

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



SCHOOL DIVISIONS PILOTING NEW SPECIALIZED SUPPORT CLASSROOM



Saskatchewan school divisions will soon be piloting a new specialized support classroom focusing on helping staff manage and de-escalate behavioural incidents. The Government of

Saskatchewan is providing a \$3.6 million investment to fund the pilot in eight school divisions, which begins this February and runs until the end of the 2024-25 school year.

"We have heard from Saskatchewan teachers that they need to spend more of their time teaching rather than managing disruptive behaviour," Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "This pilot aims to support students to continue their studies uninterrupted but also assists students who need targeted interventions in the short-term."



The pilot will provide a classroom with specialized supports to help students practice self-regulation skills while also addressing the impacts of disruptions in the home classroom. The specialized support classroom setting will be staffed by a minimum of one teacher and two educational assistants. The space will have capacity for 15 students and may use other supports from staff as needed, like psychologists and counsellors.

[School Divisions Piloting New Specialized Support Classroom | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

SASKATCHEWAN SEES REMARKABLE GROWTH IN CONSTRUCTION INVESTMENT



Year-Over-Year Increase of 83.9 Per Cent Puts the Province First in the Nation

Statistics Canada is reporting significant growth in Saskatchewan's building permits. The total value of building permits in the province reached \$249 million in November 2023 (seasonally adjusted). This is an 83.9 per cent increase from November 2022, and the highest increase in all of Canada. Saskatchewan also experienced notable month to month growth, showing an increase of 19.3 per cent compared to October 2023.



"Continued strength in building permits showcases our province as the prime location for construction and investment across the nation," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said.

"These figures demonstrate the confidence that individuals and businesses have in making real and tangible long-term investments in our province. It is a reflection of the stability and strength of our investment climate that we have worked hard with our partners and stakeholders to create."

[Saskatchewan Sees Remarkable Growth in Construction Investment | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

SASKATCHEWAN LAUNCHES ITS FIRST-EVER TEACHER INNOVATION AND SUPPORT FUND

Improving Classroom Environments



Teacher Innovation and Support Fund

Now accepting applications



The Government of Saskatchewan is piloting a new Teacher Innovation and Support Fund to foster local, teacher-led solutions while addressing classroom and student needs.

Effective today, applications are now being accepted from Saskatchewan teachers to access funding for projects that assist in providing better student and teacher experiences within today's classrooms. The goal of this fund is to have local, innovative ideas be brought forward to continue to enhance our classrooms in such areas as student achievement, student and teacher wellness, and school safety.

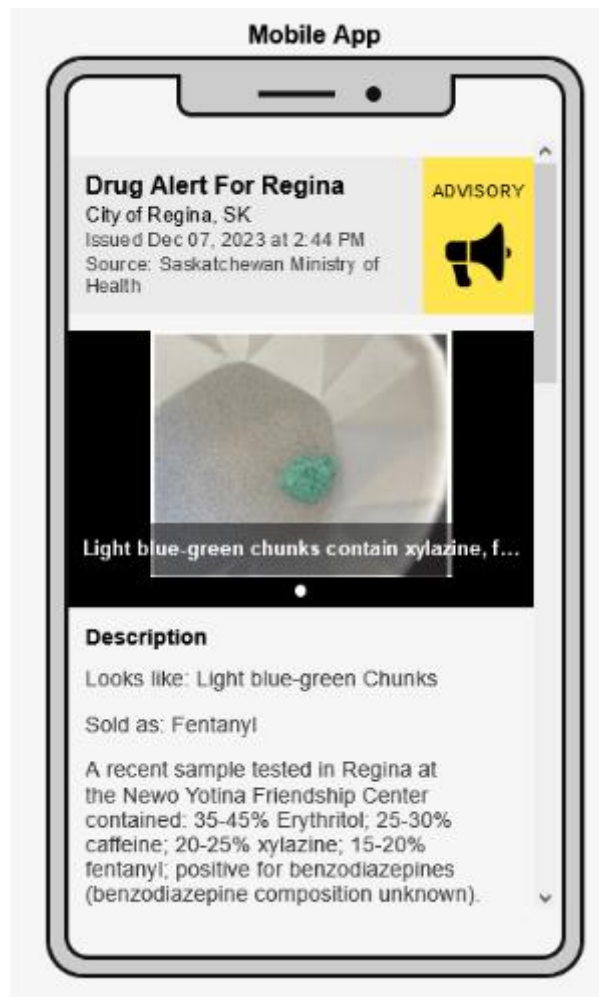
"The Government of Saskatchewan is listening to teachers and is engaged in finding practical solutions to improve the classroom environment for teachers and students," Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "Through this pilot, we are committed to hearing directly from teachers about meaningful opportunities to improve their experience in the classroom."

