

As we begin 2013, we look back on the events of 2012 in Saskatoon Silver Springs and the Province. Scroll down to have a look!



## Provincial Point of View January 4, 2013

### **PREMIER BRAD WALL MOST POPULAR PREMIER IN CANADA!**

As 2012 draws to a close, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall retains his status as the Canadian provincial head of government with the highest approval rating, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample of 6,619 Canadian adults asked respondents in nine provinces about the performance of their respective heads of government.

In Saskatchewan, two thirds of respondents (67%) are content with Wall's performance, a rating that has remained stable for the past six months.

### **SASKATCHEWAN ECONOMY STAYS STRONG IN 2012**

The year 2012 will go down in the history books as another very good year for the Saskatchewan economy. Record levels of population, employment and investment were reached in 2012.

"Saskatchewan's economy was the envy of nearly every Canadian province in 2012 with more jobs, more people to fill those jobs and record levels of new investment coming into the province," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "This government's growth agenda will capitalize on our strengths - our people, our resources and our innovation and ensure that Saskatchewan continues to be an economic leader in Canada through 2013 and beyond."

Saskatchewan's population reached an all-time record of 1,086,564 after the third quarter of 2012. This reflected an October 1, 2011 to October 1, 2012 growth rate of 2.16 per cent, the second

highest percentage increase among the provinces. On a year over year basis, this was also the largest increase on record.

[Saskatchewan Economy Stays Strong in 2012](#)

### **SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012**



**This year marked the 100th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building.**



**Cabinet Shuffle**



Picnic in the Park 2012



Canada Day 2012



Grey Cup Train in Saskatoon





**Kaylyn Kyle at the Saskatoon Soccer Centre in University Heights.**



**Stephanie and I kicked off the Cosmo Industries Phone Book Recycling Campaign.**



Royal Visit





Stadium funding announcement.



Sod turning of the new Willowgrove School Project.



**Santa Claus Parade 2012**



Christmas Coffee Connection

### **\$20.2 MILLION MORE IN TAX SAVINGS FOR SASKATCHEWAN RESIDENTS IN 2013**

Indexation of provincial income tax will continue to protect Saskatchewan people from inflation and save Saskatchewan taxpayers an estimated \$20.2 million in 2013.

Individual taxpayers now pay no Saskatchewan income tax on their first \$18,455 of income while a family of four pays no Saskatchewan income tax on their first \$47,790 of income - the highest tax-free income threshold for a family of four in Canada.

"A family of four with \$50,000 annual income has now seen their provincial income tax cut by more than 90 per cent since our government took office," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said. "In 2007, they would have paid about \$2,300 in income tax and in 2013, they will pay about \$200 in income tax - a savings of more than \$2,000 a year.

"Ensuring that provincial taxes are competitive and as low as possible has always been a priority of this government and is an important part of our government's Plan for Growth. Continuing to

index the income tax system to inflation every year is one of the ways we are keeping life in Saskatchewan affordable."

[\\$20.2 Million More in Tax Savings for Saskatchewan Residents in 2013](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN SETS EMPLOYMENT RECORDS IN 2012**

Saskatchewan job numbers closed out 2012 with a monthly record high of 539,800 employed people in December, according to the labour force survey released by Statistics Canada today. December's increase of 16,300 over December 2011 marks the 13th consecutive month where records have been set.

"2012 was a very successful year for our province, with strong job growth of 2.1 per cent and jobs up by 11,200 from the previous year," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "We are working diligently to encourage even more people to choose Saskatchewan as their place to live, work, do business, and raise a family, and are looking forward to an equally successful 2013."

[Saskatchewan Employment Sets Records in 2012](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012**

- Non-residential investment was up \$1.3 billion in the first three quarters of 2012 compared with the same period last year, an increase of 20.7 per cent (highest percentage increase among the provinces);
- Urban housing starts were up 35.4 per cent in the first 11 months of 2012 over the same period last year (highest percentage increase among the provinces);
- International exports totalled \$26.5 billion in the first 10 months of 2012, a 10.3 per cent increase over the same period last year (second highest percentage increase among the provinces);
- Manufacturing shipments were \$11.9 billion in the first 10 months of 2012, a 13.1 per cent increase over the same period last year (second highest percentage increase among the provinces);
- Retail sales were \$14.25 billion in the first 10 months of 2012, a 7.5 per cent increase over the same period last year (second highest percentage increase among the provinces);
- Saskatchewan had the second lowest unemployment rate among the provinces (seasonally unadjusted) in the first 11 months of 2012 at 4.8 per cent;
- Employment growth was up 10,800 in the first 11 months of 2012 over the same period last year, up 2.1 per cent (tied for the second highest increase among the provinces);



- Average weekly earnings (seasonally adjusted) were \$917.98 in the first 10 months of 2012, a rise of 4.9 per cent over the same period last year (second highest increase among the provinces); and
- Real wage growth (adjusted for inflation) was up 3.1 per cent in the first 10 months of 2012 over the same period last year (second highest increase among the provinces).

### **JUST THE LINKS**

- January 4, 2013 - [Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation Grant Allocations](#)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Enchanted Forest**

**Date:** November 16 to January 6

**Where:** Saskatoon Forestry Farm

**When:** 5:30 pm to 11:30 pm nightly

**Ticket Prices:** \$6/per person, \$25/per car, ages 3 and under are free

#### **Enchanted Forest - Saskatchewan Blue Cross Light Walk**

**Date:** January 6, 2013

**Where:** Saskatoon Forestry Farm

**When:** 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Ticket Prices:** \$5/per person, \$20/per family, ages 3 and under are free

[www.push2play.ca](http://www.push2play.ca)

#### **Willowgrove University Heights Community Association 2012/2013 Winter Program Registration**

**Date:** January 7

**Where:** Centennial Collegiate

**When:** 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

## **Erindale Arbor Creek Community Association 2012/2013 Winter Program**

### **Registration**

**Date: January 9**

**Where: Dr. John G. Egnatoff School**

**When: 7:00 pm**

### **THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

"A Pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Winston S. Churchill

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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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