



Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar

Looking Back and Looking Forward

You, the members of the Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar Riding Association, have reason to be proud of the effort that was put forward in the lead up to this past election. In spite of having to fight elections with increasing frequency, we have become stronger at every turn.

Regardless of the fact that this riding does not have the highest income levels in the country, you have provided the resources to enable us to punch above our weight. We got as high a percentage of the vote as did anyone in the country without winning and we intend to be there with even more determination at the next opportunity.

We need and encourage your on-going financial support and especially encourage your participation as members of this organization at any level. If we can all do a little better in reaching out to build our future together, we can reach our goal.

Please consider making a year end contribution now!

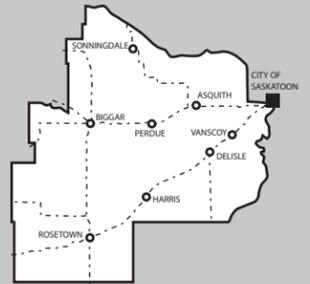
Many of you responded to our special election appeal in the last edition of Our Voice. Many have contributed earlier in the year. Some have agreed to make monthly contributions throughout the year.

We ask that you now re-evaluate your total 2008 contribution to building the future for the NDP in Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar. The December 31 deadline to top up your contribution and to take maximum advantage of the tax credit is approaching.

"A \$400 donation will cost you only \$100 after the tax credit!"

A donation slip and a return envelope are enclosed. Please send donations to:
 Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar NDP
 3319 Ortona Street
 Saskatoon, SK, S7M 3R7

Federal Tax Credit Summary:	75% of the first \$400	These tax credits are direct deductions on your payable tax at the end of the year.
	50% of the next \$350	
	33% of the next \$350	



Nettie Wiebe says THANK YOU!

First of all I want to say to a huge, heartfelt THANK YOU! to the many, many people who supported our campaign.

We ran a strong, positive campaign which involved hundreds of volunteers. Our campaign was characterized by its high energy, progressive positions and good humour. Having a wonderful, large group of smart, committed young people working hard made a big difference also! This bodes well for the future of politics in this riding.

I was proud to be the candidate in this race. I felt the warmth and support of thousands of people of all ages and circumstances as I knocked on doors and talked to voters. Whether I was attending teas in seniors' residences, enjoying celebrations with community groups such as the Aboriginal Music Festival or a Filipino banquet, or speaking in public forums, I considered it a privilege to be your New Democratic candidate. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Although we were all disappointed with the final results, the race was very, very close. Here in Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar we had a higher % of the vote than in previous elections and were separated by 1% (263 votes) in the final tally. [See riding election data on page 3 of this newsletter].

However, across Canada, more people than ever voted for New Democratic candidates. Our caucus of 37 NDP Members of Parliament - an increase of 7 members - will make a big difference for this country.

As economic uncertainty grows, the role of government is more important than ever. Compassion, fairness and strong financial management are urgently needed. But Harper has already demonstrated that he is uncaring (cutting initiatives for working families), unfair (big tax give-aways to the richest corporations) and a poor manager (running a \$13 billion surplus into a deficit in less than 3 years).

Fortunately, the Harper Conservatives were held to a minority government. There will likely be another chance for Canadians to change the Parliament before the end of this decade. So our work to build better alternatives and a secure future continues.

I wish you all a good, safe holiday season! - *Nettie Wiebe*

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Nettie with Cam Broten, NDP MLA





Federal Convention August 2009

Your Local NDP Executive

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Editorial Committee
Carla Fehr
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please e-mail submissions to:
wmanson@imagewireless.ca

Announcing the next convention of the
New Democratic Party of Canada

August 28th to 30th, 2009, in Halifax, Nova Scotia

The Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar Annual General Meeting in the spring of 2009 will be considering resolutions to forward to the convention and will be choosing delegates.

We encourage your participation in both the AGM and the convention.

For more information contact:
grant.mcmurray@sasktel.net
or call 306-955-2844



Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes in 2009!

What would you like to see in future editions of Our Voice? Please make suggestions!

To speak with or arrange an informal meeting with representatives of the executive please contact us at:
grant.mcmurray@sasktel.net or call 306-955-2844



Historical Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar Election Results

	Turnout [%]	NDP [%]	Conservative [%]	Liberal [%]	Green [%]
2008	55% <i>est.</i>	44.4%	45.4%	4.4%	4.6%
2006	59.7%	39.0%	45.5%	12.1%	2.5%
2004	52.5%	36.1%	44.7%	15.7%	3.2%

- At 44.4%, a 5.5% NDP gain over 2006 comprised of a 3.5% gain outside of Saskatoon and a 5.7% gain in the city.
- An overall unchanged Conservative vote of 45.4% made up by a 1.8% increase in the city and a 3.3% loss out of town.
- A Liberal decline to 4.4% with a 3% loss outside Saskatoon and a 9.6% loss in the city. The Liberal vote fell in city polls to the numbers recorded in 2006 in town and rural polls.
- The Green Party was up about 2% over 2006 across the board to edge out the Liberals for third place.

We would like to brief you on a couple of points that were raised in a report to the executive by our campaign manager and at a post-election meeting of representatives of Saskatchewan ridings (the Sask. Council of Federal Ridings). These are things with which we could use your help:

1. Changes to and inconsistent application of Elections Canada rules requiring prospective voters to identify themselves and provide proof of their residence within a given poll caused much frustration and alienation on election day. It was particularly evident on First Nation Reserves, in low income urban areas with high mobility and among student populations. There is much work for us to do in ensuring our democratic system becomes more accessible and that it encourages rather than discourages participation. Please bring to our attention personal instances of legitimate voters being turned away, of undue delays in voting and inconsistent or misinformed action by Elections Canada staff.
2. All ridings need to reach out to develop their volunteer base. As Nettie mentioned, SRB had a great bunch of volunteers that did excellent work. But we and other ridings need more volunteers and especially so during the period between elections when outreach is done and when capacity is built for the next election. We would like to expand our relatively small executive especially into rural areas and to towns. Any assistance you can give us with this will be greatly appreciated and certainly rewarded with future success.

Please contact Grant McMurray at: grant.mcmurray@sasktel.net or call 306-955-2844