



Provincial Point of View November 23, 2012

SURGICAL TIMES STILL A TOP PRIORITY

Reducing surgical wait times for patients continues to be a priority for the health system; however, recent data shows that progress is slowing.

The statistics for the period April 1 to September 30, 2012, show that 90 per cent of Saskatchewan surgical patients continue to receive surgery within six months. Of those, 79 per cent received surgery within three months.

"These results are a huge improvement from where we were five years ago, but the reality is the numbers are flattening," Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. For example, the number of people waiting more than six months for surgery was 10,634 in November 2007. That number steadily fell until reaching a low of 4,434 patients for the six months ending June 30, 2012 - a reduction of 58 per cent. The downward trend stalled this summer and our September 30 data shows the number of patients waiting more than six months increased slightly to 4,766 - still significantly down from 2007 - representing a 55 per cent reduction.

[Reducing Surgery Wait Times Still A Top Priority](#)

SASKATCHEWAN TO LEAD THE NATION IN 2013

The Conference Board of Canada predicts that Saskatchewan will have the country's fastest economic growth in 2013 and 2014.

The strength of Saskatchewan's resources are translating into strong export growth and robust capital spending, demonstrating the confidence investors and companies are displaying in the

province's economic strength.

For more information check out this youtube video: [Sask To Lead The Nation In 2013](#)

SANTA CLAUS PARADE



I enjoyed participating in the Santa Claus Day parade last Sunday. It was a beautiful winter day for families to enjoy the parade and get in the Christmas spirit.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Our regular Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, November 21 at 10:00 a.m. marked the 100th year to the minute of the first meeting of the Executive council of the Province of Saskatchewan held in the Chamber in the Legislative building. It was indeed a special day.

MODERNIZING LIQUOR REGULATIONS

The provincial government is modernizing Saskatchewan's liquor regulations with a focus on reducing red tape and creating new opportunities and flexibility for businesses.

"Saskatchewan has many liquor regulations that haven't undergone a comprehensive review for decades," Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Donna Harpauer said. "Our government is pleased to make these changes today and remains committed to reviewing regulations on an ongoing basis."

Included in the more than 70 changes: salons, spas and movie theatres will be eligible for special use liquor permits, restaurants will be able to offer Bring Your Own Wine (BYOW) service to customers, eligibility for off-sale endorsements will be expanded; and increased flexibility for golf courses and sports stadiums.

[Government Modernizes More than 70 Liquor Regulations](#)

SASKATCHEWAN ADVANTAGE SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Advanced Education Minister Don Morgan announced on Wednesday, November 21, that the Government of Saskatchewan has authorized more than 4,000 scholarships worth more than \$2 million through the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship program.

The Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship was launched this past spring and provides new Saskatchewan Grade 12 graduates who enroll at a Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions with a scholarship of up to \$500 per year to a lifetime maximum of \$2,000 over 10 years.

"Our government understands the importance of post-secondary education and we want to ensure it is accessible and affordable for students," Morgan said. "I am pleased with the large number of Saskatchewan students who have already received the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship to help them pursue their post-secondary education in the province."

[More Than \\$2 Million in Scholarships Granted Through the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship Program](#)

AMENDMENTS TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Amendments that will improve access to mental health services in Saskatchewan were introduced in the Legislature Thursday, November 22.

The Social Workers Amendment Act, 2012, is designed to grant qualified social workers the ability to diagnose addictions and certain mental health disorders.

"These amendments will help our most vulnerable citizens get the help they need when they need it the most," Social Services Minister June Draude said. "By allowing qualified social workers to include diagnosis within their practice, we can reduce wait times for people needing mental health services, especially in rural and remote areas of our province."

[Amendments to Improve Mental Health Services](#)

SASKATOON TRADITION OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS



I encourage everyone to get into the spirit of the holiday season by visiting the BHP Billiton Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour. We are so fortunate to have this amazing attraction in Saskatoon Silver Springs. Over the past 14 years it has grown in size and each year we see approximately 60,000 visitors through the Forest.

The BHP Billiton Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour raises money for the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation and the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.

The Forest is open from 5:30 pm to 11:00 pm every night until January 6, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and Ukrainian Christmas Eve.

For more information, please visit [BHP Billiton Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour](#)

HIGHWAY BUDGET SECOND LARGEST IN SASKATCHEWAN HISTORY

Using the benefits of growth seen in the province we have been able to have the second largest highways budget in Saskatchewan's history with more than 1,200km of highway improvements.

This brings our highway investment since 2008 to \$3.1 billion. Aggressively investing in improving our highways means safer roads and meeting the infrastructure needs of a growing economy and population.

STRONGER, LARGER ISC

A bill was introduced in the legislature on Monday, November 19, that will provide for the sale of shares in the provincially-owned Information Services Corporation (ISC), moving forward on a commitment to open the door to expanded markets and growth opportunities for the company. "ISC has built a Saskatchewan success story that other jurisdictions have shown interest in doing business with," Minister responsible for ISC Don McMorris said. "A privately-operated ISC will have the ability to use that advantage to enter into new markets that a Crown-owned company would not."

[Legislation Sets the Stage for Stronger, Larger Information Services Corporation](#)

REMEMBERING HOLODOMOR



Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz was joined by members of the Saskatchewan Ukrainian community Thursday, November 22, for the lighting of a memorial candle at the Legislative Building to commemorate Holodomor. During International Holodomor Remembrance Week (November 19-25), people around the world reflect upon the millions of Ukrainians that died as a result of a man-made famine which devastated the country from 1932-33 under the regime of Joseph Stalin.

