

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



Provincial Point of View

**Happy New Year &
Merry Christmas to those
celebrating this weekend!**



It's New Year and the best time to renew your dictionary of life. Remove words like jealousy, hate, revenge, greed from your dictionary and put words like love, care, compassion, honesty and satisfaction in their place. This will ensure that you have a great year ahead. I'm hoping your year is filled with success, health, prosperity and happiness. This is a great time to reflect on the past year and set goals for 2018. 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 the new year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THOSE CELEBRATING THIS WEEKEND



This is a very special week in many Ukrainian homes across our province. "Kristos Rodyvsya" - Ukrainian for "Christ is born!" ... words that will echo across dinner tables throughout Saskatchewan this weekend as many families get together to celebrate Ukrainian Christmas. For those following the Julian Calendar, I wish you a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy your rich heritage with family and friends!

Щасливого Різдва і щасливого Нового року to everyone that will be celebrating Ukrainian Christmas this weekend.

REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE



The start of a new year is a time of optimism and renewal – and here in Saskatchewan we see encouraging signs that our best days are still to come.

Saskatchewan's population for example has now grown to more than 1,168,000.

According to the latest Statistics Canada figures, Saskatchewan grew by 4,132 people in the past quarter, 14,467 in the past year and 160,781 in the past decade.

This is the most growth our province has seen in any 10-year period since the 1920s.

A decade of growth has strengthened our province and allowed our government to make important investments in health, education, infrastructure and quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

For the past 10 years, our government has been focused on a vision for a strong and diverse Saskatchewan economy that can be a national leader. Our growth plan includes competitive taxes and regulations, innovation, infrastructure and engagement with markets around the world.

Saskatchewan people have built a resilient economy, and RBC is now predicting that our province will lead Canada in economic growth over the next two years. Recovering energy, potash, ag investment and key contracts in China and India are among the reasons for this growth.

Through trade missions and engagement, we'll continue working to open up markets for Saskatchewan products to help build on a strong, diversified and growing economy.

I'm encouraged by new statistics that show Saskatchewan exporters are leading the nation. Our wholesale trade grew 21% last year, the best in Canada. And thanks to our outstanding entrepreneurs, our wholesale trade is up more than 75% over the past 10 years.

The new year brings new incentive for small businesses to hire more workers and invest new capital here in Saskatchewan. Effective January 1, the amount of income up to which small businesses pay tax at the much lower two per cent small business tax rate moved from \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Meanwhile, Saskatchewan's 12 per cent corporate income tax rate continues to be competitive and among the lowest in the country, further enhancing our province's significant advantages when attracting new investment and jobs.

Also in 2018, Saskatchewan residents will benefit for an entire calendar year from lower provincial Personal Income Tax rates, which dropped half a percentage point effective July 1, 2017. Saskatchewan Personal Income Tax rates will drop by another half point on July 1, 2019.

A bitterly cold holiday season had many of us looking forward to warmer days. Here in Saskatchewan, many of those days are spent visiting our Provincial Parks.

Seasonal camping – which is offered at a discount from the regular nightly camping – provides an opportunity to secure a campsite from mid-May to the end of August, and even into September at some locations. Due to its popularity, sites are allocated via a lottery system.

You can visit www.saskparks.net to apply for a seasonal site by Thursday, February 1, 2018. The draw to award campsites taking place on Monday, February 5, 2018.

Those who are interested in making nightly reservations can do so starting Monday, April 9. As has been the process for several years now, nightly campsite reservations will be staggered with a registration launch taking place over 12 days.

During a decade of growth, the Government of Saskatchewan invested more than \$100 million in upgrades and improvements to provincial park infrastructure.

Projects undertaken include the development of two new campgrounds, upgrading or replacement of service centres, extensive campsite electrical expansion and upgrading, water and wastewater system upgrades, new and enhanced boat launches and new campsite furnishings.

May the new year bring you an abundance of amazing opportunities, beautiful moments, and joyful experiences. May your positive actions & attitude inspire others. May you be brave enough to take on and overcome rewarding challenges. May you find yourself in high spirits & excellent health. May you love with all your heart and find peace in even the most turbulent of times. May the love you give always find its way back to you multiplied. And may you forever be filled with the hope & strength necessary to make your dreams a reality.

