

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



Provincial Point of View

2015-2016 PROVINCIAL BUDGET



March 18, Finance Minister Ken Krawetz tabled a balanced budget that will keep Saskatchewan strong by keeping taxes low, investing in infrastructure, controlling operating spending and providing new incentives that will help create jobs.

The 2015-16 Budget is balanced, with a surplus of \$107 million. Overall revenue is \$14.28 billion, up just 1.2 per cent from last year. Overall spending is \$14.17 billion, also up just 1.2 per cent from last year.

“This budget is about keeping our economy strong and keeping our province strong,” Krawetz said. “We will do that by controlling operating spending, not raising taxes, and continuing to make record investments in much-needed infrastructure projects like highways, schools and health facilities.”

“Our diverse economy and this balanced budget will keep Saskatchewan strong.”

[Click here to read highlights of the 2015-16 Provincial Budget](#)

NOTE: Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Ken Krawetz will be speaking tomorrow, March 20 at a luncheon hosted by the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. This is a great opportunity to hear from the Finance Minister. Please [click here for additional details and ticket information](#).

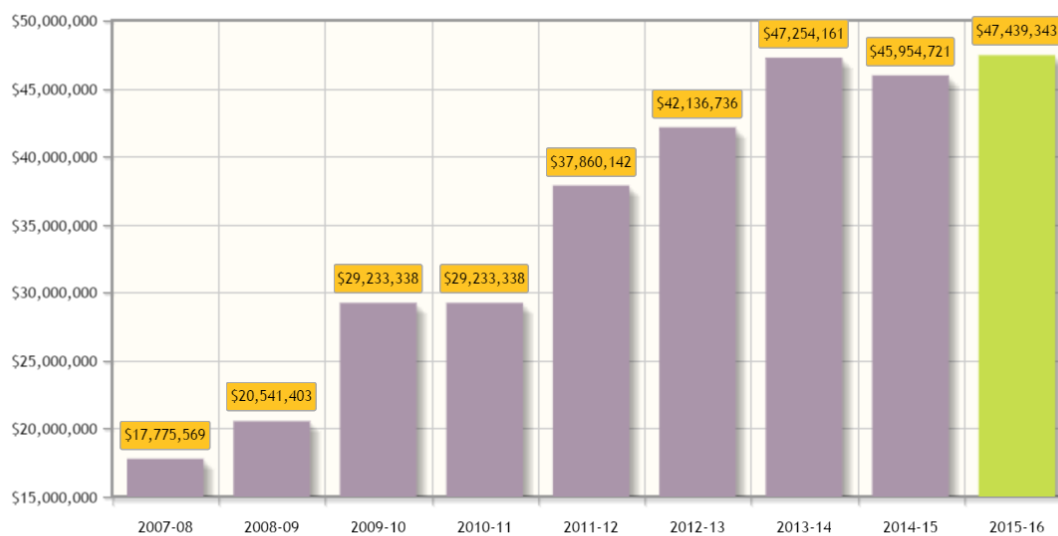
Supporting Saskatchewan Seniors

The 2015-16 Budget continues to invest in programs and services that benefit seniors. The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes support is needed to ensure the safety, comfort and respect of seniors in the province.

“Our government is committed to providing timely, quality care for Saskatchewan seniors,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “This year’s budget provides targeted funding that supports seniors staying in their homes as long as possible and improving quality of long-term care for those who need it.”

[Click here to read more about the \\$10 million investment highlights to support seniors living in their own homes as well as improving quality of long term care](#)

SASKATOON WILL RECEIVE OVER \$47 MILLION IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING



Municipal Revenue Sharing for Saskatoon by fiscal year

Revenue sharing in Saskatoon has increased from **\$17,775,569** in 2007-08 to **\$47,439,343** in 2015-16. That reflects a 167% increase from 2007-08!

