

Check out what's happening in Saskatoon Willowgrove and throughout the Province!



Provincial Point of View
Wishing you a year of
immeasurable blessings
and joy!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." - Albert Einstein

Happy New Year to you and your family! I hope you had a holiday season filled with joy and happiness.

Trish and I enjoyed hosting our annual Christmas gathering at our home on December 22nd. Special thanks to those that stopped by. It was great to have the opportunity to visit and celebrate the festive season with you. We also appreciated the responses from those who were unable to attend.

The New Year is a great time to reflect on the past year and set goals for 2018. May you face your

challenges with courage and confidence, and find immense happiness in all you do. Trish, Carter, Paige and I wish you everlasting happiness and peace in the new year.

A DECADE OF POPULATION GROWTH



More people will call Saskatchewan home than ever before this year, as the province's population grew to more than 1,168,000 in the latest figures released today by Statistics Canada.

Over the past decade, Saskatchewan has grown by more than 160,000 people or 16 per cent, the most growth in any 10 year period since the 1920s.

“Saskatchewan has enjoyed a decade of growth that has strengthened our province and allowed our government to make important investments in health, education, infrastructure and quality of life for everyone in our province,” Premier Brad Wall said. “I believe we are now entering a second decade of growth and that Saskatchewan's best days are still ahead.”

As of October 1, 2017, Saskatchewan's population stood at 1,168,057. That's an increase of 4,132 people in the past quarter, 14,467 in the past year and 160,781 in the past decade.

MAKE FIRE SAFETY A HOLIDAY TRADITION



The Government of Saskatchewan reminds everyone to be fire safe this holiday season by highlighting a classic seasonal video demonstrating just how quickly a natural Christmas tree can ignite, if not cared for properly. “In the hustle and the bustle of the holiday season, it can be easy to overlook safety,” Government Relations Minister Larry Doke said. “Please make time to ensure your home is fire safe this season because safety should never take a holiday.”

Holiday fire safety tips:

- If you want a real Christmas tree, choose one with fresh, green needles. Check they don't fall off when touched.
- Before placing a tree in your home, cut at least two inches from the base of the trunk. Ensure the base of the tree is immersed with water at all times. Check and water it daily.
- A tree should be placed at least three feet from any heat source like fireplaces, radiators, candles and heat vents.
- Decorative lights should be approved by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). They should be discarded, if damaged. They should also never be left on when leaving home or going to sleep.
- After celebrating the holidays, a natural tree should be disposed of quickly. Check with your municipality for disposal options.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly.
- In the event of an emergency, call 911.

To watch what can happen when a natural Christmas tree ignites, visit https://youtu.be/_YvHr_tUMxw. The video was produced by the Ministry of Government Relations and the City of Saskatoon in 2015. Have a safe and happy holiday.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



City of Saskatoon: Every year, temporary drop-off sites are set-up to collect natural trees from December 26 to January 31. Natural Christmas trees should be dropped off unwrapped and unbound.

Trees dropped off at these locations are chipped, and either taken to City compost depot or used as mulch.

Artificial trees are not accepted for recycling and should be sold or donated, or taken to the Landfill.

The 2017-2018 natural Christmas tree drop-off locations are:

- **Lawson Heights – Primrose Drive by the Lawson Civic Centre**
- **University Heights – Lowe Road**
- **Wildwood Golf Course parking lot**
- **George Ward Pool parking lot (5th St & Grosvenor Avenue)**
- **Doukhobor Society parking lot 525 Avenue I South (at 17th Street)**
- **Meadowgreen – corner of 22nd Street West and Witney Avenue**

Use of the drop-off locations reduces overall costs and greenhouse gas emissions associated with fuel use, and diverts the trees from our landfill.

RESERVATIONS FOR SASKATCHEWAN PARKS 2018 SEASONAL CAMPING SET TO LAUNCH SOON



This holiday season, as Saskatchewan residents enjoy time with family and share in the hopeful anticipation of the New Year, many are already starting to plan their summer getaway in Saskatchewan's provincial parks.

