

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

# From a Provincial Point of View

**KEN CHEVELDAYOFF, MLA  
SASKATOON WILLOWGROVE**

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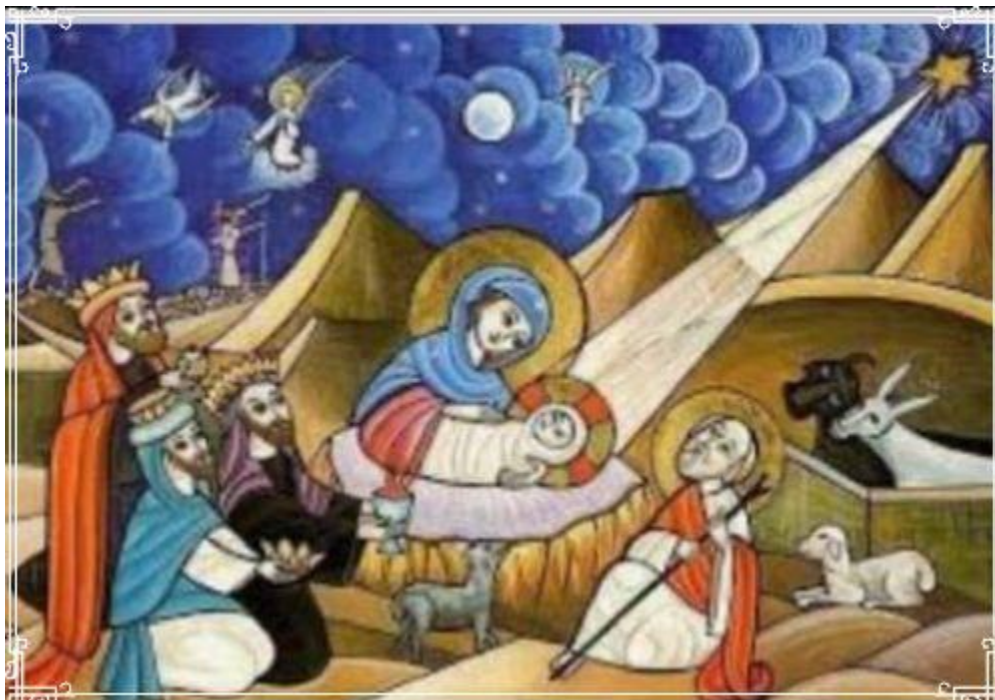


Wishing you all a **Happy New Year !**

*saskatchewan.ca*

*Saskatchewan!*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE CELEBRATING UKRAINIAN  
CHRISTMAS!**



Ukrainian cyrillic

1. Веселих Свят
2. Христос Родився
3. Щасливого нового року
4. Свята вечеря
5. коляда

Ukrainian transliterated

1. Veselykh Sviat
2. Khrystos Rodyvsia
3. Shchaslyvoho novoho roku
4. Sviata Veчерia
5. koliada

English translation

1. Happy Holidays
2. Christ is born
3. Happy New Year
4. Holy Supper (Christmas



For those following the Julian Calendar, this is a very special week in many homes across our province.

Again this year, we continue to think of all Ukrainian friends and pray for peace in their country. We welcome all Ukrainians that are now calling Saskatchewan home.

"Kristos Rodyvsya" - Ukrainian for "Christ is born!" ... words that will be echoed across dinner tables throughout Saskatchewan as many families get together to celebrate Ukrainian Christmas. Enjoy your rich heritage with family and friends!

I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Щасливого Різдва і щасливого Нового року to everyone that will be celebrating Ukrainian Christmas!

## **REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE**



As the new year begins, our government remains committed to helping Saskatchewan people with affordability challenges. We wanted to remind you of some affordability measures available to Saskatchewan residents this year.

Starting January 1, 2024, SaskEnergy removed the federal carbon tax from natural gas home heating and SaskPower removed it from electrical home heating. This will result in savings for approximately 98 per cent of Saskatchewan families. The federal government's decision to exempt the carbon tax on home heating oil last fall left Saskatchewan families out in the cold; that's why our government is protecting Saskatchewan families' ability to afford to heat their homes this winter.

