

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



Provincial Point of View

March 2, 2017
Let Spring Begin!



Hello everyone! As you may have noticed, we have not distributed our e-newsletter for the past month due to rules around the by-election held in Saskatoon today.

It has made me realize even more, that we live in a very busy city and province! I had the pleasure of attending numerous events during the month of February. I will highlight just a few in this newsletter but be sure to check the news release link to see what you've missed!

As always, I welcome your views. If you have an event you would like us to highlight or if you think we should recognize someone in our constituency for his/her achievement, please let me know.

REPORT FROM THE SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATURE



We will work hard to protect the Saskatchewan Advantage and continue to stand up for the province that has attracted investment from all over the world, creating jobs and opportunities.

While the slowdown in the resource sector has impacted government revenues for nearly three years, oil prices are starting to rebound, and there are signs that mining in Saskatchewan is starting to recover, even though challenges remain.

As you will see in the newsletter, there are positive signs of confidence in our province's resilient and increasingly diversified economy. Both manufacturing and retail sales in Saskatchewan are up

and leading the nation. And, for the first time in the province's history, average weekly earnings were above \$1,000 in December.

While there is light on the horizon, commodity prices are expected to remain lower for longer and that hurts the government's bottom line.

This fiscal year, non-renewable resource revenues are down about \$1.2 billion from 2014 levels.

Weak resource revenues combined with higher than expected crop insurance payments and spending pressure in several ministries have eroded our financial position.

Some of that spending pressure arising from our growing population. Saskatchewan has grown by nearly 65,000 people since 2011 and by 130,000 since 2006.

Despite our government's efforts to save money, which include reduced travel and a freeze on non-essential hiring, our deficit has grown to an estimated \$1.2 billion.

This situation has prompted some in Saskatchewan, including our opposition to ask the question: "where did all the money go?" The short answer is, it went back to Saskatchewan people.

- \$6 billion in tax relief;
- \$20 billion in infrastructure investment; and
- \$2.2 billion to reduce the operating debt of the province.

Our government inherited a massive infrastructure deficit that needed to be addressed. Together we are building new schools, hospitals and long-term care homes. Many more communities have received repairs and upgrades, improved highways and vital infrastructure we all count on.

In addition, Saskatchewan people have benefited from reductions in property taxes, small business taxes, and income taxes.

Municipalities have received a 177% increase in revenue sharing – over \$1.9 billion – which they have used to deliver better services.

The provincial operating debt has also been reduced by 32% from 2007, saving millions of dollars in annual debt serving costs.

These investments have helped create the economic strength that has kept Saskatchewan's unemployment rate below the national average, with 60,000 more people working in the province today than in 2007.

At a time when other governments are attempting to rationalize permanent deficits, our government is taking a different approach. We will deal with our revenue challenges today and the process won't be pain-free.

Difficult decisions need to be made. As we make those decisions, we will be careful not to shock the economy just as it is recovering. We will also work to ensure that we don't diminish the public services that provide quality of life in Saskatchewan.

Fortunately, we are better positioned today to deal with difficulties. Our economy is more resilient, diversified and stronger than ever. Working together with optimism and determination, we will meet the current fiscal challenge and strengthen the province for years to come.

JUST A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY!



I was pleased to attend the Family Skating Afternoon at the Quinn Stevenson Memorial Rink at Dr. John G. Egnatoff School. Attendance was almost 100! I also attended the

Winter Festival hosted by the Silverspring Community Association. Great job done by the organizers of both community events!

THIS PAST MONTH I HAD THE PLEASURE OF SIGNING THE PROCLAMATION FOR HERITAGE WEEK IN SASKATCHEWAN



The Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed February 20-24 as Heritage Week in the province. Initiated by the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation and Heritage Saskatchewan, the week aims to celebrate and raise awareness about the province's unique past.

