

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



Provincial Point of View

May 15, 2014

SPRING SESSION KEEPS SASKATCHEWAN ON THE PATH OF STEADY GROWTH

Another balanced budget and continued investments in infrastructure and people were highlights of the spring session of the Legislative Assembly which wrapped up today, Premier Brad Wall said.

"Our population and our economy continue to grow," Wall said. "There are more jobs and opportunities in Saskatchewan than ever before.

"Our growing economy means we can deliver a balanced budget while still making the important investments we need to make in order to keep Saskatchewan moving forward."

Some of those investments and new initiatives announced during the spring session include:

- the new Regina bypass project;
- a commitment to a new Saskatoon commuter bridge;
- a new Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford;
- renewal of the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital;
- nine new joint-use schools in Regina, Saskatoon, Warman, Martensville;
- the first Social Impact Bond in Canada which used to open a new supported living home in Saskatoon for at-risk single mothers;
- \$4.5 million of a new Trades and Technology Centre at Parkland Regional College in Yorkton;
- \$1 million for continued construction of Weyburn's Southeast Regional College;
- opening of the University of Saskatchewan Health Sciences Centre in Saskatoon;
- passing lanes and twinning projects on a number of Saskatchewan Highways;

- 1,000 new training seats, consisting of 300 new apprenticeship seats and 700 new Adult Basic Education seats;
- upgrades to bandwidth to increase internet speeds in Saskatchewan schools;
- doubling the funding for initiatives to improve education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people;
- expansion of long-term care in La Ronge; and
- a new "hotspotting" pilot project to identify, assist and provide more appropriate services to frequent users of the health care system.

"These are just some of the projects introduced or funded this session to keep Saskatchewan on the path of steady growth, all within a balanced budget," Wall said.

Another priority of the spring session was pressing the federal government to take action on the grain transportation backlog.

"Our ministers and I had numerous meetings with farm groups, the railways, the grain companies and with federal ministers seeking solutions to the grain backlog," Wall said. "While the federal legislation did not go as far as we had hoped, it was a step in the right direction. Grain is beginning to move to port more quickly, but still not quickly enough."

Wall said within the next few weeks, many MLAs will see changes in their responsibilities.

"I will be asking a number of government MLAs to take on new roles while still continuing to perform their most important duty - listening to and representing their constituents," Wall said.

[Spring Session Keeps Saskatchewan on the Path of Steady Growth](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Picnic in the Park

June 19 from 4 - 8 pm

Forestry Farm

Watch for further details!



Our annual Picnic in the Park is one of my favourite days of the year. I look forward to seeing you and your family on Thursday, June 19.

The free event is a great family outing and an excellent opportunity to spend time with people in our constituency and city, while enjoying fantastic entertainment and delicious food.

Hosting Picnic in the Park is possible because of the great volunteers in our community. If you're able to lend a hand or be on our committee, please contact Picnic Chairperson, Megan at 306-850-6817 or Sara at my constituency office at 306-651-7100.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN SASKATCHEWAN DROPS TO LOWEST LEVEL EVER RECORDED

Saskatchewan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.4 per cent in April 2014 – the lowest ever recorded since Statistics Canada started collecting labour market data in 1976. April also marked the 16th consecutive month that the province has had the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

Saskatchewan's 3.4 per cent unemployment rate is less than half the national rate of 6.9 per cent.

“Reaching the lowest unemployment rate ever is a milestone,” Energy and Resources Minister Tim McMillan said. “This is due in large part to our strong economy and the number of job opportunities available in Saskatchewan.”

[Unemployment Rate in Saskatchewan Drops to Lowest Level Ever Recorded](#)

SASKATCHEWAN GIVEN BEST POSSIBLE GRADE FROM CONFERENCE BOARD OF CANADA ECONOMIC REPORT CARD

The resource-driven economies of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador can boast A+ grades for their economic performance. All other provinces earn "B" grades or lower, according to The Conference Board of Canada's first "[How Canada Performs: Economy](#)" report card to compare the 10 provinces and 16 advanced countries. Released today, and building on previous "[How Canada Performs](#)" analyses, the Economy report card is the first of six to be produced over the next year on Canadian and provincial socio-economic performance.

"Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador are "A+" economies—they rank higher than any advanced country in our analysis," said Glen Hodgson, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist. "Rising income in these provinces has led to higher consumer spending, which has boosted the services sector and real estate activity."

[Saskatchewan Given Best Possible Grade from Conference Board of Canada Economic Report Card](#)

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW SOUTHERN CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



Wildlife Habitat Protection Act and Conservation Easements Act Proclaimed

Monday, May 12, Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart and I announced a new land management initiative that balances economic growth with responsible land management. The Southern Conservation Land Management Strategy will offer agricultural lessees the opportunity to purchase eligible parcels of Crown land previously designated under The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA).

Amendments to both WHPA and The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2010 were proclaimed today. Along with new regulations, these two Acts will provide the legal framework for the strategy.

The new strategy accommodates both public and private ownership, using modern conservation tools to make sure that ecological values are maintained, regardless of ownership. I acknowledged the important role that conservation and agricultural stakeholders have played in the development of the strategy. We look forward to continuing to work with them as it is implemented.

[Government Announces New Southern Conservation Land Management Strategy](#)

**SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES CAN NOW APPLY FOR THE SASKATCHEWAN
ADVANTAGE GRANT FOR EDUCATION SAVINGS**

Advanced Education Minister Rob Norris officially launch the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) program and introduced the participating financial institutions.

“I am pleased that the SAGES program is now available through a number of providers,” Norris said. “As well, many other providers will be ready to deliver SAGES in the coming months and this will greatly benefit Saskatchewan families.”

SAGES enables the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a grant of 10 per cent on contributions made since January 1, 2013, into a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) to a maximum of \$250 per child per year.

[Saskatchewan Families Can Now Apply for the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings](#)

**INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SOCIETY OPENS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF REGINA**

