



**People  
First**



**Platform 2020**

**People First**





**Ryan Meili**  
New Democrats

**Dear friend,**

We've been through a lot in recent months. We're showing what Saskatchewan people are made of as we fight the COVID crisis together.

Saskatchewan people are hardworking, friendly and strong, and I am so grateful and proud of the work we have all done to keep each other safe.

But now, we have a new challenge to face together: how to protect our families and our neighbours against the possibility of a second wave, how to make our schools safer and better, how to strengthen healthcare, how to stop the Sask. Party's plans for deep cuts and build an economy that works for all of us.

**Saskatchewan has a very clear choice. A choice between Scott Moe's plan for austerity, for cuts that will hurt families; or our plan for the investments that will get our economy moving and help people through this challenging time.**

Even before COVID-19 hit, life here was getting harder. Families were stretched to the breaking point, worried about how to pay their bills.

And when I asked Scott Moe about that – about the fact that our economy was slowing down and families were hurting – he said, “that’s news to me.”

Well, it isn't news to me, and I'm sure it isn't news to you, the families feeling that stress every day.

Scott Moe and the Sask. Party are stuck in neutral – acting like nothing's changed. They squandered the boom. Now they're asking you and your family to pay the price for their bad choices.

Over the past 13 years, they have tripled the debt, shoveled billions of dollars of our money to out-of-province political donors and left our public services stretched to the breaking point.

Now, they're promising four years of “austerity.”

**That means four more years of cuts, of Crown sell-offs, of privatization of healthcare.**

These cuts are a bad idea at anytime. During a global pandemic, they're downright dangerous.

We need a government that will fix problems, not just ignore them.

That is my commitment to you.

Together with my new, forward-looking team, we will take action – right away – on the things that matter to you and your family:

→ **Safer** schools and smaller class sizes, instead of the worst back-to-school plan in Canada;



# “Cuts to the services we depend on are a bad idea at anytime. During a global pandemic, they’re downright dangerous.”

- **An economy** that works for us, including a Sask-First approach to building roads, schools and hospitals, a \$15/hour minimum wage, and creating jobs in renewables through our plan for clean energy that reduces emissions and lowers bills for families;
- **Making** sure our services like hospitals and clinics are there when we need them;
- **Fixing** long-term care and expanding home care to help seniors stay at home; and,
- **Stopping** the cuts and fixing the Sask. Party’s broken politics, starting with taking big money out of politics so that we make decisions based on what works for people, not for the powerful.

The Sask. Party has taken many years to dig the hole we find ourselves in today. It will take time to undo the damage.

Fortunately, we have a plan to get started right away.

There is much to do. Taking ambitious action on climate change. Working in partnership to close the gaps in employment, health and justice between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Saskatchewan. Acting to make workplaces safer and fairer. New Democrats are ready to get to work.

We need a real plan to get our province’s finances back on a solid footing. We’ll appoint a panel of experts to open the Sask. Party’s books, tell the true story of our finances and advise us on how to build our province back stronger than ever. And we promise that you and your family will come first as we build our budgets.

Saskatchewan people have a clear choice before us.

Scott Moe’s old ideas aren’t working for ordinary families. More Sask. Party cuts aren’t the way to rebuild our province.

We need to invest in people. Invest in healthcare. In seniors. In our kids’ schools. We need to diversify our economy and get families and our province moving forward again.

We can build a better future here in Saskatchewan. It is possible when we put people first.

Yours,





# People First

Platform 2020

 New Democrats

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# Strengthening healthcare for you and your family

Over the years, the Sask. Party has been determined to undermine our public healthcare system. Their reckless attempts to privatize and defund it piece by piece put all of us at risk. Their lack of a plan on mental health and addictions has endangered entire communities.

Saskatchewan New Democrats are proud of our public healthcare system. It is a bedrock of the success of our province, and a shining example of how we led the way in Canada by valuing the public good over private profit. Healthcare is a commitment we make to each other, to ensure all people have the support and care they need, when they need it. But the Sask. Party is undermining that value by privatizing key services and failing to make the necessary investments for patient care.

The way the Sask. Party has ignored the needs of our seniors is disgraceful. For years, residents, their families and frontline workers have told us that long-term care facilities are brutally understaffed, putting the people who built this province in danger.

