

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

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## Provincial Point of View

### March 28, 2014

#### RESPONSE TO THE 2014-15 BUDGET ADDRESS



**It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to respond in the legislature to our province's 2014-15 Budget – our government's 7th consecutive balanced budget.**

**This is an exciting time to be in Saskatchewan – our province is thriving – the economy is growing and our population is at an all-time high. The budget presented on March 19th by the Minister of**

**Finance addresses some of the challenges of growth while ensuring that we live within our means.**

**Being fiscally responsible is something that our government is very proud of. We continue to ensure that we live within our means while supporting the needs of Saskatchewan residents.**

**As Minister of Environment, I am proud of the innovative work of Saskatchewan leaders whose projects received funding from the Go Green Fund. As Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency, I am pleased that our government is working with communities through the Water Security Agency's innovative parallel growth policy.**

**We have so much to be grateful for. In Saskatoon, many community leaders spoke about the 2014-15 Budget:**

**Ilene Busch Vishniac, U of S President, Star Phoenix, Mar 20 2014**

**"Despite this being a tight budget year, the government has sent a clear message that they recognize the value of postsecondary education to the economic vitality of Saskatchewan...we appreciate the continued support for the U of S. The increase to our budget and allocations to specific initiatives allows us to continue to build a stronger university, one that will continue to serve the people of Saskatchewan."**

**Don Atchison Mayor of Saskatoon, CKOM, Saskatoon, March 20, 2014**

**"Because of the bridges being announced there I think that's really a great step for us. They certainly didn't disappoint today. They came through"**

**While difficult choices had to be made, our government released another budget that will benefit for the people of this great province.**

**Special thanks to everyone who attended the budget in Regina on March 19.**

### **SURGICAL WAIT TIMES CONTINUE TO DROP**

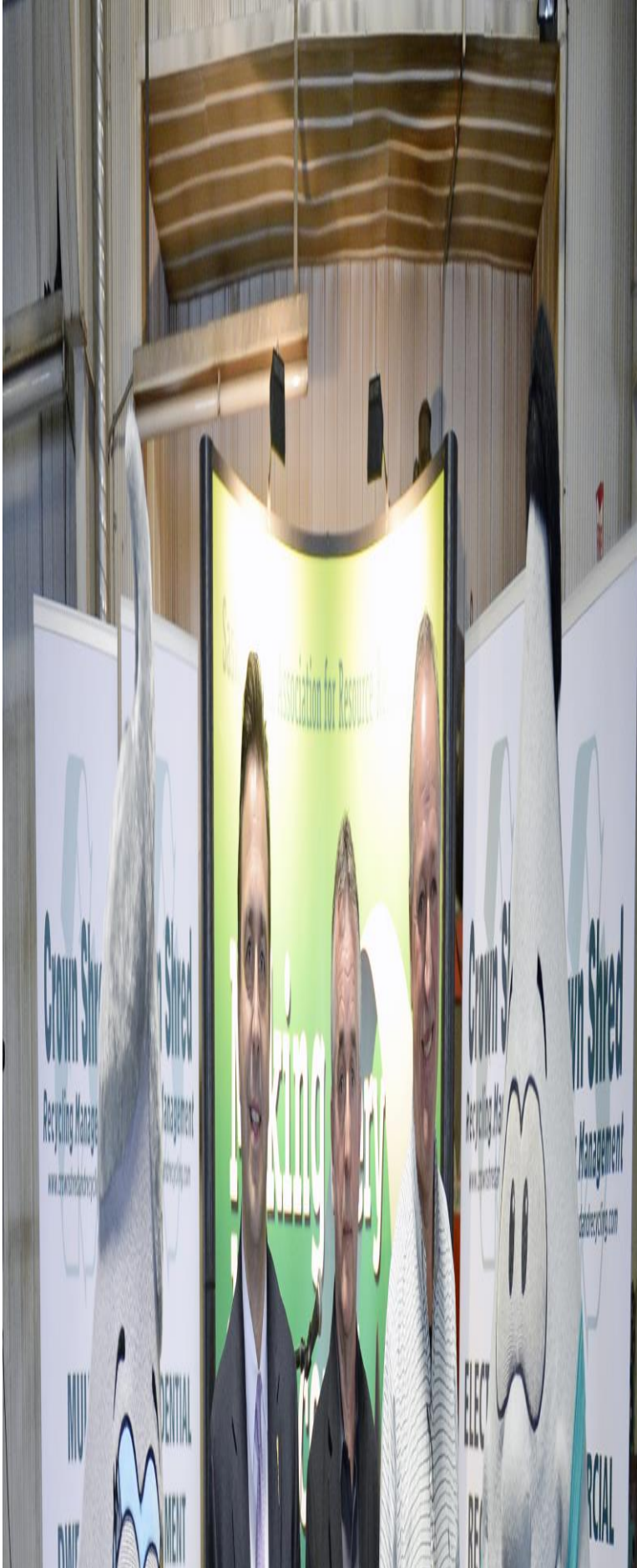
**Saskatchewan patients are receiving their surgeries sooner. Through the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative, teams across the province are working to achieve the ambitious goal of offering all patients surgery within three months of the decision to proceed with an operation.**