**Customers will see a federal carbon tax charge on January's utility bills for natural gas or electricity used for heating in the month of December. For usage after January 1, 2024, the federal carbon tax will appear as both a charge and a reversal credit.**

**If you believe you are incorrectly being charged the federal carbon tax, you can contact SaskEnergy at 1-800-567-8899 or [www.saskenergy.com/customer-support](http://www.saskenergy.com/customer-support), and SaskPower at 1-888-757-6939 or [contactus@sk.saskpower.com](mailto:contactus@sk.saskpower.com).**

**Also helping with affordability this year are Saskatchewan's low personal taxes and indexation. A family of four with an annual income of \$75,000 will save \$322 in 2024 as a result of indexing personal income tax. Indexation protects against bracket creep, which are the automatic increases in tax caused by inflation.**

**A family of four in Saskatchewan now pays no income tax on their first \$59,475 of income. When our**



government took office in 2007, a family of four started paying income tax at \$26,150 of income. Reductions our government introduced have more than doubled the tax-free threshold.

Saskatchewan has among the lowest personal taxes in the country. Since 2007, our government's personal income tax exemptions have removed more than 112,000 people from the province's income tax roll.

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 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.

The 2023 budget also provides targeted affordability measures to those who need it most. Saskatchewan Income Supports and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability were both increased by six per cent, while the Seniors Income Plan benefit was increased by nine per cent. Monthly personal care home benefits increased by 20 per cent and community-based organizations received an increase of three per cent in annual funding.

Every budget includes \$2 billion in affordability measures for Saskatchewan people. These programs, 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.



**We're here to help**  
you navigate provincial  
government programs  
and services.

**Ken Cheveldayoff**  
MLA for Saskatoon Willowgrove

Please reach out, we look forward to hearing from you.  
306-651-7100 • [ken.cheveldayoff@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff@sasktel.net)

Together with the people of Saskatchewan, our government looks forward to another year of building and protecting our province. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to my constituency office at [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net) or call 306,651.7100.

## **SASKATOON TO OPEN MORE ADDICTION TREATMENT SPACES**



Mental Health and Addictions Minister Tim McLeod announced 14 new addictions treatment spaces at Possibilities Recovery Center in Saskatoon, almost doubling the number of provincial spaces available at the facility.

The new addictions treatment spaces include 10 for adults and four for youth.

"Building capacity to treat addictions is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan," McLeod said. "These new spaces at Possibilities Recovery Center are part of our commitment to add 500 total addiction treatment spaces so Saskatchewan residents have more access to the care they need to recover from addictions."

The new spaces will help adults and youth access intensive outpatient treatment in person in Saskatoon or virtually across the province. The virtual option (available to adults) will further increase accessibility by allowing residents to receive treatment while carrying on with their day-to-day activities, such as working, school and caring for the family. The spaces will be open to all Saskatchewan residents.

"It is great to see this investment in mental health and addiction treatment in Saskatchewan," Possibilities Recovery Center Executive Director Tanner Perratt said. "Our waitlist grew quickly when we announced the first 18 spots and these additional spots are an answer to that demand. I'm very proud of our team for the work being done to provide and maintain a quality service."

[Saskatoon to Open More Addiction Treatment Spaces](#) | [News and Media](#) | [Government of Saskatchewan](#)


## SASKATOONING THIS JANUARY



It's a new year, so it is time for Discover Saskatoon's monthly blog of what is happening in Saskatoon this month! Read our blog to find out more!

[https://www.discoversaskatoon.com/.../saskatooning-this...](https://www.discoversaskatoon.com/.../saskatooning-this-...)

