

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



## Provincial Point of View

May 29, 2014

### SURGICAL CARE TRANSFORMED TO SERVE PATIENTS BETTER



Innovative changes and investments during the four-year Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative have resulted in sooner, safer, smarter surgical care for the people of Saskatchewan. The number of patients waiting more than three months for surgery is down 75 per cent, with 11,528 fewer patients waiting that long for surgery on March 31, 2014, than in March 2010.

**“Since the introduction of this initiative, there has been a dramatic improvement in access to surgical care for the people of Saskatchewan,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “Thanks to the hard work of regional health authorities and patients, we saw a remarkable improvement in surgical wait times across the province.”**

**The Surgical Initiative was the first major health system project to include patients in the planning process.**

**“More and more members of our health care teams, including management, frontline staff and patients and families are becoming active in the improvement process,” Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region patient advisor Cindy Dumba said. “The more we work together, the better the improvements.”**

**Of the 10 health regions that offer surgery, four achieved the goal of having no patients waiting longer than three months for surgery by March 31, 2014, four are very close (with a combined total of 41 patients still waiting more than three months) and the two largest health regions are working hard to reach the goal during the 2014-15 fiscal year, after facing unexpectedly high demand for surgeries.**

**Looking at the last three months of the initiative, of all patients who received surgery between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2014, 80.8 per cent received it within three months of being booked for surgery.**

**The Surgical Initiative released a report on its final year of activity, citing key improvements that have resulted in sooner, safer and smarter surgical care:**

- **An online Specialist Directory to help patients identify surgical options;**
- **Specialist groups that pool referrals, so patients can see the first appropriate specialist, or wait for a specific specialist;**
- **Timely and appropriate care through clinical “pathways”;**
- **Province-wide implementation of the surgical safety checklist and measures to prevent surgical infections and medication errors;**
- **Increased capacity to train operating room nurses;**
- **Expanded capacity through third-party surgical and diagnostic services; and**
- **A culture of continuous improvement being adopted by health system partners.**

**Monthly wait time updates will continue to be posted on [www.sasksurgery.ca](http://www.sasksurgery.ca).**

[Surgical Care Transformed to Serve Patients Better](#)



**I am looking forward to hosting you and your family at my Annual Picnic in the Park at the Forestry Farm Park & Zoo from 4 pm to 8 pm.**

**Please mark June 19th on your calendars and come and enjoy a tasty barbeque burger while the children have fun with fire truck rides, face painting and other activities. Relax and listen to a great slate of talented musical entertainment.**

**I hope to see you there!**



Trish and I had the opportunity to attend "Cameco Touchdown for Dreams Gala" last night at the Delta Bessborough.

Cameco Touchdown for Dreams is a partnership between the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, Cameco and the Saskatchewan Roughriders designed to help make a difference in the fight against Cancer.

The Gala held last evening in Saskatoon raised funds that will be used to increase the awareness and importance of cancer prevention and early detection. The work that the Touchdown for Dreams campaign does in our province is absolutely incredible and makes such a difference in the lives of many, especially those families who benefit from wishes being granted. In addition to granting wishes to women with cancer each year, part of the proceeds also go toward a mobile unit that will travel to northern communities to screen for cancer and educate youth about cancer prevention.

Money to grant the wishes is raised each October at a Roughriders home game through the sale of special pink Roughrider merchandise. The work to fulfil them is done by dedicated Cameco employees.

Benefits of the campaign extend far beyond the chosen dreamers. The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency receives support which helps its dream of controlling cancer in the North.

Everyone in attendance at the Gala last evening was touched by the heart warming stories and were fortunate to enjoy the talent of Serena Ryder who entertained the crowd with an outstanding performance.

Thank you to Cameco, the organizers, volunteers and everyone attending for their support. Once again, Saskatchewan people show their true spirit.

## **FINES FOR SERIOUS FISHING AND HUNTING INFRACTIONS INCREASED**

The Government of Saskatchewan has made significant changes to the fine structure for unlawful hunting and fishing activities.

As Minister of Environment, I recognize hunting, fishing and trapping are an integral part of Saskatchewan's heritage, and these changes send a clear message that these resources are valued and will be protected. In some instances fines for serious resource infractions have been doubled. We hope these increased penalties will serve as a deterrent to those who consider abusing our resources in the future.

[Fines for Serious Fishing and Hunting Infractions Increased](#)

## **STC SENIOR SEAT SALE EXTENDED TO JUNE**



Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) is extending its \$12 Senior Seat Sale by an extra month. Seniors aged 60 and over will continue to ride with STC for \$12 one-way in June.

"We hope seniors will take the opportunity to do some extra travelling in June," STC President and CEO Shawn Grice said. "We're giving them an extra month to visit with family and friends from across the province - at a great price."

[STC Senior Seat Sale Extended to June](#)

## **GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES ON HEALTH SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Saskatchewan residents who want to make a difference in health care have the opportunity to serve on a committee that helps ensure decisions on out-of-province and out-of-country medical coverage are consistent with legislation, policies and guidelines.

