

"Check out what's been happening in Saskatoon Silver Springs and throughout the province!"



Provincial Point of View January 3, 2014



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. Trish and I enjoyed hosting our annual Christmas reception at our home on December 20th. We appreciated all the people that stopped by and the many responses from those who were unable to attend. It was a special evening celebrating the festive season with all of you. A highlight of the night was the performance by the Greystone Singers. They were absolutely amazing. We appreciate their talent and thank them for adding such a special touch to the festivities.

The New Year is a great time to reflect on the past year and set goals and resolutions for the New Year. May you face your challenges with courage and confidence, and find immense happiness in all you do.

Trish, Carter, Paige and I wish you everlasting happiness and peace in 2014. May the coming year bless you and your family with prosperity and success. Happy New Year!

I look forward to an exciting 2014. Please contact me if there is anything I can do to contribute to your success.

SASKATCHEWAN'S POPULATION KEEPS GROWING – NOW MORE THAN 1,114,000

Saskatchewan's population continued to grow in the third quarter of 2013.

As of October 1, 2013, there were 1,114,170 people living in Saskatchewan – an increase of 5,867 in the previous three months and 19,797 over the past year. The quarterly and annual growth rates in Saskatchewan were both the second-highest among the provinces, behind only Alberta.

Saskatchewan and Alberta were also the only two provinces to see positive net migration from other provinces in the past quarter. Saskatchewan's net interprovincial migration of 637 people came primarily from British Columbia (271), New Brunswick (105), Alberta (91) and Quebec (70).

The remainder of Saskatchewan's population gain came from net international migration of 3,510 and a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 1,720.

Premier Brad Wall said Saskatchewan continues to be seen as one of the best places in Canada to live and to work.

"We are now in our seventh year of strong population growth – the most sustained period of growth in Saskatchewan in quite some time," Wall said.

[Saskatchewan's Population Keeps Growing - Now More Than 1,114,000](#)

2013 WAS ANOTHER STRONG YEAR FOR SASKATCHEWAN'S ECONOMY

2013 was another strong year for Saskatchewan's economy as population, employment, exports and manufacturing are all on track to hit new record levels.

"As the numbers roll in for the remainder of 2013, Saskatchewan's economy continues to be one

of the best in the nation,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “More people are living here, more people are working here, people are earning more money than ever before and we continue to increase trade with the rest of the world.”

Saskatchewan’s population hit a record of more than 1,114,000 as of October 2013. The province’s annual growth rate is the second highest in Canada.

Employment growth was up 18,600 (3.5 per cent) in the first 11 months of 2013 when compared with the same time frame as 2012. That means the province is on track to break the all-time record for annual employment growth of 13,000 set back in 1977.

Saskatchewan has had the lowest unemployment rate in the country through the first 11 months of 2013 at 4.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted). Regina had the lowest unemployment rate (3.5 per cent) and Saskatoon the second lowest (4.3 per cent) among major Canadian cities over the January-November period.

Saskatchewan products continue to be in demand around the world. International exports totaled \$27.2 billion between January and October 2013, a record amount for the first 10 months of the year.

In the first 10 months of 2013, manufacturing sales were \$12.8 billion, a 6.4 per cent increase over the same period last year, the second highest in the nation. Wholesale sales were \$20.6 billion, an 8.1 per cent rise over the same time period, the highest increase among the provinces.

Major forecasters predict Saskatchewan will have the second best economic growth rate in 2013 at 3.0 per cent. In 2014, the province is predicted to again take second place after Alberta with a 2.6 per cent increase in GDP.

Average weekly earnings on a seasonally adjusted basis were up to \$946.37 on average for the first ten months of 2013 compared to the same period last year, a rise of 3.2 per cent.

“We are fortunate to have a diversity of growing sectors,” Boyd said. “There are both traditional and innovative opportunities in the province, creating jobs, attracting people and investment, and above all, making Saskatchewan a great place to live and work.”

[2013 Was Another Strong Year For Saskatchewan's Economy](#)

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



Every year temporary drop-off sites are set-up to collect real trees from December 26 to January 31. Christmas trees should be dropped off unwrapped and unbound. Trees dropped off at these locations are chipped and either taken to City compost depot or used as mulch. Artificial trees are not accepted for recycling and should be taken to the Landfill.

