



## Provincial Point of View January 25, 2013

### STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS



I was pleased to be present at Mayor Don Atchison's 10th State of the City Address. Mayor Atchison focused on his three Ps: People, Pavement, and Progress. As our city grows through immigration, people moving home, or people coming to take advantage of our growing economy, Mayor Atchison touts plans for Saskatoon's north downtown. Some of the most innovative neighbourhoods in Canada are in the planning stages for the area. He has set a goal to have 10% of the city's population living downtown and working in the central business area. At this time only 3000 people live downtown. As tax incentives have helped, what Mayor Atchison wants to see is more done in the way of tax breaks.

Mayor Atchison stressed the growth of the city by using the example of record breaking building permits in 2012. This kind of growth does come with challenges and one major challenge has become traffic. Mayor Atchison said the north commuter bridge will be six lanes to help with congestion in the city's north end. Atchison made it clear that although the city is looking at major projects in the future, Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods would not be left behind.

### **SCHOOL YEAR BECOMES UNIFORM ACROSS SASKATCHEWAN**

All Saskatchewan students will receive more consistent face-to-face, instructional time in schools starting this fall. Legislative and regulatory amendments that set instructional hours in a school year at 950 were proclaimed on January 1, 2013. The changes will apply to the 2013-14 school year.

"We have been working with our stakeholders for the past year on these changes," Education Minister Russ Marchuk said. "These changes will help to ensure all Saskatchewan students benefit from more consistent instructional hours and will bring us in line with our western Canadian counterparts."

Following consultation, a minimum of 950 instructional hours was chosen to be the standard as there was a variance of approximately 30 hours between schools divisions. This move is also consistent with other provinces.

[School Year Becomes Uniform Across Saskatchewan](#)

### **56 RESIDENTS RECEIVE THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL**



**Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA  
and Tim Gitzel**

I had the honour of attending the final presentation ceremony of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield and Provincial Secretary Wayne Elhard presented another 56 Saskatchewan residents with the medals on Monday, January 21.

When the Queen's Diamond Jubilee began in February 2012, 60,000 medals were created by the Canadian Mint to be awarded to recipients across the country.

Tim Gitzel, a Saskatoon Silver Springs constituent was honoured at the ceremony. Other constituents Michael Morrissey and Liza Kook were also recipients of the medals along with my good friend and mentor, Merle Sawatsky.

It was wonderful to see so many people from our province honoured with the Queen's Diamond

Jubilee Medal. Congratulations to all of the worthy recipients and for everything they have done to make Saskatchewan such a wonderful province to work, live and raise a family.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee concludes February 6.

[56 Residents Receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal](#)

### **SASKATCHEWAN RETAILERS BUSY IN NOVEMBER WITH RECORD SALES**

November was a record month for retail trade in Saskatchewan and sales totaled \$1.48 billion. Saskatchewan ranked third among provinces with a percentage increase on year-over-year and on a monthly basis, according to Statistics Canada.

"There are a number of issues at play here, including a strong and diverse Saskatchewan economy, more people living and working here, and increases in average weekly earnings that are responsible for the growth in retail sales," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "That's good news for our vibrant retail sector, and is really important in keeping our economy moving forward."

[Saskatchewan Retailers Busy in November With Record Sales](#)

### **PROPERTY VALUES INCREASE DRAMATICALLY IN SASKATCHEWAN**

The overall value of property in Saskatchewan has increased by 67 per cent over the past four years as Saskatchewan's population and economy continue to grow.

Overall, the assessment of property in Saskatchewan has grown from \$58 billion in 2009 to \$97 billion in the 2013 revaluation year.

"This huge increase shows the strength of Saskatchewan's economy," Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter said. "If you own property in Saskatchewan, chances are it is worth a lot more than it was just four years ago and you will see that reflected in your property assessment notice."

