



Ken Cheveldayoff

## From a Provincial Point of View

March 22, 2012

### **BUDGET ANNOUNCES GREAT NEWS FOR SASKATOON SILVER SPRINGS**

It was great to see many constituents in attendance as Ken Krawetz, Minister of Finance delivered the 2012-13 budget speech, Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage. I encourage everyone to go to the Government website at <http://www.gov.sk.ca/> to view further information or watch Minister Krawetz's Budget Address.

### **NEW SCHOOLS FOR WILLOWGROVE RECEIVE FINAL APPROVAL – ANTICIPATED OCCUPANCY SEPTEMBER 2013!**

Saskatoon Silver Springs received good news at the provincial budget yesterday when it was announced that the Willowgrove project in Saskatoon is one of six provincial school capital projects across the province that will move forward under the Government of Saskatchewan's new shared capital approach.

Through the new provincial shared ownership model, the Government of Saskatchewan is changing the funding formula for construction of various capital projects, such as new schools and long-term care facilities – by amortizing the costs over the expected life of the facility rather than expensing the entire capital cost in the first year.



With the population growth we are experiencing in this area of Saskatoon, we are pleased that this school project is moving forward. The school division is currently working with its architect on detailed design, which is expected to be completed by the end of March 2012. Once the design is tendered, construction will take approximately 16 to 20 months to complete. It is anticipated that construction will be complete and the school will be ready for occupancy by September 2013.

The Government of Saskatchewan has committed approximately \$500 million since November 2007 to move forward 38 major school capital projects and approximately 700 additional smaller school capital projects across the province. This represents a record high investment in prekindergarten to Grade 12 capital infrastructure since 2007.

## **BUDGET 2012-13: KEEPING THE SASKATCHEWAN ADVANTAGE**

Finance Minister Ken Krawetz today tabled a balanced budget that improves access to health care and makes life more affordable for Saskatchewan citizens while ensuring spending on government services remains affordable and sustainable.

Krawetz said the budget keeps government promises made in the recent provincial election campaign and focuses on keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage of sound fiscal management, sustainable spending and a strong economy.

"The Saskatchewan Advantage is real," Krawetz said. "The people of Saskatchewan have worked hard to make the gains that have made life better for everyone, and we want to ensure that they keep those benefits."

The 2012-13 Budget posts a pre-transfer surplus of \$95 million in the General Revenue Fund and a surplus of \$15 million in the Summary Financial Statements, which take into account all government operations, including the Crown corporations.

The Growth and Financial Security Fund is forecasted to finish the year with a balance of \$756.4 million - money that can be used to deal with emergencies and unforeseen expenses, if necessary.

Revenue for 2012-13 is forecasted to be \$11.29 billion, while expense is expected to be \$11.2 billion, up by 4.7 per cent over last year. This is consistent with the plan outlined in the 2011-12 budget and in the government's recent election platform.

The budget makes a number of key investments, including:

- \$98 million increase or 3.5 per cent for Regional Health Authorities;
  - \$60.5 million for the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative, to perform 8,000 more surgeries and continue reducing surgical wait times;
  - \$16.9 million more for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, for 6,000 new patient referrals, almost 30,000 chemotherapy treatments and 39,000 mammograms;
  - \$4.0 million to expand the colorectal screening program province-wide, providing early cancer detection and improved survival rates;
  - \$5.5 million more for the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) Helicopter Ambulance;
  - \$3.5 million for the Senior Personal Care Home benefit, estimated to be \$278 a month, rising to \$369 per month by 2015-16;
  - \$24.2 million, a \$3.3 million increase to provide Seniors Income Plan benefit increases of up to \$50 per month starting July 2012, an increase of up to \$10 per month in each of the next three years;
  - \$113 million, a \$17.8 million increase to provide expanded Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability eligibility. The benefit will increase and the number of clients will expand from 3,000 to 10,000;
  - \$237.4 million in Municipal Revenue Sharing, an increase of \$20.6 million or 9.5 per cent;
  - \$4.6 million to meet the commitment to establish the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship, that will provide new high school graduates with up to \$2,000 toward tuition fees at any Saskatchewan post-secondary institution;
  - \$3.0 million increase to expand the Active Families Benefit Program to include all children and youth under 18;
  - A new rental housing construction initiative providing a 10 year rebate of Corporate Income Tax equal to 10 per cent of the expected rental income from new multi-unit residential rental projects; and
- The new Saskatchewan First-Time Homebuyers' tax credit of up to \$1,100 against Saskatchewan income tax payable.

The 2012-13 Budget also makes a total of \$788 million in capital expenditures across government, including:

- \$42.7 million to begin construction of seven previously announced Long Term Care (LTC) facilities under a new co-ownership model with health regions. Construction will continue on six LTCs already begun;

- \$88.7 million for 21 approved major school projects; and
- \$581.5 million in highways spending, commencing the government's commitment to spend \$2.2 billion over four years.

In order to make these improvements and ensure that government programs remain sustainable, the Budget also seeks efficiencies across government. Third parties such as Regional Health Authorities, post-secondary institutions and school divisions are all being asked to look for savings within their operations.

Efficiency measures in this budget include:

- The Film Employment Tax Credit will be wound down, saving \$8.0 million a year after previously approved productions are completed;
- The province will no longer fund the Enterprise Region program, saving \$4.0 million this year; and
- Charges under the Seniors' and Children's Drug Plan go up by \$5 per prescription, which will save \$10 million. These charges have not been changed since 2007.

"This budget provides funding for health care, education, highways, assistance to those in need and many other services to improve our quality of life in Saskatchewan," Krawetz said. "While government has a responsibility to provide these important services, it also has a responsibility to live within its means, to balance the budget and to ensure our programs for people are sustainable."

"All over the world, we are seeing the chaos caused by governments that did not live up to that second part of their responsibility. We will not make that mistake. We will keep the budget balanced, we will keep government spending sustainable, and we will keep the Saskatchewan Advantage."

## **JUST THE HEADLINES**

[PROVINCE ANNOUNCES TOP FIVE FOR BEST SUMMER JOB EVER](#)

[HIGHWAY HOTLINE LAUNCHES NEW MOBILE WEBSITE](#)

[SASKATCHEWAN GREW BY MORE THAN 17, 000 PEOPLE IN 2011 – MOST GROWTH SINCE 1953](#)

## **DID YOU KNOW:**

Saskatchewan is leading the country in agri-food exports. In 2011, our agri-food exports, for the first time ever, exceeded \$10 billion, surpassing Ontario as number one in Canada.

## **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))

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

**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>

### **Gardenscape**

When: March 30, 2012 – April 1, 2012

Where: Prairieland Park

Time: March 30 – 11:00am-10:00pm; March 31 – 9:00am-8:00pm; April 1 – 11:00am-5:00pm

Details: Visit <http://www.saskatoonex.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.



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***“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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