

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



## Provincial Point of View

**May 23, 2017**  
**Keeping Saskatchewan Strong!**

### **DIFFICULT BUDGET WILL KEEP SASKATCHEWAN'S ECONOMY AND FINANCES STRONG**



Premier Brad Wall said the highlight of the spring sitting of the Legislature which wraps up today was a difficult but necessary budget that will move Saskatchewan away from its reliance on resource revenues and ensure the province's economy and finances stay strong.

"Some tough choices had to be made in this year's budget, but in the long run, making those choices now is better than kicking the deficit can down the road for someone else to deal with, like some other provinces are doing," Wall said. "We made the choice to meet the fiscal challenge now. That meant making some difficult decisions in this year's budget, but I am very comfortable that we have chosen the right course for the long-term fiscal and economic strength of our province."

Wall noted that cost-cutting efforts started at the top, as all ministers, MLAs and political staff took a 3.5 per cent salary reduction prior to the budget.

Wall said recent economic indicators show Saskatchewan's economy is showing signs of resilience. Employment is up through the first four months of the year, exports are up significantly and Saskatchewan has led the country in areas like wholesale trade, retail sales and building permit growth.

“Saskatchewan’s diverse economy is strong and resilient,” Wall said. “The decisions we are making today will ensure it stays strong into the future.”

The government passed several pieces of legislation in the spring sitting, including:

- Legislation to reduce health care administration and better co-ordinate health services by amalgamating the province’s health regions into one provincial health authority;
- Legislation to protect victims of domestic violence by allowing them to end rental leases early if necessary to remove themselves from an unsafe situation;
- Legislation to clearly define what does and doesn’t constitute “privatization”;
- Legislation to encourage investment in innovation through the creation of the first “patent box” incentive in North America;
- Legislation to improve pipeline safety; and
- Legislation to improve safety for tow truck operators by allowing flashing blue lights to be used on tow trucks.

During the spring session, Wall also announced that the province will use the notwithstanding clause to protect school choice, following a court decision that would force non-Catholic students out of Catholic schools and threaten funding to other faith-based schools.

## **11 AMAZING PLACES YOU HAD NO IDEA WERE IN SASKATCHEWAN**

**WE IN SASKATCHEWAN** take a great deal of pride in our home province. Yes, we’ve got those famed wheat fields of the southern prairies — but there’s also the lesser-known lakes and forests of the central and northern parklands. Saskatchewan’s landscape is nothing if not diverse, complete with plunging chasms and soaring cliffs, shifting sand dunes, and the sharpness of the Canadian Shield. Below, you’ll discover just a few of the amazing places you had no idea were hiding right here.

**We will highlight one of the eleven amazing places in Saskatchewan in each newsletter .... if you're anxious to see them all, please click [here!](#)**



**The Great Sand Hills:** Surprisingly, some of the largest sand dunes in Canada are in Saskatchewan. The Athabasca Sand Dunes, in the far north, are the largest active dunes in the country, and are perhaps the northernmost dunes in the world. As in, very far north — meaning they're also not that easy to get to.

The [Great Sand Hills](#) in southwestern Saskatchewan are much more accessible, being only a little over an hour's drive from the city of Swift Current. Covering 750 square miles, the majority of the Great Sand Hills comprises inactive or stabilized dunes covered in rose and berry bushes, sagebrush, cacti, and prairie grasses. Cattle graze on these dunes and are equally as at home in this desert-like landscape as the mule deer and pronghorn antelope that roam the hills.

The wind works waves into the sand, which shines white in the sunshine and reddish-gold in the evening. It's a peaceful place for a walk, and to watch the more than 150 species of birds in the area. You can try to capture an image of this seemingly endless expanse of sand and sky, but it will never all fit in the frame.

**[VOTE FOR SASKATOON - BEST DESTINATION IN CANADA!](#)**



Saskatoon is nominated for the reader's choice "2017 Best Destination in Canada" in USA TODAY! You can vote daily until mid-June. Help claim the #1 spot for Saskatoon! Please vote everyday and spread the word by sharing the link!! [#saskatooning](#) [#yxe](#)

From major metropolises to quaint coastal towns, Canada has no shortage of travel-worthy destinations. USA TODAY 10 Best asked a panel of Canadian travel writers to choose their favorite must-see destinations in Canada. Now it's your turn to crown a winner. Cast your ballot for your favorite once per day until voting closes on Monday, June 19 at noon ET. The 10 winning destinations, as determined by your vote, will be announced on Friday, June 23. Read the official Readers' Choice rules [here](#).

Straddling the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon is a young and vibrant city, the capital of Saskatchewan and a hub of country and rock 'n' roll music. This four-seasons destination is most popular in the summer months, with long days perfect for exploring river trails or attending one of 40 summer events.

