



Ken Cheveldayoff

From a Provincial Point of View

February 17, 2012

ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

I had the opportunity, along with colleagues the Honourable Don Morgan, Gord Wyant, Corey Tochor, Paul Merriman, Scott Moe, Jennifer Campeau and Member of Parliament Kelly Block to be in attendance at the Mayor's Luncheon today.

Mayor Atchison delivered his Annual State of the City Address to an enthusiastic crowd at TCU. His vision for growth is remarkable and his leadership is exemplary. We are fortunate and proud of the great working relationship the Province has with the City of Saskatoon.



HAPPY FAMILY DAY!

I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy Family Day, Monday February 20. Family Day is observed in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan on the third Monday of February.

This holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life to people and their communities. There are many Family Day activities in Saskatoon. I encourage you to participate in the numerous activities taking place.

SURGICAL WAIT TIME REDUCTIONS CONTINUE

Specialist Directory Benefits Patients and Doctors

As surgical wait times in Saskatchewan continue to decline, the province is highlighting an online directory and encouraging patients to take a more active role with their doctors in improving their surgical experiences.

Surgical data now updated to December 31, 2011, shows that the number of patients waiting longer than 18 months for surgery has dropped 89 per cent and the number waiting over 12 months has dropped 76 per cent. These figures represent improvements of two and three percentage points respectively since the previous monthly data update.

Saskatchewan has completed more than 62,400 surgeries since the start of this fiscal year (April), seven per cent more (approximately 4,100 cases) than during the same period last year.

"We are clearly moving in the right direction in surgical care," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Jim Reiter said on behalf of Health Minister Don McMorris. "The many projects and innovations underway in our health regions are contributing to real, sustainable progress on wait times. These efforts are making a difference to patients."

To enable surgical patients to be more involved in decisions about their care, Saskatchewan is promoting a user-friendly online directory through a television commercial now airing across the province.

The Saskatchewan Specialist Directory, at www.health.gov.sk.ca/specialists, was first launched in June 2010 and is updated weekly with information on approximately 300 physicians and dentists and all elective surgical procedures that occur in a Saskatchewan operating room. The interactive directory receives about 750 unique visitors every month.

Surgical patients and their families are encouraged to use the Specialist Directory to find information about surgeons practicing in the province, their wait times, where they provide services and procedures performed in the past year.

Dr. David Stoll, a La Ronge family physician who is featured in the commercial, said the Specialist Directory benefits both him and his patients.

"The directory helps me easily find wait times for different specialists and confirm whether they perform specific procedures," Dr. Stoll said. "The time I spend using it with my patients is well spent. It can mean they receive a procedure sooner and that they're happier with the surgical process."

Over time, the Specialist Directory could make a significant difference in surgical wait times, as patients understand that they have a choice to see other Saskatchewan surgeons with shorter wait times. Patients willing to travel may choose to have surgery sooner in a location other than their nearest surgical centre. By the end of 2011-12, Saskatchewan's goal is to provide all patients with the opportunity to have surgery within 12 months of specialist referral. Currently, 99 per cent of all surgeries are completed within 18 months, and 96 per cent within 12 months. Six of the 10 health regions that provide surgical services are already providing 100 per cent of surgeries within 12 months.

The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative (SkSI) is the province's four-year plan to provide sooner, safer, smarter surgical care. The SkSI's goals are to improve the surgical patient experience and by 2014, provide all patients with an opportunity to have surgery within three months. View the Specialist Directory commercial at www.youtube.com/user/healthysask

URANIUM DEAL GREAT NEWS FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Premier Brad Wall said that a new deal allowing Canadian provinces to export uranium to China for power generation is "very, very important" for Saskatchewan.

According to Saskatoon-based Cameco, the world's largest uranium producer, the agreement will allow the company to move ahead with supply agreements which could be worth as much as \$3 billion.

Premier Wall also noted this deal would not only bring additional investment to the province, but new jobs, particularly in Northern Saskatchewan.

"Overall, 42 per cent of workers in our northern mines are aboriginal," Wall said. "This new agreement and the new investment it will promote are a boon for all northerners, particularly young people looking for well paying long-term jobs."

