



The Coffee Row Handbook 2003

Published by the New Democratic Party Caucus Office
www.ndpcaucus.sk.ca
caucus@ndpcaucus.sk.ca

OPEIU Local 397

**Welcome to the 2003 edition of
Coffee Row.**

Saskatchewan in 2003 has been described as a province on a roll. Business incorporations are up over 17%. Job numbers have increased for 16 consecutive months. Consumer confidence is at an all time high. We've seen tremendous growth in the forest industry. Drilling and exploration in the oil and gas sector have increased by 60% over last year, and we are on the verge of what may be one of the world's largest diamond developments. And the Saskatchewan economy is booming despite such challenges as two years of catastrophic drought and the circumstances of mad cow disease.

The measure of a government isn't how well it does in good times; the measure of a government is how well it does in tough times. We are now positioned to lead economic growth in the entire country.

Good government isn't only about nurturing a strong economy. Good government is about meeting the needs of citizens.

We believe in meeting the challenges of the present with the same spirit of co-operation and innovation with which Saskatchewan people met the challenges of the past. We believe in the bright future of this province, that for those who dream big, plan well and work hard, Saskatchewan's future is wide open. (09/11/03)



“Saskatchewan in 2003 has been described as a province on a roll. We are now positioned to lead economic growth in the entire country.”

- Premier Lorne Calvert



The Coffee Row Handbook provides facts about the political landscape of our province.

We have a clear set of choices. The Saskatchewan Party's privatization and clawback agenda, and the New Democrat vision of a decent and compassionate society.

This handbook will assist you in making your case for a better Saskatchewan.

Carolyn Jones
NDP Caucus Chair,
MLA, Saskatoon Meewasin

Who We Are:

New Democrats believe in a society that allows all its members to grow and flourish without barriers to personal achievement and success. A society where health, education, and opportunity are available to everyone. A society that protects children and those least able to protect themselves. A society of decency and compassion - that takes pride in our accomplishments and stands as a beacon to the world. An example of the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

The last decade saw Saskatchewan ranked among the top places to live in the world, according to the United Nations Human Development Index (2001)

We have achieved the highest rate of workplace participation in the history of Saskatchewan.

For the first time in Saskatchewan history, employment numbers have surpassed the half million mark.

Child Poverty in Saskatchewan is below the national average, declining from 18.2% in 1995 to 11.6% in 2000.

During the past several years, the social services system has changed its emphasis from that of a traditional welfare agency to one that promotes independence through a variety of supports for families and individuals.

What Kind Of Society Do You Want?

Since 1997, Building Independence has helped more than 6,000 families leave social assistance by removing barriers to employment.

The number of families on social assistance has declined by almost 40% since 1996.

In 2003 an average family in Saskatchewan will pay \$1030 less in provincial income tax than in 1999, and \$1,490 less than it did 10 years ago.

- 16 straight months of job growth.

- In 2002, a record high 1,864 natural gas wells were drilled.

- Since 1999, more than 9000 new jobs have been created in forestry.

Calvert New Democrats:

- ✓ Create an expanding economy which includes everyone
- ✓ Educate our people
- ✓ Maintain and improve health care and quality of life
- ✓ Promote healthy lifestyles and safe workplaces
- ✓ Protect those least able to protect themselves
- ✓ Protect our environment

"There's a lot of tomorrow in our province. A tomorrow full of vital, flourishing communities. A tomorrow that is shaped by the opportunities in Saskatchewan's wide-open future."



- Premier Lorne Calvert

KPMG Competitive Alternatives study (Jan 2002) confirmed Saskatchewan is one of the most competitive places in the world to do business.

Of the nine countries surveyed, Canada was the most competitive overall. Among all the major cities in the North American midwest, Saskatoon ranked the second most competitive. Saskatchewan's four largest cities, Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw, all ranked better than the Canadian average.



As of March, 2003, Saskatchewan had the 3rd lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 5.9%, well below the national average of 7.9%

As of April, 2003, Saskatchewan had the second lowest youth unemployment rate in Canada

Half way through 2003, land sales in the oil and gas sector have generated \$86M ... over 3 times the revenue than in the same period in 2002

Over the last 2 years, mineral exploration has increased by approximately 50%

Saskatchewan is now the third largest wind power producer in Canada

The Calvert New Democrat government believes in a balanced approach to business, supporting both government and private investment to build a prosperous and competitive economy.

Ten credit up-grades in the last 7 years is positive proof that our plan works.

SaskParty Plan:

"One initiative that I believe holds tremendous value for Saskatchewan is a project launched by [B.C.] Premier Campbell called the Core Services Review."

"A Saskatchewan Party government will launch a similar Core Services Review in this province within 30 days of taking office."

- Elwin Hermanson, SaskParty Leader:
"Grow Saskatchewan" plan (10/02/01)

"During the leadership contest, I said we need to talk about privatization with the people of Saskatchewan."

- Elwin Hermanson, SaskParty Leader
(L.P. 03/21/98)

In B.C. that "review" resulted in:

- ⇒ nurses and other front line health care workers laid off
- ⇒ schools closed
- ⇒ class sizes up
- ⇒ teachers laid off
- ⇒ an average 25% cut to all public programs
- ⇒ 11,000 jobs lost in the public service
- ⇒ 23% cut in early childhood development programs
- ⇒ a "Training Wage" that is \$2 under the minimum wage for the first 500 hours worked
- ⇒ most recently, a hike in the gasoline tax.
- ⇒ unilateral changes to collective agreements

Opposition economic development critic, Milt Wakefield told reporters (February 27, 2002) that a SaskParty government would likely implement the B.C. model.

"A plan to invite private health providers to the province to reduce waiting lists was one of the policies that passed without any opposition."

- SaskParty Policy Convention
(L.P. 11/09/98)

"General down-sizing of government, yeah"

- Yogi Huyghebaert, MLA, Wood River
SaskParty Leadership Candidate (L.P. 04/04/98)"

"Once reviewed, government should be redefined because it cannot offer all the same services it does now"

- Rod Gantfoer, MLA, Melfort-Tisdale
SaskParty Leadership Candidate
(L.P. 04/04/98)

Think a B.C. style slash and burn plan couldn't happen here?

"We would be looking at wage rollbacks."

"I think many people would look at the situation and suggest government employees are extremely well paid when you compare them to private sector workers."

"While I think there is a view towards down-sizing government, I think there is also the view, and we support it, that the governments should be looking at ways to reduce the payroll through wage roll-backs"

- Bill Boyd, MLA, Kindersley
founding member - SaskParty
(Leader-Star 10/16/97)

"We think the solution is smaller government. And I believe that there is room for much smaller government in Saskatchewan."

- Elwin Hermanson, SaskParty Leader
(L.P. 11/17/97)

Clear Choices

Do you want gleaming office towers with families or elderly people sleeping on heating grates because they cannot afford homes?

