

Check out What's happening in Saskatoon Silver Springs and throughout the Province!



Provincial Point of View

February 10, 2016

Have a wonderful Family Day Weekend

SASKATCHEWAN IN A STRONG POSITION TO MANAGE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

In spite of a downturn in the resource sector, a resilient and diversified Saskatchewan economy continues to attract people, investment and job growth. This is a big change from a decade ago when an economic slowdown would have resulted in less investment, fewer jobs and a declining population.

The impact of lower oil prices and a softening resource sector globally has resulted in Saskatchewan dealing with serious revenue shortfalls. Government Ministries and Crowns have been controlling spending but with little room left to reduce costs there are two choices: raise taxes or run a temporary deficit.

Our government has reluctantly decided to manage this shortfall in revenue by running a deficit this fiscal year. Because of continued weakness in the resource sector, we expect there will be a deficit next year as well. Saskatchewan people can be assured we are focused on meeting their needs and investing in what is important as we work toward returning to balance by 2017-18.

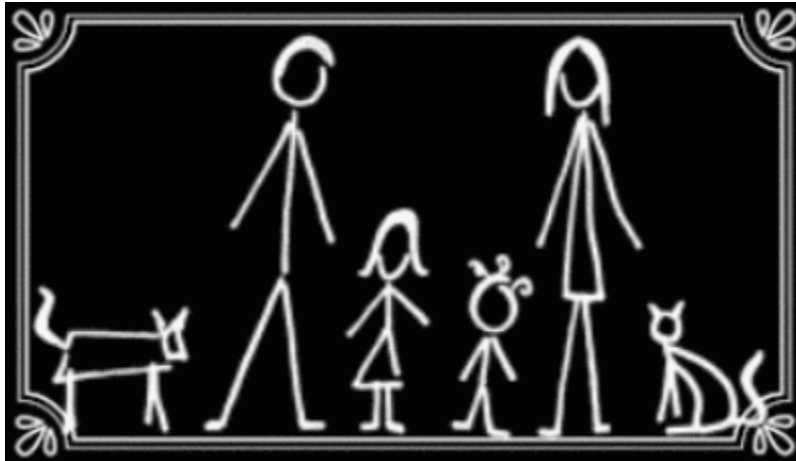
Financial responsibility is the cornerstone of the Growth Plan. Our government plans to continue controlling spending, planning for the future, and moving forward, never losing sight of Saskatchewan's destiny. The principles and goals of our Growth Plan will continue to guide us:

- Supporting innovation;
- Investing in infrastructure;
- Engaging with the world;

- Expanding educational and training opportunities; and
- Ensuring our economy is competitive

Saskatchewan people are pragmatic and prudent with their own finances and should expect the same from their government. Our record since 2007 reflects this prudence; we've lowered the province's debt to GDP ratio to the second lowest in Canada; we've earned Saskatchewan's first ever triple-A credit rating; and we've lowered the tax burden for people across the province.

ENJOY FAMILY DAY WEEKEND!



Don't let the busy world of today keep you from showing how much you love and appreciate your family. When you look at your life, the greatest happiness is family happiness.

There are numerous free, fun activities taking place in Saskatoon Monday, February 15. The

Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo, right here in our constituency is open regular hours. I encourage you to check our local venues for some great family entertainment and take the time to celebrate the importance of families and how important family life is to the communities we live in.

FAMILY FUN IN SASKATOON

Saskatoon is proud to offer countless opportunities for families to laugh, play and learn together. From outdoor attractions like the [Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo](#), to the splashpark at River Landing and the [Cameco Meewasin outdoor skating rink](#) along the riverbank, families visiting Saskatoon can find year-round outdoor fun.

Families looking to run wild and burn off some energy and adrenaline will find adventure at places such as the [Fun Factory](#), [Wilson Entertainment Park](#) and [Crickle Creek](#), which all offer a variety of games, children's activities and plenty of open spaces to play.