## **SASKATCHEWAN'S RETAIL SALES GROWTH ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE**

Retail sales in Saskatchewan experienced robust growth in March in comparison to the other provinces, adding to recent upward trends in other economic sectors. Year-over-year, retail sales in Saskatchewan were up by 8.7 per cent in March 2017 compared to March 2016, to a total of \$1.7 billion—the second-highest percentage growth across the country and ahead of the national average of 6.9 per cent. The province saw an increase of 2.7 per cent in retail sales in March 2017 compared to the previous month,

ranking Saskatchewan third in percentage change among the provinces and, well above the national average of 0.7 per cent.

“These statistics indicate renewed consumer confidence in Saskatchewan and of an economy that is trending in the right direction,” Economy Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “Our province is well-positioned to stimulate continued growth and activity in our key sectors, which is good news for our people and businesses.”

All figures are seasonally adjusted.

## **1.1 BILLION DOLLAR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION SEASON RAMPING UP**



### *Slow Down Through the Work Zone*

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure’s budget is set for a near-record construction season that will see work continue on about 990 kilometres of provincial highways.

“This is the second largest transportation budget in our history, so we anticipate there will be many work zones going up across the province,” Highways and Infrastructure Minister David Marit said. “We understand the summer season is a busy time for travel and motorists want to get to their destination quickly and safely. I want to stress the importance of keeping these work zones safe.”

Construction projects are designed to provide a safe and efficient road network and, during the busy summer months, there is also a lot of highway traffic. Motorists need to obey signs and flag persons and

slow to 60 km/hr through the work zone. Drivers can also check the Highway Hotline for road construction prior to leaving for their destination.

“Work will continue on major projects like the Regina Bypass, Warman and Martensville overpasses, and Highway 7 and 39 twinning, so it’s important to stay alert when entering any work zone,” Marit said.

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

## **SGI SALVAGE AND SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC MARK UNIQUE 15-YEAR PARTNERSHIP**



***Students Train for Automotive Service and Auto Body Technician Careers by Fixing Total Loss Vehicles***

It all started with a Pontiac Sunfire in 2002. Since then, nearly 250 vehicles have been repaired by Saskatchewan Polytechnic Automotive Service and Auto Body Technician certificate students.

Today, a long-running but little-known partnership between Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) Salvage and Saskatchewan Polytechnic was celebrated at Saskatoon campus.

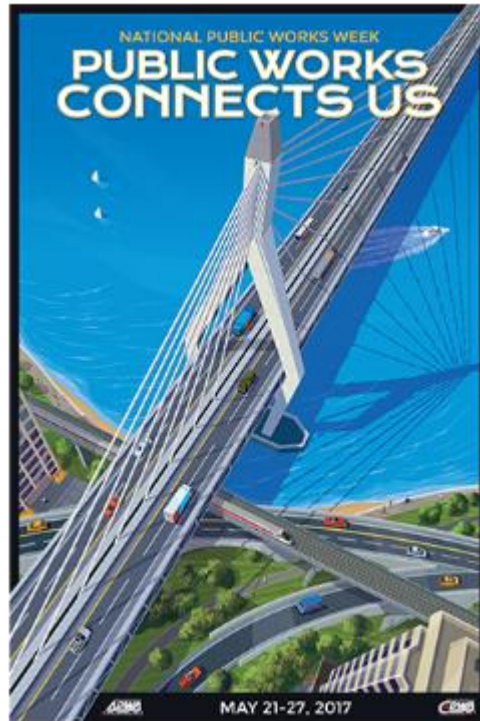
For 15 years, SGI has supplied vehicles to Automotive Service Technician and Auto Body Technician certificate programs.

“This program is a win-win; students get hands-on experience fixing damaged vehicles that could otherwise end up in salvage or scrap yards, and SGI customers benefit by reduced costs,” Saskatoon Westview MLA David Buckingham said on behalf of Minister Responsible for SGI Joe Hargrave.



Read about SGI and Saskatchewan Polytechnic [here](#).

## RECOGNIZING SASKATCHEWAN'S PUBLIC WORKS PROFESSIONALS



The vital role public works plays in linking us together is recognized through this year's Public Works Week theme, "Public Works Connects Us." No matter where you go in Saskatchewan, you will find public works actively connecting communities not only within the province, but to the rest of the world.

"Our theme, Public Works Connects Us, refers to the many ways we connect with each other and nature every day," Saskatchewan Public Works Association President Dale Petrun said. "Seemingly simple things like your commute, having a morning cup of coffee or taking a walk in the park, would not be possible without public works professionals. It is great to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedicated service that public works professionals provide to communities of all sizes in Saskatchewan."

Recognized annually, Public Works Week is an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of public works professionals, promote careers in public works, and highlight the importance of public works and the people behind them to the province and the country.

## GOVERNMENT TO APPEAL SCHOOL FUNDING RULING

The Government of Saskatchewan will appeal last month's Court of Queen's Bench ruling on separate school funding.

"After a thorough review of the decision, we will be filing a notice of appeal to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal," Justice Minister and Attorney General Gordon Wyant said. "In doing so, I hope we get further clarification on this matter that is vitally important for Saskatchewan families."