Could it ever happen in Saskatchewan?



Compare:

"With good legislation in place, and the co-operation of employers and labour, we can better protect our most important resource, Saskatchewan's working people."

Joanne Crofford,
NDP MLA
Minister of Labour

On the NDP policy of co-operation among sectors:

"why are these socialists doing these crazy things?"

Ben Heppner,
SaskParty MLA,
April 23, 2002

"I really think that a fair labour policy is letting the market take care of itself..."
"that takes care of a lot of the problems when it comes to a fair wage policy."

- SaskParty MLA Don McMorris , Hansard (06/12/00)

"Keep the cost of doing business, including labour costs, competitive"

- Elwin Hermanson, Leader's Dinner speaking notes (05/23/00)

"I tell you what happens if the minimum wage is where it is fairly low, it stimulates employment, particularly for young people."

- Elwin Hermanson, CBC Call-in Show (04/22/98)

What vision of Saskatchewan will make your life better?

The SaskParty say they want to help protect children working in the sex trade

Yet the SaskParty propose cutting \$50 million from social services, and they voted against hiring 60 workers to respond to the Children's Advocate report

Saskatchewan labour law under the NDP allows full time workers to have three weeks of holidays in a year. Alberta only provides two weeks of vacation time.

Could we ever see our holidays or occupational safety protection rolled back?

The SaskParty 1999 "Way Up" platform says the Saskparty would repeal Saskatchewan's "oppressive labour legislation"

Which vision of Saskatchewan will make your life worse?

SaskParty On The Record: Health Care



“Saskatchewan should be "raising additional revenue by removing some procedures for ‘non-life threatening illnesses’ from the medicare plan”

- SaskParty Leader,
Elwin Hermanson
(L.P. 04/04/98)

“Allowing private health services”

- SaskParty Election Promise
(Pamphlet - Saskatoon
Eastview 1998)

“Allow private surgical clinics to open in the province”

- SaskParty Policy
(L.P. 11/17/97)

CBC: Would you still allow something like a private health clinic, where doctors would actually be allowed to operate outside of the system and charge fee for service as opposed to the Medicare system?

Elwin Hermanson: If it doesn't impact negatively on the principle of affordability, **yes we would. We think that this would improve the quality of health care** and would remove a lot of pain and suffering in the province

CBC Call-in Show (04/22/98)

“The government should open its doors to **private health clinics.**”

- **Bill Boyd, MLA, Kindersley**
founding member - SaskParty
(Leader-Star 10/16/97)

“Weyburn-Big Muddy MLA Brenda Bakken has also voiced support for private health care. One option put forward by Bakken during the course of her campaign was the **privatization of health services**”
- The Review, Weyburn (10/20/99)

Bakken also stated **“Why are we not looking at having privatized care in Saskatchewan** and keeping the money here if that's what we're going to do?”

The view from the legislature:

“The closest the SaskParty has come to a health plan is their last election platform which called for freezing the health care budget and doing productivity audits on the activities of front line health workers.”

- *Pat Atkinson,*
NDP MLA

“Opposition flunks health-care examination”

“Grandstanding for the folks back home is about all we really expected from this opposition”.

(L.P. 04/21/01)

Calvert New Democrats:

Action Plan For Health Care

"Saskatchewan pioneered both publicly administered hospitalization and Medicare in North America. Our government's plan will ensure that quality health care is available for all."

- Throne Speech 2003

"The reality is that the (Saskatchewan's health care) system performs as well, if not better, than the rest of the country..."

- L.P. Editorial (05/30/03)

Did you know that the estimated cost...

- of a visit to a hospital emergency room is \$90
- of cataract surgery (day surgery) is \$1,500
- of hip replacement surgery is \$8,800
- of Enalapril, a prescription drug used to treat patients with heart conditions, is \$5.6M annually
- of operating one hospital bed for a year is \$144,000
- of one nursing home bed for a year is \$51,600

2003 - 2004 Health Budget:

- increases operating funds to health districts/regions by \$118M (6%) to \$1.59B
- \$48M to Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, up \$4M (8.7%) from last year
- \$19M for medical capital equipment
- this and other health care funding totals a record \$2.53 billion, an increase of \$184M (8%) over 2002-03

Surveys show most Saskatchewan people are very satisfied with the care they receive - from getting a flu shot to undergoing major surgery or receiving cancer treatments.

We know there are shortcomings. We face many challenges today, including shortages of key health care providers, longer waiting times for surgery and diagnostic tests, and the rising cost of new medical treatments and technologies.

We have developed the Action Plan For Health Care.

Calvert New Democrat Plan:

Action Plan For Health Care

The Action Plan for Health Care is the third phase of the medicare revolution in Canada.

Action Plan Highlights Include:

- √ improving management of surgical waiting lists by implementing the Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network to assess and fairly rank patients for surgery - the first of its kind in Canada
- √ actions taken to create primary health care teams with a view to creating a province wide Primary Health Care Network emphasising a more pro-active approach to preventing illness and injury.
- √ actions taken to attract, train and retain the doctors, nurses and other health care providers we need including competitive wage settlements for health care professionals.

"Ask people what makes them and their community healthy and they'll tell you - a good job, a decent education, a clean and safe environment, proper housing, less poverty, and a sense of community."

Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (University of Regina/University of Saskatchewan) submission to the Standing Committee on Health Care

The Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care is a blueprint for our health care system to improve and secure quality health care.

The Action Plan:

- √ helps Saskatchewan recruit and retain health care providers
- √ supports our province's new health regions
- √ improves access to primary health care services
- √ increases research spending
- √ creates Canada's first Health Quality Council to develop innovative ways to improve health care quality.

- **A province-wide network of hospitals. No closures or conversions of hospitals.**
- **Primary health care teams of doctors, nurses, and other health providers.**
- **A 24-hour toll-free telephone line with immediate access to health advice.**
- **More funding to reduce waiting times for surgery.**
- **\$3 million in new funding to train, attract, and keep more health providers.**
- **Support for 240 new or existing ambulance attendants to become emergency medical technicians.**
- **Canada's first Quality Council, to promote excellence and effective health spending.**
- **12 Regional Health Authorities to replace 32 districts.**
- **Support for health research with a 40 per cent increase in funding in 2002-03 and further increases to follow.**

From a historic perspective, the Action Plan For Health Care is the most important structural advance to health care in our province since full medicare was introduced in the 1960s.