**Our top priorities in healthcare are to shorten wait times and end short staffing in primary care, long-term care and hospitals.**

## Going forward, we will:

- **End** short staffing in primary care, long-term care and acute care by hiring 100 doctors, 150 registered nurses, 300 licensed practical nurses and 500 continuing care assistants.
- **Make** it easier for seniors to stay in their homes longer by building the best home care in Canada.

- **Legislate** minimum care standards in long-term care.
- **Open** badly needed dedicated Mental Health Emergency Rooms in Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw.
- **Fund** an opioid and crystal meth strategy, starting with a \$2 million investment.
- **Invest** \$5 million in a suicide prevention strategy.
- **Increase** addiction treatment support by \$10 million to enable Saskatchewan Health Authority and community-based organizations to hire more staff.
- **Invest** \$1.5 million in public health to help ensure we're better prepared for future outbreaks.
- **Establish** a fully independent Seniors' Advocate.
- **Provide** coverage for insulin pumps for everyone with Type 1 diabetes and cover the cost of continuous glucose monitoring for minors who require that care.



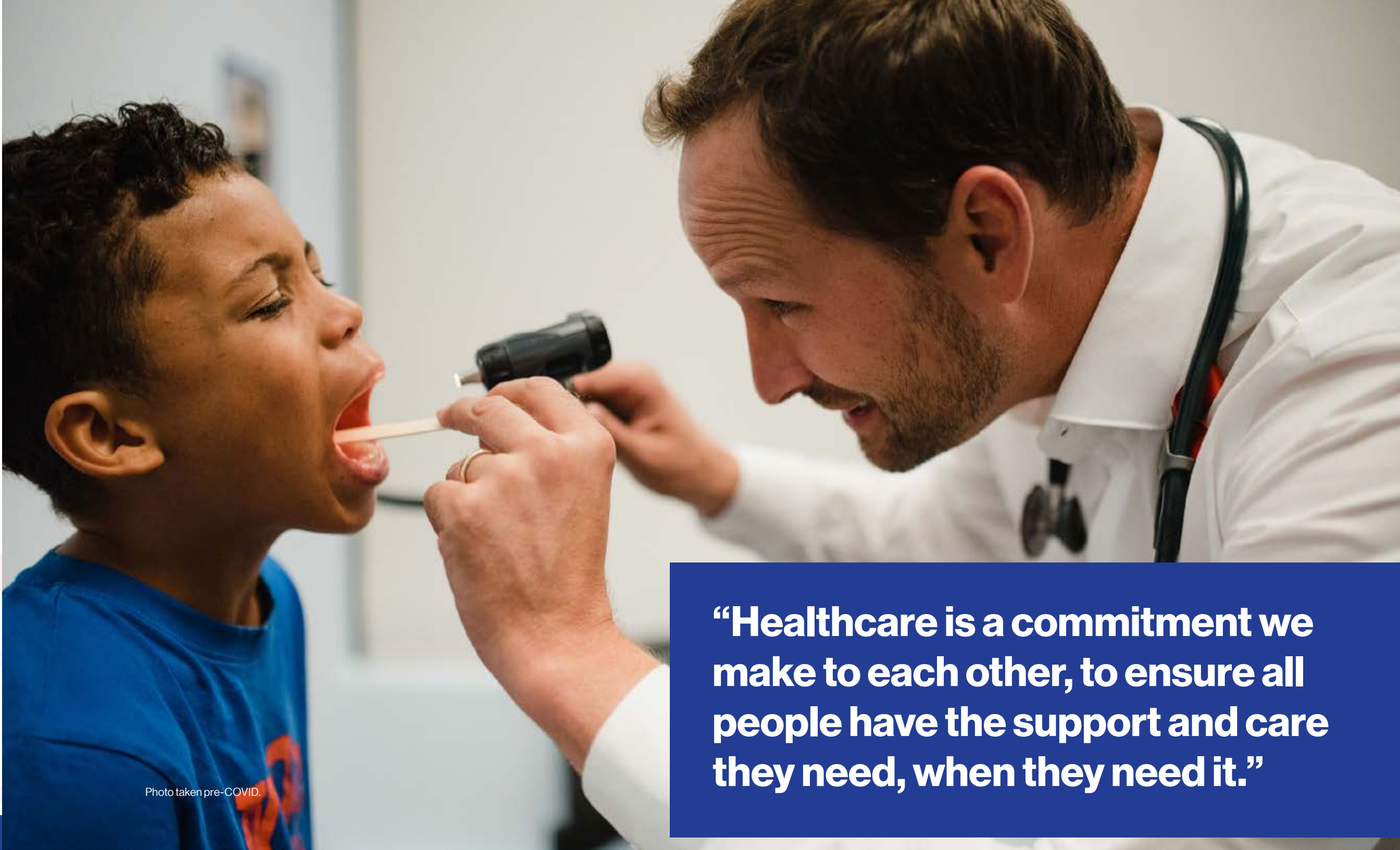


Photo taken pre-COVID.

