



From a Provincial Point of View

May 17, 2012

Ken Cheveldayoff

SAVE THE DATE!

We are busy planning another "PICNIC IN THE PARK". I hope everyone can join us at the Forestry Farm June 20 from 4 – 8 p.m.
Watch for further details.

CANADA'S ONLY BALANCED PROVINCIAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS SPRING SESSION

The spring session of the Legislative Assembly wrapped up today with Premier Brad Wall saying the highlight was the introduction and passage of Canada's only balanced provincial budget.

"While other provinces and other countries are struggling with huge deficits and growing debt, Saskatchewan is a different story," Wall said. "Our budget is balanced, our finances are sound and we are on the right track."

Wall said a balanced budget is a key part of the "Saskatchewan Advantage" that has our province's economy leading the nation.

"Saskatchewan employers have created more than 13,000 new jobs in the past year," Wall said. "Our population is growing at its fastest pace in 60 years and many forecasters say we will have the strongest economic growth in Canada this year and next."

Wall said the strong economy enabled the government to keep virtually all of its 2011 election promises while still maintaining a balanced budget.

These include:

- Introducing a 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 education in Saskatchewan;
- Expanding the Active Families Benefit and the PST exemption on clothing to include all children under 18;
- 500 new child care spaces;
- A new \$10,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers;



- Launching the STARS emergency medical helicopter service;
- Forgiving up to \$120,000 in student loans for new doctors and up to \$20,000 for new nurses and nurse practitioners who practice in rural and remote communities;
- Increasing benefits under the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program by \$2,760 per year for couples and \$2,400 per year for individuals;
- Increasing the Seniors Income Plan (SIP) benefit by \$600 per year; and
- Providing the first year of the government's four-year commitment of \$2.2 billion to repair and maintain Saskatchewan highways.

"Last election, we campaigned on a platform of sustainable spending, balanced budgets and a number of targeted promises to help keep life affordable for Saskatchewan people," Wall said. "In this session, we did what we said we would do."

"We kept our promises, we kept the budget balanced, we kept the Saskatchewan Advantage and we kept Saskatchewan moving forward."

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION

Thank you to everyone who has emailed or called the constituency office to voice your concerns regarding school enrolment and funding pressures raised by school divisions in Saskatoon. Education is a priority for our government and I am pleased to share the following stats:

In the 2012-2013 Budget, the government has increased the total operating grant funding (provincial grant + property tax) to school divisions by \$58.4 million for the government fiscal year. The overall provincial increase provides for the negotiated teacher salary increase and an adjustment for inflation. It also includes \$1 million for 15 new pre-kindergarten programs and \$10 million for transition funding to implement the new funding model.

- For the Saskatoon Public School Division, based on the school division's fiscal year, this means a 7% increase or \$13.2 million
- For the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division, based on the school division's fiscal year, this means a 5.9% increase or \$7.9 million

The school division funding allocation on government budget day is based on the previous September's enrolment numbers for the next year. These numbers are then used to project enrolment numbers for the next year.

- The Saskatoon Public School Division 2012-2013 budget allocation was based on 20,794 students; today they have 20,742 students
- The Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division 2012-2013 budget allocation was based on 15,097 students; today they have 15,152 students

The school division's main concerns of funding are about what they are projecting for what they may have for enrolments in September 2012. Although the school divisions are talking about record enrolments, both school divisions are now at similar numbers to what they were a decade ago.

- In 2001-2002, enrolment at the Saskatoon Public School Division was 21,912; today it is 20,742
- In 2001-2002, enrolment at the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division was 15,094; today it is 15,152

Both school divisions continue to claim they are being forced to make program cuts because they are not receiving enough funding to deal with growth pressures.

Over the past five years the Sask Party has been in government, we have increased operating funding each year to cover the costs of collective bargaining agreements, inflation, and enrolment increases.

- From 2007-2008 to 2011-2012, student enrolment for the Saskatoon Public School Division has increased by 1203 students, or 6.1%; the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board student enrolment has increased by 635 students or 4.4%

- From 2008-2009 to 2012-2013, operating funding for the Saskatoon Public School Division has increased by \$36.8 million or 23%; operating funding for the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division has increased by \$21 million or 17.6%

These funding increases to the Saskatoon school divisions have been accompanied by substantial reductions to education property taxes. Today the government now funds over 65% of the operating cost for Pre-Kindergarten to grade 12 education which has provided ratepayers across the province with \$165 million in education property tax relief.

Since taking office in 2007, \$500 million has been invested in school capital projects, a record investment in a 5-year time period. Of that, \$80 million has been allocated for new schools and upgrades to existing schools in Saskatoon alone.

I want to assure all of my constituents that our government takes education seriously and know how important education is for the future of the province. Both the Minister of Education and the Ministry of Education have committed to meeting with the school divisions to explore new options for funding current year enrolment increases.