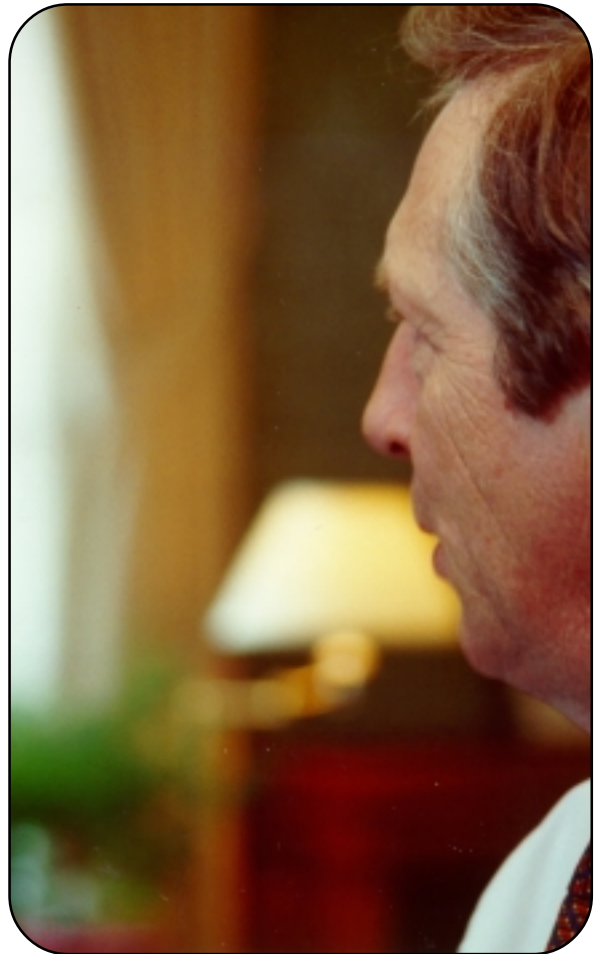
The Action Plan For Health Care, when achieved, will be of historic significance in the implementation of public health care.

The Action Plan is aimed at achieving a set of objectives and commitments to the health of the people of Saskatchewan that were first proposed over 60 years ago.

“With the advance of medical science the maintenance of a healthy population has become a function for which every society should undertake responsibility. Health Services should be made at least as freely available as educational services today.”

“A properly organized system of public health services including medical and dental care, which would stress the prevention rather than the cure of illness, should be extended to all our people in both rural and urban areas.”

- 1933 CCF/NDP policy



“the rising cost of medical and health care. . . is largely the result of outmoded organization and delivery of health care. . . The New Democratic Party will institute a program to provide a health rather than a sickness service”

**- 1971 NDP Policy
“A New Deal For People”**

Primary Health Care:

Our plan will have teams of doctors, nurses, therapists, and other front-line providers working together in primary health care networks to meet the needs of patients.

- encompasses preventive, promotive, curative, supportive and rehabilitative services;
- is provided by a range of professionals;
- serves to enhance people's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being;
- works to address the factors which influence health (determinants of health); and
- is designed and delivered in conjunction with the public and community service providers.

What is a Primary Health Care Team?

Primary care refers to a focus on care provided to individuals to address a particular problem or basic everyday health need. It is the care provided at the first level of contact with the health system - where people first enter the health system and where all health services are mobilized and co-ordinated. It includes education and activities to maintain health, as well as care for common illness, minor injury, and management of ongoing problems.

Improving Access To Health Care

Primary health care is the first and most frequent point of contact people have with the health system. It covers everything from the diagnosis of common illnesses to the treatment of minor injuries, and the management of ongoing problems like asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, or anxiety.

Telephone advice lines can eliminate unnecessary trips to a physician's office or an emergency room. They save patients' time and travel costs.

Calvert Action Plan For Health Care:

"Saskatchewan is leading the country with the implementation of the most comprehensive surgical care system strategy aimed at giving patients fair and timely access to surgery"

- John Nilson,
Health Minister

As a result of placing priority on surgical access, Saskatoon and Regina Health Regions are showing fewer people on wait lists and an increase in the number of surgeries being performed.

Each year in Saskatchewan about 90,000 surgeries are performed. Data gathered from Saskatoon and Regina Health Regions show fewer people on surgical wait lists, and a higher volume of surgery being done. Between April 2002 and March 2003, Saskatoon and Regina had 53,192 operating room cases, an increase of nearly 2,000 over 2001-02

The new Surgical Patient Registry will track all patients needing surgery in the province.

"No other province has stepped forward with such a comprehensive strategy to improve surgical care and ensure patients fair and timely access to surgery."

"The Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network is very pleased to be working with health partners from across the province on innovations like these"

- **Dr. Peter Glynn,**
Chair,
Saskatchewan Surgical
Care Network
(07/23/03)

The Patient Assessment Process will help doctors determine a patient's level of need for surgery. For example, patients needing a hip or knee replacement would be assigned a rating by their doctor based on various criteria, such as pain level and loss of mobility. Taken together, these initiatives will improve fairness among patients requiring surgery, and will assist with surgical management decisions.

"The reality is that the (Saskatchewan's health care) system performs as well, if not better, than the rest of the country..."

- Leader Post Editorial ,
(05/30/03)

Calvert Action Plan For Health Care:

Nurses:

The provincial government is expanding the registered nurse/registered psychiatric nursing education program by 100 positions and the practical nursing program by 16 positions.

Enrolment in the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) will increase over the next three years. Staging the increases over three years allows NEPS to build its capacity to accommodate this program expansion. Following this three-year expansion, the number of registered nursing and registered psychiatric nursing seats will have increased by over 120 per cent since 1999.

The government will also increase capacity in the province's practical nursing programs by 16 seats over the next two years. Overall capacity in the practical nursing programs has doubled since 1998. In addition, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies plans to offer 16 practical nursing seats in Saskatchewan with funding from the federal government.

New Health Centres Announced

- Fort Qu'Appelle First Nations Hospital
- Weyburn Regional Care Centre
- Yorkton Long Term Care Centre
- Cumberland House, Swift Current, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Moosomin, Melfort, Athabasca, Outlook
- Regina General and Saskatoon Royal University Hospital Expansions

Regional Health Authorities will expand and enhance services including:

- more service at existing dialysis sites and new satellite locations
- improved access to specialized medical imaging services such as CT scans and heart vessel examinations
- expanded capacity of the poison information centre

"Keeping and attracting key health care providers, including nurses, are top priorities of this government"

*- John Nilson,
Health Minister*

The Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care: A Progress Report on Saskatchewan's Nursing Strategies, July 2003:

The government's retention and recruitment strategies are producing positive results. For example, 100 per cent of 2002 undergraduate bursary recipients and 97 per cent of re-entry bursary recipients remained in the province to pursue their nursing careers

"We applaud the decision to increase seats in the baccalaureate program. The plan responds to Saskatchewan's need for more nurses while maintaining the outstanding quality of the program. Perhaps most satisfying, the increased seats will enable us to accept more of the bright young women and men who apply to the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan each year."

*- Beth Horsburgh
Dean, College of Nursing,
University of Saskatchewan
(07/31/03)*

Calvert Action Plan For Health Care:

\$2.53 billion dollars represents about 42 cents for health care of every government operating dollar spent.

