

It has been a busy week in Saskatoon Silver Springs and the Province. Scroll down to see what has been going on!



ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE HONOURS VETERANS



It was an honour to attend the Remembrance Service in the Rotunda of the Legislative Building on Wednesday, November 6. Premier Brad Wall laid a wreath as part of the government's annual Service of Remembrance for the Public Service.

"Today we remember the sacrifice of thousands of men and women from across our province and Canada: citizens who have served nobly and selflessly in conflicts, peacekeeping and reconstruction missions around the world," Wall said. "Remembrance is our willing obligation,

an obligation that has spanned two world wars and the Korean War as well as more recent conflicts such as the struggle in Afghanistan.”

This year’s service gave special recognition to the final rotation of troops in Afghanistan, to civil servants who have served in that conflict and elsewhere, and to the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. The federal government earlier designated 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran.

The Saskatchewan War Memorial is located on the Legislative grounds just west of the Legislative Building on Memorial Way. It lists the names of Saskatchewan’s fallen from the First World War, Second World War, Korean War, peacetime and peacekeeping operations, and the Afghanistan mission.

On November 11, I look forward to attending the Service of Remembrance at the Credit Union Centre at 9:00 a.m. I encourage families to attend this special service. It is an opportunity to observe a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served our country and to give thanks to the sacrifices of generations of Canadians who have put their lives on the line in the cause of peace and freedom around the world.

We proudly wear the symbolic red poppy close to our heart, as we remember the sacrifices that have allowed us, and all future generations, to live in a land of freedom and peace. Let us never forget.

[Annual Service of Remembrance Honours Veterans](#)

GRANT KOOK RECEIVES SASKATCHEWAN ORDER OF MERIT



Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield invested seven people into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit during a ceremony in Regina on Monday, November 4.

“It’s truly wonderful to have the privilege of honouring such outstanding people,” Solomon Schofield said. “These individuals have made lasting and positive contributions that make Saskatchewan an even better place.”

Among the seven honoured were:

- Dr. Richard B. Baltzan, O.C., Physician
- Mr. John V. Cross, Biosciences Entrepreneur
- Ms. May Henderson, Provincial Secretary, Métis Nation
- Mr. Grant J. Kook, Private Equity Manager, Entrepreneur
- Dr. Jim Miller, Professor
- Dr. George R. Reed, C.M., LL.D., Community Leader
- Mr. Arthur Wakabayashi, C.M., Chancellor Emeritus

Trish and I were delighted to join Grant, Lisa and members of Grant's family at this prestigious event. We are fortunate in Saskatchewan to have outstanding citizens that are such worthy recipients of this award. It was indeed a pleasure to be present, along with the Premier and many colleagues as seven outstanding citizens received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

Grant is an entrepreneur, investment fund manager and philanthropist. He has a long and distinguished career in giving and has made significant and lasting contributions to Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. He has spearheaded initiatives supporting the Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan and served as chair of the related Foundation.

As founder, president and chief executive officer of Westcap Mgt. Ltd., Saskatchewan's largest private equity and venture capital fund manager with more than \$500 million under management, he helps to promote Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan investments in markets abroad. He provides oversight and management to the HeadStart on a Home Program, the First Nations and Métis Fund, the Business Ready Investment Development Gateway (BRIDG) Program and the Golden Opportunities Fund, Saskatchewan's first provincial retail investment fund with more than 25,000 shareholders and recognized as the Labour Fund of the Year in Canada in 2004.

Mr. Kook has served as chair of the 2013 and 2014 CIS University Cup Men's Hockey Championship, vice president of the 2004 Nokia Brier Organization, sponsorship chair for the 2006 Vanier Cup and vice president of sponsorship for the 2010 World Junior Hockey Championships. He also lends his support to the Saskatoon Hilltops Football Bowl Campaign and the Saskatoon United Way committee to end homelessness.

Grant is the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2012, and the Commemorative Medal of the Centennial of Saskatchewan, 2005. He has been recognized with many awards including the 2013 Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Award for Community Involvement, the 2013 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Volunteer of the Year Award, the 2012 Saskatoon and Area United Way Dinner Honoree, the 2008 B'nai Brith We Are Proud of You Award. In 2008, he was named one of Saskatchewan's Men of Influence by Saskatchewan Business Magazine. He has earned the Chartered Director Designation (C. Dir.) from McMaster University DeGroote School of Business.

