



From a Provincial Point of View

July 15, 2011

SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS' FEDERATION AND THE GOVERNMENT-TRUSTEE BARGAINING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Last week, the special mediator presented his report on the teachers' contract dispute to Labour Relations Minister Don Morgan. Both the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) and the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee (GTBC) have agreed that the recommendations within the report will form the basis of a tentative agreement. The recommendations include an average salary increase of 8.84 per cent over three years, which also includes a general increase of 5.5 per cent plus recommended market adjustments based on the average salary of other Western Canadian teachers.

THE DAKOTA DUNES CASINO OPEN CANADIAN TOUR



The Dakota Dunes Casino Open, Saskatchewan's only stop for the Canadian Tour, wrapped up this past weekend at the challenging Dakota Dunes Golf Links on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

This exciting international sports event attracted 156 of the world's best young golfers from 14 countries, including the first female pro golfer ever to play on a Men's pro golf tour, Isabelle Bieseigel, originally from Quebec and more recently from Oklahoma.

The title sponsor the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority was joined by many Saskatchewan businesses.

The Ministry of Tourism Parks Culture and Sport provided a hosting grant and SaskTel was a major sponsor.

The winner of the event was Joe Panzera of the United States. Joe is a good friend of Graham Delaet, a Saskatchewan golfer now playing on the PGA Tour. Hugh Vassos, Executive Chair of the event poses for a photo with Minister Cheveldayoff, some of the volunteer committee, and the Champion on the 18th Green immediately following the trophy presentation.

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS

The great Saskatchewan photo contest is now on. You can enter in up to three of these seven categories: Saskatchewan people; Nature in Saskatchewan; Prairie Scenic; Woods and Water; My Saskatchewan Vacation; Urban Life; Provincial Parks 80th Anniversary. Contest is open to amateur and professional photographers.

Contest entries can be received no later than midnight on October 1, 2011.

For full contest rules and to submit your entry, click on the link <http://www.sasktourism.com/whats-happening/contests/snap-it-photo-contest>

NORTH SASKATOON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S 15TH ANNUAL COOKOUT



I had the pleasure of attending the NSBA's 15th annual cookout this week. It was an opportunity for fun, fellowship and fine food barbecued to perfection by NSBA's own specially trained chefs!

The North Saskatoon Business Association does great work in our city and this event was no exception. The barbeque is held on the Tuesday of Great Western's Annual Children's Wish fundraising pancake breakfast week.

Congratulations to the organizers and volunteers for all they do to make our province a better place.

Clay Dowling, Ghost Transportation, NSBA President, Keith Moen, NSBA Executive Director, Michael Micovcin, Great Western Brewing Company, CEO, Colleen Mah, North Ridge Development – NSBA Director, Ken

NEW COMMITTEE PROVIDES ADDED REVIEW OF MEDICAL COVERAGE REQUESTS

The Saskatchewan government is putting patients first, by helping to ensure decisions on out-of-province and out-of-country medical coverage are consistent, fairly applied and transparent.

For those patients who request it, this independent committee provides a timely review of Ministry of Health decisions to ensure that government policy was followed.

Coverage for out-of-country treatment is only considered in exceptional circumstances and must have prior approval from the Ministry of Health. The Ministry provided \$4.3 million in funding for out-of-country treatment in 2009-10.

Under a reciprocal billing agreement, prior approval is not required for the vast majority of hospital and physician services received in other provinces. However, some services do require prior approval such as alcohol and drug, mental health, problem gambling, rehabilitation and home care services.

Three members will review each request for reconsideration of coverage; a chair with legal or administrative expertise, a physician or other health professional and a public representative. Several different members are appointed in each role to ensure availability and scheduling of timely reviews.

See attachment for names of members as well as information on accessing the committee. Information is also posted on the Ministry of Health's website at <http://health.gov.sk.ca>.

Read more . . .

GEORGE REED ALUMNI LOUNGE



I am looking forward to joining Rider President/CEO Jim Hopson at the opening of the recently renovated "Saskatchewan Roughrider Alumni Lounge presented by Casino Regina in honour of George Reed this afternoon.

George Reed's accomplishments both on and off the football field are well known. In addition to his esteemed 13-year career with the Saskatchewan Roughriders – his work with organizations such as the Special Olympics, the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, Camp Easter Seal, and of course the George Reed Foundation, represent his dedication to helping those in need, and his commitment to our

community.

George has a genuine interest in helping everyone in our society reach their full potential, which is why he is such a great ambassador for the Riders ... and for SaskGaming.

As the Director of Guest and Community Relations, he represents Casinos Regina and Moose Jaw with enthusiasm and greatness.

He is an icon – one of Saskatchewan's most recognized citizens – and a valued member of the SaskGaming team.

SaskGaming is very proud to partner with the Riders to honour George in this way.

SASKATCHEWAN URBAN HOUSING STARTS REMAIN ELEVATED IN JUNE

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) released preliminary results of its monthly survey of residential construction this week. Housing starts in the Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) totaled 370 units in June, up from 242 units in June 2010.

They reported that Saskatchewan is leading the country in housing construction; it means families in our province have more choice in looking for homes. Our housing starts are increasing faster than anywhere else in Canada, up 33% over last June.

We've seen builders are responding to demand in the rental market. Multiple unit starts are up 87% from a year ago. We have also seen a strong start in housing in the first half of the year, despite the poor weather we've experienced.

MEETING WITH HONOURABLE JOHN DUNCAN, FEDERAL MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CANADA



Minister Harpauer, Minister Norris and I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Duncan this week. It was a great opportunity to discuss mutual priorities pertaining to Provincial and Federal Governments.

SASKATCHEWAN PARKS WEEK

It's a big year for our provincial parks. Our government recently announced that July 10 to 16 is Saskatchewan Parks Week and this year marks the 80th Anniversary of our provincial parks system. These beautiful parks provide a unique, recreational and cultural experience for people not only from Saskatchewan, but also from Canada and around the world. Our government is committed to ensuring that remains so.

Since 2008, there has been nearly \$33 million invested to improve our provincial parks. Some of those improvements include new or upgraded service centres, change houses, boat launches, entry kiosks, picnic tables, barbeques and, by the fall of 2011 we will see nearly 1,100 newly electrified campsites. For further information on Saskatchewan Parks Week events, please visit www.saskparks.net.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."

Vincent Van Gogh

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

Jul. 14, 2011 - [WEEKLY PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE](#)

Jul. 14, 2011 - [SASKATCHEWAN REAL ESTATE AGENTS WILL NOW BE ABLE TO INCORPORATE](#)

Jul. 11, 2011 - [SASKATCHEWAN LEADS NATION IN HOME BUILDING](#)

DID YOU KNOW ? ? ?

- WakeRide 2011 is taking place July 15, July 16 and July 17 on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River and Victoria Park.
- A Taste of Saskatchewan takes place July 19 to 24 in beautiful Kiwanis Park.

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.