So, what does \$2.53 Billion buy you?

Among other things:

- ◆ 4,590,900 visits to family physicians and 993,500 visits to specialists
- ◆ 800,000 days of in-patient hospital care
- ◆ over 266,000 radiology services, 125,000 ultrasounds, 72,000 CT scans and over 12,300 MRI exams
- ◆ 1,300,000 tests at the Provincial Lab and millions more at hospitals and physician's clinics
- ◆ 77% coverage of the total costs of nursing home care for some 9,000 residents in special-care homes, hospitals and health centres
- ◆ 300,000 immunizations

Specific Initiatives in the 2003-2004 Action Plan include:

- full implementation of a toll free 24-hour telephone advice line. The service will be staffed by nurses who will assess patient symptoms and advise them where to go for help, or, in less serious cases how to care for themselves.
- Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network enhanced to include information from sites outside Regina and Saskatoon.
- developing primary health care teams in Regional Health Authorities.
- continue training of Emergency Medical Responders up to Emergency Medical Technician level with a long term goal of 1 EMT on every emergency call.
- support for northern health authorities through funding for primary care and prevention initiatives.

Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals

More than 500 new and continuing health bursaries will be awarded to Saskatchewan students in health related areas where shortages exist or are anticipated.

- ◆ more than 200 bursaries will be targeted to students studying nursing including 5 that will be offered to nurses in graduate studies who agree to teach at one of Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions upon graduation
- ◆ 50 bursaries will be offered to students and residents studying medicine
- ◆ 80 bursaries will be offered to those studying to be emergency medical technicians
- ◆ 60 bursaries to students of various other health science professions (Students receiving these bursaries will join 150 other students with on-going, multi-year bursaries)
- ◆ continue with 40 opportunities for northern residents to upgrade their math and science skills through the Northern Health Science Program.
- ◆ adding 40 seats in the Northern Nursing Education Program, increasing the number of nursing seats for RNs and RPNs to 300 in each year
- ◆ continue to take 60 new students per year at the College of Medicine

Safety In The Workplace:

If a workplace is unsafe, who pays for your protection?

Do you want workers to bear the burden of paying for the investigation of unsafe workplaces, and have to pay the court costs to sue employers who are not adequately safeguarding their workers? This is the situation in jurisdictions that do not have workplace occupational health, safety, and harassment in their labour laws.

Did You Know?

The SaskParty call Saskatchewan "Cuba North" because our laws contain occupational health and safety protection for all workers. They call occupational health and safety a "labour dictatorship".
- **Elwin Hermanson**
Hansard (05/30/00)

"job killers" that's what unions are to:

- **Randy Weekes, MLA, Redberry Lake**
Hansard (05/30/00)

There are now 4,000 active Occupational Health and Safety committees in Saskatchewan. Employers and employees working together to prevent illness and injuries

If you are being harrassed in the workplace, who pays for your protection?

In 1972 the Saskatchewan NDP government introduced the first comprehensive occupational health and safety (OHS) legislation in North America. The cost of investigating a complaint is borne by the government, not the worker.

Worker's Compensation claims have dropped 28% since 1972

For the 5 year period 1996 - 2000, injuries or illnesses requiring time off work declined by 35% compared to the 5 year period 1973 - 1977

If occupational health and safety rules are being violated, who pays for your protection?

The Action Plan for 2003-2004 focuses on work place safety and reducing occupational hazards by:

- √ continuing to provide information on labour standards to the 50,000 - 70,000 workers, employers and human resource practitioners who call annually to the Government's toll-free inquiry line
- √ improving compliance with health and safety standards through 3,000 on-site inspections and reviews of 300 health and safety programs
- √ conducting 2,000 to 2,500 labour standards investigations
- √ providing conciliation services to employers and unions to resolve disputes and conclude negotiations to establish or renew collective agreements
- √ developing and supporting the Workplace Responsibility System by:
 - supporting occupational health and safety committees
 - assisting workplaces to develop OHS committees and programs
 - helping to develop OHS representatives in smaller, higher-risk workplaces

Highways:

Rebuilding, Renewing, Revitalizing

The Department of Highways 2003-04 budget is \$296.2 Million. This is the second largest budget in the province's history. It represents a 75% increase (\$127.4 Million) since 1996-97 and fulfills a 3 year, \$900 Million commitment to renew Saskatchewan's transportation infrastructure.

Here's the plan:

4 key objectives (Strategic Plan - 2001):

- sustainable infrastructure
- economic development
- northern development
- enhanced safety in the transportation system

We are investing more than \$900 Million over 3 years to finish upgrading 450 km of rural highways to support movement of commodities in the agriculture and oil and gas industries.

Over the next 2 years we are finishing 30 km of Highway 6 between Regina and the US border to support increased truck haul along this vital north/south corridor.

Twinning:

- ⇒ Trans-Canada West will be completely twinned between Regina and the Alberta border and will be opened to traffic this year, 5 years ahead of schedule
- ⇒ Trans-Canada East from Regina to the Manitoba border will be twinned by 2007, 5 years ahead of schedule
- ⇒ highway 16 between North Battleford and Lloydminster will be twinned by 2007, 3 years ahead of schedule
- ⇒ 22 km of Highway 1 East and 18 km of Highway 16 West will be graded this year, with surfacing to be completed in 2004-05

We will continue to rebuild sections of northern highway over the next 3 years to support increased truck haul in the forest industry.

Highway Facts:

A typical blizzard in Saskatchewan costs about \$500,000 a day for snow removal and maintenance

In Saskatchewan, the average cost per kilometre of 4 lane highway is about \$575,000

The average cost for a 2 lane highway is about \$470,000/ km

The average cost for a thin membrane surface (TMS) it is about \$130,000/ km

SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SGI Crown Corporations

it's no secret

the SaskParty wants to rid the province of crown corporations

"I honestly believe, Mr. Premier, if SaskTel was ever to be looked at and privatized we should have done it a couple of years ago, Mr. Premier, before competition come in. I myself believe we waited too long."