Updated statistics show that just over 80 per cent of patients receiving a surgery between November 1, 2013 and January 31, 2014, waited less than three months. Almost 93 per cent of patients received their surgery within six months. Compared to when the Surgical Initiative began in March 2010, there are 10,755 fewer patients waiting more than three months for surgery.

“We have seen tremendous improvement,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “Our health system has been steadily driving down wait times so surgical patients can get the care they need sooner.”

[Surgical Wait Times Continue to Drop](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN ANTIFREEZE RECYCLING PROGRAM**

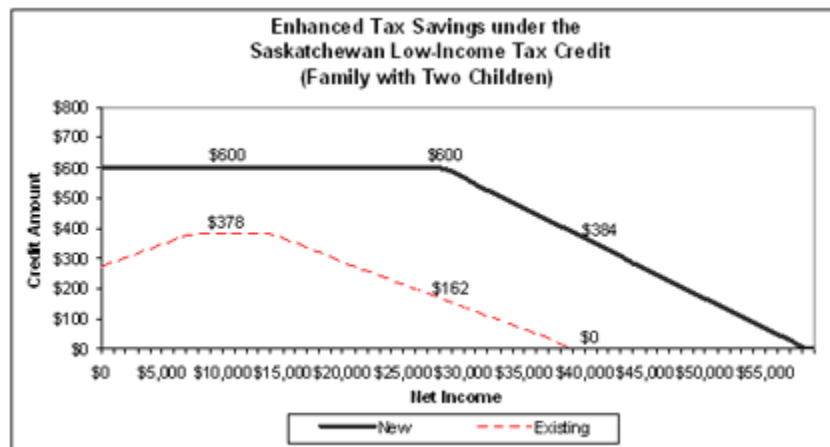


On behalf of Premier Brad Wall and the Government of Saskatchewan, I was pleased to bring greetings and extend congratulations to the Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (SARRC) on the launch of its expanded used petroleum products recycling program.

As Minister of Environment, it is indeed a pleasure to celebrate the extension of SARRC's successful used oil recycling program to include antifreeze, diesel exhaust fluid, diesel fuel filters and their containers. By recycling used oil and filters, antifreeze, other petroleum products, and containers, we are helping to reduce the amount of contaminants entering our landfills and ecosystems.

Thank you and congratulations to SARRC on their successful launch yesterday. My very best wishes to this progressive organization for continued success ahead.

### LARGEST SINGLE-YEAR INCOME TAX REDUCTION



This is the largest single-year income tax reduction in the Province's history and will save Saskatchewan taxpayers about \$300 million per year. All income tax filers over 18 will experience a tax reduction, retroactive for 2008.

- Highest family - based tax exemptions in Canada - \$1,320 in tax savings per year for a family of four.
  - Families with children receive the highest personal tax exemptions in Canada - a working family with two children can now earn up to \$41,300 before paying provincial income tax.
  - A working family with two children earning \$50,000 will see their Saskatchewan income taxes reduced by almost 60 per cent or \$1,320. This family will also see additional tax savings from the Low Income Tax Credit of \$227.

- 80,000 residents will no longer pay provincial income tax.
- Low income tax credit now up to \$600 for a family of four.
- Up to \$440 in tax cuts for single taxpayers.

For more information, please visit [finance.gov.sk.ca](http://finance.gov.sk.ca).

WATER CONSERVATION ON WORLD WATER DAY AND EVERY DAY



World Water Day 2014 was celebrated last week on Saturday, March 22. As Minister Responsible for SaskWater, we encouraged people and communities across Saskatchewan to make simple and easy water conservation practices a part of their daily routine. Hopefully they will continue to practise water conservation throughout the year.

It is so important for the people of Saskatchewan to understand the true value of water and not take access to safe, reliable drinking water for granted. Celebrating World Water Day allows us to recognize how fortunate we are in our province and highlight the positive effects water conservation practices can have here in our province and around the world every day.