If you have any further questions or concerns about this or any other issue please do not hesitate to call or email our office. I always appreciate hearing from the constituents.

FORTY NEW CHILD CARE SPACES TO BE ADDED TO THE SASKATOON SILVER SPRINGS AREA

The growth of Saskatoon and especially our constituency of Saskatoon Silver Springs have been reflected in the additional child care spaces with 40 spaces being created in our constituency. Saskatoon Centre child care spaces have been increased by 18 spaces, Saskatoon Mewassin has been increased by 30 spaces, and Saskatoon Riversdale has been increased by 11 spaces.

Education Minister Donna Harpauer, announced that the Saskatchewan Government has allocated 500 new child care spaces to 15 communities across the province.

The allocation is based on the 2012-13 provincial budget which provided \$2 million to develop 500 new child care spaces across Saskatchewan, and an additional \$4 million to cover the capital costs of those new spaces.

"Increasing the number of high-quality licensed child care spaces for Saskatchewan families is a priority of this government," Harpauer said. "Investing in our children means we are investing in our future. With these new spaces, our government will have increased child care spaces by 42 per cent."

Since November 2007, the Government of Saskatchewan has made a record investment in licensed child care, allocating funding for 3,935 new child care spaces to communities across the province. This year's allocation raises the total number of licensed child care spaces in the province to 13,240.

[Provincial Government Allocates Five Hundred New Child Care Spaces Across Saskatchewan](#)

ANOTHER RECORD MONTH FOR EMPLOYMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN

Highest Growth Rate in Three Years

Employment in Saskatchewan grew by 13,100 in April 2012, a 2.5 per cent increase in job growth compared to a year ago and the largest jump since June 2009. The employment growth rate in Saskatchewan was the third highest among provinces.

"The Saskatchewan story is one of strong employment growth and continuing bright economic prospects," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said. "Business optimism remains strong and this is great news for those building a career in our province."
[Another Record Month for Employment in Saskatchewan](#)

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES THE SASKATCHEWAN ADVANTAGE SCHOLARSHIP

Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris officially announced the new Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship today.

"Our government understands the importance of making post-secondary education accessible and affordable for more students," Norris said. "The new Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship provides incentive for our high school graduates to pursue a post-secondary education in Saskatchewan."

Beginning in 2012, the scholarship will provide Saskatchewan Grade 12 graduates who enroll at a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution with up to \$500 per year to a lifetime maximum of \$2,000 over 10 years.

"Today, our government offers one of the most comprehensive continuums of financial support for our students," Norris said. "For new high school graduates looking to move into post-secondary studies, we created the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship. Current post-secondary students working on finishing their degrees, certificates or diplomas can now receive the Innovation and Opportunities Scholarships which we introduced last year. Finally, post-secondary graduates that choose to live in Saskatchewan remain eligible for the Graduate Retention Program which offers a tuition rebate of up to \$20,000."

The Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship will reduce tuition for students entering post-secondary programs starting after April 1, 2012 and applies to a broad array of Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions and programs that are recognized for Canada-Saskatchewan Student Loans.

NEW INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR MORE DOCTORS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Health Minister Don McMorris today announced the full implementation of a new Saskatchewan-based assessment process designed to recruit more foreign-trained physicians to the province.

"We are pleased to introduce full implementation of the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA), a key initiative in our ongoing effort to recruit and retain physicians," McMorris said.

"While we have increased enrolment at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine and added residency positions to train doctors here in Saskatchewan, we continue to depend on and appreciate our international medical graduates."

[New International Assessment Paves the Way for More Doctors In Saskatchewan](#)

SASKATOON SHINES! TOURISM LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION

On Monday May 14, I had the great privilege of attending the Saskatoon Shines! Tourism Leadership Celebration Banquet held at the Saskatoon Travelodge.

This annual event publically recognizes the great efforts of the volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that Saskatoon remains at the top of the list for national and international events.

Congratulations to the 2012 recipients who have made our province a better place:

- Karen Heinrichs – Board Chair, PotashCorp Fringe Festival, hosted by the 25th Street Theatre



- Gregg Bramford – President, WakeRide
- Jack Vicq – Board Chair, Meewasin
- Lloyd Beazley – Board Chair, Wanuskewin
- Dwight Simon – International Congress on Wind Engineering Bid
- Brian Keegan – National Congress on Rural Education
- Eugene Arcand – multiple conferences and events
- Norm Dray – Saskatchewan Education Leadership Unit
- David Phillips – Tournament Director, International Tennis Federation Futures Tournament – Saskatoon
- Fritz Schumann – Meet Co-ordinator, 2012 Canada Cup III and Canadiana Junior National Speed Skating Championship Bid
- Jack Brodsky and Tim Gitzel – Bid Committee Co-Chairs, 2013 Memorial Cup
- Pat Hyes-Schryer – President, 2012 Canadian National Fencing Championship Bid

"The strength of an event is dependent on the dedication of local leaders," said Todd Brandt, President and CEO of Tourism Saskatoon. "So much of our tourism economy, from employment to revenues, relies on individuals who give their time and energy to the events they are so passionate about."

