

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



## Provincial Point of View

**December 5, 2017**

### **GIFT CARDS AREN'T ALLOWED TO HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE**

## Gift card tips

- Buy from reputable retailers
- Read the fine print on the back of the card
- Keep the receipt just in case!

FCAA  
Financial and  
Consumer  
Affairs Authority

**Gift cards are a simple, no-fuss way to show your friends, family and coworkers a little holiday cheer.**

**Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority (FCAA) sees a rise in calls and complaints about gift cards after the holiday season has concluded. Consumers often have concerns about usage limits and expiry dates.**

**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.**

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

## 2017-18 BUDGET REMAINS ON TRACK AT MID-YEAR



Saskatchewan's 2017-18 Budget remains on track, confirmed by the province's mid-year financial report released today.

"Saskatchewan's economy is performing well and is expected to post positive growth for the first time in two years," Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. "The budget contingency is more than enough to offset unrealized compensation savings in 2017-18, as well as a \$44 million net decline in government operations."

At mid-year, the 2017-18 deficit projection is \$679 million, \$6 million less than the budget estimate of \$685 million.

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

[VEHICLES FOR HIRE ACT PAVES THE WAY FOR RIDESHARING SERVICES](#)



*Legislation Introduced November 30, 2017 will allow for ridesharing services to operate in Saskatchewan.*

*The Vehicles for Hire Act sets out the framework for ridesharing services also referred to as “transportation network companies” in the legislation. These services provide a vehicle and driver for pre-arranged transportation through a digital platform or app.*

*“The fight against impaired driving is a priority for our government and Saskatchewan people have told us this will provide another option for them to get home safely,” Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance Joe Hargrave said. “This legislation provides a framework for licensing and insurance, sets out appropriate safeguards for the public, and gives municipalities the authority to determine the right public transportation mix for their communities.”*

*Other notable items in the legislation include:*

- The ridesharing company must file written evidence of a motor vehicle liability insurance policy with a minimum limit of \$1 million.*
- The company must insure every vehicle used to provide service under *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*.*
- Municipalities continue to be able to make bylaws that also govern ridesharing companies in their town or city.*

- [Mandatory criminal record checks for all drivers \(rideshare, limousines and taxis\).](#)
- [A prescribed driver's licence class which will apply to ridesharing company drivers, taxis and limousines.](#)

## **INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO SELL ELIGIBLE CULTIVATED AND FORMERLY CULTIVATED CROWN LAND ANNOUNCED**



Today Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart announced a targeted incentive program to encourage the continued sale of cultivated and formerly cultivated agricultural Crown land. The new, targeted program offers current lease-holders a 10 per cent purchase incentive on the sale of eligible land until March 31, 2018.

“This focused incentive program supports our government’s consistent approach to putting land in the hands of producers in cases where there is no higher public good from an ecological, environmental, heritage or economic perspective,” Stewart said. “Saskatchewan producers are the best stewards of the land and should have the opportunity to realize the benefits of ownership.”

Lessees may continue leasing if they do not wish to purchase. However, producers who continue

to lease cultivated and formerly cultivated land that is eligible for sale will see a 45 per cent premium applied to the standard formula rental rate in 2018. This follows the 15 per cent premium applied in 2016 and 30 per cent premium applied in 2017. Continue reading by clicking [here](#).

## **NOTICE: SASKATCHEWAN STUDENTS**



It may be December, but if you're a Saskatchewan student, you should be thinking about your options for summer jobs. Apply now for a student job with the [Government of Saskatchewan](#).

<http://www.careers.gov.sk.ca/studentjobs>

## **TEN OUTSTANDING CITIZENS INDUCTED INTO SASKATCHEWAN ORDER OF MERIT**



**November 29th, 2017: Tonight, Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield will invest 10 recipients into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honour, at a ceremony in Regina.**

**"I've had the great opportunity as the Lieutenant Governor to travel across the province and meet the amazing and inspiring people who continuously give of themselves to better their communities," Solomon Schofield said. "The individuals chosen for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit are truly remarkable citizens, whose efforts deserve public recognition. I offer all of them my sincere congratulations and thank them for their long-standing contributions to Saskatchewan."**

Click [here](#) to see the ten outstanding 2017 recipients!

**[HOPE FOR MALAWI BRUNCH](#)**



I was pleased to attend the Malawi Brunch held last Saturday in Saskatoon. Elaine and Peter Zakreski inspire us all by the work they do as founders of the Hope for Malawi Foundation. They have given hope to those without parents, without shelter and without food. In doing so they continue to inspire a sense of global social obligation and philanthropy.