On a personal note, I am so proud to call Grant Kook my friend. Grant, Lisa and their children are fantastic neighbours and a reflection of the spirit of Saskatchewan people. Congratulations Grant on your well deserved recognition.

For the next six weeks, I will highlight each recipient listed above.

LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN CANADA FOR THE TENTH STRAIGHT MONTH

For the tenth straight month, Saskatchewan has held the lowest unemployment rate in Canada. According to October's Labour Force Survey released today by Statistics Canada, the province's unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points to reach 3.6 per cent, well below the 6.9 per cent reported nationally.

"One of the best measures of our economic success is the ability of people to find jobs," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Kevin Doherty said on behalf of Economy Minister Bill Boyd. "The opportunities for people to find work in Saskatchewan have never been better."

[Lowest Unemployment Rate in Canada for the Tenth Straight Month](#)

SASKATCHEWAN CONTINUES MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE FIGHT IN ALBERTA

Saskatchewan will provide up to \$1.1 million over the next year as part of a partnership agreement with Alberta to help prevent the spread of the mountain pine beetle into northern forests. The two provinces will collaborate for a third year on the removal of beetle-infested trees in eastern Alberta.

As Minister of Environment, I have learned that the mountain pine beetle has no regard for provincial boundaries, making a regional strategy essential. The leading edge of the infestation is now at our doorstep, making this agreement with Alberta a critical measure in preventing the mountain pine beetle from becoming established in Saskatchewan's northern pine forest.

[Saskatchewan Continues Mountain Pine Beetle Fight in Alberta](#)

WE DAY



Our daughter Paige was one of 15-thousand Saskatchewan students chosen to attend “We Day” at Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon on Wednesday, November 6th. Students couldn’t purchase a ticket to the event. They had to earn a spot through service in their community.

The event celebrates the volunteering and fundraising they have done throughout the year. In addition to music and dance, there were several guest speakers including NBA basketball great Magic Johnson and Martin Luther King III. Juno and MMVA award winning artist Shawn Desman hosted the event. “We Day” is organized by Free the Children. The organization’s co-founders, Craig and Marc Kielburger were also in Saskatoon.

Paige came home from “We Day” with lots of stories. More importantly, she came away feeling inspired to help make a difference.

SASKATCHEWAN SCHOLARSHIP OF HONOUR RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED

Premier Brad Wall recognized 20 new recipients of the Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour at the Saskatchewan Legislature on November 5.

The Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour honours returning service men and women as well as the spouses and children of injured or fallen members of Canada's Armed Forces. It provides a one-time award of \$5,000 for post-secondary education to recognize their commitment to our country and our province.

"Our government is honoured to provide this scholarship on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan," Wall said. "It is a very small token of gratitude considering the sacrifices made by the brave women and men serving in Canada's Armed Forces and their families. It is because of such heroism that we can live in a country where we can pursue our dreams and make plans for the future."

[Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour Recipients Recognized](#)

LOW'S IN MOTION - A HUGE SUCCESS



It was a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to recognize the good work of the Lows in Motion committee in a Members Statement in the legislature this week.

I had the chance talk about the spectacular event that took place at Prairie Land Park in Saskatoon last Saturday. "Lows in Motion" was organized by a phenomenal group of 25 committee members that share a passion of making a difference for those living with Parkinson's disease. I am so proud of Travis Low, who many will remember as my former constituency assistant. Travis is instrumental in organizing Lows in Motion and is now the Executive Director at Parkinson Society Saskatchewan.

Travis's dad was diagnosed with young onset Parkinson's at the age of 47 and his grandpa also lived with the disease for over 15 years. Lows in Motion was originally started to honour Travis' dad and in memory of his grandpa, but has grown to something much more.

This is their 5th year and over 1100 enthusiastic people attended. The committees aim is not to just raise money for research and programs, but to create awareness of Parkinson's and the impact it has on the 4000 families in Saskatchewan.

What an incredible Saskatchewan story. The result of the efforts of this group has raised over \$150,000 in 4 years and they expect the proceeds from Saturday's event will add more than \$75,000 in support of Parkinson Society Saskatchewan. Once again, when there is a need Saskatchewan people astonish us with their generosity. I am so proud of Travis Low and his team.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO SASKATCHEWAN'S IMMIGRANT NOMINEE PROGRAM

Minister responsible for Immigration Bill Boyd announced on November 5, that the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) will be undergoing improvements following consultations with a wide range of stakeholders this summer.

