

## **Backgrounder: The Saskatchewan Party Plan to Build Pride in Our Parks**

Saskatchewan's provincial and regional parks are a source of pride for Saskatchewan people and the second largest tourist attraction in the province. A Saskatchewan Party government will invest in our parks to provide more opportunity for Saskatchewan people to enjoy Saskatchewan natural advantages, while enhancing an important component of Saskatchewan tourism strategy.

### **Statistics**

- There are 34 provincial parks in Saskatchewan, eight historic sites, 130 recreational sites and 24 protected areas.
- There are over 2,400 electrified campsites in the province.
- Park use has continued to climb over the last number of years.
- Last year there were 2 ½ million visits to provincial parks, an eight percent increase over the previous years.
- The provincial government has estimated that visits to provincial parks generate almost \$200-million in economic activity to surrounding communities – much of that in rural Saskatchewan.

### **The Saskatchewan Party Plan.**

A Saskatchewan Party government will invest an additional \$20-million in Saskatchewan parks over four years to:

- Add an additional 1,000 electrified campsites in provincial parks – a 40% increase;
- Increase the number of non-electrified and seasonal campsites in our provincial parks;
- Eliminate the “wiener roast tax” on firewood purchased at provincial campgrounds, saving campers over \$1.4-million over four years;
- Provide an additional \$2.5-million per year to improve park programming, park infrastructure, hire more summer students and increase security in our parks during long weekends;
- Triple provincial funding to Saskatchewan's regional parks – a four year \$2.4-million investment; and
- Establish new provincial parks in Saskatchewan, including wilderness facilities to accommodate back-country camping, in consultation with communities and stakeholders.

To keep camping rates affordable for Saskatchewan residents and extend free park entry to seniors for another four years, a Saskatchewan Party government will charge out-of-province residents more to camp in Saskatchewan parks.

**Cost:** \$5-million annually / \$20-million over four years.