



From a Provincial Point of View

February 4, 2011

Saskatoon Leads the Nation in Population Growth

It was great to see in the news today that Saskatoon outpaces all metro areas in Canada! Our city is growing faster and aging more slowly than any other major Canadian City.

Statistics Canada revealed the Saskatoon region was the fastest-growing metropolitan area in Canada for the one-year period ending in July 2010, surpassing Alberta's major centres in growth for the first time in decades.

Saskatoon CMA's population increased by 7,240 (to 265,259) as of July 1, 2010 - a growth rate of 27.7 per thousand. Regina CMA jumped by 4,754 (to 215,138), for a growth rate of 22.3 per thousand. These growth rates compare to the average of 14.7 per thousand among the 33 Canadian CMAs. Vancouver CMA ranked second, with a growth rate of 22.9 per thousand.

[Click here to read more...](#)

106th Annual SUMA Convention



Bruce Fiddler, Mayor of Creighton, SK

I was pleased to attend the 106th Annual SUMA Convention. Premier Brad Wall announced we are moving ahead on our promise to provide cities, towns and RMs with a record amount of revenue sharing. Municipal revenue sharing will increase to the equivalent of a full percentage point of the PST. That translates into \$216.8 million in 2011-12 – a 70 per cent increase since 2007-08. Revenue sharing in 2011-12 represents the highest amount of operational funding ever provided to municipalities by the provincial government in the history of Saskatchewan. Promise made, promise kept.

I had the opportunity to be involved in a dialogue session with interested Municipal Leaders. I appreciated the time to listen and provide information on my portfolio.

With this winter's heavy snowfall, there could be extensive flooding this spring. To that end, our government has announced a \$22 million program that will help communities prepare for possible spring flooding. The program will provide assistance in five areas:

- Technical assistance such as engineering to design flood protection works;
- Building flood protection works such as berms or channels in communities;
- Constructing protective works such as berms around rural residences and farmsteads;
- Sand bagging, and clearing snow and obstructions from channels and culverts; and
- Testing of water supplies impacted by flooding.

For more details about the spring runoff forecast, please visit the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's website at www.swa.ca.

Mayor Fiacco Delivers 44th State of the City Address



Pat Fiacco, Mayor of Regina

I had the privilege of attending the Kiwanis State of the City Address with Mayor Fiacco. Mayor Fiacco delivered a strong message of the importance of a successful downtown area. He opened by saying, “The vitality of a city hinges on many factors, one of which is a successful downtown. Last year, we approved the first Regina Downtown Neighbourhood Plan which is fundamental to having a successful downtown.”

Mayor Fiacco stated a powerful quote from Benjamin Franklin, “Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning.”

Fiacco ended his address by stating, “The Regina you see today did not happen by accident, it is the result of the vision and hard work of our forefathers and all who have followed. We are a city of dreamers and a city of believers. I ask that each and every one of you continue to dream, continue to believe and continue to achieve. And together the possibilities are infinite!”

Another Successful Dragon’s Den Pitch from Saskatchewan



3twenty Solutions CEO Bryan McCrea speaks to the crowd at Louis Pub on U of S Campus

Congratulations to one of my constituents Bryan McCrea and his colleagues, Channing McCorriston and Evan Willoughby who appeared on Dragon’s Den Wednesday night. 3twenty Solutions, an innovative Canadian startup that turns old shipping containers into mining camps has gained the support of Canadian entrepreneur and CBC Dragon W. Brett Wilson. Appearing on Wednesday night’s Dragon’s Den show, 3twenty secured an investment of \$120,000 for 25% of their company.

Bryan opened 3twenty’s pitch to the Dragon’s with “Saskatchewan is the world’s largest uranium producer, largest exporter of potash, and we export more oil to the US than Kuwait.” Unfortunately, this line was not included in the airing of Wednesday’s Dragon’s Den show but clearly left a lasting

impression on the Dragons.

Since establishing a relationship with Wilson in May of 2010, 3twenty Solutions has already sold North America’s first container mining camp to Claude Resources, a gold exploration and mining company that operates in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Shipping containers are in excess supply in North America. There are more than 700,000 empty containers in North America alone. 3twenty Solutions buys them and turns them into stylish, comfortable, portable and stackable worker housing, perfect for the mining and oil/gas industry. A standard 40-foot container has a footprint of 320 square feet.

