

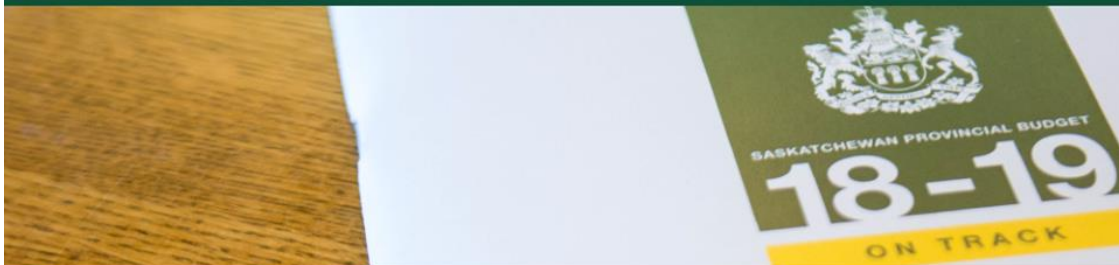
Check out what's happening in Saskatoon Willowgrove and throughout the Province!



## Provincial Point of View

**April 11, 2018**

### Saskatchewan's 2018-19 Budget: On Track



- ✓ **Returning to balanced budget** by next year, 2019-20.
- ✓ **Controlling government spending**, reduced number of government vehicles, and one health region savings while improving front-line care.
- ✓ **Delivering high quality services** for Saskatchewan people, with new individualized funding for autism, HIV-drug coverage, and hearing-loss screening for newborns.
- ✓ **Maintaining competitive taxes**, including no increase to tax rates, and *no carbon tax*.
- ✓ **Targeted incentives to grow our economy**, like in value-added agriculture, technology start-ups, and diversifying the mineral sector.
- ✓ **Maintaining investment in Saskatchewan infrastructure**, like new hospitals, schools, passing lanes, Regina Bypass & North Commuter Bridge.

***Premier Scott Moe, "In this year's budget, we are on track to achieve a balanced budget by next year, while investing in opportunities for our economy and in people."***

**Saskatchewan is on track. Faced with challenging years marked by significant resource revenue decline, a plan to restore balance was initiated last year. Budget 2018-19 follows that plan with major investments in health care, education, social services and infrastructure, and a steadily improving outlook over the next four years.**

**This year's budget is keeping Saskatchewan On Track by:**

1. [Controlling Government Spending](#)
2. [Delivering High Quality Services](#)
3. [No Increases to Tax Rates](#)
4. [Keeping Our Economy Strong](#)
5. [Returning to Balance](#)

#### **Provincial Budget & Supporting Documents**

[Budget Address](#)[2018-19 Provincial Budget](#)[Estimates](#)[Financial Overview \(Green Sheet\)](#)[Highlights](#)[Highlights French](#)[Government Direction](#)[Budget News Releases](#)

**Click on the following links to read Budget Day News Releases:**

[2018-19 BUDGET KEEPS SASKATCHEWAN ON TRACK](#)

[BUDGET SAVINGS THROUGH LOWER GOVERNMENT VEHICLE COSTS](#)

[STABLE FUNDING FOR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS TO KEEP SASKATCHEWAN ON TRACK](#)

[2018-19 BUDGET CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE, INVESTMENT AND JOB CREATION](#)

[\\$2.7 BILLION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IN 2018-19 BUDGET](#)

[REMAND INITIATIVE RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR EXPANSION](#)

[RURAL CRIME INITIATIVE RECEIVES FUNDING IN THE 2018-19 BUDGET](#)

[BUDGET FULFILLS PREMIER'S COMMITMENT TO INCREASE EDUCATION FUNDING](#)

[2018-19 BUDGET ENHANCES PIPELINE REGULATIONS AND MINERAL EXPLORATION IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[2018-19 BUDGET ENHANCES PIPELINE REGULATIONS AND MINERAL EXPLORATION IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)

[RECORD \\$5.36 BILLION INVESTED IN IMPROVING HEALTH CARE](#)

[FUNDING ON TRACK FOR FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS](#)

[BUDGET PROVIDES STABLE FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND NEARLY A QUARTER BILLION DOLLARS IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING](#)

[MORE THAN \\$900 MILLION TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE HIGHWAYS IN 2018-19](#)

[KEEPING SASKATCHEWAN ON TRACK BY HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED](#)



[BOOK OF CONDOLENCES AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN](#)