911 TIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

If you unwrapped a new smart phone recently on Christmas Day, Sask911 reminds you to do your part to protect the integrity of the 911 system by making sure you understand how your high-tech gift accesses emergency services.

“Smart phones are great tools that make our lives easier, but they also have functions that need to be used properly,” Saskatchewan’s Emergency Management and Fire Safety Commissioner Duane McKay said. “Everyone can do their part to ensure 911 operators and emergency service dispatchers are available to serve those in need.”

For example, iPhones with newer operating systems can have their lock button clicked five times to have the option to swipe SOS. After swiping SOS, the smart phone dials 911. However, this function does not ping your location to Sask911.

“Sask911 has received some calls from people testing the feature, which ties up valuable resources,” McKay said. “We want to be proactive and remind people to please call 911 only when there’s a real emergency. If you do accidentally dial 911 for whatever reason, please stay on the line so staff can verify quickly that there isn’t a real emergency.”

Smart phone users should also ensure their phones are locked when carrying them in a purse, pocket or bag to prevent accidental 911 calls.

From January to November of this year, Sask911 operators took 330,281 calls. Of those, 58 per cent or 190,296 were from a cell phone, and 12 per cent or 40,046 were abandoned – meaning a caller hung up after dialing.

Other tips to help prevent accidental 911 calls:

- Manually dialing 911 instead of preprogramming the number in your phone; and
- Teaching your children the importance of 911 and when it should and should not be used.

General 911 tips:

- When calling, say where you are and identify which emergency services you require, such as police, fire or ambulance.
- Try to remain calm and be able to provide additional information, if requested by an operator.
- Don’t hang up until an operator advises you to do so.

**SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL PARKS ANNOUNCES DATES FOR
2018 NIGHTLY CAMPSITE RESERVATION LAUNCH**



Mark Your Calendars

Saskatchewan Provincial Park Reservations Open in April

APRIL 2018 Launch Dates for Camping Reservations!

9 Monday
Blackstrap
Pike Lake

10 Tuesday
Buffalo Pound
Douglas
Danielson

11 Wednesday
Echo Valley
Rowan's Ravine

12 Thursday
Duck Mountain
Good Spirit Lake
Greenwater Lake

13 Friday
Crooked Lake
Moose Mountain

16 Monday
Cypress Hills

17 Tuesday
Saskatchewan
Landing
The Battlefords

18 Wednesday
Meadow Lake

19 Thursday
Bronson Forest
Lac La Ronge
Makwa Lake

20 Friday
Candle Lake
Great Blue Heron
Narrow Hills

The Government of Saskatchewan is encouraging campers to start planning for the 2018 camping season. On Monday, April 9, campers will be able to begin booking sites in their favourite provincial parks.

“Saskatchewan’s provincial parks offer outdoor fun and relaxation,” Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Gene Makowsky said. “These provincial treasures contribute to the enviable quality of life we enjoy, while preserving that same gift for future generations.”

SaskParks has been testing and fine-tuning the online Saskatchewan provincial park registration system, getting it ready for the rush of 2018 bookings. As has been the process for several years now, campsite reservations will be staggered. Starting Monday, April 9, registration launch will take place over 12 days. Go to www.saskparks.com to familiarize yourself with the process in advance of these dates.

Campers interested in a seasonal site are reminded that starting January 3, they can apply for seasonal summer campsites for the 2018 season. Seasonal campsites are in high demand and are allocated via a lottery system. The deadline to submit completed applications is Thursday, February 1, and the draw to award campsites will take place on Monday, February 5. Successful applicants will be contacted by phone or email.

Park program planning is well underway in preparation for the 2018 camping season. Follow SaskParks

on Facebook to stay up to date with events and to learn more about winter and summer activities available in parks throughout the province.

Click [here](#) to dates of Provincial Parks Open for Registration.

**PREMIER CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NUTRIEN MERGER
BASED ON COMMITMENTS TO SASKATCHEWAN**



Premier Brad Wall today said he is cautiously optimistic about the recently approved merger of Agrium and PotashCorp into a new company called Nutrien, based on commitments made in recent meetings with the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Board Chairs of the two merging corporations.