PROVINCE AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HELP A SASKATOON FAMILY ACHIEVE HOMEOWNERSHIP

A women-led affordable housing project has been completed in Saskatoon to help a Habitat for Humanity partner family achieve their dream of homeownership. The family was officially presented with keys to their new home in a special ceremony held today. The province, through Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, provided \$50,000 for the project to facilitate housing development, strengthen communities and encourage women's participation in the skilled trades and technologies.

"We are very proud to assist Habitat for Humanity in Saskatoon by providing \$50,000 for this home," Saskatoon Fairview MLA Jennifer Campeau said on behalf of Social Services Minister and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation June Draude. "This home, and other Habitat builds, represents the hard work and dedication of many people coming together to help families grow and prosper. This is truly a part of the Saskatchewan Advantage, of living in a province where potential is realized, dreams are fulfilled and people can have a home to call their own."

"Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon is really excited about the dedication of this home and the others that will follow, thanks to the Government of Saskatchewan, our donors and volunteers," Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon Executive Director Barb Cox-Lloyd said. "Particular thanks go to Cameco for their ongoing commitment to the Women Build in Saskatoon. We believe that involving volunteers in building homes for low-income working families provides them with an opportunity to build a stronger community."

Since 2009, the province has dedicated \$3.5 million in funding for Habitat for Humanity affiliates and chapters in Regina, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Lloydminster to help build a total of 70 homes across the province. To date, the government has committed more than \$2 million of the \$3.5 million in grant funding available to Saskatchewan Habitat for Humanity affiliates to develop 46 homes.

The Women Build project is the result of a partnership between the Government of Saskatchewan and Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon.

Women Build is a Habitat for Humanity program that promotes women's leadership and participation in the construction industry, and provides concrete, practical opportunities for women to learn and practice trade skills under the direction of skilled tradespeople. With the cost of building new homes increasing, Habitat is one of the few organizations whose distinct delivery model continues to provide viable homeownership opportunities for low- to moderate-income families. Each selected Habitat partner family contributes 500 partnering hours to build their home and other Habitat for Humanity homes.

[Read more . . .](#)

ANOTHER DROP IN THE NUMBER OF EI RECIPIENTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

The number of people in Saskatchewan receiving Employment Insurance (EI) dropped significantly in December, 2011, compared to the same month in 2010, for 21 consecutive months of year-over-year decreases.

There were 10,050 beneficiaries receiving regular EI benefits in Saskatchewan, a decrease of 2,230 (18.2 per cent) from December 2010. Each of the province's eight large centres had year-over-year declines in the number of beneficiaries, with the largest occurring in Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw and Prince Albert.

"With increases in average weekly earnings and a growing demand for skilled employees, Saskatchewan workers continue to benefit from a strong and steady economy," Advanced Education, Employment and

Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "There is good reason for optimism with many economic forecasters predicting that Saskatchewan will continue to be an economic leader in the year ahead."

[Read more . . .](#)



JOIN ED ONISHENKO AT McNALLY ROBINSON

Join Captain Ed at McNally Robinson this Saturday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m. It will be a great opportunity to get your Captain Ed's Fire Safety Book signed and also get your picture taken if you wish.

After 35 years of fighting fires, Captain Ed wants to show you how to stay safe in case of a fire. Learn how to make a safety plan, get out quick, plan a meeting place, and much, much more. Have fun! Jump, clap, sing and dance your way to safety.

Ed Onishenko is a retired Fire Captain. He spent 35 years fighting fires in Saskatoon, SK. Ed's zest for life is evident in all areas of his life. From spending time with his wife Deb, his daughters and grand kids, to his many community service projects, a common theme of serving and caring for others is pivotal. Ed values human life as simply "priceless." If this book saves one life, then Ed will be eternally happy.

GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES, SEEKS LABOUR INPUT ON LEGISLATION

Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Minister Don Morgan, today wrote to Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) President Larry Hubich to invite the input of the SFL into changes to the government's essential services legislation in light of last week's court decision.

"We remain committed to ensuring the health and safety of all Saskatchewan people in the event of a public sector work disruption," Morgan said. "We appreciate that consultation with organized labour is key to helping us achieve this goal, not only to address constitutional obligations, but to help us to develop proper and effective systems for ensuring the continued delivery to the public of essential services during labour disputes."