**“Healthcare is a commitment we make to each other, to ensure all people have the support and care they need, when they need it.”**



# Safer schools and smaller classes

For far too long the Sask. Party has squeezed our schools, undermining our future by trying to balance the budget on the backs of our kids. And now, in the middle of a global pandemic, they have made it clear that they have no real plan to make sure our kids can return to school safely.

Saskatchewan New Democrats have worked with parents, educators and public health experts to come up with a plan to put our kids first. We will act quickly to invest the money needed to keep kids safe, and to make sure our education system is ready for the challenges ahead.

Ryan Meili and the New Democrats will invest in our schools and in the teachers and workers that make schools work.

We will also invest in childcare and early learning systems to ensure families are able to afford high-quality care when they start a family.

**Our top priority in education is to get additional resources into classrooms immediately. We will stop the Sask. Party's cuts and ensure that funding for education increases with enrolment, starting with an additional \$150 million for schools.**

## Going forward, we will:

- **Help** school divisions reduce class size, address classroom complexity and keep our schools safe with funding for 1,000 more teachers, 700 educational assistants and 400 caretakers.

- **Provide** funding for school divisions to hire 50 school-based Mental Health and Addiction Nurses and other mental health supports.
- **Invest** \$3 million into a rural education strategy to ensure we meet the unique needs of small-town schools.
- **Bring** in affordable and accessible \$25/day childcare, fix the childcare subsidy and create 2,200 new spaces each year to help struggling families.
- **Eliminate** interest from student loans, saving students and their families \$4.8 million.
- **Provide** free tuition for kids leaving foster care.
- **Restore** funding to the Northern Teacher Education Program.
- **Work** with First Nations in Saskatchewan to ensure First Nation schools receive equal funding.







**“We will invest in our schools and in the teachers and workers who make schools work.”**



# Putting Saskatchewan companies and workers first

The heart of Saskatchewan New Democrats' economic agenda is putting local workers and local businesses first.

Over more than a decade in power, the Sask. Party has handed every one of the biggest projects to a company from outside of Saskatchewan. We should be putting our workers and companies first and building on the strength of our Crown Corporations.

As we rebuild, we need to ensure every dollar we spend benefits the local economy as much as possible and take advantage of our Crowns to rebuild our economy.

**Our top priorities are introducing a Sask-First Procurement Policy and bringing the minimum wage up to \$15/hour in our first term.**

## Going forward, we will:

- **Remove** the PST from construction labour, putting more than \$200 million back into the economy every year.
- **Introduce** a Rural Reconnect program to provide high-quality Internet and cellular service everywhere in Saskatchewan.
- **Lower** SGI rates by roughly \$85 per vehicle and provide an immediate \$100 rebate to all policy-holders – which the Sask. Party refuses to do even though SGI cannot legally hold onto surplus funds.

- **Build** a new Saskatchewan Transportation Company that meets the needs of today's families and businesses.
- **Restore** balance to Saskatchewan's labour legislation so that workers can join unions, have safe workplaces and get fair contracts from employers.
- **Enact** pay equity legislation.
- **Work** with small businesses and industry representatives on a province-wide Buy Saskatchewan campaign.
- **Institute** a job creators' plan to support local small businesses as they adapt to the vital and necessary \$15/hour minimum wage.
- **Reinstate** startup loans for rural small businesses.
- **Introduce** a film employment tax credit to bring the film industry back to Saskatchewan.
- **Work** with the tech sector to make Saskatchewan more competitive with other jurisdictions.
- **Reduce** the craft beer levy to help our producers compete across the country.
- **Lower** crop insurance rates for new farmers to help them get started and provide \$20 million per year to increase AgriStability reference margins.

