



From a Provincial Point of View

June 24, 2011

PREMIER THANKS BOTH SIDES FOR REACHING CONTRACT AGREEMENT AND ENDING STRIKE

Premier Brad Wall today thanked the bargaining teams of both the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) and the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union (SGEU) for reaching a tentative contract settlement and ending the strike by Crop Insurance employees.

"This is very good news," Wall said. "I know that Crop Insurance employees would much rather be at work processing claims and helping farmers at this difficult time. This agreement means they will soon be back at work providing those vital services for Saskatchewan producers."

Now that legislation to end the strike will no longer be necessary, Wall has written to Speaker Don Toth asking him to cancel the recall of the Legislative Assembly which had been scheduled for Monday

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SILVERSPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Winning the Healthy Kids School Challenge was the Silverspring Elementary School. The school as a whole won the grand prize by having the most classes registered and the highest point totals collected throughout the school year!

The Healthy Kids School Challenge began in November 2010 and ran over the course of the school year and has encouraged more than 700 students from 83 schools across Saskatchewan to get active and make healthy food choices.

As a special bonus, Ms. Andrea Berg's 5th grade class at Silverspring had the most points of all the classes registered. The students received a special invitation from the Saskatchewan Roughriders to attend the pre-season game at Mosaic Stadium on June 17, where they were honoured on the Maxtron.

Congratulations to all students who took part in the Healthy Kids School Challenge.

Read more . . .

PICNIC IN THE PARK



year!

My sincere thanks to everyone that attended the Picnic in the Park last week.

We had a fantastic day and I appreciate your attendance. Thanks as well to everyone that sent messages indicating you were unable to attend.

A special thanks to the many volunteers, as well as the entertainers and everyone that looked after the activities for doing an outstanding job! I am so grateful for the effort and time that went in to helping make the picnic such a huge success.

I hope to see everyone again next

SASKATCHEWAN'S POPULATION HITS NEW ALL-TIME HIGH

Saskatchewan's population has hit a new all-time record of 1,053,960 as of April 1, 2011, according to the latest estimate released today by Statistics Canada.

The continued population growth is a sign of a strong and vibrant economy. We continue to be a province of opportunity both for those who have lived here for years and for newcomers and will keep working to ensure those opportunities continue and Saskatchewan keeps on growing strong.

Saskatchewan grew by 1,910 people in the first quarter of 2011 (January 1, 2011 to April 1, 2011) and by 13,225 people over the past year (April 1, 2010 to April 1, 2011). Saskatchewan's annual growth rate of 1.27 per cent is the fourth highest among the provinces and ahead of the national average growth rate of 1.06 per cent.

HUGH VASSOS, PRESIDENT OF SASKATCHEWAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to Silver Springs resident, Hugh Vassos, who was named President for The Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

Hugh is looking forward to leading the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame through some exciting time of change.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY



I was pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the National Aboriginal Day celebrations at Saskatoon's Friendship Park.

It is a day to recognize the unique contributions that First Nations, Métis and Inuit people have made to our great country and how we can all share in our province's prosperity by working together.



SASKATOON BLADES MAKE FINAL-THREE TO HOST 2013 MEMORIAL CUP

The Saskatoon Blades are on the short-list to host the 2013 Memorial Cup.

The Western Hockey League announced three finalists — Saskatoon, the Kelowna Rockets and Red Deer Rebels — following league meetings in Calgary.

It is an exciting opportunity and the Blades organization is looking forward to working with the community to put together a bid.

The Blades organization will be making the bid in October and feel they have a good shot at bringing the 2013 Memorial Cup games home to Saskatoon.

The Blades hosted the 1989 Memorial Cup, reaching the final before losing to the Swift Current Broncos on Tim Tisdale's overtime goal.

NEW STUDENT LOAN YEAR UNDERWAY FOR THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The launch of the second year of the student financial assistance marketing campaign includes 10 face-to-face community events across the province, online advertising and a redesigned website with an emphasis on improved navigation to access information on student financial assistance. The campaign encourages students to “Go Further. Faster” by accessing the financial supports available through Student Financial Assistance.

The Student Financial Assistance Branch is now accepting applications for the 2011-2012 loan year for academic programs beginning on or after August 1, 2011.

More information on Saskatchewan Student Financial Assistance can be found at www.student-loans.sk.ca or call 1-800-597-8278.

[Read more . . .](#)

MEEWASIN’S PLANT-A-TREE DEDICATION

It was great to see the Silverspring School gym was filled to capacity for the Meewasin Valley Authority’s dedication ceremony for Plant-A-Tree, Memorial Forest, Bench and Brick programs. The afternoon gathering acknowledged donors, recognized recipients and remembered loved ones.