Those commitments include:

- Nutrien's registered head office and global potash operations will be located in Saskatoon;
- corporate office positions in Saskatchewan will increase by at least 15 per cent, to approximately 300;
- approximately 4,500 of Nutrien's 20,000 employees worldwide will be located in Saskatchewan;

- two new business functions will relocate to Saskatchewan; and
- CEO and/or Executive Chair of the Nutrien Board and the President of Nutrien’s potash operations will live and work in Saskatchewan.

“This is a strong commitment to Saskatchewan, which will ensure that the merger results in a net benefit for our province,” Wall said. “All of these commitments remain subject to approval of the new Nutrien board. Our government will be closely monitoring future developments, but I have every expectation that Nutrien will follow through on their commitments to Saskatchewan.”

ENS SWINGING WITH THE STARS SASKATOON JANUARY 27TH



A high energy, action packed, fundraising event that is designed to create community and change.

Swinging with the Stars takes eight of the cities top celebrities and pairs them each with a professional dancer. Together over the course of a few months they rehearse a two-minute choreographed dance routine which will be performed on the evening of the gala in front of an electric audience!

At the end of the night the crowd buys votes to support their favorite dance pair and the pair that receives the most votes is crowned the champion. Those that cannot make it to the event are able to vote for their favourite dance pair online starting middle of January!

Proceeds from this year's event will go towards the purchase of an Automated Breast Ultrasound for the Saskatoon City Hospital's Breast Health Centre.

Tickets and Tables available at <http://swtsevents.com/saskatoon/buy-tickets/> Click here for additional information.

TAX REDUCTIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND FAMILIES



- ✓ Effective Jan. 1, 2018, the Small Business Income Threshold increases from \$500,000 to \$600,000.
- 🍁 **Saskatchewan now has the highest small business income threshold in Canada**
- ✓ Personal income tax rates reduced by .5% July 1, 2017 and will be reduced another .5% July 1, 2019

Premier Brad Wall, "Other provinces are experiencing fuel tax and carbon tax increases effective January 1. Here in Saskatchewan, we are lowering small business taxes and personal taxes. Also, no carbon tax."

