

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



Provincial Point of View

**March 20
Budget Week in
Saskatchewan**



**PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND
THE BUDGET ADDRESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**



**PREMIER BRAD WALL'S MESSAGE REGARDING THE UPCOMING
PROVINCIAL BUDGET**



Click [here](#) to listen to an important message to all Saskatchewan residents on the upcoming provincial budget!

Pre-Budget Message from Premier Brad Wall:

On Wednesday, Finance Minister Kevin Doherty will deliver the provincial budget.

Today, I wanted to talk to you about what you can expect to see in Wednesday's budget,... and why our government is taking these steps.

For a number of years, high commodity prices meant Saskatchewan's resource revenues were extremely strong - around \$2.5 billion a year - close to 20 per cent of our overall revenue base.

As part of our growth plan, this allowed our government to lower taxes, pay down operating debt, and build highways, schools and hospitals,...

To encourage new investment and new jobs through lower small business taxes and new growth tax incentives...

To hire more teachers in our schools, to hire more doctors and nurses,...and to reduce surgical wait times.

These are just some of the very worthwhile investments that high resource revenues allowed us to make, for the benefit of all Saskatchewan people.

However, despite our more diversified economy, we still had an over-reliance on resource revenues to fund government services, based on an expectation that commodity prices and resource revenues would remain high.

To be fair, at budget time, we are given a range of resource revenue forecasts, with a high end and a low end.

No one expected resource revenues to fall below the low end - to fall over a billion dollars – and stay there for three years – depleting the rainy day fund.

But that's what happened, and for our part as government, we have to take responsibility.

And we must take action to rebalance our spending and our revenues to reflect this new reality.

This means controlling and reducing government spending,...

And it means restructuring the tax base to reduce our reliance on resource revenues.

In Wednesday's budget, you will see two important shifts in our tax system – shifts designed to strengthen the province's finances while ensuring our economy remains strong.

There will be a shift away from our reliance on resource revenues and toward other types of taxes to help make up that shortfall and to better position us for the long-term.

But there will be another shift as well – a shift toward consumption taxes, but away from taxes on productivity and income.

This fundamental change in our tax system is designed to keep our economy strong, while generating the revenue needed to ensure important public services are sustainable and affordable in the long run.

On Wednesday, the Finance Minister will lay out our government's plan to return to balanced budgets within three years...

Some other governments have decided not to make the tough choices to control and reduce government spending, and are simply continuing to run deficits indefinitely.

We will not do that.

This budget faces head on the new reality of our lower resource revenues base by restructuring the tax base, controlling and reducing government spending, and ensuring Saskatchewan's budget returns to balance by 2019 and that our economy remains strong.



UP FOR THE CHALLENGE!



I was nominated by Saskatchewan in Motion to take part in the Play in Sask challenge and complete an activity on the Participaction 150 playlist. I decided to do some snowshoeing! Let's get active, Saskatchewan!

Thank you Saskatchewan in Motion for nominating me! Check out my facebook page [here](#) to see my video!

Click [here](#) to check out "Saskatchewan in Motion" and learn about their organization and the many activities they plan.

**PATIENTS WILL RECEIVE STATE-OF-THE-ART RADIATION
THERAPY IN REGINA AND SASKATOON**



Greg Ottenbreit, Minister of Remote and Rural Health making the announcement with Sask Cancer Agency CEO Dr. Jon Tonita

Patients receiving radiation therapy at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency's Allan Blair Cancer Centre in Regina now have access to the most advanced equipment available, with the \$5.08 million installation of a TrueBeam linear accelerator (linac) and completion of the associated renovations. The provincial government has also approved \$3.8 million for a similar replacement linac in Saskatoon.

"Cancer has impacted the lives of many people in Saskatchewan, my family and myself included," Rural and Remote Health Minister Greg Ottenbreit said. "This investment will provide patients with more advanced and accurate radiation therapy, and reflects our government's commitment to accessible treatment."

Click [here](#) to read the entire news release.

SARM CONVENTION HELD IN SASKATOON



I had the pleasure of joining several of my colleagues at the annual SARM Convention held in Saskatoon last week. It's always a great opportunity to hear from locally elected officials from across Saskatchewan.

Premier Brad Wall addressed the delegates. Please see the following from a section of his speech:

"There continues to be a divergence between the renewal we see in the economy and what we're experiencing in government.

The economy is getting stronger... we know that... not just anecdotally but statistically... But revenues in government are still weak. And by now, you're probably familiar with some of the numbers.

This fiscal year, non-renewable resource revenues are down about \$1.2 billion from 2014 levels... That's \$1.2 billion on a \$14.4 billion budget... a drop of about eight per cent... Well, that's what we're facing today.

Oil has fallen back below \$50 a barrel West Texas Intermediate. And most experts say the ceiling for the increase is \$60 a barrel... that's when American shale producers will get busy and bring on more supply.