## SASKATCHEWAN'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO THRIVE



## Saskatchewan's Economy Continues to Thrive

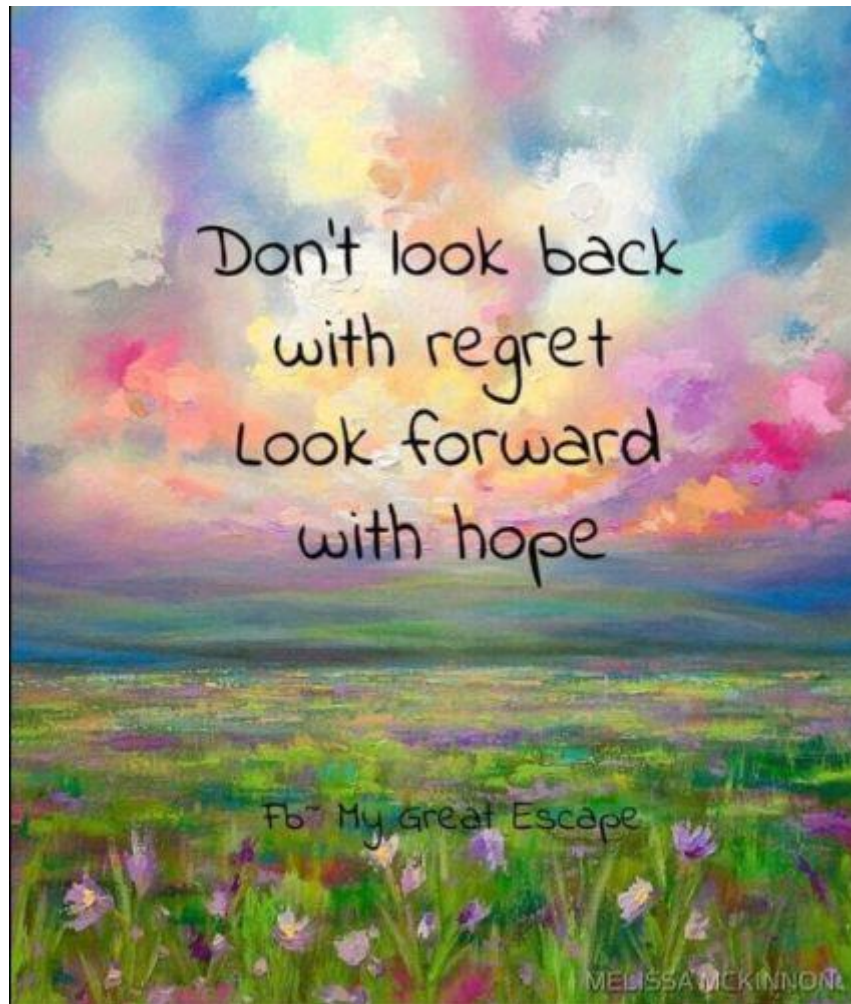
- ▶ *Housing starts up 108%, ranking second in the nation*
- ▶ *Nation-leading GDP growth of 6.0%*
- ▶ *Retail trade up 3.0% year-over-year*
- ▶ *19,300 new jobs year-over-year*
- ▶ *Second lowest unemployment in the nation*

**Saskatchewan  
Party *Caucus***

*Build and Protect*

Our province's economy continues to thrive as we begin the new year! Our government remains committed to building and protecting Saskatchewan's economic interests for future generations.





**ICE FISHING RETURNS TO SASKATCHEWAN WITH EMPHASIS ON SAFETY**



Ice fishing season has finally arrived on Saskatchewan waterways, and the Ministry of Environment is reminding anglers to keep safety top of mind.

Unseasonably warm temperatures throughout December means that many waters in Saskatchewan still have not fully frozen. This makes it especially easy to misjudge ice thickness.

“Ice fishing is one of the great Saskatchewan pastimes and I know many people are eager to get out and enjoy it,” Environment Minister Christine Tell said. “While we are excited for ice fishing season to get started, anglers must be especially careful this year when on or around ice by thoughtfully assessing its thickness.”

[Ice Fishing Returns to Saskatchewan with Emphasis on Safety](#) | [News and Media](#) | [Government of Saskatchewan](#)

## LARGEST ADDICTIONS TREATMENT FACILITY IN SASKATCHEWAN TO OPEN NEAR LUMSDEN



# Largest Addictions Treatment Facility in Saskatchewan set to open

Premier Scott Moe

In keeping with the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to add 500 addictions treatment spaces across the province, a new 60-bed inpatient addictions treatment facility will be established at the former Living Skies Retreat & Conference Centre near Lumsden.

The new facility, located about 20 minutes northwest of Regina, will provide adults 18 and older with holistic, wrap-around inpatient addictions treatment for up to 16 weeks. The facility will be operated by EHN Canada through the publicly funded health care system.



"The Government of Saskatchewan is focused on getting people the treatment that they need to overcome addictions and live healthy lives in recovery," Mental Health and Addictions Minister Tim McLeod said. "Doubling the number of addictions treatment spaces across the province is a key pillar

of Saskatchewan's new Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions."

[Largest Addictions Treatment Facility in Saskatchewan to Open Near Lumsden](#) | [News and Media](#) | [Government of Saskatchewan](#)

## NEW YEAR, NEW SAFETY!



New Year, New Safety! 🔥 If your Christmas tree is still hanging around, it's time to bid it farewell. Dry trees are a fire risk; check for tree recycling programs in your community and dispose of them safely. Let's start 2024 with a fire-safe home!

## WHAT IS COVERED IN MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY?





A manufacturer's warranty is a written assurance of a product's use, performance, or quality. Often the manufacturer promises to replace or repair a product within a specified timeframe.

A few questions you can ask before completing your purchase are: How long is the warranty good for? Who provides the warranty? How do I make a warranty claim? Does the warranty cover parts, service, and shipping?