[Property Values Increase Dramatically in Saskatchewan](#)

### **INHALE EXHALE A TRACY DOELL CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER**



On November 26, 2012, Tracy Doell's life changed in an instant. She was diagnosed with Stage 4 advanced lung cancer. Tracy, a non-smoker, 42 years young, has a seven year old daughter and loving family, now has to fight this cancer.

To help give Tracy strength they will be holding an event called Inhale Exhale, a Tracy Doell Celebration and Fundraiser. I hope you can join Tracy inhale the healing power of the community and exhale your gratitude, fellowship, solidarity, and presence. Help her inhale the light and exhale the dark. And help her fight like a girl.

The date of Inhale Exhale will be posted at a later date, but watch for further information in upcoming Provincial Point of Views.

If you would like to help Tracy out now, you can send a cheque to Tracy Doell, 110 Saguenay Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7K 4G5.

### POTASHCORP WINTERSHINES FESTIVAL 2013



The PotashCorp WinterShines 2013 will run from January 26 to February 10. Throughout that time an amazing array of activities are available. Most of the activities take place at the Saskatoon Farmers' Market at River Landing, however, there are also activities being held at Beaver Creek Conservation Area for those of you would want to get closer to nature.

Ice sculptures will be on exhibit throughout the Wintershines Festival. Ice carving competitions are also going to be on display for people to see how the skills of the carvers are transformed into the fantastic creations.

There will also be a children's ice play area, pony rides, sleigh rides, bonfires, soup cook-offs, and skating parties.

For a full schedule of events and times please visit [PotashCorp WinterShines 2013](#)

### **THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF SASKATCHEWAN RADIOTHON**

The Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan Radiothon will be taking place February 6 to 8 at the Centre Mall. In partnership with Saskatoon Media Group, the Radiothon will be broadcasting on Magic 98.3, 600 CJWW, and 92.9 The Bull. You can be part of it now by fundraising to help make this year's Radiothon be better than ever, as they work toward building the new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan. If you would like to volunteer answering phones, taking in-person donations, or would like to share your family's story, you can email [info@chfsask.ca](mailto:info@chfsask.ca) or call 931-4887 to find out more.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Saskatchewan non-profit entities, charitable organizations, and cultural groups are eligible to apply for funding through the Community Initiatives Fund
- The Community Initiatives Fund is a Special Purpose Fund created through the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act and is accountable to the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport
- The Fund is funded through portion of the Regina and Moose Jaw casino profits and governed by a board of eight members
- As of December 2012, almost \$3.33 million in grants have been given to help renew its commitments to Saskatchewan communities

### **JUST THE LINKS**

- **January 21, 2013** - [Government Proclaims Red Tap Awareness Week in Saskatchewan](#)
- **January 23, 2013** - [Governments Invest \\$3.4 Million into Livestock Research](#)
- **January 25, 2012** - [Celebrating Family Literacy Day in Saskatchewan](#)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **PotashCorp WinterShines**

**Date:** January 26 to February 10

**When:** 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm weekdays, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Saturdays, and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm Sundays

**Where:** Various Saskatoon Locations

<http://potashcorpwintershines.ca/>

### **Heritage Festival of Saskatoon**

**Date:** February 3

**When:** 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**Where:** WDM Saskatoon

### **Chinese New Years Celebration with The Vancouver Chinese Lion Dancers**

**Date:** February 6

**When:** 6:30 pm

**Where:** Dakota Dunes

**Tickets \$38 available at [Dakota Dunes Box Office](#)**

### **Saskatoon Wellness Expo 2013**

**Date:** February 8 to February 10

**When:** Friday 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**Where:** Prairieland Park

**General Admission \$10, Seniors and Students \$8, Kids 14 and under Free when accompanied by and adult**

### **Wounded Warriors Presents "The Heart of Country" Fundraiser Concert**

**Date:** February 15

**When:** 8:00 pm

**Where:** Broadway Theater

<http://www.picatic.com/theheartofcountry>

### THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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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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