



Ken Cheveldayoff

## From a Provincial Point of View

February 10, 2012

### CENSUS SHOWS SASKATCHEWAN GREW BY 65,000 PEOPLE IN FIVE YEARS

Most Growth Ever in Any Five-Year Census Period

The 2011 Census count was released this week and it shows Saskatchewan grew by 65,224 between 2006 and 2011. That is by far the largest population growth in any census period since Statistics Canada starting doing the Census every five years in 1956.

The population growth also marks a complete reversal from the previous two census periods 1996 to 2001 and 2001 to 2006, which saw Saskatchewan's population drop by about 11,000 people during each five-year period. In its Census release, Statistics Canada called Saskatchewan a "turnaround," saying: "A complete turnaround occurred in Saskatchewan, where the population increased 6.7 per cent between 2006 and 2011, following declines of 1.1 per cent in each of the two previous intercensal periods."

Premier Brad Wall said the new census numbers show Saskatchewan is on the right track.

"Saskatchewan has gone from a province where people were moving out, to a province where people are choosing to stay and moving in," Wall said. "That is because of our growing economy, plenty of job opportunities and our great quality of life."

[Read more . . .](#)

### THIRD QUARTER REPORT SHOWS PROVINCE ON TRACK FOR BALANCED BUDGET

The province will maintain a balanced budget in 2011-12, despite the challenges created by a second consecutive year of flooding

The total costs of flooding in Saskatchewan this year are expected to reach \$360 million in the 2011-12 fiscal year. This will be offset by \$193 million in federal cost-sharing contributions and a \$120 million special dividend from Crown Investments Corporation.

This reflects higher than expected earnings at SaskPower in 2011, while still allowing SaskPower to retain the full \$118.6 million budgeted for earnings in 2011. SaskPower enjoyed higher than expected earnings in 2011, due partly to higher water levels resulting in increased hydropower generation.

General Revenue Fund (GRF) expense is up \$331 million from budget, reflecting the unexpected flooding costs, the teachers' settlement, an increase for teachers' pensions and other utilization pressures. Net savings in other areas partially offset these increases.

At third quarter, GRF revenue is up \$272 million from budget. The increase reflects strength in many sectors and shows higher revenue from oil, potash, PST and Fuel Tax. These increases are offset by lower-than-expected Crown land sales and Corporation Income Tax.

The budget is on track to finish the year with a pre-transfer surplus of \$56 million and a balance of \$709 million in the Growth and Financial Security Fund. Despite the challenges this year, government debt reduction will proceed as budgeted.

"Last year's floods affected many Saskatchewan families, damaged many kilometres of highways and flooded thousands of acres of farmland," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said. "We were fortunate to have access to the resources required to provide assistance to those in need.

"We have met severe challenges with flooding this year and last. In spite of that, we will finish the year with a balanced budget, lower debt and more than \$700 million in the Growth and Financial Security Fund thanks to the strength of our economy.

That's the Saskatchewan Advantage.



### **THANK YOU TEACHERS AND STAFF!**

In recognition of Saskatchewan teachers and support staff, Education Minister Donna Harpauer has proclaimed the week of February 12-19 as Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week in the province.

"Teachers and school staff play an integral role in the success of our Saskatchewan students," Harpauer said. "We appreciate that the work of teachers and education staff extends beyond the walls of the classroom, and the hours in one school day. We are pleased to recognize and celebrate the work done by our education professionals across the province."

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is recognized nationally by the Canadian Home and School Federation as a way to acknowledge the personal and professional contributions that teachers and school staff make to children and their education. This year, the Saskatchewan Association of School Councils will celebrate the theme "Making a Difference" to highlight the impact these professionals have on our students.

Teacher Staff Appreciation Week has been celebrated annually since 1988 and is an important reminder of the contributions of Saskatchewan teachers and support staff.

### **2012 NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS FORUM**

As part of my Ministerial Responsibilities, I had the opportunity to attend the Northern Development Ministers Forum in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador. The Forum was held to promote social and economic development opportunities in the north. Jurisdictions across Canada are

looking at how to develop the north in a manner that supports a growing economy and a better quality of life for residents.

