



## Provincial Point of View

April 5, 2013

### A PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM PREMIER WALL ON THE PASSING OF RALPH KLEIN



Ralph Klein was one of the country's most popular Premiers and he was at the apex of his leadership in Alberta when he took time to meet with an Opposition Leader from Saskatchewan to answer what I am sure were not the most engaging questions.

And I had a lot of questions. We had two such meetings as well as the opportunity a little later to fish together for an afternoon. He was very generous with his time and with his counsel as he reflected on the importance of not losing contact with the people even as the most difficult decisions that would affect their lives needed to be made.

Premier Klein understood with clarity the need for fiscal probity and a strong economy as a precondition to a higher quality of life for Albertans and future generations. In this respect, his example was one not only for his own province but the country. And he acted on this understanding without losing his a great sense of humour and his amazing connection with

people.

On behalf of Tami and our family, and of the province and people next door we offer our deepest condolences to his wife Colleen and his children Bradley, Angela, Lisa, Christine and Teresa.

And we extend our sympathies to our neighbors and friends in Alberta as they mourn the loss of this great Premier.

### **FLOOD PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM TO ASSIST SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNITIES**

On April 2, as Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA) I was able to confirm that the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to assist residents faced with threats of flooding with the 2013 Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program (EFDRP).

The program provides engineering and technical assistance to municipalities while sharing the cost of permanent and temporary flood prevention works.

“As Saskatchewan readies for a significant spring run-off, our government is committed to supporting its citizens and communities faced with potential flooding. Since 2011, the Government of Saskatchewan has provided \$25 million to assist in the construction of 580 permanent works across the province. Investing in community-driven mitigation efforts creates protection from flooding not only this spring but in years to come.”

[Flood Preparedness Program to Assist Saskatchewan Communities](#)

### **APRIL IS PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH**



**April is Parkinson's Awareness Month. Activities taking place across the province include Parkinson's tulip sales, public displays, support group visits and the First Annual Parkinson Connections Education Conference in Regina.**

**Parkinson's Disease is a progressive brain disorder which affects over 4000 people in Saskatchewan, 100,000 Canadians, and 6 million people worldwide.**

**Parkinson's Society Saskatchewan is working on behalf of everyone in the province living with Parkinson's Disease. They provide support as well as fund research into better treatments, improved quality of life, causes and a cure.**

**If you would like more information on Parkinson's Disease, Parkinson's Society Saskatchewan, or would like to get involved in the organization please visit [www.parkinsonsaskatchewan.ca](http://www.parkinsonsaskatchewan.ca).**

### **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PROCLAIMS THE SASKATCHEWAN ADVANTAGE GRANT FOR EDUCATION SAVINGS**

**The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) program received proclamation today by the Provincial Government.**

**"I am pleased that the SAGES program has been proclaimed," Advanced Education Minister Don Morgan said. "SAGES stems from a commitment our government made as part of our 2011 election platform and will provide an incentive for Saskatchewan families to save for their children's post-secondary education."**

**SAGES will enable the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a grant to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) at a rate of 10 per cent of the subscriber's annual contributions up to a maximum provincial contribution of \$250 per year per beneficiary.**

[Provincial Government Proclaims the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings](#)

### **MARCH JOB NUMBERS HIT RECORD**

**There were 547,700 people working in Saskatchewan in March, an increase of 25,700 (4.9 per cent) over last March. That's the strongest rate of employment growth in Canada and the most people ever working in Saskatchewan in the month of March.**

**"March was cold this year in Saskatchewan but our job market was hot," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "Today's numbers show our Growth Plan is working and our government will keep making decisions that encourage job creation in Saskatchewan."**

[March Job Numbers Hit Record](#)

### **FOLLOW THE SIGNS IN HIGHWAY WORK ZONES - IT'S BLACK AND WHITE**

**Driving down the highway you see the familiar orange sign with a worker on it. Do you slow down immediately? Maintain your speed until you see workers? How fast should you be going and when can you speed back up again?**

**When construction season begins this spring, Saskatchewan motorists will see improved signage in highway work zones, ensuring that the speed limits are "black and white".**

**"We're making it 'black-and-white' for drivers," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Don McMorris said. "With the introduction of the new signage, all drivers need to do is follow the signs for the safety of our workers and for their own safety, so we can prevent future tragedies."**

[Follow the Signs in Highway Work Zones - It's Black and White](#)

### **MR. HOCKEY - GORDIE HOWE HEADING HOME FOR THE 2013 MASTERCARD MEMORIAL CUP**



On Wednesday, April 3 the 2013 MasterCard Memorial Cup Host Committee announced that Mr. Hockey - Gordie Howe will be the guest of honour for the May 21 game between the OHL and QMJHL champions in Saskatoon.