BHP Moves Forward with Jansen Potash Project

BHP Billiton is taking another step towards developing its Jansen potash project in Saskatchewan, the world's biggest potash mine.

In a statement released Wednesday, the company said it is now in the "feasibility study stage" of the Jansen Lake project, about 140 kilometres east of Saskatoon.

The company has submitted an environmental impact statement for the proposed mine and set aside \$240 million US for drilling and site preparation for the ground-freezing process required prior to the sinking of the production service shafts.

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/money/story/2011/02/02/sk-bhp-jansen-potash.html#ixzz1D1HEDrPR>

Regina & District Chamber of Commerce 125th Anniversary



Victor Thomas, Regina & District Chamber of Commerce President

I was pleased to attend the 125th Anniversary of the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce where Victor Thomas was announced as the new President. Victor is a great friend of mine and I am very excited for him to take on this new role with the Chamber. I am sure that Victor will do an outstanding job in his new role as Chamber President.

Casino Regina Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Congratulations to Casino Regina as they celebrated a milestone last week as it marked its 15th Anniversary. Located in downtown Regina's historic Union Station, Casino Regina has grown into one of Saskatchewan's top entertainment and tourism destinations, with more than 27 million visits since it opened in 1996.

Casino Regina guests have come to enjoy a world-class entertainment experience and outstanding service. Congratulations to Casino Regina and its employees for reaching this milestone, and for 15 years of generating quality employment opportunities, economic benefit and profit for Saskatchewan people in partnership with First Nations.

Sask Gaming is the Crown Corporation that operates Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw. Casino Regina opened on January 26, 1996. The corporation expanded in September 2002 with the addition of Casino Moose Jaw.

Profits from Sask Gaming are used to support numerous priority initiatives in Saskatchewan. Since 1996, \$378 million has been transferred to the Province's General Revenue Fund (GRF). The funds are directed to the First Nations Trust and the Community Initiatives Fund to support programs that improve the quality of life for Saskatchewan people, including improving the social and economic circumstances of Aboriginal and Métis people in our province.

Thought of the Day

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out - Robert Collier

Just The Headlines – www.gov.sk.ca/news

Feb. 4, 2011 - [A YEAR OF GROWTH: SASKATCHEWAN POSTS 12TH STRAIGHT MONTH OF EMPLOYMENT GROWTH](#)

Feb. 3, 2011 - [SASKJOBS.CA OPENS 2011 WITH HUGE JUMPS IN JOB POSTINGS, VISITS](#)

Feb. 3, 2011 - [SASKATOON LEADS THE NATION IN POPULATION GROWTH](#)

Feb. 2, 2011 - [LONGEST WAIT TIMES BEING CUT IN NORTHWEST SASKATCHEWAN](#)

Feb. 1, 2011 - [MORE SURGERIES MEANS SHORTER WAITS FOR PATIENTS IN NORTHEAST SASKATCHEWAN](#)

Jan. 31, 2011 - [GOVERNMENT KEEPS REVENUE SHARING PROMISE](#)

Jan. 28, 2011 - [SASKATCHEWAN CONTINUES TO LEAD THE COUNTRY IN WAGE GROWTH](#)

Did You Know???

- Saskatchewan had the 2nd lowest unemployment rate in the country at 5.5% well below the national average of 7.6%.
- The Saskatoon and Regina census metropolitan areas (CMAs) are the fastest and third fastest growing in Canada.
- SaskJobs hosted a record 869,000 visits in January, its highest monthly total ever and a 22 per cent increase over January 2010

Keep In Touch

I appreciate the many opportunities to make a positive difference in my constituency. Your phone calls, letters and emails make a big difference in keeping me informed on the issues that matter to you. If you would like to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call me.



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“From a Provincial Point of View” is a weekly message from Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs. Your opinions are important and your letters, emails and phone calls on any issues relating to the provincial government are welcomed. Contact Ken by calling (306) 651-7100, emailing ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net or writing Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs, 1106A Central Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 2H1. **To subscribe or be removed from this newsletter, please send an email message.** This newsletter is produced with the assistance of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus Office.