

June, 2007



*Hon. Allan Blakeney*

Dear Friend,

In 2007, Saskatchewan has never been more prosperous.

Today, there are more people working in our province than ever before, unemployment is at an historic low and Saskatchewan continues to receive credit rating upgrades.

At the same time, we have seen record public investment in health care and education and our publicly owned Crown corporations of SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SGI continue to provide all Saskatchewan people with amongst the most affordable utilities and car insurance rates in Canada.

More recently, our government announced a new Seniors' Drug Plan which will cap all prescription drugs for people 65 and over at \$15 per prescription. As well, there is a new Graduate Tax Exemption which will enable new university and college graduates to earn their first \$20,000 tax free in each of the first five years after graduation.

As well, because of the leadership of our NDP government, Saskatchewan working families are now paying about \$1,200 less in taxes today than they were just a few years ago.

Is it any wonder that you can't open a newspaper these days and not read about a young family that is moving back to Saskatchewan from either Vancouver or Calgary? Should we really be surprised that the Saskatchewan real estate market is absolutely red hot?

As we all know, these outstanding accomplishments have all been achieved under Premier Lorne Calvert's government. And, this is why it is so important that we re-elect our NDP government in the next provincial election to maintain this current momentum.

**With an election likely only a few months away, your donation will give Premier Calvert's NDP the necessary edge to win. So don't wait, make a donation today.**

Amidst all this good news, it may seem somewhat perplexing that Premier Lorne Calvert's NDP government is being given absolutely no credit in the media for creating one of the strongest economies Saskatchewan has ever seen.

But, when you think about this, it really isn't surprising. CCF and NDP governments have never been given credit for their accomplishments.

Tommy Douglas and Woodrow Lloyd never really received the due recognition they very much deserve for giving Medicare to both our province and Canada. I don't believe the NDP government I oversaw in the 1970's was ever given proper credit for creating the foundations of a solid economy and ensuring that Saskatchewan people saw the benefits of revenues generated from natural resources. Roy Romanow's government receives little acknowledgement for restoring fiscal health to Saskatchewan, after the disastrous Devine years, and now Premier Calvert's government receives minimal credit for overseeing the current strong economy.

As a matter of fact, if you follow the Saskatchewan media, you would be led to believe that people are clamouring for a change in government in the next election. However, is this really what people are saying or is this an ideological message being driven by right wing forces which includes the media? I believe it to be the latter.

**Throughout Saskatchewan's history, the right has paraded itself under several different guises. In my time, this parade has included right wing leaders such as Ross Thatcher, Dick Collver and Grant Devine. Today, we see the same ideology put forward by the newest right wing leader Brad Wall.**

Although the names have changed, the message remains the same. Right wing parties – whether the Liberals, Progressive Conservatives or Saskatchewan Party – have continued to say if only Saskatchewan would pursue an unfettered market economy we will be led to the promised land.

However, history shows this has never happened. Saskatchewan was not led to the promised land under Ross Thatcher and the Liberals nor under Grant Devine and the Conservatives. And, you better believe our province will not reach the promised land under Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party.

Nevertheless, history does show that the only governments who have properly managed the economy and delivered the social programs all Saskatchewan people desire are CCF and NDP governments. In each of their own unique ways, the Douglas, Lloyd, Blakeney, Romanow and Calvert governments have all achieved both of these goals.

In 1982, the **Grant Devine Conservatives** stated in their campaign platform, "There is so much more we can be." But, once elected, they showed us how little left we can have – **a gutted prescription drug plan, no children's dentistry plan, no potash corporation, no mining corporation (now worth many billions of dollars) and no way for young people to get into farming.** Saskatchewan people went from a promising future to a blank wall.

**And this is why it is so important that we re-elect Premier Lorne Calvert's NDP government in the next provincial election. So don't wait, please make a donation today.**

### **Does any of this matter?**

The line that Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party is putting forward right now, very similar to the argument made by Grant Devine and the Conservatives in the early 1980's, is one that says Saskatchewan is currently so prosperous that we can afford a government change. In other words, it won't really matter if our province elects a Saskatchewan Party government.

**Yes, it does matter.**

**Just as Grant Devine and the Conservatives squandered Saskatchewan's resource revenues in the 1980's running deficits and increasing debt, this same group under Brad Wall would blow our province's current prosperity in favour of short term political gain.**

Furthermore, although Saskatchewan CCF and NDP governments have achieved much, there is still so much more left to do.

**We must truly embrace and engage our growing Aboriginal population so they see the benefits of a burgeoning Saskatchewan economy – rather than being left behind – as has been all too often the case in the past. We must continue to diversify our economy beyond agriculture and natural resources. We must continue to ensure Saskatchewan communities remain safe and affordable for both young and**

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