



Ken Cheveldayoff

From a Provincial Point of View

January 6, 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season and had a chance to spend time with family and friends. On behalf of my wife Trish and our children Carter and Paige, I wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope 2012 is a great year for everyone. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help contribute to your success.

The start of a new year inspires many people to set goals and resolutions. I hope you enjoy the challenge.



Our family had a great time over the holidays visiting my brother Kevin who is General Manager of the Winnipeg Jets. We enjoyed two great hockey games and Carter and his cousin Sam were excited to have the opportunity to visit the Jets dressing room.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PREMIER BRAD WALL!

A recent survey from Angus Reid reports that Premier Brad Wall is Canada's most popular Premier in Canada with a 71 per cent approval rating.

This survey is conducted quarterly and Premier Wall's approval rating is up from 63 per cent in August where he also had the highest ranking. Congratulations Premier Wall!

Under the leadership of Premier Brad Wall, our Saskatchewan economy set records and attracted investment in 2011. Our province's economy had a banner year in 2011 and the New Year is projected to be even better. The province set records for investment and population growth in 2011 and two independent forecasters are predicting that Saskatchewan will continue to lead Canada and set records in 2012.

SASKATCHEWAN'S POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW AT A RECORD PACE

Saskatchewan's population is now at an all-time high of 1,063,535 people. Saskatchewan is the fastest growing province in Canada in the last quarter.

According to Statistics Canada, the number of people living in the province increased by 5,651 in the third quarter of 2011. That's the most growth ever recorded in a quarter, smashing the previous record of 5,444 in the previous quarter of this year.

"Today in Saskatchewan, there are a lot more people moving in than moving out, thanks to our strong economy and tremendous quality of life," Wall said. "Saskatchewan has grown by more than 11,000 people in just the past six months. Our government will continue working hard to meet both the opportunities and the challenges created by our growing population."

Read More: [Saskatchewan is Canada's leading migrant magnet – Globe and Mail](#)

Read More: [Sask population continues to soar – Saskatoon Star Phoenix](#)

SURGICAL WAIT TIMES DROPPING - POSITIVE TREND CONTINUES

Saskatchewan Patients Are Getting Quicker Access to Surgery as Wait Times Continue to Drop.

The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative (SkSI) emphasis on sooner, safer, smarter surgical care is resulting in more surgeries being provided, fewer "long waiters", and better surgical patient experiences.

"Saskatchewan has set some of the most ambitious surgical wait time goals in the country," Health Minister Don McMorris said. "Our latest monthly data shows that right now, 99 per cent of all surgeries are being completed within 18 months and 96 per cent within 12 months. We're clearly heading in the right direction thanks to the combined efforts of health providers, surgical teams and managers across the province."

Since November 2007, the number of patients waiting longer than 18 months for surgery has dropped 83 per cent, the number waiting over 12 months has dropped 68 per cent and the number waiting more than six months has declined 49 per cent. These figures represent improvements of three per cent, three per cent and six per cent respectively since the previous monthly data update.

Data to October 31, 2011, shows that Saskatchewan hospitals have completed more than 48,200 surgeries in the last six months, 7.5 per cent more (almost 3,400 cases) than during the same period last year. The number of people waiting for surgery in a Saskatchewan hospital is at its lowest level - about 22,400 cases - since the current data measurement system was put in place in 2004.

By the end of 2011-12, the SkSI's goal is to provide all patients with the opportunity to have surgery within 12 months of a specialist referral. Six of the ten health regions that perform surgery are currently achieving that goal for 100 per cent of surgeries they provide. Provincially, 96 per cent of surgeries are now completed within 12 months.

The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative was created to improve the surgical patient experience from referral through recovery. Its goal is to provide all patients with an opportunity to have surgery within three months by 2014. It is championing projects such as an online directory of surgeons to help doctors and

patients choose an appropriate surgeon, surgical safety checklists in all hospital operating rooms and new approaches to care for patients with hip, knee, spine, gynaecological and prostate problems.

More information about the SkSI can be found at www.health.gov.sk.ca/saskatchewan-surgical-initiative. Wait time data is available at www.sasksurgery.ca.

Wait Time Goals:	Surgeries completed (at Oct 31, 2011):
Surgery within 18 months	99 per cent
Surgery within 12 months	96 per cent
Surgery within 6 months	87 per cent
Surgery within 3 months	75 per cent

NEW PLAN FORECASTS PROVINCE'S NEED FOR HEALTH WORKERS

Another Way of Putting Patients First

Health Minister Don McMorris released Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources Plan - a guide that will inform health workforce strategies and policies of the province, health regions, educational institutes and other stakeholders over the next 10 years.