**QUINN STEVENSON MEMORIAL RINK IS THE HUB OF ACTIVITY IN
OUR CONSTITUENCY!**

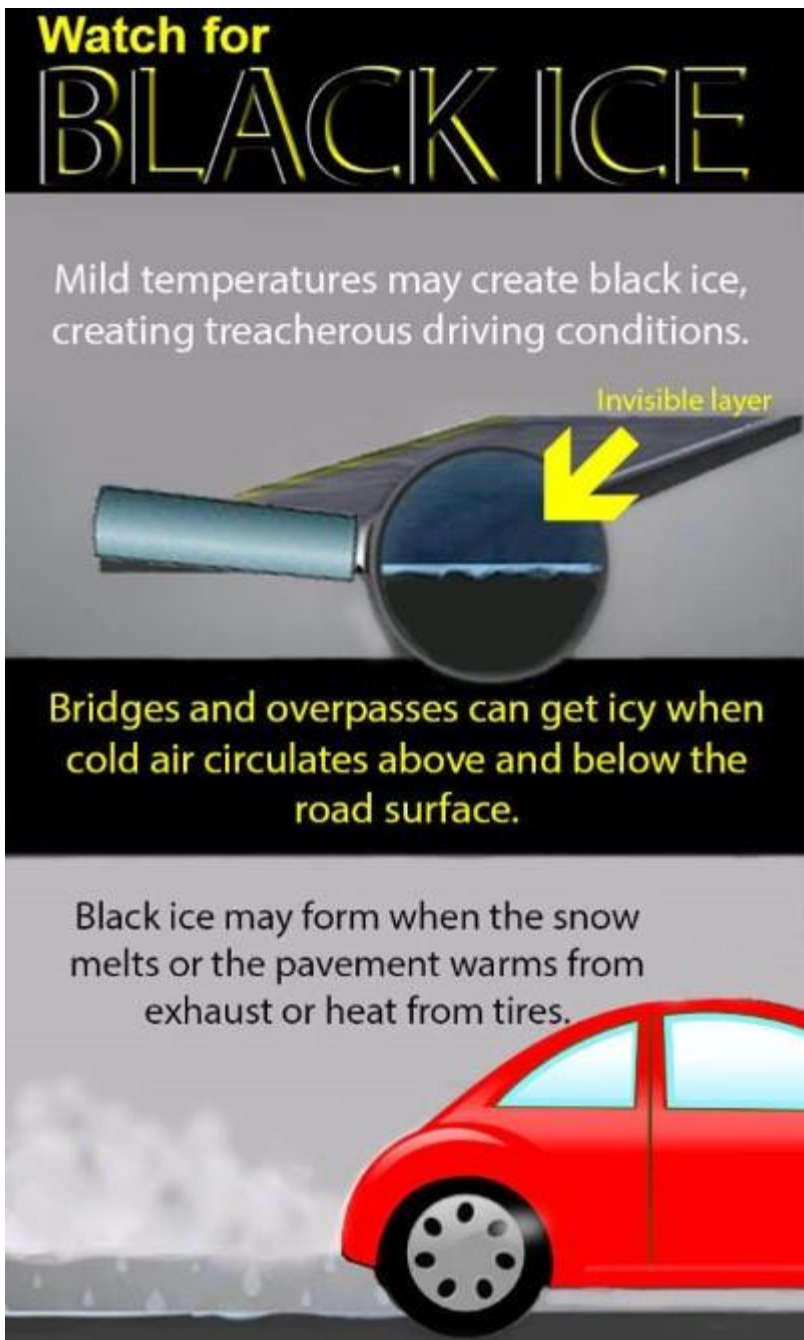


The photo above was taken by Jason Linisky after he and his son Nolan scraped and flooded the rink

You may recall reading about the Quinn Stevenson Memorial Rink last year. This great outdoor rink is a hub of activity and a special place in our community. So many kids and adults have helped to get the rink ready for the enjoyment of everyone! This is such a great example of Saskatchewan spirit and volunteerism to make a community a better place.

This outdoor rink is named in honour of a very special Willowgrove constituent, Quinn Stevenson who was tragically lost on August 3rd, 2013 in an auto accident caused by an impaired driver. Quinn was a past student at Dr. John G. Egnatoff School and had a passion for all sports, including hockey, golf and baseball.

The many volunteers and Quinn's family hope everyone enjoys this ice in our community.



Remember when temperatures rise, the frost may cause highways to become slick.

FOUR SASKATCHEWAN RESIDENTS INDUCTED INTO ORDER OF CANADA!

We're so proud of the four Saskatchewan residents inducted into the Order of Canada. Congratulations to Vianne Timmons, Fred Sasakamoose, Harold Orr and Karim

Nasser who are among the newest inductees to the Order of Canada.

Vianne Timmons is President and Vice-Chancellor of the university of Regina. Fred Sasakamoose was the first Indigenous player in the NHL. Harold Orr is a pioneer of passive design and helped desing the Saskatchewan Conservation House in Regina in 1977 and Karim Nasser was one of the driving forces behind the development of Parcel Y at River Landing in Saskatoon.

Read the Saskatoon Star Phoenix article on these accomplished recipients [here](#).