[Saskatchewan Launches Its First-Ever Teacher Innovation and Support Fund | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

YOUR SASKATOON MLA'S WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR



NEW PROVINCIAL DRUG ALERT SYSTEM LAUNCHES



Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Tim McLeod joined City of Regina Mayor Sandra Masters, representatives of the Regina and Saskatoon Fire and Police Services, and the Saskatchewan Coroners Service to mark the launch of a new Provincial Drug Alert System.

The new Provincial Drug Alert System will enable the Ministry of Health to better coordinate the issuance of drug alerts and assist partner organizations with monitoring the toxicity of illicit drugs across Saskatchewan.

With the new system, drug alerts will meet at-risk people where they are at via text, email, and through the Alertable app, in addition to alerts that are currently posted by partner organizations at locations where services are provided. Anyone can sign up to receive a drug alert via text, email or through a downloadable app.

[New Provincial Drug Alert System Launches | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN ANNOUNCES SERVICE PROVIDERS TO OPERATE PLANNED EMERGENCY SHELTERS IN REGINA AND SASKATOON



YWCA Regina and The Mustard Seed are successful proponents of a recently issued request for service to deliver new permanent emergency shelter spaces in Regina and Saskatoon, as announced in October, 2023, as part of the Provincial Approach to Homelessness.

"The Ministry of Social Services supports vulnerable people in need of shelter by connecting them with community organizations that offer emergency shelter spaces," Social Services Minister Gene Makowsky said. "I am pleased to announce plans to move forward with YWCA Regina and The Mustard Seed as service providers of new permanent emergency shelter spaces. These community-based organizations will help us move forward to improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and better support individuals who need more than a home to remain connected to housing."

[Government of Saskatchewan Announces Service Providers to Operate Planned Emergency Shelters in Regina and Saskatoon | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTIONS

Supporting people struggling with addictions

- » **New 60-bed** inpatient addictions treatment facility in Lumsden; will be the **province's largest addictions treatment facility**
- » **26 post-treatment spaces** at St. Joseph's Addiction Recovery Centre in Estevan
- » **32 intensive outpatient treatment spaces** at Possibilities Recovery Centre in Saskatoon
- » **14 inpatient addictions treatment spaces** at the former Drumming Hill Youth Centre facility in North Battleford
- » **36 virtual spaces** through EHN Canada

Build and Protect

**Saskatchewan
Party Caucus**

Our government continues to focus on providing people with the treatments that they need to overcome addictions and live healthy lives through their recovery journey. To learn more about support for those struggling with addictions, please visit www.Saskatchewan.ca.

SERIOUS INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM RELEASES FIRST INVESTIGATION REPORT



The Saskatchewan Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) is releasing its first investigation report, concluding an investigation that began on June 27, 2023.

The investigation was related to injuries an individual incurred while being taken into custody by the Saskatchewan Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit.

The final investigation report can be found below, and on Publications Saskatchewan. In the future, all final investigation reports will be available on [Publications Saskatchewan](#). Future public notifications for the release of final investigation reports will be conducted through the Saskatchewan SIRT's X (formerly known as Twitter) account at https://twitter.com/SIRT_SK.

