



Ken Cheveldayoff

## From a Provincial Point of View

February 3, 2012

### **PREMIER ANNOUNCES SPRING SESSION TO START MARCH 5, BUDGET ON MARCH 21**

Premier Brad Wall announced that the spring session of the Legislative Assembly will begin on Monday March 5 with the 2012-13 provincial budget to be delivered on Wednesday, March 21.

Wall said the provincial budget will focus on keeping the government's election commitments while maintaining fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget.

"Saskatchewan's economy is leading the nation," Wall said. "We have a growing population, low unemployment, the second-highest average wages in the country and a great quality of life in our province.

"Saskatchewan people have worked hard to create the Saskatchewan advantage and this budget will be about keeping the Saskatchewan advantage."

Wall said the budget will also provide funding for the government's election commitments, like the new Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship that will provide up to \$2,000 over four years to new high school graduates to reduce the cost of post-secondary tuition in Saskatchewan.

"Saskatchewan already has the best graduate retention program in the country, which gives post-secondary grads all of their tuition back if they choose to stay in Saskatchewan," Wall said. "Now, we want to take the next step by making post-secondary education more affordable through the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship.

"It's just one step in our plan to keep Saskatchewan moving forward. That's what this upcoming session will be about."

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Our campaign promises were designed to ensure that everyone continues to benefit from Saskatchewan's historic growth.
- This year's budget also contains measures that will make life more affordable, such as an expansion to the PST exemption for kids' clothing. This tax change took effect November 15, 2011, and applies to children aged 15 to 17. This means more Saskatchewan families will save 5 per cent on all children's clothing.

- We have also expanded The Active Families Benefit to all children less than 18 years of age. This is an annual refundable tax benefit which helps with the cost of children participating in cultural, recreational, and sport activities. Parents can claim up to \$150 per child.
- Housing affordability is a challenge that our government has been working to solve. To that end we have the new and expanded First Time Home Buyers Tax Credit that came into effect January 1, 2012. This credit will make it easier for people to get into the housing market by providing a provincial non-refundable income tax credit up to \$1,100, to eligible taxpayers. All of these programs help make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live.
- One important promise we made was to take further steps to make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable. - The Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship program will provide up to \$2,000 over four years to new high school graduates to reduce the cost of post-secondary tuition in Saskatchewan.
- We already have the best graduate retention program in the country, but it is important we continue taking action to ensure our young people choose Saskatchewan as the place to live, build a career and raise a family.

### **REDWING ICE MEN WIN GOLD!**



Congratulations to the Redwing Ice Men who were the recipients of the Gold Medal at the Bantam II Tournament in Warman January 21 and 22. Pictured are Head Coach Craig Stevenson, Assistant Coaches, Mike Bumphrey, Mark Hetherington, Greg Smith and Kyle Strohan (missing). Players - Niko Gabbruch, Mark Olexson, Logan Scheibe, Dane Bumphrey, Kamryn Rapko, Zach Haynes, Luke Walsh, Shea Stevenson, Brody Honeker, Carter Cheveldayoff, Burke Johnstone, Spencer Hetherington, Aaron Doherty, Sam Hodson, Zach Demchemko (missing), Goalies - Kyle Goldstein and Rylan Smith.

Congratulations to all the participants for showing great sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Special thanks to the coaches and the lady who keeps everyone organized, Manager Bonny Stevenson!

### **NEW PLAN POSITIONS SASKATOON AS 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CITY**

The City of Saskatoon released a strategic plan that will help the city take its place among the most progressive and innovative cities in Canada. His Worship Mayor Donald Atchison praises the quality of the plan, thanks to the participation of Saskatoon citizens.

"Saskatoon shines because our citizens care about their community and the direction of their city," Mayor Atchison says. "This plan is solid and captures the vision of the community because people stepped up through Saskatoon Speaks, and spoke to their Councillors about their dreams, ambitions and aspirations for their city. I'm very pleased with the result."

The plan sets out seven strategic goals that will guide City Council decision-making and administrative policy-making over the next ten years: Continuous Improvement, Asset and Financial Sustainability, Quality of Life, Environmental Leadership, Sustainable Growth, Moving Around, and Economic Diversity and Prosperity.