Despite challenges, their efforts are building vibrant communities and spreading joy. The people of Malawi are expressing appreciation and excitement for the future. We've seen people of all ages in our province inspired to take action in their own way through generous donations and the collection of supplies destined for Malawi.

The impact is immeasurable. Elaine and Peter lead by example showing us that must never take for granted the spirit of community involvement, social responsibility and global awareness we see in Saskatchewan. The generosity and compassion behind this cause is truly something to celebrate.

Thank you Elaine and Peter and congratulations on making life better for many through your decisive action. Click [here](#) to read about Hope for Malawi.

## **GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN COMMITTING FUNDING TO SUPPORT ANTI-BULLYING**



The Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$150,000 to the Canadian Red Cross Society and Saskatoon Restorative Action Program (RAP) to continue to address bullying and cyberbullying and promote positive relationships in Saskatchewan schools.

“Our government remains committed to responding to the issue of bullying and supporting Saskatchewan children and youth,” Education Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. “The Canadian Red Cross and Saskatoon’s Restorative Action Program have been valued partners and continue to provide important anti-bullying programming that engages students and families.”

The Canadian Red Cross uses a “train the trainer” approach to support school division personnel to incorporate strategies designed to reduce bullying and support students to build healthy relationships in their schools.

“This funding is crucial in helping the Canadian Red Cross reach Saskatchewan students with the



education and tools needed to create safe and healthy environments,” Canadian Red Cross Saskatchewan Vice-President Cindy Fuchs said.

Read more [here](#).

## **EXPANDED LIST OF ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING IN SPRING**



Recent amendments to provincial regulation will expand the list of electronic products accepted for recycling in Saskatchewan starting May 1, 2018.

In consultation with industry and other stakeholders, the Government of Saskatchewan repealed and replaced The Waste Electronics Equipment Regulations with The Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulations, which will allow for recycling of additional end-of-life consumer electronic products, including:

- countertop microwave ovens;
- desktop and portable scanners;
- floor-standing printers;
- external storage drives and modems,
- game consoles, including hand-held and peripherals;
- e-book readers; and
- portable and vehicle (after-market) GPS systems.

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

## **FOUR JURISDICTIONS PARTNER TO ADVANCE CARBON CAPTURE RESEARCH, COOPERATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

Saskatchewan, Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming today jointly signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) at the Western Governors' Association (WGA) meeting in Arizona.

In the MOU, the four governments express a mutual desire to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while aiming to improve strategic and diverse energy production. Accordingly, they will collaborate on CCUS knowledge sharing and capacity building as well as policy and regulatory expertise in the fields of carbon dioxide capture, transportation, storage and applications such as enhanced oil recovery.

With an estimated 1,600 coal-fired power plants planned or under construction in 62 countries around the world, CCUS has been identified as a key technology in the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In China alone, 922,000 megawatts of power is produced from coal-fired plants, about seven times Canada's total electrical generating capacity.

“Our four energy-producing jurisdictions are committed to sharing knowledge on this important technology so that we can manage greenhouse gases responsibly while ensuring our economies continue to grow,” Premier Brad Wall said. “As a world leader in the advancement of CCUS technology, Saskatchewan has much to contribute. SaskPower's ground-breaking Boundary Dam 3 project is the world's first commercial power plant with a fully-integrated post-combustion carbon capture system, and an excellent example of what is possible if we embrace CCUS.”

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

**BE SURE TO PLACE YOUR NEW STICKER ON YOUR SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH CARD**



Make sure to place your new sticker on your card to maintain coverage. If you haven't received your sticker, be sure to contact eHealth Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Health Cards expire on December 31, 2017.

**GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN SUPPORTS RESEARCH  
INTERNSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**



The Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$400,000 in funding to support internships in science, technology, engineering and math through Mitacs.

This funding will leverage \$1.7 million in cash and in-kind support from federal and industry partners. This investment provides funding for 68 research and development internships for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in Saskatchewan industries through the Mitacs Accelerate program, and 26 international student research opportunities through the Mitacs Globalink program.

Since 2007-08, a total of \$11 million has been invested by all funding partners in Mitacs programming in Saskatchewan. With this funding, Saskatchewan will have provided \$2.56 million to Mitacs since 2007.