For further information, visit [www.fcaa.gov.sk.ca](http://www.fcaa.gov.sk.ca).

**CONGRATULATIONS MINISTER HARPAUER**



As of January 4, 2024, Saskatchewan Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer is now the longest-serving female cabinet minister ever in Canada at either the federal or provincial level.

Donna has been and continues to be a valued member of every cabinet since the day the Saskatchewan Party took office in 2007.

**CONGRATULATIONS JACK BRODSKY**



Jack Brodsky has been named CTV Saskatoon's 2023 Citizen of the Year for his decades of work as a community builder who made a difference in the lives of countless youths.

Brodsky, who has lived in Saskatoon since the age of four, is a graduate of Aden Bowman Collegiate Institute. In 1978 he became a certified engineering technologist through SIAST, now known as Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

In the years that followed, Brodsky learned the family construction business while also learning, through his parents, the importance of giving back to the community.

Brodsky had been a co-owner of the Saskatoon Blades since 1976 and was an instrumental piece of developing a scholarship program for graduating Western Hockey League (WHL) players, before selling the team in 2013.

Read the entire story here: [CTV Saskatoon's 2023 Citizen of the Year is Jack Brodsky | CTV News](#)

## SASKATCHEWAN HIGHWAY HOTLINE



Saskatchewan's winter climate can be extreme with rapid changes in temperature, as well as strong winds and heavy snow-.

Our snow removal equipment features blue and amber flashing lights to improve visibility in these types of conditions.

When you see a snowplow pulled over, and just like any emergency vehicle, slow to 60 km/h and pass with caution.

Visit for more details on how to safely pass snowplows.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/.../highway-safety/winter-safety>

**DID YOU KNOW?**





Fun fact: A beaver's teeth never stop growing! To keep them in check, these industrious creatures constantly gnaw on wood, helping them sculpt their remarkable dams and homes along the serene waters of the South Saskatchewan River.

For more beaver photos, get your hands on the [Meewasin](#) 2024 Calendar!

Adorable capture from <https://www.instagram.com/mikedigout/>

## **SASKATCHEWAN'S RECORD JOB GROWTH CONTINUES IN DECEMBER**



### *22,100 Jobs Added Year-Over-Year, with Unemployment Rate at Five Per Cent*

Statistic Canada's Labour Force Survey shows employment in Saskatchewan reached a record 600,200 in December 2023, adding 22,100 full time jobs year-over-year, ranking second among provinces in terms of percentage change at 3.8 per cent. Saskatchewan ends the year with a seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate of 5 per cent, below the national average of 5.8 per cent.

"Saskatchewan is seeing remarkable job growth numbers with records broken month after month," Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. " This means more opportunity for Saskatchewan's people and a higher quality of life for our population. This growth doesn't just happen. This is the result of the government and employers working closely together to create the conditions for success. That is why the province is making strategic investments in growing our economy, including attracting investments worldwide through targeted initiatives, such as participating in COP 28 and the recent mission to Singapore and the Philippines, leading to a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people."

[Saskatchewan's Record Job Growth Continues in December](#) | [News and Media](#) | [Government of Saskatchewan](#)

## STUDENTS BEGIN WINTER SEMESTER



Welcome to the winter semester!

Make sure to check out all the exciting activities your institution has planned this winter, including orientations, sporting events, volunteer opportunities and more.

Remember to bundle up on your way to class and best of luck in the new semester!

## **APPLICATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY RINK AFFORDABILITY GRANT PROGRAM CLOSE JANUARY 15, 2024**



Applications for the Community Rink Affordability Grant Program close January 15, 2024.

We're investing \$1.6 million in community-owned indoor skating and curling rinks, which are important hubs for many villages, towns, cities and First Nations across Saskatchewan.

To learn more or register, please visit the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association's website at [spra.sk.ca/funding/spra-grants](https://spra.sk.ca/funding/spra-grants).

**OPTIMIST HILL IS NOW OPEN!**



If you are looking for some fresh tracks for 2024, the Optimist Hill is open from 10-8 this weekend!

Book your Tubing Session or Lessons online at <https://optimisthill.ca/>!

Have you been Tubing yet!? No equipment or experience necessary!! All you have to be is 42" tall and we will provide the rest!!

Until January 7, they are offering 3 tubing sessions per day! 12-2, 2-4 & 4-6 all week! Visit <https://optimisthill.ca> to pre-book your session and see a full list of times and information.

Get out and enjoy this beautiful facility here in Saskatoon!