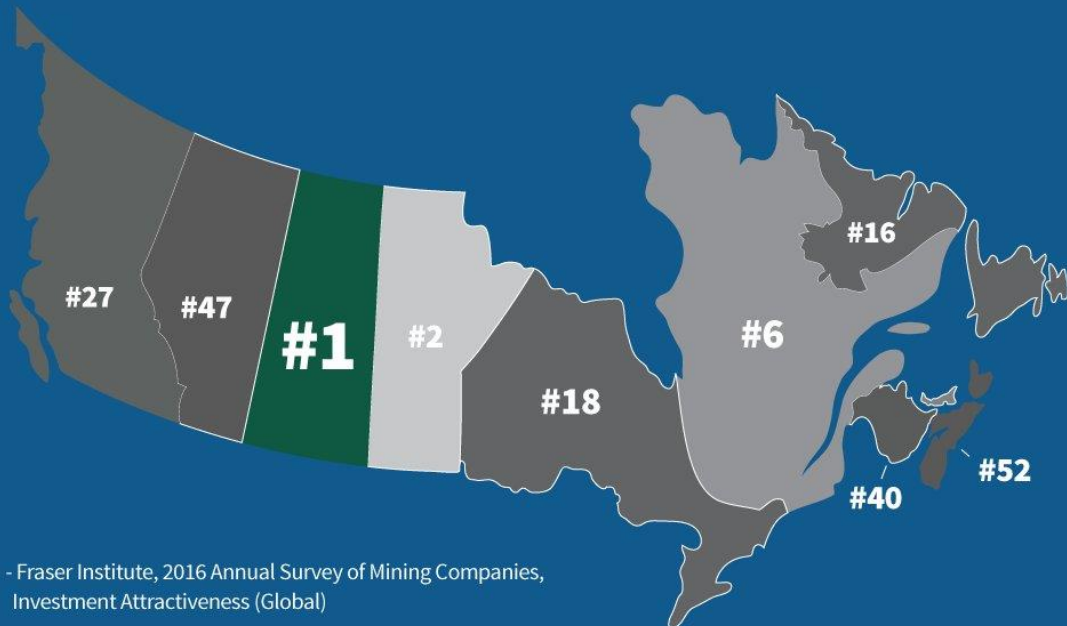
“From storytelling to heritage-related workshops, our government is looking forward to another eventful Heritage Week here in our province,” Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Ken Cheveldayoff said. “This week is all about recognizing the people, places and events that have shaped Saskatchewan into the wonderful place it is today. I encourage everyone to attend the events being held and to learn more about the history of our province by visiting local museums, historic buildings and heritage sites.”

Read more [here](#).

SASKATCHEWAN NAMED TOP JURISDICTION IN THE WORLD FOR MINING INVESTMENT!

Mining Investment Attractiveness

Saskatchewan ranks first in the world



An annual international survey of mining company executives has named Saskatchewan as the most attractive jurisdiction in the world for mining investment.

The Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies, 2016 ranked Saskatchewan number one out of 104 jurisdictions in their Investment Attraction Index, up from second place in 2015. Competitive tax regimes, efficient permitting procedures and certainty surrounding environmental regulations and land-claims were among the reasons for the province's top rating.

"Saskatchewan enjoys an excellent reputation in the mining sector," Energy and Resources Minister Dustin Duncan said. "We are gifted with a variety of resources, and as a government we are doing our share to encourage the industry and to make sure we are competitive and friendly to investment. We have maintained a stable royalty structure over the last number of years, supported by clear government policies that have helped Saskatchewan remain a destination of choice for investors and business."

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

RANDY FERNETS RETIRES



Long time Tourism Saskatoon employee (and advocate) Randy Fernets retired in February. I was pleased to have the opportunity to thank my good friend Randy and wish him well in his retirement. Randy has passionately served our community and province in his capacity as Director of Tourism Saskatoon. His tenacious spirit, keen attention to detail and ability for divergent thinking is well-known in the tourism industry and will leave a lasting legacy.

Thank you Randy for your hard work and dedication. You have made Saskatoon and Saskatchewan a better place.

HIGHEST AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS IN PROVINCE'S HISTORY

According to Statistics Canada numbers released today, Saskatchewan workers enjoyed the highest month-over-month percentage growth in average weekly earnings among the provinces in December 2016, up 2.2 per cent (seasonally adjusted) from the previous month to \$1,010.37.

The national month-over-month increase was 1.0 per cent (seasonally adjusted).

For the first time in the province's history, the average weekly earnings were above \$1,000—and

remain the third highest among the provinces.

“Saskatchewan people are taking home more money at the end of the week, and this is a reflection on our economy and the opportunities in our province,” Economy Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “The increased earnings show our wages are very competitive, and this remains an attraction for skilled workers to our province.”

With inflation factored in, Saskatchewan's real wage increased by 1.2 per cent year-over-year while the national real wage declined by 0.3 per cent. The province's real wage ranked third highest among provinces in Canada.