SIRT's mandate is to independently investigate incidents where an individual has died or suffered serious injury arising from the actions of on and off-duty police officers, or while in the custody of police, as well as allegations of sexual assault or interpersonal violence involving police. Final reports into SIRT investigations are issued to the public within 90 days of the investigation ending.

The original news release announcing this investigation can be found at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2023/june/28/sirt-investigates-injuries-during-arrest-in-regina>.

PROVINCIAL TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY THE FOCUS OF MANY NEW PROJECTS



Program has Invested Over \$10 Million in Traffic Safety Projects Since 2019

Dozens of Saskatchewan communities are receiving grants for traffic safety improvements from the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund.

"I'm pleased that the Traffic Safety Fund is able to support an additional 62 projects across Saskatchewan to help keep people safe," Minister Responsible for SGI Dustin Duncan said. "I'd like to thank the leaders in all communities that submitted applications for their commitment to traffic safety."

[Provincial Traffic Safety Grants: Pedestrian Safety the Focus of Many New Projects | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE SASKATCHEWAN SECONDARY SUITE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM



The Government of Saskatchewan announced that applications are now being accepted for the Saskatchewan Secondary Suite Incentive (SSI) Grant Program.

"Our government is committed to protecting the economic interests of Saskatchewan families and ensuring housing affordability is just one of the many measures we are undertaking," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. "The SSI Grant Program is designed to generate supplementary income to help homeowners with affordability while increasing the availability of rental units in our communities."

The SSI is administered by the Ministry of Finance and provides 35 per cent of the total price to construct a new secondary suite at an owner's primary residence, to a maximum grant of \$35,000 per qualifying property.

[Applications now Open for the Saskatchewan Secondary Suite Incentive Grant Program | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

10 quotes to keep you calm when you feel stressed out.

- 1 Don't chase, don't beg, don't stress, don't be desperate, just relax. When you relax, it will come to you. Make your wants, want you.
- 2 Nobody is worth stressing over. People come and go. Move on and go find yourself, the world is yours. Life goes on.
- 3 Relax, beautiful soul. It will all work out for you.
- 4 You are stronger than you think. You have gotten through every bad day in your life, and you are undefeated.
- 5 If you can't change it, let it go.
- 6 Whatever is worrying you right now, forget about it. Take a deep breath, stay positive and know that things will get better.
- 7 Don't cry over the past, it's gone. Don't stress about the future, it hasn't arrived. Live in the present and make it beautiful.
- 8 Overthinking is the biggest cause of unhappiness.
- 9 One day, you'll look back at this time in your life and be so proud of yourself for never giving up.
- 10 Breathe. It's just a bad day, not a bad life.



@motivationapp

WATCH FOR SIGNS OF COLD INJURIES



Almost all of Saskatchewan is under an **!** extreme cold warning **!** from Environment Canada. Extreme cold warnings are issued when very cold temperatures or wind chill creates an elevated risk to health such as frost bite and hypothermia.

Cover up if you need to be outside, even for a short time. Frostbite (when your skin tissue freezes and dies) can develop within minutes on exposed skin, especially with wind chill. Dress warmly. Dress in layers that you can remove if you get too warm. The outer layer should be wind resistant. And remember, if it's too cold for you to stay outside, it's too cold for your pet to stay outside.

2023 CLUBROOT DISTRIBUTION IN SASKATCHEWAN



January 9, the Government of Saskatchewan released the 2023 Saskatchewan Clubroot Distribution Map outlining the rural municipalities (RMs) where clubroot has been identified since the province started its clubroot survey in 2018.

No new visible clubroot symptoms were recorded through the clubroot monitoring program in 2023, while the clubroot pathogen was detected in one new field through DNA-based testing. Adding these results to previous years, the total number of commercial fields with visible clubroot symptoms remains at 82. However, the number of commercial fields identified to have the clubroot pathogen through DNA testing rises from 42 to 43.

"This map is an important tool for producers and specialists alike, ensuring they have the information needed to make the best decisions for their operations," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "While clubroot remains present in Saskatchewan, we thank producers for allowing

testing and utilizing the resources available to effectively manage clubroot."