Since 1988, Meewasin has planted 3,616 trees and shrubs in the valley that have been sponsored by individual donors and groups. Since 2000 there have been 140 donations to the Memorial Forest in Gabriel Dumont Park. This year’s program includes sponsorship recognition of 63 trees and shrubs, 24 Meewasin benches, 16 bricks at River Landing and 16 bricks at the Rotary International Peace Plaza including two red granite bricks sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nutana commemorating two Nobel Peace Prize recipients, Mother Teresa and Lester B. Pearson.

The program was enjoyed by all in attendance. The musical performance by the Saskatoon Children’s Choir was fantastic. Congratulations to the organizers and participants of this event.

NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR SASKATCHEWAN ORDER OF MERIT

The Saskatchewan Government is asking residents to nominate individuals for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. The fields in which individuals can be recognized include: arts, agriculture, business and industry, community leadership, occupations or professions, public service, research, sport and recreation and community services. Nomination deadline is July 5, 2011.

For nomination information follow the link. . .<http://www.ops.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=ad95ee27-69b8-428c-bc4f-2de94b32ee64>

VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS ATTRACT MILLIONS FROM SASKATCHEWAN INVESTORS

Saskatchewan’s highly successful provincial Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations (LSVCC) proved to be increasingly popular with investors, who purchased more than \$76 million in funds this year – a 27 per cent increase from the previous year.

LSVCC shares can be purchased through the two leading funds, Golden Opportunities Fund Inc. and SaskWorks Venture Fund Inc. This capital is in turn invested into small- and medium-sized Saskatchewan businesses to encourage growth and job creation.

The LSVCC funds and the legislation fall under the Invest in Saskatchewan Program, which provides a tax incentive to promote and encourage investment in registered pool and employee funds. On the first \$5,000 invested, investors are eligible to receive federal and provincial tax credits that total 35 per cent. The Employee Investment Program also provides the opportunity for employees to invest in the company they work for and receive the same tax credits.

[Read more. . .](#)

SASKATCHEWAN RETAIL SALES NEARLY DOUBLE NATIONAL AVERAGE

People in Saskatchewan are feeling increasingly confident when they look at their family budgets and that optimism is showing as Statistics Canada today reported that the province's retail sales increased by 7.0 per cent over last year.

Our economy is the best in Canada right now and that translates into good news for retailers across the province.

Retail sales figures for April 2011 were released by Statistics Canada today. According to the report, Saskatchewan's retail sales were up 7.0 per cent in April 2011 over April 2010, the second highest percentage increase among the provinces, almost double the 3.6 per cent recorded on a national basis (seasonally adjusted).

Between March 2011 and April 2011 retail sales were up 0.1 per cent in Saskatchewan, the fifth highest percentage rate among the provinces.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Develop an attitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation." Brian Tracy

JUST THE HEADLINES – www.gov.sk.ca/news

- Jun. 24, 2011 - [PUBLIC ACCOUNTS REFLECT STRONG ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN 2010-11](#)
- Jun. 24, 2011 - [LIGHTHOUSE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT UNDERWAY IN SASKATOON](#)
- Jun. 24, 2011 - [ROYAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM RECOGNIZED BY UNESCO FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE](#)
- Jun. 23, 2011 - [WEEKLY PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE](#)
- Jun. 23, 2011 - [GOVERNMENT HOUSE LAUNCHES DISCOVERY BACKPACK PROGRAM](#)
- Jun. 23, 2011 - [SPINE CLINICS TO SPEED UP TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS](#)
- Jun. 22, 2011 - [ASSOCIATED NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION STANDARDS INTRODUCED](#)
- Jun. 21, 2011 - [HONOURING SASKATCHEWAN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES PERSONNEL](#)
- Jun. 17, 2011 - [SASK HEALTH LEADERS LOOK TO BUILD UPON LEAN SUCCESSSES](#)
- Jun. 16, 2011 - [AS SUMMER APPROACHES, A REMINDER FOR YOUNG JOB APPLICANTS](#)
- Jun. 16, 2011 - [GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES ON HEALTH COUNCILS](#)
- Jun. 16, 2011 - [REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTINUES ON WATER-DAMAGED ROADS](#)
- Jun. 16, 2011 - [GOVERNMENT MAKES SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN PARKS](#)
- Jun. 13, 2011 - [PROVINCE IMPROVING HIGHWAY 15, CREATING HIGH CLEARANCE TRUCKING CORRIDOR](#)
- Jun. 13, 2011 - [IMPROVED ACCESS TO DIAGNOSTICS FOR RURAL AND NORTHERN RESIDENTS](#)
- Jun. 10, 2011 - [SASKATCHEWAN CELEBRATES YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND ENTREPRENEURS](#)

Jun. 10, 2011 - [SASKATCHEWAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ONCE AGAIN THE LOWEST IN CANADA](#)

DID YOU KNOW ? ? ?

- The launch of the summer exhibitions at the Mendel Art Gallery is on Friday, June 24 at 8:00 p.m.
- That the sod turning ceremony was held today for the New Saskatoon Police Service Headquarters.

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*](mailto: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.