[Read more . . .](#)

## **SUMA CONVENTION**

SUMA members gathered for their annual convention in Regina January 29 – Feb. 1. Congratulations to everyone involved for their tremendous effort in planning this event.

The convention is always informative and enjoyable. The convention included many sessions, sector meetings and a bear pit and dialogue with the Premier and Cabinet. It is a privilege to participate and learn from those attending about issues that impact their communities. A strong relationship with our municipal partners is a key priority of our government. The work done in coordination with the municipal sector plays an important role in moving the province forward, sustaining growth and opportunity for Saskatchewan people.

SUMA works on the communities behalf to ensure the interests of urban governments are represented. Premier Brad Wall, along with MLA's will continue to work with our municipal partners to explore options regarding the development of a long-term, sustainable approach towards municipal infrastructure.

## **SASKATCHEWAN STARTS THE YEAR WITH RECORD EMPLOYMENT**

Saskatchewan reached record highs for the month of January with 520,600 people employed including 419,900 full-time jobs.

"Saskatchewan's economy is a leader in Canada," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "With strong growth in Aboriginal and youth employment, Saskatchewan continues to be a great place to live and work."

[Read more . . .](#)

## **CONGRATULATIONS MARK McMORRIS!**

Friends, family and supporters are celebrating the fantastic success story of Mark McMorris, son of Cindy and the Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Health. Marks incredible talent as a world-class snowboarder put Saskatchewan on the map. Mark returned from Aspen, Colorado with two gold medals after competing in the big air event followed by the men's slopestyle snowboarding event. He became the first double gold-medal winner at the Winter X-Games since Shaun White, an American Olympian who accomplished that feat in 2009. Mark was also named men's rookie of the year at the annual Riders' Poll Awards.

Congratulations Mark on your outstanding accomplishments! We look forward to following your career and wish you continued success as you set your sights on qualifying for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

## **SASKATCHEWAN ECONOMY OFF TO A STRONG START IN 2012**

Leading the Nation in Several Categories

As the first month of 2012 comes to an end, the positive economic news rolled in as job numbers and wholesale trade hit monthly records. Saskatchewan led the nation in growth in wholesale trade, retail sales and non-residential construction. Average weekly earnings increased and unemployment dropped.

"The strong and resilient Saskatchewan economy is providing many job opportunities for people who want to live and work in Saskatchewan," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "Saskatchewan workers continue to benefit from this economic success with competitive wages, and an unemployment rate that has been dropping."

The number of people employed in Saskatchewan in December 2011 was 523,500, a record for the month of December. When expressed as a percentage of the total labour force population, Saskatchewan has the second fewest number of people receiving EI benefits in Canada at 1.2 per cent. According to a report from Statistics Canada released on January 26, Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings were \$904.42, the second highest in Canada.

[Read more . . .](#)

## **RICK HANSEN TO VISIT SASKATOON**

It was 25 years ago that we first heard of Rick Hansen as he travelled the country on his Man in Motion Tour to raise awareness and money for people with spinal cord injuries. Rick Hansen's 25th Anniversary Relay makes its way across the country. The 12,000 kilometer route that retraces Rick's original Man In Motion Tour that began on August 24, 2011 in Cape Spear, NL, is being completed over a nine month-span by 7,000 Canadians who have made a significant difference in the lives of others.

Rick Hansen will be joining a number of these difference makers and will be in Saskatoon on Tuesday, February 7. I have had the great privilege of getting to know Rick and every time I hear him speak, I am totally amazed by all he has done to help others. He inspired the people he met 25 years ago and continues to provide inspiration today! Thank you Rick.

I encourage all of you to go out and meet this wonderful man. It will be an experience you will never forget. Tuesday, February 7, 2012 is a Non-Relay Day and Rick will be at the following locations:

- Bethlehem Catholic High School - 110 Bowlt Crescent at 10:45 am. Rick Hansen will present his story of overcoming adversity and setting goals to students from Bethlehem Catholic School and Tommy Douglas Collegiate. Following the presentation, Hansen will recognize one student from each school for their community work by presenting them with a Difference Maker Award.
- Saskatoon City Hospital - 701 Queen St at 1:30 pm. Rick will visit Saskatoon City Hospital, which is part of the Rick Hansen Institute's Global Spinal Cord Injury Registry. Following a tour of the rehab centre, there will be a presentation and photo opportunity at 2:30 pm.

