



Ken Cheveldayoff

From a Provincial Point of View

April 5, 2012

Trish, Carter, Paige and I wish everyone a very special Easter weekend.



REPORT FROM LEGISLATURE

- An important facet of Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage is properly funding services that are important to Saskatchewan people.
- Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage is also about investing in the future. To that end, we are providing \$1 million for a project at the U of R which will include student housing, child care and other amenities, including increased parking. Over the past four years, we have increased our investment in student housing by more than 3,000 per cent – today, there are more than 1,000 new beds for students across the province. Promise made, promise kept.
- Saskatchewan residents created the Saskatchewan Advantage, which includes creating the business environment that has the world looking at our province as the best place to invest. On March 20, Glencore International, in a deal that includes two Canadian companies, announced its takeover bid for Regina-based Viterro, a leader in the international grain marketing industry. At

that time, Premier Brad Wall announced that just like during the proposed potash takeover, we would conduct a very thorough analysis to determine whether this deal was also in the best interest of Saskatchewan people. On March 29, the Premier announced that Informa Economics would conduct an independent review looking at all aspects of the deal, including employment and what effect it might have on the province's economy and revenues. The deadline for their report is May 7 – it will be released to the public a few days later.

- More good news on the job front. According to a new StatsCan report, average weekly earnings in Saskatchewan are at an all-time high of \$907.44. That's an increase of 2.7 per cent over where we were at the same time last year. And, if the latest number of hits on Saskjobs.ca is any indication, people around the world know that Saskatchewan is **the** place to build a career. There were more than a million hits on the website in March. Close to 14,000 of those visits came from Ireland – further proof that Premier Brad Wall and Employment Immigration Minister Rob Norris' recruitment mission to the Emerald Isle last month continues to pay off.
- For the entire month of May, seniors can ride anywhere on the STC bus network for only \$10 one-way. Spring in Saskatchewan is a beautiful season to enjoy time with friends and families in our great province –by providing this service we give seniors an opportunity to do just that.

SCOTIABANK HOLDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN SASKATOON

Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Ken Krawetz and I had the privilege of attending a reception with hundreds of executives and employees from Scotiabank Canada Monday, April 2.

This is the first time Scotiabank has ever held their annual meeting in Saskatoon.

Under the banner of Scotiabank Bright Future – their global philanthropic program – the Bank has provided on average approximately \$45 million annually to community causes around the world over each of the last five years!

Scotiabank made a very significant announcement at the reception that will positively impact the Aboriginal Community. President & CEO Rick Waugh announced a gift to the University of

Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business in the amount of \$200,000. The Edwards School of Business has done a wonderful job supporting Aboriginal education and Scotiabank's contribution will indeed provide an opportunity for a brighter future for the many aboriginal students that will benefit from this generous contribution.



Ken Cheveldayoff, Rick Waugh, His Worship Mayor Don Atchison

Our Government is proud that we have such a dedicated group of people at Scotia Bank that not only provide great financial service but work hard for the betterment of our Province. Scotiabank's leadership is a prime example of the continuing growth in our Province that significantly contributes to the Saskatchewan Advantage.

INCREASED FUNDING SUPPORTS BETTER ACCESS TO CANCER CARE

Saskatchewan cancer patients will have improved access to cancer care and services, thanks to a funding increase this year to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

The provincial government committed \$138.8 million for the agency in the 2012-13 Budget, an increase of \$16.9 million (nearly 14 per cent) over 2011-12. It will be used to enhance access to cancer screening, cancer drugs and oncologists.

"We're committed to giving Saskatchewan people the best cancer care available anywhere," Health Minister Don McMorris said. "The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is doing an exceptional job providing services to patients, and its focus on improving access to cancer care is clearly paying off." Saskatchewan Cancer Agency data shows that patients are getting more timely appointments with oncologists at the cancer centres.

[INCREASED FUNDING SUPPORTS BETTER ACCESS TO CANCER CARE](#)

GOVERNMENT SHOWS SUPPORT FOR ANTI-BULLYING EFFORTS

The week of March 30 to April 5 was officially proclaimed as Pink Revolution Anti-bullying Week. The Ministry of Education is demonstrating its support for anti-discrimination efforts with a focus on events and initiatives coinciding with this officially proclaimed week.