- **Bob Bjornerud, MLA, Saltcoats**

founding member of SaskParty
(Hansard 06/10/98)

"SaskTel should be privatized"
- **Ben Heppner, MLA, Rosthern**
founding member of SaskParty
(L.P. 04/04/98)

"He would privatize Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) and SaskTel"
- **Rod Gantfoer, MLA, Melfort-Tisdale**
SaskParty Leadership Candidate
(L.P. 04/04/98)

"I support the Privatization of every Crown Corporation"
"The first would likely be STC"
Yogi Huyghebaert, MLA, Wood River
SaskParty Leadership Candidate
(L.P. 04/04/98)

The SaskParty Plan has changed a little over the years, but the intent remains the same:

Privatize and Deregulate

"Saskatchewan people are the shareholders of our Crown Corporations. They must be consulted directly through provincial referendum on any specific proposal to sell any Crown utility"

SaskParty 1999 election platform

"Privatization will be considered if it is demonstrated that continued government ownership is no longer in the best interest of tax payers"

SaskParty 2001 Policy Handbook

At a convention of the SaskParty, delegates passed a resolution under the heading of Subcontracting of Government Services - resolution # 26. The full resolution states: "**Be it resolved that a Saskatchewan Party government would support the subcontracting of appropriate government agency services to private sector businesses.**"

[SaskParty MLA] "**Brkich** said the 'core crowns' - such as SaskWater, SaskPower, SaskTel and SGI- will be treated differently than the other 'treasury crowns', which would not be sold off immediately, but **when the selling price would reap the 'best bang for the buck.'** "

The Outlook (02/17/03)

SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SGI Crown Corporations

it's no secret

the SaskParty wants to rid the province of crown corporations

SaskParty policy CC9701 makes specific provision as to how crown utilities are to be disposed of. Crown utilities are SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, and SaskWater.

"Simply put, government has no business being in business."

- SaskParty MLA Reports (2002)

Our party will **take a close look at public investment** in all the crowns to see that the taxpayers get the best possible rate of return on these investments. **If selling some of these investments is best** for the taxpayers then **we will be looking at that.** [A list of 81 crown holdings was listed - including **SaskEnergy, TransGas, SGI, SaskTel, STC, SaskWater,** and **SaskPower**]

- Greg Brkich, "MLA Report"
The Outlook (05/06/02)

Greg Brkich (SaskParty MLA for Arm River) put it equally as clearly in his response to the Fraser Institute's recommendation that all the crowns be sold (Outlook June 3/02)

"Brkich agreed the province should sell off its crown corporations" and later in the article says: "If the time is right - not a fire sale - to unload the crowns, this money should go toward the debt." "But before **clearing out all the crowns**, Brkich said one must look at such issues as whether they [the crowns] are competing with the private sector"

Maybe the SaskParty should look at the facts:

"Gantefoer said he has to be convinced that a government agency can do anything more efficiently than a properly regulated, properly accountable private agency." (L.P. 04/04/98)

What do you think Mr. Gantefoer and the SaskParty have to say about the power blackouts this summer in deregulated Ontario and the United States?

"The cheapest major city for telephone service in North America is Regina"

"Canadians pay about 40% less on average than Americans for telephone services"

- Seaboard Research,
Globe and Mail (05/24/03)

Chicago	\$68.16
Boston	\$48.79
Seattle	\$43.92
Lethbridge	\$36.42
Toronto	\$35.68
Regina	\$26.83

*Seaboard Research, Globe and Mail (05/24/03)

SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SGI Crown Corporations

Residential Electricity

City	Cost - Monthly
Calgary, AB	\$ 81.77
Edmonton, AB	\$ 89.74
Lloydminster, AB	\$105.08
McLean, SK	\$ 76.05 (SaskPower)
Regina, SK	\$ 78.18 (SaskPower)
Charlottetown, PEI	\$ 82.20

(ELECTRICITY RATES - Comparison is based on residential rates and a monthly usage of 675kWhrs. Rates Effective as at January 1, 2003. *SOURCE: Runzheimer June, 2003)

Residential Natural Gas

City	Cost - Annual
Vancouver, BC	\$1,630.87
Kamloops, BC	\$1,751.65
McLean, SK	\$1294.66 (SaskEnergy)
Regina, SK	\$1294.66 (SaskEnergy)
Winnipeg, MB	\$1,420.72
Toronto, ON	\$1,839.54
Montreal, QC	\$1,674.20
Moncton, NB	\$1,644.69
Charlottetown, PEI	No res gas service

(NATURAL GAS RATES - Rates are based on typical annual bill based on August 2003 and exclude Municipal Payments and GST.

*SOURCE: Runzheimer June, 2003)

The SaskParty on Energy Rates:

Out on a Limb:

".....the SaskParty made complete morons of themselves. Facts and reality had no place in the SaskParty side of the debate. Swift Current's own MLA Brad Wall led the charge with a daily rant in the Legislature quoting irrelevant numbers from irrelevant analysts about irrelevant comparisons between Alberta and Saskatchewan. This was followed by a marathon session of faxing letters to newspapers accusing the NDP of gouging Saskatchewan homeowners. This is hard to believe when you consider that Saskatchewan had the lowest natural gas prices in Canada this winter. "

The Herald, Herbert, Saskatchewan
(06/19/03)

***Dare
To
Compare***

"There is no need to be afraid of privatization. Privatization would benefit consumers..."

**- Don Toth,
MLA, Moosomin**
founding member of
SaskParty (Indian Head
Wolseley News 08/06/98)

"Nothing in Wall's theatrics shows that he's informed on the complicated issue of gas pricing, that the Opposition has a coherent policy on consumer subsidies or that it's actually capable of governing without getting bogged down in micro management." Star Phoenix (06/07/01)

SaskEnergy's only competitor said the Saskatchewan Party is off base in its criticism of the utility's energy rates. Roger Magneson, president of Saskatoon based CEG Energy Options was responding to a SaskParty News release Friday questioning why SaskEnergy continues to charge customers \$6.30 a gigajoule for natural gas when the spot price has fallen to about \$3.49.

L.P. (06/30/01)

SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SGI Crown Corporations

Cross-Canada Automobile Insurance Rate Comparison

City	Cost - Annual
Brandon, MB	\$1,066 45 year old - 6 year clear
Winnipeg, MB	\$1,119
Calgary, AB	\$1,686 Standard vehicle:
Moncton, NB	\$1,539 2001 Chev. Cavalier LS
St. John's, NF	\$2,155 Insurance: Basic coverage
London, ON	\$1,571 Third party extend to \$1,000,000
Toronto, ON	\$2,297 Comp./Coll. reduced to \$500/500 deductible
Quebec City, QC	\$1,142 *SOURCE: Runzheimer June, 2003
Montreal, QC	\$1,873
Saskatchewan	\$1,085
Vancouver, BC	\$1,659

Cost - Annual
\$1,350 45 year old - 1 at fault accident
\$1,416
\$1,887 Standard vehicle:
\$1,872 2001 Chev. Cavalier LS
\$2,565 Insurance: Basic coverage
\$1,825 Third Party Extend to \$1,000,000
\$2,677 Com./coll. reduced to \$500/500 deductible
\$1,300 *SOURCE: Runzheimer June, 2003
\$2,118
\$1,095
\$2,207

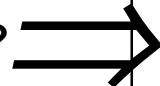
Auto Insurance Rates

Will this help young people?