The forum was a chance to share successes and challenges in creating sustainable northern development. I was pleased to share the Cameco model, a world-class Saskatchewan company that employs northern residents, contributing to their education and skills.

We look forward to hosting Ministers from across the country at the 2013 Forum in Northern Saskatchewan.



### **ATTENTION – I NEED YOUR HELP!**

If you know anyone in our constituency that has gone above and beyond for a cause or helping others or know of any citizens receiving awards or other notable events in our community, please let me know so they can have the opportunity to be recognized for their contributions.!

Thanks for your assistance!

### **INNOVATION PLACE IN THE TOP 50 EMPLOYERS IN CANADA**

Eighty-three per cent of Innovation Place employees are fully engaged in their work making them some of the most highly engaged workers in the country. These are the findings of a recent survey of 200 small and medium sized businesses conducted by Queen's University School of Business and Aon Hewitt which ranked Innovation Place in the top 50 employers in Canada, for the second year in a row.

"Employees are engaged when they believe their work has value and the high level of engagement of Innovation Place employees demonstrates the entire team's commitment to serving the province's science and technology sector," Minister responsible for Innovation Place Rob Norris said.

[Read more . . .](#)

### **LIMIT RAISED FOR VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS**

The Government of Saskatchewan has raised the annual cap for Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations (LSVCC) to \$55 million for the 2011-2012 tax season.

"Saskatchewan is growing and creating new opportunities for people across this province," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Our government is always looking for ways to strengthen investment in our province."

LSVCC shares can be purchased through the two funds, SaskWorks Venture Fund Inc. and Golden Opportunities 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.

## **SASKATOON FAMILY DWELLINGS UP 47.5% IN JANUARY 2012 COMPARED TO JANUARY 2011**

Saskatchewan's housing market continued at a record pace in January according to a report released by CMHC. Urban housing starts were up 70.8 per cent in January 2012 when compared to last January. Saskatchewan's 473 housing starts were a record for the month of January.

"Saskatchewan's economy is forecasted by many to lead the nation this year," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Record housing starts is a result of both the economic strength of the province and the record population increases we've seen over the last number of years."

Single family dwellings were up by 20.8 per cent in January 2012 over January 2011, while multiple units increased by 124.8 per cent. Regina had an increase of 118.1 per cent while Saskatoon had a 47.5 per cent increase over the same period.

"With great job opportunities across the province, Saskatchewan people are feeling confident in purchasing new homes," Harrison said. "The growth of available housing is vital as we continue to work to ensure Saskatchewan is the best place in Canada to work, live and raise a family."

## **CONGRATULATIONS TWYLA!**

SaskGaming President and CEO, Twyla Meredith, has been named a Women of Influence by the Saskatchewan Business Magazine.

The Women of Influence listing, which is compiled annually, aims to recognize leading women who are making a difference in Saskatchewan.

Twyla was named to the list, not only for her work at SaskGaming, but also for her community involvement in the province.

It is a pleasure to work with Twyla and I join all staff in congratulating her.

## **CELEBRATE HERITAGE WEEK, FEBRUARY 20 -26**

I encourage everyone to commemorate Heritage Week 2012 in Saskatchewan February 20 – 26 by participating in various activities. Government, along with private and public institutions will be holding a number of events across the province to showcase our vibrant culture and demonstrate how heritage in all its forms contributes to our economy, our sense of place and our enviable quality of life.

Your participation will help support our local heritage, provincial organizations and our remarkable volunteers. Heritage Week in Saskatchewan demonstrates governments commitment to our growing cultural sector. Information about the work of the provincial government and the Heritage Conservation Branch can be found online at [www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/heritage](http://www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/heritage).

## **SASKATCHEWAN CELEBRATES THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

Saskatchewan is joining the rest of Canada in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's Accession to the Throne. Lieutenant Governor Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart and Premier Brad Wall announced that February 6, 2012, kicks off a year of festivities to honour the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II's reign as Queen.

Events today include the Lieutenant Governor presenting the first 32 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals to outstanding Saskatchewan residents at Government House. The Royal Canadian Mint has created 60,000 medals, which will be awarded throughout the year of celebration.

