



Ken Cheveldayoff

From a Provincial Point of View

January 27, 2012

SASKATCHEWAN LEADS NATION IN GROWTH OF REGISTERED NURSES

Saskatchewan leads the country in the growth of its registered nurse (RN) workforce, according to a report released yesterday by the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI).

Regulated Nurses: Canadian Trends, 2006 to 2010 outlines positive news for the province. During this timeframe:

- The registered nurse workforce in Saskatchewan increased by 12.5 per cent - the highest of any other province in Canada.
- Saskatchewan is one of the few provinces where the average age of RNs decreased.
- In 2010, more than 60 per cent of RNs worked in full-time positions - the highest percentage in western Canada.
- In Saskatchewan the number of nurse practitioners increased from 88 in 2006 to 122 in 2010, an increase of 38.6 per cent.

"This national report recognizes the solid progress we've made in Saskatchewan," Health Minister Don McMorris said. "This past fall, we celebrated the addition of more than 900 new nurses working in the province than in 2007-08 - far exceeding our commitment to hire 800 more registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses."

The majority of these nurses have been hired as part of the work under the partnership agreement between the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) and the provincial government, signed in February 2008. Additional positions have been created by health regions.

SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE EARNINGS RANK SECOND IN CANADA

According to the report from Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings were \$904.42, the second highest in Canada behind Alberta (\$1,052.53). This is the second highest average weekly earnings for Saskatchewan on record. The national average was \$883.96.

In November 2011, Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings increased by 5.1 per cent, compared to a year ago. This increase was the second highest among the provinces behind Newfoundland and Labrador (5.7 per cent) and above the national average of 2.2 per cent.

"Saskatchewan workers continue to benefit from our economy with competitive wages and a multitude of job opportunities," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "Our average weekly earnings are second highest in the country and have exceeded the national average since August 2011 which speaks to why this is a great time to be working in Saskatchewan."

Norris also noted that Saskatchewan's real wage rate (adjusted for inflation) increased by 2.2 per cent. This was the highest real wage increase among provinces.

"With more than 9,600 jobs listed today on www.saskjobs.ca, opportunities are available in every corner of the province."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORGE



An outstanding individual in Saskatoon Silver Springs celebrated a very special birthday this week. I join George Tastad's family and friends in wishing him all the best as he celebrates his 90th birthday!

George, we all wish you continued health and happiness. You are truly an inspiration to everyone around you.

SHOPPERS RING UP RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER

Retail sales in Saskatchewan continued to rise according to a report released from Statistics Canada. In November 2011, retail sales were up by 11.3 per cent over November 2010, the highest among the provinces. Nationally, retail sales were up 3.1 per cent.

"Saskatchewan people are feeling confident about the economy with so many great jobs in this province and that is allowing them to create a better quality of life," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Retail sales have been rising steadily over the last months, which bodes well for businesses across the province."

There was a 1.3 per cent increase in retail sales in November 2011 when compared with October of 2011, the highest percentage rise in the nation. Over the same period, retail sales in Canada had a 0.3 per cent increase.

"Consumer confidence has been growing alongside our economy and that contributed to the increase in retail sales in November," Harrison said. "Saskatchewan is on track to continue the trend of higher retail sales for both the short and the long term."

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NATIONAL GAMES

The 2012 Special Olympics National Games will be taking place in St. Albert and Jasper, Alberta from February 28 to March 3. Congratulations to "Team Saskatchewan" who will have a total of 27 athletes attending. Sixteen athletes are from Saskatoon, six from Melfort, two from Nipawin, one from Prince Albert and one from Debden.

A total of 14 coaches and mission staff will be traveling with the team to St. Albert, Alberta on February 27th.

The team will be leaving the Saskatoon airport on February 27 at 10:45 a.m. If you have a chance, go out to the airport and show your support to these fine athletes!

WHOLESALE TRADE TRIPLES THE NATIONAL INCREASE

Saskatchewan's wholesale trade in November 2011 jumped 22.3 per cent over last November, more than triple the 6.5 per cent rise nationally and the highest increase among the provinces.

"With an economy that continues to quickly expand, wholesalers have to make sure the supply is there to meet high consumer and business demand," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "With that high demand comes more jobs, higher wages and new businesses in our province."

The November wholesale trade totals are the highest on record for the month of November. Wholesale trade has increased on a year-over-year basis for the last 18 consecutive months.

"Record-setting wholesale numbers definitely support the economic momentum that our province has," Harrison said. "The fact that wholesale trade has grown for such an extended period is encouraging and points to 2012 being a strong year as well."

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

DID YOU KNOW

- Our post-secondary system is seeing record investments, student loan limits have been increased and new student housing is being built.
- We are building more long-term care facilities and seniors housing projects and low-income seniors have seen their benefits double.
- One-third of our schools in the province have been repaired or renovated.
- There are more than 3,400 new child-care spaces.

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

Jan. 27, 2012 - FORMER PROVINCIAL LABORATORY SCHEDULED FOR DECONSTRUCTION

Jan. 23, 2012 - MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE SURVEY EXTENDED

Jan. 23, 2012 - PROVINCE BUYS SEEDLINGS FOR REFORESTATION

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON

- If you would like your event listed in Provincial Point of View, please contact ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net

Meewasin PotashCorp Skating Party

When: January 29, 2012

Where: Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink (on Spadina Cres next to the Delta Bessborough)

Time: 12-4 pm

Details: The party starts at 12:00 pm with a short program at 2:00 pm. You can warm up in the new Cameco Meewasin Skaters' Lodge. There will be music, snow games, concession, Tim Horton's hot chocolate and Timbits and much more.

Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan Walk for Memories 2012

When: January 29, 2012

Where: Saskatoon Field House

Details: Registration takes place from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. The walk is from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Register online at www.alzheimer.ca/sk; by phone at 1-877-651-0260 or by email to events@alzheimer.sk/ca

2012 Canada Cup III Canadian Junior Speedskating Championships

When: Feb 3-5, 2012

Where: Clarence Downey Speed Skating Oval

Details: This event is hosted by the Saskatoon Lions Speed Skating Club. For more information contact fritz.schumann@sasktel.net

PotashCorp Wintershines

When: Jan 28, 2012 – Feb 12, 2012

Where: Market Square at River Landing

Details: Featuring an ice park with climbing wall, zipline and luge. Visit <http://www.postashcorpwintershines.ca>

Saskatoon Wellness Expo 2012

When: Feb 10, 2012 – Feb 12, 2012

Where: Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street

Details: Visit <http://saskatoonex.com>

Saskatoon Family Expo

When: February 17-19, 2012

Where: Prairieland Park

Details: Over 100 exhibitors, events, entertainment, food and more! \$8.00/adult. Kids under 16 are free! For more information click FAMILY EXPO.

Tim Horton's Brier

When: Mar 3, 2012 – Mar 11, 2012

Where: Credit Union Centre

Details: Visit <http://www.curling.ca>

Homestyles

When: Mar 22, 2012 – Mar 25, 2012

Where: Saskatoon Prairieland Park

Time: Mar 22 – 5:00-9:00 pm; Mar 23 – 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm; Mar 24 – 10:00 am – 9:00 pm; Mar 25 – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Details: Visit <http://www.homestylesonline.com>

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.

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