WE BID FAREWELL TO SASKATOON RUSH PRESIDENT LEE GENIER



Saskatoon bids farewell to Lee Genier. Lee was instrumental in the successful launch of the Rush in Saskatoon. His passion and leadership will be missed. Its no wonder Lee was named the National

Lacrosse League's executive of the year in 2016. He successfully helped to relocate this great lacrosse team from Edmonton to Saskatoon. He played an instrumental role in the team capturing its second-straight Champion's Cup.

I sincerely thank Lee Genier for his friendship this past year and wish him well in the future as he focus's on his family.

12 UNIQUE THINGS TO DO IN SASKATOON - TRAVELMAG

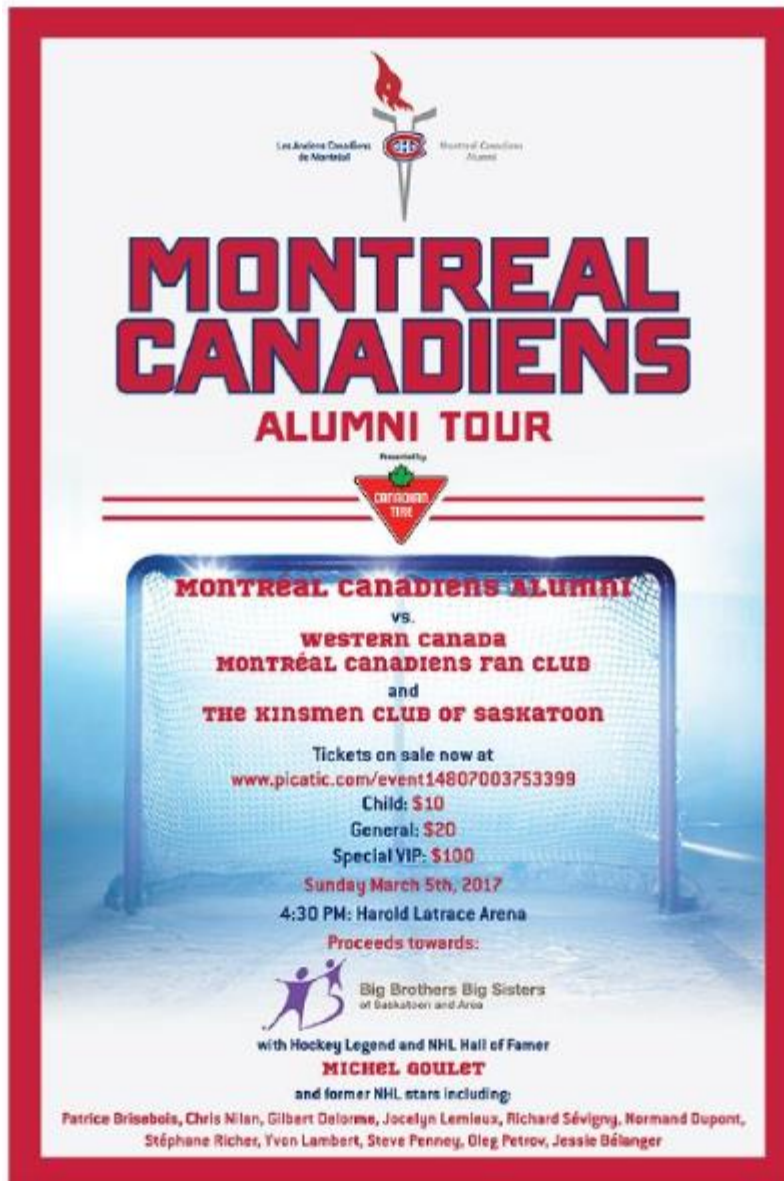


There was an interesting article in Travelmag published February 15, 2017 featuring 12 unique things to do in Saskatoon.

"Divided by the meandering South Saskatchewan River, with each side flanked by verdant parkland and historic neighbourhoods, the city of Saskatoon is pleasingly symmetrical on the eye. Those who delve under the veneer also find a major regional cultural and economic hub, helping make it one of Canada's most popular tourist destinations. A large university community also lend a youthful vitality and richness to the city, ensuring that it is always at the vanguard of culture. But Saskatoon also keeps a firm eye on its past, evident in the numerous monuments and historical landmarks to be found here. For those planning a visit, we've picked out 12 of the most unique things to see and do."

Click [here](#) to read the article!