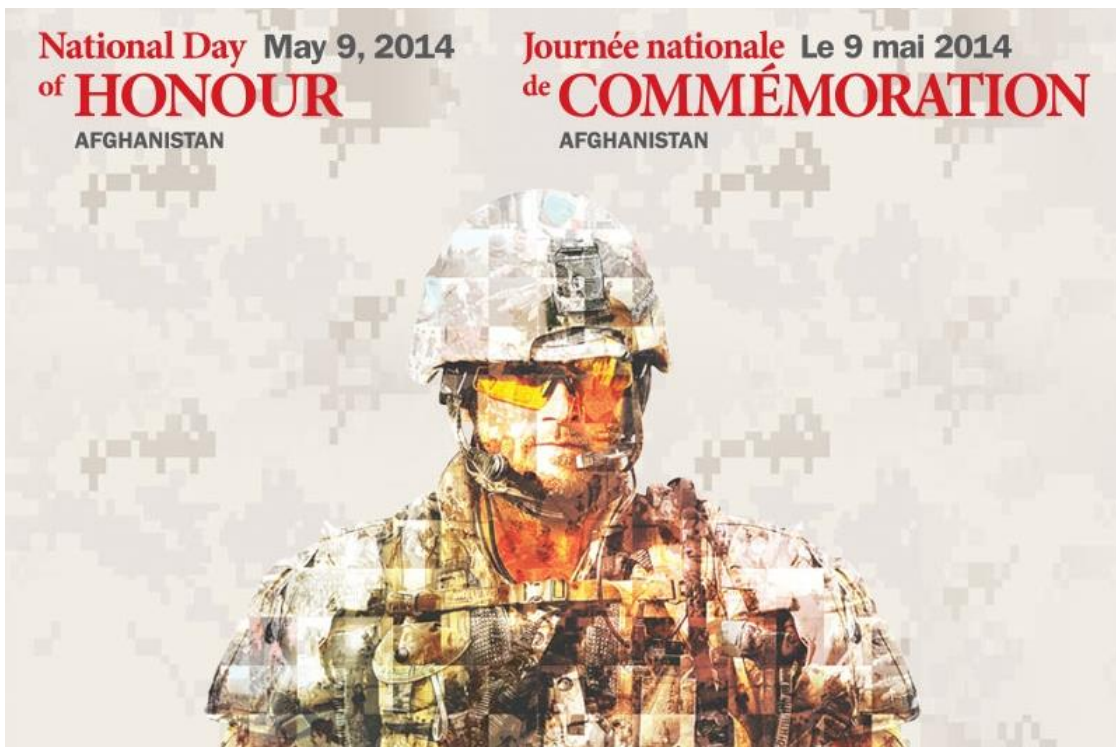


I, along with my colleagues, the Honourable Rob Norris and Regina Qu'Appelle Valley MLA Laura Ross, had the opportunity to attend the opening of the new Institute of Environmental Change and Society (IECS) in the Research and Innovation Centre at the University of Regina. The 6,500 square foot research centre will be home to Canada Research Chairs and allied scholars studying the interactions between human society and the environment, particularly with respect to water quality, availability, use and protection.

It was fantastic to tour the new world-class facilities that will enable faculty, students and staff to conduct cutting-edge research with an environmental focus.

The IECS will provide national leadership in the natural sciences. One of its first initiatives will be to host the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution (CIEE).

NATIONAL DAY OF HONOUR - MAY 9



Friday, May 9, 2014 the City of Saskatoon joined Canadians across the country to honour the end of Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan.

Mayor Donald Atchison spoke at a commemorative ceremony held at 11:25 a.m. on Friday, May 9.

“Members of our community served proudly in the Afghan mission and today we honour their service, their courage and their sacrifice,” says Saskatoon Mayor Donald Atchison. “It is also a day to honour the families of those who gave their lives in the service of their country.”

Ceremony attendees witnessed the lowering of the flag in Civic Square and participated in two minutes of silence to reflect upon the commitments made by members of our community who served in Afghanistan, as well as those who put their lives at risk each day to help keep Saskatoon safe.

[Recognizing National Day of Honour](#)

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SASKATOON FIRST ANNUAL PAJAMAS AND PEARLS GIRLS NIGHT OUT



Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization of business and professional women who unite to make a difference for underprivileged women around the world and locally. They are women at their best helping women be their best.

The local wing of the organization raises funds to assist local underprivileged women achieve their educational goals in order to better support their families through support and grants.

In support of their goals, Soroptimist International Saskatoon is holding their First Annual Pyjamas and Pearls Girls' Night Out on Thursday, June 5 beginning at 7:30 pm at the Bassment. The evening will include a silent auction, appetizers and entertainment from the Toon Town Big Band. Tickets are \$50.00 and are available at Paramount Day Spa & Boutique or email sisaskatoon@soroptimist.net. Proceeds of the event will go to support women and girls locally and worldwide.

I hope you are able to make it to this great event in support of Soroptimist International Saskatoon and their effort to help women locally and globally achieve their greatest potential.

SASKATCHEWAN DRIVERS INVITED TO TAKE THE ROAD SAFETY CHALLENGE

Goal of Reducing Deaths and Injuries on Saskatchewan Roads

Saskatchewan drivers are being challenged to reduce the number of deaths and injuries due to vehicle collisions on our roads.

The Road Safety Challenge aims to make drivers think about simple changes they can make to improve safety on provincial roads and highways, and help meet the target of a 10 per cent reduction in deaths and injuries by Saskatchewan Day 2015 and a 20 per cent reduction by Saskatchewan Day 2017.

“It’s easy to blame the ‘other driver’ for the behaviours causing collisions on Saskatchewan roads and highways,” Minister responsible for SGI Donna Harpauer said. “We’re challenging all drivers to take personal responsibility, and do their part by making simple changes in their driving habits that can lead to big safety benefits. Changes could include volunteering to be the designated driver, always wearing a seatbelt, easing off the gas pedal, and putting down the distractions like cellphones while driving. Small changes can have a big impact.”

[Saskatchewan Drivers Invited to Take the Road Safety Challenge](#)

BIG JUMP IN HOUSING STARTS

Urban housing starts in the province jumped 54 per cent in April 2014 when compared with April 2013. Saskatchewan had the largest percentage increase among the provinces on a year-over-year basis. Nationally, starts were up 12.5 per cent.

“With an influx of population into Saskatchewan, the need and demand for new housing has been increasing,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “This is a significant change from last year and we are well ahead of what is happening in other provinces.”