We're not going to see \$100 a barrel oil soon. And making matters worse, uranium and potash prices are at near record lows and the recovery in those markets will be prolonged.

Resource revenues are lower, and so too is tax revenue for the government. This fiscal year, tax revenue has dropped \$400 million from what we forecast in our budget.

On the expenditure side... there are pressures in health care, social services and corrections, in part because of our growing population.

So we're getting hit at both ends – revenues and expenditures. Our deficit this year is much bigger than expected... the forecast right now is about \$1.2 billion. Deficits at this level are unsustainable.

Over time, they will erode our ability to provide the services that support quality of life in our province. They will put in peril the Saskatchewan Advantage we have created together.

We have to take action on the deficit... today... not tomorrow... not at some undetermined point in the future. Because we've seen other governments in Canada kick the can down the road for years... postpone the day of reckoning.

Perhaps in the belief that somehow deficits will magically take care of themselves. It will take a determined, disciplined effort on the part of everyone in government, at all levels of government, to deal with this challenge."

PURPLE DAY FOR EPILEPSY



Purple Day is a very special day dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy. Reach in your closet for your favourite purple item and plan to attend a great event at the Western Development Museum.

Saturday, March 25, 2017, at 6 p.m. at the Western Development Museum, the Saskatchewan Epilepsy Program will be holding a fundraiser in conjunction with Purple Day to increase epilepsy awareness, raise money for new equipment to treat patient epilepsy seizures, and celebrate the 10-year program.

There are more than 10,000 people in our province with epilepsy. When medication is unsuccessful – surgery is necessary. The Saskatchewan Epilepsy Program’s goal is to raise \$120,000 for equipment that is required during brain surgery that will help identify where speech is located in the brain, the area responsible to movement, and to localize the area causing the seizures so it can be removed. Having this equipment readily available will help reduce the wait time for epilepsy surgery, reduce health care costs due to emergency room admissions, give the patients a sense of normalcy after a successful surgery, and reduce the chance of surgical deficits.

Tickets to the March 25th event are \$50.00 each – Includes afternoon admission to the Western Development Museum, dinner and the evening program. Cheques may be made out to “RUH Foundation – Sask Epilepsy Program”. Click [here](#) for more information.

To make a donation to the Saskatchewan Epilepsy Program, visit <https://ruhf.org/donate/>.

PARKING APP TO LAUNCH IN SASKATOON



news@ckom.com:

Drivers in Saskatoon will soon be able to pay for parking with their phones.

Mayor Charlie Clark told 650 CKOM Tuesday a long-awaited smartphone parking app for the city will launch April 5.

“You don’t even have to walk up to one of those parking stations,” Clark said.

Drivers use the app to enter their licence plate, credit card information and select the length of stay.

The app will send notifications to remind the user when parking time is about to expire. Drivers can top up to the maximum allowed limit.

The smartphone payment option was touted in 2012 during the city's move to change out its coin-only meters to the current pay stations.

Clark said it's frustrating the app took so long to come to Saskatoon since the technology is already being used in numerous other Canadian cities.

The mayor noted pay stations will still be maintained, adding the app is merely another payment option for people to use.

**VOTE TODAY AND HELP ITUNA, SASKATCHEWAN BE CROWNED
THE WINNER OF KRAFT HOCKEYVILLE!**



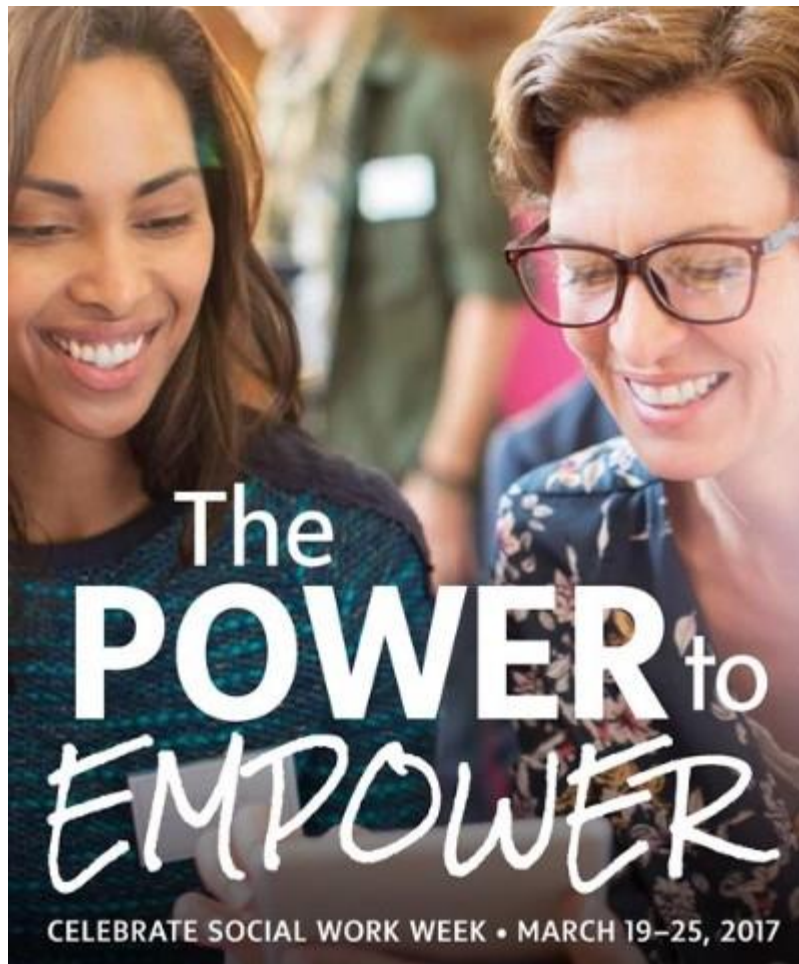
VOTING ENDS AT 10 PM TONIGHT!