***Premier Scott Moe, “In this dark moment, let the strong arms of Saskatchewan provide a loving embrace as it is needed most.”***

**There is now a book of condolences at the [The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan](#) available for the public to sign.**

**The flags at the Legislative Building will remain at half-staff for 16 days to commemorate the lives that were lost. #PrayersforHumboldt**

**As we grieve those lost, we pray for those who survived.**



**It has been a difficult week for everyone across our province, country and beyond. As Premier Scott Moe said, "Everyone touched by this tragedy are in our thoughts #PrayersForHumboldt."**

**For 16 nights, the dome of the [The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan](#) will be lit up in the colours of the [Humboldt Broncos Jr 'A' Hockey Club](#). [#PrayersForHumboldt](#) [#HumboldtStrong](#)**



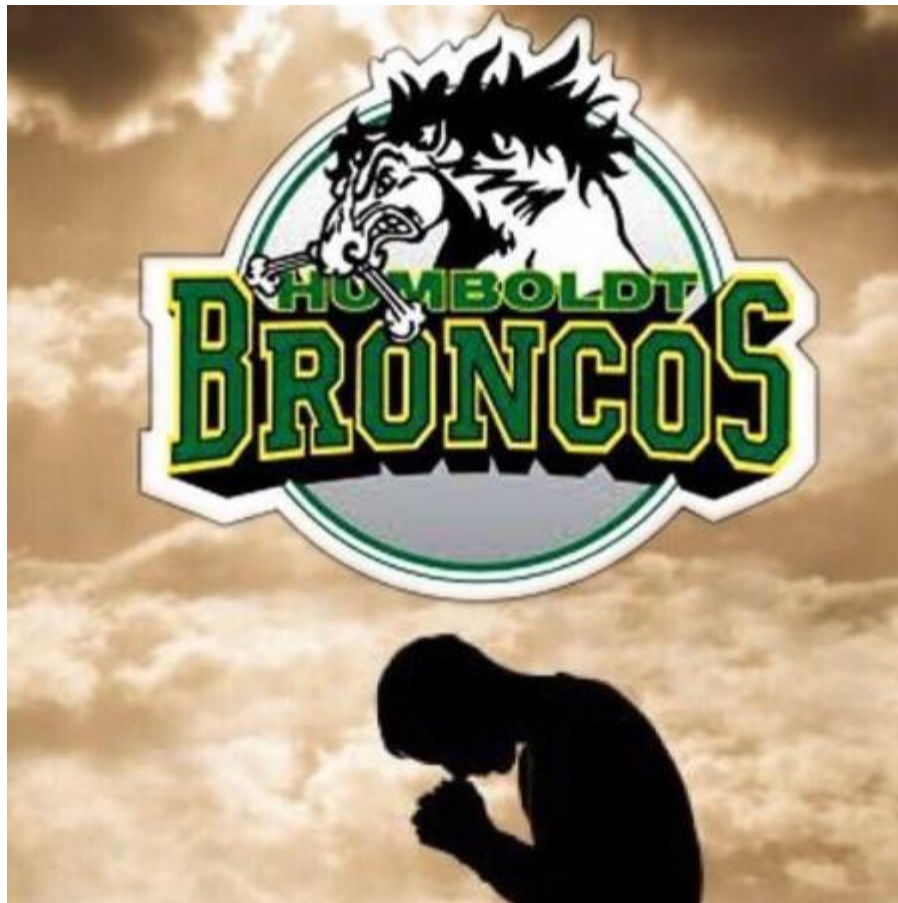
It was an honour to stand in the house to bring a message of condolence following the horrific accident Friday, April 6th that has now claimed the lives of 16 people. They will never be forgotten. We will continue to support everyone involved as they suffer this incredibly devastating loss.

There can never be enough said about the efforts of all first responders that assisted in the aftermath of this tragedy. We honour their courage and selfless heroic efforts in the face of the horrific wreckage.

Please click [here](#) to listen to my message. #HumboldtStrong

**SUPPORT FOLLOWING THE HUMBOLDT BRONCOS TRAGEDY**





The Government of Saskatchewan extends deepest condolences to all the families and friends of those affected by the Humboldt Broncos bus crash. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire community.

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who have offered crisis counseling and support for the families, friends and all of those who have experienced this terrible loss in Humboldt. Mental health and crisis counseling is being mobilized at the request of the community and additional volunteers will be requested if needed.