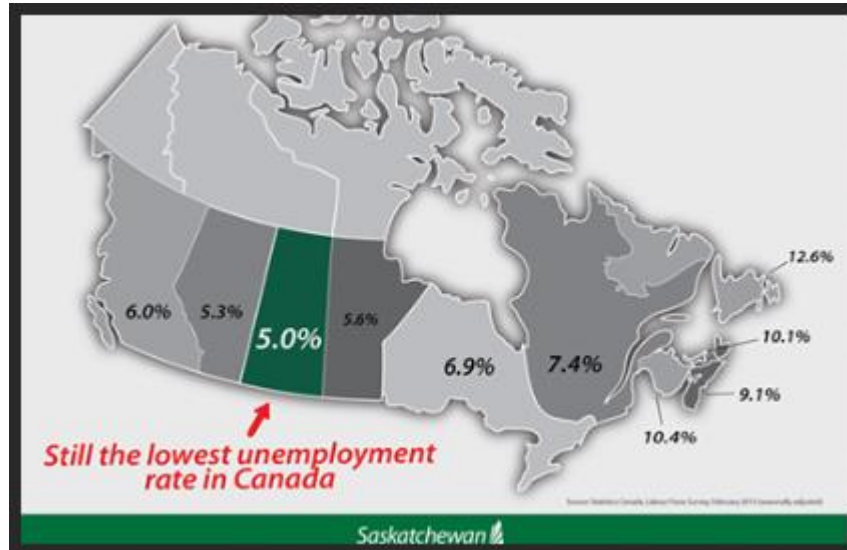
The 2015-16 Provincial Budget is helping to keep Saskatchewan municipalities strong by providing a record \$265.3 million in municipal revenue sharing.

That's up \$8.3 million or 3.2 per cent from the 2014-15 Budget and up \$138 million or 108 per cent from the 2007-08 Budget.

“Municipal revenue sharing is a program that is fundamental to the budgets of our municipal partners,” Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter said. “I am pleased that during a more difficult budget year we have been able to maintain our revenue sharing commitment to municipalities and, in fact, deliver the largest grant ever to them. This is at a time when our provincial own-source revenues have been increasing at a much slower rate.”

[Click here to read more about Municipal Revenue Sharing](#)

STILL THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN CANADA



Saskatchewan recorded the lowest unemployment rate in Canada for the month of February 2015, according to new data released by Statistics Canada today. The unemployment rate was 5.0 per cent, compared to a national rate of 6.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted).

“We are in the fortunate position of having an economy that is diversified with the strength of potash and agriculture bridging the gap of low oil prices,” Immigration, Jobs, Skills and Training

Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “Encouraging news from RBC yesterday shows Saskatchewan’s economy will have an annual growth rate of more than 2.0 per cent in 2015 and 2016, and jobs will likely follow that trend.”

[Read the entire release here](#)

HIGHWAY 7 TWINNING COMING SOON



The twinning of one of Saskatchewan’s most important highways is getting a boost with a major funding commitment from the federal government.

I had the pleasure of joining Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Premier Brad Wall as they announced March 12 that the federal government will fund half the eligible costs to twin 25 km of Highway 7 from Saskatoon to Delisle, to a maximum of \$32 million.

“Highway 7 is an important route for Saskatchewan that connects our largest city to growing communities like Delisle, Rosetown and Kindersley, as well as to export markets,” Wall said. “Twinning will address the safety and congestion concerns that are a result of Saskatchewan’s remarkable economic and population growth.”

[Read the entire release here](#)

POPULATION IN SASKATCHEWAN TOPS 1,130,000



Saskatchewan’s population grew by another 17,396 people in 2014 to an all-time high of 1,132,640, according to new figures released today by Statistics Canada.

Premier Brad Wall said the continued growth shows the strength of the province and its economy.

“2014 was the eighth straight year that our population has grown by more than one and a half per cent – the strongest period of population growth since the early days of our province,” Wall said. “It’s a big change from a decade ago when so many young people were leaving and our population was declining.”