Canada has chosen the final 2 communities! Ituna, Saskatchewan vs O'Leary, PEI as the top 2 finalists in the 2017 Kraft Hockeyville contest! The entire community of Ituna is excited to have the change to win the title of Kraft Hockeyville 2017!

Kraft Hockeyville is a program that spans all across Canada. Every year, communities rally around a sport Canadians love...Hockey! Ituna is passionate about hockey and their arena. Click [here](#) to read about this fantastic community.

The winning community of the Kraft Hockeyville competition receives \$100,000 to upgrade their local arena and the opportunity to host an NHL® Pre-Season Game. Please help this great community of Ituna win! Click [here](#) to get to the link to cast your vote.

[SOCIAL WORK WEEK IN SASKATCHEWAN](#)



Released on March 20, 2017The government has proclaimed March 19-25 as Social Work Week in Saskatchewan.

“Social Work Week is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and thank the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers and its membership for sharing their skills, commitment and passion for helping others in communities across Saskatchewan,” Social Services Minister Tina Beaudry-Mellor said. “Social work is a valuable profession, and it’s important we highlight the role social workers play and the work they do for the people of our province.”

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

RIGHT HERE IN OUR CONSTITUENCY...
SASKATOON FORESTRY FARM AND ZOO GRIZZLIES COMPLETE
FIRST HIBERNATION



Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo (SFFP&Z) grizzly bears, Mistaya (miss-TIE'-yuh) and Koda (KOH' dah), have successfully completed their first hibernation (see attached pictures).

Mistaya and Koda started hibernating on December 5, 2016, and completed their hibernation on March 17, 2017.

“We monitored the bears throughout their first hibernation, gathering data that can be used in future research projects,” said Tim Sinclair-Smith, Manager, SFFP&Z.

After just over three months of hibernation, the bears have lost some weight, but due to not hibernating for ten years, they still have considerable fat reserves. Mistaya and Koda will be offered small amounts of vegetables; the same food they would find in the wild after hibernation. Mistaya and Koda will return to the Kinsmen Grizzly Bear Exhibit this weekend.

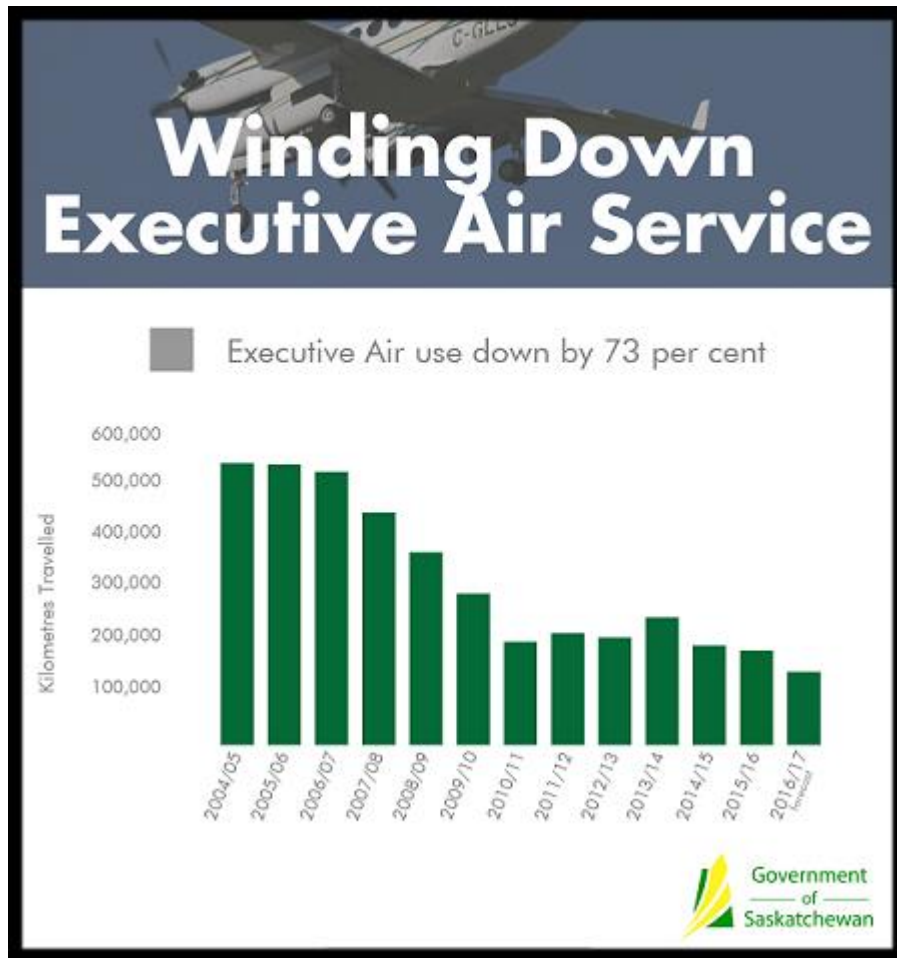
Mistaya is the sole-surviving cub from Bear 66, a well-known female grizzly killed on the Canadian Pacific railway tracks in Banff National Park, in 2005. He stayed in the wild until it became clear that he could not survive without intervention.