#### Resources for the public

It can be difficult to understand and comprehend tragedies; it's important to talk. If you're feeling an emotional response to the Humboldt Broncos bus crash we encourage you to reach out. Talk to trusted family members, friends, spiritual leaders and professionals.

Saskatchewan also has resources to support members of the public who need counseling or mental health supports, in light of the recent tragedy.

- Healthline 8-1-1 is a 24/7 free resource for non-emergency support, and is able to direct people to local mental health and psychological supports.
- Kids Help Phone encourages young people who are affected by the tragedy to seek support. Counsellors are available 24/7 at 1-800-668-6868. People can also text SUPPORT to 686868 to reach a trained volunteer responder through Crisis Text Line powered by Kids Help Phone. For more information, please visit [kidshelpphone.ca](http://kidshelpphone.ca)
- In any emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

#### Supports for students and teachers

School Divisions across the province have counsellors and other supports available for students, teachers, and other staff. Many Divisions are reaching out to students and parents to advise them of these supports.

Parents who would like more information about this are encouraged to speak to their child's school directly.

#### Support for the Humboldt Community

The Government of Saskatchewan is coordinating offers of assistance to ensure that psychological supports continue to be available in the longer term, for Humboldt and other communities affected.

Currently, in Humboldt, the Red Cross and Saskatchewan Health Authority have resources on the ground to help residents. HealthLine 8-1-1 can also direct residents to support and services.

- The Red Cross is offering emergency support on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan for lodging, personal services and meals to families who are not from Saskatoon and now supporting family members who are in the hospital.
- In partnership with Emergency Social Services, the Red Cross is offering comfort in the form of blankets and teddy bears for children – and emergency food, clothing, shelter and other items, along with mental health support, to those directly impacted.
- Members of the Red Cross Safety and Well-being Team are ready and willing to offer support at the request of communities.



Counselling and support services from many school divisions in Saskatchewan have arrived in each of the Humboldt schools to assist students throughout the coming days.

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK



It is so timely that we recognize Public Safety Week this week following the horrific events of April 6th. Thank you to for all you do.

The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to recognize April 8-14, 2018 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The week honours emergency 911 operators and dispatchers from police, fire, and medical services for their commitment and service to public safety in their communities.

“Citizens and first responders both trust and rely on the professionalism of telecommunicators to help them during emergencies,” Government Relations Minister Warren Kaeding said. “Telecommunicators are the vital link ensuring information you provide during a 911 call is relayed to the emergency personnel who are coming to your aid. Celebrating this week is one way to recognize our operators and dispatchers whose work helps keep our citizens safe.”

In our province, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is responsible for managing Saskatchewan’s 911 emergency services.

Read the entire news release [here](#).

## EVAN HARDY TEACHER CREATES AWARD WINNING FILM!

**CANADIAN PREMIERE**

2017 International Christian Media Festival  
Best Feature Film  
2017  
Best of the Best  
2017  
Best of the Best  
2017

**BECAUSE of GRACIA**

**AT THE ROXY THEATRE**  
(320 - 20<sup>TH</sup> STREET WEST SASKATOON)

TICKETS AVAILABLE MARCH 1 <sup>ST</sup> AT: • KENNEDY PARABLES • MCNALLY ROBINSON BOOKSTORES • AT THE DOOR	THURSDAY APRIL 19 <sup>TH</sup> 7:30PM FRIDAY APRIL 20 <sup>TH</sup> 6:45PM 9:15PM SATURDAY APRIL 21 <sup>ST</sup> 6:45PM SUNDAY APRIL 22 <sup>ND</sup> 6:45PM	TICKETS: \$10 (RUSH SEATING) Q&A WITH DIRECTOR AND CAST FOLLOWS EACH SHOW BECAUSEOFGRACIA.COM #BECAUSEOFGRACIASASKATOONPREMIERE
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Will you go out to support the film made by one of your own?? Check out the Because Of Gracia Saskatoon Premiere Facebook Event page for details on the shows April 19-22

### Canadian Premiere for Local Filmmaker

The award-winning film, *Because of Gracia*, written and directed by local high school teacher, Tom Simes, will have its Canadian Premiere in Saskatoon, April 19-22. Simes and select cast members, including the male lead Chris Massolgia of Hollywood fame, will entertain questions

after each screening.