- **Improve** the recognition of foreign credentials to allow more of our newest Canadians to fully participate in the economy.
- **Invest** \$10 million to help workers train and retrain to stay competitive in a changing world of work.
- **Create** a new internship program to help young people get their first good job working for the provincial government and with our Crowns.

“When we’re building our roads,  
our schools and our hospitals  
with our money, it should be our  
workers on the jobsite.”







# Renew Saskatchewan

For far too long, the Sask. Party has failed to provide the right balance between resource development and the need to fight climate change. Instead of leading, we are dragging our heels.

We have an incredible opportunity in Saskatchewan, with the best wind and solar resources in the country and enormous possibilities in geothermal, biomass and more. Instead of leading the way, the Sask. Party decided to go backwards by killing our solar industry.

We cannot continue with the Sask. Party's broken plan of pitting economic growth and environmental sustainability against one another.

We can do better. We are far behind the rest of the country on adapting new technology. Oil and gas is and will remain a strong pillar of our economy, but being ready for the economy of the future demands investments to change our energy mix and protect our environment. Global investors and other provinces in Canada are outpacing us because once again, the Sask. Party is letting people down.

**Our top priority is developing Renew Saskatchewan, to create jobs, lower bills and reduce emissions.**

## Going forward, New Democrats will:

- **Move** to 50 percent renewable and non-emitting electricity by 2030, with a legislated target of 100 percent emissions-free electricity by 2050.

- **Make** ambitious investments in energy efficiency to make us a leader instead of continuing to lag behind the rest of Canada.
- **Support** the protection of wetlands and grasslands.
- **Empower** people, small businesses, municipalities and First Nations and Métis communities to generate their own power and create a distributed energy grid.
- **Work** with SaskPower to make Saskatchewan a leader in geothermal power production.



**“We have an incredible opportunity in Saskatchewan, with the best wind and solar resources in the country and enormous possibilities in geothermal, biomass and more.”**





# All of us, together

People in Saskatchewan believe that everyone, no matter where they are from or what they look like, deserves the same chance at success.

But lately, it seems that too many politicians are telling us to mistrust one another. They are pitting us against each other, leading us to fight among ourselves while they cut and privatize, serving their friends and donors at the expense of our peace and wellbeing.

In Saskatchewan, we know that we all do better when we remember that we are all in this together.

**It's time to come together again, to make Saskatchewan a place that works for everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or background.**

## **New Democrats will:**

- **Work** with the federal government and First Nations and Métis governments to close the gap in health, employment, justice and education between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
- **Invest** \$10 million to act on the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- **Commit** to a strong Saskatchewan within a strong Canada, by fighting for a fair deal on equalization.

- **Reintroduce** an independent Ministry of Northern Affairs.
- **Reform** our child welfare system, working with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations and First Nations to increase control and autonomy over the child intervention on reserve.
- **Invest** \$5 million to create a poverty reduction strategy and increase support for housing first.
- **Eliminate** predatory lending through a cap on interest rates and a cap on cheque cashing fees.
- **Double** the Sask. Party's funding for gang prevention strategies to keep our communities and our young people safe.
- **Ban** dress codes that make women less safe at work, including mandatory high heels.
- **Examine** structural and systemic racism within provincial government in our education sector.
- **Teach** kids about respectful relationships, including the importance of consent.
- **Introduce** legislation officially recognizing GSAs to ensure safety and support for all our students.



- **Develop** a disabilities strategy to ensure everyone in Saskatchewan is able to reach their full potential.
- **Work** with the federal government to restore the family class of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program, allowing newcomer families to put down roots and succeed in Saskatchewan.

**“We know that we all do better when we remember that we are all in this together.”**





# Stopping the cuts and fixing the Sask. Party's broken politics

Awarding lucrative contracts to friends and insiders. Blurring the lines between the business of the province they serve and the business interests of their wealthy donors. Failing to hold their MLAs to account for helping their wealthy friends. That's the Sask. Party way.

The Sask. Party has an ethical problem, and it's costing the people of Saskatchewan. Our province has the worst campaign finance and lobbying laws in Canada. All so the Sask. Party can continue to put the needs of their old boys' club ahead of the needs of the people.

