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Sask. Party focuses campaign on bottom line [1]

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EXCERPTS:

Reflecting on the first week of the provincial election campaign, two bottom lines were top of mind for Premier Brad Wall - his party's and that of the NDP's.

Speaking Saturday morning at the campaign office of Saskatchewan Party candidate Kevin Doherty, Wall said his party's campaign promises will make life more affordable for students, parents, seniors and first-time homebuyers.

The cost of his party's first week of campaign commitments is $205 million over the next four years - $41.4 million in Year 1; $48.2 million in Year 2; $54.7 million in Year 3 and $60.7 million in Year 4.

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Those promises include a scholarship of up to $2,000 over four years for high school students; an education grant so parents can top up their RESP contributions by up to $250 per child per year; an increase to the Active Families Benefit and extending the program to include children under 18. The PST exemption on children's clothing will be extended to include all children under 18.

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Wall said the party would be releasing its platform in the coming days and added: "We're going to be (spending) a third of what we campaigned on last time as a total number."

He charged that the NDP's campaign promises will push the province into a "1980s-style budget deficit."

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He said his party's platform, including the costs broken down by program and year, will be released prior to the leaders' debate, which is scheduled for Oct. 25.

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