Paying for it

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Bruce Johnstone's column of May 30 compares a decade of expenditures with a single year of revenues to allege a "fiscal chasm" in the federal NDP plan.

Our leader, Tom Mulcair, has indeed committed to stop $36 billion of Conservative cuts to public health care. Those cuts, and the costs of reversing them, will be spread out over 10 years.

We would also deliver a new federal transfer to greatly increase the number of childcare spaces and make them available for no more than $15 daily. Johnstone cites a cost of "$5 billion a year", but neglects to mention this would be phased in over two government terms, not reaching that annual cost until 2022-23.

He contrasts these spending projections with annual figures from 2014-15 for two NDP revenue proposals: $1.5 billion per percentage point of corporate income tax and $2.4 billion for cancelling the splitting of non-pension income. Corporate profits and personal incomes will surely rise between now and 2022-23.

Like expenditures, revenues add up over time. For example, when the Conservative government slashed the federal corporate tax rate from 22 to 15 per cent, it projected a loss of $50 billion over six years. With the Liberals supporting this giveaway, only New Democrats would recoup corporate tax revenues.

We will present a fully costed platform before the election. But it's clear that even partially reversing recent breaks for large, profitable corporations would easily fund our plan for health care and childcare.

Erin Weir, Regina

Weir is the federal NDP candidate in Regina-Lewvan.