

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



## Provincial Point of View February 14, 2014

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

### ABOVE NORMAL SPRING RUNOFF EXPECTED FOR SASKATOON

As Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency, we released the February spring runoff forecast yesterday, February 13.

We are expecting above normal runoff for the Saskatoon, North Battleford and Prince Albert region. Although most of the province is looking at a near normal situation, the Saskatoon, North Battleford and Prince Albert's regions could once again be facing some significant challenges with the threat of high than normal water levels.

Overall, winter precipitation ranges from below average in the southeast to well above average in

the Prince Albert region. Fall precipitation in the 30 days prior to freeze-up was generally below normal with the exception of central Saskatchewan, which was above normal.

Spring flows depend on three factors:

- Moisture conditions from the fall;
- Snow accumulation from the winter; and
- The rate of melt in the spring along with the amount of rainfall during runoff.

In the Saskatoon area, we saw an above normal amount of precipitation in the fall and winter and many portions of the areas at risk have poor natural drainage patterns. This combined with high water levels carried over from previous consecutive years and well above normal runoff contributes to challenges that we could face this spring.

Water Security Agency will help the communities facing an above normal spring runoff. They are assessing the implications and will determine whether new programming or new measure are required, similar to programs in the past two years.

Hopefully the investments in mitigation works over the past two years will be helpful if flood conditions occur this year.

The Water Security Agency will issue its next forecast next month. The forecast is available on the Water Security Agency website ([wsask.ca](http://wsask.ca)), which also offers a mobile site for easy access from a tablet or mobile device.

[Water Security Agency Releases February Forecast for Spring Runoff](#)

## **GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN SALUTES TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF**

In recognition of Saskatchewan teachers and support staff, Education Minister Don Morgan is proclaiming the week of February 9-15, Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

“I have benefited from the guidance and support of the teachers in my life and I’d like to thank teachers and school staff for the hard work they do every day to build promising futures for Saskatchewan students,” Morgan said.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week was initiated by the Canadian Home and School Federation

as a way to recognize the personal and professional contributions that teachers and school staff make to children and their education. This year's theme is "Pioneering the Future" to highlight the pioneering aspect of teaching.

The Saskatchewan Association of School Councils has promoted Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week for the past 27 years, since its inception across Canada.

[Government of Saskatchewan Salutes Teachers and Support Staff](#)

*Trish and I appreciate taking this opportunity to recognize the many teachers and staff at the elementary and high schools in our constituency as well as throughout the city and province. We are grateful for their tireless efforts, their dedication and commitment to help our children advance their education.*



It was such a pleasure to participate in the Radiothon last week in Saskatoon. \$703,000 was raised for urgent pediatric medical equipment and the new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan!

Thank you to everyone involved in organizing the Children's Hospital Foundation Radiothon. Special thanks to the media outlets, those that volunteered their time and especially the people of this province that showed their support with donations.

## SASKATOON HAD THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG MAJOR CITIES IN THE COUNTRY

Saskatchewan's unemployment rate remains the lowest in Canada for the thirteenth consecutive month. According to figures released by Statistics Canada last week, the province's rate currently sits at 4.3 per cent, and well below the national average of 7.0 per cent.

The province's youth unemployment was 7.5 per cent in January - also the lowest in the country. The national youth unemployment rate was 13.9 per cent.

"Last year we saw record-breaking job numbers, low unemployment rates and so much optimism on the jobs front in this province," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "Once again our province is proving that we have more people working in Saskatchewan than ever before and that the momentum from 2013 has clearly sustained itself."

[Saskatchewan's Unemployment Rate Remains Lowest in Canada](#)

## CANADA SHINES IN SOCHI



It has been an exciting week at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. Canada has an outstanding record in the medals received.

**Saskatchewan's Mark McMorris was the first athlete to earn a medal for Canada. Congratulations Mark for making all of us proud as you stood on the podium after earning a bronze medal in Snowboarding Slopestyle!**

**I encourage everyone to watch the fantastic documentary Making Your Mark: The Snowboarding Life of Mark McMorris. My family thoroughly enjoyed watching this video. It was so interesting and exciting to see Mark's determination from such a young age. His family and friends supporting him helped him to achieve his incredible success. Mark is, and will continue to be a great inspiration to other athletes.**

**It has been exciting watching our Saskatchewan and Canadian athletes in the many events they are participating in. Each and every Saskatchewan participant makes us very proud of everything they have accomplished. Help me cheer on our Canadian Hockey Teams!**

