

# ***Media Release • Saskatchewan Party Caucus***

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## NDP VOTE NO TO A STRONGER SASKATCHEWAN AND A BETTER LIFE

NDP MLAs vote against plan that ensures ALL Saskatchewan people benefit from newfound prosperity

In a chorus of nays amounting to a near-sighted attack on the people and future of our province, NDP MLAs stood in the Legislative Assembly today to vote no to your Saskatchewan Party government's Speech from the Throne. The debate on the speech that marked the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislature came to an end, with Saskatchewan Party MLAs rallying behind the plan that will ensure a secure and prosperous future in which all Saskatchewan people share in the benefits of our newfound prosperity. It was passed in a 38-20 vote.

Meadow Lake MLA Jeremy Harrison was not surprised, saying the move is typical backward-looking NDP partisanship.

“We're talking about a party here that consistently chooses politics over people. As our government puts in place measures that will strengthen Saskatchewan, improving people's lives, [the NDP] play games over a plan that charts a clear course that benefits ALL Saskatchewan people, regardless of age or income level; whether they are married or single,” said Harrison. “It is fiscally prudent and ensures a secure future in these times of economic uncertainty.”

The Speech from the Throne built on Premier Brad Wall's historic announcement of the biggest tax cuts in Saskatchewan history, continuing record debt reduction, more money for infrastructure renewal and a fiscal insurance policy for these uncertain economic times. The Throne Speech further unveiled such initiatives as:

- Equitable income support and services for women and men with disabilities;
- The first increase to the Saskatchewan Income Assistance Program for seniors since 1992;
- Improvements to programs and services for children at risk;
- Long term, stable funding agreements for agencies helping the most vulnerable in our province;
- Stronger measures to combat gang activities;
- A major commitment to Saskatchewan's libraries, to assist in providing early learning programs, literacy training and support for community development;
- Increased skills training for First Nations and Métis.

Ensuring the needs of vulnerable are met is a responsible your Saskatchewan Party government takes seriously. That commitment is reflected in the Speech from the Throne.

“With prosperity comes challenges, and one of those challenges is a higher cost of living. Our government's commitment to using the unbudgeted surplus in ways that will benefit all Saskatchewan people goes beyond tax cuts and debt reduction,” said Harrison. “While those are important areas, it is as equally important we ensure the needs of disabled persons, seniors and students, for example, are also met.”

For more information, contact Steve Rennick, Saskatchewan Party caucus office, 787-4300.

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