“Our government recognizes the value of research and innovation opportunities for Saskatchewan students,” Advanced Education Minister Herb Cox said. “These programs support our vision to develop a skilled workforce and allow these interns to gain valuable experience.”

Mitacs Accelerate enables graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to apply research and technology expertise to individual firms' industrial challenges to improve productivity and innovation. Mitacs Globalink places Saskatchewan students in foreign universities and companies to gain international research and work experience. It also enables Saskatchewan to recruit top international students and researchers from rapidly developing countries to work with Saskatchewan researchers.

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

## **THREE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN THINKING ABOUT RETIRING**

The Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority (FCAA) wants to remind people during financial literacy month that retirement planning is not solely about how much money your pension will provide.

"It's never too early to start thinking about how much money you'll need when you retire," FCAA Pension Division Director Leah Fichter said. "Figuring out if you want to travel, where you want to live, and if you'll have debt are just some of the factors you should think about."

When developing a retirement plan, here are some questions to consider:

1. How much do I need?
2. How long do I need it for?
3. What are my sources of income?

Make sure to look at all sources of income from government benefits such as Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, and don't forget to include your pension plan payments, Registered Retirement Savings Plans or other investments you might have.

For more helpful information on retirement planning, visit [www.fcaa.gov.sk.ca/retirementplanning](http://www.fcaa.gov.sk.ca/retirementplanning).

## **SASKATCHEWAN CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOCUES ON READINESS AND RESILIENCE**



*Flexible Plan Includes Performance Standards, Offset System, and Tech Fund*

December 4, Environment Minister Dustin Duncan introduced the provincial government's climate change strategy. The strategy, titled *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*, focuses on the principles of readiness and resilience, while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change – without a carbon tax.

“This plan is broader and bolder than a single policy such as a carbon tax and will achieve better and more meaningful outcomes over the long term,” Duncan said. “Our climate change strategy recognizes the investment and innovation that has taken place and sets out the road map for future actions. This is about protecting our people and communities as much as it is about working with industry and others to reduce emissions here in Saskatchewan.”

The strategy proposes actions in key areas, including: natural systems; physical infrastructure; economic sustainability; community preparedness; and measuring, monitoring and reporting.

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

## **SASKATCHEWAN TAKING ZERO TOLERANCE STANCE AGAINST DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVERS**



New federal legislation on drug-impaired driving is expected to take effect in late December or early January, and the Government of Saskatchewan wants drivers in this province to know how it impacts them. *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017* was introduced in the Saskatchewan Legislature today to prepare for those federal changes.

“It’s important for people to remember that in Saskatchewan it is currently and will continue to be illegal to drive while impaired – whether by drugs or alcohol,” Minister Responsible for SGI Joe Hargrave said. “That is not changing, even when personal cannabis use becomes legal in July. New federal legislation gives police new tools to detect drug-impaired drivers. Anyone caught will face the same tough consequences as drivers impaired by alcohol.”

Marijuana impairs a driver’s judgment, reaction time, motor co-ordination and ability to make decisions. Mixing drugs with alcohol increases impairment.

Saskatchewan will have zero tolerance for all drivers for drug-impaired driving. Implementing a zero tolerance approach means that drivers should not get behind the wheel with any level of impairing drugs in their system that is detectable by a federally-approved screening device. The province is updating legislation and regulations so that tough administrative consequences that impaired drivers in Saskatchewan currently face will also apply to anyone charged under the new federal laws.

Please take the time to read the entire news release [here](#).

## **LEGISLATION PROCLAIMED TO LAUNCH SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY**

December 4, the Saskatchewan Health Authority officially launched, with the proclamation of *The Provincial Health Authority Act*. Proclamation of the Act legally transfers the operations and employees of the 12 former Regional Health Authorities to the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

“Launching the Saskatchewan Health Authority is an important step in our journey to transform the provincial health system,” Health Minister Jim Reiter said. “I thank all of our health system partners for their hard work to prepare for this first day of operations. We will continue to work together to better co-ordinate and improve health care services for Saskatchewan people.”

To ensure a safe transition with no impact to frontline care, there are no changes to health care programs, services, facilities or phone numbers on the first day of operations. Residents and patients should continue to access care in the same way as they always have.

“The launch of the new Saskatchewan Health Authority does not mean that the health services residents depend on will be centralized or reduced,” Rural and Remote Health Minister Greg Ottenbreit said. “Management and services will continue to be available locally, to be responsive to the unique needs of patients and communities.”

