

2004



Coffee Row

# HANDBOOK

Published by the New Democratic Party Caucus Office  
[www.ndpcaucus.sk.ca](http://www.ndpcaucus.sk.ca)  
[caucus@ndpcaucus.sk.ca](mailto:caucus@ndpcaucus.sk.ca)

*Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union  
Local 397*



**“We’re about providing a better life for the people of Saskatchewan.”**

“That’s the only reason we are in government - there is no other reason to be in government.”

- Premier Lorne Calvert

**Our Commitments:**

- make Saskatchewan the most affordable place in Canada to live and raise a family
- provide the best public health care in Canada
- build a green and prosperous economy
- build the future here for young people



**What will our future look like?**



**What do we want?**

A brighter, sustainable tomorrow, a tomorrow full of vital, flourishing communities - a tomorrow that is shaped by the opportunities in Saskatchewan's future.

Our future will find a province transformed from just a few years ago: a province that is proud, promotes justice and caring, and is optimistic for the future.

**How should our society’s goals be reached?**

**Our plan is sustainable over the long haul**

**Employment:**

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

“What we have accomplished in just the past two or three years tells me, guarantees me, that there is little we cannot do if we put our minds to it - if we dream big, plan well and work hard.”

- Premier Lorne Calvert

1

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

Coffee Row 2004

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2004 edition of Coffee Row.

On behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party Caucus in the Saskatchewan Legislature, I can say I am proud to present this issue. You will find it offers a positive accounting of the Calvert Government's progress in meeting our 2003 election commitments.

Kim Trew  
NDP Caucus Chair



## **A Guide to Saskatchewan Party Tactics:**

The Saskatchewan Party has decided to substitute a strategy of spreading myths and attempted character assassination in place of realistic public policy. They offer no alternatives and advance no new ideas.

**Do Sask Party lines and tactics sound familiar? Think you've heard them on American T.V?**

*The SP appears to have adopted several pages from American right-wing political strategic thinking.*

Many of the challenges facing Saskatchewan are complex in nature and are the result of matters completely out of our control, such as BSE and drought. In light of these challenges, we made campaign commitments to be fulfilled over a full term of a government. Complex challenges do not always lend themselves to an instant solution.

**This edition of Coffee Row will shatter Sask Party myths and attacks. It will demonstrate positive progress on each of our four key commitments.**

### **2004 budget:**

\$294.8 million to improve another 740 km of major highways and 30 bridges, & twin 53 km on Highways 1 and 16



## Promises Made:

New Democrats are making four commitments to make life even better for families in every region of our province:

- 1 Make Saskatchewan the most affordable place to live and raise a family**
- 2 Provide the best public health care in Canada**
- 3 Build a green and prosperous economy**
- 4 Build the future here for young people**

The opposition and media are fond of saying that we have somehow broken these commitments.

New Democrats laid out a four year plan during the election

## Promises Kept:

*In six short months, we have made significant progress on our four key commitments.*

**Read on and judge for yourself.**

**Increased agriculture budget:**

\$252 million in 2003-04 to \$264 million this year

**5.2 % increase**

3

## The truth is obvious

The true test of a campaign commitment is to measure performance over a complete term.

The Sask Party's major campaign promise was spread over 10 years! Even their promise to bring about education property tax relief was an eight-year promise.

**no one ever accused the Sask Party of consistency**

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

Coffee Row 2004

# Promises Made, Promises Kept:

making Saskatchewan the  
**most affordable**  
place to live and raise  
a family **in Canada**

## The Myth:

The Sask Party would like the people of Saskatchewan to believe that our publicly owned utilities would better serve the people of this province if they were sold to the private sector.

## The Sask Party view:

*"Gantefer 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)

## The Reality:

**Saskatchewan has the lowest-cost basic utility bundle among northern communities across Canada. In 2003, the cost of Saskatchewan's basic utility bundle ranked second for major centres in Canada. Our rates were behind Manitoba by about \$2 a month and second behind Manitoba for rural communities by less than \$7 a month. In 2004, we intend to rank number one!**

## More Reality:

"Public Auto Insurance Systems Offer Lowest Rates For Consumers"

"Alberta Consumers Pay Much Higher Rates Than In Neighbouring Provinces"

"Auto insurance rates in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec, provinces with public auto insurance systems, are the lowest in Canada, in some cases dramatically lower."

- Consumers' Association of Canada  
Review of Automobile Insurance Rates  
September 2003

**We are maintaining our key utilities as Crown corporations and they continue to supply quality service at low rates.**

## Educational Technology:

\$1 million to high-speed Internet access for K-12 students and teachers in remote schools

Coffee Row 2004

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

4

# Here's what we have accomplished so far:

➤ Saskatchewan families are benefiting from income tax reductions for the eleventh straight year in 2004.