Koda was orphaned that same year after his mother fled the den when a logging operation came through the Grand Prairie region. He was rescued and nurtured by zookeepers at the Edmonton

Valley Zoo. The cubs were paired at the Calgary Zoo and later transferred to their permanent home at the SFFP&Z.

For more information on the SFFP&Z, please visit www.saskatoon.ca/zoo.

GOVERNMENT ELIMINATES EXECUTIVE AIR SERVICE



Move is Anticipated to Save Between \$700,000 and \$1 Million Annually

The Government of Saskatchewan is winding down its Executive Air Service effective today. Use of the service has decreased drastically in recent years – down from 595 trips in 2006-07 to 165 trips in 2016-17, and mileage is down by 73 per cent.

“The use of Executive Air has dropped dramatically over the past decade but overhead costs have remained high,” Central Services Minister Christine Tell said. “It just doesn’t make sense in these challenging fiscal times to continue paying those high overhead costs when there are viable commercial options available in Saskatchewan to meet government travel needs.”

Click [here](#) to read more.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gardenscape

When: March 24 - 26

Where: Prairieland Park

Click [here](#) for details



Spin For Quinn

Save the Date

When: March 25

Where: Mawson Health & Fitness

All proceeds donated to Quinn's Trust



**North Saskatoon Business Association (NSBA) 20th Annual Business
Builder Awards - The Sky is the Limit!**

When: March 30

Where: Prairieland Park, Hall A

Click [here](#) for information and to register



Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

Featuring: Minister of Finance, the Honourable Kevin Doherty

When: March 31

Where: Radisson Hotel

Click [here](#) for details



Erindale/Arbor Creek Neighbourhood Traffic Review

When: Tuesday, April 4, 7 - 9 pm

Where: Erindale Alliance Church, 310 Perehudoff Crescent - West Entrance

An opportunity to share ideas and suggestions!

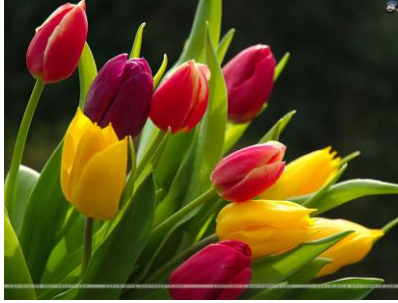


Evergreen Community Association Spring Trade Show

When: Saturday, May 13

Evergreen Community Association is seeking vendors, volunteer and entertainment

For more information contact Helen at hel_125@hotmail.com



The Teddy Bear Picnic 2017

When: May 27

Where: Deifenbaker Park

Click [here](#) for details



Team Naomi Get Well Now 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Save the Date!

When: June 3

Where: Greenbryre Golf and Country Club

For information contact teamnaomigetwellnow@gmail.com and watch this newsletter for more details



20th Annual Zoogala - Save the Date

When: June 16

Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm and Zoo

Click [here](#) for information on sponsorship and tickets



Canadian Country Music Association Awards

When: September 10

Tickets on Sale Now, click [here](#) for details



[CLICK HERE TO READ ADDITIONAL](#)
[GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES](#)



***You find that you have peace of mind and can enjoy yourself, get more sleep, and rest when you know that it was a one hundred percent effort that you gave-
win or lose.***

~Gordie Howe

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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 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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