stable revenue sharing deal with municipalities, equivalent to one per cent of the PST.
- In total, the Saskatchewan Party government will provide \$216.8 million dollars in municipal revenue sharing this year – an increase of almost \$90 million since 2007. Revenue sharing to municipalities will grow to \$235 million next year.
- Revenue sharing has increased by 70 per cent in just four years.

#### **Building Municipal Infrastructure**

Over the last four years, the Saskatchewan Party government has invested \$4 billion in Saskatchewan's infrastructure. This has meant improvements to highways, schools, and health care facilities right across the province.

Through provincial programs and partnership with the federal government, the Saskatchewan Party government has invested over \$310 million in provincial funding to upgrade municipal infrastructure, including \$45 million for infrastructure upgrades through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

#### **Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund**

The Saskatchewan Party government's component of Building Canada funding has delivered almost \$114 million to build or improve 119 water and wastewater projects, 23 road projects and a regional airport.

#### **Municipal Economic Enhancement Program**

To sustain our economic growth during the global recession of 2009, the Saskatchewan Party government provided a \$100 million

***"Over the past year, the provincial government has listened to the concerns and ideas of municipalities....With these tax cuts, our cities, towns and villages become more attractive to new businesses and families."***

Allan Earle, SUMA News Release, March 18, 2009

'Booster Shot' for infrastructure projects. The funding was accessed by 793 municipalities to complete water, wastewater, and transportation projects. Local communities had total discretion to spend the money on the projects they felt were the most beneficial.

#### **Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative**

The Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative (SIGI) was introduced by the Saskatchewan Party to provide five-year interest-free funding for municipal development.

To date, SIGI funds have been used to support 111 projects in 81 municipalities. The program has resulted in the development of 2,742 residential lots, nine commercial lot projects, three industrial lot projects, and 42 off-site projects.

The Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative - Recreation Pilot Program introduced this year will provide municipalities with interest rate subsidies for up to five years on \$12.5 million of municipal borrowing. This will help municipalities develop recreational infrastructure to support Saskatchewan's growing communities.

#### **Reaction to the Saskatchewan Party Government's Municipal Economic Enhancement Program:**

***"...I love those types of grants that trust the community to do what's right with the money. Those types, like the grant we got for the water pumps, that was a good one in the fact that (the government) said, 'Here it is, you can do what you want with it'. That's the kind of trust that we've always wanted from the government."***

Outlook Mayor Bob Stephenson, The Outlook, Dec 31, 2009

# Responsive and Responsible Government

## Supporting Farmers and Ranchers

During their 16 years in government, the NDP cut programs and services for Saskatchewan farm and ranch families.

Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party have worked to address the needs of producers.

- Fully funded the provincial government's share of Federal-Provincial agricultural programs.
- Worked with the federal government to get federal support for disaster assistance programs.
- Significantly improved crop insurance coverage.
- Reduced education property taxes on agricultural land by 80 per cent.
- Expanded service offices in rural Saskatchewan.

## Investing in Agriculture

- The Saskatchewan Party introduced the three largest Agriculture budgets in the province's history:
  - 2009-10 - \$483M
  - 2010-11 - \$386M
  - 2011-12 - \$418M
- Risk management programming like AgriStability, AgriInvest, and Crop Insurance have been fully funded up front in every Saskatchewan Party budget.
- Over \$600 million in disaster funding was made available to producers affected by excess moisture in 2010 and 2011, in addition to crop insurance benefits.
- Provided \$71 million in direct support to 18,000 cattle and hog producers.

## Strengthening Crop Insurance

Following through on a campaign promise, the Saskatchewan Party government conducted an extensive review of the Crop Insurance Program in 2008. The review included consultations with over 1,000 stakeholders and 45 industry groups. This review resulted in significant program improvements and coverage is now 95 per cent higher than the average coverage offered to producers under the last NDP Crop Insurance Program in 2007.

## Highlights of the improved Crop Insurance Program include:

- The four highest budgets and coverage levels in the history of the program, including a record \$161 million budget and record high average coverage level of \$173/acre in 2011.
- The Unseeded Acreage Benefit was increased from \$50 to \$70 per eligible acre.
- Increased the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program from 80 per cent to 100 per cent compensation.