**PREPARE KIDS TO BE HOME ALONE SUCCESSFULLY**





**St. John Ambulance**

**Prepares kids to be home alone successfully**

**Ages 10+ (Must be 10 by April 15)**

**Thursday Feb 15**

**6:00 - 8:30 PM | \$40**

**Register at [www.erindalearborcreek.org](http://www.erindalearborcreek.org)**

The Erindale Arbor Creed Community Association still has spots left in their Home Alone course lead by St. John Ambulance!

This program will provide students with the necessary skill and knowledge to be safe and responsible when home alone including: establishing a routine, how to be responsible with house key, in case of fire, emergencies, basic first aid and safety tips, internet safety, feeling scared, severe storms, etc.

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WINTER PROGRAMMING IN OUR  
COMMUNITY IS NOW OPEN**

# **WINTER PROGRAMMING REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

**Registration closes Sunday at 7pm!**

**[www.erindalearborecreek.org](http://www.erindalearborecreek.org)**

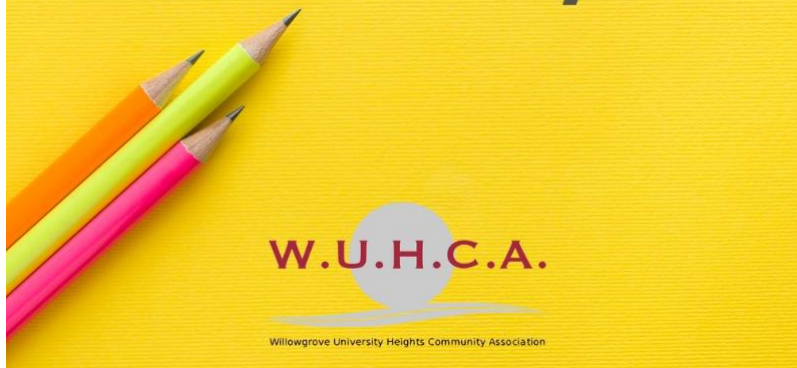
Registration for winter programming is now open!

Registration closes Sunday, January 7th at 7pm!

Classes often fill-up within a few days so don't wait too long to sign-up! Tag neighbours and friends so they don't miss out!

Visit [www.erindalearborecreek.org](http://www.erindalearborecreek.org) today!

# Winter Program Registration starts January 3 until January 7



**Co-ed Adult (18+) Pickleball**

**Tuesdays Jan 9 - March 12**

**7:00-8:30 PM**

**Holy Family School Large Gym**

**Co-ed Adult (18+) Badminton**

**Tuesdays Jan 9 - March 12**

**8:30-10:00 PM**

**Holy Family School Large Gym**

**Co-ed Adult (18+) Volleyball Wednesdays**

**Jan 10 - March 27**

**8:00-9:30 PM**

**Holy Family School Large Gym**

**Adult Barre/Bootcamp**

**Mondays Jan 8 - March 11 7:00 - 7:30 PM**

**Adult Stretch Class**

**Mondays Jan 8 - March 11 7:30 - 8:00 PM**

**Note: These two classes are designed to be taken separately or as a combination.**

**See [www.wuhca.ca](http://www.wuhca.ca) for more details.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



January 1-7: [Enchanted Forest](#)

January 1: [Saskatoon Blades Vs. Brandon](#)

January 2-3: [Book of Mormon](#)

January 3: [Guided Tour at Remail](#)

January 6: [Ski, Snowshoe & Sauna](#)

January 7: [Breathwork Meditation Sauna](#)

**January 9:** [New Moon Dance & Sauna](#)

**January 10:** [Saskatoon Blades Vs. Vancouver](#)

**January 13:** [Sip & Skate](#)

**January 13:** [Saskatoon Blades Vs. Victoria](#)

**January 20:** [Saskatchewan Rush Vs. Vancouver Warriors](#)

**January 20:** [Chelsea Handler Tour](#)

January 21: [Sunday Bliss: Yin Yoga, Brunch & Sauna](#)

**January 27:** [Disney's Lion King in Concert Live to Film](#)

**January 27:** [Machine Head](#)

**January 27:** [Snowy Owl Photography & Viewing Tour](#)

**January 27:** [Saskatoon Blades Vs. Prince Albert](#)



January 28: [Saskatoon Blades Vs. Swift Current](#)

January 31- Feb. 11: [This is How We Got Here- Persephone](#)

January 31: [Saskatoon Blades Vs. Regina](#)

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY



I am leaving last week's message below in the newsletter for those that didn't have a chance to see it

I

**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**

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