FULL ITINERARY OF ROYAL VISIT TO REGINA RELEASED

Saskatchewan people are invited to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by joining Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall at a number of locations throughout Regina on May 22 and 23.

"The arrival of Their Royal Highnesses to Regina marks Her Majesty The Queen's 60th anniversary as head of state," Provincial Secretary Wayne Elhard said. "Her Majesty The Queen has served as a shining example of one who is truly dedicated to the service of others, and Saskatchewan is very proud to host a Royal Visit."

The best opportunities for people to see Their Royal Highnesses will be at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building and Government House on the morning of May 23.

The Royal Couple will arrive at the Regina International Airport on the evening of May 22 and depart on May 23.

The full itinerary, as well as details on the Diamond Jubilee can be found at <http://jubileesk.ca>.

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL PARKS SET FOR ANOTHER GREAT SEASON

"A visit to a Saskatchewan provincial park is the perfect early start to summer," Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Bill Hutchinson said. "Our provincial parks are great places to enjoy nature, spend time with family and friends and create memories that last a lifetime. We want to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable weekend."

"Our provincial parks continue to be popular tourist attractions for Saskatchewan residents and visitors alike, welcoming a record breaking 3.37 million visits in 2011," Hutchinson said. "We are hopeful that 2012 will be another great year as our government continues to invest in the services and amenities that make our parks better."

For further information on the rules and regulations Saskatchewan Parks have put in place you can visit <http://www.saskparks.net/rules>.

SASKATOON TRACK MEET SEASON

Thanks you, Louis Christ who sent in this photo of our son, Carter. It is track and field season once again in the city and I wish all of the students and organizers the best of luck with the upcoming season.



SASKATCHEWAN WRITERS' GUILD JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild has been fortunate in receiving funding support from Service Canada towards hiring a student through the Canada Summer Jobs Program. They will be accepting applications for an Aboriginal Program Assistant to work 30 hours per week for a 12 week summer term position, commencing May 28, 2012.

For full job posting, please visit the SWG website: www.saskwriter.com.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PICNIC IN THE PARK

For anyone who would like to participate this year and help out with the Picnic in the Park June 20, 2012 please let Megan know at the office 651-7100 or cheveldayoff.mla.assistant@sasktel.net.

JUST THE HEADLINES

- May 11, 2012 – [Government Releases Review of Glencore Acquisition of Viterro](#)
- May 11, 2012 – [Ministry of Education Taking Action Based on Results of Math Consultations](#)
- May 11, 2012 – [Government Supports Anti-Bullying Program In Saskatoon High Schools](#)
- May 11, 2012 – [Increased Funding for Community Justice and Aboriginal Courtworker Programs](#)
- May 14, 2012 – [Norris Launches New Industry-Led International Minerals Innovation Institute](#)
- May 14, 2012 – [Celebrate Saskatchewan Tourism Week From May 14 – 21](#)
- May 14, 2012 – [New System Improves Care of Children](#)
- May 15, 2012 – [Province and First Nation Agency to Partner on Child Welfare Services in the North](#)
- May 16, 2012 – [Student Achievement Initiative to Lead to Greater Success for Saskatchewan Students](#)
- May 17, 2012 – [New Life for 25 Heritage Projects](#)
- May 17, 2012 – [Youth Able to Ride the Bus for just \\$45/month This Summer](#)

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON

GOLF

Where: Saskatoon Golf and Country Club

When: May 31, 2012

Time: Registration 12:00pm Scramble Start 1:00pm

If more information is required please contact Committee Chair Hugh Vassos at (306) 222-5392

SilverSprings School Pancake Breakfast

Where: SilverSprings School

When: June 1, 2012

Time: 7:30am to 8:15am

Motorcycle Ride for Dad – On the Move Against Prostate Cancer

When: June 16, 2012

Where: Western Development Museum

Time: Registration 8:00am to 10:00am Parade leaves at 10:45am

Saskatoon Silver Springs Picnic in the Park

When: June 20, 2012

Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm

Time: 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Board Governance Workshops

If you are interested in board governance, I encourage constituents to consider the following opportunity to participate in workshops on June 19.

You can learn from experienced directors about: the role of a director, how to excel in the boardroom, how to get on boards, and networking skills.

For additional information contact: Dani vanDriel, 653-0488 or dani.vandriel@sasktel.net

If you would like your event listed in Provincial Point of View, please contact me at ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

What would happen if you did less...?

- Do less thinking and pay more attention to your heart
- Do less acquiring and pay more attention to what you already have
- Do less complaining and pay more attention to giving
- Do less controlling and pay more attention to letting go
- Do less criticizing and pay more attention to complimenting
- Do less arguing and pay more attention to forgiveness
- Do less talking and pay more attention to silence

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