Those who want to experience a bit more culture, history and learning will be rewarded at local attractions like the [Western Development Museum](#), the [Children's Discovery Museum](#), and [Wanuskewin Heritage Park](#) - all of which offer a unique perspective of our local culture and history that visitors of all ages will enjoy.

The Willowgrove University Heights Community Association is having a Family Skate day February 15 from 11am-1pm. Free admission and hot chocolate with valid membership at ACT arena.

FREE FISHING THIS FAMILY DAY WEEKEND!

FEBRUARY 13, 14 & 15



Saskatchewan's free winter fishing weekend is February 13 to 15. Saskatchewan residents and visitors can fish without a licence on any of Saskatchewan's public waters that have an open sport fishing season.

"Ice fishing is a popular activity for many Saskatchewan people and is a great activity for families," Environment Minister Herb Cox said. "Coinciding with Family Day long weekend, this is a great opportunity for families to spend some time together while gaining a better appreciation for our environment and natural resources."

Read more [here](#) and remember to test the ice thickness before you travel on it!

**SASKATCHEWAN POSTS ONE OF THE STRONGEST JOB
GROWTH RATES IN CANADA**

SASKATCHEWAN JOB GROWTH



2016 began with Saskatchewan posting one of the strongest rates of year over year job growth in Canada.

There were 5,200 more people working in Saskatchewan in January 2016 compared to January 2015. That's an employment growth rate of 0.9 per cent, third best in Canada and ahead of the national growth rate of 0.7 per cent. Six provinces lost jobs over the past year, including Alberta which lost 38,100 jobs and Manitoba which lost 7,900 jobs.

In January, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate was 5.6 per cent (seasonally adjusted), the lowest rate among the provinces and below the national average of 7.2 per cent.

For 27 of the last 28 months, Saskatchewan has maintained the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

“Saskatchewan has still managed to maintain the lowest unemployment rate for a considerable time – due in large part to our strong, diverse economy,” Immigration, Jobs, Skills and Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “We are seeing many employers still looking for workers, including K+S Potash who are looking to fill 100 jobs in various positions as they complete the Legacy mine project at Bethune.”

Read more about the highlights in January, 2016 [here](#).