Pink Revolution Week kicked off in Saskatoon on March 12 and had a subsequent flag raising ceremony on April 1. This Saskatchewan made event was co-ordinated by the Anti-bullying Network, which is comprised of the Boys and Girls Club, The Avenue Community Centre, Youth Launch, Restorative Action Program, Saskatoon Police Service, Affinity Credit Union, and various local school divisions. Ministry officials attended both the launch and the flag raising to offer greetings and show support.

[Government Shows Supports for Anti-Bullying Efforts](#)

RE-OPENING OF THE DIEFENBAKER CANADA CENTRE

On March 30, I was delighted to participate in the re-opening of the Diefenbaker Canada Centre following extensive renovations made possible through a funding partnership between the Government of Canada and the University of Saskatchewan.

As part of the grand re-opening, three in-house-produced exhibits are featured that addresses the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker's contributions in the area of human rights. "The Diefenbaker Legacy, The Canadian Bill of Rights, and Unity, Diversity and Justice: Canadian approaches to Human Rights," intertwine and complement each other as they weave personal and national stories.



Ken Cheveldayoff, Executive Director Michael Atkinson

This addition combined with thousands of documents, photographs and press clippings provide a unique record of John Diefenbaker's life and of Canadian history.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this magnificent project. I encourage you to visit the new exhibits and celebrate our rich Canadian history.

SASKGAMING RELEASES 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

As part of my Ministerial duties, I tabled the SaskGaming's annual report in the Legislature April 3. In 2011, SaskGaming made a significant contribution to our province's economy. The money it provides to the General Revenue Fund, as well as the more than \$759,000 given to worthy community groups and organizations in 2011, helps shape our province's bright future.

[SaskGaming Releases 2011 Annual Report](#)

SASKATCHEWAN WITH LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE COUNTRY

Saskatchewan's unemployment rate in March 2012 was 4.8 per cent, down from 5.0 per cent in February.

The province's jobless rate was the lowest in the country and well below the national unemployment rate of 7.2 per cent.

Regina's unemployment rate of 3.9 per cent was lowest among major Canadian cities while Saskatoon at 5.9 per cent was ninth lowest.

"With these positive job numbers, a growing population and record high earnings for workers, we are continuing to build momentum for the rest of the year," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "Confidence in our economy is strong. More Saskatchewan businesses are looking to hire new workers immediately and in the long term."

[Saskatchewan With Lowest Unemployment Rate in the Country](#)

APRIL IS PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

This April, Parkinson's Awareness Month, Parkinson Society Saskatchewan wants the public to know that a Parkinson disease diagnosis is a call to take control, find answers and stay informed. More than 100,000 Canadians are living with Parkinson's.

Parkinson Society Saskatchewan is a proud member of the Parkinson Society Canada. The Parkinson Society Canada has been providing education, support, and advocacy on behalf of over 100,000 Canadians living with Parkinson's since 1965. Its research program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Canadians living with Parkinson's, identifying causes and someday, a cure. To find out more about Parkinson's disease and services available near you, call 1-800-685-0059 or visit www.parkinsonsaskatchewan.ca.

SASKATOON MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

This year's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, April 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Prairieland Park Hall A, Saskatoon. Tickets are \$35 per person, available from www.ticketmaster.ca. The venue is expected to sell out early, so don't delay purchasing your tickets. You can also purchase tickets by calling 938-7800 or 1-800-970-7328.

Joining Mayor Don Atchison this year are three speakers who were trapped in a Chilean mine. They will share their faith-affirming experiences of the cataclysmic accident and its dramatic conclusion.

Each year, the non-profit Mayor's Prayer Breakfast in Saskatoon pays tribute to different organizations for their contribution to our communities, cities and province. This year's event recognizes the important contributions made to the safety of the mining industry by the province's miner safety and rescue teams, and organizations such as the Saskatchewan Mining Association.

I encourage you to attend this great event!

THE PELICANS HAVE LANDED!

The first pelican to touch down between the CP Bridge and the weir did so, Wednesday April 4, 2012 at 7:00am as observed by the official spotters from the Saskatchewan Nature Society.

