

Check out what's happening in Saskatoon Willowgrove and throughout the Province!

HAPPY
new year

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SASKATOON
WILLOWGROVE

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS, HAPPY NEW YEAR!



As we step into a new year filled with endless possibilities, embrace 2024 with open arms and a heart full of hope; for every new year brings fresh chapters waiting for your unwritten stories to unfold.

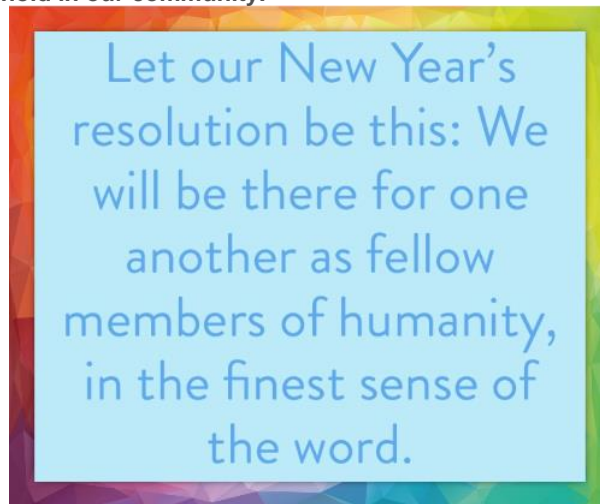
As your MLA, I am committed to fostering a positive impact within our vibrant community. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Our community and province is not just a geographical location, it is a tapestry woven with threads of diverse individuals, each contributing to the rich cultural fabric which makes us unique. It is a pleasure and honor to serve such a dynamic and engaged group of individuals.

Saskatchewan is known for volunteerism. In Saskatoon Willowgrove and across this great province, we have wonderful community groups with dedicated volunteers committed to enhancing the quality of life for everyone in their respective communities. I extend my heartfelt thank you for your passion and hard work , as you create an environment where individuals of all

ages can learn, grow, and thrive. Volunteers contributions do not just impact the present but lay the foundation for a future where our community continues to flourish.

As we bid farewell to the past year and welcome the new year with open arms, let us carry the spirit of gratitude and optimism forward. The challenges we face are opportunities for growth, and together, we can overcome them. May the coming year bring prosperity, joy, and unity to each and every household in our community.



As your voice in the Legislative Assembly, our government will continue to work to grow the economy, as we create jobs, strengthen businesses and protect communities across the province. With nation-leading economic growth, we are maintaining our reputation as the most affordable place to live in Canada, Saskatchewan is showing no signs of slowing down. Our government's priorities include education, healthcare, seniors, mental health and things that matter to you. Along with Premier Scott Moe and my colleagues, I will continue to work on your behalf.

In conclusion, I am excited about the journey that lies ahead and the positive transformations we can achieve together. Wishing you and your loved ones a fantastic new year filled with hope, happiness, and countless moments of community connection.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Saskatchewan has seen incredible growth throughout 2023. Saskatchewan has built a strong foundation of a strong economy, strong communities and strong families.

Saskatchewan's population is over 1.22 million people and growing faster than it has in more than a century. Our economy saw GDP growth of 6.0 per cent, ranking first in the nation. The province's unemployment rate the second lowest in Canada, with an increase of 19,300 jobs compared to last year. Retail trade has increased by 3.0 per cent year-over-year as well.

A growing economy growth allows our government to invest in things that matter to Saskatchewan people. This year, our government invested a record \$3.7 billion in capital like schools, hospitals, highways, municipal and Crown infrastructure.

Investments in major health projects across the province include the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital; hospitals in Moose Jaw, Weyburn and Prince Albert; long-term care facilities in 14 communities; and new urgent care centres in Regina and Saskatoon.

In health care, this year's budget provided a record investment of \$7.1 billion to strengthen our health care system and continue to attract and retain health care professionals. Since December 2022, 877 new nursing graduates have been hired. Over the past 24 months, 217 new physicians have been recruited to Saskatchewan. A record 47,748 surgeries were performed from April to September. The Urgent Care Centre in Regina is 85 per cent complete and will be operational in the summer of 2024.