Born in Floral, SK and raised in Saskatoon, Mr. Hockey - Gordie Howe celebrated his 85th birthday on March 31. Between the NHL and WHA, he played in 2,186 regular-season games and won six Hart Trophies as the NHL's most valuable player. His name is engraved on the Stanley Cup four times as a member of the Detroit Red Wings.

"Having Gordie Howe participate in the 2013 MasterCard Memorial Cup is a natural," says Jack Brodsky, co-chair of the event. "His name is synonymous with hockey, and for people from these parts, it's also synonymous with Saskatoon, so we're extremely excited about the opportunity to honour him in his hometown."

**RENTAL RIGHTS ENHANCED FOR SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS**

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced a change that will increase the rental rights of seniors in the province.

Effective April 1, residents living in retirement homes, seniors' retirement communities and independent living facilities that provide meals to residents over the age of 55 will be able to access the Office of Residential Tenancies to resolve disputes.

“Our government is pleased to provide residents living in these facilities with the same rights as other Saskatchewan tenants,” Justice Minister and Attorney General Gordon Wyant said. “This change will bring Saskatchewan in line with the rest of the country on this issue, and offer protection and security to our province's seniors.”

[Rental Rights Enhanced for Saskatchewan Seniors](#)

### **APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2013-2014 FAIRY GODMOTHER PROGRAM**



The Princess Shop is a fantastic program that creates an enhanced graduation experience for female youth in need as well as providing them with mentorship, support, and the tools to pursue success after graduation.

The Fairy Godmother Program connects women from our community with Princess Graduates. The relationships formed will give each Fairy Godmother the opportunity to provide answers to the Princess Graduate's questions, share life lessons and resources and offer friendship. The program's mission is to provide Princess Graduates with the needed self-awareness, self-confidence, motivation, and life skills to accomplish their goals. Fairy Godmothers play a special role in bringing these ambitions and dreams to reality.

Applications are now open for the 2013-2014 Fairy Godmother Program. I encourage women to take some time and consider applying to become a Fairy Godmother and change a young woman's life.

Please visit [www.theprincessshop.ca](http://www.theprincessshop.ca) for more information or to access an online application form.

## HIGH SCHOOL BIG BAND NIGHTS AT THE BASSMENT



High School Big Bands Nights at the Bassment are back April 11 and 12. Our schools are full of extremely talented musicians and this is a great opportunity for these students to showcase their amazing musical abilities.

On April 11 beginning at 7:00 pm Bedford Road, Centennial, and Walter Murray will be featured. On April 12, beginning at 7:30 pm, Bishop James Mahoney, Lloydminster's Holy Rosary, North Battleford's Comprehensive, and the Prairie Spirit School Division will be featured.

I encourage you to spend a night at the Bassment on one or both of these nights to share in some great music and celebrate the immense talent of our high school students. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$10 for adults.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Saskatoon's employment was up by 10,600 for 17 months of year-over-year increases
- With a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.0 per cent Saskatoon holds steady as the second lowest among major metropolitan areas
- The youth unemployment rate was 9.4 per cent, the 2nd lowest among the provinces (tied with Manitoba) behind Alberta (9.1 per cent) and below the national rate of 14.2 per cent
- Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings was up to \$923.50 in January 2013, third highest in the nation

- **Small business optimism continues to be among the highest in Canada (CFIB Business Barometer March)**

### **JUST THE LINKS**

- **April 1, 2013** - [Government Proclaims Asbestos Awareness Week](#)
- **April 2, 2013** - [Government Recognizes World Autism Day April 2](#)
- **April 3, 2013** - [2013 Provincial Flood Response Update, April 3](#)
- **April 5, 2013** - [Record Export Numbers for February](#)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Imagine No Bullying**

**Date:** April 10

**When:** 7:30 pm

**Where:** Broadway Theatre

**Tickets available at** The Broadway Theatre, McNally Robinson, or [online](#).

#### **High School Big Bands at the Bassment**

**Date:** April 11 and April 12

**When:** April 11 7:00 pm; April 12 7:30 pm

**Where:** The Bassment

#### **6th Annual Glass Slipper Benefit for Princesses**

**Date:** April 11

**When:** 5:30 pm

**Where:** TCU Place

**Tickets available at** [6th Annual Glass Slipper Benefit for Princesses](#)

#### **Jeans & Jewels Gala: in support of Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan**

**Date:** April 20

**When:** 5:30 pm

**Where:** TCU Place

**Saskatoon Prayer Breakfast**

**Date: April 20**

**When: 7:30 am**

**Where: Prairieland Park**

**Tickets: \$30**

**The Man Show**

**Date: April 26 to April 28**

**When: April 26: 400 pm - 10:00 pm; April 27: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm; April 28: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Where: Prairieland Park**

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

"Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul."

Samuel Ullman

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**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 me to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

"*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.

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