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



The poster features a red border and a central image of a hockey goal. At the top, the logo for 'Les Anciens Canadiens de Montréal' and 'Montreal Canadiens Alumni' is displayed. Below this, the text 'MONTREAL CANADIENS ALUMNI TOUR' is written in large, bold, red letters. A small 'Presented by' logo for 'CANADIAN TIRE' is positioned above a horizontal line. The main event details are centered within the goal frame, including the matchup 'MONTREAL CANADIENS ALUMNI vs. WESTERN CANADA MONTREAL CANADIENS FAN CLUB and THE KINSMEN CLUB OF SASKATOON', ticket information, date, time, and location. At the bottom, the logo for 'Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saskatoon and Area' is shown, along with the name of the featured player, Michel Goulet, and a list of former NHL stars.

Les Anciens Canadiens de Montréal

Montreal Canadiens Alumni

MONTREAL CANADIENS ALUMNI TOUR

Presented by


CANADIAN TIRE

MONTREAL CANADIENS ALUMNI
vs.
WESTERN CANADA
MONTREAL CANADIENS FAN CLUB
and
THE KINSMEN CLUB OF SASKATOON

Tickets on sale now at
www.picatic.com/event14807003753399
Child: \$10
General: \$20
Special VIP: \$100

Sunday March 5th, 2017
4:30 PM: Harold Latrache Arena

Proceeds towards:

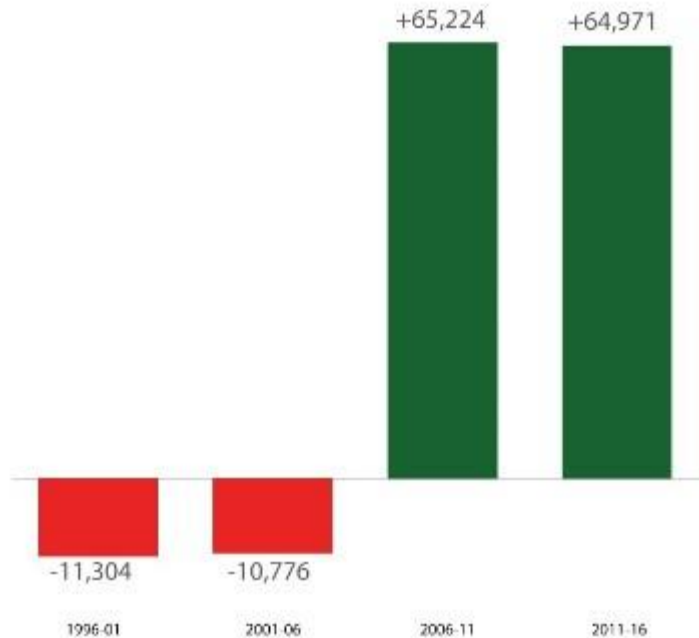
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saskatoon and Area

with Hockey Legend and NHL Hall of Famer
MICHEL GOULET
and former NHL stars including:
Patrice Brisebois, Chris Nilan, Gilbert Delorme, Jocelyn Lemieux, Richard Sévigny, Normand Dupont, Stéphane Richer, Yvon Lambert, Steve Penney, Oleg Petrov, Jessie Bélanger

I am looking forward to bringing greetings at the opening ceremony of the Saskatoon Alumni Classic supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters!

The Montreal Canadiens/Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraiser on Sunday, March 5th at 4:30 pm. I hope to see you there. Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets to see a great game while supporting a fantastic cause.

Change in Saskatchewan Population



Source: Federal Census (2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016)

Saskatchewan 

“The new census numbers show how far Saskatchewan has come in the past decade compared to the decade before that, when we were still losing people and some said it would be impossible for Saskatchewan to grow by even 100,000 people in 10 years,” Premier Brad Wall said. “Obviously, given the current fiscal situation, a growing population presents some challenges for our province, but I would much rather be facing the challenges of growth than the challenges of decline.”

Read the February 8 news release [here](#).

NEW ANTI-BULLYING RESOURCES LAUNCH ACROSS SASKATCHEWAN



Note: This news release was published prior to pink shirt day, February 22.

