

Hospitals unopened

BY RAY HEATHER, THE STARPHOENIX NOVEMBER 1, 2011

With the provincial election around the corner, the political ads and rhetoric have started.

Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party are saying they don't want to go back to the deficit budgets of the

1980s. Yet Wall and some members of his party were at that time avid supporters of the Progressive Conservative Party and its policies that got Saskatchewan into such massive debt.

When the voters elected an NDP government, that party had to slash government spending, to avoid bankruptcy.

One of the results was the closure of 52 rural hospitals.

This move cost the NDP a lot of support in rural Saskatchewan and led in part to the rise of the Saskatchewan Party's support in rural areas.

Now Wall and his party state that the NDP is no friend to rural Saskatchewan because of the hospital closures.

Since the Saskatchewan Party formed government, it has had unprecedented revenues coming into the provincial Treasury.

It has increased spending, but strangely enough, none of this new spending has resulted in the reopening of even one of the rural hospitals that were closed.

Could this mean that, although the closures were politically unpopular, they still were a restructuring that was needed?

Ray Heather

Saskatoon

© Copyright (c) The StarPhoenix