➤ Effective January 1st, 2004, Saskatchewan's income tax brackets and tax credits (including the basic and spousal credits, senior supplement and dependent child credit) were indexed to the national rate of inflation.

➤ The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program and related programs have received a \$19.9 million, three-year extension (joint Fed/ Prov). Funding will help repair and modify homes to enhance housing quality and help create additional affordable housing.



➤ Education funding fairness: Our three-phase program to restore fairness and equity to school system funding will focus on renewing and restructuring school divisions, developing a fairer system of funding from the province, and committing to a long-term solution of lowering property taxes. Thirty per cent of new and ongoing compensation on equalization from Ottawa will be dedicated to property tax relief.

➤ Municipalities have been provided an additional \$10 million in transfer payments to assist in holding the line on property tax.

## Child care:

Created 200 new child care spaces this year.

5

*"I would cut the department of economic development, tourism and SOCO, which is a government agency that offers business financing to various projects. Another way to pay for tax reductions is to privatize some Crown corporations."*

- Rod Gantefoer, Sask Party MLA (L.P. 04/04/98)

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

Coffee Row 2004

## Making Saskatchewan the Most Affordable Place to Live and Raise a Family

- The Government of Saskatchewan is boosting the number of child care spaces available in the province this year by 200 through Child Care Saskatchewan, the largest child care expansion in provincial history. This will bring the total number of licensed child care spaces to 8,100 by March 2005.



- The Labour Standards Act is being amended to require the Minimum Wage Board to review the minimum wage at least once every two years.
- Working people and their families will benefit from improved job-protected leaves allowing them time to care for seriously ill or dying loved ones.



- HomeFirst has been launched. It is a five-year plan to invest \$200 million and directly benefit more than 17,000 households annually. In 2004/05, \$25 million will be invested in developing new affordable housing and in renovation grants for low to moderate-income households.
- The Government's early childhood development initiative, including KidsFirst, will receive a \$1.5 million increase to support healthy babies and encourage healthy development of our children, from birth to five years of age. This allows current KidsFirst program providers to increase capacity and support a further 500 families.



### Incentives for Young People:

Increasing Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit to \$1000 over 4 years.

# Promises Made, Promises Kept:

providing the best  
public health  
care in Canada

## The Myth:

The Sask Party would like the people of Saskatchewan to believe that our health care system is in "crisis."

### The Reality:

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

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

The Saskatoon and Regina health authorities were among the country's best, according to a survey conducted by Maclean's magazine. Saskatoon was ranked fourth and Regina-Qu'Appelle Health Authority placed 16th, based on an assessment of the country's 57 largest health regions.

### Cancer Funding:

\$6.6 million more to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

7

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

Coffee Row 2004

*"Saskatchewan is experiencing a serious health care crisis, and would do well to look at the Alberta government's experiment with private clinics, according to Ben Heppner, Saskatchewan Party MLA for the Rosthern constituency."*

-The Village Press, (11/24/99)

## Surgical Care:

*"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)



"If I have ten dollars, I don't want eight out of 10 dollars going to patient care, one dollar going to set up a whole new range of administration, and one dollar going off to somebody's profit margin."

- Premier Lorne Calvert

## We've increased health care funding to \$2.7billion in 2004-05, \$173 million (almost 6.9%) more than last year.

Since the release of the Saskatchewan Action Plan for Health Care in December 2001, primary health care initiatives have included:

- increasing the number of primary health care teams in the province to 24;
- launching the HealthLine, a 24-hour, nurse-serviced, health advice and information line;
- hiring Directors of Primary Health Care in each health region;
- hired Provincial Diabetes Co-ordinator to implement provincial diabetes plan;
- adding diabetic supplies such as syringes, needles, lancets and swabs to the Saskatchewan Drug Plan; and
- enacting regulations that allow for registered nurse practitioners to be licensed through the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association.

## Health Premiums (family at \$50,000 income):

<b>B.C. (Vancouver)</b>	<b>Alberta (Calgary)</b>	<b>Ontario (Toronto)</b>	<b>Saskatchewan</b>
<b>\$1,296<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$1,056<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$600<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$0<sup>1</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Intercity Comparisons, Saskatchewan Budget 2004

<sup>2</sup> Two incomes at \$25,000, after full premium implementation.

