



Provincial Point of View March 22, 2013

KEEPING THE SASKATCHEWAN ADVANTAGE

Keeping budgets balanced;
Keeping spending sustainable;
Keeping our economy growing; and
Keeping our election promises.

SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT PASSES ANOTHER BALANCED BUDGET

The theme of the 2013-2014 provincial budget is “Balanced Growth.” This year’s budget is balanced, controls spending and continues to make investments to ensure a better quality life for all Saskatchewan people. It also delivers on commitments we made in the Plan for Growth.

Saskatchewan remains the only province with a balanced budget. This is key to achieving our Growth Plan goal of 1.2 million people by 2020. Through prudent management of the province’s finances, including debt reduction saving hundreds of millions of dollars in interest payments, we lay a solid foundation for the future.

In the 2013-14 budget, our government continues to make investments to ensure a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people. Seniors Income Plan benefits increase to \$250 a month - a 178 per cent increase since 2007. Benefits under the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability program are also increasing as we work toward our Growth Plan goal of making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for people with disabilities.

This year’s budget provides support for victims of domestic violence through the opening of the first new transition house in Saskatchewan since 1989 - in Melfort - and increased funding for women’s shelters across the province. We are committing \$70.5 million to the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative - which will result in 7,000 additional surgeries performed this year as we work

toward our goal of no one waiting more than three months for surgery by 2014.

We are continuing to invest in the infrastructure a growing economy needs. The 2013-14 budget contains:

- \$281 million for highways including work on the West Regina Bypass, Estevan Bypass, and a series of passing lanes on Highway 10 between Balgonie and Fort Qu'Appelle and \$168 million to repair and upgrade existing highways;
- \$86.5 million for Long Term Care facilities currently under construction; and
- \$50 million for the new Moose Jaw hospital.

Our "Balanced for Growth" budget also contains measures to support Saskatchewan's growing economy. For the third straight year, municipalities will receive record revenue sharing. This year's total is \$264.4 million, an increase of 108 per cent since 2007.

We lowered education tax mill rates to help offset the recent property assessment. With property values' increasing by a record amount over the last four years, our government is taking action to ensure the amount collected in education property taxes remains revenue neutral this year. That being said, some property owners who saw their assessment go up more than average may still see their taxes go up.

The 2013-14 budget contains \$119.6 million to fund 21 ongoing major school capital projects, two new schools and 15 pre-K facilities. With a projected need identified in the Growth Plan for 60,000 more workers by 2020, we are creating more training seats for the trades and taking further action to eliminate the wait list for Adult Basic Education by 2015.

Agriculture continues to play an important role in moving Saskatchewan forward. To that end, we have invested in a record \$198.3 million for Crop Insurance in the "Balanced for Growth" budget. Crop Insurance coverage levels are also a record \$194 per acre – more than double what was offered in 2007.

The budget also contains a record investment in agricultural research of \$27.7 million and an increase of \$25 million for strategic initiatives like rural water infrastructure, trade and market development and farm business management. All of these investments will help us reach our Growth Plan goals.

"This budget not only balances the books, it balances the priorities of Saskatchewan people," Krawetz said. "It controls spending while making key investments. It promotes opportunity while ensuring we protect those in our province who need help. It ensures Saskatchewan will continue

to grow while meeting the challenges of that growth. And it keeps Saskatchewan moving forward.”

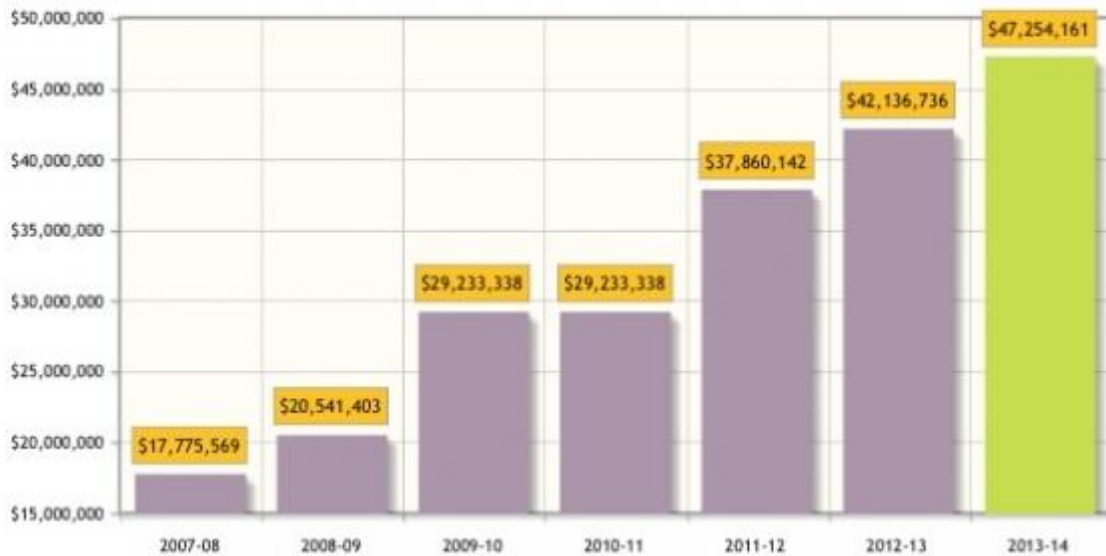
[Balanced Budget Controls Spending While Meeting the Challenges of Growth](#)

SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVE RECORD REVENUE SHARING IN 2013-14

Saskatoon

Revenue sharing in Saskatoon has increased from **\$17,775,569** in 2007-08 to **\$47,254,161** in 2013-14.

166% 
Increase from 2007-08



Municipal Revenue Sharing for **Saskatoon** by fiscal year

Saskatchewan municipalities will receive record revenue sharing of more than \$264.4 million in 2013-14, an 11.4 per cent increase from the previous year and a 108 per cent increase since 2007-08.

“Saskatchewan’s revenue sharing program continues to provide record levels of funding to municipalities,” Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter said. “The level of funding that municipalities are receiving is unique in this province’s history and throughout the country.”

[Saskatchewan Municipalities Receive Record Revenue Sharing in 2013-14](#)

RUNOFF PREPARATION DISCUSSION WITH GOVERNOR DALRYMPLE

As part of this spring's run-off surveillance and planning, as Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency I discussed preparations with North Dakota Governor Dalrymple this week.

"I wanted to follow up on the Governor's visit with Premier Wall last year and ensure the lines of communications were open and that we are reviewing planning and preparations to reduce risk of flooding for both jurisdictions together."

"It was a very positive meeting. We agreed that appropriate preparations are being made and we are in good shape as we prepare for the snow to melt."

[Minister Cheveldayoff Discusses Runoff Preparations with Governor Dalrymple](#)

WORLD WATER DAY PROMOTES UNDERSTANDING OF A PRECIOUS RESOURCE



On March 18, as Minister Responsible for SaskWater, I announced our province's involvement in World Water Day, taking place today, March 22.

"Co-operation is an ideal theme for 2013. Saskatchewan's economy is thriving, our communities are growing and water infrastructure needs are a timely topic. Co-operation between residents, communities, industries and governments will ensure that our province continues to prosper while protecting the invaluable natural resource that is freshwater. We have reliable access to quality water in Saskatchewan and SaskWater does an excellent job promoting water conservation here at home. World Water Day is a reminder of the importance of issues that affect this precious resource – not only in Saskatchewan, but around the globe."

Throughout Saskatchewan, communities have art exhibits around water issues. Some feature water-based movie nights. I encourage you to put some thought into your water usage and ways you can incorporate water conservation into your daily life. For tips on saving water around the house and to take a quiz to see how water conscious you are, please visit

www.saskwater.com/conservation.

[World Water Day Promotes Understanding of Precious Resource](#)

WATER CONTROL FUNDING INCREASED

As Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency I announced an additional \$500,000 for the Water Control Assistance Program. With this 60 per cent increase in grant funding, rural municipalities and conservation authorities can now access more than \$1.2 million in grant funding for 2013-14 to help maintain drainage channels and flood protection works.

I made the announcement while speaking at the Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association conference where conservation area authorities and watershed associations from across the province gathered to discuss water management and infrastructure.

“Saskatchewan is likely to see significant spring runoff in 2013 and this government is committed to supporting our communities build and maintain permanent mitigation projects that will serve them for years to come,” Cheveldayoff said. “The last few years have shown the value of this type of water infrastructure to help communities move excess water without flooding downstream neighbours.”

[Water Control Funding Increased](#)

PRAIRIE PEOPLE, JOYS AND CHALLENGES



Prairie People, Joys and Challenges is a fantastic presentation of the prairie spirit, through the artwork of Doreen Kalmakoff. Throughout the collection of realistic interpretations to abstract expressionism, Doreen's goal is to make a personal connection with the viewer, be it through humor, sentiment, or joy.

Doreen has been painting and teaching art classes for more than twenty years, and is now teaching at the Spirit of the Prairie Art and Teaching Studio, located just outside of Blaine Lake. Her work ranges from miniature paintings to large-scale murals as well as functional artwork in the form of mosaic tables, painted chairs, art trays, decorative canvas floor mats, as well as a variety of paintings, art cards, and art prints.

