



From a Provincial Point of View

May 20, 2011

SASKATCHEWAN ADVANTAGE BUDGET WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF SPRING SESSION



Yesterday marked the end of the spring session where the Saskatchewan Advantage budget was the highlight of the legislative session. Saskatchewan residents will see lower taxes, less debt and the strongest economy in Canada.

Highlights of the session saw the re-opening of the Prince Albert pulp mill, with no direct investment of taxpayers' money, and the introduction of the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) program, which will provide medical helicopter emergency services throughout the province.

Under the leadership of Premier Brad Wall, our government has worked hard to represent both rural and urban Saskatchewan and will continue to work hard to make sure Saskatchewan keeps moving forward.

With the end of session, I will have the opportunity to spend more time in my constituency and look forward to seeing many of you this summer!

SABEX AWARDS – SASKATOON

I had the pleasure of attending the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce SABEX awards on Wednesday evening with colleagues Minister Rob Norris and MLA Gord Wyant.

SABEX has always been an inspiring occasion for the business community in Saskatchewan's largest city, Saskatoon. It was great to see so many people come together to recognize and encourage their professional peers for the great job they do.

In addition to a pat on the back for the nominees, the event also recognizes the contribution these fine businesses make to our growing economy.

The business successes we witnessed at the SABEX awards were a snapshot of what is happening in other business communities across the province. I am pleased to see the upbeat business community in Saskatoon.

I commend the business community for all they do to create growth and real opportunity, making our province the best place to live, work and do business.

Congratulations to all the SABEX nominees and award winners!

SOME LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS IN SASKATCHEWAN

- Our population is now at an all time high: 1,052,050. It has grown by 15,078 people in the past year, making Saskatchewan the second-fastest growing province in Canada (+1.45 per cent). The province's population has now increased for 19 consecutive quarters, and in the past four years, Saskatchewan has grown by almost 60,000 people – the fastest and most sustained period of population growth in decades.
- New employment numbers show that 518,700 people were employed in April 2011, the second-highest level of employment on record for the month of April. There were employment increases in transportation, warehousing and utilities, wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance and real estate and public administration.
- Saskatchewan's unemployment rate (seasonally-unadjusted) now stands at 5.6 per cent, the second-lowest rate in Canada and well below the national rate of 7.9 per cent. (Note: The seasonally-adjusted rate is 5.0 per cent, the lowest rate in Canada and well below the national rate of 7.6 per cent).
- In April 2011, housing starts in Saskatchewan's urban centres were up by 23 per cent, compared to April 2010 (ranked third among the provinces in terms of percentage change). There were decreases in six provinces in this period, and the national average was down by 15 per cent. Multiple units (condos, apartments, etc.) were up by 150 per cent (from 70 units to 175 units), and single-family dwellings decreased by 9 per cent (from 281 units to 256 units). In the same period, housing starts in Regina were up by 43 per cent, and up by 42 per cent in Saskatoon.
- Saskatchewan jumped from eighth to second place (behind Alberta) in the ranking of best performing labour markets prepared annually by the Fraser Institute (second in Canada, third in North America).
- Saskatchewan was rated the third-best mining investment jurisdiction in the world by the Fraser Institute in the international Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2010/2011. In 2009/2010, Saskatchewan ranked sixth.
- According to the April 2011 CFIB Monthly Business Barometer, optimism for the year ahead among small business owners in Saskatchewan has now reached a three-year high. The province's index of 76.7 was highest among the provinces, and well ahead of the national index of 70.7.
- Saskatchewan leads the West in supporting entrepreneurship, according to a CFIB survey, with 79 per cent of Saskatchewan small businesses being confident their provincial government has a vision that supports small business, compared to 56 per cent of small businesses in BC, 44 per cent in Alberta and only 21 per cent in Manitoba. Saskatchewan also had the highest percentage of businesses (89 per cent) who said they would recommend starting a business within their province.
- According to the most recent CFIB rankings, Saskatchewan has three of Canada's top ten entrepreneurial cities – Saskatoon, Lloydminster and Prince Albert.
- The number of regular employment beneficiaries in Saskatchewan dropped by 5.1 per cent between January 2011 and February 2011 (seasonally adjusted). This was the best percentage decrease among the provinces.



Wayne Hellquist, CEO, Regina Food Bank and Minister Cheveldayoff

FILLING EMPTY BOWLS

As part of my Ministerial Duties, I had the pleasure of attending a fantastic fundraising event at the Regina Food bank.

Casino Regina was a proud sponsor of this worthy cause. Casino Regina recognizes the importance of investing in organizations – like the Regina Food bank – that make our community a better place.

The Regina Food Bank meets a critical need in our communities, offering much more than food for the hungry. It offers training to those looking to develop and upgrade skills and a central location for accessing programs and services, serving as a source of hope, dignity and respect in our community.

I sincerely thank everyone at the Food Banks across our province for all that they do to fight hunger and feed hope.

PROVINCE CONGRATULATES FSIN AND MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN ON SUCCESSFUL NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES BID

Saskatchewan is set to welcome Indigenous athletes from around North America in 2014 when Regina hosts the North American Indigenous Games.

The successful bid was put forward by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, along with the Province of Saskatchewan and City of Regina.

I had the pleasure of being in Moncton, New Brunswick last Friday to participate in our final presentation that resulted in the successful bid. With Saskatchewan's volunteer base, our track record in delivering world class events, the North American Indigenous Games will be a great success.

I congratulate the FSIN and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan on bringing the North American Indigenous Games to Regina in 2014! The Games are a two week celebration that will attract up to 10,000 athletes and have a great economic impact in the province.

