



From a Provincial Point of View

June 27, 2012

Ken Cheveldayoff

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES - FUTURE IS BRIGHT IN SASKATCHEWAN!

The end of June marks the end of another school year and graduation season. This used to be a bitter-sweet time of the year in Saskatchewan. While we were excited for our kids and grandkids, we also knew that many of them would leave our province to continue their education or find work. This is no longer the case. For the first time in decades, our young people are choosing to stay – and it's important as a government we take action to support that decision.

The new Saskatchewan Advantage is one of the ways we are doing that. First announced as a campaign promise in the 2011 election, this new program will provide Saskatchewan grade 12 graduates who have enrolled in a post-secondary institution at home with up to \$500 a year to a lifetime maximum of \$2,000 over 10 years. This will provide roughly 8,450 high school and GED graduates with scholarships each year.

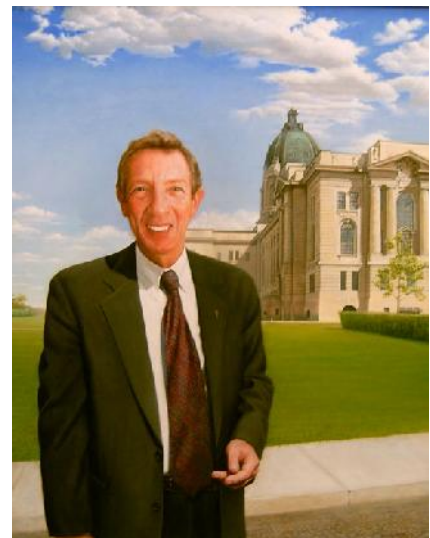
To the Class of 2012, Congratulations! You live in a province where your future is indeed bright. Our economy is strong, employment is at a record high and our population is growing faster than it has in more than 50 years. While other provinces and countries struggle under the crushing weight of debt and deficits, the 2012-2013 Saskatchewan budget is balanced – as a matter of fact, we are the only province with a balanced budget. At the same time, our government is making sustainable spending investments in programs and services important to you and your family such as the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative, to reduce wait times and more funding the SAID program, which will help people with disabilities to live with independence and dignity.

CALVERT PORTRAIT UNVEILED

Premier Brad Wall was joined by the former premier Lorne Calvert today to unveil the official portrait of Mr. Calvert at an event held at the Legislative Building.

"Throughout his political career Premier Calvert exemplified the qualities of a leader, tirelessly working for the betterment of the people of our great province," Wall said. "He is a statesman and gentleman. It is truly my pleasure to join with him today to unveil his official portrait."

Created by artist Susanne MacKay Kaplan of Saskatoon, the portrait will remain on permanent display in the Saskatchewan Gallery as part of the Legislative Building Art Collection which is managed by the Protocol Office.



Calvert was Saskatchewan's 13th premier and served from 2001 until 2007.

Following the unveiling, Calvert was awarded The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, by Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield, for his commitment to the people of Saskatchewan.

On a personal note, I sincerely thank former Premier Calvert for the significant contribution he made to our province. I continue to see him around Saskatoon and it is always a pleasure to have the opportunity to chat with him. This portrait is a great tribute to a very deserving person.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR PICNIC IN THE PARK

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Forestry Farm at our annual Picnic in the Park on June 20th. The weather held out for us and the BBQ was given its yearly work out. This event is a real highlight of the year. It was just fantastic to have the opportunity to host you. I appreciate your participation and sincerely hope you had a great time. It was wonderful to see people of all ages enjoying the entertainment, food and fellowship.

I am very fortunate to have a great volunteer team chaired by Bonny Stevenson, who took time out of their busy lives to organize this picnic for us all to enjoy. Special thanks to each and every volunteer. Your enthusiasm and volunteer spirit made the event an outstanding success. The Saskatchewan entertainers did an outstanding job and their performances were enjoyed by all.

Once again, thank you to everyone involved for making the 2012 Picnic in the Park a success.





SASKATCHEWAN GROWS BY NEARLY 20,000 PEOPLE IN PAST YEAR

Saskatchewan's population grew by 19,642 people between April 1, 2011 and April 1, 2012 - the most growth in any one-year period since 1930.

New population estimates released today by Statistics Canada show Saskatchewan grew by 4,470 people in the first quarter of 2012 (January 1 to April 1, 2012). Saskatchewan's annual and quarterly growth rates of 1.87 per cent and 0.42 per cent respectively are both the second-highest among the provinces, behind only Alberta. There were 1,072,082 people living in Saskatchewan on April 1, 2012.

Economy Minister Bill Boyd said Saskatchewan continues to benefit from a strong and growing economy. "Saskatchewan's economy is firing on all cylinders and that means our province is growing at its fastest pace in more than 80 years," Boyd said. "Our government is committed to ensuring that this growth continues and to meeting the challenges and opportunities of a growing province."