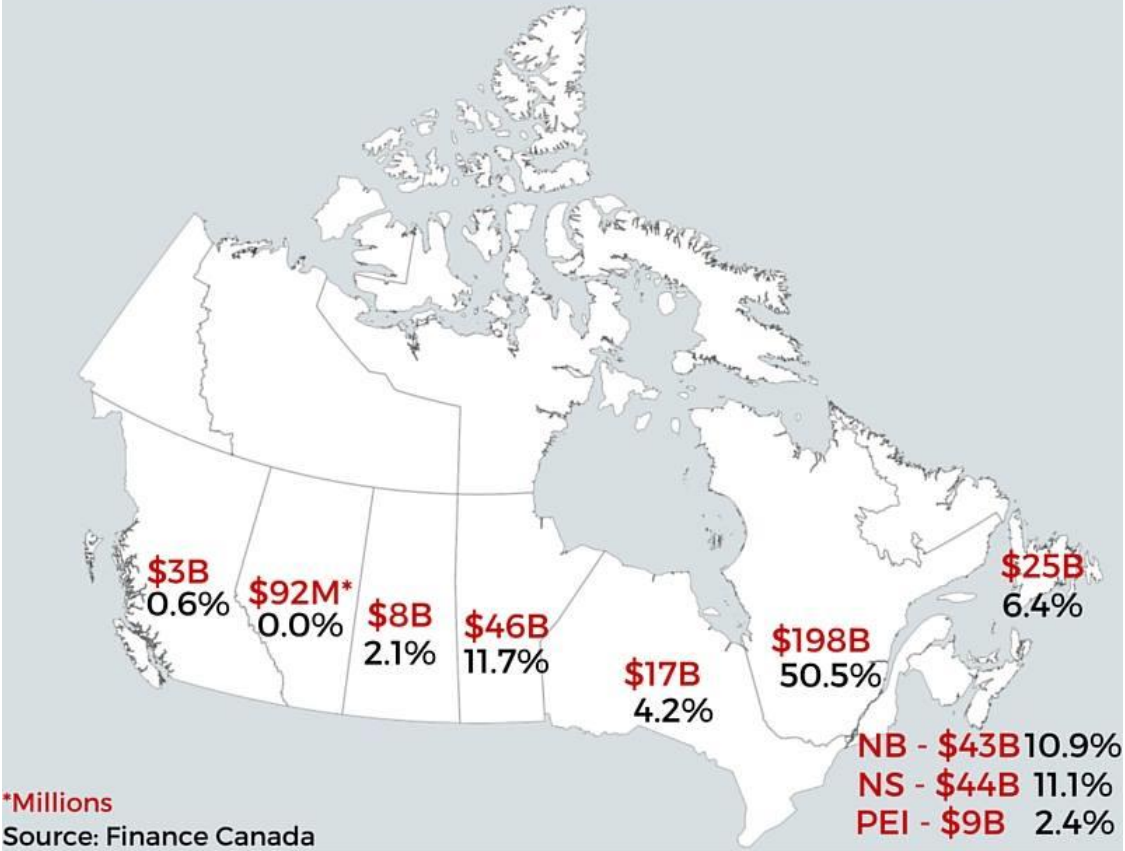
A number of new anti-bullying resources are being provided to Saskatchewan schools today to assist students and teachers as they work to end bullying and create more caring and inclusive schools. The resources include several videos that have been developed as a package called the Student First Anti-Bullying Forum.

Schools are encouraged to use the resources between now and February 17, in advance of Red Cross Pink Day on February 22.

“I hope all students in this province know that they are important and valued, and that they deserve to feel respected in our schools,” Deputy Premier and Education Minister Don Morgan said. “It takes incredible courage to stand up to bullying but please, if you or someone you know needs help, speak up. The safety and well-being of every student is important to me, to their teachers and to those who love them.”

Read more [here](#).

Total Lifetime Equalization Payouts (Billions), % of total



HIGHEST MANUFACTURING SALES GROWTH IN CANADA

MANUFACTURING SALES



\$1.3 Billion

DECEMBER 2016

Month-over-month

↑ 5.4%

*highest
among provinces!*

Year-over-year

↑ 11.9%

*2nd highest
among provinces!*

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Tables 304-0014, 304-0015
December 2016, seasonally-adjusted