SASKATCHEWAN DRIVERS MORE WORRIED THAN EVER ABOUT CELLPHONE USE ON ROADS



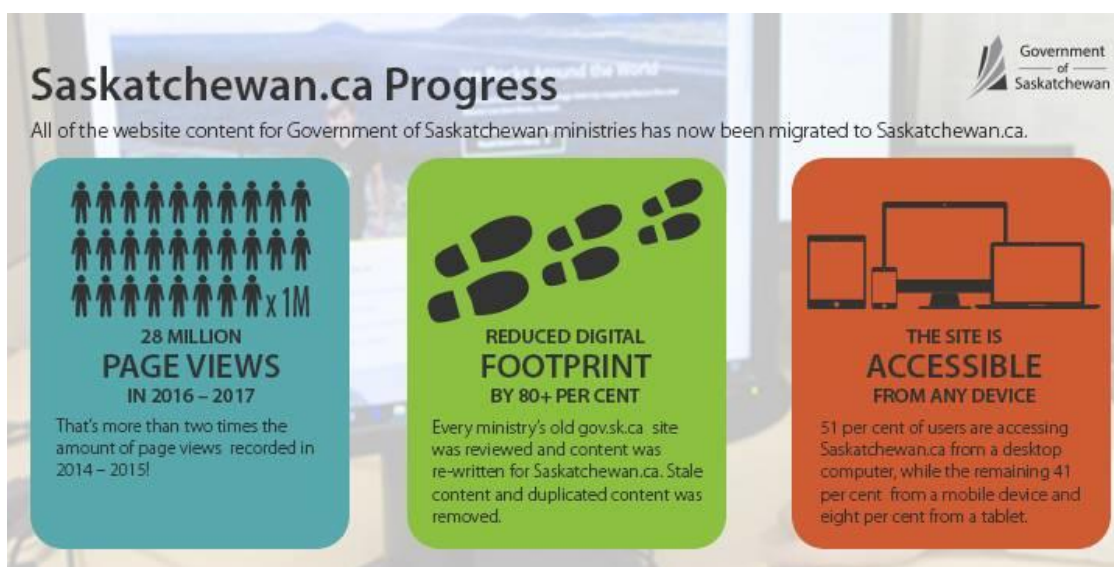
Click [here](#) to read the article that appeared in the Regina Leader Post. Credit to Tim Switzer, Regina Leader Post.

Premier Brad Wall, "Good to see that Sask people are concerned about distracted driving. You're 23X more likely to be in a crash if texting behind the wheel.

Also encouraged by Saskatoon Police reporting lots of designated drivers and just one DUI out of 1000 during their New Year's Eve checkstop.

Saskatchewan, I hope these are positive signs for a better 2018. Our government has significantly increased penalties and enforcement, but let's all commit to holding each other more accountable this year."

LOOKING FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND SERVICES?



Looking for Government information and services?

Saskatchewan.ca can help. Content has recently been streamlined, and is easier to access than ever before!

Need additional assistance? Take a look at our list of answers to the most frequently asked questions, or reach out to our website administrators at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/contact-us>.

DID YOU KNOW?

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- The latest available road condition information can be found at www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline. Follow the Highway Hotline on Twitter @SKGovHwyHotline for alerts, while general information can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SaskatchewanHighwayHotline.
- The RBC Economics Provincial Outlook projects growth of 0.5% in employment and a lower unemployment rate of 5.7% for 2018.
- According to Stats Can, the major wholesale trade increase in October was for machinery, equipment and supplies, up 15.1%.
- To see first-hand why Saskatchewan is the best place to live, work and play, follow the Saskatchewaner accounts on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter, or visit www.saskatchewanwanderer.ca
- SaskPower is committed to achieving 50% of provincial electricity capacity from renewable resources and reduce overall GHG emissions by 40% by 2030.
- Since 2007, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$100M in upgrades and improvements to the provincial park infrastructure

IT'S THE LAST WEEKEND TO VISIT THE ENCHANTED FOREST HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR AND THE CHRISTMAS EXHIBIT AT THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM!



[BHP Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour](#)

When: Now - January 7

Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park

Click [here](#) for details



November 18 -
January 6 Nightly

A Saskatchewan
Christmas Tradition for 19 Years

BHP
**Enchanted
Forest**
HOLIDAY LIGHT TOUR

2017-2018
Saskatoon
Forestry Farm Park

Featuring
the New
Grinch Display

Limited
Light Displays
now available
for sponsorship

Website, phone or email
(306) 222-5392 or
email hvassos@sasktel.net
TODAY

[Eaton's Once Upon a Christmas Exhibit](#)

Where: Western Development Museum

When: 9 am - 5 pm, through to January 7, 2018

Click [here](#) for additional information



PotashCorp Wintershines

When: January 27 - February 4

Where: Different locations across the city

Click [here](#) for additional information



Kayden Kot Steak Night Benefit

When: February 3, 2018 5 - 8 pm

Where: The Sutherland Bar, Central Avenue

For tickets or information or to donate to the silent auction, please contact dkdube@sasktel.net or smfortier@hotmail.com or call or text 306.381.8873



This spot is being held for your event!

Please let us know if you have an event you would like to see in our newsletter!

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

KEEP CREATING
TRAVEL OFTEN
LOVE FULLY
GIVE THANKS
DREAM BIG
WORK HARD
TAKE RISKS
STAY HUMBLE
BE YOU

[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. 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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