## Lingenfelter off base on Crop Insurance

***"NDP Leader Dwain Lingenfelter is criticizing the Sask Party government for the big increase in Crop Insurance premiums. Link is either trying to score cheap political points or he's not very well informed on how Crop Insurance works...."***

***....Lingenfelter talks about rising fuel and fertilizer costs and last year's flooding and wonders how producers will afford the increased cost. Maybe this is the game Opposition members are supposed to play, but as a producer, I'm happy to have improved Crop Insurance coverage."***

Kevin Hursh – March 13, 2011

# Responsive and Responsible Government

## Additional support for farmers and ranchers includes:

- Improved the Livestock Predation Program to compensate producers for livestock killed or injured by predators.
- A province-wide Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program to help producers and rural municipalities (RMs) develop wells, dugouts and pipelines.
- Opened 10 new agriculture extension offices in rural Saskatchewan.
- Taking over the administration of the AgriStability Program to make the program more timely, reliable and responsive for producers.
- A Gopher Control Rebate Program to help RMs and producers with the costs of controlling gophers.

## Lower Education Property Taxes on Agricultural Land

Under the NDP, approximately 150 rural municipalities launched a tax revolt in 2005 to protest the high cost of education property taxes. Under Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party, the education portion of property tax paid by rural property owners has been reduced by an average of 80 per cent.

## Responding to Flooding and Natural Disasters

Over the last two years Saskatchewan has experienced unprecedented flooding, severely impacting communities and families. In response to the crisis, the Saskatchewan Party government provided \$22 million in flood mitigation assistance to communities and has taken action to support producers affected by flooding for a second straight year.

The Saskatchewan Party government has also made significant improvements to the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP), which provides provincial and federal compensation for uninsurable flood damage. Wait times for financial assistance under the program are lower, staffing levels for the program are higher and program enhancements include:

- Providing eligible PDAP claimants with a high level of damage with a special \$3,000 advance payment within two weeks of filing a claim.
- Reducing the deductible for private claimants from 20 per cent to five per cent.
- Increasing the maximum amount of financial assistance available to principal resident claimants from \$160,000 to \$240,000.

- Increasing the maximum amount of assistance to eligible small businesses, non-profit organizations, boards, and primary agricultural enterprises from \$160,000 to \$500,000.
- Decreasing the municipal deductible amount from .15 per cent of the municipality's taxable assessment to .1 per cent to relieve the burden of excessive costs after a major event.
- Establishing a new category of communal organizations, such as Hutterite colonies, to meet the needs of additional groups.

## Responding to the Needs of Persons with Physical and Intellectual Disabilities

When the NDP government came to power, there was no waiting list for services for people with disabilities. Over 16 years of NDP government, a waitlist for services grew to 440 individuals. The Saskatchewan Party government immediately began work to eliminate that waitlist. To date, the number of people with intellectual disabilities waiting for services has been reduced by 80 per cent.

### In addition, the Saskatchewan Party government:

- Introduced the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program to provide people with disabilities a new, dignified and independent income support mechanism.
- Increased earnings exemption limits for individuals with disabilities in both the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan and SAID.
- Increased the Disability Tax Credit.
- Increased funding for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) by almost 15 per cent.
- Increased the food allowance for CBO group homes for individuals with disabilities from \$4.85 per person to \$9.00 per person.
- Increased funding for the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities (TFD) Program.

## ***Responding to the Needs of Saskatchewan's Most Vulnerable People***

The Saskatchewan Party government is committed to helping those who are most vulnerable in our society. Since 2007, the provincial government has introduced new initiatives and enhanced existing programs to provide strengthened services and supports to vulnerable people in our communities.

### **Helping Low Income Earners Earn More and Keep More**

- Saskatchewan's minimum wage has been increased three times since 2008, from \$7.95 to \$9.25 per hour. Approximately 22,000 minimum wage earners (or 5 per cent of the paid workforce) in the province have benefited from this increase.
- Provided the largest single-year personal income tax cut in the province's history, removing over 114,000 low-income people from the provincial tax rolls.
- The Low Income Tax Credit (LITC) was doubled and the income threshold significantly increased.
- The maximum Saskatchewan Employment Supplement benefit has been increased by 14 per cent and the earnings thresholds extended by approximately 16 per cent – the largest increase to the maximum benefit levels in the program's history.
- The Caregiver Tax Credit, the Infirm Dependent Tax Credit and the Supplement to the Disability Tax Credit have all been doubled.
- Income from the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is now exempt from social assistance calculations.