Because of Grácia tells the story of four high-school students dealing with the challenges of relationships and dating, teen pregnancy and Christian identity. Simes and his film partner, Myron Glova, shot the film in Louisiana with the producers of "God's Not Dead". The film has won 19 awards including three Best Film awards, and the prestigious Frank Capra Spirit Award for Best Director.

Because of Grácia will have nine showings at the Roxy Theatre from April 19 to the 22. Tickets can be purchased at McNally Robinson, Kennedy's Parable, or at the door. For more information please contact Michelle Simes at 306 260-1242 or [tom@fivestonesfilms.com](mailto:tom@fivestonesfilms.com).

## RESERVATIONS OPENED APRIL 9 FOR SASKATCHEWAN PARKS

### APRIL 2018 Launch Dates for Camping Reservations!

<b>9</b> Monday Blackstrap Pike Lake	<b>10</b> Tuesday Buffalo Pound Douglas Danielson	<b>11</b> Wednesday Echo Valley Rowan's Ravine	<b>12</b> Thursday Duck Mountain Good Spirit Lake Greenwater Lake	<b>13</b> Friday Crooked Lake Moose Mountain
<b>16</b> Monday Cypress Hills	<b>17</b> Tuesday Saskatchewan Landing The Battlefords	<b>18</b> Wednesday Meadow Lake	<b>19</b> Thursday Bronson Forest Lac La Ronge Makwa Lake	<b>20</b> Friday Candle Lake Great Blue Heron Narrow Hills

On Monday, April 9, campers began reserving sites in their favourite Saskatchewan provincial parks for the 2018 season. "With a variety of activities available and an abundance of beautiful landscapes and lakes to explore, it's no surprise our provincial parks continue to be popular travel destinations," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Gene Makowsky said. "Whether you prefer adventure or relaxation, there's so much to see, learn and discover. We look forward to welcoming guests back to our parks for another memorable season."

To help provide the best user experience possible during the reservation launch, staggered launch dates and a queuing system will be implemented again in 2018. Over ten business days, one to three new parks will open for reservations each day at 7 a.m.

Click [here](#) to see the full 2018 launch schedule.

## **AUTOMATIC PST REFUNDS ON CERTAIN TYPES OF INSURANCE**

Policy holders of crop, livestock, hail, margin/income, life and health insurance in Saskatchewan will soon receive a sales tax refund or credit from their insurance provider. Refunds and credits are automatic, meaning no action is required of policy holders.

As announced February 26, 2018, Provincial Sales Tax (PST) no longer applies to the following types of insurance:

- Individual and group life, health, disability, accident and sickness insurance; and
- Crop, livestock, hail and margin/income insurance.

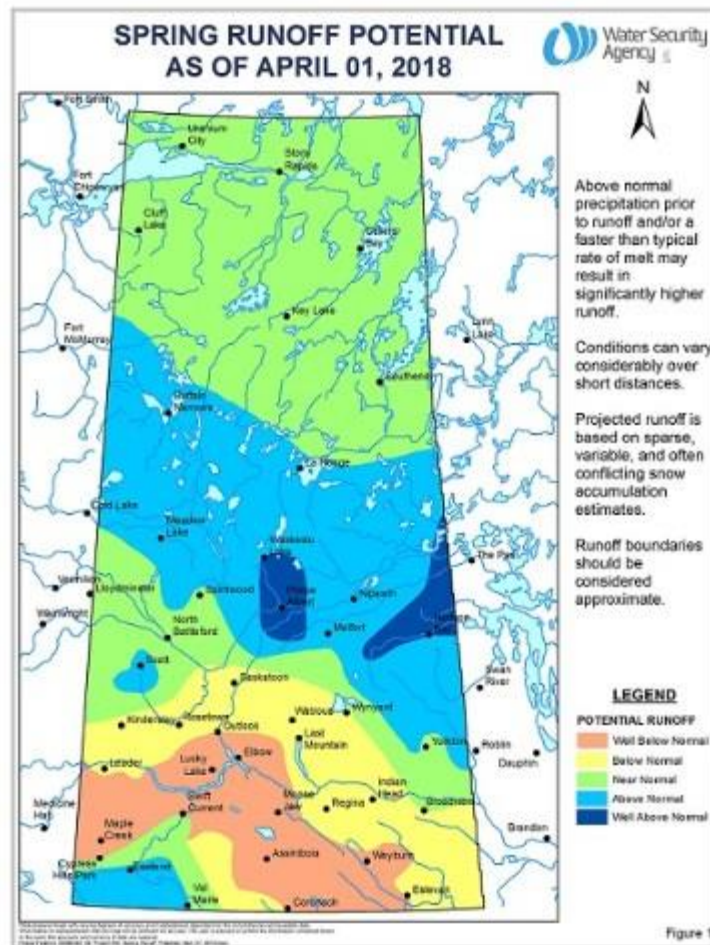
The PST exemption on these insurance products is retroactive to August 1, 2017, the date certain insurance premiums became taxable in Saskatchewan.