"The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal enables us to pay tribute to our outstanding citizens who have made an enormous difference in our nation and, in some cases, far beyond our borders," Barnhart said. "The first 32 Saskatchewan medal recipients are generous, visionary and committed leaders who have made extraordinary contributions."

[Read more . . .](#)

## **APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR MS CLINICAL TRIAL**

Applications will close Friday, February 24, 2012, for Saskatchewan multiple sclerosis (MS) patients interested in volunteering for a clinical trial in Albany, New York.

Until midnight on that date, the online application form ([www.health.gov.sk.ca/ms-clinical-trial](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/ms-clinical-trial)) will remain available and the toll-free number (1-855-690-9901) will be open 24 hours.

The two-year, double-blind clinical trial at Albany Medical Centre has room for eighty-six Saskatchewan MS patients. To date, about 589 people have submitted applications online or by phone.

[Read more . . .](#)

## **SASKJOBS.CA STARTS THE YEAR WITH IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS**

Last month, 14,717 job vacancies were posted to SaskJobs.ca, an increase of 44 per cent over January 2010 and an increase of 24 per cent over the month previous (December 2011). There were 931,372 visits to the site in January.

This clearly signals that job seekers are recognizing Saskatchewan as a great place to build a career.

"With a record of economic growth, unprecedented employment numbers and a growing population, Saskatchewan is a place of opportunity," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "And, the number of job seekers within the province and beyond our borders who are connecting with employers on Saskjobs.ca continues to grow."

SaskJobs.ca posted impressive numbers to start the year:

- More than 61 per cent of jobs posted last month were full-time positions;
- Jobs were posted in 316 communities in Saskatchewan;
- The majority of jobs were posted in the following categories:
- Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators;
- Sales and Service;
- Business, Finance and Administration.

Today, there are more than 9,631 vacancies posted on SaskJobs.ca.

## **FARMERS' BONSPIEL IN BLAINE LAKE**

Curling has always been a popular sport in my hometown of Blaine Lake. This year their annual farmers' spiel will begin on February 21 and run all week. There will be a breakfast on Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 – 11:00 which is open to the public. Only 80 tickets will be sold to the community banquet which will

take place Saturday, February 25 so get your tickets at BL Variety or the BLCA office. This year will be exciting as they auction 4 signed jerseys. I wish everyone in Blaine Lake all the best with this event.

### **THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

- “People who soar are those who refuse to sit back, sigh and wish things would change. They neither complain of their lot nor passively dream of some distant ship coming in. Rather, they visualize in their minds that they are not quitters; they will not allow life’s circumstances to push them down and hold them under.”

Charles Swindoll

### **DID YOU KNOW**

- Innovation Place has 110 employees and operates 1.77 million square feet of facilities that support organizations in the advanced technology sector. There are 190 tenant companies in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert, employing 5,200 people and contributing more than \$900 million annually to Saskatchewan's economy.
- Our population grew by 5.9 per cent between 2006 and 2011.
- Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Kelowna had the highest rate of population growth since 2006.

### **JUST THE HEADLINES** – [www.gov.sk.ca/news](http://www.gov.sk.ca/news)

Feb. 10, 2012 - MORE INNOVATIVE HOUSING FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Feb. 9, 2012 - SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Feb. 9, 2012 - PRIME MINISTER HARPER’S URANIUM DEAL GOOD FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Feb. 9, 2012 - STRONG LAND SALE OF \$28.7 MILLION TO START THE YEAR

Feb. 8, 2012 - RECORD HOUSING STARTS IN JANUARY

Feb. 7, 2012 - RECORD YEAR FOR BUILDING PERMITS IN 2011

Feb. 6, 2012 - GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN SASKATCHEWAN

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

#### **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>

#### **Saskatoon Family Expo**

When: February 17-19, 2012

Where: Prairieland Park

Details: Over 100 exhibitors, events, entertainment, food and more! \$8.00/adult. Kids under 16 are free!

For more information click FAMILY EXPO.

**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](http://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](mailto: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.

Please check my website at [www.cheveldayoff.com](http://www.cheveldayoff.com).