“For many people, visiting our provincial parks is a valued summer tradition that contributes to our great quality of life,” Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Gene Makowsky said. “Booking a site for the full season is a popular choice that allows for the best camping deal around and an entire summer spent making lifelong memories.”

The seasonal camping program offers the opportunity to secure a campsite from mid-May to the end of August, and into September at some locations. Seasonal bookings are offered at a discount from the regular nightly camping rates. Continue reading [here](#).

NEW LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD CHAIR BRINGS YEARS OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE TO ROLE

Susan Amrud, Q.C., has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Labour Relations Board. Her appointment takes effect on March 7, 2018.

Current Chairperson, Kenneth Love's appointment ends on March 6, 2018. Love has served as Chairperson of the Labour Relations Board since March 6, 2008.

“There are few people who are as well-versed in Saskatchewan labour legislation as Ms. Amrud,” Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Minister Don Morgan said. “Her years of legal experience will prove a valuable asset to the people of Saskatchewan as she takes on this new role with the Labour Relations Board.”

Read the entire news release [here](#).

SASKATCHEWANDERER PROGRAM REACHES NEW HEIGHTS IN 2017



Saskatchewan offers 651,900 square kilometres of adventure and, in 2017, Saskatchewanwanderer Andrew Hiltz drove, hiked, climbed and paddled his way across much of the province, taking nearly 75,000 devoted “followwanderers” along for the journey of a lifetime.

In what could be easily described as the best job ever, Hiltz reflects fondly on his experiences this past year as he prepares to hand over the GoPro to the next wanderer.

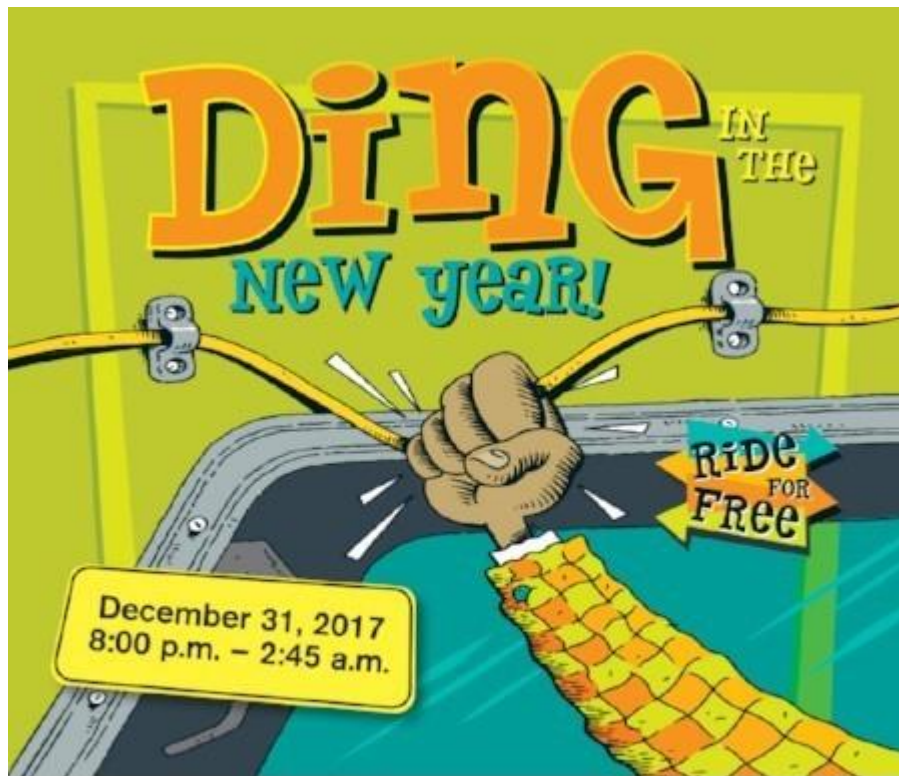
“It has been an honour and a privilege to work with and meet so many incredible people this year, and I will forever cherish the opportunities that this job has provided me,” Hiltz said. “Saskatchewan has exceeded every expectation I could have possibly imagined. I have literally had a smile on my face for 365 days straight.”

