



Ken Cheveldayoff

## From a Provincial Point of View

April 26, 2012

### SASKATCHEWAN HAS THE ONLY BALANCED BUDGET IN CANADA THIS YEAR

With the release of Newfoundland and Labrador's 2012-13 deficit budget, Saskatchewan has become the only province in Canada this year to announce a balanced budget. Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Canadian government had all previously announced deficit budgets for the current fiscal year.



"Most Canadians are living in provinces where the government is spending beyond its means, creating economic uncertainty and putting at risk a secure future for its citizens. Our government, meanwhile, continues to control spending while investing in sustainable programs and services important to Saskatchewan people," said

Saskatchewan Party MLA Nancy Heppner. "We continue to see the results of our decision to live within our means – over the last week, we learned that retail sales and wholesale trade are at new record highs and our unemployment rate is the second lowest in the country. Wait times for surgery continue to go down – over the past year, the number of people waiting more than 12 months has declined by 80 per cent."

The 2012-13 Saskatchewan budget is balanced on both a general revenue and summary financial basis while limiting overall government spending increases to under 5 per cent. Our budget provides sustainable spending that will support growth such as \$581.5 million for highways, \$237.4 million in Municipal Revenue Sharing, and the new Saskatchewan First-Time Homebuyers' tax credit of up to \$1,100 against Saskatchewan income tax payable. We also have provided funding to support important services such as \$4 million to expand the colorectal cancer screening program province-wide, \$113 million to increase benefits and the number of clients served under the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability program, and further increases to the Seniors Income Plan.

"The theme of the 2012-13 Saskatchewan budget is Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage. That advantage was created by the hard work of Saskatchewan people over the last few years," said Heppner. "Our government will continue to take action that keeps that advantage and ensures our province remains the best place in Canada to live, work and raise a family."

## **FUNDING FOR SURGICAL CARE FLOWS TO HEALTH REGIONS**

\$60.5 Million Invested in Enhanced Surgical Care.

Saskatchewan patients will receive surgery sooner and benefit from innovations that improve surgical care, thanks to a \$60.5 million investment in the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative.

Regional health authorities (RHAs) are receiving funding that will allow them to collectively complete an additional 4,380 surgeries in 2012-13. About 70 per cent of the additional surgeries will be provided in Regina and Saskatoon. Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region will provide about 1,600 more surgeries than last year and Saskatoon Health Region about 1,560 more. The other health regions combined will do an additional 1,200 procedures. Saskatchewan will provide approximately 86,000 surgeries in 2012-13.

"The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative has made impressive progress in a relatively short time, and we will continue to support our health system partners as they work to achieve these bold goals," Health Minister Don McMorris said. "This major investment will give patients better access to the high quality, efficient surgical care they deserve."

[Funding for Surgical Care Flows to Health Regions](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN COMMEMORATES DAY OF MOURNING**

April 28 is the National Day of Mourning, a day to commemorate individuals who lost their lives due to work related injuries or illnesses and to remember those who have been injured on the job.

This year, 37 Saskatchewan workers lost their lives as a result of work related injuries and illnesses, and more than 39,000 workers reported workplace injuries.

"Today in the legislature we honour the sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and spouses who lost their lives as a result of their employment," Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Minister Don Morgan said. "I ask that everyone renew their commitment to health and safety, so together we can prevent these tragedies."

[Saskatchewan Commemorates Day of Mourning](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATIVE INTERNS**

This week, I had the pleasure of meeting with four extremely accomplished university students that are Legislative Interns. Elliott Bourgeault, Cody Gieni, Jason Kiefer and Reagan Reese Seidler are taking part in the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program.

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP) provides four senior university students or recent graduates with an opportunity to experience the day-to-day operations of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Interns are paired with elected members of the Assembly who serve as mentors and provide a practical perspective on the role and work of MLAs. During their seven-month internship, participants are assigned for approximately three months with an MLA from the government caucus and another similar period with an MLA from the opposition caucus.

This is a fantastic program! I encourage anyone interested to visit the website at

<http://internship.legassembly.sk.ca/index.htm>.



I was pleased to have the opportunity to assist this fine group of individuals in this learning experience. I wish them well as they get ready for exciting and rewarding careers in politics or the public service.

