

September 30, 2011

Keith Karasin, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Division
The Canadian Cancer Society
1910 McIntyre St.
REGINA SK S4P 2R3

Dear Mr. Karasin:

Thank you for your letter of August 23. Saskatchewan New Democrats share your concerns about cancer and the effect it has on Saskatchewan families. Our responses to the Cancer Society's questions follow.

1. What are your comments on the current provincial tobacco control strategy Building a Healthier Saskatchewan and what is the position of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party with respect to its funding?

In 2002, the New Democratic Party government was proud to proclaim the *Tobacco Control Act* which took new steps to protect young people from the health hazards of smoking. The *Tobacco Control Act* introduced measures focused on preventing young people from smoking, reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, and “de-normalizing” tobacco use by making it the exception rather than the rule. At that time, the *Act* put Saskatchewan in line with or ahead of other Canadian provinces.

Tobacco is a major cause of cancers, and Saskatchewan New Democrats are very concerned that Saskatchewan still has the highest smoking rate in the country. The costs to Saskatchewan families and our provincial economy are astronomical, and while the Saskatchewan government collects taxes from the sale of tobacco products, only a small percentage of that amount is currently put back into tobacco control strategies such as Building a Healthier Saskatchewan. In our recent policy review, Saskatchewan New Democrats have clearly stated that they see increased partnerships with key organizations as an effective way to bolster efforts for cancer prevention in the Province, and we believe more funding must go toward these efforts.

2. What is the position of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party with respect to phasing out the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides in the province?

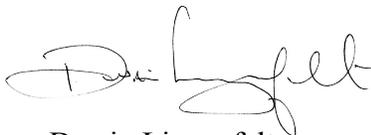
Our Party believes that all change must start with awareness and education. Our recent policy review indicates that Saskatchewan people want a New Democratic Government to work with key partners and other levels of government to provide increased levels of education and awareness about the health implications associated with the cosmetic use of pesticides.

3. What is the position of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party with respect to restricting youth under the age of 18 from using indoor tanning equipment?

As noted in our recent policy review, Saskatchewan people are concerned about the dangers of indoor tanning equipment to our young people. They believe that more education and awareness are needed. A New Democratic Party government would work with community partners and all levels of government to provide increased information, particularly to young people, on the health implications of indoor tanning beds.

The Saskatchewan New Democratic Party supports the dedicated efforts of the Canadian Cancer Society in preventing cancer, and looks forward to the opportunity to work closely with your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwain Lingenfelter".

Dwain Lingenfelter
Leader