## **GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN EXPANDS HOUSING PROGRAM**

To help more municipalities meet housing needs and sustain population and economic growth, the Government of Saskatchewan today announced two funding enhancements to the Encouraging Community Housing Options (ECHO) Program. In total, \$400,000 will be made available to municipalities on a first come, first served basis through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

"Our government recognizes that municipalities across Saskatchewan are facing challenges in addressing housing needs," Social Services Minister and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation June Draude said. "The goal of the ECHO program is to provide support for eligible municipalities to develop long-term housing plans that will increase housing supply across the province. We are pleased to implement this program as a key action under our Housing Strategy for Saskatchewan, which was announced in August last year."

[Read more. . .](#)

## **THREE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS RECEIVE GO GREEN FUNDING**

The Government of Saskatchewan is providing Go Green funding for three new projects that address the Fund's priority areas of biodiversity, education and awareness, greenhouse gas emissions reduction and water conservation. Additional projects are currently being negotiated for Go Green funding in 2011-12.

"These three projects are indicative of the innovative and cost-effective technologies that are being developed and tested right here in Saskatchewan," Environment Minister Dustin Duncan said. "Over the past four years, the Government of Saskatchewan has committed \$70 million to the Go Green Fund for research and demonstration projects and incentive programs, which achieve real environmental outcomes."

[Read more. . . .](#)

## **SASKATCHEWANDERER PROGRAM BACK FOR ANOTHER SUMMER**

The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport is hiring again for the best summer job ever - the Saskatchewanderer.

This is a student position that launched last year as a marketing pilot project. The job includes travelling around the province, discovering what makes Saskatchewan great, and then blogging about it through writing, photos and video.

"The first year of our Saskatchewanderer program was so successful we had to do it again," Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Bill Hutchinson said. "People from 110 countries and territories viewed more than 176,000 pages on saskatchewanderer.ca. And I am confident they liked what they saw of our wonderful province - they saw our exceptional provincial parks with their beautiful lakes, forests and even sand dunes along with unique cultural and recreational events. They saw that you can surf and zipline and take part in an exciting kite festival in Saskatchewan. They saw that this is truly the best province for visitors to experience."

[Read more. . . .](#)

## **THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

"Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you'll find that you have more of it."

Ralph Marston

## **SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON**

- If you would like your event listed in Provincial Point of View, please contact [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net)

### **2012 Canada Cup III Canadian Junior Speedskating Championships**

When: Feb 3-5, 2012

Where: Clarence Downey Speed Skating Oval

Details: This event is hosted by the Saskatoon Lions Speed Skating Club. For more information contact [fritz.schumann@sasktel.net](mailto:fritz.schumann@sasktel.net)

### **PotashCorp Wintershines**

When: Jan 28, 2012 – Feb 12, 2012

Where: Market Square at River Landing

Details: Featuring an ice park with climbing wall, zipline and luge. Visit <http://www.postashcorpwintershines.ca>

### **Saskatoon Wellness Expo 2012**

When: Feb 10, 2012 –Feb 12, 2012

Where: Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth Street

Details: Visit <http://saskatoonex.com>

### **Saskatoon Family Expo**

When: February 17-19, 2012

Where: Prairieland Park

Details: Over 100 exhibitors, events, entertainment, food and more! \$8.00/adult. Kids under 16 are free!

For more information click FAMILY EXPO.

### **Tim Horton's Brier**

When: Mar 3, 2012 – Mar 11, 2012

Where: Credit Union Centre

Details: Visit <http://www.curling.ca>

### **Homestyles**

When: Mar 22, 2012 – Mar 25, 2012

Where: Saskatoon Prairieland Park

Time: Mar 22 – 5:00-9:00 pm; Mar 23 – 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm; Mar 24 – 10:00 am – 9:00 pm; Mar 25 – 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Details: Visit <http://www.homestylesonline.com>

## **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.



**Follow Me On Facebook – [www.facebook.com/pages/Ken-Cheveldayoff/52760912740](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ken-Cheveldayoff/52760912740)**

***“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.

Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs  
1106A Central Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7N 2H1

P 306.651.7100 | E [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net)

To subscribe or be removed from this newsletter, please send an email message.

This newsletter is produced with the assistance of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus Office.

Please check my website at [www.cheveldayoff.com](http://www.cheveldayoff.com).