

November 7, 2011

## **SASKATCHEWAN PARTY RE-ELECTED WITH INCREASED MAJORITY**

As predicted, Premier Brad Wall's Saskatchewan Party surged to victory at the end of voting day in Saskatchewan. Polls closed at 8:00pm and Premier Wall was declared the winner shortly after with 49 MLAs elected or leading the count.

The Saskatchewan Party increased their seats from 38 to 49, and the Saskatchewan New Democrats, led by Dwain Lingenfelter, dropped 11 seats from 20 to 9. The election win is a boost to the incumbent Saskatchewan Party and Brad Wall's second election win as leader of the party. The win gives the Saskatchewan Party its second four year term in government.

Tonight's result concludes the four week campaign in which voters were offered the choice between Brad Wall's "moving forward" platform or opposition leader Lingenfelter's "positive change" platform. The Saskatchewan Party held a healthy lead in the polls throughout the campaign, with some polls predicting a 40 point difference for the Saskatchewan Party. The final result was actually 64.2 per cent Saskatchewan Party, 31.9 NDP. Near the end of the campaign, to avoid voter complacency, Premier Wall continued to remind voters to head to the polls election day.

Voter turnout was strong in advance polls and near 77 per cent overall. In the end, voters chose to continue with the Saskatchewan Party, and Canada's most popular Premier easily held his seat to win re-election. The orange wave of federal NDP support that vaulted the party to official opposition in Ottawa had no effect in Saskatchewan, where the NDP's presence in the provincial legislature has been reduced.

The Green Party, led by Victor Lau, ran candidates in all 58 ridings compared to the Ryan Bater-led Liberals who ran nine candidates; no Green or Liberal candidates were elected.

## **Upsets and Surprising Victories**

NDP leader Dwain Lingenfelter lost his battle in Regina Douglas Park to the Saskatchewan Party's Russ Marchuk. This was the first time in Saskatchewan's history that an NDP leader failed to win their seat. During his concession speech Lingenfelter announced his resignation as NDP leader.

Deputy leader Deb Higgins also lost her seat to Greg Lawrence in Moose Jaw-Wakamow.

In other upsets, Saskatchewan Roughrider, Gene Makowsky was the winner in Regina Dewdney over the NDP incumbent Kevin Yates. In Regina Northeast the Sask Party's Kevin Doherty took long-time NDP seat. The NDP stronghold of Regina Coronation Park was broken by the Sask Party's Mark Docherty and in Regina Walsh Acres, long-time NDP MLA and former cabinet minister, Sandra Morin lost to the Sask Party's Warren Steinley.