IMPROVED PERSONAL CARE HOME INSPECTION INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

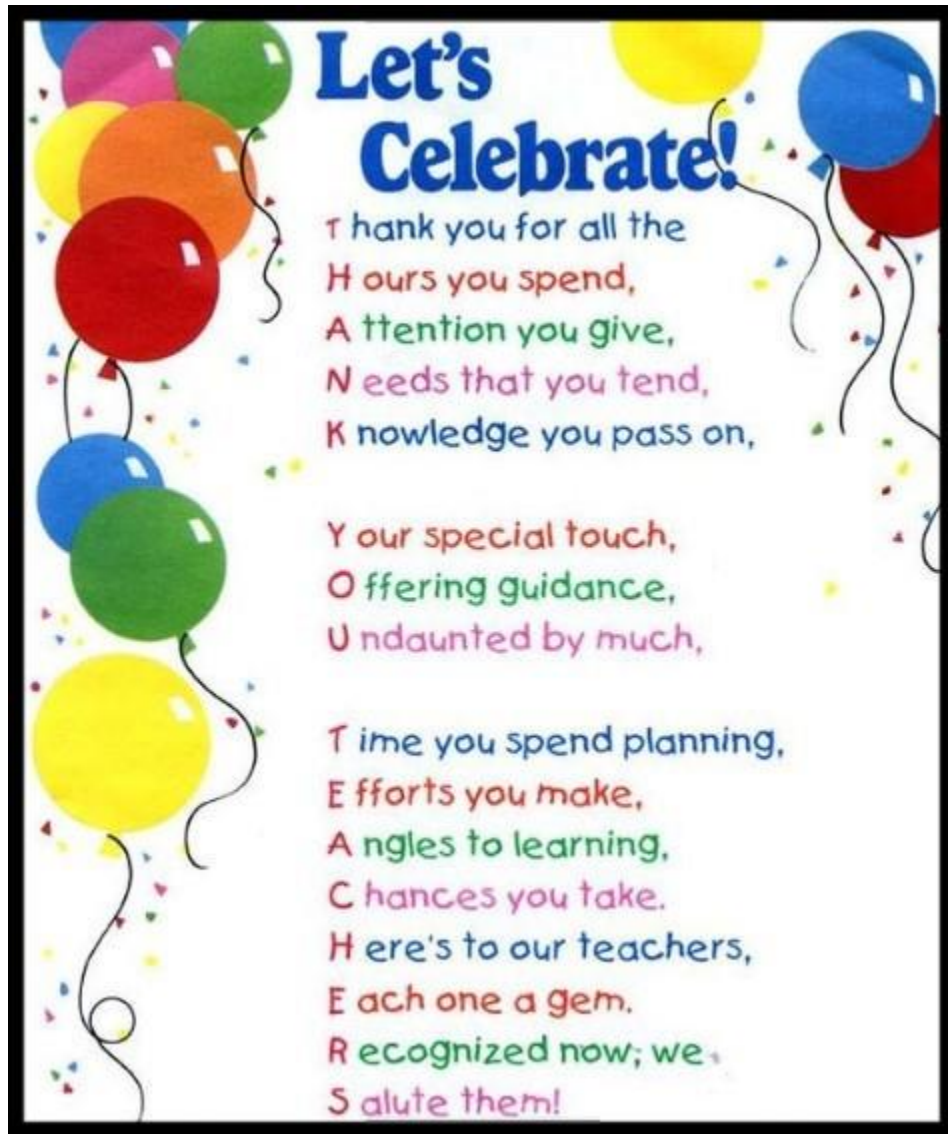
Saskatchewan residents can now access improved personal care home inspection information on www.Saskatchewan.ca. The new electronic (tablet) reporting system for inspectors ensures more accessible, detailed reports regarding personal care homes are available to the public – a recommendation previously made by both the Provincial Auditor and the Saskatchewan Ombudsman.

“Our government is committed to transparency,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “This new system ensures the most up-to-date information on personal care homes is easily available online, helping individuals and their families research and select a home that will be suitable for them and best meet their needs.”

Personal care homes are privately owned and operated businesses that are licensed and monitored by the Ministry of Health. A team of specially-trained personal care home consultants regularly inspect facilities looking at a number of areas including resident care, care records, recreational activities and health and safety.

Read more about the reporting system [here](#) and find all personal care home inspection results at www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health/other-reports/personal-care-home-operational-review-inspections.

PROVINCE ACKNOWLEDGES TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF



Education Minister Don Morgan has proclaimed February 7 – 13 as Teacher Staff Appreciation Week in Saskatchewan.

“Preparing students for their future is an important responsibility,” Morgan said. “We are fortunate to have dedicated teachers and school staff in our province who care deeply about helping students. Every day, great things are happening in our schools thanks to their efforts.”

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

PREMIER PROPOSED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR OIL SERVICE SECTOR



Premier Brad Wall has presented a proposal to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to support an Accelerated Well Cleanup Program (AWCP) in Saskatchewan. The proposal calls for \$156 million in federal funding to help stimulate employment in the oil and gas service support sector by accelerating the clean-up of oil wells no longer capable of production.

“Saskatchewan is home to a high concentration of energy service sector companies and their employees, many of whom are now out of work,” Wall said. “These are the professionals who are best suited to well cleanup.”

Despite net employment growth of 5,200 new jobs in Saskatchewan over the past year, the resource sector has lost 1,900 jobs during that same period.

“The Accelerated Well Cleanup Program will stimulate economic activity and job creation while at the same time delivering environmental benefits,” said Wall. “This is responsible resource development and would provide work for a lot of people in the oil service sector who have felt the impact of the drop in the oil price.”

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

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!