Morgan's letter invites the SFL to provide its written views on amendments to The Public Service Essential Services Act to make the legislation Charter compliant and provide appropriate protection for public health and safety during labour disruptions. Morgan also requested a meeting with Hubich, once the written submission is provided. Last week, the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench found the Act to be unconstitutional, but delayed the effect of the ruling for 12 months to permit the government an opportunity to consider changes to the legislation.

"This represents an opportunity for government and organized labour to work together," Morgan said. "I believe we can find a way to balance the need for a workable legislative solution which ensures the provision of essential services to the public and which complies with our constitutional obligations."

[Read more . . .](#)



SALUTE TO SENIORS

In the spirit of volunteering, I invite you to nominate a senior (65+) who volunteers in your community. Nominations will be received until March 15th with provincial finalists announced. In June, one finalist from across Canada will be selected to receive \$5000 to go to the volunteer's charity of choice. Please see more at www.salutetoseniorservice.com.

Please help us get the word out to celebrate volunteerism in Saskatoon and beyond. I encourage you to nominate a senior you know who invests 15 hours or more per month in the service of others.

CELEBRATING HERITAGE WEEK IN SASKATCHEWAN

The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed February 20 to 26, 2012 as Heritage Week in Saskatchewan.

"Heritage Week is a great way to showcase our vibrant culture and demonstrate how heritage in all its forms contributes to our economy, our sense of place and our enviable quality of life," Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Bill Hutchinson said. "I encourage communities and cultural organizations to celebrate Heritage Week by promoting their local museum or historic site, organizing a heritage walking tour or hosting a community cultural celebration. Heritage Week is a time to learn, discover, celebrate and honour our shared past."

[Read more . . .](#)

SECOND YEAR OF "REAL GROWTH, REAL OPPORTUNITY" NATIONAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

Enterprise Saskatchewan launched year two of the Real Growth, Real Opportunity national marketing campaign to encourage people to establish a career or to do business in the province.

First introduced in November 2010, the campaign uses real people telling why they have moved to Saskatchewan to work or why they have chosen to invest in the province. The campaign includes TV ads, online banners and videos, and recruitment events. Year two places more focus on recruitment to address what businesses have identified as their most pressing need.

"Saskatchewan is growing with new employment and investment opportunities, and we want to communicate that message throughout the country and around the world," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Our economy is experiencing unprecedented growth, tens of thousands of new people have chosen Saskatchewan as home and many major companies see their future in our province. We hope to draw upon that positive momentum and generate even more interest in Saskatchewan."

[Read more . . .](#)



ATTENTION – I NEED YOUR HELP!

If you know anyone in our constituency that has gone above and beyond for a cause or helping others or know of any citizens receiving awards or other notable events in our community, please let me know so they can have the opportunity to be recognized for their contributions!

Thanks for your assistance!

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your

own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.”

Steve Jobs

DID YOU KNOW

- The name Saskatoon comes from the Cree inanimate noun “misâskwatômina”, which refers to the sweet, violet-coloured berry that grows in the area.
- Saskatoon was incorporated as a city on May 26, 1906.
- Saskatoon is one of the sunniest cities in Canada, and records an average of 2381 hours of sunlight annually.
- The world’s largest uranium company Cameco and the world’s largest potash company Potash Corp have their corporate headquarters in Saskatoon.
- The University of Saskatchewan campus is home to the Canadian Light Source, which is the largest scientific project completed in Canada in over 50 years. The 179 million dollar project resulted in a national synchrotron radiation facility that is used for a wide range of world-class scientific research. The campus also houses the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), which is a global leader in researching the diseases that afflict animal and human health.

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

Feb. 17, 2012 - **BOYD LEADS RESOURCES INVESTMENT MISSION TO CHINA AND AUSTRALIA**

Feb. 16, 2012 - **DECEMBER MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS BREAK RECORD**

Feb. 14, 2012 - **NEW CAR SALES SPEED UP IN 2011**

Feb. 14, 2012 - **CELEBRATING HERITAGE WEEK IN SASKATCHEWAN**

Feb. 13, 2012 - **CHANGES TO CAMPING PROGRAM AT SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL PARKS**

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

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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Please check my website at www.cheveldayoff.com.