



## Provincial Point of View December 14, 2012

### REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Saskatchewan's resources and agricultural expertise put our province in a unique position to address the global demand for safe and reliable food. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Premier Wall along with the University of Saskatchewan and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. formally launched the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS). The Government of Saskatchewan and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan committed \$15 million and \$35 million respectively over the next seven years to develop a Saskatchewan-led solutions that will help feed a growing world population. The formation of the Global Institute for Food Security was a 2011 campaign commitment, and it is another promise kept by our government.

As part of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth our government has set a goal of increasing agricultural exports from a record \$10 billion in 2011 to \$15 billion by 2020. Our commitment to agriculture, innovation, and the Global Institute for Food Security positions Saskatchewan to lead the world in food security while building an innovation economy here at home.

Saskatchewan's growth is creating opportunities throughout our province. The SaskJobs.ca website had nearly 950,000 hits in the month of November, a 17.6 per cent increase from November 2011. Employers posted 14,035 jobs on SaskJobs.ca in November 2012 and almost one quarter of the visitors to the site are from outside of the province.

Our province's strong labour market and growing economy has led to twelve consecutive months of year-over-year employment gains. According to the Labour Force survey released by Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan's job numbers hit a record high of 540,000 people for the month of November. Our growing economy and increasing population are giving a huge boost to the provincial economy. New figures released by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation show urban housing starts in November of 2012 were up by nearly 54 per cent over the same period last year, while nationally the increase was only 3.7 per cent. Saskatchewan now ranks

first among the provinces in urban housing starts in terms of percentage growth.

As Christmas approaches and 2012 nears its end, we reflect back on the year that was for Saskatchewan. By all accounts, it was Saskatchewan's year. Our province is near the top in almost every major economic indicator. Saskatchewan's population continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in the country, while our unemployment rate remains the 2<sup>nd</sup> best in Canada, and all major forecasters predict that Saskatchewan's economic growth will lead almost every other province in the country.

Our government does not believe in growth solely for the sake of growth. We are committed to a growing Saskatchewan that provides opportunity for all while increasing the quality of life every Saskatchewan citizen.

### **46 RESIDENTS RECEIVE THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL**

Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield and Provincial Secretary Wayne Elhard presented 46 Saskatchewan residents with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal over Monday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 12..

"The Queen has chosen the theme of service for this milestone year and so it is most appropriate that Canada created a Diamond Jubilee Medal which celebrates both Her Majesty's lifetime of service and the outstanding contributions of deserving citizens," Solomon Schofield said. "On behalf of our sovereign, I thank each medal recipient for their commitment to the greater good."

[46 Residents Receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal](#)

### **RETIREMENT OF SUSAN LAMB CEO OF THE MEEWASIN VALLEY AUTHORITY**



After 15 years, Susan Lamb, CEO for the Meewasin Valley Authority, is retiring. Susan has worked tirelessly to make sure our Saskatoon riverbank can be enjoyed by everyone. From 1982 to 1991, Susan was a public programs coordinator. In 1991, she moved to become the head of Tourism Saskatoon, where she stayed until becoming CEO of the Meewasin Valley Authority in 1997.

Susan has overseen many changes to our riverbank in her term, including, longer trails, a revamped skating rink, the redevelopment of the Riverworks Weir, and River Landing, to name a few.

Thank you Susan for all of your hard work and dedication to Saskatoon and our beautiful riverbank.

### **PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT FROM INDIA LOOKS PROMISING**


The province is a step closer to recruiting family physicians from India. A Saskatchewan delegation recently returned from a first-ever recruitment mission to the country.

Saskdocs (the Physician Recruitment Agency of Saskatchewan), along with a physician and a health region representative, met with 440 physicians from India interested in living and working in Saskatchewan.

"The Physician Recruitment Trip to India was an initiative aimed at increasing the number of physicians working in Saskatchewan," Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. "India trains far more doctors than it needs, these professionals are looking to work outside their country and many are willing to practice in our rural and remote settings. I'm very pleased that so many are interested in Saskatchewan and I look forward to these qualified professionals working with our home-grown Saskatchewan physicians to provide medical services to the people of Saskatchewan."

[Physicians Recruitment from India Looks Promising](#)

### **SASKATOON CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM PRESENTS SCIENCE SATURDAY**

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM &  PotashCorp  
PRESENT

# SCIENCE


## SATURDAYS



**DATES:**  
Every Saturday from October 13  
to December 29, 2012

**LOCATION:**  
Children's Discovery Museum

Check our website, [museumforkids.sk.ca](http://museumforkids.sk.ca),  
or our Facebook page for times and details

Science Saturday activities included in general admission price



 SASKATOON  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  SASKATCHEWAN  
SCIENCE CENTRE

If you are looking for something to keep the kids busy over the weekend that is fun and educational, take your children to Science Saturday!

The Children's Discovery Museum, located in Market Mall, teaches children about basic science facts each Saturday until December 29.

Tomorrow, Saturday, December 15, the states of matter will be explored with experiments and projects. Shows will take place at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, and 2:30 pm. Science Saturday takes place from 10:30 am to 3:30pm and admission to Science Saturday is included in the regular admission costs for the museum.