The 2014 tree drop-off locations are:

- Primrose Drive Recycling Depot (next to Lawson Civic Centre)
- Lowe Road Recycling Depot (entrance via Ludlow Street)
- Wildwood Golf Course parking lot
- George Ward Pool parking lot (5th Street & Grosvenor Avenue)
- Doukhobor Cultural Society of Saskatchewan parking lot (17th Street & Avenue I)
- Meadowgreen Recycling Depot (Witney Avenue & 22nd Street)
- Edmonton Avenue/Avenue P Recycling Depot (West of Avenue P)

Note that Credit Union Centre is no longer a drop-off location.

Use of the drop-off locations reduces overall costs and greenhouse gas emissions associated with fuel use, and diverts the trees from our landfill.

For more information about waste minimization or recycling opportunities, please contact environmental.services@saskatoon.ca or call Environmental and Corporate Initiatives at 306-975-2487.

SASKATCHEWAN PEOPLE WILL SAVE \$6.5 MILLION IN TAXES IN 2014

Saskatchewan Has the Highest Tax-Free Income Threshold in Canada for a Family of Four

Saskatchewan people will save an estimated \$6.5 million in 2014 with the continued indexation of the provincial income tax system.

“Indexing all income tax brackets and tax credit amounts each year to the rate of inflation protects Saskatchewan taxpayers from ‘bracket creep,’” Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said. “In 2014, all of these amounts are being increased by 0.9 per cent.

“One of the priorities of our government’s Plan for Growth is to keep taxes competitive. Continuing to index the income tax system helps us accomplish that and again demonstrates our government’s commitment to keeping the taxes of Saskatchewan people as low as possible. By the end of 2014, a family of four with \$50,000 income will have saved about \$15,000 through our government’s various tax reductions.”

A family of four with \$50,000 annual income has now seen their provincial income tax cut by more than 90 per cent since 2007 - from about \$2,300 in income tax to less than \$200 in income tax in 2014 - a savings of more than \$2,100 a year.

Individual taxpayers now pay no Saskatchewan income tax on their first \$18,650 of income while a family of four pays no Saskatchewan income tax on their first \$48,320 of income - the highest tax-free income threshold for a family of four in Canada.

Since 2008, about 114,000 low-income Saskatchewan residents have been removed from the tax rolls. Overall, Saskatchewan residents have saved more than \$300 million through lower personal income taxes.

Over the past six years, measures to reduce personal income taxes in Saskatchewan include:

- Increasing personal, spousal and child exemption amounts and introducing a new Low Income Tax Credit in 2008;
- Introducing a new Active Families Benefit of \$150 per child for cultural and sports activities in 2009;
- Raising personal, spousal and child exemption amounts again in 2011; and
- Expanding the Active Families Benefit to include all children 17 and under (previously, it only covered ages six to 14) and introducing a new First-Time Homebuyers' Tax Credit in 2012.

When income tax savings are combined with new tax reduction programs introduced since 2007, that include the refundable Low Income Tax Credit and the Active Families Benefit, a single person with \$25,000 annual income will benefit from \$856 in lower provincial tax in 2014 than in 2007. A family of four with \$50,000 combined income will see tax savings of \$2,775 and a family of four with \$75,000 combined income will see tax savings of \$2,542, when comparing 2014 to 2007.

[Saskatchewan People Will Save #6.5 Million In Taxes In 2014](#)

JUST THE LINKS

December 16, 2013 - [Saskatchewan People Provide Powerful Voices For Change](#)

December 16, 2013 - [Government Launches Saskatchewan.ca](#)

December 17, 2013 - [Record Manufacturing Sales In October](#)

December 18, 2013 - [Wholesale Trade Sets Record In October](#)

December 19, 2013 - [EI Claims Drop 10 Per Cent From Last Year](#)

December 27, 2013 - [Public Reminded To Take Steps To Avoid Flu](#)

COMING EVENTS

The Enchanted Forest

Date: Until January 11

Where: Forestry Farm Park and Zoo

When: 5:30 pm - 11 pm Daily

Western Canadian Crop Production Show

Date: January 13 - 16

Where: Prairieland Park

When: Daily

Malanka 2014

Date: January 18

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 7 pm

Potash Corp WinterShine Festival

Date: January 25 - February 2

Where: Saskatoon's Farmers Market at River Landing

When: Mon - Fri 4 pm - 8 pm; Sat 12 pm - 8 pm; Sun 10 am - 8 pm

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes.
Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning,
living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.
You’re doing things you’ve never done before, and more importantly, you’re Doing Something.”**

~Neil Gaiman

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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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