FROM A PROVINCIAL POINT OF VIEW **Merry Christmas!**



HAPPY CHANUKAH - 6TH ANNUAL SASKATOON MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

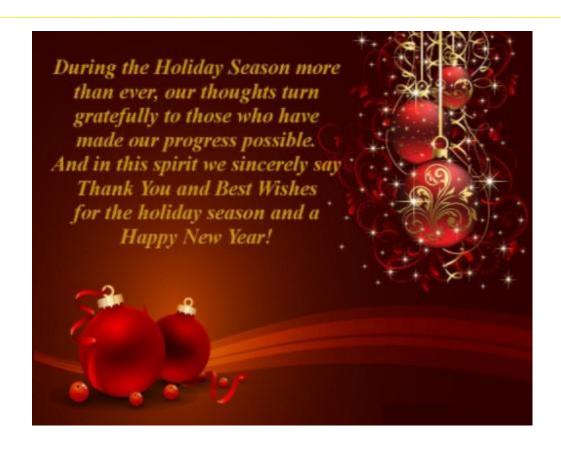


The 6th annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony will take place Monday, December 26 at 6:00 pm at the Saskaton Civic Conservatory (formerly the Mendel Art Gallery).

While Chanukah is a Jewish celebration, this event has gained tremendous popularity and support beyond the Jewish community due to its symbolizing the universal message of freedom - freedom of expression and freedom of religion. It is truly a community celebration!

I sincerely thank Rabbi Raphael Kats for organizing this special event.

Heading 1



CONGRATULATIONS TO PREMIER WALL WHO REMAINS THE MOST POPULAR PREMIER IN CANADA



The latest Angus Reid poll has Premier Wall continuing to hold the top spot in the country!

Among premiers with a greater share of confidence from their constituents when it comes to the job they are doing? Saskatchewan's Brad Wall and Manitoba's Brian Pallister. Wall has the approval of nearly six-in-ten people in his province (58%). This measure is statistically unchanged from last quarter. Wall – who has opposed the federal government's plans to impose a tax on carbon emissions out of fears such a tax will damage the Saskatchewan economy, remains the most popular premier in the country.

Read more here.

GIFT CARDS AREN'T ALLOWED TO HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE



Gift cards are one of the most popular gifts to give during the holidays. They're a simple, low-fuss solution to showing your friends, family and coworkers a little cheer.

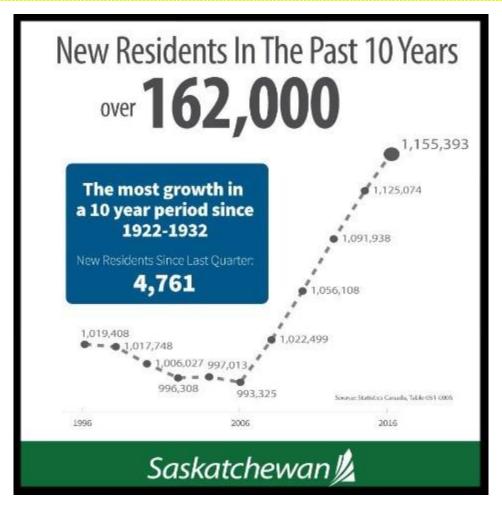
One of the most common questions the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority (FCAA) gets from consumers and retailers about gift cards is about expiry dates. Gift cards bought and sold in Saskatchewan are not allowed to have an expiry date. All fees must be paid up front and no additional monthly or usage fees are allowed after the fact.

The rules are designed to ensure consumers get full value for their gift cards. Consumers are also advised to use their gift cards quickly. If a company goes out of business, it may be hard to get a refund or any value for the card.

Help With Gift Cards:

The Consumer Protection Division may be able to help consumers with gift card disputes. Consumers can call toll free at 1-877-880-5550 or email at consumerprotection@gov.sk.ca.

SASKATCHEWAN POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW



Welcome to our province's new citizens! Great that so many more will be able to enjoy our 'authentic' Saskatchewan winter."That brings us to a new record of 1,155,393 people who call Saskatchewan home. Premier Brad Wall, " In the last quarter, our province grew by 4,761 people.

Saskatchewan continued to experience steady population growth in the third quarter of 2016, according to Statistics Canada's latest quarterly population estimate. There were 1,155,393 people living in the province on October 1, 2016, 4,761 more people than in the previous quarter, and up by 18,007 people over the past year.

"Our province continues to attract people to the many opportunities available here," Economy Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Our resilient economy and its investment opportunities speak to the continued strength of our province."

Click here to read the entire news release.

CUGNET FAMILY CELEBRATES THE SEASON OF GIVING WITH A \$1 MILLION DONATION FOR NEW PEDIATRIC SURGICAL SUITE AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF SASKATCHEWAN



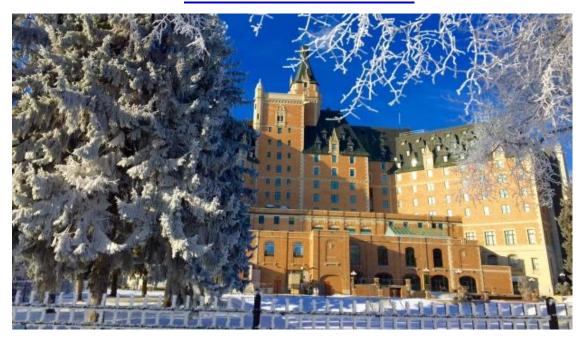
Premier Brad Wall, "A huge thank you to the Cugnet family for stepping up with a \$1 million donation for a new pediatric surgical suite for the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan. This support and that of thousands of donors from across the province to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan is critical to helping us build the state-of-the-art facility that meets the needs of Saskatchewan children, mothers, and babies.

