



Provincial Point of View March 8, 2013

SASKATOON STUDENTS MEET PREMIER WALL IN WASHINGTON



Premier Brad Wall was in Washington D.C pressing leaders to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline while promoting the Canadian energy sector.

"I think it's very important for us to be engaged in the United States where people are at work, they are branding Canadian energy and Canadian oil," Premier Wall said. "The second largest exporter of oil to the United States is our province, and ... we need to be there working on the branding issue, meeting with senior legislators in Washington to let them know a little bit about our province, to encourage support for Keystone."

Taylor and Miriam, two university students from Saskatoon who are studying this semester in Washington, DC, were excited to have the chance to attend Premier Wall's speech in Washington yesterday, Thursday, March 7. The Premier took the time to meet and chat with these accomplished young ladies.

Miriam Muller (right) came to Saskatoon in 2006 after graduating from high school in Germany. She now calls Riversdale home and has fallen in love with the city and province. Miriam chose to major in Aboriginal Public Administration at the University of Saskatchewan. She will be graduating this May and is looking forward to apply her knowledge to shape the future of our province.

Taylor Anne Yee (left) has lived in Silver Springs since she was two. Following her first year at St. Thomas More College of the University of Saskatchewan and participating in a Service and Justice Project, she knew that she wanted to be involved with government and the greater good. Taylor is now in her fourth year of political science, she has strong interests in environmental, energy, and social policies, and is especially interested by the provincial and municipal levels of government. Calling Saskatchewan home, Taylor could not imagine living anywhere else but the province with golden fields and friendly faces.

Last year, a professor at the University of Saskatchewan made an announcement about The Washington Centre for Internships and Academic Seminars (TWC) in a policy analysis class. Taylor and Miriam were both excited about the prospect, but it seemed that the program was too expensive. However, they found out that the Government of Saskatchewan provided scholarships. They both applied and were granted a scholarship to be able to participate in this opportunity.

Taylor and Miriam now work as Research Associates for a government relations firm. They have also taken classes with the TWC studying NGO Management and Global Policies.

Both students indicated that they have met many interesting people and have engaged in discussions on topics they are passionate about, including their home province of Saskatchewan.

I wish Miriam and Taylor all the best as they pursue their studies and thank them for being great ambassadors for our province.

BUDGET DAY MARCH 20

The second session of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature began on March 4. Our government is committed to moving forward on the commitments we made in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth. To that end, one of the first orders of business will be our sixth consecutive balanced budget. Overall spending increases will be less than four per cent, but Saskatchewan people will not see any significant cuts or elimination of important programs and services. It's been a more challenging budgeting process given pressures such as lower resource revenues, but we will move forward on Growth Plan initiatives such as SaskBuilds, a government agency that will look for innovative ways to address our growing province's ongoing infrastructure needs.

I still have some invitations available for the Budget Speech on March 20 . If you would like to attend, please either call [306-651-7100](tel:306-651-7100) or email ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net as soon as possible.

The Budget begins at 1:30 pm. Guests are asked to arrive by 1:00 pm.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS OPEN HOUSE



On March 6, the City of Saskatoon held an Open House regarding five important projects that will impact our constituency of Saskatoon Silver Springs. I was pleased to hear it was very well

attended.

The first project is the University Heights Sector Plan. The Plan provides a broad framework for future urban development including the location and size of future neighbourhoods, employment areas, parks, and significant natural areas. The Plan was first approved by the City of Saskatoon in 1993 and amended in 2007. In August of 2010, the City of Saskatoon altered the boundary to include an additional 1,019 ha, to accommodate the growth of the area. The proposed changes to the plan can be found on the City of Saskatoon's [website](#).

The University Heights Neighbourhood #2 draft concept was presented at the Open House as well. The neighbourhood is located on 257.4 ha in the northeast area of University Heights. The area is designed to be an attractive walkable neighbourhood with a variety of housing choices, convenient access to schools, services, recreation, and transit. The new concept plan can be seen above.

As our constituency grows, traffic delays during the morning and evening commutes have become a major concern. The City of Saskatoon has carried out a study of the amount of traffic that passes through the intersection of Central Ave. and Attridge Dr. The intersection sees between 10,000 and 30,000 vehicles per day. The City of Saskatoon recognizes that the design of the intersection will need to be updated in order to accommodate the growth seen in the area. A proposal of the new design can be seen [here](#).

The Open House also featured the proposed interchange at College Dr. and McOrmond Dr. The interchange will provide improved traffic flow into the current and future neighbourhoods. Although the interchange is not currently funded, the City of Saskatoon has said that as the neighbourhoods progress, the interchange construction will become a priority.