Investments in education have continued to ensure that Saskatchewan students can get the best

possible start. An additional \$40 million was made to assist with enrolment growth and classroom complexity. The new Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation was opened and now has over 5,500 students.

Work continues on 60 new schools and 30 major school renovations across the province. New schools in Blaine Lake, as well as two elementary schools in Regina were opened, and ground was broken on the new joint-use school in north Regina.

A Provincial Approach to Homelessness will see 155 new supportive housing spaces, 120 new permanent emergency shelter spaces and 30 new complex needs emergency shelter spaces developed throughout the province. In addition, the new mental health and addictions strategy will create 500 new addictions treatment spaces.

In this year's budget, Saskatchewan Income Support and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability benefits increased by an average of 6 per cent. For seniors, the personal care home benefits have increased by 20 per cent and the Seniors' Income Plan benefit increased 9 per cent. Community-based organizations received an increase of 3 per cent as well.

These investments are possible thanks to a strong economy and that's why our government is committed to protecting it for future generations. Premier Scott Moe joined a group of industry leaders from Saskatchewan at COP28, where they told Saskatchewan's story to the world. Discussions were focused on sustainability, innovations in environmental stewardship and how Saskatchewan has the food, fuel, fertilizer and critical minerals to supply a growing world.

Our government is focused on protecting Saskatchewan from a federal government that seems intent on shutting down key parts of our economy. This spring, our government passed the *Saskatchewan First Act* to clearly confirm autonomy and assert Saskatchewan's exclusive legislative jurisdiction over natural resources and electrical generation.

Under the *Saskatchewan First Act*, our government established the Economic Assessment Tribunal to assess the financial impact of federal policies. The first referral to the tribunal was the federal Clean Electricity Regulations, and in the months ahead, the federal oil and gas cap and Federal Fuel Standard will also be assessed.

Our government recently announced SaskEnergy will stop collecting the carbon tax on natural gas for home heating and SaskPower will stop collecting it on electrical home heating. These decisions come in response to the federal government's removal of the carbon tax from home heating oil earlier this fall.

These policies will help protect Saskatchewan families from the harmful impacts of the federal

government's unfair and unaffordable carbon tax. While we continue to call on the federal government to remove the carbon tax on everything for everyone, Saskatchewan now has measures in place to ensure affordability for families to heat their homes this winter.

Saskatchewan's plan for electricity generation to 2035 and beyond was also announced this year. The plan commits to achieving net-zero by 2050 with an energy mix that ensures reliable base load power and affordable rates for customers and includes using existing natural gas plant assets to the end of life and working toward small modular reactors, while continuing to expand intermittent power sources, such as wind and solar. Our government's plan will ensure that electrical generation in Saskatchewan is reliable, affordable, sustainable and achievable.

Together with Saskatchewan people, our government will continue building Saskatchewan and protecting all we have built. I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! If you have and questions or concerns, please reach out to my office at kencheveldayoff,mla@sasktel.net or call 306.651.7100.



DID YOU KNOW?



APPLY NOW FOR A SUMMER STUDENT JOB!

Apply Now!

Summer student jobs are
available across Saskatchewan.



Looking for a rewarding summer job with a competitive salary, networking opportunities and the possibility of future employment?

The [Government of Saskatchewan](https://www.saskatchewan.ca) has got you covered with a variety of jobs for all interests. Go to [saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca) to submit an application today!

**HAVE YOU PLACED YOUR NEW STICER ON YOUR HEALTH
CARD?**



REMINDER: Don't forget to place your new sticker on your health card to renew it until December 31, 2026.

If you haven't received your sticker call 1-800-667-7551.

**PUT THE HIGHWAY HOTLINE AT THE TOP OF YOUR HOLIDAY
TRAVEL CHECKLIST**

The safest trip is a planned trip.

Check the road conditions and
make an informed decision



The Highway Hotline operates around the clock, seven days a week throughout the winter months, ensuring regular updates to keep the public informed.

The Highway Hotline can be downloaded as a smartphone app available for free in the Google and Apple online stores, accessed at www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline or by calling 511.

Highways are prioritized for snow removal and ice treatment based on their classification and traffic volumes. More information about winter maintenance activities can be found at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/transportation/highways/highway-safety/winter-safety>.