## **CONGRATULATIONS CODIE PREVOST!**

Saskatoon musicians had a fantastic weekend at the 2012 Saskatchewan Country Music Awards in Prince Albert!

Codie Prevost, who many of you will remember from his performances at Picnic in the Park took home three awards including Best Male Vocalist, Music Video of the Year and Entertainer of the Year. This is Codie's fourth year in a row receiving the award.

Saskatoon's Kal Hourd and Brent Braxton won Song of the Year for When Pink is Just a Color and Jay Semko won the Roots Album of the Year category for Force the Horses.

Congratulations to all the artists and organizers on a very successful weekend.

## **CANADIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAMER DON NARCISSE IS BRINGING SOME FRIENDS FOR A VISIT!**

Don Narcisse is once again helping the kids of Saskatchewan. This year, he is hosting his annual Don Narcisse All-Star Event presented by Affinity Credit Union featuring Chris Getzlaf in Saskatoon! All in support of KidSport™ Saskatchewan – a combined weekend of football camp and gala "End Zone Experience".

The proceeds of the evening will be directed to a most worthy cause - KidSport™ Saskatchewan.

They are very excited to inform you that they will now be offering a full-day camp in an attempt to maximize time on the field and exposure to the amazing coaching staff that will be in attendance. Participants will be split up by indicated age group upon arrival. New schedule is as follows:

- 9:00 AM Check in at Sasktel Soccer Center for ALL participants**
- 9:30 AM Welcome & Introductions**
- 9:45 AM Drills & Skills Development Session**
- 12:00 PM Group Photo & Autograph Session Lunch**
- 1:00 PM Drills & Skills Development Session**
- 3:00 PM Wrap-up**

Just a reminder that this is a NON-CONTACT camp and participants are required to wear their own athletic gear and running shoes or cleats. Lunch and Camp T-shirt will be provided to all participants.

Please contact All-Star Camp Co-ordinator at 652-1487 for further information.

## **VICTIMS OF CRIME AWARENESS WEEK**

The Government of Saskatchewan has declared the week of April 22-28, 2012, as Victims of Crime Awareness Week in Saskatchewan, to accompany National Victims of Crime Awareness Week. This year's theme is "Moving Forward".

To coincide with this week, the government announced enhancements to Victim/Witness Services by adding new programs in Meadow Lake and North Battleford. This adds to the existing programs currently located in La Ronge, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina, which deliver services throughout the province.

"We're pleased to mark this important week in Saskatchewan, especially when our Victims Services

Program is having such a significant year," Justice Minister and Attorney General Don Morgan said. "The enhancement of Victim/Witness Services, coupled with the province-wide expansion of police-based victim services announced in March, ensures all victims of crime will have access to necessary supports in our province."

[Victims of Crime Awareness Week](#)

## **2012-13 CONSTRUCTION SEASON GETS ROLLING**

Workers and equipment will be moving dirt and laying pavement as the 2012 highway construction season gets underway in Saskatchewan.

More than 1,200 kilometres (km) of major improvements and planned maintenance work is targeted to be complete in 2012, made possible by a budget of \$581.5 million, the second largest Highways and Infrastructure budget in the province's history.

"We've put more than \$2.2 billion into our highway system over the past four years," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Jim Reiter said. "We're going to build on that by continuing to invest another \$2.2 billion over the next four years. We are committed to improving the highways for Saskatchewan people." Major improvements, including new capital work which is primarily completed by contractors, span more than 533 km, while planned maintenance work, performed primarily by ministry crews, totals 675 km worth of work.

"This significant investment in our highways will help to tackle the challenges that have come from years of neglect, and at the same time ensure new infrastructure is in place to accommodate our growing agriculture and resource sectors," Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association President Shantel Lipp said. "We look forward to working with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to continue to make our roads safer."

[2012-13 Construction Season Gets Rolling](#)

## **GOVERNMENT EXPANDS FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY TO SUPPORT A SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION SYSTEM**

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to a quality education system. In order to ensure the future sustainability of education programming, school divisions are being asked to look for savings through efficiencies that do not affect front-line services.

The Ministry of Education and its education partners are undertaking an efficiency initiative to better align resources to support teachers and students in the classroom. To this end, the ministry is conducting a third-party review to help understand where efficiencies can be realized, as well as how school divisions can achieve increased efficiencies in their operations.