[2023 Clubroot Distribution in Saskatchewan | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



REMINDER: STAY OFF WHEN THE ICE IS LESS THAN 4" THICK

REMINDER:


Stay off when the ice is less than **4" (10 cm)** thick.









saskpublicsafety.ca

Saskatchewan
PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY

Ice thickness is not the only measure of whether ice is safe to go on. You should only ever travel on clear, hard ice.

 Avoid ice that:

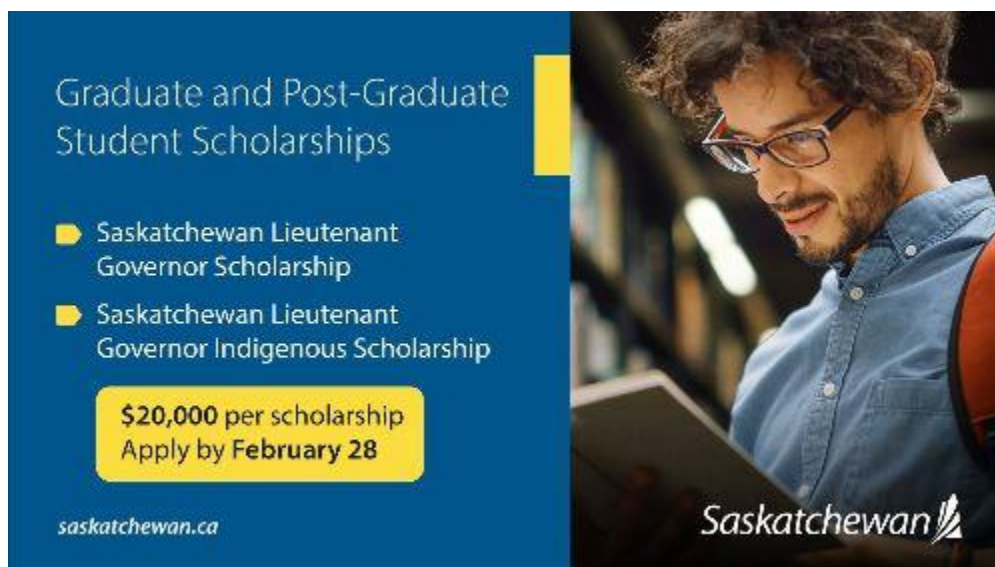
-  looks slushy;
-  has thawed then froze again;
-  is near moving water;
-  is layered because of sudden temperature changes; or
-  has structures on it, such as pressure ridges.

 Always go out on the ice with someone, bring safety items with you, and check the ice conditions each time you venture out.

 For more ice safety tips, visit the Water Security Agency's

website: <https://www.wsask.ca/news/stay-safe-on-the-ice-this-winter/>

GRADUATE AND POST-GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Graduate and Post-Graduate
Student Scholarships

- ▶ Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Scholarship
- ▶ Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Indigenous Scholarship

\$20,000 per scholarship
Apply by **February 28**

saskatchewan.ca

Saskatchewan


Are you pursuing graduate or post-graduate studies at the [University of Regina](#) or the [University of Saskatchewan](#)?

The application deadline for the Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Scholarship and the Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Indigenous Scholarship is February 28. Consider applying for these prestigious scholarships valued at \$20,000 each!

Learn more and apply:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/.../scholarships.../scholarships>

REDUCING RED TAPE



Did you know?

Reducing Red Tape

Saskatchewan's **Red Tape Reduction Committee** has saved Saskatchewan businesses over \$688 million since 2014.

Saskatchewan Party Caucus *Build and Protect*

Red tape reduction saves Saskatchewan businesses time and money, helping to build and protect our province's economy. You can learn more about how our province reduces red tape here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/.../2023-marks-another...>

SIX NEW HIGHWAY HOTLINE CAMERAS BROUGHT ONLINE TO PROVIDE BETTER TRAVEL INSIGHT



The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to announce the addition of six new Highway Hotline cameras, bringing the total online cameras to over 50 locations. This expansion enhances the network, offering motorists improved travel insights.