"A Sask Party government would not rule out private MRI clinics and would review support services, said Hermanson..." -- Leader-Post, (10/24/03)

### Drug Plan:

The Saskatchewan Health Drug Plan provides financial assistance to approximately 113,000 families for prescription drugs

**We are reducing waiting lists by purchasing new diagnostic and treatment equipment such as:**

- A new state of the art radiation therapy technology that will provide Saskatchewan cancer patients with the latest treatment techniques;
- The purchase of a new MRI in Regina that, once operational, will provide approximately 5,000 to 6,000 more MRIs annually;
- \$1.8 million to expand diagnostic testing capacity including approximately 4,000 additional MRIs and an additional 2,700 CT scans;
- \$6.6 million for the Cancer Agency to provide approximately six per cent increase in chemotherapy treatments and patient visits as well as cover operating and drug cost increases;

**100 additional nursing training seats will be added by the end of 2005-06, having been phased in over 3 years.**

- To compete with other jurisdictions, we have provided a significant increase in compensation and funds to support recruitment and retention initiatives for rural and specialist physicians.
- More than 70 % of the health budget increase this year will be directed to covering salaries, benefits of health care providers.
- The provincial government is devoting \$5 million this year to support bursary programs in the health field. More than 80 new bursaries will be offered to Saskatchewan students studying health sciences disciplines.
- More than 220 new bursaries will be targeted to Saskatchewan students studying to be registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, licensed practical nurses, primary care nurse practitioners, and those wishing to re-enter nursing.



- As part of a three-year funding commitment by the provincial government, an additional \$100,000 in bursaries is available this year for registered nurses who wish to become nurse practitioners.

**Environmental Options:**

SPMC has added 11 gas/electric hybrid cars to its fleet, creating a fuel savings of 10-12 % annually

# Promises Made, Promises Kept:



## The Myth:

The Sask Party would like the people of Saskatchewan to believe that our province is an "economic disaster" and that green initiatives will further "ruin" the economy.

*"We have convinced ourselves that this is a bad place to do business. ...And yet, when you look at the actual numbers the situation is exactly the opposite. An assessment prepared by Sask Trends Monitor a few weeks back showed over the last 10 years Saskatchewan has actually outpaced most of the country... we have conditioned ourselves to believe the rhetoric and not the numbers. Sometimes we are our own worst enemies."*

-Commentator Paul Martin,  
CJME Radio, (12/13/03)

## The Reality:

**Despite two years of drought and BSE, the Saskatchewan economy is one of the top performers in the country. The Bank of Montreal and CIBC both say we had the fastest real economic growth in Canada last year. The Conference Board of Canada and the Royal Bank both place us second. Despite opposition claims, Saskatchewan's economic performance is at or near the top with 11 credit upgrades since 1995.**

## Sask Party Environmental policy?

*Speaking about the Kyoto Protocol, Sask Party MLA Lyle Stewart referred to those who care about the environment as "the left-wing, lunatic fringe of the NDP party."*

-Lyle Stewart, Sask Party MLA  
Hansard, (12/10/02)

Coffee Row 2004

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

### Education:

\$1.2 billion invested in education, a 3.8 % increase over last year.

10

**"Saskatchewan is one of the most successful trading exporting jurisdictions in the world. And we didn't get to be this way by accident, we are very good at what we do."**

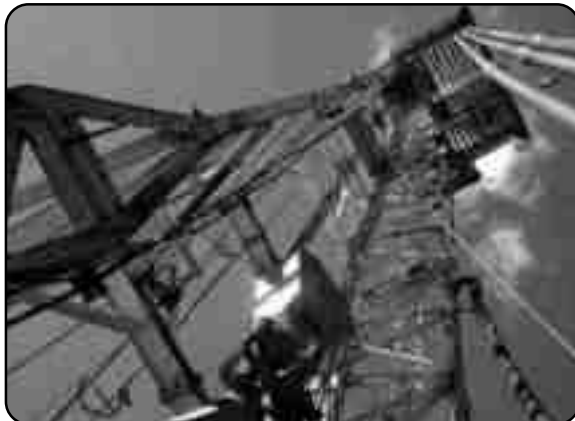
- John Treleaven, President and Chief Executive Officer of STEP,  
(Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership)

Action Saskatchewan: A Blueprint for 2005, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

- Saskatchewan was at or near the top in economic performance in 2003. The Bank of Montreal and CIBC both say Saskatchewan had the fastest real economic growth in Canada last year. The Conference Board of Canada and the Royal Bank both place our province second.
- A KPMG report says our business climate is competitive with other provinces and countries.
- Saskatchewan is now one of only two provinces in Canada that doesn't charge an income surtax, a payroll tax or a health premium.



- Last year we registered the highest average annual employment in our history. In June and July, we had more than half a million people working for the first time ever.
- Over the 1994-2003 period, Saskatchewan's real GDP per capita increased at an average annual rate of 2.3 per cent and Saskatchewan's productivity (real GDP per employed person) was tied at third highest among the 10 provinces (1.4 per cent a year).



**Highways:**

\$295 million invested in fixing our roads, and building better highways.

- Statistics Canada has projected total investment in Saskatchewan will exceed \$6 billion for the eighth consecutive year. Investment is \$1.7 billion higher than in 1991.