Andrew travelled more than 43,000 kilometres, produced 70 videos that received more than 1.8 million views on Facebook and grew the program's follower base by more than 33 per cent in 2017.

"Our government supports the Saskatchewaner and the widespread profile the program brings to our province," Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan Steven Bonk said. "The tremendous engagement on social media is evidence that people welcome the invitation to experience what Saskatchewan has to offer."

Click [here](#) to read the entire news release.

CHOICES MATTER: DING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FREE TRANSIT SERVICE NEW YEAR'S EVE



City of Saskatoon News Release: Impaired driving has deadly, life-changing effects. Enjoy yourself this New Year's Eve but make a safe choice and take Transit for free.

Since 1989, Saskatoon Transit and Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) have partnered to offer free Transit and Access Transit service on New Year's Eve.

For Nolan Barnes, the wrong choice had irreversible consequences; an impaired-driving crash in May of 2010 left Barnes paralyzed and a close friend dead.

"We make decisions every day, some less important than others," Barnes says. "Having free transit service on New Year's Eve makes the decision not to drink and drive easy."

"I'm a victim of my decisions. I lost a friend and the use of my legs before understanding how the choices we make affect more than just us."

Barnes says, making a choice to have a safe ride home not only helps individuals, but everyone trying to get where they're going.

"Make the resolution not to drink and drive," he says.

Free bus service, starts at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 31 and will run until 2:45 a.m. (times may vary slightly by route).

"Ding in the New Year allows residents to celebrate responsibly by taking advantage of free transit," says Mayor Charlie Clark. "This gives residents an option to have a safe ride home without driving under the influence and putting themselves or others at risk."

The police service adds its support and advice for thinking ahead for New Year's Eve celebrations. "It is crucial everyone has a solid plan for getting home safely before they head out for the evening," says Saskatoon Police Service Staff Sergeant Patrick Barbar.

Planning is easier than ever: customers who are new to Saskatoon Transit as well as current riders are encouraged to use the free [Transit app](#) to plan their route. Wait at a regular stop or flag down a bus at any point along the route, if you are in need of a ride.

"There is no reason for impaired driving, especially on New Year's Eve," says Jim McDonald, Director of Saskatoon Transit. "We strongly encourage residents to jump on the bus and let us take you to and from your destination." "When flagging a bus, use caution, stand on the curb at a safe place for the bus to stop and raise your hand to get the operators attention." McDonald says Saskatoon Transit is thankful to have SGI as a partner again this year to provide free service.

“Impaired driving is 100 per cent preventable and there is always a better option than getting behind the wheel if you have been drinking,” says Tyler McMurchy, Media Relations Manager for SGI. “If your New Year’s Eve plans involve alcohol, take the bus for free with Ding in the New Year or make other plans for a safe, sober ride home.”

For more information about Saskatoon Transit, visit saskatoontransit.ca or follow [@StoonTransit](https://twitter.com/StoonTransit) on Twitter. Plan your bus route in advance online at saskatoontransit.ca or on your mobile device with the real-time [Google Maps](#) or [Transit App](#).

HIGHEST WHOLESALE TRADE INCREASE IN CANADA



Wholesale trade in Saskatchewan was up 21.4 per cent (seasonally adjusted) in October 2017 when compared to last year, the highest rate of increase among the provinces and over double the national rise of 10.0 per cent. In October, wholesale trade was up to \$2.4 billion.

On a monthly basis, trade was up 10.1 per cent between September and October, well ahead of the 1.5 per cent posted nationally.

“This is good news for the Saskatchewan economy, with wholesale trade taking a sharp rise in October,” Economy Minister Steven Bonk said. “We are not only leading the nation for the month, but doubled annual numbers and were almost 10 times more than the national average on a month-over-month basis.”