**Our top priority is finally making it illegal for people from outside of Saskatchewan to donate to political parties and banning corporate and union donations.**

**A Saskatchewan NDP government will take quick action to bring trust and ethics back to our political system. We will:**

- **Call** a public inquiry into the Global Transportation Hub and Regina Bypass scandals.
- **Introduce** stronger conflict-of-interest rules for MLAs.
- **Close** the lobbyist registry loophole and require all lobbying to be made public.
- **End** commercial development in our parks and reverse the Sask. Party's takeover of Wascana Park.

- **Improve** minimum standards for financial information provided to the public.
- **Require** the Provincial Auditor to report on the state of public finances before each election.







**“The Sask. Party has an ethical problem, and it’s costing the people of Saskatchewan.”**





# People-First Budgeting

**As we saw from the Sask. Party's budget in June, the current government has no real plan to address the economic challenges resulting from the pandemic, just their old playbook of cuts.**

Years of cuts have weakened our public services and our economy.

They are asking for another mandate while refusing to tell us what healthcare and education cuts they're planning to balance the books. These cuts are a bad idea any time, but during a global pandemic they're downright dangerous.

It's time for a government that will put people first. New Democrats will work from day one on a transparent, well-planned return to fiscal health for the province. We will put people and families at the heart of our budgets and ensure a system that is fair and democratic.

Now is the time to invest in people to get through these challenging times. The Sask. Party talks tough about balanced budgets while tripling our provincial debt.

We're concerned about the provincial deficit, but we're we're also worried about the deficits in our schools, our hospitals and the bank accounts of ordinary Saskatchewan families. Going forward, we will work with an expert panel to plan our path back to balanced budgets, including setting targets for net debt-to-GDP ratio and a focus on the investments that will deliver the most growth and the greatest long-term savings.

Wise investments in people pay for themselves through increased economic activity and decreased spending on poverty, illness and crime. New Democrats are committed to health and education, forward-thinking investments, smart financing and a commitment to progressive taxation.

New Democrats have a long tradition of fiscal prudence in Saskatchewan. But while the Sask. Party talks a good game about balance, under Scott Moe's leadership, they have not balanced a single budget.

And in fact, their choices have left us much more vulnerable to moments like this. They squandered the boom and tripled the debt.

At times like these, we need the very wealthy to pay their fair share, but Scott Moe and the Sask. Party would rather cut services than ask their wealthy friends and donors to contribute a bit more.

With a one percent tax on those with net wealth over \$15 million, we will bring in an additional \$120 million annually.

By asking the very wealthy in our province to pay a bit more, we'll take responsible steps to make sure that ordinary families don't pay the price for the Sask. Party's mistakes and failures.



**“It’s time for a government that will put people first.”**



# Building Saskatchewan

Scott Moe and the Sask. Party have left our province with crumbling schools and hospitals across the province. And instead of fixing those problems, they've ignored them, choosing to focus on billion-dollar boondoggles like the Regina Bypass and the GTH.

But on too many of these big projects, they're not creating jobs for Saskatchewan workers and companies – they're sending contracts to out-of-province and out-of-country companies from France and the United States.

**New Democrats have a plan to fix our infrastructure, get Saskatchewan people back to work and put people first.**

## A New Democrat government will:

- **Implement** a Sask-First procurement policy to ensure that Saskatchewan workers and companies build Saskatchewan schools, hospitals and roads.
- **End** the Sask. Party's preference for mega-schools and focus on ensuring neighbourhoods have small local schools that meet their needs.
- **End** the use of expensive P3s that cost much more in the long run and shut out Saskatchewan companies.
- **Commit** to fulfilling the government's ten-year SaskBuilds capital plan, reprioritizing to the most needed projects.

- **Build** a new bridge for Prince Albert and a new hospital – not just a glorified renovation as the Sask. Party has promised.
- **Build** a new high school in southeast Regina.
- **Deliver** on the Sask. Party's decade-old promise of an all-season road to Wollaston Lake.
- **Build** a new public surgical centre in Regina.
- **Increase** SaskTel's investment in highspeed and wireless infrastructure to ensure rural communities have high-quality broadband and cellular service.
- **Bring** back the Community Rink Grant program to help keep community rinks in rural communities and First Nations open.
- **Clear** the \$5 billion backlog on upkeep for our schools and hospitals, starting by increasing spending on deferred maintenance in healthcare and education infrastructure by 50 percent.







**“New Democrats have a plan to fix our infrastructure, get Saskatchewan people back to work and put people first.”**