The much anticipated North Commuter Bridge plans were also presented at the Open House. At this point, the Functional Planning Study is underway. The Heritage and Natural Resource Assessment is expected to be completed by the end of 2013. Simultaneous to the Heritage and Natural Resource Assessment, land acquisition will need to be initiated on the east connecting roadways. Regulatory Approvals and Permits are expected to begin in 2014. Securing a contractor and construction are also anticipated to begin in 2014 with a possible completion date in 2016. The estimated cost of the North Commuter Bridge Project is \$85.6 million for the bridge alone, this includes only planning and design, land acquisition and a portion of connecting roadways.

For more information please visit the [City of Saskatoon's Future Growth Section](#). If you were unable to attend the meeting on March 6, please consider sharing your opinion through the City of

Saskatoon's web survey about the projects planned for University Heights. To complete the survey, please click [here](#).

SASKATOON'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 4.7 PER CENT, DOWN FROM 5.3 PER CENT IN JANUARY 2013, AND DOWN FROM 6.0 PER CENT A YEAR AGO



Saskatchewan had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada in February 2013, at 3.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted), the lowest since November 2008 when it was 3.7 per cent and well below the national rate of 7.0 per cent.

Job numbers continued to climb in February, up 24,600 to 546,200 jobs, the most ever for the month of February (seasonally unadjusted). Jobs were up by 4.7 per cent in February 2013 over last February, the second-highest among Canadian provinces.

“So far 2013 is looking like another outstanding year for the Saskatchewan economy with job

increases leading the way,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “Growing job numbers is all part of the plan to grow our economy, and we will continue with initiatives that will make sure people of our province are able to fill those opportunities.”

[Saskatchewan Has the Lowest Unemployment Rate in Canada](#)

SASKENERGY VOLUNTEER CHAMPION AWARD



SaskEnergy Hockey Weekend takes place annually on the third Saturday of January. One community is chosen to host the event and this past January, the successful host bid was Assiniboia.

Included in the SaskEnergy Hockey Weekend sponsorship is the SaskEnergy Volunteer Champion Award.

I had the honour of presenting the award on behalf of Minister McMillan to Sandra Lane at the Blades game on March 5. Sandra was recognized for her hard work and dedication to the game of hockey and the people in her community.

GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS CURRENT LEGAL DRINKING AGE

The legal drinking age in Saskatchewan will remain at 19 years.

“We have heard from stakeholder groups and from people across the province that government should not change the drinking age in Saskatchewan,” Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Donna Harpauer said. “While there were also some people that supported reducing the age to 18 years, it became clear that the majority urged government to maintain the status quo.”

[Government Maintains Current Legal Drinking Age](#)

GOVERNMENT PROVIDING 10 PER CENT MATCHING GRANT TO ANNUAL RESP SUBSCRIBERS

Saving for your child's future education has just gotten easier. Having begun in January 2013, the Saskatchewan Government will provide a 10% matching grant to the subscriber's annual RESP contributions, to a maximum provincial contribution of \$250 per child per year.

This is on top of the 20% federal grant, which means if a family is contributing up to \$2,500 toward their child's RESP the federal and provincial governments will add an additional \$750 to that child's account.

This increase in RESP contributions is yet another way your Saskatchewan Government is helping to ensure that Saskatchewan is the best place to live, work, and raise a family for this generation and generations to come.

BUILDING PERMITS UP IN JANUARY 2013

Saskatchewan's construction industry is starting off 2013 at a busy pace according to new January building permit figures. A report by Statistics Canada released today shows a 66.7 per cent rise in permits in January 2013 over December 2012, the second-highest percentage increase among Canadian provinces. Nationally, building permits were up only 1.7 per cent.

“Construction is off to a strong start in 2013 and that goes hand-in-hand with our robust economy,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “This is very good news as it creates jobs and prosperity all around the province.”

[Building Permits Up in January 2013](#)

TELEMIRACLE 37



Telemiracle continues to be an incredible event in our province! Sincere congratulations to the Kinsmen Foundation, the organizers, entertainers and volunteers for another remarkable Telemiracle. The success of the 20 hour telethon wrapped up in Saskatoon on March 3 with \$5,546,712 raised for the Kinsmen Foundation.

The past 37 years of fundraising, the Kinsmen Foundations has raised about \$96 million through Telemiracle. Through the generosity of the Saskatchewan people the Kinsmen Foundation will be able to continue to assist Saskatchewan people acquire special needs equipment and access to medical treatment.

NEW LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT WAYS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY, REDUCE FATALITIES

The Legislative Assembly passed a motion on Monday, March 5, creating a new legislative committee on traffic safety made up of both government and opposition MLAs.

Members of the new committee are government MLAs Darryl Hickie, Herb Cox, Roger Parent, Warren Steinley and Nadine Wilson and opposition MLAs Danielle Chartier and Doyle Vermette.

The committee is expected to hold meetings throughout the province over the next few months, consulting with interested individuals and organizations. It will consider and report on ways to improve traffic safety and reduce the number of accidents, injuries and fatalities caused by factors like impaired driving, distracted driving, excessive speed, wildlife and intersections.

