

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



Provincial Point of View

February 12, 2015



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.

SASKATCHEWAN CELEBRATES THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

Trish and I appreciate the opportunity to recognize the excellent teachers and support staff that have mentored our children. Sincere thanks to the many education professionals in our constituency and throughout our city and province for all they do to advance our children's education.

Education Minister Don Morgan has proclaimed the week of February 8 - 14, 2015, as Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week to celebrate the remarkable education professionals in Saskatchewan.

"Teachers and school staff play an incredible role in ensuring that the needs of students are put first each and every day," Morgan said. "Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week will encourage all Saskatchewan residents to recognize the extraordinary work that happens in our schools and to acknowledge the education professionals who contribute to our province in such an important way."

[Saskatchewan Celebrates the Contributions of Education Professionals](#)

HAPPY FAMILY DAY



Happy Family Day! From my family to yours, our best wishes for a fun filled Family Day! The holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life to people and their communities.

Check out the many activities throughout the city. There is a free Family Day Skate Monday, February 16 from 2 pm - 4 pm outdoors at the Clarence Downey Speed Skating Oval and indoors at Cosmo Civic Centre. Your family can also take in the Cameco Family Day Skating Party from noon to 4 pm at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink. There will be free games and activities at both locations. See our coming event section for details.

I hope you have the chance to enjoy some family time this weekend.



REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE

As the world price of oil has dropped our province need look no further than 2009 to realize Saskatchewan's strong and diversified economy is well positioned to weather another period of global economic instability. The last time oil prices plunged, potash sales also collapsed and compounded the province's revenue challenge. Despite these challenges, entrepreneurs still created jobs, investment continued to flow, and our population continued to grow. We worked hard to balance the budget that year, and the economy quickly rebounded.

Today Saskatchewan's potash industry is coming off a record sales year, and the prospects for 2015 look good. Merchandise exports set a new record of \$35.12 billion in 2014, up 8.9 per cent from 2013, while agri-food exports of \$13.9 billion increased by 19 per cent. We are also expecting new records for both manufacturing shipments and wholesale trade.

For three consecutive years, capital investment in the province has surpassed \$20 billion. For more than two years, Saskatchewan has had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada and job creation has been strong across the economy. In the last seven years, more than 65,000 jobs have been created, less than 10 per cent of which have been in the resource sector. Not only does Saskatchewan have economic momentum, we also have a strong fiscal foundation.

Over the past seven years, our government has paid down \$3 billion of operational debt left behind by previous governments, reducing interest costs by hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Our growing economy has also allowed us to deliver record income and education property tax cuts to Saskatchewan residents and invest \$6.6 billion in much needed infrastructure like highways, schools, hospitals and long-term care homes.

As we deal with the uncertainty caused by lower oil prices, our government's priorities won't change. We will maintain our focus on controlling government spending and keeping taxes as low as possible. We will continue to invest in important infrastructure, innovation and skills training. We will continue to tell the Saskatchewan story around the world. Most importantly, in doing this, we will be careful not give up ground in the area of fiscal responsibility.

RECORD EXPORTS FOR SASKATCHEWAN IN 2014

Figures released February 5 by Statistics Canada show Saskatchewan has set monthly and annual records for merchandise exports.

In December 2014, exports in the province totalled \$3.15 billion, the highest ever for the month, up 30.2 per cent over last year. Saskatchewan had the highest percentage increase among the provinces.

Annually, Saskatchewan merchandise exports also hit a record \$35.12 billion for 2014, up 8.9 per cent over the \$32.25 billion recorded 2013.

“These record export numbers are proof of our diversified economy,” Trade Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “Thanks to the hard work of Saskatchewan people, these export records show that we have what the world needs.”

[Record Exports for Saskatchewan in 2014](#)



Congratulations to the winners in *Saskatchewan's Top Employers* annual competition organized by the editors of *Canada's Top 100 Employers*. This special designation recognizes the Saskatchewan employers that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work.

Employers are evaluated by the editors of *Canada's Top 100 Employers* using the following criteria: (1) Physical Workplace; (2) Work Atmosphere & Social; (3) Health, Financial & Family Benefits; (4) Vacation & Time Off; (5) Employee Communications; (6) Performance Management; (7) Training & Skills Development; and (8) Community Involvement. Employers are compared to other organizations in their field to determine which offers the most progressive and forward-thinking programs.

Several Saskatoon businesses were recognized including the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Police Service. For a full list of recipients, please click on the link below:

[2015 Winners](#)

SASKATCHEWAN OFFERS FREE ICE FISHING WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 14 TO 16

February 14 to 16 marks another free fishing weekend in Saskatchewan – the first in winter – to promote the province’s many ice fishing opportunities. This means everyone, including visitors from outside the province, can fish in Saskatchewan on Family Day weekend without having to purchase a licence.