### **Enhanced Services for Low-Income Neighbourhoods and Communities**

People living in low-income neighbourhoods often face challenges such as transportation cost, lack of affordable housing, and inadequate access to employment services. To help strengthen services to vulnerable people in these communities, the Saskatchewan Party government:

- Introduced the Saskatoon Mobile Primary Health Centre known as "The Health Bus" which provides primary health services to Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods.
- Started construction of a new St. Mary's Community School, child care and wellness centre in Saskatoon, in addition to more affordable housing for seniors and families in the Pleasant Hill neighbourhood in Saskatoon.

- Invested \$2.3 million in partnership with Souls Harbour Rescue Mission for a 30-unit apartment building with emergency shelter spaces for low-income parents and their children in Regina's North Central area.
- Social Services clients in Saskatchewan's major cities can access monthly bus passes for \$15 - \$20 through the Discounted Bus Pass Program. The Saskatchewan Party government increased the funding to the participating cities to ensure the continuation of this program.

### **Improving Child Welfare**

- 80 new case workers have been hired within Child and Family Services.
- This year's budget dedicates \$32 million to the new Saskatchewan Child and Youth Agenda.
- The overall Child and Family Services budget has increased by 80 per cent since 2007.
- The Saskatchewan Party government initiated and completed a comprehensive review of the child welfare system.
- Since 2009, the number of children in overcrowded foster homes has dropped by 46 per cent.
- Implementation of a new electronic case system to track children in care has been undertaken – something that was promised but never delivered under the NDP.
- Group home spaces for at-risk youth have been increased.

## ***Responsive to First Nations and Métis People***

This year, the Saskatchewan Party government is providing over \$167.2 million for programming and initiatives intended for First Nations and Métis people - a nine per cent increase from last year.

### **Better Employment and Education Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People**

The Saskatchewan Party government is continuing to take action to improve First Nations and Métis education outcomes and participation in the economy. Three Northern Enterprise regions have been created with strong First Nations and Métis representation and there has been a five-fold increase in funding for economic development planning and service delivery in the North.

# Responsive and Responsible Government

## This year's Saskatchewan Advantage budget supports increased education and employment opportunities for First Nations and Métis people, including:

- \$17.1 million to the First Nations and Métis Education and Employment Strategy.
- \$22.6 million for First Nations and Métis Post-Secondary Institutes (FNUC, SIIT, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Dumont Technical Institute).
- A \$7 million increase for Adult Basic Education and Provincial Training Allowance targeted to First Nations and Métis students.

## Investing in First Nations and Métis Children and Youth

- The Saskatchewan Advantage Budget includes a \$7.8 million increase in K-12 education investments for First Nations and Métis students including 40 additional pre-kindergarten programs.
- This year's budget also contains \$2.15 million to support First Nations Case Management, Family Finder and the Saskatchewan First Nations Family and Community Institute.
- An additional \$350,000 is being provided to ensure that First Nations and Métis people are engaged in the government's Children and Youth Agenda.

## First Nations Housing

- The Saskatchewan Party government has committed over \$18 million for 170 new affordable rental and homeowner units in the North.
- \$1.7 million was provided to build a 12-unit affordable housing project on Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

## Consultation

- In 2010, the Government of Saskatchewan released the Consultation Policy Framework after a thorough review of responses to the Draft Policy Framework. The new policy aims to ensure that First Nations and Métis people become true partners in Saskatchewan's economy and future.
- \$125,000 was provided to the FSIN to support the Bilateral Protocol meetings that allow engagement between the Premier, Cabinet Ministers and senior officials with the Chief, Vice Chiefs and FSIN officials. To date, there have been four bilateral meetings between the FSIN and the Saskatchewan Party government.



## Responsible Government

Over the last four years, Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party government have reduced debt, delivered fair and balanced labour legislation while reducing the size of the public service to provide more efficient and effective public services for Saskatchewan people.

### Balanced Budgets

In each of the last four years, the Saskatchewan Party government has delivered a balanced budget. This has been achieved through Saskatchewan's strong economic growth, even in the face of global economic uncertainty. This year, Saskatchewan was one of only two provinces to balance its provincial budget.