Motorists can also play a role in winter driving safety by viewing and sharing the newest Highway Hotline and Snow Zone videos

at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLe3eRil6A0in2COp372K5rvlO-e3gmA1z>.

[Put the Highway Hotline at the Top of Your Holiday Travel Checklist | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

**THE QUINN STEVENSON MEMORIAL OUTDOOR RINK IS
OFFICICALLY OPEN!**



Once again, the EACCA rink volunteers are excited to announce that the Quinn Stevenson Memorial ODR is officially open for the 2023-2024 season!

Trailer, benches and nets are out. The EACCA rink coordinator did pass along a request to try to stay off the north edge (long edge against the trees and Quinn sign) as much as possible until it gets colder and stronger.

Family/Public Skate times at the rink are Mondays and Wednesdays, 4pm-6pm and Saturdays 10am-12pm.

A friendly reminder of some rink rules:

- Have fun and be respectful.
- No sticks during family/public skating times or learn to skate programs. Respect the rink skating schedule as posted.
- Spend a few minutes scraping the ice.
- Shovel snow OVER the boards. When shovelled snow is left against the boards, it turns ice solid and the volunteer crew is getting too old to shovel hard now.
- Always leave the place cleaner than you found it. Don't leave garbage and if you see some, please pick it up. There are garbage cans outside and inside the warm-up rink.
- Children and inexperienced skaters should use an approved helmet while on the ice to prevent injuries.

- Do not use the rink during unusually warm weather.
- Stay off the ice surface while it's being resurfaced.

Parents, please share these rules with your kids if they frequent the ice.

LOTS OF GREAT NEWS IN THE EACCA WINTER NEWSLETTER



The Erindale Arbor Creek Community Association Winter Newsletter is live!

Registration information, school info, and lots of other information at your fingertips!

Download at <https://www.erindalearborcreek.org/newsletter>

READ TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF YOUR GIFT CARDS

GIFT CARDS

**“The retailer went out of business
and I can’t use my gift card.”**



One of the most common complaints that the FCAA receives is that the retailer has closed, and the consumer is unable to use their gift card.

Use your gift card promptly and make sure you read the terms and conditions as you may be able to use the card at another location.

For more information, visit www.fcaa.gov.sk.ca.

LOW WASTE HOLIDAY TIP



Low Waste Holiday Tip

Cardboard boxes

Are you staring at a pile of gift and cardboard boxes?

- Don't forget they can be recycled or even composted.

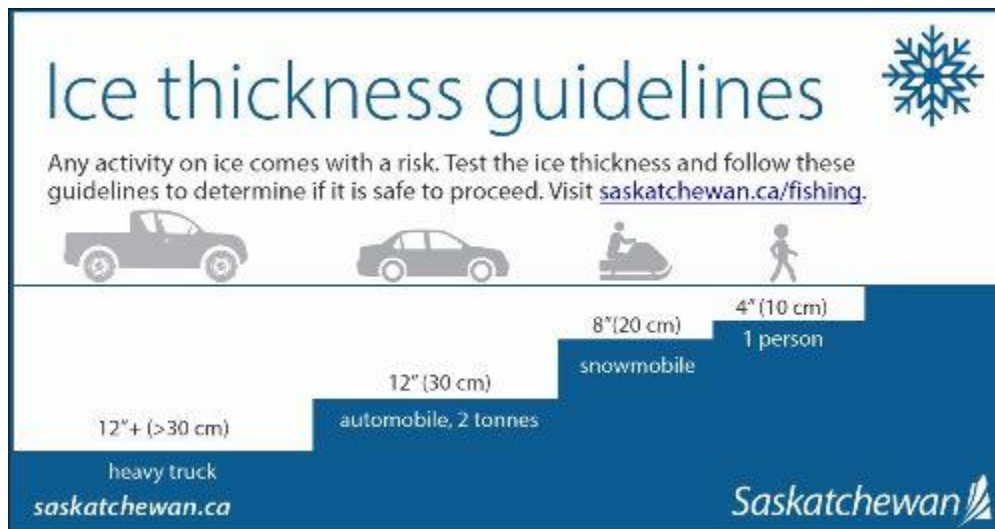
[saskatchewan.ca/environment](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/environment)

Saskatchewan!

