

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



Provincial Point of View

THANK YOU SASKATCHEWAN PEOPLE ...

From our strong agricultural and potash sectors to our province's growing strengths in manufacturing and innovation, approximately 70,000 new jobs have been created in Saskatchewan since 2007. Thanks to the hard work of Saskatchewan people, our province stands out as a national leader with Canada's lowest unemployment rate for 25 consecutive months. Due to our increasingly diversified and resilient economy, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate for the month of December was just 3.6 per cent. Our province also had the second strongest rate of job growth in Canada at 2.5 per cent year-over-year.

Maintaining a competitive tax and regulatory environment encourages new investment and jobs which we know are key to the continued growth and diversification of our economy. As the foundation of a strong Saskatchewan, a strong economy builds a broader tax base and gives us a greater ability to invest in people, programs and infrastructure that improve our quality of life. One example is our government's \$200,000 commitment for Ability In Me (AIM).

Part of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth is to ensure that Saskatchewan is the best place in Canada to live for persons with disabilities. AIM is a Saskatchewan-based, non-profit corporation which provides specialized programming to enable and support the inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome and provides children and youth with supports and tools to help them become more engaged in their classrooms. Our commitment provides enhanced

access to speech and language services. Every child should have the opportunity to realize his or her full potential and this investment is one of the ways we are working to achieve that.

Our government is committed to meeting the needs of all students and that means providing materials for those with visual impairments and other disabilities in a way they can use. Students need to be able to access these materials to be engaged, successful and prepared for their future. This is why we've committed \$750,000 over three years to support the needs of students who require materials in alternate formats, such as Braille and large text resources.

In 2013-14, there were a total of 180 students across Saskatchewan requiring alternate format materials. This funding commitment will allow for the development and distribution of materials across all school divisions and provide school and school division staff with training to access these materials. It will also support the operation of an alternate format resource centre.

Our government is focused on long-term measures to ensure the economy is growing strong so that we can continue to provide the programs and services that build a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people. While the price of oil will make the provincial budget process more difficult, our diverse economy is a mitigating factor that works in our favour as we look to achieve a balance that will keep Saskatchewan strong and moving forward.

**DIVERSE ECONOMY KEEPS JOB GROWTH
STRONG IN SASKATCHEWAN**



Lowest
unemployment rate in Canada
25 straight months!

3.6%*

Unemployment rate Dec. 2014

14,000**

New jobs since Dec. 2013

61,700**

More people working since 2007

*Source: Employment and Social Development Canada, Statistics Canada, December 2014
**Source: Saskatchewan Labour Force Survey, 2007-2014

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan ended 2014 on top, maintaining the lowest unemployment rate in Canada for the 25th consecutive month. The province's unemployment rate in December was 3.6 per cent (seasonally adjusted), well below the national average of 6.6 per cent, according to figures released by Statistics Canada today.

The province's youth also followed this trend, with a 6.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted) unemployment rate, the lowest youth unemployment rate in the country and below the 13.3 per cent national average.

Saskatchewan also boasts the second strongest rate of job growth in Canada at 2.5 per cent year-over-year (unadjusted).

“Saskatchewan’s diverse economy continues to create jobs,” Minister responsible for Immigration, Jobs, Skills and Training Jeremy Harrison said. “Compared to December 2013, there are 14,000 more people working in our province, including an all-time record of women working. In total, there were 567,700 people working in the province in December – the highest ever for the month.”

[DIVERSE ECONOMY KEEPS JOB GROWTH STRONG IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN **SUPPORTS CHILDREN AND STUDENTS WITH** **DOWN SYNDROME**



I had the pleasure of joining Premier Brad Wall, Education Minister Don Morgan, Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer, Saskatoon MLA’s Corey Tochor, Roger Parent and Paul Merriman, along with many Saskatchewan children and families Thursday, January 8 to announce the Government of Saskatchewan’s 2014-15 investment of \$200,000 in the Ability in Me (AIM)

Program to support children and youth living with Down syndrome.

This commitment will provide enhanced access to speech and language services for children and youth with Down syndrome and their families in the Saskatoon region.

“Part of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth is to ensure that Saskatchewan is the best place in Canada to live for persons with disabilities,” Wall said. “Every child in our province should have the opportunity to realize his or her full potential and this investment will help take a step toward that.”

[GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN SUPPORTS CHILDREN AND STUDENTS WITH DOWN SYNDROME](#)

GOVERNMENT BEGINS CONSTRUCTION ON NEW GROUP HOME IN SASKATOON

Monday, January 12, sod was turned for LutherCare Communities’ home at 1226 Temperance Street in Saskatoon, marking the first step toward creating an inclusive space that four individuals with intellectual disabilities can call home.

The Government of Saskatchewan contributed \$250,000 toward the construction of the project. LutherCare Communities contributed the cost of the land, an in-kind contribution totalling \$195,000.

“Our government’s investment in this project means one individual from Saskatoon and three individuals from Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw will soon have a new home,” Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer said. “Community-based organizations like LutherCare Communities play a valuable role in supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities so they can be included in the community.”

The 2,200 square foot (204 square metre) home, will provide care to these four individuals who have high medical needs. The home will have a fully accessible main floor and will include a hydrotherapy tub and ceiling-based lifting mechanism throughout.

GOVERNMENT BEGINS CONSTRUCTION ON NEW GROUP HOME IN SASKATOON



I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy PotashCorp WinterShine 2015, Saskatoon's premiere winter festival! The festivities begin January 24 and run through to February 1, 2015.

You will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of fantastic events such as ice carving, sleigh rides, a special visit from Olof, Anna and Elsa. The Market Square at River Landing will be the place to be if you want to enjoy great winter entertainment.

Mark this event on your family calendar and get out and enjoy this wonderful winter tradition right here in Saskatoon.

LIQUOR CONSULTATION PROCESS WRAPS UP
JANUARY 30

There's still time to have your say about the future of Saskatchewan's liquor retail system.

"More than 5,500 people have already taken the time to visit the site and provide responses," Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Don McMorris said. "There's still time to let government know your thoughts about our province's liquor retail system."

The liquor consultation kicked off November 4 with the launch of a website that provides some history about liquor retailing in Saskatchewan and also includes information about liquor retailing in other jurisdictions. Visitors to the website are also invited to provide feedback on the five options presented for consideration:

- Maintaining the current system;
- An expanded private retail system;
- Alberta-style fully private retail system;
- Managed transition to fully private system; and
- An expanded government retail system.

Key stakeholders were also invited to provide written submissions. To date, comments from MADD Canada, the Saskatchewan Hotel and Hospitality Association and Spirits Canada have been received and posted to the consultation website.

Any other written submissions received from stakeholders, will also be posted online.

“The topic of liquor retailing has certainly stirred up a lot of conversation,” McMorris said. “I’m very pleased with the response we’ve had to date and expect to see more comments coming before the consultation wraps up at the end of the month.”

[LIQUOR CONSULTATION PROCESS WRAPS UP JANUARY 30](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Saskatchewan has maintained the lowest unemployment rate in Canada for 25 consecutive months.
- In 2001, curling was named Saskatchewan's official sport.
- Saskatchewan’s craft liquor industry is made up of five microbreweries, six cottage wineries and four microdistilleries. Approximately 35 brew pubs also manufacture small volumes of beer.

JUST THE LINKS

- January 7, 2015 - [Saskatchewan Research Council Launches Volatile Materials Expansion Project](#)
- January 14, 2015 - [Government to Launch Review of Craft Alcohol Industry](#)
- January 15, 2015 - [Saskatchewan and Alberta Renew Agreement to Combat Mountain Pine Beetle](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PotashCorp WinterShines

Date: January 24 to February 1

When: Various Times

Where: River Landing

Info: Visit the [website](#) to find out more.

Swinging With The Stars

Date: January 24

When: Coctails at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm, Celebrity Dancers at 7:30 pm, DJ at 10:30 pm

Where: TCU Place

Info: Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan' "Walk for Memories"

When: January 18

When: Registration at 11:00 am, Walk starts at 12:00 pm

Where: Saskatoon Field House

Visit the [website](#) for more information or to register.

Preston Early Learning Preschool at Willowgrove School

When: February 3

When: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Erindale Alliance Church

AND

When: February 4

When: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Holy Family Cathedral

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation." Brian Tracy

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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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