"While Ukrainian farmers were contributing to the Saskatchewan landscape - both literally and culturally - a deliberate act of destruction was causing starvation in their homeland," Krawetz said. "Today we stand together to recognize and shed light on this tragedy, guard against

reoccurrence, and remember the victims and their decedents."

[Saskatchewan Recognizes Holodomor Remembrance Week](#)

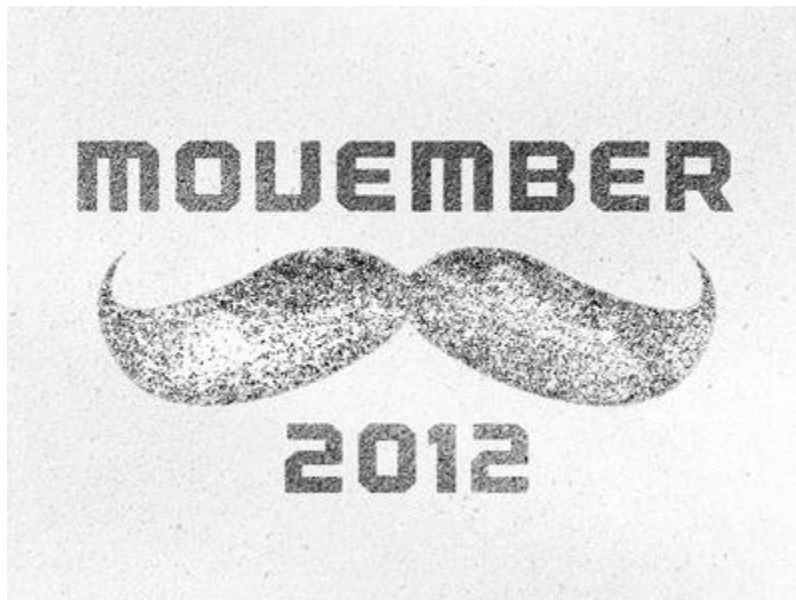
LEAN IMPLEMENTATION SEEING SUCCESS

Saskatchewan patients are seeing positive results as Lean implementation continues across the province. Close to 300 Lean projects are currently underway in the health system. Some examples include:

- Patients brought to St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon by EMS ambulance are now transitioned to nurse care 67% faster. This reduction from 37 minutes to 18 was accomplished through standard work, improved handover processes and more efficient use of space.
- In Regina Qu'Appelle, patients and staff at Four Directions Community Health Centre have implemented a same-day appointment program and the number of patients attended to has risen by 56% without an increase in staffing.

For more information on Lean projects in the health system, visit www.health.gov.sk.ca/lean

MOVEMBER COMING TO A CLOSE



I applaud many of my colleagues at the legislature who are participating in Movember. They are working hard to raise funds to support prostate cancer research. I have to say that even Premier

Wall's Mo is now clearly visible. I hope you will all consider contributing to this worthy cause and make a pledge by clicking on one of the participants below!

[Premier Brad Wall](#), [Greg Ottenbreit, MLA Yorkton](#), [Dustin Duncan, MLA Weyburn Big Muddy](#), [Randy Weekes, MLA Biggar](#), [Greg Lawrence, MLA Moose Jaw Wakamow](#), [Don Morgan, MLA Saskatoon South East](#)

SAVE THE DATE



**Trish and I look forward to hosting you at our home at our Christmas Party on December 21.
Please save the date!**

Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs Annual Christmas Party

Date: December 21

When: After 7:00 pm

Where: 138 Kaplan Green

DID YOU KNOW THESE FACT ABOUT EDUCATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

- **During the past five years, our government has invested \$3.5 billion in the province's post-secondary education system.**

- Our government introduced the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship which provides high school graduates with up to \$2,000 over four years to attend a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution.
- This fall, approximately 4,000 students received the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship.
- The Saskatchewan Graduate Retention Program provides tuition rebates of up to \$20,000 over seven years to post-secondary graduates who stay in the province.

JUST THE LINKS

- **November 19, 2012** - [Saskatchewan People Reminded to "Connect for Help" for Addiction Services](#)
- **November 19, 2012** - [Province Partners with Agribition to Increase International Marketing Opportunities](#)
- **November 20, 2012** - [Saskatchewan Celebrates National Child Day](#)
- **November 22, 2012** - [Record Retail Sales Continue in September](#)
- **November 22, 2012** - [Ministry of Education Provides More than \\$480,000 to Support Community Literacy Programming](#)

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

Festival of Trees

Date: November 25 to December 1

Where: Western Development Museum Saskatoon

When: 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Ticket Prices: Adults \$9.00, Seniors \$8.00, Students \$6.25, Children (6-12) \$2.50, Family (parents or guardians & dependent children under 18 years) \$20.00

Sundog

Date: November 30 to December 2

Where: Credit Union Centre

When: Nov 30: 5:00pm-10:00pm, Dec 1: 10:00am-10:00pm, Dec 2: 11:00am-5:00pm

Ticket Prices: Adults \$8.00, 12 and under free. 2 day pass \$12.00

Christmas Reception, Hosted by Don Morgan MLA

Date: December 11

Where: Hilton Garden Inn

When: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Tickets are \$50, please call Karina at 659-1223 for more information or to reserve your tickets.

Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Christmas Party

Date: December 21

Where: 138 Kaplan Green, Saskatoon SK

When: 7:00 pm

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

[friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

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.

Copyright © 2012 Saskatoon Silver Springs, All rights reserved.

Phone: [\(306\) 651-7100](tel:3066517100)



Fax: [\(306\) 651-6008](tel:(306)651-6008)

Email: ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)