Saskatchewan has grown by more than 75,000 people in the past five years.
[Saskatchewan Grows by Nearly 20,000 People in Past Years](#)

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WAITING SIX MONTHS FOR SURGERY IS DOWN 56 PER CENT

Saskatchewan health regions continue to make progress toward this year's target that by March 31, 2013 all Saskatchewan patients will have the choice of undergoing surgery within six months.

The most current wait time information shows that as of April 30, 2012, the number of patients waiting more than six months for surgery was 4,663, down 56 per cent since November 2007, and 53 per cent since the start of the Surgical Initiative in April 2010. The number of Saskatchewan patients waiting more than a year for surgery has dropped 82 per cent since November 2007.

For the six-month period from November 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012, provincial statistics show that 89 per cent of all patients who had surgery received it within six months and 97 per cent received their procedure within one year. The percentages include emergency cases, which typically are performed far sooner than elective surgeries.

"There is a tremendous collaborative effort under way in Saskatchewan to provide access to surgery sooner, safer and smarter," Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. "This is a priority for our government, our health regions and our health care providers."

[Number of People Waiting Six Months for Surgery is Down 56%](#)

GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS WITH LOW INCOME

The Government of Saskatchewan has unveiled the new Personal Care Home Benefit (PCHB), and announced increases to the Seniors Income Plan (SIP). The moves are part of the government's Seniors Affordability Plan and come into effect July 1, 2012.

"These programs will help seniors with low income with their costs of living," Social Services Minister June Draude said. "We know some seniors are having difficulty making ends meet, and that's why we made the Seniors Affordability Plan an important part of our election platform last November. I am very pleased to be able to follow through on that commitment."

The PCHB will provide seniors with monthly financial assistance to help them with the cost of living in a licensed personal care home. Those eligible for the program will receive a monthly supplement, amounting to the difference between their monthly income and the threshold of \$1,800.

To be eligible for the PCHB, an applicant must be 65 years of age or older; have a monthly income below \$1,800; live in a licensed personal care home in Saskatchewan and be receiving the Old Age Security pension. The government has committed \$3.5 million this year to the PCHB, which will benefit about 1,500 seniors.

In addition, seniors receiving benefits under SIP will receive up to \$50 more each month, which will automatically be added to their payment in July, 2012. SIP benefits were last increased in 2009, when the maximum rates rose to \$190 per month and new eligibility criteria expanded the program to approximately 8,000 additional low-income seniors. The new monthly maximum will be \$240, and further increases of \$10 per year are planned for the next three years. As a result of these enhancements, by 2015, SIP benefits will have tripled since 2009.

"Our government is committed to making life better for Saskatchewan seniors," Draude said. "These enhancements will make a definite difference in the quality of life for seniors with low income in our province."

[Government Provides Financial Assistance for Seniors with Low Income](#)

SILVERSPRING SCHOOL GRADE 5 CLASS VISITS THE LEGISLATURE

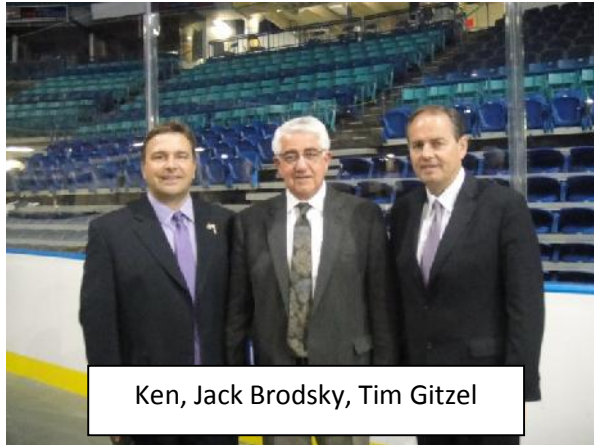
Monday, June 25, I had the pleasure of meeting with the grade 5 class from Silverspring Public School I am always pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the students at the legislature. The students, along with their teachers and chaperones toured the building and I also had the privilege of talking the group to see the Cabinet room. The students had some great questions and it was indeed a privilege to have the chance to interact with such a great group of kids. Special thanks to the teachers for organizing this event and to the chaperones for helping with this special day.



FROM THE OFFICIAL SITE OF THE WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

The host committee for the 2013 MasterCard Memorial Cup unveiled the event's legacy project Wednesday at Credit Union Centre.

With financial support from the provincial government and the City of Saskatoon, the arena is currently being outfitted with new boards and protective glass. The state-of-the-art system – manufactured and installed by Cascadia Sport Systems – will make the playing area safer for all users and enhance the viewing experience for spectators.



Ken, Jack Brodsky, Tim Gitzel

“Planning for the 2013 MasterCard Memorial Cup bid began almost a year ago,” said Tim Gitzel, co-chair of the event with Saskatoon Blades president Jack Brodsky. “We knew from the outset that we wanted to incorporate a legacy project – something that would benefit not only the MasterCard Memorial Cup event, but also serve users of this facility for decades to come.”