"Our government continues to enhance the Highway Hotline's service to ensure motorists have more ways to plan their journey and make an informed decision," Highways Minister Lori Carr said.

The six new cameras are located on:

- Highway 6 near Dafoe;
- Highway 6 near Naicam;
- Highway 14 near Macklin;
- Highway 16 near Sheho;
- Highway 40 near Blaine Lake; and
- Highway 55 near Smeaton.

[Six New Highway Hotline Cameras Brought Online to Provide Better Travel Insight | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

A DAY OUT AT OPTIMIST HILL

New Blog!

A Day Out at Optimist Hill

Written by: Ashlyn George



Planning on making a visit to Saskatoon's [Optimist Hill](#) this winter? Find out all you need to know in today's blog "A Day Out at Optimist Hill" written by [The Lost Girl's Guide to Finding the World](#) <https://www.discoversaskatoon.com/.../a-day-out-at...>

SOME TIPS FOR SHOVELING SNOW



Woke up to a few drifts in your driveway? Shoveling is the 'great Canadian winter workout' but it can put a lot of strain on your heart and back.

Some tips...

- ❄ stretch before starting
- ❄ lift with your knees, not back
- ❄ keep your elbows close to your sides
- ❄ stop often to rest and warm up And help those less able

SASK SURPLUS SALE

SaskSurplus Sale

Bid on government goods

January 10 - 17



Bid on used vehicles, gravel trucks, a utility trailer and other items in the SaskSurplus sale from January 10-17.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3TINKqc> to bid now.

SASKATCHEWAN - WHO KNEW?



Saskatchewan - Who Knew?

- * Regina is in the Guinness Book Of Records.. It has the longest bridge (Albert Street Bridge) over the shortest body of water (Wascana Lake) .

- * The railway track from Regina to Stoughton used to be the longest stretch of perfectly straight track in the world, at 85 miles.

- * Battleford was the capital of the Northwest Territories before Saskatchewan became a province. But lost out to Regina when the province was formed. The original government House looked over the former battle grounds of the rebellion until it burned to the ground a few years ago.

- * The very first Dairy Queen was started in Melville in 1953. The original owner was Donald M. Patrick.

- * In Saskatchewan there are over 100,000 lakes, rivers, and bogs. The Province has three major river systems all of which empty into Hudson Bay; the Assiniboine, the North & South Saskatchewan and the Churchill.

*The Frenchman River, sourced in the Cypress Hills, empties into The Gulf of Mexico.

*The South west corner of the province was a part on the Louisiana Purchase.

* Over one-half of the province, or approximately 3,450,000 square km, is covered by forests. Of the total forest area, 2,165,000 square km are classified as commercially productive forest land and contain both hardwood and softwood species.

* Famed theorist/physicist Albert Einstein played goal for the Canwood (SK) Canucks one winter while sojourning north to Canada to 'find peace and silence' for his work on the Theory of Relativity. He had played hockey in his younger years in Germany.

* Dr. Ballard of dog food fame was a veterinarian in Wolsely which, incidentally, was also the home of the very first Beaver Lumber.

* Dad's Cookies were once made at the former roller skating rink in White City.

* Brett Hull lived in a little log house a few miles out of Whitewood.

* Gordie Howe was born near Saskatoon.

* Moose Jaw - The former Joyner department store was the western distributor of Levis jeans. The stock would sometimes exceed one million dollars. It had been reopened as a Gift/Craft/Souvenir store. Tragically, this store and several nearby historical buildings recently burned down. This store ! also owned the largest Cash Cable Car system (over 1000 feet in length) that was still operational. The only other one in working order is in Europe or China and is between 600 and 700 feet.. Disney had offered the Joyner family \$600,000 for the system so they could put it into their Euro-Disney complex, but the family honoured the wishes of the original store owner that the system remain in Moose Jaw.

* In the 20's Moose Jaw's (AKA 'Little Chicago') River Street was

the home of gambling, prostitutes and the bootleg center of booze running into the States. The tunnels under the streets there connected the various businesses and were used by various gangsters, and rumour has it, including Al Capone. The tunnels were believed to have been dug years earlier by Chinese immigrants as a way to escape. (Canada had Chinese concentration camps although no one ever brags about that!)