It will be a first for Saskatchewan, made possible by a generous Saskatchewan family. The Ken Cugnet family of Weyburn is celebrating the holidays with a special gift of \$1 million to help fund a new pediatric surgical suite at Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan. This generous gift to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan "We Can't Wait" capital campaign will support one of three dedicated pediatric surgical suites, which are a first for the province.

"We ask ourselves often, are we builders or bystanders? We hope this Christmas, in the spirit of giving, that others will choose to be builders for the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan," explains Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet, who is a children's author and also worked as a nurse for twenty years after training at the University of Saskatchewan.

Read the entire Children's Hospital Foundation media release here.

SASKATOON LEADS NATION IN HEALTH & COMPETITIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



Saskatoon is a national leader in health performance and competitive tax rates say two separate economic think-tanks.

"The combination of our quality of life and our economic competitiveness is what makes us strong as a city," says His Worship the Mayor Charlie Clark. "This is a great foundation for ensuring we continue to be a resilient city into the future, where everyone has an opportunity to share in the prosperity and good health reflected in these reports."

Among ten major Canadian Cities, the Conference Board of Canada ranks Saskatoon first overall in city health. Saskatoon finishes in first place because it scores highest in life satisfaction and receives high marks for healthy people with healthy lifestyles.

Saskatoon also has the most competitive tax rates among the major Canadian cites. The C.D. Howe Institute today released figures which show Saskatoon has the best business tax environment

"Results like these are exactly what we've worked toward for many years," says City Manager Murray Totland. "Our attention to City Council's Strategic Goals such as Quality of Life and Economic Diversity and Prosperity lead to a community with good jobs, schools, health care and people – it's what makes Saskatoon a great place to live."

More on the Conference Board of Canada City Health Monitor can be found here. Follow this link to get more information about the C.D. Howe Institute's 2016 Report Card on Business Tax Burdens in Canada's Major Cities

Please support Saskatoon Willowgrove constituent, young Kayden Kot and his family.



A FANTASTIC ATTRACTION IN OUR CONSTITUENCY!



Click here to read about the attractions at the Forestry Farm Park and Zoo.

PLUSH2PLAY LIGHT WALKS AT THE ENCHANTED FOREST



Save the date ... January 8, 2017 from 5:30 - 9:00 pm, Cross Push2Play LightWalk is your chance to walk the forest! No drive-thru traffic. Washrooms, warmup and Tim Horton's hot chocolate at the Forestry Farm House. Park nearby or dropoff and pickup near the front gate!

SASKATOON LOVES ITS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!



John Lummerding / Supplied photo

The Enchanted Forest draws thousands of vehicles each week. The late Bob Hinitt worked for months building his light display, which drew thousands of cars each year to Wiggins Avenue. And Scott Lambie on Clinkskill Drive has continued the tradition with more than 70,000 dancing lights (up from 50,000 last year) adorning his house — animated to music.

Take a self-guided twinkle tour of Saskatoon's best 2016 Christmas lights displays. Read more about the Clinkskill Drive lights here.

Each year, The Saskatoon StarPhoenix assembles a map of the best Christmas light displays in the city. Thanks to the Saskatoon Star Phoenix!

A GREAT KICK-START TO THE MANY CELEBRATIONS TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT 2017 TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH

ANNIVERSARY OF CONFEDERATION



Come celebrate Canada with a day of outdoor family fun and fireworks! Wear your red and white to show your pride and passion for our great country. Let's make Saskatoon's event a day to remember. This fun event will be held at Kiwanis Memorial Park. Click here for details.

This free, open to the public family-friendly event features an afternoon skating party starting at noon and a formal event including musical entertainment starting at 17:00hrs to 20:00hrs in both official languages with representation from the Indigenous and ethno cultural communities. The event will include a fireworks display at 20:17hrs to mark this momentous occasion.

This will be a great kick-start to the many celebrations taking place throughout 2017 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Noon Skating party 5:00-8:00 p.m. Music & Activities 8:00 p.m. Formal Program 8:17 p.m. Fireworks

PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



Book a hotel room at or near the event and spend the night. Give taxi vouchers or safe ride rebates to employees attending office parties.

Get you and your vehicle home safe with Operation Red Nose or a designated driving service. ! SGITrafficTips Impaired driving



Volunteer one of your free nights to drive friends and family to their parties.

Incentivise your teen driver to drive you to and from your holiday party.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The first Christmas after you lose someone is hard.

You will feel like not celebrating, but you will go along with it for the kids, for the family.

It will hurt.

The presents not bought. The chair not sat in. The memories of past Christmases that threaten to suck the joy out of the whole day.

But you will get through it. You may even raise a smile between the tears.

If you can - thank God for the Christmases you had with them. Light a candle. Cry. Start a new tradition in their memory.

Next year won't be as hard. Trust me.

friend on Facebook | forward to a friend

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 Willowgrove. 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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