Are you staring at a pile of gift and cardboard boxes? Don't forget they can be recycled or even composted.

<https://www.saskwastereduction.ca/recycle/resources/paper/>

BE SAFE - ICE THICKNESS GUIDELINES



With mild temperatures this season, please take extra caution before venturing on the ice.

They say a good angler needs patience, and that is exactly what is needed for those who love ice fishing.

Please take care out there, because weather conditions have not been favourable for good solid ice in many locations.

Avoid ice that:

- looks slushy;
- has thawed, then froze again;
- is near open water;
- is layered, caused by sudden temperature changes; or
- has structures on it, such as pressure ridges.

Be safe, Saskatchewan!



**INDEXATION AND CARBON TAX RELIEF WILL SAVE
SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES MONEY IN 2024**



**AFFORDABILITY FOR
SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES**

\$400/YR
CARBON TAX
FAIRNESS

+

\$322/YR
INCOME TAX
INDEXATION

\$722

IN SAVINGS FOR 2024

Premier Scott Moe 

Low personal taxes and indexation are among the measures the provincial government is taking to help make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people this year.

“A family of four with annual income of \$75,000 will save \$322 in 2024, as a result of indexing personal income tax,” Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. “That is on top of the \$400 that family will save through our government’s decision to stop collecting carbon tax on home heating, for a total savings of over \$700 in 2024.”

Indexation protects against bracket creep, which are the automatic increases in tax caused by inflation.

“Combined with our government’s commitment to keep personal taxes low, indexation is an important component of affordability that is among over \$2 billion of affordability measures built

into our budget each year,” Harpauer said. “For a family of four, when taxes, utilities and housing costs are considered, Saskatchewan is the most affordable province in which to live in Canada.

“A family of four now pays no income tax on their first \$59,475 of income. When our government took office, a family of four started paying provincial income tax at \$26,150 of income. Reductions our government introduced have more than doubled the tax-free threshold.”

Indexation of the provincial Personal Income Tax (PIT) system preserves the real value of personal tax credits, and the income tax brackets, since these also rise with inflation. Indexation protects taxpayers from automatic tax increases that would otherwise occur when their incomes rise with inflation.

For example, indexing the basic personal amount preserves the real value of the amount that all taxpayers can earn without paying tax. Indexation also preserves the real value of benefits people can receive, such as the Saskatchewan Low-Income Tax Credit. Indexation, therefore, provides significant benefits to pensioners and others who are on fixed incomes.

Indexation will result in Saskatchewan residents seeing \$70.5 million in annual income tax savings. The level of indexation in 2024 will be 4.7 per cent, which matches the annual average national inflation rate from October 2022 to September 2023.

The combined effect of the indexation of the tax system from 2007 through the 2024 taxation year is saving Saskatchewan taxpayers a total of approximately \$355 million in 2024.

Saskatchewan has among the lowest personal taxes in the country. Since 2007, PIT exemptions have removed more than 112,000 people from the province’s income tax roll. In total, PIT reductions since 2007 are providing over \$830 million in annual income tax savings to Saskatchewan people. Saskatchewan also has one of the highest tax-free thresholds in Canada.

Also helping with affordability, families in Saskatchewan with children enrolled in sports, arts and cultural activities will continue to be able to claim the Active Families Benefit on their tax returns.

The benefit was reinstated in 2021 and provides a refundable tax credit of \$150 per year, per child to eligible families. Families of children with a disability will receive an additional \$50, for a total tax credit of \$200 per year, per child. Parents who enroll their children in sports, arts and cultural activities are reminded to keep their receipts so they may claim the benefit with their annual tax filings.

“The Active Families Benefit, the Disability Tax Credit, the Saskatchewan Low-Income Tax Credit and others, when combined with affordable housing, comparably low utility rates, indexation and

low personal taxes demonstrate our government's commitment to helping keep life affordable for Saskatchewan people," Harpauer said.