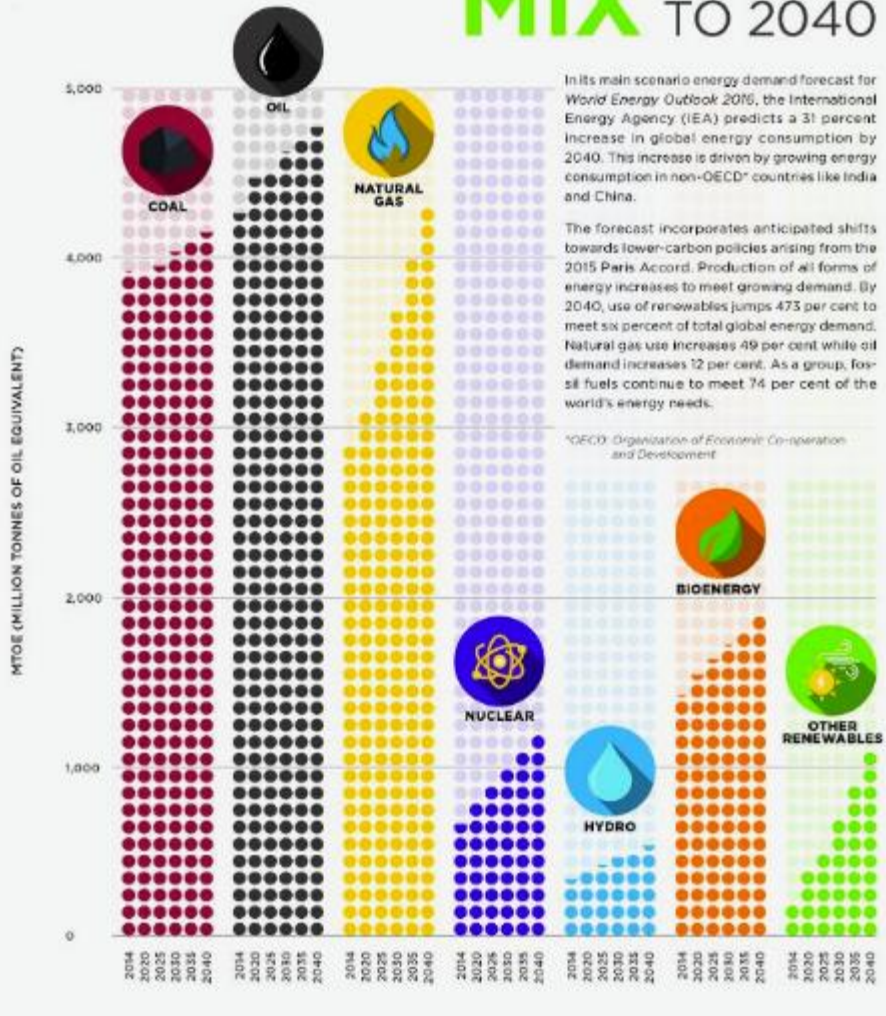
Saskatchewan 

Manufacturing sales in Saskatchewan rose 5.4 per cent (seasonally adjusted) between November 2016 and December 2016, the highest percentage increase among the provinces. Nationally, sales were up 2.3 per cent.

“This marks the second straight month of increases in manufacturing sales,” Economy Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “It is one of the most diverse sectors of the economy that exports products to clients all over the world.”

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

GLOBAL ENERGY MIX TO 2040



Premier Brad Wall, "Some in this country are uncomfortable with our energy sector..as an energy-producing nation, we need to address that.

The world will be primarily dependent on coal, oil and gas for decades. Saskatchewan and Canada is one of the safest and most sustainable producers of that energy.

So let's stop the misrepresentation of this industry and instead focus on continued innovation to ensure Saskatchewan and Canada are global leaders in supplying energy to a world that needs it."

Click [here](#) to see this visual on the CAPP site.



Homestyles - Western Canada's Premier Home Show

When: March 9 - 12

Where: Prairieland Park

Click [here](#) for information



North Saskatoon Business Association (NSBA) 18th Annual Business Builder

Awards

When: March 19

Where: Prairieland Park, Hall B

Click [here](#) for information



Solid As A Rock

Spin For Quinn

Save the Date

When: March 25

Where: Mawson Health & Fitness

All proceeds donated to Quinn's Trust



Teddy Bear Picnic in the Park

When: May 23

Where: Pink Cadillacs - 113-412 Willowgrove Square

Proceeds to ROCK 10 Caged for the Cure



**Teddy Bear Picnic
in the Park**
Saturday, May 23rd
113-412 Willowgrove Square
Ice Cream Cone - \$1.00
Bag of Chips & Pop - \$1.00
**Enter in to win
ED SHEERAN TICKETS
with every purchase**
proceeds to ROCK 102
Caged for the Cure

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



Team Naomi
Get Well Now
2nd Annual Charity
Golf Tournament



PURPOSE OF THE TEAM
NAOMI GET WELL NOW
FOUNDATION
ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE
DONATED TO
RHABDOMYOSARCOMA
RESEARCH IN AN EFFORT TO
FIND A CURE!

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](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

SMILE
Let everyone know
that today, you're a
lot stronger than
you were yesterday.

[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.**

*Copyright © Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA, Saskatoon Willowgrove**

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

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

Email: ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net