新年好 / 新年好 (Xīnnián hǎo)



Celebrations have started around the world. This year, Chinese New Year - The Year of the Monkey begins February 8 and lasts until January 27, 2017. A special Happy New Year to my friend and neighbour Grant Kook!

NO EDUCATION MILL RATE INCREASE IN 2016

There will be no increases in the education property tax mill rates for 2016 as the Government of Saskatchewan is maintaining rates at the same level as in the previous three years.

“Saskatchewan property owners will continue to receive the benefits realized by the province meeting its commitment to reduce education property taxes and increase its share of funding for education costs,” Minister of Government Relations Jim Reiter said.

Click [here](#) to see the education mill rates for 2016.

SASKATOON'S DRINKING WATER SYSTEM EXPANDS WITH GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

February 8, the City of Saskatoon, along with the Government of Saskatchewan and Government of Canada, celebrated the grand opening of the city's newly-expanded water treatment plant.

"The Government of Canada is proud to have partnered with the province of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon to increase the availability of quality drinking water for residents of Saskatoon," Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale said on behalf of Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Amarjeet Sohi. "This is an excellent example of building on existing infrastructure to meet the needs of years to come."

"Our government is proud to have contributed \$7 million to this important upgrade and expansion to the city's water treatment system," Saskatoon Eastview MLA Corey Tochor said on behalf of Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter. "This investment will ensure future water needs can keep up with growth in the City of Saskatoon, which is now more than 260,000 people strong. We look forward to continuing to work with our municipal and federal partners on important infrastructure projects as our province continues to grow."

"The investment ensures City of Saskatoon infrastructure can easily handle high demand periods for water usage, particularly in the summer months," Saskatoon Mayor Donald Atchison said. "With the new UV disinfection facilities, we're well-positioned to meet future treatment regulations that ensure protection from biological threats."

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



I hope everyone enjoys a Happy Valentines Day. February 14 is a great day to remind us to show those we care about how much they mean to us.

A few fun facts about Valentine's Day:

- In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
- The red rose was the favourite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.
- Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone to see. That was the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve."
- Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800's.

SGI CUSTOMERS CAN NOW PRINT THEIR OWN VEHICLE REGISTRATION

SGI is enhancing convenience for customers with changes to vehicle registration certificates.

Vehicle registrations can now be printed on plain white paper rather than special green card stock paper. This means customers who register a vehicle using SGI's online service MySGI will no

longer have to wait for their registration certificate in the mail – they can print it at home. Any customer with a MySGI account can also access their registration certificate online, and print it off at any time – even if they didn't renew online.

“Customers have been asking for the ability to print off their vehicle registration certificate from the comfort of their home,” Minister Responsible for SGI Don McMorris said. “SGI is pleased to provide this option to help simplify the process.”

To read the news release, click [here](#).

JUST THE LINKS

[CELEBRATION OF ARCHIVES WEEK WITH LAUNCH OF NEW VIDEO COMMEMORATING FIRST WORLD WAR](#)

[CONTEXT TV HOST LORNA DUECK TO SPEAK AT SASKATCHEWAN PRAYER BREAKFAST](#)

[EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS](#)

[BELOW NORMAL RUNOFF EXPECTED ACROSS MOST OF THE PROVINCE](#)

[SASKATCHEWAN AGRI-FOOD EXPORT SURPASS GROWTH PLAN TARGET WITH ANOTHER RECORD YEAR](#)

[SASKATOON QUEEN'S BENCH NOW UNDER ONE ROOF](#)

[MS PANEL SUBMITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[ASSISTANCE TO REMOVE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES](#)

CLICK [HERE](#) TO ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"EVERYONE NEEDS A HOUSE TO LIVE IN, BUT A SUPPORTIVE FAMILY IS WHAT BUILDS A HOME."

Anthony Liccione

family | fām-məl-ee | *n.*
a group of people, each a unique
masterpiece, sharing unconditional
love, hugs and support • one of life's
greatest blessings • cherish always

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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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