[New Legislative Committee to Look at Ways to Improve Traffic Safety, Reduce Fatalities](#)

ONLINE SPECIALIST DIRECTORY HAS BEEN USED 36,000 TIMES

The online Specialist Directory that helps patients and their health advisors find more options for surgery has been accessed more than 36,000 times since its launch in June 2010. On average, the interactive tool is used 1,100 times each month.

The web-based directory lets health providers and their patients conduct a range of online searches, such as finding which surgeons perform a procedure, comparing recent wait times experienced by their patients, and estimating the wait for an initial appointment.

“Health care providers are working together to achieve more timely surgeries and to help patients and their care providers make decisions about the timing of surgery and discover what choices are available,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said.

[Online Specialist Directory Has Been Used 36,000 Times](#)

SASKATCHEWAN'S HEALTHLINE NUMBER CHANGING TO 811

The Government of Saskatchewan is making access to 24/7 health advice easier by changing the province's HealthLine number to 811.

“People can now access HealthLine for professional health advice any time, by simply dialing 811 from anywhere in the province,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “HealthLine is a key part of our primary health care strategy to improve access to health services and I encourage Saskatchewan residents to take advantage of this valuable resource.”

[Saskatchewan's HealthLine Number Changing to 811](#)

UNDER 19 CURL SASKATOON RINK "BREAK THE BOARD"



The Under-19 Curl Saskatoon Rink of Jesse Parenteau (Skip), Josh Gulutzan (3rd), Shawn Sylvester (2nd and constituent), and Johnny Rebeyka (Lead) had an amazing game last Sunday.

After the opposing team scored two in the first end, the Parenteau rink came back by throwing a rare 8 ender! Following that the group stole three in a row and then stole 4. Making their score 15, breaking the board which only scores up to 12!

Congratulations to the team! Keep it up and hopefully we will see you at a future Brier!

CBC'S FUTURE 40 CAMPAIGN

CBC has launched the Future 40 campaign to recognize and celebrate our next generation of leaders, thinkers, and change-makers who are inspiring a transformation in our province.

You can nominate those in business who aren't afraid to take risks, those in science and technology who are breaking new ground, those in arts and culture who are telling our stories, and the people who are working to make their community and their neighbourhood a better place.

Nominating someone is easy, just visit cbc.ca/sask to fill out the brief web form. The deadline for nominations is March 15.

Beginning March 18, those selected as CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 will be profiled on CBC Radio One's The Morning Edition, CBC News: Saskatchewan at 5:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 6:00 pm, recognized on cbc.ca/sask for a period of one calendar year, as well as have many other perks.

SEEDY SATURDAY



The 15th Annual Seedy Saturday will be taking place tomorrow, March 9. The event is a family-friendly eco-fair promoting open pollinated and heir-loom seed saving, biodiversity, and sustainable living. Featuring 35 exhibitors, hourly workshops, the SaskTel Mendel Art Caravan for children, and lunch the event should be a great time.

The newly formed Wild About Saskatoon will make its debut at Seedy Saturday, providing information about the group to anyone who visits their table. The group aims to connect nature and culture in the City of Saskatoon. Their first major event is called the "NatureCity Festival" and will run from May 25 to May 31, 2013. Watch for more information about this event.

Seedy Saturday takes place from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at E. D. Feehan High School. Admission for the event is \$2, with a "pay what you can" lunch.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our population is at an all time high: 1,086,564. It has grown by 23,024 people in the past year, making Saskatchewan the second-fastest growing province in Canada.
- The province has now increased for 26 consecutive quarters, and in the past six years, Saskatchewan has grown by nearly 94,000 people - the fastest and most sustained period of population growth.
- Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings (including overtime) increased by 5.0 per cent in December 2012, the highest growth rate among provinces, compared to December 2011. The national average increased by 2.9 per cent.
- Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings of \$919.85 in 2012 were second-highest in Canada.

JUST THE LINKS

- March 4, 2013 - [March Proclaimed Rural Women's Month in Saskatchewan](#)
- March 4, 2013 - [Province Celebrates Agriculture Literacy Week](#)
- March 6, 2013 - [Provincial Secretary Declares Rendez-Vous De La Francophonie in Saskatchewan](#)
- March 7, 2013 - [Red Tape Reduction to be Reported Annually](#)
- March 7, 2013 - [Strong Merchandise Export Sales in January Follow Record Year](#)
- March 7, 2013 - [Government Receives Latest Submissions on Saskatchewan Labour Legislation](#)
- March 8, 2013 - [Celebrating Saskatchewan Women - International Women's Day Marked in Our Province](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

HomeStyles HomeShow

Date: March 7 to March 10

When: March 8: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm; March 9: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm; March 10: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Where: Prairieland Park

CIS Men's Hockey Championship Presented by Co-Op

Date: March 14 to March 17

When: Various game times

Where: Credit Union Centre

Visit [University Cup](#) for game times and ticket information

Gardenscape

Date: March 22 to 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

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"A wonderful fact to reflect upon, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other."

Charles Dickens

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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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