Water is essential to life and conserving and preserving water sources is everyone's responsibility. SaskWater invites all residents to visit [www.saskwater.com](http://www.saskwater.com) to learn how they can make every day a World Water Day celebration.

SaskWater Encourages Water Conservation on World Water Day and Every Day.

[SaskWater Encourages Water Conservation on World Water Day and Every Day](#)

## **GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND SASKATCHEWAN SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CANADA JOB GRANT**

Jason Kenney, Minister of Employment and Social Development, and Economy Minister Bill Boyd, on March 21 signed a memorandum of understanding on the Canada Job Grant.

Announced in Economic Action Plan 2013, the Canada Job Grant is an innovative way of delivering training that will lead to a guaranteed job. It involves employers in training decisions so that Canadians will be equipped with the skills and training they need to fill available jobs. It is designed to be flexible enough to meet the needs of businesses of all sizes, in all industries and regions.

The Canada Job Grant is part of the Government of Canada's commitment to address the paradox of too many Canadians without jobs in an economy of too many jobs without Canadians.

[Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Canada Job Grant](#)

**POTASHCORP CIS UNIVERSITY CUP A GREAT SUCCESS**



**Congratulations to Saskatoon Silver Springs constituent, Grant Kook who was the chair of PotashCorp CIS Men's Hockey University Cup held last weekend.**

**The Huskies earned their way to the final game against the University of Alberta Golden Bears. Over 41,000 fans enjoyed the great hockey weekend.**

**I was honoured to have the opportunity to drop the puck at the first Huskie game on Friday, March 21.**

**Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Huskies and who made this tournament a great success this year!**

**Congratulations to Grant and his entire committee, the players and the many fans for their support.**

**[SASKJOBS WEBSITE TRAFFIC INCREASES IN FEBRUARY](#)**



As Saskatchewan's job market continues to grow, so too does the traffic to the province's number one job site, SaskJobs.ca. Last month website traffic reached over a million, marking a 5.2 per cent year-over-year increase, another indicator of the prosperity seen in our province.

The majority of February's visits came from Saskatchewan (75 per cent), while 17 per cent came from other provinces and 8.0 per cent internationally.

Once again, visits from Alberta topped all other provinces, and increased by 35.3 per cent, while the Philippines had the highest amount of visitors among international jurisdictions, with an increase of 92.3 per cent.

[SaskJobs Website Traffic Increases in February](#)

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

... Close to \$2.9 billion in infrastructure projects, ranging from power generation facilities to telecommunications networks to schools to highways to hospitals, are key components of Saskatchewan's 2014-15 Budget.

... The 2014-15 provincial budget provides an increase in operating funds to post-secondary institutions, investments in student support and funding for key capital projects.

... 80 per cent of Saskatchewan patients receiving a surgery between November 1, 2013 and January 31, 2014, waited less than three months.

... The 2014-15 provincial budget includes \$500,000 to establish a Manufacturing Centre of Excellence to focus on productivity improvement, innovation and workforce development for our manufacturing sector.

... Saskatchewan will invest nearly \$5 billion in health care in 2014-15 to continue 'patient first' transformation and support improved access to high quality care for the province's growing population.

### **JUST THE LINKS**

March 20, 2014 - [Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Wins Award for Excellence](#)

March 20, 2014 - [Wholesale Numbers Highest Ever in January](#)

March 21, 2014 - [HeadStart on a Home Projects Underway in Warman](#)

March 21, 2014 - [Retail Sales Continue to Climb in Saskatchewan](#)

March 21, 2014 - [Government of Saskatchewan Promoting CCS in China](#)

March 26, 2014 - [Protect Your Elm Trees: Don't Prune From April 1 to August 31](#)

March 26, 2014 - [Spring Highway Weight Restrictions Eased for Farmers to get Grain to Market](#)

March 27, 2014 - [Ice Fishing Season Coming to a Close - Did You Remove Your Ice Shack?](#)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Gardenscape**

Date: March 28 - 30

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 11 am - 9 pm; 9 am - 8 pm; 10 am - 5 pm

### **Earth Hour**

Date: March 29

Where: Around the World

When: 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

### **Mother Teresa School Bingo**

Date: April 4

Where: Mother Teresa School

When: TBA

### **Pioneer Threshermen's Club Flea Market and Craft Sale**

Date: April 12

Where: Western Development Museum

When: All Day

### **Draggin Rod & Custom Car Show**

Date: April 18 - 19

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 10 am to 10 pm

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**“Every morning we are born again.  
What we do today is what matters most.”**

~ Buddha

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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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You are receiving this email because you want to know what is going on in the Saskatoon Silver Springs Constituency and the Province of Saskatchewan.

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