Insurance providers who collected and remitted the PST will calculate all refunds payable and either credit each policy holder's account or provide a refund.

Policy holders do not have to request or submit a claim to their insurance provider or to the government to receive a refund or credit. Most refunds or credits will be paid by June 30, 2018.

If you do not receive a refund or credit by that date, or have questions about the process, please contact your insurance provider.

## **RECENT SNOWFALL INCREASES SPRING RUNOFF OUTLOOK**



April 5, the Water Security Agency (WSA) released the April spring runoff forecast.

Snowfall across most of Saskatchewan was well above normal in March, increasing the runoff potential across the province with northern and southern Saskatchewan showing two different outlooks.

Moisture conditions going into winter freeze-up were well below normal across southern Saskatchewan, with very little precipitation during summer and fall of 2017, and near to above normal across northern Saskatchewan.

Winter snow accumulation to April 1, 2018, was generally near average across Saskatchewan with the exception of an area south of the Cypress Hills and near the communities of Scott, Prince Albert and Hudson Bay, which have received above average accumulations.

Read the entire news release [here](#).

## **STRONG JOB GROWTH IN MARCH**



There were 4,200 new jobs created in Saskatchewan in March when compared to February (seasonally adjusted), a 0.7 per cent increase and highest percentage increase among the provinces. The national percentage increase month-to-month was 0.2 per cent.

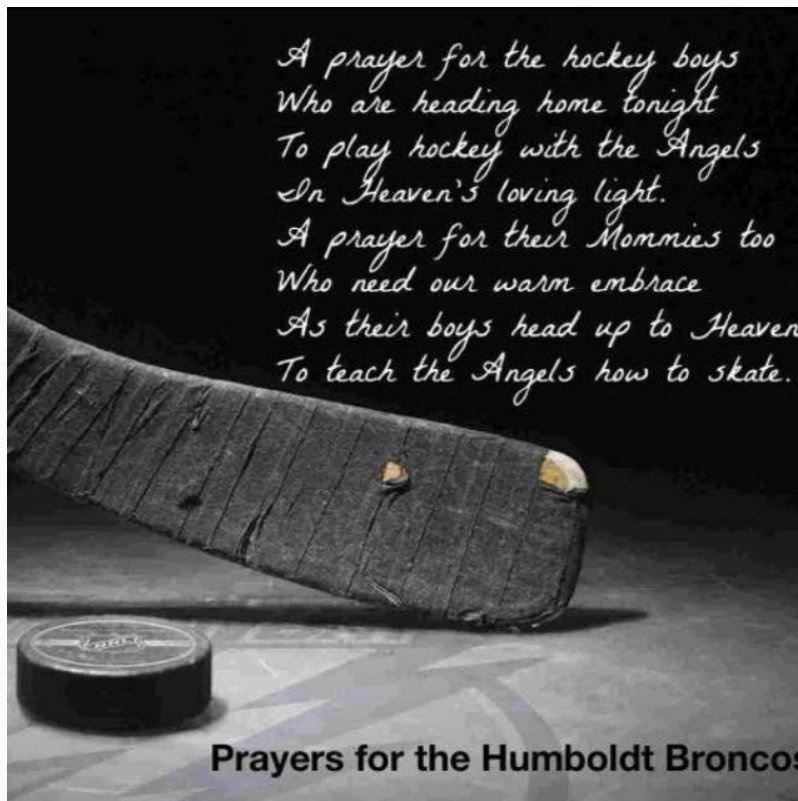
There were 562,700 people employed in March, 1,500 more than in March 2017. Female employment hit a record high for the month of March at 264,400.

The unemployment rate in March for the province was 5.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted), down from 6.1 per cent a year ago. Saskatchewan had the fourth lowest unemployment rate among provinces in March. Nationally, the unemployment rate was also 5.8 per cent.

Click [here](#) to read the entire news release and see the March highlights.

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**





[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 Willowgrove 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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