

# Annual Report 2011

*Working with you and your family*



## WELCOME TO YOUR LEGISLATURE

I've had many visitors to the Legislature in the past year including grade 8 students from Westmount, a recent immigrant class from the Open Door Society, and representatives from Self Advocacy Action Group (SAAG). Students from St. Gerard will be coming in June to learn more about the Saskatchewan Legislature. I encourage everyone who may be travelling to Regina to stop by the Legislature and take a tour. We are blessed to have such a wonderful building housing our democratic processes.

If you can't come by, you can still visit via the web: <http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/> or call me for more information. After all, it is your legislature!

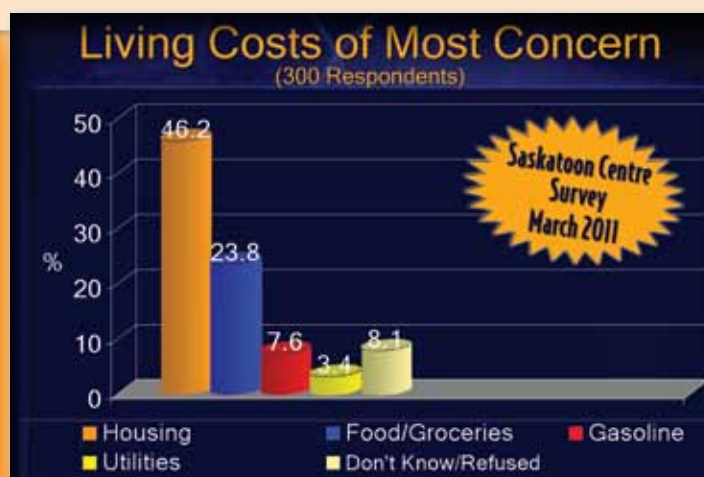
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## HOUSING CONCERNS ARE #1

Saskatoon Centre residents continue to face huge challenges in housing. I've raised this issue repeatedly and this government refuses to act. As part of my annual constituency survey I asked you what is the single most important issue facing our community? Without a doubt, the cost of housing is the number one concern for everyone!

We announced this spring that an NDP government would bring forward changes to the Residential Tenancies Act to introduce rent controls, ensuring that Saskatchewan citizens are protected from unreasonable hikes in their monthly rent.

It is critical that the government must also increase the supply of both rental housing units and affordable homes for purchase for low- and middle-income families. Working with community organizations and the private sector across the province, the government must commit to the construction of more social housing. While rent controls are a necessary part of the solution, ultimately increasing the supply of housing will keep costs in check to ensure that more people can afford decent homes in our province.



**David Forbes, MLA**

**Saskatoon Centre**

Dear Constituents;

I am deeply concerned that we continue to see a government content with sitting back and allowing families and working people to fall further behind – everyone knows that we are in a deep affordability crisis that is forcing people to choose between housing and other necessities.

We are fighting for a review of the province’s potash royalty structure to ensure that Saskatchewan’s citizens gain the maximum benefit from the potash we own. We are committed to an effective affordable housing strategy, which will include ‘next generation’ rent controls, the creation of more rental homes and real affordable home ownership.

Please drop by the office. I appreciate any comments or concerns you might have.

Yours truly,



David Forbes, MLA, Saskatoon Centre



### WALL’S GOVERNMENT DOESN’T GET IT!

Criticizing statements made to the press by Minister Don Morgan, I spoke up on behalf of tenants facing economic eviction due to gouging by landlords.

In a media interview on May 10, Morgan dismissed the case of a student who attended the legislature to express her concern that she and her neighbours were facing a 63% rent hike. He said he was ‘glad’ that this was an ‘isolated’ case.

I also took Morgan to task for statements comparing tenant’s homes with car dealerships.

Morgan used the analogy that, if a car dealer doubled their price, a customer could look elsewhere - No one is writing us or coming to the legislature to complain about a shortage of cars, but they certainly have been talking about a shortage of affordable housing. Yet, Morgan says “he’s happy to see market forces prevail”.

The market has failed renters, and the Wall government has repeatedly failed the people of Saskatchewan. How many renters does this government have to hear from before they stop dismissing their concerns, and start moving quickly to enact rent control legislation to protect Saskatchewan renters?



### RECORD FIRST QUARTER EARNINGS FOR POTASHCORP ILLUSTRATE NEED FOR ROYALTY REVIEW

With a record \$732 million in first quarter earnings reported by the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan we repeated our call for a review of Saskatchewan’s potash royalty structure to ensure that Saskatchewan people – the owners of the province’s potash resource – are reaping the maximum benefit from its extraction and sale.

PotashCorp’s first quarter numbers represented a 71 percent jump over the same period last year and that sales per tonne of potash are also up 13 percent. Indeed, PotashCorp’s report noted that “global potash demand approached record territory during the quarter” resulting in the “second-highest quarterly total” in the history of the company.

Dwain Lingenfelter, our leader, said, “The CEO of PotashCorp has called these favourable conditions the ‘new norm’ for the potash industry. If this is the case, Saskatchewan families deserve to benefit from it.”

We make this call for a review to allow parents access to affordable childcare, to develop drastically needed affordable housing solutions, to bring our healthcare wait times down, to invest in our post-secondary and primary education systems, and to cut small business taxes to encourage job growth. It’s time to redirect the windfall profits from the pockets of the wealthiest CEOs to families and small businesses in our province that own the resource and deserve to benefit from it.

### FORBES’S BILLS YIELD RESULTS

This year I introduced a bill calling for protection of service animals including police and service dogs. All aspects of my bill were rolled into amendments to the Animal Protection Act which now see those convicted of animal abuse facing maximum penalties of two years in jail, a \$25,000 fine, or both.

I know that this law, now in effect, will go a long way in protecting service animals and will allow them to continue doing their jobs in assisting and protecting our citizens.

We know people with intellectual disabilities are hurt by words such as ‘mental retardation’, ‘retarded’ or ‘retard’ - often referred to as the “R” word.’ Based on President Obama’s ‘Rosa’s Law’, I introduced Bill 625, The Saskatchewan Respectful Language Act, intended to remove the ‘R’-word from Saskatchewan’s statutes.

The government has proceeded to ensure that all government print and on-line materials are now free of any negative references, especially the ‘R’ word. The last remaining offending statute was corrected on May 18th. While I am proud of my part, I feel that the assembly deserves some recognition in ensuring the “R” word is gone from our statutes.

### Sask. can lead eliminating use of hurtful word

By Laurie Larson

Following is the viewpoint of Larson, a resident of Biggar who is a parent of two young men with disabilities. She’s the vice...



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