- This year, we have seen the announcement of a \$95-million investment in our biofuels industry in Lloydminster.
- The small business tax was reduced to 5.5% on January 1, 2004 and will be reduced further to 5% on January 1, 2005 – half what it was in 1991.
- Core funding to REDAs has been increased by \$100,000, and the Small Business Loans Association Program is receiving an additional \$425,000.
- Tolko's Meadow Lake oriented strand board plant will produce 600 million square feet (3/8" basis) of oriented strand board (OSB) annually. The plant will operate 24 hours per day year-round and employ approximately 130 people.
- Northern municipalities have received an increase of \$825,000 towards funding safe drinking water infrastructure.
- Building on our commitment to grow a green and prosperous economy, we have implemented a Provincial Sales Tax Rebate for Energy Star compliant appliances.
- Saskatchewan Environment is a world leader in Forest Carbon Sequestration (using forests to absorb greenhouse gases). In 2004-05, SaskPower will provide about \$500,000 for forest sequestration. The funds will be used to complete the six-million-tree-planting program and to set up monitoring plots.
- Saskatchewan residents will benefit from income tax reductions for the seventh straight year in 2004.
- We have expanded the funding for the Innovation and Science Fund.
- Saskatchewan's Corporate Capital Tax exemption was increased from \$15 million to \$17.5 million for Saskatchewan-based businesses effective January 1, 2004, and it is legislated to increase to \$20 million effective January 1, 2005.



**Pre-Natal Care:**  
provided funding for 60 new families to enter the pre-natal program and receive support.

# Promises Made, Promises Kept:

**build the future  
here for  
young people**

## The Myth:

The Sask Party would like the people of Saskatchewan to believe there are no opportunities for young people in this province!

*In his budget comments, Sask Party Leader Brad Wall said there is "no reason for young people to stay in Saskatchewan, no reason for entrepreneurs to invest in Saskatchewan and no hope for the future of Saskatchewan."*

-Brad Wall, Sask Party Leader  
Sask Party E-Bulletin, (04/08/04)

## The Reality:

**The NDP government is building the future here for our youth, and we're doing it in a way that ensures every child and young person has the supports they need to succeed in school and in life.**

"...the Sask Party – despite its lip service to the Irish model that emphasizes education – offers few specific ideas for either First Nations youth or for students in general."

-Prince Albert Daily Herald,  
(10/30/03)

"...has anyone heard the Sask Party mention the word 'youth' in the past month without it being followed by the words 'boot camps'?"

-Leader-Post, (10/11/03)

## Health care:

A record \$2.7 billion invested in healthcare this year.

- The NDP government is giving post-secondary institutions and student support in Saskatchewan a record \$496.7 million to provide youth with high quality education and training opportunities connecting them with careers.

13

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

Coffee Row 2004

## We're investing a record \$1.2 billion in education and training for our youth.



- We've increased the Graduate Tax Credit from \$350 to \$500 this year and to \$1000 by 2007. For most new graduates, the fully enhanced Graduate Tax Credit will be equivalent to a provincial income tax exemption of almost \$9100.
- We've added \$1 million to CommunityNet to enhance high-speed Internet access for K-12 students and teachers across the province.
- Almost one-half of school divisions will be involved in a SchoolPlus initiative to improve learning outcomes.
- We're providing \$49 million for the upgrades and maintaining of K-12 schools and post-secondary facilities across the province. Included in this is funding to build four new schools in Saskatoon and a new school at Ile a la Crosse, Saskatchewan.

- We're increasing the Child Benefit payments for single parents, providing up to \$35 more each month for low-income working parents. This will provide additional support for 4,000 families.
- We're providing summer employment to students interested in environmental management and energy conservation through Green Teams.
- Saskatchewan Crown Corporations and CIC are investing \$20 million over the next five years to create more opportunities for youth and Aboriginal participation in the workforce.



- Since 1995, more than 31,000 Saskatchewan people have been trained through the JobStart/  
F u t u r e  
S k i l l s  
program.

### **Nurse Training:**

100 more training seats in the nursing program over 3 years

**"...on the whole, the NDP youth plan is pretty good..."**

- Leader Post, (10/11/03)

**A 2002 SIAST survey found that 93 per cent of employed graduates were working in the province.**



Saskatchewan's youth population has increased by 5.9 per cent in the last decade. Saskatchewan now has the highest proportion of young people in Canada.

*The total provincial contribution to post-secondary education and student supports now exceeds \$496.7 million.*

Saskatchewan has the second highest youth employment rate in the country (June 2004)

### **Did you Know?**

Since the introduction of the NDP's Building Independence program, more than 6,800 families and nearly 15,000 children no longer rely on social assistance.