**GO CANADA GO!**

### **SASKJOBS WEBSITE TRAFFIC INCREASES IN JANUARY**

**SaskJobs.ca continues to attract heavy traffic with visits reaching nearly 1.2 million for the month of January, marking a 9.3 per cent year-over-year increase.**

**The most website traffic from within Canada, other than Saskatchewan, came from Alberta, while the Philippines is the top source of international visits. Other jurisdictions with significant traffic increases from a year ago include Jamaica, up 277.5 per cent, India, up 72.4 per cent and Quebec, up 27.5 per cent.**

**“Our continued economic growth has created a high demand for skilled employees, and SaskJobs is addressing this challenge,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “Each day, more and more people from around the world are using this site to view the thousands of employment opportunities in hundreds of Saskatchewan communities. No doubt the huge amount of traffic generated on the SaskJobs website is a great indicator of the prosperity and opportunity that others see in our province.”**

**[SaskJobs Website Traffic Increases In January](#)**

## **HAPPY FAMILY DAY!**



I hope everyone has the opportunity to enjoy Family Day, Monday, February 17. This day celebrates the importance of families and how important family life is to the communities we live in.

From my family to yours, our best wishes for a fun filled Family Day!

## **HIGHWAY DRIVERS REMINDED TO WATCH FOR WINTER WORK ZONES**



While highway construction is usually associated with the warm summer months, drivers should be aware that certain types of work can take place year-round.

“We may be in the middle of winter, but crews are still out there working on bridges and installing culverts,” Highways and Infrastructure Minister Don McMorris said. “Remember that no matter the season, you must always slow to 60 km/hr when you see the black and white speed signs.”

While cold temperatures present challenges, certain aspects of construction can benefit from wintry weather. For example, cranes can be placed on frozen waterways and used to hoist beams into place during bridge construction.

To find general information about work zones in Saskatchewan, please visit

[www.saskatchewan.ca/live/transportation/work-zones](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/live/transportation/work-zones).

[Highway Drivers Reminded to Watch for Winter Work Zones](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN *in motion* AND SASKATCHEWAN BLUE CROSS CHALLENGES COMMUNITIES**

Saskatchewan Blue Cross and Saskatchewan *in motion* are inviting Saskatchewan communities to increase physical activity and register for the *Get Our Community Moving Challenge* for a chance to win \$10,000.

Participating is simple. Community members create an online profile and register their minutes of physical activity every day between March 3 and 17 on the challenge website. The community with the most minutes logged towards their project during the 15-day challenge will be declared the \$10,000 grand prize winner.

Visit the Challenge website, read the rules and print the challenge registration form at [challenge.saskatchewaninmotion.ca](http://challenge.saskatchewaninmotion.ca).

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

... Urban housing starts jumped 9.6 per cent compared to January 2013.

... In January 13,612 job postings were advertised on SaskJobs from across 323 communities.

... Clara Hughes is only one of four athletes to ever win medals in both Winter and Summer Olympics.

## **JUST THE LINKS**

February 07, 2014 - [Nominations Now Open for Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service](#)

February 10, 2014 - [Enhancements Continue for the 2014 Crop Insurance Program](#)

February 10, 2014 - [Saskatchewan Homebuilders Busy in January](#)

February 11, 2014 - [Fortune Minerals Environmental Assessment Receives Approval](#)

February 12, 2014 - [Increased Library Services Available in Saskatchewan for Patrons with Print Disabilities](#)

February 12, 2014 - [Premier Appoints Delegation to Address Grain Transportation](#)

February 13, 2014 - [New Deputy Minister for Ministry of Health](#)

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **Saskatchewan Equine Expo**

Date: February 14 - 16

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 10 am - 8 pm

### **5th Annual Chef's Gala and Showcase**

Date: February 15

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 5:30 pm

### **Family Day**

Date: February 17

Where: Canada

When: all day

### **Saskatoon Blues Festival**

Date: February 24 - March 2

Where: various locations downtown Saskatoon

When: daily

[www.saskatoonbluessociety.ca/](http://www.saskatoonbluessociety.ca/)

### **Saskatoon Wildlife Federation Sports and Leisure Show**

Date: March 6 - 9



**Where: Prairieland Park**

**When: 6 pm - 10 pm; 12 pm - 9 pm; 10 am - 5 pm**

### **THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

**“I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God,  
who is sending a love letter to the world.”**

**~ Mother Teresa**

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### **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.**

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

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

Email: [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net)