[Big Jump in Housing Starts](#)

2014 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS NOMINATIONS



The Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards is an annual celebration to recognize the contribution and achievements made by Saskatchewan individuals, groups and organizations in the arts. The awards also promote public awareness, participation and support for the arts.

The Saskatchewan Arts Board is accepting nominations for the 2014 Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award, the deadline for nominations is Friday, May 30 at 4:30 pm.

For more information, please visit: www.artsboard.sk.ca.

INTERNET SPEEDS MORE THAN DOUBLED AT 500 SCHOOLS IN SASKATCHEWAN

On Tuesday, May 13, the Ministry of Education, together with SaskTel, announced the completion of upgraded CommunityNet Internet speeds for approximately 500 schools across the province.

CommunityNet is a dedicated, wide-area network delivered by SaskTel that connects executive

government, health and education sectors in the province to the Internet. SaskTel will be investing more than \$5 million in capital investments over four years to upgrade CommunityNet. The Ministry of Education will also be providing an additional increase of \$2 million annually for operating costs, to ensure faster, and more equitable, internet access for teachers, students, and administrators across the province.

“We are extremely pleased to announce the completion of significant upgrades to CommunityNet that will provide students and teachers across the province with access to the digital tools they need to succeed,” Education Minister Don Morgan said. “This is the most significant increase in bandwidth access for students since the program’s inception in 2001 and the upgrade provides more than double the speeds at most schools and in some cases up to ten times the speed.”

[Internet Speeds More Than Doubled at 500 Schools in Saskatchewan](#)

DID YOU KNOW...

... The Road Safety Challenge aims to reduce deaths and injuries due to vehicle collisions. The goal is a 10% reduction by Saskatchewan Day 2015 and a 20% reduction by Saskatchewan Day 2017.

... In Saskatchewan, there were 7,258 urban housing starts in 2013.

... Saskatchewan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.4% in April 2014 - the lowest ever recorded since Statistics Canada started collecting labour market data in 1976.

... Despite a cold and wet start to spring, seeding has begun in some parts of the province.

... Saskatchewan Provincial Parks are now open for the 2014 season.

JUST THE LINKS

May 15, 2014 - [2014-15 Highway Construction Season Underway](#)

May 15, 2014 - [Agriculture Operator Program Launches Second Module](#)

May 14, 2014 - [Government and First Nations Respond to Advocate for Children and Youth's Report](#)

May 14, 2014 - [Saskatchewan Provincial Parks Open May 15](#)

May 14, 2014 - [Mapping Saskatchewan's Cemeteries](#)

May 13, 2014 - [Reopening of Saskatchewan's Largest Sawmill in Big River Celebrated](#)

May 13, 2014 - [2014 Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship Winners Announced](#)

May 12, 2014 - [Legislation Introduced to Improve Provincial Electoral Process](#)

May 12, 2014 - [Social Impact Bond](#)

May 9, 2014 - [Community Airport Partnership Funds Give Aviation a Lift](#)

May 9, 2014 - [101 Year-Old Legislative Building Dome Gets a Facelift](#)

May 9, 2014 - [Province Helping the Most Vulnerable](#)

COMING EVENTS

Coffee with Councillor Zach Jeffries

Date: May 24

Where: Starbucks in Safeway on McOrmond Drive

When: 10 am - 12 pm

Top of the Hops Grapes and Grains Festival

Date: May 22 - 24

Where: Prairieland Park

When: 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm daily

NatureCity Festival

Date: May 25 - 31

Where: Throughout Saskatoon

When: [View Here](#)

Lows in Motion Commotion Cabaret

Date: May 30

Where: The New Ens Toyota Dealership 627 Brand Court

When: 7 pm [Tickets Here](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

“In any moment of decision,
the best thing you can do
is the right thing,
the next best thing
is the wrong thing,
and the worst thing you can do
is nothing.”

~ Theodore Roosevelt

[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 Silver Springs. Your opinions are important and your letters, emails, and phone calls on any issues relating to the provincial government are welcomed.**

Copyright © 2014 Saskatoon Silver Springs, All rights reserved.



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

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

Email: ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net