Brandon, MB	\$1,350
Winnipeg, MB	\$1,416
Calgary, AB	\$7,422
Moncton, NB	\$5,698
St. John's, NF	\$10,068
London, ON	\$6,107
Toronto, ON	\$9,066
Quebec City, QC	\$5,363
Montreal, QC	\$8,477
Saskatchewan	\$1,190
Vancouver, BC	\$3,190
18 year old male - 1 at fault accident	
Standard vehicle: 2001 Chev. Cavalier LS Insurance: Basic coverage Third Party Extend to \$1,000,000 Com./coll. reduced to \$500/500 deductible *SOURCE: Runzheimer June, 2003	

Will this "grow Saskatchewan"?



Compare



The Saskatchewan Party privatization and deregulation plan would see our insurance rates skyrocket like the rest of the country.

How would higher car insurance rates help keep young people in Saskatchewan?

SGL

Popular
Vehicle
Rates 2003

Province/City	
Sask/ Province Wide	\$1,263
BC/ Vancouver	\$1,630
Ab/ Calgary	\$2,311
New Brunswick/ Moncton	\$2,423
Nova Scotia/ Halifax	\$2,574
Quebec/ Montreal	\$3,225
Newfoundland/ St. John's	\$3,764

(As of March 31, 2003 on a Ford Taurus SE)

*based on all purpose use, driver over 25 with clean record, \$300 deductible collision, \$500 deductible comprehensive and \$1M third party liability

** SGI comparison

Huge Savings Lower Prices!!!

It's hard to be a young driver under the age of 25 in Alberta - many young people can't even afford to license their vehicle

"Saskatchewan Party Attacks STC"

"Saskatchewan's bus company is a 'money-losing merry-go-round' that should be stopped dead."

- Elwin Hermanson, SaskParty Leader
(L.P. 07/24/98)

"The privatization of Crown Corporations where it is in the public interest to do so"

- SaskParty Election Promise
(Pamphlet - Saskatoon Eastview 1998)

In a Leader Post article titled:

"Constitution, policy platform OK'd"

Under the heading:

"Policies adopted by party"

You will find the policy:

"Privatize Crowns"

- SaskParty Policy
(L.P. 11/09/98)

■ [Bill Boyd] "calling for the sale of all Saskatchewan Crowns"

■ "SaskTel - should be the first Crown Corporation of the block"

■ "Perennial money losers like the Saskatchewan Transportation Company would be less inviting, but there is little reason to fund buses that are '90-per-cent empty in rural Saskatchewan'."

- Bill Boyd, MLA,
Kindersley

founding member - SaskParty
(Yorkton This Week 07/31/96)

What vision of Saskatchewan will make your life better?



Elwin and SaskParty MLAs say:

"I definitely support the sale of STC."

"I think when it comes to the sale of the major Crowns like SaskTel and SaskPower we need to consult with the people of Saskatchewan to see if they want to sell some."

- **Elwin Hermanson**, (L.P. 04/04/98)

What date is
"right now"
finished?

"we have no plans, right now, to sell the four major crowns" - **Elwin Hermanson**,

(Gormley Call-In Show September 9, 2003)

"there is no need to be afraid of privatization."

- **Don Toth, MLA, Moosomin**

(Indian Head-Wolseley News 08/06/96)

More Privatization and Deregulation

"...the only way to achieve meaningful debt reduction is through the sale of Crown assets."

"It's time for the NDP to take off the ideological blinders and consider taking similar action with the utility Crowns."

"We are saying it's time to look at the utility Crowns on a case by case basis, and **see if there are Crowns or parts of Crowns that would be good candidates for privatization.**"

- **Rod Gantfoer,**
SaskParty Finance Critic

budget response speaking notes (released to media) (03/19/98)

"Privatization would benefit consumers..."

- **Bill Boyd, MLA, Kindersley**
(Shellbrook Chronicle 08/05/96)

"SaskTel should follow the example of Manitoba Telecom Services (MTS) and privatize the company"

- **Bill Boyd, MLA, Kindersley**
(NorthEast Chronicle 01/14/97)

The Moosomin World-Spectator asked:

"If this is how SaskParty MLAs act when they're in opposition and have no real power, what kind of stunts will they pull if the voters of this province ever put them in charge?" (03/23/98)

Alberta Envy?

"it has now become more important than ever to ensure that business-friendly parties are in place at the provincial level across the country"

Saskatchewan Party Calgary Dinner committee inviting Alberta business leaders to a \$250 a plate fundraiser for the Saskatchewan Party.

Elwin Hermanson, leader of the Saskatchewan Party is asking Albertans to donate "\$25, \$50 or \$100" to help it win Saskatchewan's next election.

"I suspect they've probably figured out there's a lot more money to be raised in Alberta than there is in Saskatchewan"

- **Rob Dunseith, president of Alberta's provincial Conservatives**

Edmonton Journal (05/29/01)

Hermanson, a former Reform MP, is making his money pitch by letter, after his party bought a copy of the Alberta subscriber list from the Conservative Report Magazine, formerly Alberta Report.

Tom Lukiwski, SaskParty general manager, said the SaskParty chose Alberta because "many Albertans share its conservative ideology"

Edmonton Journal (05/29/01)

SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SGI

SaskTel investments have netted a return of over 100 million dollars to the provincial treasury

The vast majority of Crown investments are made right here in Saskatchewan. From 1993 to 2002, 95% of Crown investments - \$5.65 billion dollars - went to enhancing services for their customers, the people of Saskatchewan.

Since 1995, Crown Corporations have put \$1.6 billion into the provincial treasury. That's \$1,600,000,000.00 for health, education and other important services

The SaskParty has committed to selling off the government's 'non-core' assets"

[The SaskParty]
"would review the major Crown corporations and be "open to anything"

Brad Wall, MLA
SNN (09/03/03)

Open to anything?

In 2002, the Crowns and Crown employees donated \$4.7M to charities and Community Organizations

Crown Corporations spend about 2 billion dollars in our province every year on goods, services and wages

The Crowns are important customers for almost 12,000 Saskatchewan businesses

SaskEnergy is recognized by the Conference Board of Canada as one of Canada's most socially responsible companies

SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SGI partner with over 700 local dealers and brokers to deliver telecommunications, insurance, and natural gas services all across the province

Over 9,000 people are employed by the Crowns, half in head offices and half in communities throughout the province

If some outside company came in and bought SaskTel, SaskEnergy or SaskPower would they be concerned about you or their profit margin?

In the U.S., private energy companies are being sued because they don't maintain infrastructure

Do you want blackouts and soaring costs here?

"He said that his government, if elected, should be allowed to sell off crown corporations on a selective basis"

- Elwin Hermanson,
The Press Review, (03/10/98)

Corrections and Public Safety

97% of Saskatchewan residents now have access to 911

The Regina Auto Theft Strategy has reduced auto theft in Regina by 37% since February of 2002

The Young Offenders Act has been replaced by the federal government

The provincial government has implemented the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act. The new federal act replaces the Young Offenders Act

The new federal legislation gives us new tools to deal with chronic, repeat and violent youth.