According to Statistics Canada, the major increase in October was for machinery, equipment and supplies which was up 15.1 per cent. All seven subsectors reported increases.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SNOWPLOWS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



The winter holiday season is upon us, meaning many people will be travelling throughout the province to visit friends and loved ones. With this in mind, Highways and Infrastructure Minister David Marit is kicking off the annual provincial Snow Zone campaign, aimed to remind travellers to slow down and stay back when approaching snowplows on provincial highways.

“It’s important, especially this time of year, that we remember to drive with care and caution when approaching snowplows,” Marit said. “Snowplows are there to help clear the path and make the road safer for us as travellers, so please show the operators respect by slowing down and staying back. They have families too.”

Snowplows create mini blizzards when plowing, called the Snow Zone, which can impact visibility. They also tend to travel at a lower rate of speed, so be sure to slow down and be patient. Snowplow operators pull over about every 10 kilometres or when safe to give drivers the opportunity to pass.

“Too often we see people travelling too fast for the road conditions and passing snowplows,” Marit said. “I remind travellers to be patient and caution them that it’s illegal to pass a snowplow at a speed greater than 60 km/hr when both the blue and amber lights are flashing, regardless of whether travelling on a two or four lane highway. Snowplow operators will pull over roughly every 10 km, or when it is safe to do so, to allow traffic to pass.”

Drivers can help keep roads safe this winter ... continue reading [here](#).

SASKATCHEWAN RUSH PARTNERED WITH MADD



Not only did the Saskatoon Rush provide fans with a great game but they partnered with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and Great Western Brewing Company to work together, encouraging all fans to plan ahead for the Rush Home Opener held December 23rd.

MADD volunteers were on site at the game, promoting their Project Red Ribbon Campaign by handing out red ribbons and reminding everyone to plan a safe ride home.

MADD Canada's Project Red Ribbon Campaign raises awareness about the risks and consequences of impaired driving. From November 1st, 2017 to January 8, 2018, MADD Canada Chapters and Community Leaders distribute millions of ribbons to Canadians to wear and display as a reminder to:

- -Never drive impaired or ride with an impaired driver.
- -Plan ahead if you're going to be drinking or consuming drugs. Call a cab, arrange a designated driver, take public transit or stay the night.
- -Call 911 you see a driver you suspect is impaired. "MADD Canada was thrilled to partner with the Saskatchewan Rush to spread this message further at their home opener held Saturday, December 23rd." - Michelle Okere, MADD

Click [here](#) to read more about this great initiative.



CONGRATULATIONS PREMIER BRAD WALL!



Congratulations Premier Wall. Our Premier will leave office as the most popular Premier in Canada, just as he has been every quarter for the past seven years.

A DECADE OF GROWTH UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PREMIER BRAD WALL



Premier Brad Wall, "During Saskatchewan's [#DecadeofGrowth](#), our population is up by over 160,000 people or 16%, the most growth in any 10-year period since the 1920s.

With continued strong population growth, I believe we're entering a second decade of growth. Saskatchewan, our best days are yet ahead."

THANK YOU SASKATCHEWAN CONSERVATION OFFICERS



This month Saskatchewan conservation officers delivered 240 pounds of moose meat to St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre in Saskatoon.

The meat was used to make a traditional stew for the Plains Cree Indigenous Winter Feast Ceremony on December 20. This seasonal cultural feast is one of four held annually at the school and attracted close to 600 people. The event included a pipe ceremony.

St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre serves approximately 375 students, with more than 90 per cent of those being Indigenous. For more than 15 years, St. Mary's has been having traditional feasts. Their programming also teaches the students the traditions and culture of Indigenous people.

Every year, conservation officers throughout the province support many local programs and food banks by donating seized or salvaged game meat.