"The plan outlines our government's vision for a health workforce that takes progressive, collaborative approaches to patient care and provides a long-term assessment of the province's health care human resources needs," McMorris said. "Training, recruiting and retaining health care workers continues to be a top priority of this government."

[Read more...](#)

SASKATCHEWAN EMPLOYMENT REACHES RECORD HIGH FOR DECEMBER

The number of people employed in Saskatchewan in December 2011 was 523,500, a record for the month of December. Year-over-year, Saskatchewan saw an increase of 3,100 jobs.

Saskatchewan's unemployment rate moved to 5.2 per cent, the second lowest in the country behind Alberta (4.9 per cent) and well below the national average of 7.5 per cent.

Regina's unemployment rate of 3.8 per cent was the lowest in the country and Saskatoon's (5.4 per cent) was fifth lowest.

There have been strong employment gains in Saskatchewan's two major cities with 4,300 more jobs in Regina (year-over-year) and Saskatoon showing an increase of 2,600 jobs (year-over-year).

"There are many job opportunities for people who want to live and work in Saskatchewan," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "With record employment in December and an all-time high in population, Saskatchewan's strong and steady economy is poised to lead the nation in growth."

Off-reserve Aboriginal employment experienced growth of 5,000 jobs (14 per cent) for the seventh consecutive month of gains year-over-year. Aboriginal youth employment also increased by 400 jobs (4.7 per cent). There are currently more than 8,400 jobs posted on the Saskjobs.ca website.

GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT WITH EDUCATORS ON MATH INSTRUCTION, CURRICULUM

The success and achievement of all Saskatchewan students is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan. As such, in an effort to address concerns coming from parents and a petition from the Western Initiative for Strengthening Education in Math, the government will be facilitating a consultation and engagement process with frontline educators across Saskatchewan.

"The best feedback we can get is to start with our frontline teachers - the ones that are actually teaching the curriculum, working with children and working with parents - that's going to give us some really good dialogue," Education Minister Donna Harpauer said.

[Read more...](#)

SASKATCHEWAN ECONOMY SETS RECORDS, ATTRACTS INVESTMENT IN 2011

Saskatchewan's economy had a banner year in 2011 and the New Year is projected to be even better. The province set records for investment and population growth in 2011 and two independent forecasters are predicting that Saskatchewan will continue to lead Canada and set records in 2012.

"The statistics are good, but even better is the fact that people and investors recognize the real growth yet to come and know that Saskatchewan is becoming the leading place to do business in Canada," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "This year we have had many new businesses start in the province, businesses move from other locations and existing businesses expanding in all corners of the province."

[Read more...](#)

SASKATCHEWAN TAXPAYERS PROTECTED FROM INFLATION

Saskatchewan residents will see an additional \$25.2 million in annual tax savings as a result of the indexation of the provincial income tax system in 2012.

As a result, an individual taxpayer now pays no Saskatchewan income tax on his or her first \$18,075 of income, while a family of four pays no income tax on their first \$46,850 of income.

Indexation protects taxpayers from "bracket creep", or the automatic increase in tax caused by inflation and preserves the real value of personal income tax credits. For 2012, income tax brackets and personal tax credit amounts will increase by 2.8 per cent, which represents the annual average inflation rate from October 2010 through to September 2011.

"Making sure Saskatchewan's income tax system is fully indexed to inflation each and every year helps to keep provincial taxes as low as possible," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said. "It's part of the Saskatchewan Advantage."

[Read more...](#)

2011 QUEEN'S COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to the sixteen Saskatchewan lawyers that were honoured recently with Queen's Counsel (Q.C.) appointments.

"These exceptional recipients being honoured with a Queen's Counsel designation have a range of experience and represent the very best of our legal community," Justice Minister and Attorney General Don Morgan said. "In recent years, there has been a desire to expand the Q.C. honours, which have traditionally focused on barristers, to recognize solicitors, corporate counsel and those who have contributed to the legal profession in the courtroom."

The 2011 Queen's Counsel appointments are:

- Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Dean of the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. He was admitted to the bar in 1994.
- Ronald Balacko, a lawyer with Rusnak Balacko Kachur & Rusnak law firm in Yorkton. He was admitted to the bar in 1976.
- Alain Gaucher, a lawyer with MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman law firm in Saskatoon. He was admitted to the bar in 1980.
- Melvin Gerspacher, a lawyer with Robertson Stromberg law firm in Saskatoon. He was admitted to the bar in 1979.
- John Gormley, in-house counsel for Rawlco Radio Ltd. He was admitted to the bar in 1993.
- Robert Kirkpatrick, Associate General Counsel at Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan. He was admitted to the bar in 1988.
- Robert Lane, Regional Crown Prosecutor, La Ronge Prosecutions, Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. He was admitted to the bar in 1980.
- Timothy MacLeod, General Counsel for Saskatchewan Government Insurance. He was admitted to the bar in 1983.
- Mitch McAdam, Director of the Aboriginal Law Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General in Regina. He was admitted to the bar in 1985.
- Rosanne Newman, Legal Director for the Meadow Lake area office, Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission. She was admitted to the bar in 1994.
- Rodney Rath, a lawyer with Gerrand Rath Johnson law firm in Regina. He was admitted to the bar in 1972.
- Donna Sigmeth, Deputy Director of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. She was admitted to the bar in 1994.
- David Thera, a lawyer with McKercher law firm in Regina. He was admitted to the bar in 1987. He is the President of the Canadian Bar Association, Saskatchewan Branch.
- Barry Wilcox, a lawyer with Wilcox Zuk Chovin law firm in Prince Albert. He was admitted to the bar in 1981.
- Gregory Willows, a lawyer with Willows Tulloch law firm in Regina. He was admitted to the bar in 1974.
- Craig Zawada, a lawyer with Wallace Meschishnick Clackson Zawada law firm in Saskatoon. He was admitted to the bar in 1987.

ENHANCED SECONDARY SUITE PROGRAM TO TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2012

The Government of Saskatchewan announced that \$2 million will be allocated to the Secondary Suite Program to support the development of approximately 70 to 100 secondary suites over the next two to three years. The goal is to increase uptake of the program and to increase the supply of rental housing in the province.

"We are following through with another promise under the provincial housing strategy," Social Services Minister and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation June Draude said. "We said that we would improve Saskatchewan Housing Corporation's Secondary Suite program to increase program participation, and we are moving on that now. This initiative will help speed the development of housing that is affordable for Saskatchewan people, a commitment that we take very seriously."

[Read more...](#)

2011 SASKATOON SILVER SPRINGS CONSTITUENCY TOURISM REPORT

- In 2011, Tourism Saskatchewan's database shows there are 5 tourism businesses and 7 events in Saskatoon Silver Springs.

- Travel and Tourism generates an estimated \$17.8 million in travel receipts annually in Saskatoon Silver Springs.
- In 2011, there are approximately 1,044 people employed in tourism-related industries living in Saskatoon Silver Springs.

SASKJOBS.CA POSTS A RECORD NUMBER OF JOBS IN 2011

Saskjobs.ca continues to be Saskatchewan's largest career matching website with more jobs posted in 2011 than ever before.

In 2011, there were more than 150,000 vacancies posted to the site, an increase of more than 39,000 positions compared to the 2010 postings.

"In 2011, the site served more employers and received more visitors than ever before," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "With Saskatchewan posting one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country and an unprecedented record of economic growth, Saskjobs.ca will continue to serve the needs of Saskatchewan employers and job seekers in 2012."

[Read more . . .](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.

TS. Eloit

DID YOU KNOW

- In all of the constituencies of Saskatoon in 2011, Tourism Saskatchewan's database shows there are 264 tourism business and 110 events.
- Travel and tourism generates an estimated \$502.1 million in travel receipts in Saskatoon annually.
- Approximately 14,558 people were employed in tourism-related jobs in the City of Saskatoon in August 2011.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON

[\(If you would like your event listed in Provincial Point of View, please contact ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net\)](#)

Please check my website at www.cheveldayoff.com for additional information.

BHP Billiton Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour

When: November 18, 2011-January 8, 2012

Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park, 1903 Forestry Farm Park Drive

Time: 5:30 pm-11:00 pm nightly

Details: A spectacular forest drive-through Christmas light show featuring illuminated evergreens and computer animated character light displays on a 2.5km route. \$6.00 per person, \$25.00 per car, 3 and under free.

PotashCorp Wintershines

When: Jan 28, 2012 – Feb 12, 2012

Where: Market Square at River Landing
Details: Featuring an ice park with climbing wall, zipline and luge. Visit
<http://www.postashcorpwintershines.ca>

Saskatoon Wellness Expo 2012

When: Feb 10, 2012 –Feb 12, 2012
Where: Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street
Details: Visit <http://saskatoonex.com>

Tim Horton's Brier

When: Mar 3, 2012 – Mar 11, 2012
Where: Credit Union Centre
Details: Visit <http://www.curling.ca>

Homestyles

When: Mar 22, 2012 – Mar 25, 2012
Where: Saskatoon Prairieland Park
Time: Mar 22 – 5:00-9:00 pm; Mar 23 – 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm; Mar 24 – 10:00 am – 9:00 pm; Mar 25 – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.
Details: Visit <http://www.homestylesonline.com>

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.



Follow Me On Facebook – www.facebook.com/pages/Ken-Cheveldayoff/52760912740

“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.

**Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs
1106A Central Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7N 2H1**

P 306.651.7100 | E ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net

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.