* W.O. Mitchell, who wrote *Who Has Seen the Wind*, and *Jake and the Kid* (both of which are regularly read in classrooms across Canada), grew up in Weyburn. In 1976 the town of Arcola was the site of the filming of *Who Has Seen the Wind*

* Estevan is the sunshine capital of Canada.

* Saskatchewan has the largest kimberlite field, (diamond-bearing rock) in the world, located near Prince Albert, where DeBeers & other companies are working now.

* Wilkie is home to the world's largest Grasshopper - which everyone hates because it's a farming community. Apparently you can fit eight people and three cases of beer comfortably on his back.

* A small town called Saltcoats, (16 miles S/E of Yorkton PTH 16) has been titled the salamander capital of Canada .. The town is nestled on the side of Anderson Lake which is where thousands and thousands (varies from year to year) of!salamanders also call home. On rainy nights they can be seen making their trek from the water to land. It is a crazy sight to see so many lizards running across the roads.. I will not tell you what it sounds like as the cars drive by.

* Every tree growing in Regina was planted or reseeded by the trees planted.

* Manitou Lake is not in fact the 3rd 'saltiest' body of water - The others are The Dead Sea and The Great Salt Lake in Utah. There are many bodies of water in Saskatchewan that are saltier, but none have the mineral content of Manitou. No one knows for

sure where!Manitou gets the minerals from. In fact, in 1946, there was a team of doctors commissioned by the Province to do a medical study on Manitou ('the lake of the healing waters'). The doctors didn't complete their study however, because at the time, they felt the lake may dry up.

* Danceland - at Lake Manitou near Watrous - world's only horse hair padded dance floor.

* John Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister, lived in Wakaw and Prince Albert. Interestingly, Sir Wilfred Laurier, Mackenzie King and John Diefenbaker were all elected to the House of Commons from the Prince Albert constituency. Laurier had actually run in two seats--he ran in Prince Albert as it ! was a 'safe' Liberal seat, but gave that seat up and represented his seat won in Quebec; King represented Prince Albert from 1925 to 1944 (not a well known fact). Dief's story is well known. This marvellous bit of trivia is added by Rod Thomson in PA---only!because it was conspicuous byits absence.

* Tom Sukanen, a Finnish immigrant, built an ocean-going boat near Macrorie during the middle of the dust-bowl years. He was 15 miles from the South Saskatchewan River. He intended to!take a load of wheat back to Finland. He hand made every part, including boiler and steam engine. He died before completion. The assembled ship can now been seen on Highway 2 south of Moose Jaw.

* Wynyard is the chicken capital of Canada because they export the highest amount of chicken per capita. Every summer during the carnival days they host the 'chicken chariot race' where chickens are hooked up to a homemade chariot and they are raced down lanes to see which one is the fastest.

Now you know!

SIP & SKATE AT MEEWASIN



Sip and skate with [Meewasin](#) at Nutrien Plaza starting this week!



Saturdays: Jan 13 & 27, Feb 10 & 24, Valentine's Day, Feb 14



6-8 PM CST

INCLUDED:



1 Hot Beverage with local spirits



Fireside S'mores Box



Cozy skate chalet & outdoor fire



Take-home Meewasin Mug

Limited skates are available. Add-on options and discounts at [Delta Hotels by Marriott Bessborough](#) are available!

Don't miss out—register now! 🛹

<https://www.discoversaskatoon.com/node/1628>

ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES



Saskatchewan Making Waves Globally | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan

[SIIT Adds 25 Additional Seats in the Mental Health and Wellness Diploma Program | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan Invest \\$14.7 Million in Crop Research | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Progress Continues on New Harbour Landing School Project | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Saskatchewan Labour Market Remains Historically Strong | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[\\$19.1 Million Renovation now Complete at Yorkton Regional High School | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



insert your image here

THOUGHT OF THE DAY



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