“Over the last several months, we have been reviewing the feedback we received during the consultation process and, based on this feedback, we will be introducing improvements to the SINP on January 2, 2014,” Boyd said. “I am pleased with the outcome of the consultations, and I think the changes make the program more responsive to employers and nominees while at the same time more effectively supporting the needs of Saskatchewan’s labour market and communities.”

These program improvements will be applied to an expanded program in 2014 as the federal government announced last week that Saskatchewan’s nominee allocation will increase to 4,725 next year, up from 4,450 in 2013.

[More Improvements to Saskatchewan's Immigrant Nominee Program](#)

SASKATCHEWAN FIRST PROVINCE TO REQUIRE MANDATORY ASBESTOS REPORTING

The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed The Public Health (Howard's Law) Amendment Act which makes the web-based Saskatchewan Asbestos Registry (SAR) mandatory for crown corporations, school districts, health regions and facilities and provincial government buildings.

The mandatory registry was created due to the efforts of Howard Willems, who passed away a year ago after being diagnosed with cancer as a result of inhaling asbestos fibers.

"It is fitting that we honour Mr. Willems, who passed away one year ago tomorrow, with the proclamation of this bill," Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Minister Don Morgan said. "This registry would not have been possible without the passionate advocacy of Mr. Willems."

[Saskatchewan First Province to Require Mandatory Asbestos Reporting](#)

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO PERMIT PUBLIC REPORTING OF PERSONAL CARE HOME INSPECTION RESULTS

The Personal Care Homes Amendment Act received first reading in the Saskatchewan Legislature on November 7. The intent of the legislation is to improve accountability and better inform residents and families about personal care home inspection results.

"Our government strives to improve the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people," Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. "Increased transparency will assist people when selecting a personal care home for themselves or a loved one. It will also provide increased incentive for personal care home operators to provide the best care possible."

[Government Introduces Legislation to Permit Public Reporting of Personal Care Home Inspection Results](#)

JUST THE LINKS

November 1, 2013 - [Health Officials Advise of Measles Risk](#)

November 1, 2013 - [Government Receives Recommendations on Changes to Teacher Regulation](#)

November 4, 2013 - [Minister Stewart to Raise Country of Origin Labeling with U.S. Meat Packers](#)

November 5, 2013 - [Legislation Introduced to Create Provincial Athletic Commission](#)

November 6, 2013 - [Government to Introduce Motion Calling for Senate to be Abolished](#)

November 6, 2013 - [Royal University Hospital Escape - Work Plan to Improve Public Safety](#)

November 7, 2013 - [Saskatchewan Footprint at Agritechnica 2013 is Largest Ever](#)

November 7, 2013 - [Government Taking Immediate Action of Traffic Safety Initiatives](#)

November 7, 2013 - [Enhancements to Legislation Protecting Vulnerable Adults](#)

November 7, 2013 - [New Act to Merge Accountants into One Professional Organization](#)

COMING EVENTS

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Date: November 11

Where: Credit Union Centre

When: 9 am

Saskatoon Symphony Book Sale

Date: November 7 - 9

Where: Saskatoon Symphony Office - 408 20th Street

When: 10 am- 8 pm; 10 am - 8 pm; 10 am- 6 pm

Christkindl Market

Date: November 17

Where: German Cultural Centre

When: 10 am - 5 pm

Saskatoon Parent and Tot Expo

Date: November 17

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 10 am - 5 pm

23rd Annual Santa Claus Parade

Date: November 17

Where: Downtown Saskatoon

When: 1 pm

Open House and Christmas Craft

Date: November 17

Where: The Marr House - 326 - 11th Street E

When: 1 pm - 4:30 pm

Central Avenue from 110th Street to 112th Street - Streetscape Improvement Open House

Date: November 20

Where: Sutherland Hall

When: 5 pm - 8 pm

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**“If you follow the crowd,
you will go no further than the crowd.
But if you walk alone, and find your own way,
you will likely find yourself in places
no one has ever been before.”**

~ Albert Einstein

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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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