We are committed to holding serious and repeat offenders accountable through custody and intensive supervision.

Less serious offenders will be held accountable through a range of options that respect the needs of victims, communities and youth, such as community based case and sentence management programs

Auto Theft

Youth who steal cars are held responsible for what they have done. They are charged, arrested, held in custody and brought to court. Crown prosecutors proceed with maximum allowable charges and pursue maximum appropriate penalties.

Youth who are convicted are monitored. Youth who fail to comply with court orders and release conditions are swiftly returned to court and custody.

Public Safety Legislation

New public safety and security legislation will expand the province's existing powers to respond effectively to any threats to public safety and security, including terrorism.

The legislation expands the scope of existing provincial powers to deal with new threats

For example, **amendments to The Public Health Act** expand the current authority of medical health officers to deal with communicable diseases, **biohazards** and situations like the **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)** outbreak.

Corrections and Public Safety

Serious Offenders

Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP). SHOCAP involves enforcement and strict supervision followed by treatment and intervention to reduce chronic re-offending through an increased level of partnership between the RCMP, youth workers, prosecutors and community agencies.

Crime Rate Down

(July 24, 2003) The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics shows a decrease in Saskatchewan's total crime rate in 2002.

The city of Regina experienced the largest drop in crime rates among 25 cities in Canada with a 12 per cent decrease in 2002. The rate in Saskatoon remained relatively stable.

The overall reduction in crime was due to a 3 per cent decrease in property crime, led by a 13 per cent decline in motor vehicle thefts in Saskatchewan.

While Saskatchewan's crime rate is still higher than other provinces, it fared better than other western provinces by establishing a declining rate, as opposed to Alberta and BC where the rates actually increased.

911 Expansion to northern communities and Lloydminster will continue in 2003

New legislation provides for penalties up to \$50,000 to prevent identity fraud and identity theft, and to protect provincial identity documents from being used to further terrorist objectives

North Battleford Youth Crime Strategy

“A targeted, get tough approach that includes tighter supervision, better co-ordination between authorities and more effective rehabilitation.”

- Andrew Thomson,
Minister of Corrections
and Public Safety

The plan is targeted at a small number of young people responsible for a significant amount of property crime in North Battleford. Its three part strategy provides:

- increased attention to youth under 12
- early intervention for low-risk offenders
- enhanced focus on repeat offenders through the Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP)

And the SaskParty solution to crime is:

- “boot camps” for youth
- “Citizens Neighbourhood Patrols”

Action On The Economy

In 2003 an average family in Saskatchewan will pay \$1030 less in provincial income tax than in 1999, and \$1,490 less than it did 10 years ago.

Saskatchewan has the highest exemption level on Corporate Capital Tax (CCT) of the 9 provinces that have a CCT

Saskatchewan has the lowest corporate income tax rate in Western Canada for manufacturers and processors (as low as 10%)

Since 1991 the small business income tax rate has been reduced by half and the level of income to which the rate applies has increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000

Increased Exploration

over the last 2 years, mineral exploration has increased by approximately 50%

Drilling Rights

Half way through 2003, land sales (drilling rights) for oil and gas have generated \$86M - over 3 times the revenue as they had in the same period in 2002

Gas Drilling

In 2002, a record high 1,864 natural gas wells were drilled

Job Growth

(Sept. 03) Saskatchewan has had **16 consecutive months of job growth**

Our job numbers reflect a diversified province that has momentum and a wide-open future. Saskatchewan people should be pleased with these solid numbers, that are holding firm in spite of BSE and a lower than average harvest. Our strength in a variety of sectors is contributing to our success.

In spite of encountering major difficulties in agriculture Saskatchewan continues to move ahead.

Employment

(Mar. 03) Saskatchewan had the 3rd lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 5.9%, well below the national average of 7.9%

Youth Jobs

(Apr. 03) Saskatchewan had the 2nd lowest youth unemployment rate in Canada

SaskParty On The Economy

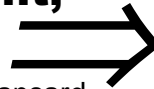
Saskparty Votes Against Economic Development

Export Partnership (STEP) Agency, Small Business Loans Associations, and Neighbourhood Development Organizations.

On Tuesday, June 26, 2001 the Saskatchewan Party voted against budget items funding Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDA), Tourism Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Trade and

The first priority is to get out of the grants business 100 per cent; no more grants, period.

- Elwin Hermanson, House of Commons Hansard (06/25/95), Page 13170



Saskparty Policy Book Says:

DG0105 - Under a Saskatchewan Party government, there will be no direct investments or grants given to businesses.

Suppose Government Stopped Giving Grants And Loans

Three Lakes Volunteer Fire Department got a grant. It serves residents of the RM of Three Lakes, and the villages of Middle Lake, Pilger, and St. Benedict.

There would be no help for Prince Albert Share-a-Meal Food Bank.

There would be no assistance for struggling beef producers.

Grants for a Canadian Red Cross Society anti-bully program would disappear.

No new special needs bus for Dalmeny.

The Reality of Small Business Loans In Saskatchewan

In the last year the government-administered, community-run Small Business Loans Association Program loaned more than \$3.5M to about 500 new or non-traditional businesses. The program is credited with creating or maintaining over 1,100 jobs, primarily in rural communities.

Two Faced? We wonder...

The last SaskParty election platform said (on "Democratic Reform"):

"Making all votes in the legislature free votes. This will give individual MLAs the power to vote on behalf of their constituents regardless of party affiliation instead of simply toeing the party line."

"Implementing MLA recall, the ultimate tool of accountability. This will give voters the power to "fire" MLAs."

When Grant Schmidt beat SaskParty insider Bob Bjornerud for the nomination, Elwin Hermanson squashed the nomination saying that Schmidt had policy differences with the party.

How is that Democratic Reform?

Agriculture

“I don't believe in making special deals for farmers.”

- Elwin Hermanson,
The Moosomin World Spectator (03/23/98)

“Caller: What ideology or what beliefs did you have to give up to become a member of the Saskatchewan Party compared with the Reform Party?”

Elwin Hermanson: I don't think I gave up any beliefs.”

- CBC Call-in Show (04/22/98)

There is no reason the farm machinery industry should be propped up either in the short term or the long term.”

- Elwin Hermanson, House of Commons Hansard (06/02/95)

Crop Insurance 2002-2003

- more forage coverage was added
- crop coverage was increased
- yields were updated in 2003, going up 5% on average

“ We believe in a prosperous rural Saskatchewan, where individuals, communities, businesses and government work together to achieve sustainable economic development and an enhanced quality of life.”