Prairie People, Joys and Challenges will run at the Station Arts Centre in Rosthern from March 26 to April 30, Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

I encourage you to take a drive to the Station Arts Centre in Rosthern and experience Doreen Kalmakoff's collection of Prairie People, Joys and Challenges. You can also check out more of Doreen's work and studio information by clicking [here](#).

[SURGICAL WAIT TIMES CONTINUE TO DROP](#)

Saskatchewan people are receiving timelier access to surgical services. With just over a year to go for the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative, the health system continues to make progress toward sooner, safer, smarter surgery for patients.

Provincial wait times data updated to January 31, 2013 shows that 97 per cent of Saskatchewan people needing elective surgery receive their surgery within 12 months, 90 per cent within six months and 78 per cent within three months.

“Health regions and surgical teams have made incredible progress in streamlining processes and making surgeries safer,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “Patients are spending much less time waiting for surgery. There are now 61 per cent fewer people waiting more than six months for surgery than in 2007. In fact, there were more patients waiting more than 12 months for surgery in 2007 than currently wait more than six months.”

[Surgical Wait Times Continue to Drop](#)

COUNCILOR ZACH JEFFRIES COFFEE MEETING

Ward 10 City Councilor Zach Jeffries is hosting a come and go conversation about our area tomorrow, Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the University Heights Safeway Starbucks. Pop in to discuss any concerns and ideas that you have for Saskatoon.

This will be a monthly gathering, so if you can't make it on Saturday, you will be able to join Zach again on April 27.

REDWING ROUGHNECKS PLAY FOR PROVINCIAL TITLE



Congratulations to the Redwing Roughnecks who are competing for the Bantam AA Tier III Provincial title. The Redwing Roughnecks defeated the Outlaw Aces in the SMHA Provincial play off rounds. They moved on to defeat Prince Albert over the past weekend to be the representative of the North in the SHA Bantam AA Tier III Provincial Playdown Final Series against Moose Jaw.

Good luck to our Redwing Roughnecks!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Water helps to regulate the earth's temperature.
- Canada has about 25 per cent of the world's wetlands - the largest wetland area in the world.
- Saskatchewan's population grew by 21,690 people in 2012 to an all-time high of 1,089,807
- Wholesale trade jumped 7.1 per cent in January over last January
- Saskatoon had 13.7 housing starts for every 1,000 people, well above the national average of 6.2

JUST THE LINKS

- March 18, 2013 - [Saskatchewan Celebrates Social Work Week](#)
- March 18, 2013 - [Saskatchewan Leading the Nation in Housing Starts](#)
- March 18, 2013 - [Intern Development Program Renewed](#)
- March 18, 2013 - [New SLGA Distribution Centre to be Built at Global Transportation Hub](#)
- March 19, 2013 - [Record Month for Wholesale Manufacturing Sales in January](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Government Invests in Arts, Culture and Parks](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [2013-14 Budget Supports Municipal Growth in Saskatchewan](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Record Funding for Crop Insurance and Research Highlight in the 2013-14 Agriculture Budget](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Continuing to Improve Saskatchewan's Highways](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Saskatchewan Children and Families a Top Priority for Government](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Government Keeps Commitment to Provide More Housing](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Budget Invests in Education](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Health Budget Invests in Quality of Life for Saskatchewan People](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Economy Budget Focuses on Growth, Training and Employment](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Strong Support for Students and Post-Secondary Education](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Government Working to Improve Quality of Life for Saskatchewan Citizens](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Budget Invests in Infrastructure](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Balanced Budget Controls Spending While Meeting the Challenges of Growth](#)
- March 20, 2013 - [Government Committed to Improving Education and Employment Outcomes by Working With First Nations and Metis People](#)

- **March 20, 2013** - [Saskatchewan Keeps Growing](#)
- **March 21, 2013** - [Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal Recipients Announced](#)
- **March 21, 2013** - [Saskatchewan Retail Sales Set Another Monthly Record](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gardenscape

Date: March 22 - March 24

When: March 22: 11:00 am - 10:00 pm; March 23: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm; March 24: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Prairieland Park

Ward 10 Coffee Meeting With Councillor Zach Jeffries

Date: March 23

When: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: University Heights Safeway Starbucks (McOrmond Drive just north of Attridge)

Imagine No Bullying

Date: April 10

When: 7:30 pm

Where: Broadway Theatre

Tickets available at The Broadway Theatre, McNally Robinson, or [online](#).

6th Annual Glass Slipper Benefit for Princesses

Date: April 11

When: 5:30 pm

Where: TCU Place

Tickets available at [6th Annual Glass Slipper Benefit for Princesses](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Shallow men believe in luck or in circumstance. Strong men believe in cause and effect."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

[friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

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.

Copyright © 2013 Saskatoon Silver Springs, All rights reserved.



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)