[Click here to read more about a growing Saskatchewan!](#)

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS KEEPING SASKATCHEWAN STRONG

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

2015-16 core capital
budget invests over
\$1.3 billion
in infrastructure

Saskatchewan Builds Plan
\$5.8 billion
four-year infrastructure plan

saskatchewan.ca/budget

Record infrastructure investment of more than \$3.3 billion through the Saskatchewan Builds Capital Plan and the province's Crown corporations will help keep Saskatchewan strong.

Capital projects ranging from investments in power transmission and telecommunications networks, to highways, schools and hospitals are part of the largest single-year capital commitment in the province's history.

"Saskatchewan continues to grow and that means a growing demand for infrastructure," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said. "This budget begins a \$5.8 billion, four-year commitment through the Saskatchewan Builds Capital Plan to build schools, health care facilities, highways, municipal infrastructure and roads and bridges."

[Click here for full release - high credit ratings, positive outlook and resilient economy](#)

**GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS IN
SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOLS**

The Government of Saskatchewan has invested \$24 million in 2014-15 for preventative and emergency maintenance of Saskatchewan schools. The funding includes \$21 million for the Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Program (PMR) and \$3.0 million for the Emergent Funding Program.

“Maintaining our schools to provide safe, welcoming classrooms where our students can thrive is a priority for our government and important for the success of our students,” Education Minister Don Morgan said. “We continue to work with school divisions on their major capital and maintenance needs to preserve and improve the quality of the learning environments across the province.”

[Read the entire release here](#)

JUST THE LINKS

There were several news releases posted this past week. I have listed a portion of them below. For the entire list of articles, photos and videos for recent news and media events, search past press releases by [clicking here](#).

[SASKATCHEWAN STUDENTS VISIT LEGISLATIVE BUILDING TO LEARN ABOUT DEMOCRACY](#)

[INVESTMENTS IN PROVINCIAL PARKS BENEFIT TOURISM IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[TRAINING PROGRAMS ADDRESS WORKFORCE NEEDS IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[GOVERNMENT MAKES INTERIM CHANGES TO POTASH TAXES, ANNOUNCES REVIEW](#)

[CAPITAL INVESTMENTS KEEPING SASKATCHEWAN STRONG](#)

[KEEPING SASKATCHEWAN STRONG BY HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED](#)

[RECORD HIGHWAYS BUDGET FUNDS TWINNING, PASSING LANES, OVERPASSES AND](#)

[BYPASSES](#)

[GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS](#)

[JANUARY MANUFACTURING FIGURES UP](#)

[GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RESPOND TO BULLYING REPORT](#)

[GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN STUDENTS THROUGH THE INVITATIONAL SHARED SERVICES](#)

[INITIATIVE](#)

[SOCIAL WORK WEEK IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)

COMING EVENTS

NSBA Business Builder Awards

Date: Today, March 19

Where: Prairieland Park - Hall B

When: 5 pm - 9 pm

[Click here for additional information](#)

Saskatoon Prayer Breakfast

Date: April 18

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 7:30 am - 10 am

[Click here for additional information](#)

Bust a Move

Date: April 18

Where: Saskatoon Field House

[Click here for additional information](#)

WUHCA Earth Day Clean Up

Date: April 22

Where: Willowgrove Square

When: 10 am - 3 pm

Watch for further details

Teen Aid Saskatoon - Fundraising & Silent Auction

Date: May 3

Where: Smiley's Buffet & Event Centre, 702 Circle Drive East

When: 5 pm

[Click here for additional information](#)

Child Find Charity Breakfast

Date: May 6

Where: Hilton Garden Inn

When: 7:15 am - 8:30 am

[Click here for additional information](#)

SABEX Awards - Celebrate Success

Date: May 14

Where: Saskatoon Prairieland Park

[Click here for additional information](#)

MLA Ken Cheveldayoff's Annual Picnic in the Park

Date: June 18

Where: Forestry Farm

When: 4 pm

Mark your calendars and watch for details!

ZOOGALA

Date: June 19

When: 6:30 pm - 11:00 pm

Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo - Lions Event Pavilion

[Click here for additional information](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners, no matter which fork you use." Emily Post

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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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