***"This commitment (to long term strategy of debt reduction) is remarkable and should be celebrated by every citizen concerned about the future generations."***

Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce News Release,  
Budget Day 2011

### Historic Debt Reduction

In addition to balanced budgets and record tax cuts, Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party have delivered the largest four-year reduction in government debt in Saskatchewan's history.

- The Saskatchewan Party government has paid down \$3 billion in debt - a 44 per cent reduction. Under the previous NDP government, Saskatchewan's government debt stood at \$6.8 billion.
- Saskatchewan's credit rating was recently upgraded to AAA status for the first time in the province's history.
- Because of lower debt, taxpayers will save a projected \$600 million over four years in interest payments. Today government debt is at its lowest level since 1987-88 and Saskatchewan's debt to GDP ratio is one of the lowest in Canada.

### Smaller, More Efficient and Effective Government

The Saskatchewan Party government has reduced the overall size of government, while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of government services.

- The Saskatchewan Party government has begun to reduce the size of the civil service by 15 percent over four years.

- The Saskatchewan Party promised a smaller Cabinet and has delivered, reducing the size of Cabinet from 20 under the NDP to 18 members.
- 82 unnecessary government boards and agencies - that had either completed their work or were no longer active - have been eliminated.

## Responsible Management of the Crowns

Under Dwain Lingenfelter and the NDP, over \$300 million taxpayer dollars were wasted on risky gambles and out-of-province investments. Lingenfelter was the architect of many of these deals while he was Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation. He put taxpayers money at risk in Channel Lake, Spudco and Guyana.

The Saskatchewan Party government introduced a Crowns SaskFirst policy in 2008 to focus investment on Saskatchewan and services for Saskatchewan people - the owners of the Crown corporations. This policy ensures:

- Crown corporations will not invest money out of province with the exception of SGI. Insurance companies rely on distributing risk and SGI needs to do this across a broad geographic base.
- Where feasible, existing out-of-province investments are being divested in a thoughtful manner with a goal to maximize returns. Navigata and Gas Sur are two examples where out of province investments have been sold.

Prior to forming government in 2007, the Saskatchewan Party fully supported the Crown Corporation Public Ownership Act. Support for public ownership of the Crowns has been reconfirmed over the last four years.

The previous NDP government neglected the province's Crown utility infrastructure, resulting in a massive infrastructure deficit across the province. In particular, SaskPower is facing nearly \$10 billion in needed infrastructure upgrades over the next decade. Since 2008, the Saskatchewan Party government has supported over \$1.5 billion in SaskPower capital investments to improve and construct new power infrastructure:

**2008: \$422 million**  
**2009: \$640 million**  
**2010: \$565 million**

## Fair and Balanced Labour Laws

Since 2007, the Saskatchewan Party government has introduced legislation to create a fairer labour environment that better balances the interests of workers and employers.

### The Public Service Essential Services Act:

Provides for essential services negotiations to begin (where they do not currently exist) 90 days before the expiry of the collective bargaining agreement.

- The law also ensures that essential public services remain in place during a labour disruption to prevent any undue danger to life, health or safety of Saskatchewan people.
- The legislation protects against the destruction or serious deterioration of machinery, equipment or other property, as well as preventing serious environmental damage or disruption of the courts that could occur if public services are withdrawn during a strike.

### Amendments to The Trade Union Act:

Now requires 45 per cent written support for an application of union certification or decertification. Secret ballots are now required for a certification or decertification vote and employers are now permitted to communicate with employees respecting facts and the employer's views. The legislation also repealed the three-year limitation on the length of a collective agreement.

### Amendments to the Saskatchewan Construction Industry Labour Relations Act:

Allow a trade union to organize a company on a multi-trade, or "all employee" basis, as well as on a craft, or single trade basis. The amendments further enable any trade union to certify an employer and allow employers to choose the Representative Employers' Organization that will represent them.

## Keeping Promises

Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party government have kept over 140 election promises made in the 2007 campaign and taken action to provide more accountable government including:

- Establishing set election dates.
- Introducing legislation requiring identification to vote.
- Placed all Orders-in-Council online to allow the public to easily review government appointments.
- The Growth and Financial Security Act requires the budget to be balanced every year, and establishes a plan for budget surpluses and limits the growth of the public service.
- Amending the Election Act to restrict the amount and type of advertising a government can do in the four months preceding an election.