**SMALL BUSINESS THRESHOLD HIGHER, PERSONAL TAXES
LOWER IN 2018**

Saskatchewan's small business owners can look forward to the new year knowing they will have the highest income threshold in Canada. Individual Saskatchewan taxpayers will benefit from a full year of the lower Personal Income Tax rates introduced last July, for a savings of more than \$120 million in 2018.

The provincial small business income threshold—the amount of income up to which small businesses pay tax at the much lower two per-cent small business tax rate—goes up from \$500,000 to \$600,000 effective January 1.

“A higher income threshold provides small businesses with an incentive to hire more workers and invest new capital right here in Saskatchewan, supporting our government's growth agenda,” Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. “Meanwhile, Saskatchewan's 12 per cent corporate income tax rate continues to be competitive and among the lowest in the country, further enhancing our province's significant advantages when attracting new investment and jobs.”

Also in 2018, Saskatchewan residents will benefit for an entire calendar year from lower provincial Personal Income Tax rates, which dropped half a percentage point effective July 1, 2017.

“Lower personal taxes help to create jobs and attract people to our province by improving Saskatchewan's tax competitiveness,” Harpauer said.

Saskatchewan Personal Income Tax rates will drop by another half point on July 1, 2019. These rate reductions will save a single Saskatchewan taxpayer, with no dependents and an annual income of \$50,000, about \$77 per year in each of 2018, 2019 and 2020.

As a result of these tax reductions, individual's 2020 Saskatchewan Personal Income Tax will be \$308 lower than his or her 2016 Saskatchewan Personal Income Tax. Similarly, a married couple with two children and an annual family income of \$100,000, will save about \$117 per year in each of 2018, 2019 and 2020.

This family's 2020 Saskatchewan Personal Income Tax will be \$468 lower than their 2016 Saskatchewan Personal Income Tax as a result of these tax reductions.

**WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK COULD SOON BE A WORLD
HERITAGE SITE**



Saskatchewan's own [Wanuskewin Heritage Park](#) could soon be a World Heritage Site.

For the first time since 2004, Canada's Tentative List for [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#) has been updated adding eight new places to the candidate list. [Parks Canada](#) received 42 applications and Wanuskewin Heritage Park is one of the eight that made the list!

World Heritage Sites represent some of humanity's most impressive achievements and nature's most inspiring creations and designation is the highest possible recognition of heritage value internationally.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is scientifically and culturally significant, providing a rare opportunity to understand Indigenous cultural development, adaptation and change over the past 6,400 years. If successful, Wanuskewin will become Saskatchewan's first and only World Heritage Site.

This January, why not start the year with an empty jar and fill it with notes about good things that happen. Then, on New Years Eve, empty it and see what awesome stuff happened that year.



[DECISIONS ISSUED ON AURORA CANNIBAS INC., CANNIMED THERAPEUTICS INC. MATTER](#)
[CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE HEAD TEATING AVAILABLE TO HUNTERS UNTIL JANUARY 8](#)
[GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN PARTNERS WITH THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF](#)
[RECIPROCITY](#)
[NEW MELVILLE WATER PIPELINE INSTALLATION COMPLETED](#)
[LAWYERS HONORED WITH 2017 QUEEN'S COUNSEL DESIGNATIONS](#)
[PROVINCE FUNDS PROJECT TO DEVELOP GENOMICS TESTING TECHNOLOGY FOR USE IN](#)
[MINING](#)

READ ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES [HERE](#)



[BHP Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour](#)

When: Now - January 7

Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park

Click [here](#) for details



[Eaton's Once Upon a Christmas Exhibit](#)

Where: Western Development Museum

When: 9 am - 5 pm, through to January 7, 2018

Click [here](#) for additional information



[Kayden Kot Steak Night Benefit](#)

When: February 3, 2018 5 - 8 pm

Where: The Sutherland Bar, Central Avenue

For tickets or information or to donate to the silent auction, please contact dkdube@sasktel.net or smfortier@hotmail.com or call or text 306.381.8873



This spot is being held for your event!

***Please let us know if you have an event you would like to see in
our newsletter!***

THOUGHT OF THE DAY



[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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