-A Strategy for Rural Saskatchewan: Responding to ACRE, NDP government document, 2003

The Strategy for Rural Saskatchewan will be guided by 4 principles:

Leadership - rural people will drive the efforts to revitalize rural Saskatchewan

Collaboration - co-operation between government and rural stakeholders is vital to success

Partnership - co-operation within and between communities will address local needs

Accountability - success will be measured by the accomplishments of individuals, communities, and government

Committment

Saskatchewan continues to commit more funding to agricultural programming per capita than any other Canadian jurisdiction - 4.8 times the federal committment and 3.4 times the average of all provinces

In-Migration

Rural Saskatchewan has begun to see in-migration from Europe and Alberta because we are seen as a land of opportunity

Support

Crop Insurance payments to producers for 2002 exceeded \$1Billion

Agriculture

Strategy for Rural Saskatchewan

The Strategy for Rural Saskatchewan speaks to ACRE's vision of vibrant rural communities and a robust economy. We seek to achieve 3 goals to make this vision reality.

Goal 1 - A Competitive Business Environment

We believe we can create a more competitive environment by changing the way we approach:

- private sector investment
- regulations and taxes
- human resource capacity
- research and development funding
- our relationship with the natural environment

Some Current Actions:

- The Prairie Venture Fund
- introduced lower royalty and production tax structures
- \$.5M partnership to provide support for organic certification systems
- Wind power generation projects.

Goal 2 - Sustainable and Effective Public Infrastructure

The Government of Saskatchewan believes that maintaining and enhancing public infrastructure is crucial for rural areas. Our strategy focuses on 3 critical elements:

- transportation
- communications
- utilities

Some Current Actions:

- extra funding in 2002-2003 to support road improvements related to economic development
- a \$56M investment in high-speed internet infrastructure in 237 communities
- CommunityNet linking 366 communities to the World Wide Web
- \$9M expansion of our pipeline network into the Shackleton natural gas reserve

Goal 3 - Strong and Healthy Rural Communities

We believe that building strong and healthy rural communities will build a prosperous rural Saskatchewan.

Therefore we will direct activities to:

- improving people's attitudes and perceptions of rural Saskatchewan
- training and skills development
- involving youth
- partnerships with Aboriginal people
- targeted immigration
- health and social development services

Some Current Actions:

- The Saskatchewan Dream promotes entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan
- \$4.35M investment in Farm Family Opportunities Initiative
- Rural Youth Forum
- \$3.8M for Centennial Student Employment Program (CSEP)

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF)

\$1B will be invested over the next 5 years to implement the federal/provincial APF. The 5 chapters of the framework include:

- Risk Management
- Food Safety and Food Quality
- Environment
- Renewal
- Science and Innovation

...And the SaskParty plan:

Reporter: "What would you do, specifically, about drought relief?"

Harpauer: "Right now, I wouldn't know exactly what we would do."

Donna Harpauer, MLA
SaskParty Agriculture Critic
(10/10/01)

Windmills

Premier Lorne Calvert announced plans to expand SaskPower's wind generation nearly ten fold through a joint venture with ATCO Power.

"Just over two years ago, we had no wind power in Saskatchewan," Premier Lorne Calvert said. "With today's expansion of up to 50 megawatts we will have enough green electricity to power 73,000 homes or almost all of the homes in Saskatoon."

The SaskPower International/ ATCO Power wind power development(s) could commence operations as early as 2004/2005 with all 150 MW operational by March 2007. Wind monitoring equipment has already been installed at several locations across the province to determine the best sites for wind power production.

Saskatchewan is currently the third largest wind power generator in Canada, with a combined capacity of 17.1 MW generated by two facilities, including SaskPower's wholly owned Cypress Wind Power Facility in southwestern Saskatchewan. Thanks to growing demand for GreenPower, the Cypress Facility will be expanded by approximately 5 MW by the end of 2003.

CommunityNet

CommunityNet means high-speed Internet Connections to facilities in towns and cities throughout Saskatchewan

Schools, health facilities, libraries and government offices in 366 communities will be connected to the network by 2004

Thanks to CommunityNet, SaskTel is expanding its high-speed commercial network more quickly than originally planned. By the end of this year 237 communities will have access.

Saskatchewan is one of a handful of jurisdictions in the world to develop such a comprehensive high-speed network.

People living in Saskatchewan have better high speed Internet access than many people living in cities like New York and Los Angeles.

CommunityNet

- enables Saskatchewan businesses to compete in the global economy
- assists teachers, especially in rural and northern areas, to provide instruction across an increasingly wide range of studies
- provides patients in northern and rural communities with better access to specialized health care services

We are installing high speed Internet access in 162 libraries throughout the province.

A Lot Of Things Are Happening In Saskatchewan

Synchrotron

The biggest science project in Canada in 30 years is taking shape at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon

The size of a football field, the \$173.5-million Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron will launch a new era of science and innovation

The CLS is an extremely bright source of light that can probe the structure of matter to study physical, chemical, geological, environmental and biological processes

Millions of times more intense than X-rays, synchrotron light allows us to 'see' at the atomic level - and analyze molecules and atomic activities with higher accuracy and precision than ever before

Construction of the synchrotron building is now complete - with start-up scheduled for January 2004

Forestry

Forestry pumps more than \$750 million a year into the provincial economy

We're home to some 300 forestry industry firms, including:

- Hardwood pulp mill and softwood pulp-and-paper
- An Oriented Strand Board (OSB) plant
- Plywood and lumber operations

The first waferboard plant in Canada

Developing *Green* Industry

⇒ **The world's first closed-loop, liquid effluent-free hardwood pulp mill**

⇒ A major waste management/co-generation facility using wood waste to generate electricity

*Eco*Tourism

Nearly 100,000 lakes

Rapid Growth in EcoTourism

Canada's largest protected grasslands area - and the first migratory bird sanctuary in North America

Organic Agriculture

Conservative estimates have the province of Saskatchewan at approximately 1,000 organic producers, of which approximately 30 are organic processors. This rate of growth is estimated at approximately 20 per cent per year

Information & Communications Technologies

10,700 people in some 250 companies generate more than \$805 million a year

First in the world with an automated health card system

First in North America to introduce automated banking machines

In 1984 SaskTel installed the world's longest commercial fibre optics system

Did You Know?

- 47% of workers in Saskatchewan have a post-secondary diploma, certificate or degree
- Saskatchewan has the highest rate of volunteer participation in Canada? 42% of Saskatchewan residents aged 15 and older volunteer
- Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to establish a Public Task Force on Balancing Work and Family
- The work and Family Unit of Saskatchewan Labour assists business, government, and community sectors create more family-friendly workplaces
- Party lines exist elsewhere in Canada. SaskTel has provided private lines to every customer in Saskatchewan since 1992

Proud of Saskatchewan

New Democrats

The Coffee Row Handbook 2003

Published by the New Democratic Party Caucus Office

www.ndpcaucus.sk.ca

caucus@ndpcaucus.sk.ca