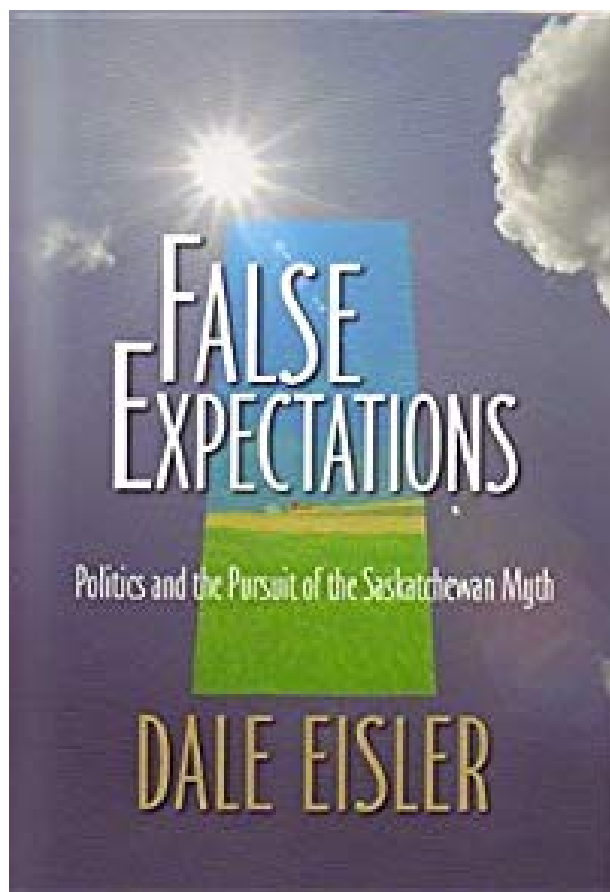


# False Expectations: Politics & Pursuit of the Saskatchewan Myth



<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Author:</b>	Dale Eisler
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“Myth has played an important and ongoing role in the development of Saskatchewan’s political economy and collective identity.

It has been expressed in many ways. First, as part of the National Policy, Saskatchewan was portrayed as a promised land, a period that served as the psychological and economic foundation for the province. When belief in Saskatchewan as a promised land was shattered by the Great Depression and Dirty Thirties, the myth was reconstituted through the inspiration of the social gospel. It was then politically reinvigorated in the meaning of medicare and has been expressed in recent decades through the competing visions for economic development. Through all those eras, no matter what the tides of politics, there remained one constant—the singular, collective idea Saskatchewan was a special place with unrealized potential. The challenge for the public dialogue of Saskatchewan, as the province enters its second century, is to not replay the mistakes of the past. Saskatchewan people must recognize the role that myth has played, and must continue to play, in the life of the province. But, at the same time, they must differentiate it from reality by understanding the power of myth as a force for progress and its potential to create false expectations.”