Maintaining community engagement and local relationships is a priority for the Saskatchewan Health Authority, and a framework for Community Advisory Networks will be developed in the future. In the meantime, current Community Advisory Networks will continue to operate as usual.

## **LIVE NETWORK: OFFERING A BETTER STREAMING SERVICE TO SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOLS**





Saskatchewan schools now have access to a better streaming service as a result of a renewed Live Interactive Video Education (LIVE) Network agreement between the Ministry of Education and SaskTel. The LIVE Network is used for province-wide live video streaming for provincial, First Nations, Prekindergarten to Grade 12, and credit and non-credit post-secondary courses.

“We are pleased to continue to provide this service for teachers and students throughout Saskatchewan,” Education Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. “As a government, we believe that a robust technology infrastructure is required to support 21st century learning.”

Read more about the LIVE Network [here](#).

## **PROVINCE PROCLAIMS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**



The Government of Saskatchewan has joined the world in recognizing and celebrated December 3, 2017, as International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPWD).

Proclaimed annually by the United Nations, this year's theme is *Transformation Toward Sustainable and Resilient Society for All*. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was first proclaimed by the United Nations in 1992 to increase awareness and understanding of disability issues and trends, and to mobilize support for practical action by, with and for persons with disabilities.

The province has set a vision for Saskatchewan to be an inclusive province that is welcoming, responsive, innovative, and accessible so people who experience disabilities can live the life they choose. Since the release of the Disability Strategy in 2015, progress has been made on a number of recommendations.

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

**SASKATCHEWAN TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURS HELP ADDRESS RURAL CRIME**

Saskatoon-based technology innovator, Jeff Shirley, has been selected as the winner of the province's first Rural Crime Innovation Challenge.

The challenge, organized by Innovation Saskatchewan in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, is focused on addressing rural crime in Saskatchewan. Shirley, owner and principal consultant of Rivercity Technology Services Limited (RCT), will work on a project to develop prototypes to improve the safety and security of rural citizens and property.

"The Rural Crime Innovation Challenge is a new approach to helping Saskatchewan address crime," Minister Responsible for Innovation Steven Bonk said. "The response to this program by tech companies and researchers speaks to the opportunity that exists to use technology to help solve everyday challenges in our province."

As part of the challenge, Shirley and his firm, RCT, will participate in a 16 week residency program with the Ministry of Justice - working with William Topping, founder of Brand X Technologies, on the proposed solution. Together, they will design an application-based tracking system and GPS device to alert land owners about any event or irregular activity related to their property.

The goal is for rural residents to be able to log these events in an application that would immediately alert law enforcement officers; the GPS would make the device, which can be placed on property, trackable on mobile devices.

"We are excited to see the technology sector's involvement in addressing crime in rural Saskatchewan," Justice Minister Attorney General Don Morgan said. "This collaborative approach will help us find creative solutions to make Saskatchewan a safer place to live and raise a family."

If the developed prototype meets the needs identified by the Ministry of Justice, it will be deployed in a pilot project, refined as necessary and eventually commercialized. This initiative forms part of the government's strategy on rural crime reduction announced in August, 2017.

## **COMING EVENTS**

**IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO HIGHLIGHT  
IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

Provincial Point of View is a great way to connect with our community. We appreciate the opportunity to share the successes we see in our constituency and highlight the many events happening in our community. If you have a suggestion for items you would like highlighted in this newsletter, please email: [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net)



**[BHP Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour](#)**

**When: November 18 - January 7**

**Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park**

Click [here](#) for details

November 18 -  
January 6 Nightly

A Saskatchewan  
Christmas Tradition for 19 Years

Limited  
Light Displays  
now available  
for sponsorship  
Website, phone or email  
(306) 222-5392 or  
email hvassos@sasktel.net  
**TODAY**

**BHP**  
**Enchanted  
Forest**  
**HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR**

2017-2018  
Saskatoon  
Forestry Farm Park

Featuring  
the New  
Grinch Display

### Junior Achievement Jingle Bell Lunch

**When:** December 7, 11 am trade show, 11:45 am lunch

**Where:** Saskatoon Travelodge

Tickets and additional information on the event are available  
at: [www.picatic.com/SaskatoonJBL2017](http://www.picatic.com/SaskatoonJBL2017) or by calling 306.955.5267.



### 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](mailto:dkdube@sasktel.net) or [smfortier@hotmail.com](mailto: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 in our newsletter!***

**[READ ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES HERE](#)**





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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 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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