- The Government's early childhood development initiative, including KidsFirst, will receive a \$1.5 million increase. KidsFirst program providers can increase capacity and support a further 500 families.
- The Youth Opportunities Unleashed initiative provides new support for young entrepreneurs and increases funds available through the Small Business Loans Association Program. This fulfills another election promise.

### **Sask Party youth policies?**

What happens to **minimum wage** under a Sask Party plan:

**"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)

#### **Child Benefit:**

Increasing the Child Benefit payments for single parents.

15

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

Coffee Row 2004

# Promises Made, Promises Kept:



## The Myth:

The Sask Party would like the people of Saskatchewan to believe this government has betrayed rural Saskatchewan.

*"NDP Premier Lorne Calvert has launched a full-scale attack on rural Saskatchewan..."*

-Glen Hart, Sask Party MLA,  
The Lumsden Water Front Press,  
(04/08/04)

- We've increased our budget for agriculture from \$252 million in 2003-04 to \$264 million this year - a 5.2 % increase.
- We're investing \$295 million to fix the roads and build better highways.
- We've invested approximately \$50 million in special BSE support programs for our livestock industry.
- We've added \$1 million to CommunityNet to enhance the provision of high-speed Internet access for K-12 students and teachers in remote schools. CommunityNet continues to make Saskatchewan "Canada's most wired jurisdiction."

Coffee Row 2004

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

## The Reality:

The NDP government has a strategy for rural Saskatchewan that speaks to a vision of vibrant rural communities and a robust economy, while at the same time working within the fiscal constraints of difficult times and the debt burden caused by Brad Wall's former employer, Grant Devine.

**"Saskatchewan's government support payments were the largest of any province"**

- Kevin Hursh, L.P.  
Agriculture Columnist  
(02/11/04)

## On grain marketing and the Canadian Wheat Board

*"We need to move back to the pre-World War II situation."*

- Jason Dearborn, Sask Party MLA  
(Hansard 04/30/04)

### Municipal Revenue Sharing:

Increased revenue sharing grants to municipalities by \$10,000,000

16

**In 2004 Saskatchewan farmers are receiving \$245 million in tax exemptions on farm machinery, repairs, fertilizer, pesticides, seed and fuel.**

- Last year, we increased spending for agricultural support by \$130 million over and above what was budgeted, due to drought and BSE and the new CAIS program.
- **We've committed \$1 billion over five years to the Agricultural Policy Framework and income-support programs such as Crop Insurance.**
- We're committed to providing rural bus service through STC.
- The 2004-05 budget provided for a further \$10 million in revenue sharing grants for northern, rural, and urban municipalities. This is a 13% increase, and the third \$10 million increase in three years.

- The Saskatchewan government provides in excess of \$500 in agricultural support for every man, woman and child in this province.



- We're supporting rural Saskatchewan through affordable housing programs, job training and creation initiatives, by creating new childcare spaces, and by increasing child benefits for single parents.
- This year, we're funding 22 new agriculture and food research projects worth \$2.64 million.
- We're committed to the development of rural Saskatchewan with the ACRE program. ACRE's mandate has been extended to March 2005 and will now work with the government on ways to implement its recommendations, to continue examining the rural economy, to identify other areas where change is necessary, to create jobs and to stimulate investment in rural Saskatchewan.

"Farm support payments from various government programs hit a record of nearly \$5 billion and yet Canada's realized net farm income was less than zero...**Saskatchewan's government support payments were the largest of any province...** Interestingly, the Sask Party didn't have any magic plan to present during the election campaign, nor does it seem to have any plan now."

-Agriculture Columnist  
Kevin Hursh,  
Leader-Post,  
(02/11/04)

**Breast Cancer Screening:**  
  
New \$1 Million mobile mammography unit.

# The Sask Party appears to have adopted several pages from American right-wing political strategic thinking:

**American writer, Roger Hoppe:**  
(on right-wing tactics)

**"The end justifies the means:** [They] have no moral qualms about this. Their philosophy is that the end [right-wing rule] justifies the means."

The SP has not stopped at attacking our policies and initiatives by taking statements out of context, spreading half-truths, and making half-statements that do nothing to inform the public or advance public debate.

The SP has decided to substitute a strategy of spreading myths about Premier Calvert and the NDP government in place of any realistic public policy. They offer no alternatives and do not advance any new ideas.



## Meet Brad Wall:

"Ideologically, Wall is a fanatical free enterpriser who backs private sector solutions to social problems. For example, in a press scrum on the day he was acclaimed as leader he suggested that innovative free enterprisers could solve the problems (presumably financial) of single parent mothers."