This is the 17 year of the Meewasin Pelican Watch Contest. Previous arrival times have been between April 6 and April 18. This year's arrival date is the earliest in the past 17 years since Meewasin has been holding the Pelican Watch contest.

To learn more about the Pelican or about the Pelican Watch Contest, visit the Meewasin web site at <http://www.meewasin.com/>.

SAID APPLICATION REMINDER

The Government of Saskatchewan has committed to expanded enrolment and substantial increases to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) benefit. In addition to the \$50 increase in January 2012, there will be increases of \$100 per month over four years for those living in residential care, \$350 per month over four years for those in independent living arrangements, and \$400 per month over four years for couples with disabilities who are living independently. Between March 12 and 30, 12,000 application and assessment packages were mailed out across the province in order to help expand the SAID program and increase enrolment from the current caseload of 3,500 people. These assessments are underway with enrolment and new benefits scheduled to begin June 2012.

All individuals currently receiving a disability benefit through the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) are reminded to complete and return their application and disability impact assessment packages as soon as possible to determine if they are eligible for the SAID program.

"The SAID program expansion is one way that this government is helping to make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for people with disabilities," Social Services Minister June Draude said. "In order to ensure we include as many qualified people as possible in the enhanced program, it is vital that these assessment packages are completed."

Drop-in sessions for people who want help filling out their SAID application and assessment forms will be held in Regina and Saskatoon over the next couple of weeks. All persons who have received a SAID application package are welcome to attend these sessions. For more information, please call the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living at 306-955-3344

AN INVITATION TO ALL GOLFERS WANTING TO PLAY FOR FUN AND FOR SOMEONE WITH MS

Many of us know someone with MS and would like to help. A fun game of golf may be the answer. GOLFUN is fun way for each of us to support the Cameco Neuroscience Research Center located at the Saskatoon City Hospital. You can participate in this important *Funraiser* by entering a team or any number of players, or by sponsoring a Tee or one of the special events. You really do not have to be a good golfer to play in GOLFUN so enter as a family, a group of friends, or perhaps treat the person you know with MS to an afternoon on the golf course even if it is just riding the golf cart or hosting a Tee. There is also a silent auction for you to spend a few dollars in a fun and friendly bidding war. Everyone has fun at GOLFUN. If there is one tournament a year that you choose to support...please make it GOLFUN. Keeping score is optional but having fun is mandatory. To register for golf or a sponsorship please complete the attached form and return at your earliest opportunity. Don't miss out on all the fun!

Should you not be able to support the event this year...may we please ask that you to forward this information to someone you may know who has a family member or friend with MS. Thank you!

For further information contact Hugh Vassos, Committee Chair at hvassos@sasktel.net.

DID YOU KNOW?

- By the end of this term, our government will have tripled Seniors Income Plan (SIP) benefits for eligible seniors from where they were in 2007.
- In 2011, over 1,000 newcomers to the province visited the Saskatoon WDM alone. The other three WDMs in Yorkton, North Battleford and Moose Jaw have also been welcoming recent arrivals to the province with a variety of programs, services and special events.
- For the month of May, seniors can ride on the STC bus network for only \$10 one way.

JUST THE HEADLINES

- April 4, 2012 – [Highest Ever Number of Visits to SASKJOBS.ca in March](#)
- April 4, 2012 – [Gaming Grants Invest \\$1.1 Million in Saskatchewan Communities](#)
- April 4, 2012 – [SaskPower Holds Rates Steady After Strong Financial Performance in 2011](#)
- April 5, 2012 – [Science and Technology Cluster Has Big Impact](#)

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON

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

World Parkinson's Day

When: April 11, 2012

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

When: April 14, 2012

Where: Prairieland Park, Hall A

Time: Breakfast 7:30am, Program 8:30am

Living Well with Lupus Spring Symposium

When: April 21st, 2012

Where: Smiley's Buffet & Catering - Banquet Room B, 702 Circle Drive E

Time: Registration 12:30; Presentation: 1:00-4:00

Thought of the Day

"Happy people roll with the punches. They know from experience that everything changes. Today's good fortune may vanish tomorrow; today's crisis may turn out to be tomorrow's good fortune."

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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