The Ministry of Health is seeking motivated people to fill several public representative positions on the Health Services Review Committee, an independent body which reviews government decisions made on out-of-province and out-of-country medical coverage. Closing date for submission of resumés is June 6.

“We’re looking for people who would like to share their knowledge and voice, putting the interests of patients first,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “Public members play an important role in ensuring the best interests of Saskatchewan residents are represented.”

[Government Calls for Public Representatives on Health Services Review Committee](#)

## **ANCIENT SASKATCHEWAN CELEBRITIES ON THE MOVE AGAIN**



Three Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) travelling exhibits, featuring some of Saskatchewan's most famous ancient creatures, are moving to different communities across the province.

“These exhibits make learning about our province’s past an enjoyable, accessible experience,” Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Kevin Doherty said. “As our province grows, more and more people will seek out opportunities to learn about Saskatchewan. By generating thrilling educational opportunities for residents and visitors across the province, these exhibits enhance quality of life.”

“Many people don’t realize that Saskatchewan has an incredibly rich, diverse fossil record,” RSM Director Harold Bryant said. “Palaeontologists in our province have uncovered many well-preserved fossils and there are certainly more to discover. These exhibits help raise awareness of our province’s impressive and exciting fossil history.”

[Ancient Saskatchewan Celebrities on the Move Again](#)

### **SAID BENEFITS ARE SET TO INCREASE AGAIN BEGINNING JUNE 1**

For the third year in a row, eligible beneficiaries of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program will be receiving an increase to their monthly benefits, beginning June 1, 2014.

**“We are committed to making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada for people with disabilities to live,” Social Services Minister June Draude said. “Benefit increases to the SAID program are one of the ways in which our government is helping to make this a reality. Our government remains committed to supporting this important program both now and well into the future.”**

[SAID Benefits Are Set to Increase Again Beginning June 1](#)

### **INCREASED RIVER FLOW PROMPTS CLOSURE OF PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH**



**As the City continues to monitor the increasing flow of the South Saskatchewan River, because of safety concerns the Fire Department recommends the closure of the public boat launch until further notice.**

**The Water Security Agency (WSA) increased outflows from 800 cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s) to 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/s. This has caused the already heightened water level on the South Saskatchewan River downstream of Gardiner Dam to rise between 25cm to 40 cm. It's anticipated that the higher river flows will remain in place for the remainder of May and into June.**

**“As a result of these conditions, the Fire Department strongly discourages activity on or near the river while the flow rate remains strong,” Assistant Fire Chief Morgan Hackl says. “When the river is like this, it creates significant safety hazards for people and pets on the river – or along its**



banks – and for firefighters who may have to get in the river for a rescue. We know the weekend is expected to be hot, however we're asking folks to please use common sense, respect nature and stay back from the fast flowing water of the South Saskatchewan.”

[Increased River Flow Prompts Closure of Public Boat Launch](#)

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

... Retail sales in Saskatchewan reached a record \$1.6 billion in March 2014. This was the second highest in Canada and 9.1% increase over the previous year.

... Significant seeding progress was made last week with 22% of the 2014 crop already in the ground.

... The Government of Saskatchewan has invested a record \$4.3 billion in transportation and infrastructure since 2008.

... The Ministry of Central Services is responsible for more than 750 properties in communities across the province and works to reduce carbon emissions, energy and water use, and waste generation from its operations.

### **JUST THE LINKS**

May 29, 2014 - [Saskatchewan Students Choose Best Anti-Tobacco Ad](#)

May 29, 2014 - [Crop Report for the Period May 20 to 26, 2014](#)

May 29, 2014 - [Day of the Honey Bee Proclaimed in Saskatchewan](#)

May 29, 2014 - [Traffic Flowing Again on Highway 3 West of Shellbrook](#)

### **COMING EVENTS**

#### **NatureCity Festival**

Date: May 25 - 31

Where: Throughout Saskatoon

When: [View Here](#)

#### **Lows in Motion Commotion Cabaret**

**Date: May 30**

**Where: The New Ens Toyota Dealership 627 Brand Court**

**When: 7 pm [Tickets Here](#)**

**26th Annual PotashCorp Children's Festival**

**Date: June 1 - 4**

**Where: Kiwanis Memorial Park**

**When: [View Here](#)**

**Clean Air Day**

**Date: June 4**

**Where: Everywhere**

**When: All Day**

**Tim Horton's Annual Camp Day**

**Date: June 4**

**Where: Every Tim Horton's**

**When: All Day**

**World Environment Day**

**Date: June 5**

**Where: Around the World**

**When: All Day**

**Silverspring Community Association AGM**

**Date: June 10**

**Where: Mother Teresa School**

**When: 8 pm**

**Picnic in the Park**

**Date: June 19**

**Where: Forestry farm Park & Zoo**

**When: 4 pm - 8 pm**

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

**“You gain strength, courage and confidence  
by every experience in which  
you really stop to look fear in the face...  
You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”**

**~ Eleanor Roosevelt**

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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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