"Improving student outcomes is the focus of the education system and we need to take a critical look at existing expenditures and determine whether they ultimately benefit students in Saskatchewan," Education Minister Donna Harpauer said. "We need to ensure we have the proper supports in place in order for students to achieve."

[Government Expands Focus on Efficiency to Support a Sustainable Education System](#)

## **FEBRUARY RETAIL SALES HIT RECORD NUMBERS**

Saskatchewan's retail sales took a jump in February with a 6.2 per cent increase in February 2012 over February 2011 totalling \$1.38 billion, the highest ever for the month. Saskatchewan had the third highest percentage increase in Canada over this period.

"Families have a high degree of confidence in their personal finances and that is resulting in an increase in retail sales," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Add to that overall consumer confidence about the Saskatchewan economy and it is no surprise that we are hitting record figures."

[February Retail Sales Hit Record Numbers](#)

## **DAKOTA DUNES CASINO NAMED SPORT EVENT SPONSOR OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations to the Dakota Dunes Casino management and staff for their hard work and dedication that has led to the Casino being named Sport Event Sponsor of the Year. The Dakota Dunes was given this prestigious award for their partnership with the Dakota Dunes Casino Open: Canadian Tour.

## **ONLY IN CANADA ... A CUTE STORY TO SHARE!**

I thought my readers would enjoy a great e-mail I received from my good friend Lloyd Lahti. His grandchildren Ty, 9 years old and Katie, 7 years old both play hockey. Last week Ty was watching the NHL playoff game between Washington and Boston. The announcer was talking about Ovechkin. Ty yells out to his sister, "Hey Katie, you scored more goals this year than Ovechkin, he had 35 and you scored 38!"



Only in Canada!!

## **2012 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS**

SYPE announces nominations and applications are open for the 2012 Young Professional of the Year award. Applications are due May 15, 2012 at noon.

SYPE is looking for the best and brightest professionals aged 18-35 to be nominated, or to self-nominate for this great award. We are looking for young leaders who have made conscious decisions to build their futures in Saskatchewan and focus on the development of not only their own careers, but an industry, the surrounding community, and the business climate as a whole.

A "Professional" can mean any number of occupations. Provided you can demonstrate the characteristics described above, we would be pleased to review your application, and have you or your nomination considered for this year's award.

The award will be presented at the 9th Annual SYPE Silver Spades Awards & Gala is happening in Saskatoon on Thursday, June 14th, 2011 at the Radisson Hotel.

## **DID YOU KNOW?:**

- By providing an additional \$60.5 million to the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative, health regions will be able to perform an 4,360 more surgeries this year.
- Beginning in July of 2012, seniors who rely solely on Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Seniors' Income Plan will be eligible for the Seniors Personal Care Home Benefit of \$278 per month.
- As of this year, the Saskatchewan Party government has delivered five back-to-back balanced budgets - and is the only province in Canada this year with a balanced budget. That's the Saskatchewan Advantage!

## **JUST THE HEADLINES**

- April 20, 2012 – [Appointment of Constituency Boundaries Commission](#)
- April 20, 2012 – [SARCAN Sign Four-Year Contract With Ministry of Environment](#)
- April 23, 2012 – [Redesigned Programs Will Increase and Enhance Affordable Housing](#)
- April 24, 2012 – [Saskatchewan Employers offers 280 Positions to Skilled Workers From Ireland](#)

- April 25, 2012 - [Fund Provides Financial Support to Program For First Nations and Metis Students](#)
- April 26, 2012 – [Tentative Collective Agreement and Renewal of Partnership Agreement](#)

## **SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON**

### **GOLFUN**

Where: Saskatoon Golf and Country Club  
When: May 31, 2012  
Time: Registration 12:00pm Scramble Start 1:00pm

If more information is required please contact Committee Chair Hugh Vassos at (306) 222-5392

### **Motorcycle Ride for Dad – On the Move Against Prostate Cancer**

When: June 16, 2012  
Where: Western Development Museum  
Time: Registration 8:00am to 10:00am Parade leaves at 10:45am

If you would like your event listed in Provincial Point of View, please contact me at [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net)

## **THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

“Gratitude is a currency that we can mint for ourselves, and spend without fear of bankruptcy.”  
Fred De Witt Van Amburgh

## **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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