“Ice fishing is a popular activity for many Saskatchewan anglers,” Environment Minister Scott Moe said. “The Family Day weekend is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to learn about and enjoy the sport of ice fishing, and to recognize the province’s diverse angling opportunities.”

[Saskatchewan Offers Free Ice Fishing Weekend, February 14 to 16](#)

SASKATCHEWAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TIED FOR LOWEST IN CANADA

Saskatchewan has maintained the lowest unemployment rate in the country for 26 consecutive months.

“We know the effect of low oil prices will be felt by Saskatchewan’s economy and labour market, and this month’s employment losses reflects that” Minister responsible for Immigration, Jobs, Skills and Training Jeremy Harrison said. “But it’s important to look at the big picture. This is just the fourth month of employment losses since 2007, we have maintained the lowest unemployment rate in the country and there are over 11,000 jobs available on Saskjobs.ca. Our province’s youth unemployment rate was 8.8 per cent, second lowest among the provinces behind Alberta (7.5 per cent), and below the national rate of 12.8 per cent.”

[Saskatchewan Unemployment Rate Tied for Lowest in Canada](#)

LOCAL AUTHOR TO BE FEATURED ON TELEVISION

Local Author, Shawna Sparrow, will be featured as a guest on My New Day with Bob and Audrey Meisner next week. The episodes will run February 16, 17 and 18 and will be televised on Vision TV as well as the Miracle Channel. (Vision TV airs the program at 10:30 am Saskatchewan time.) The programs can also be viewed on the mynewday.tv website.

In her book, "Tough Crowd: My Adventures as a Chastity Educator" she shares her experiences and insights in the classroom.

To learn more about Shawna visit: [Shawna Sparrow](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

... Saskatoon region is growing three times faster than all of Canada.

... According to Statistics Canada, population in the Saskatoon region grew three times more than

the national rate.

... The agency's latest numbers show Saskatoon's census metropolitan area (CMA) grew by 9,600 to 300,642 people in 2014.

... Saskatoon's CMA includes the City of Warman, City of Martensville, Town of Osler, the Rural Municipality of Corman Park and 24 other villages and hamlets in the area.

JUST THE LINKS

February 11, 2015 - [Think Twice About Using A Payday Loan](#)

February 11, 2015 - [Most Popular Baby Names in Saskatchewan in 2014](#)

February 9, 2015 - [Retail Liquor Consultation Concludes](#)

February 9, 2015 - [Water Security Agency Releases February Spring Runoff Forecast](#)

February 9, 2015 - [Saskatchewan Agri-Food Exports Once Again Set Record and Lead the Nation](#)

February 10, 2015 - [Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service Nominations Now Open](#)

COMING EVENTS

Cameco Family Day Skating Party

Date: February 16, 2015

When: Noon to 4 pm

Where: Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink

(Heated tent, sleigh rides, skating, face painting, balloon animals, crafts, Tim Horton's hot chocolate and cookies!)

[Click here for additional information](#)

Free Family Day Skate

Date: February 16, 2015

When: 2 pm - 4 pm

Where: outdoors at the Clarence Downey Speed Skating Oval (Dudley Street and Avenue R South in the Gordon Howe Complex) and indoors at Cosmo Civic Centre (3130 Laurier Drive).

[City of Saskatoon Website](#)

Pink Shirt Day

Date: February 25

Information: [Pink Shirt Day - Stand Up Against Bullying](#)

EACCA Spring Registration Night

Date: March 3

Where: Dr. John G. Egnatoff School, 227 Kenderdine Road

When: 7 pm or check out their online registration

[Click here for additional information](#)

City of Saskatoon - Main Event | Growth Plan Focused Discussions

Date: March 3, 2015

Where: TCU Place (Gallery C/D), 35-22nd St E

When: Daytime Session - 12 pm - 2 pm

Evening Session - 6 pm - 8 pm

[City of Saskatoon Website](#)

Growth Plan Campus Consultation

Date: March 10, 2015

Where: Louis' Loft, 93 Campus Drive

When: 3 pm - 5 pm

[City of Saskatoon Website](#)

Royal University Hospital Foundation's Greek Gourmet Feast

Date: March 11, 2015

Where: Manos Restaurant on 8th Street

[Click here for additional information](#)

NSBA Business Builder Awards

Date: March 19, 2015

Where: Prairieland Park - Hall B

[Click here for additional information](#)

Bust a Move

Date: April 18, 2015

Where: Saskatoon Field house

[Click here for additional information](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Grow old with me! The best is yet to be."

Robert Browning

[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 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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