Most of the funding was supplied by the provincial government (\$250,000) and the City of Saskatoon (\$100,000). Saskatoon Silver Springs MLA Ken Cheveldayoff said the province's contribution is part of an ongoing commitment to support major events which, in turn, leave an infrastructure legacy.

“The addition of new seats and the centre-ice scoreboard are legacies of past world junior hockey championships in 1991 and 2010,” said Cheveldayoff. “Now we have the new boards and glass, making the arena safer and even more attractive for major events such as the upcoming MasterCard Memorial Cup.”

There is one way into the action – Reserve your seat for the 2013 MasterCard Memorial Cup by becoming a Saskatoon Blades season ticket holder today! Season ticket holders not only get to choose from the best seats, they can reserve their own seat plus one more for the eight-game MasterCard Memorial Cup.

For more information on becoming a season ticket holder and to secure your seat, call 975-8844 or visit www.saskatoonblades.com.

HAPPY CANADA DAY!

SASKATOON CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

An exciting day has been planned by the Saskatoon Optimist Club for July 1, 2012, at Diefenbaker Park. It will start with a Breakfast (for fee) which starts at 8 am, with an exciting day of entertainment finishing with Fireworks at Dusk.

Schedule of Events July 1, Optimist Canada Day 2012, Diefenbaker Park

8:00 am to 10:30	Breakfast \$8/person Prairieland Park
9:30 am	North Saskatchewan Pipes N Drums
10:00 am	<u>Official Ceremonies for the Province of Saskatchewan</u> Government of Canada, Honorable Lynn Yelich, MP Brad Trost, MP Kelly Block Province of Saskatchewan, City of Saskatoon, Councilor Bev Dubois Représentative of La Fédération des Francophones de Saskatoon Optimist Club of Saskatoon, Brad Sylvester Canada Day Celebration Cake by Canada Safeway (Cake is 4 feet by 8 feet, serves a thousand) Moment of Silence, Representative Canadian Forces Reaffirmation of Citizenship Ceremony
11:00 to 2:00	Saskatchewan Intercultural Association

ON THE Potash Corp/SMG Stage

2:15 to 3:10	The Johner Boys
3:25 to 4:20	Wyatt
4:35 to 5:30	Bullrush
5:45 to 6:40	Kal Hourd

ON THE RAWLCO RADIO STAGE

7:00 to 8:00	Penny Reign
8:15 to 9:15	Fear of Knowing
9:30 to 10:40	Riff Raff
Dusk	OPTIMIST CLUB OF SASKATOON Fireworks

Other items of interest in the park Beverage Garden, operated by the Saskatoon Hilltops Football Club and Prairieland Park, Food, Amusements, Rides, Stock Car display, Display by Fire and Protective Services, Canadian Forces, MD Ambulance, Flags, Pins, FUN FUN FUN!

Thanks to Saskatoon Silver Springs resident and good friend, Brad Sylvester and his team at the Saskatoon Optimist Club for all they do to make July 1st a special Canada Day celebration.

SASKATCHEWAN ORDER OF MERIT – HONOURING CITIZENS

Do you know someone who has enriched the lives of others and helped build a better society? These individuals deserve to be recognized for their achievements and contributions to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the province and its residents.

For further information on the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, please visit the website at www.ops.gov.sk.ca/Protocol.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Saskatchewan has over 2 million hectares of park land
- Saskatchewan has 34 provincial parks covering 1,148,287 square hectares
- There are 8 registered historic sites in the province
- About 12% of Saskatchewan is covered by water totaling 328,345 lakes

JUST THE HEADLINES

- June 18, 2012 – [Government Partners With Office of the Treaty Commissioner](#)
- June 18, 2012 – [Information Sessions to Make Workplace Safer](#)
- June 19, 2012 – [Record Wholesale Trade in April](#)
- June 21, 2012 – [Record Retail Sales and Fewer Collecting EI](#)
- June 22, 2012 – [SLGA Supports Problem Gambling Help Line](#)
- June 25, 2012 – [Calvert Portrait Unveiled](#)
- June 26, 2012 – [Government Approves Increase and Rebalancing for SGI Rates](#)
- June 27, 2012 – [New West Partnership Streamlines Business Registration Across the West](#)

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON

SaskTel Saskatchewan's Jazz Festival

When: June 22 to July 1, 2012

Where: Various venues all over Saskatoon as well as the Free Stage, Friendship Park

Optimist Canada Day

When: July 1, 2012

Where: Diefenbaker Park

Time: all day

55+ Provincial Games

When: July 3 – July 5, 2012

Where: Various

When: Various

For more information please visit: http://www.ssfa.ca/programs/ssfa_55_games

Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan

When: July 4 to August 19, 2012

Where: Shakespeare Tent on the Saskatchewan

When: Various times

Saskatchewan Open – Dakota Dunes Canadian Open

When: July 5 to July 8, 2012

Where: Dakota Dunes Golf Links

When: all-day

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

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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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