SASKATCHEWAN TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH RELIEF FROM FEDERAL CARBON TAX IN NEW YEAR



Sask. Introduces Bill to End Collection of Federal Carbon Tax on Home Heating

- CTV Regina Nov 16, 2023

Starting January 1, 2024, both SaskEnergy and SaskPower will remove the federal carbon tax from home heating. This will result in savings for approximately 98 per cent of Saskatchewan

families who were unfairly left out of the federal government's decision to exempt the carbon tax on home heating oil.

"Our government is ensuring fairness for Saskatchewan families by removing the federal carbon tax on natural gas and electric heat, just as the federal government has done for families in Atlantic Canada by removing the carbon tax on heating oil," Crown Investments Corporation Minister Dustin Duncan said. "By extending carbon tax relief to Saskatchewan families who were left out in the cold by the federal government, our government is protecting Saskatchewan families' ability to afford to heat their homes this winter."

The removal of the federal carbon tax from SaskEnergy bills, effective January 1, 2024, will save the average Saskatchewan family approximately \$400 in 2024.

Heating accounts for up to 60 per cent of power consumption during the winter months for customers who rely on electric heat, so SaskPower will eliminate the carbon tax on that heating by reducing the federal carbon tax rate rider on their bills by 60 per cent. This will benefit approximately 30,000 SaskPower customers, reducing their power bills by an average of \$21 per month through the winter.

Customers will still see a federal carbon tax charge on their January utility bills for natural gas or electricity used for heating that they used in the month of December. The federal carbon tax will be zero billed, appearing as both a charge and a reversal credit, on bills for usage on and after January 1, 2024.

For SaskEnergy customers on an Equalized Payment Plan, equalized payment amounts will be adjusted beginning in February.

Customers who believe that they are incorrectly being charged the federal carbon tax can contact SaskEnergy at 1-800-567-8899 or www.saskenergy.com/customer-support, and SaskPower at 1-888-757-6937 or contactus@sk.saskpower.com.

Balance from Previous Bill		452.34	
Payment Received - Thank You	DEC 21, 2022	455.00CR	
Balance Forward		2.66CR	2.66
S DELIVERY SERVICE (6373100645)			
Basic Monthly Charge	\$24.50 / Month	24.50	
Delivery Charge	1,819.096 M ³ X \$0.11 /M ³	200.10	
Municipal Surcharge Village of Hvas	5% X \$224.60	11.23	
Federal GST R119429751	5% X \$235.83	11.79	
		247.62	247.62
S SUPPLY COST			
Gas Supplied by SaskEnergy			
Gas Consumption Charge	1,819.096 M ³ X \$0.1674 /M ³	304.52	
Municipal Surcharge Village of Hvas	5% X \$304.52	15.23	
Federal GST R119429751	5% X \$319.75	15.99	
		335.74	335.74
DERAL CARBON TAX			
Federal Carbon Charge	1,819.096 M ³ X \$0.0979 /M ³	178.09	
Federal GST R119429751	5% X \$178.09	8.90	
		186.99	186.99

So long, carbon tax on home heating in Saskatchewan!

pipelineonline.ca

Saskatchewan families can say so long to paying the carbon tax on home heating beginning on Monday!

ALWAYS FIND A SAFE RIDE!



While the holiday season is ending, Saskatoon Police Service's efforts to remove impaired drivers from the road won't be. In the next few days, you'll see them out with education and enforcement initiatives at various times and locations to ensure we all make it to 2024 safely.

If you drink, don't drive; find a safe ride.

**SASKATCHEWAN STUDENTS - START THE WINTER SEMESTER
OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT**



As the holiday season winds down, it's the perfect time to prepare for a new semester!

Have you checked all the boxes to start the winter semester off on the right foot?

- apply for student aid
- get textbooks
- shop for school supplies
- check class schedule
- explore campus

CHRISTMAS TREE DROP OFF



Live Christmas trees **can't go in your green cart**. Drop them off at the City's temporary tree depot at the Material Recovery Centre instead.

Wrap up the holidays with the Saskatoon Waste Wizard and put waste in the right place.

Visit saskatoon.ca/christmastree for more information on Christmas tree composting.