*“Over the past four years, we kept our word.  
We did what we said we would do.  
That’s how you know you can count on us.*

*Today, Saskatchewan is a have province.  
We are on the right track.  
We will keep our word.*

*And we will keep Saskatchewan moving forward.”*

**Premier Brad Wall**

# Platform Costing

## *New Ideas to Keep Saskatchewan Moving Forward*

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Post Secondary Affordability Plan</b>				
Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship	4.6	9.2	13.8	18.4
Post-Secondary Education Savings Plan	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
<b>Seniors Affordability Plan</b>				
Seniors Income Plan Increase	6.0	7.4	8.6	9.8
Seniors Personal Care Home Benefit	5.2	6.0	6.7	6.9
<b>Children and Youth Affordability Plan</b>				
Expanded Active Families Benefit	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
PST Exemption on Clothing up to Age 18	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
2,000 New Child Care Spaces	1.9	3.8	5.7	7.6
<b>First Time Homebuyers Tax Credit</b>				
	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
<b>Improving Quality of Life for People with Disabilities</b>				
Expansion of Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability Program	18.4	23.4	28.4	33.3
<b>Safer Communities</b>				
High Risk Violent Offender Crime Reduction	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Crime Reduction through Community Mobilization	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
<b>Health Care</b>				
Student Loan Forgiveness for Doctors and Nurses	0.8	1.6	2.3	3.1
Improving Emergency and Primary Care	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Adding New Nurse Practitioner Training Seats	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Reducing Costs for People with Diabetes	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Increased Funding for Autism Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>Building Pride in Saskatchewan</b>				
Upgrading Park Infrastructure	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Making Community Rinks More Affordable	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
<b>Innovation</b>				
Institute for Global Food Security	1.0			
Funding for Enhanced Oil Recovery Research	1.0			
<b>Platform Expenses and Tax Reductions (in millions)</b>	<b>\$83.6</b>	<b>\$96.1</b>	<b>\$110.2</b>	<b>\$123.8</b>

## Saskatchewan Party Government Four Year Fiscal Forecast

The Saskatchewan Party plan is affordable within a balanced budget every year, with an incremental cost of \$414 million over four years, or less than one per cent of the overall provincial budget. Over the next four years, the Saskatchewan Party plan will result in a four year financial surplus of \$412 million, resulting in debt reduction of over \$206 million and a \$206 million increase to the Growth and Financial Security Fund.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Current Budget Revenue Estimates (in millions)	11,331.2	11,828.4	12,318.6	12,829.0
Current Budget Expense Estimate (in millions)	11,181.2	11,628.4	12,093.6	12,578.0
Current Budget Surplus Estimate	150.0	200.0	225.0	251.0
Saskatchewan Party Plan	83.6	96.1	110.2	123.8
Saskatchewan Party Government Surplus	66.4	103.9	114.8	127.2
Transfer to Growth and Financial Security Fund	33.2	52.0	57.4	63.6
Surplus after Transfer to Growth and Financial Security Fund	33.2	52.0	57.4	63.6
Growth and Financial Security Fund Balance	750.1	802.1	859.5	923.1

### Assumptions:

The starting revenue and expense estimates (before the new measures outlined in the Saskatchewan Party plan) are consistent with the revenue and expense estimates in the 2011-12 Provincial Budget.

As stated in Budget 2011-12, revenue is forecasted to increase by 4.4 per cent from 2012-13 to 2013-14, and then is assumed to grow at 4.1 per cent through 2014-15. The revenue forecast for 2015-16 is based on continued revenue growth at 4.1 per cent, consistent with the previous year.

As stated in Budget 2011-12, government operating expenses are forecasted to increase by 4 per cent annually from 2012-13 to 2014-15. The expense forecast for 2015-16 is based on continuing expense growth of 4 per cent, consistent with the previous three years.



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The logo for Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party. It features a stylized green and yellow wave graphic to the left of the text "Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party". "Brad Wall" is in a bold, italicized font, "and the" is in a smaller, regular font, and "Saskatchewan Party" is in a large, bold, italicized font.

[www.saskparty.com](http://www.saskparty.com)



*Authorized by the Chief Official Agent for the Saskatchewan Party*