- Dr. John F. Conway, Prairie Dog Magazine (04/01/04)

"We can still turn this thing around in our province if we try some policies economically that frankly we haven't tried in six decades"

-Brad Wall, Southwest Booster, (02/14/04)

### Employment:

A record 483,000 people were working in Saskatchewan during April 2004.

### **Brad Wall thinks occupational health and safety destroys jobs...**

"red tape and regulations that have been foisted onto business community by this government, be it through Worker's Comp or occupational health and safety or various pieces of labour legislation, too often has driven businesses and the jobs they create and the taxes they pay out of the province of Saskatchewan."

-Brad Wall, Speech, from Brad Wall Website, (06/20/00)

## **Meet Brad Wall:**

### **What policies does Brad Wall think we should implement?**

"Make government smarter, smaller and more efficient by launching a Core Services Review of every government program, commission, agency and crown corporation." - Brad Wall Website, (10/02/01)



"The Sask Party has committed to selling off the government's non-core assets..." ( **the Sask Party** ) "...would review the major Crown corporations and be 'open to anything.'"

- Leader-Post, (09/03/03)

"When there are difficulties facing our economy, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you don't look to government for results..."

"...You look to our small business sector and you get out of the way. You do everything you can by lowering taxes and ensuring that labour legislation in our province is friendly"

-Brad Wall, Brad Wall Website, (04/02/01)

"Sooner than later the Saskatchewan Party has to figure out that its one-trick pony act -- tax cuts as the solution to everything that ails the province -- is going to wear thin."

- StarPhoenix Editorial (04/05/01)

### **Brad Wall hasn't figured it out:**

"We believe, however, that the government should first ensure that improvements are made to the business climate including lower taxes on growth and more balanced labour legislation"

-Brad Wall, MLA Report (05/31/03)

"What the Opposition keeps avoiding is the fact that voters perhaps had every reason to suspect the Saskatchewan Party might sell off the Crowns arbitrarily to pay the debt. The distrust can be traced back to policy - or, in this case, the lack of it. The party never has conducted a meaningful debate about what the Crowns mean to Saskatchewan people, or frankly, much of anything by way of policy.

A perennial problem has been that – other than beating the NDP - it's tough to figure out what this party stands for. That may partly be because the party itself has never sat down and figured it out."

### **Brad Wall wants to cut taxes unsustainably to further his extreme ideological agenda**

"We need a long term plan from a party that understands how to get the economy going, the importance of job creation in a regime with the lowest taxes"

- Brad Wall, Speech, March 24, 2001 (from Brad Wall website)

-StarPhoenix, (01/23/04)

### **Research Funding:**

The Innovation and Science Fund was increased by \$1.8 million to \$9.8 million.

# Brad Wall and the Sask Party on the record:

## The Sask Party still hasn't gotten past their ideological dislike of our Crown Utilities:

*"It may be that Saskatchewan is the only jurisdiction in Canada, maybe in North America, that has a monopoly on totally publicly owned utilities. So my question I guess would be, are we right and everybody else is wrong, or where are we going in this province with the utilities?"*

Milt Wakefield,  
Sask Party MLA  
Hansard (03/23/04)

## Jason Dearborn, Sask Party MLA on Tommy Douglas:



"Tommy the Commie set our province backwards 50 years..." Hansard, (04/01/03)

[Tommy Douglas] "whose policies have hurt this province more than any single individual in this province's history. And let's be absolutely clear about that."

Hansard, (03/19/04)

## Which of Tommy Douglas' policies hurt Saskatchewan, Jason?

Medicare?  
SGI?

Rural Electrification?  
Professional Civil Service?

Provincial Education Standards and Funding?  
Forest Renewable Resources Plan?  
Highway Network?



Total number of pages in the Sask Party platform devoted to green initiatives: 0

**"Is it in the best interests of Saskatchewan and Canada to put our economies at risk maybe to make a slight reduction in two per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions? I think not..."**

- Sask Party MLA Lyle Stewart,  
Hansard (10/10/02)

## Carrying Grant Devine's banner...

"In 1991 Wall ran for the Conservative nomination in Swift Current"

Leader Post,  
(03/15/04)

## Speaking of Grant Devine's banner:

"You look at the Devine Government. It did a lot of good things."

Greg Brkich, Sask Party MLA  
Hansard,  
(03/26/04)

## "Crowns may be sold"

- Leader-Post headline reporting on the Sask Party Crown policy, (10/11/03)

Coffee Row 2004

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

20

**The Sask Party has launched a full-scale attack on the credibility of Premier Calvert. This is nothing short of character assassination and represents politics in its nastiest environment.**

The Sask Party is spreading myths about our approach to rural Saskatchewan, health, the economy, youth and keeping our election commitments.

Nowhere in sight is the promised "kinder, gentler" Saskatchewan Party promised by its new leader, Brad Wall. It seems to be the same old party - only meaner.