This is a great way to keep the kids busy and learning over the weekend and the school break!  
For more information and for a more complete list of events visit: <http://www.museumforkids.sk.ca/>

### **KRAWETZ TO PROFILE SASKATCHEWAN'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS AT FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING**

Finance Minister Ken Krawetz will join his counterparts from other provinces and territories, along with federal Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty, at Monday's meeting of Finance Ministers in

Meech Lake, Quebec.

"This meeting offers the chance to profile Saskatchewan's ongoing economic success on a national stage," Krawetz said. "This includes being the only province currently projected to balance its books in 2012-13."

[Krawetz to Profile Saskatchewan's Economic Success at Finance Miinisters' Meeting](#)

### **STRONG YEAR SO FAR FOR EXPORTS**

The new totals for merchandise exports are in for November, which show Saskatchewan had a 10.1 per cent increase in the first 11 months of the year compared to the same period of last year, ranking second among the provinces.

"In 2012, we've seen a steady upward trend for exports," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "It's an important economic indicator to note as trade is necessary to sustain our positive growth levels."

Merchandise exports totalled \$26.4 billion in the same period of 2012, up from \$24.0 billion in 2011.

[Strong Year So Far for Exports](#)

### **HOPE FOR MALAWI - BRINGING HOPE TO LIFE**



On Sunday December 9, Elaine and Peter Zakreski, founders of Hope for Malawi Foundation,

hosted a brunch in support of the Domasi Region of Malawi Africa. Eighty-two donors and friends braced the chilly temperatures of minus 29 degrees Celsius to receive a progress report on the progress undertaken this past year in this area of Africa. Elaine and Peter took this opportunity to present the first printed copy of a children's book "Hope for Malawi - Bringing Hope to Life" to the author Carrie Mulligan.

This book depicts the story of Ndilimbira, an 8-year-old girl who lives in this region of Malawi. Through a pictorial and written presentation the book tells the story of Ndilimbira's typical day before and after aid was provided by Hope for Malawi Foundation. The book provides an insight into a very different reality and most importantly a discussion guide on how children in Canada can help Ndilimbira and many other children like her.

This book would make a great gift for the Christmas season, reminding us how fortunate we really are. "Hope for Malawi - Bringing Hope to Life" will be on sale beginning December 20, at McNally Robinson.

### **SASKATCHEWAN LEADS IN URBAN HOUSING STARTS**

New figures released by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation show urban housing starts in November of 2012 were up by 53.6 per cent over November of last year, ranking Saskatchewan first among the provinces in terms of percentage growth. On a national basis, housing starts were only up 3.7 per cent.

"On an annual basis, housing starts have really taken a big jump," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "The combination of a higher population and a robust economy are giving a huge boost to Saskatchewan's construction sector."

[Saskatchewan Leads in Urban Housing Starts](#)

### **SASKATOON BLADES HOST GLOBAL TV TOQUE TOSS NIGHT AND GOALS OF GRATITUDE**



Tomorrow, Saturday, December 15, the Saskatoon Blades will not only be hosting the Kootenay Ice, but also the Global TV Toque Toss Night. Everyone is encouraged to bring along your winter toques, mitts, and scarves to throw on the ice every time the Blades score. The winter apparel will be collected and donated to people around Saskatoon and area who need it most this winter. Saturday is also John Deere night, where they will be collecting new or gently used toys for their Goals of Gratitude drive.

I encourage everyone to go out to support your Saskatoon Blades and to help out those less fortunate this Christmas season.

### **DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT OUR ECONOMY?**

- Saskatoon's employment was up by 6,900 (4.8 per cent) for 13 months of year-over-year increases.
- Saskatoon's unemployment rate was 5.5 per cent, the 7th lowest, among major metropolitan areas
- Overall, the youth unemployment rate was 10 per cent, the 2nd lowest among the province behind Alberta (8.4 per cent) and below the national rate of 14 percent.
- The three industries with the largest employment gains were in Construction (+7,300), Educational Services (+7,100), and Public Administration (+2,900).

### **JUST THE LINKS**



**December 10, 2012** - [Province, PotashCorp Commit \\$50 Million to Global Institute for Food Security at the U of S](#)

**December 12, 2012** - [Kingsway Dam Rehabilitation Complete](#)

**December 12, 2012** - [Government Accepts Rate Review Panel Report](#)

**December 14, 2012** - [Manufacturing Shipments Up in October](#)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Enchanted Forest**

**Date:** November 16 to January 6

**Where:** Saskatoon Forestry Farm

**When:** 5:30 pm to 11:30 pm nightly

**Ticket Prices:** \$6/per person, \$25/per car, ages 3 and under are free

### **GSCS Noon Festival of Carols**

**Date:** December 18, 20

**Where:** TCU Place, Main Lobby

**When:** 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

### **Science Saturdays**

**Date:** December 15, 22, 29

**Where:** Children's Discovery Museum

**When:** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

### **Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Christmas Party**

**Date:** December 21

**Where:** 138 Kaplan Green, Saskatoon SK

**When:** 7:00 pm

### **Enchanted Forest - Saskatchewan Blue Cross Light Walk**

**Date:** January 6, 2013

**Where:** Saskatoon Forestry Farm

**When:** 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$5/per person, \$20/per family, ages 3 and under are free

[www.push2play.ca](http://www.push2play.ca)

### THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."**

Gilbert K. Chesterton

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### 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 me to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

*"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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