WHL RIDE FOR KIDS

The Western Hockey League, the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan, Scotiabank and a group of WHL Alumni led by Kelly Chase, Dave Chartier and Curtis Leschyshyn has announced plans for a province wide celebrity bike relay in support of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan.

The event, to be referred to as the "WHL Ride for the Kids", presented by Scotiabank, will feature former WHL and NHL players participating in a 655 kilometer bike relay across the province of Saskatchewan to raise awareness and funding for the new Children's Hospital in Saskatchewan.

The WHL Ride for the Kids will feature stops in all five WHL Saskatchewan centres from June 5-9, 2011 with fundraising events being staged following each leg of the relay by the Prince Albert Raiders, Saskatoon Blades, Swift Current Broncos, Moose Jaw Warriors and Regina Pats. The WHL Ride for the Kids will be launched with a kick-off event in Prince Albert on June 5 with the first leg of the bike relay starting the morning of June 6 at the Scotiabank branch in Prince Albert and concluding later that afternoon in Saskatoon.

The WHL Ride for the Kids has received a strong response from former Saskatchewan WHL and NHL players who are eager to participate in this unique fundraising event.

Once again, it is wonderful to see the tireless efforts of everyone involved in this project come together to raise awareness and funds for the new Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan.

As WHL Commissioner Ron Robison said, “This is another great example of how passionate our players and our teams are to assist in raising funds for such an important cause in their home province.”

For up to date information on the WHL Ride for the Kids and special event updates visit:
www.whl.ca/whlrideforthekids

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN AND FIRST NATIONS LAUNCH TASK FORCE

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) have signed an historic agreement to establish a joint task force on education and employment. This agreement reflects a shared vision of our prosperous province where everyone has access to a high quality of life on and off reserve.

The joint task force will focus on several key goals including:

- Improved early childhood outcomes and transition to school
- Increased high school and post-secondary completion rates;
- Improved participation in the labour force and employment; and
- Greater quality of life and enhanced self-sufficiency.



The three-member task force will be appointed by the end of summer. The cost of the task force is estimated at \$2 million.

CHARITY ROYALE A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS

The legendary Parisian cabaret Moulin Rouge was brought to life at the Casino Regina Show Lounge last weekend and the greatest display of the evening was the generosity of the evening's guests, who raised \$101,220 for Regina's North Central Family Centre (NCFC).

The Casino Regina Charity Royale - A Black Tie Benefit raised funds in support of the NCFC, a non-profit charitable organization that provides programming, educational, recreational, social and cultural activities in Regina's inner city community.

We were thrilled to have been able to help out a cause as important as the North Central Family Centre, which does so much to improve the lives of people right here in our community.

Through ticket sales, a silent auction and live auction featuring luxury vehicles, a NASCAR ride-along and a wine and food trip through Napa Valley, Charity Royale raised \$50,610. SaskGaming matched that amount, bringing the total donation to \$101,220.

The North Central Family Centre expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to Casino Regina and to all those who attended the Casino Royale Charity Gala. It is because of this commitment that together we are able to build a stronger and more inclusive community.

Proceeds from the event will be used for the NCFC Family Literacy Centre, arts and crafts gallery and Youth Leadership and Development Program.

SaskGaming, through Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw, contributes more than \$750,000 annually to community organizations in support of events and initiatives that make our communities better places to be.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

A poem called "Mud Puddles and Dandelions" points out that when an adult sees a patch of dandelions he often thinks of weeds that can take over his yard, while kids are more likely to see flowers for mom or a white fluffy ball to wish on.

The adult sees a mud puddle as a hazard to avoid; the child sees a pool to play in.

Though many people seem to be born pessimists or optimists--and indeed our disposition to look at the world through a gray or a rose-colored lens is formed early in life--we must know that we can change our perspective and the way we emotionally characterize events by an act of conscious will.

And the simple truth is: We'll all be a lot happier with our lives if we can train ourselves to see the beauty in dandelions and the fun in mud puddles.

Michael Josephson

JUST THE HEADLINES – www.gov.sk.ca/news

May 20, 2011 - [SASKATCHEWAN'S MARCH RETAIL SALES SHOW HIGHEST YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH IN CANADA](#)

May 20, 2011 - [MINIMUM WAGE WILL BE INCREASED SEPTEMBER 1, 2011](#)

May 19, 2011 - [KNOW BEFORE YOU GO – REMEMBER THE ORANGE ZONE](#)

May 18, 2011 - [WHOLESALE TRADE BEST IN CANADA](#)

May 18, 2011 - [OPEN FIRES BANNED IN PROVINCIAL FOREST](#)

May 17, 2011 - [SHORTER WAIT TIMES FOR PATIENTS](#)

May 16, 2011 - [PROVINCE FIRST TO LICENSE MADE-IN-SASKATCHEWAN BLOOD TEST FOR COLORECTAL CANCER RISK](#)

May 16, 2011 - [GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES 500 NEW CHILD CARE SPACES](#)

DID YOU KNOW ? ? ?

- The Conference Board of Canada reported last week that Saskatoon and Regina will have the first and third highest growth rates in the country in 2011.
- Saskatoon is forecast to have a 4.1 per cent increase in economic growth, the highest among Canadian cities. Regina ranked third with an expected increase of 3.1 per cent.
- The Meewasin Valley Centre has a Victoria Day Program May 22 and 23 daily from 1-4 pm.

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 to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call me.



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“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. Contact Ken by calling (306) 651-7100, emailing ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net or writing Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs, 1106A Central Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 2H1. **To subscribe or be removed from this newsletter, please send an email message.** This newsletter is produced with the assistance of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus Office.