**Taxes - The accusation:**

The Saskatchewan Party has accused the Premier of running a dishonest campaign that promised tax cuts while covering up a secret agenda of tax increases.

*"Last November, 61 per cent of the population rejected the Sask Party's ideas. It's going to take more than just a new face and a little whiteout on the campaign flyers to change that."*

- Randy Burton, StarPhoenix, (03/01/04)

**Taxes - The Truth:**

The NDP 2003 election platform is clear about our commitments on taxation. On pages 6 and page 15 it reads:

***"Continue to cut taxes responsibly - without jeopardizing health and education."***

And,  
***"Continue to provide sustainable - not reckless - provincial tax cuts that don't jeopardize health care and education."***

What could be clearer?

**Taxes - The Choice:**

We have a proud record of tax cuts over the years in government. Those tax reduction measures have been sustainable.

With the increased pressure on the budget caused by drought, BSE, spiraling health costs and federal government claw back on equalization, it is time to choose between taxes and health care.

This is a choice between maintaining our health system or cutting recklessly for political benefit.

**Choices that support our health care system are a "no brainer" for this government. Evidently the Sask Party would not make the same decisions.**

**Early Childhood Development:**

Early childhood development initiatives received a \$1.5 million increase

**“Dirt Bags” - How the Sask Party will take even the most ridiculously trivial issue and try to use it to discredit and attack the Premier’s honesty, integrity, and credibility**

**Sask Party MLA Dan D'Autremont attacked Premier Calvert personally in the Legislature, saying the Premier lied about the authenticity of Wascana Lake dirt souvenir bags.**

**Their intent is to make people trust the Premier less.**



"If you can't trust the Premier's dirt bags, what can you trust about the Premier?"

- Dan D'Autremont, Sask Party MLA, Hansard (05/03/04)

**At first the press believed the Sask Party**

"While this isn't the biggest piece of dirt to be dug up on the government, we believe in future people will take everything it says with a pinch of salt . . . or a grain of sand."

Leader-Post (05/05/04)

**Even though the construction company refuted the Sask Party claims, the correction received little media coverage. The stain of the accusation stays with people's impressions about the Government.**



**“Dirt Bags” - The Truth:**

"Not only are there natural pockets of sand on the lakebed, but other sand had been on the lakebed after being brought in as backfill for the road on which dumptrucks hauled away soil from the bottom of the lake."

**"Those samples are genuine," he [Brian Barber] said in a letter to the Leader- Post. "I know this because it was my staff that supplied the contents of the samples."**

- Brian Barber, Senior Saskatchewan Vice-President, Dominion Construction, general contractor Wascana Lake Project Leader Post (05/06/04)

**When the truth came out from Brian Barber's letter and the newspapers contacted the Sask Party:**

"D'Autremont could not be reached for comment."

- Leader-Post (05/08/04)

**Wildfire Management :**  
Base budget for wildfire management has been increased from \$37 million to \$65 million.

**“Dirt Bags” - The Fallout**  
(excerpted from the Leader-Post):

**“it was enough to muddy the province's image nationally once more.”**

“...on a day that the government was trying to tell Canada that Saskatchewan's ‘Economy (is) growing on solid foundations, diversity’ that ‘Technology plus diamonds equal glittering opportunity’ and ‘Minerals sector unearths fortunes,’ what grabs the attention of the national public broadcaster? D'Autremont taking potshots at the premier over goose droppings and dirt bags.”

**“All it takes is one story like this to undo whatever benefit the province has gained from the \$2.8 million Calvert's administration has spent in each of the last two years as part of its \$12-million Wide Open Future campaign.”**

- Star-Phoenix (05/06/04)

**The Sask Party even seems to have trouble keeping the accuracy of their own lines straight**

**Lyle Stewart commenting on the election campaign and Crowns:**

"I think the NDP won by running a dishonest, despicable campaign, saying we were going to privatize Crown Corporations"

- Herbert Herald (11/12/03)

**Lyle Stewart telling us about Sask Party crown policy:**

"80 non-vital Crown Corporations will be sold after a review."

- Moose Jaw Times Herald (08/20/02)

**Health Budget Increase:**

The Health budget has an overall increase of \$173 million.

23

**no one ever accused the Sask Party of consistency**

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

Coffee Row 2004

**In their efforts to discredit the government on every issue, the Sask Party regularly misses the facts:**

“In fact drilling in Saskatchewan this year will be substantially less than what the industry had intended prior to last fall's election.”

- Lyle Stewart, Sask Party MLA  
Thunder Creek  
Hansard (03/26/04)

**And the reality is:**

“According to industry officials, Saskatchewan is the new sweetheart of the energy world.”

- Adrienne Spring, CBC-TV  
(09/12/03)

“I think the view of the oilpatch, certainly in the past year as I interpret it, is that the province is a very exciting place to invest.”

- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers  
(09/12/03)

# Compare:

## Our Vision:

**“Provide the lowest-cost package of utilities in Canada”**

- New Democratic Party  
Platform 2003

## Sask Party Vision:

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

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

The Saskatchewan Party says that government is inherently inefficient and cannot provide services at a lower price than private sector companies.

What about auto insurance?

Here’s what the Consumers’ Association of Canada said about:

## Lloydminster, Saskatchewan vs. Lloydminster, Alberta

“Perhaps the most fascinating example in Canada of the differences in auto insurance rates exists in the City of Lloydminster. This city is unique in that the Alberta/Saskatchewan boundary divides the city into two halves with residents living on either side of the city. From the perspective of auto insurance risk the conditions faced by a driver living on the Alberta side of the street are not

different than experienced by someone living on the Saskatchewan side of the same street. But what is different is that **Alberta drivers pay much higher rates.**”\*

**Brad Wall: "...on the major crowns we've committed to a major review."**

**CBC: "Alright, so you're open to selling the utilities?"**

**Brad Wall: "We have said that we need to review these four major crown corporations"**

CBC Radio (08/03/03)

\*Consumers' Association of Canada  
Review of Automobile Insurance,  
40 Canadian Cities,  
10 Provinces  
September 2003

**\$15 Million for priority medical equipment:**

radiology,  
ultrasound,  
mammography,  
surgical,  
laboratory, and  
more.

# Compare Policies:

During the 1999 election campaign, the Saskatchewan Party said they would freeze health and education spending for five years at \$1.774 billion.

In 1999 the NDP Government health funding was \$1.774 billion. 5 years later the health budget had been raised by the NDP to \$2.515 billion to meet increased demands on the health system.

*What would have happened if health funding had been frozen at \$1.774 billion as the Sask Party election platform promised?*

**Saskatchewan health care would have been left a devastating \$2.216 billion dollars short.**

*What would Saskatchewan health and education look like today if it were underfunded almost 3 Billion dollars?*

\*Later reports said they would "freeze increases at a maximum of inflation level". Even if they held to inflation or Consumer Price Index (CPI) the Saskatchewan health budget would still be short \$1.553 Billion from current health spending. Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases to the education budget would still be short \$130 million.

**If the health budget had been frozen at the 1999 level of \$1.774 Billion:**

Year	Actual Health Budget	Lost Health Funding
1998-99	\$1,774,616,000	0
1999-00	\$1,955,736,000	\$181,120,000
2000-01	\$2,075,650,000	\$301,034,000
2001-02	\$2,199,753,000	\$425,137,000
2002-03	\$2,342,835,000	\$568,219,000
2003-04	\$2,515,823,000	\$741,207,000
<b>Total Amount Lost:</b>		<b>\$2,216,717,000</b>

**What would have happened to education if it were frozen at the 1999 level of \$986 Million:**

Year	Actual Education Budget	Lost Education Funding
1998-99	\$ 986,600,000	\$ 0
1999-00	\$1,002,480,000	\$ 15,880,000
2000-01	\$1,086,090,000	\$ 99,490,000
2001-02	\$1,082,710,000	\$ 96,110,000
2002-03	\$1,085,610,000	\$ 99,010,000
2003-04	\$1,174,940,000	\$188,340,000
<b>Total Amount Lost:</b>		<b>\$498,830,000</b>

**Eleven consecutive balanced budgets from this NDP government.**

## **Premier Calvert Stays Connected**

### **Province-wide Roundtable Meetings Continue Dialogue With Saskatchewan**

Premier Lorne Calvert has launched an ongoing series of Roundtable meetings that will take him to communities and First Nations across Saskatchewan throughout the year. The first Roundtable was held in Maple Creek in January, 2004.

The focus of the Roundtables is economic development at the provincial and local level. As well, discussions will include issues of local concern. The government is asking local leaders to come ready to put forward their ideas and solutions to local issues.



A cross-section of opinion leaders from the surrounding community are invited to attend the Roundtable meetings. The invitation list is established in consultation with local leaders and community representatives and may include business leaders, community development officials, local labour leaders, educators, clergy, health providers, farmers/producers, seniors and youth.



***Lorne Calvert***

***New Democrat***

Coffee Row 2004

Saskatchewan NDP Caucus

**Eleven credit up-grades in the last nine years is positive proof that our plan works.**



# THE COFFEE ROW HANDBOOK 2004

Published by the  
New Democratic Party Caucus Office  
[www.ndpcaucus.sk.ca](http://www.ndpcaucus.sk.ca)  
[caucus@ndpcaucus.sk.ca](mailto:caucus@ndpcaucus.sk.ca)

Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union  
Local 397