**"NEW YEAR—A NEW CHAPTER, NEW
VERSE, OR JUST THE SAME OLD STORY?
ULTIMATELY WE WRITE IT.
THE CHOICE IS OURS."**

—ALEX MORRITT



FAMILY FUN SASKATOON WEEKEND GUIDE



WEEKEND GUIDE

Check out this great guide with Family-friendly activities. it's also the LAST weekend of 2023 so have one last great weekend of the year. Whether you do more Christmas activities, enjoy the great outdoor weather, or you're looking for less festive events, the guide has lots of ideas for you.

Check it out here:

<https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/weekend-guide/>

SOME GREAT FAMILY IDEAS TO DO FOR NEW YEARS



If you want something stress-free, Glow Saskatoon is here to bring you the magic of the season. Stroll, laugh and play under the twinkle of a million lights. Children will be entertained by everything during their visit, especially the playgrounds and interactive features. Produced by [PrairieLand Park](#), [Glow Saskatoon](#) is on until December 30th! Find out more here: <https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/glow-saskatoon/>



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Christmas is over but the holidays aren't! There are some family-friendly ideas for you this New Year's Eve! It's so fun to countdown but the little ones can't stay up that late so we have some fun alternatives for you. Here's some of what we have:

Catching a [Saskatchewan Rush](#) game.

Holiday fun at [Crossmount Cider Company](#).

You can book a sleigh ride at [Champetre County](#).

Ring in the New Year early at [Nutrien Wonderhub](#), [Boston Pizza Saskatoon](#), or at [BabyBean Play Cafe](#).

Or stop by for some bowling at [Hunters Bowling Centres](#).

Find more ideas here:

<https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/new-years/>



You can still celebrate the holidays. BHP Enchanted Forest continues nightly until January 7th! If you have family in town, BHP's Enchanted Forest is a winter season essential. This holiday light tour will be the perfect way to enjoy some family time and bring smiles to everyone's faces. It's a special and well-loved holiday event by the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation and the City Hospital Foundation at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park with more than a million lights set up in total for you to enjoy. Find out more about [BHP Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour](https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/enchanted-forest/) here: <https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/enchanted-forest/>



Consider taking your little ones out during the day so they can share in celebrating the new year at Wonderhub! This event gives children a chance to play, celebrate and make noise while still being able to get to bed on-time.

Special guests: They will have a superhero from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm and a certain set of snow sisters visiting from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

Hourly countdowns will begin at 10:00 am with the last one occurring at 4:00 pm.

Event includes:

💃 **Dance Party Fun:** Groove to the beat as we dance our way into the new year!

📷 **NYE Photo Booth:** Capture the excitement with our festive photo booth! Take selfies and make memories to last a lifetime.

🧺 **Celebration Creations:** Get creative with shiny and noisy crafts that will add extra sparkle to your New Year's celebration!

🎉 **New Year's Cheers: An Hourly Countdown with a Bubble POP:** Experience the thrill of counting down to the new year every hour with a burst of bubbly fun!

👯 **& Much much more!**

Find out more and plan your visit at www.wonderhub.ca

ADDITIONAL NEWS RELEASES



[2023 Marks Another Successful Year of Red Tape Reduction | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Request for Supplier Qualification Released for Addiction Treatment Spaces | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[SIRT Investigating Officer-Involved Shooting on Red Earth Cree Nation | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

starting today

let go of what's gone.

Appreciate what
still remains
and look forward
to what's coming next.

@footprintsofkindness



Why do we start a new year, with promises to improve?

Who began this tradition of never-ending pressure?

I say, the end of a year, should be filled with congratulation, for all we survived.

And I say a new year should start with promises to be kinder to ourselves, to understand better just how much we bear, as humans on this exhausting treadmill of life.

And if we are to promise more, let's pledge to rest, before our bodies force us.

Let's pledge to stop, and drink in life as it happens.

Let's pledge to strip away a layer of perfection to reveal the flawed and wondrous humanity we truly are inside.

Why start another year, gifted to us on this earth, with demands on our already over-strained humanity.

When we could be learning to accept, that we were always supposed to be imperfect.

And that is where the beauty lives, actually.

And if we can only find that beauty, we would also find peace.

I wish you peace in 2024.

Everything else is all just a part of it.

Let it be so.

Donna Ashworth

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

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