On April 20, the Court of Queen's Bench ruled on a legal challenge brought by the Good Spirit Public School Division. The Court held that Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division could not receive provincial funding for non-Catholic students. The Court ruled that the government must stop paying for non-minority faith students to attend separate schools.

The government disagrees with this ruling. If allowed to stand, the ruling would affect approximately 10,000 students who would no longer be funded to attend Catholic schools.

The government previously announced Saskatchewan will invoke the notwithstanding clause regarding the decision.

"We wanted to give students and their families the certainty that their ability to choose which school they attend will not be impacted by this decision," Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Don Morgan said. "Use of the notwithstanding cause will give parents that certainty, without having to worry about the outcome of an appeal."

## **SASKATCHEWAN'S MANUFACTURING SALES GROWTH LEADS NATION**

Growth in manufacturing sales in Saskatchewan showed significant year-over-year strength in March, more than doubling the national average.





“The innovation and competitiveness of Saskatchewan’s manufacturers have earned them a share of the global marketplace and put them on the leading edge of our economic growth,” Economy Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “Leading the country in manufacturing growth is a testament to the strength and resiliency of our province’s economy.”

Read the news release [here](#).

**DATE EXTENDED, CHANGES MADE TO PST ON INSURANCE PREMIUMS**

**EXTENDED**

Following discussions with insurance industry associations, the Government of Saskatchewan has extended the effective date for the application of PST to insurance premiums from July 1, 2017 to August 1, 2017. The extension provides the industry with additional time to implement the application of PST and to address updates.

“The insurance industry associations have asked us for more time to implement this change and we want to ensure a smooth implementation,” Finance Minister Kevin Doherty said. “We’ve listened and have agreed to move the effective date back one month as well as update the application of PST to ensure it is applied fairly across the industry.”

Updates ensuring PST on insurance premiums is applied equitably include:

- applying PST to self-insured group arrangements, also known as Administrative Services Only (ASO) arrangements;
- exempting PST from individual permanent life insurance policies in effect prior to August 1, 2017. New policies effective after July 31, 2017 will be subject to PST; and
- clarifying that any endorsements added to insurance contracts with an effective date prior to August 1, 2017 are not subject to PST.

With these updates, PST of six per cent applies to all insurance premiums with an effective date on or after August 1, 2017 sold by companies, agencies or groups where the insured person is a resident of Saskatchewan or the contract is for property located in Saskatchewan.

**[RACE FOR KIDS THIS WEEKEND!](#)**



***Race for Kids™*** is a return to the best adventures of childhood, embracing the carefree days of being a kid, and a bonding experience for you and your team as you challenge your skills while raising funds for boys and girls to have the same opportunity.

Your teams of four will compete in 10 themed challenging checkpoints in a race to the finish line. Checkpoints will be designed to incorporate activities that focus the mind and challenge the body. Challenges are not based on athletic prowess or mental superiority; rather, they are designed for fun and building teamwork. Think of it as the perfect combination between *The Amazing Race* and *Minute to Win It*.

Please visit [www.raceforkids.ca/saskatoon](http://www.raceforkids.ca/saskatoon) to register or for more info.

# SILVERSPRING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

**Saturday, May 27th  
9:00am to 3:00pm**

Stop by our booth located in the parking lot of Ebenezer Church (corner of McWillie Ave and Central Ave) to *pick up your official Garage Sale Map*. We will be offering a complimentary refreshment and treat in the morning for everyone that stops by and then later that afternoon we will be BBQing hot dogs between 11:00am and 1:00pm. While quantities last. Hope to see you there!

Saskatoon Silverspring I having a garage sale this Saturday, May 27th! Be sure to check it out!

**WHOLESALE TRADE IN SASKATCHEWAN SHOWS CONTINUED  
STRENGTH**



In March 2017, wholesale trade in Saskatchewan grew 13.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted) over March 2016, above the national average of 10.2 per cent for the same period. Saskatchewan ranked third in percentage growth among the provinces.

“Wholesale trade continued to grow in March, and that shows that our provincial economy remains strong and resilient,” Economy Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “Growth in wholesale trade points to optimism as wholesale trade statistics are known as a leading indicator of future economic growth.”

Click [here](#) to read more.

**TO READ ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES, CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW**





# News Releases

[Government of Canada and Saskatchewan Support \\$6.4 Million Expansion of Balgonie Wastewater System](#)

[Feedback Requested on WCB Board Governance and Appeals](#)

[Federal and Provincial Governments Break Ground for New Habitat for Humanity Home in Duck Lake](#)

[Changes to Senior Public Service](#)

[Government House Launches Canada 150 Feature Exhibit](#)

[Crop Report for the Period May 9 - 15, 2017](#)

[Watch Out for Loyalty Insurance Group](#)

*Upcoming*  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**



## Silverspring Community Association Annual Garage and Trunk Sale

When: Saturday, May 27 from 9 am - 3 pm

Where: Silverspring Community

For information or to register, [click here](#)

Note: you must register your house address by May 24 to be included on the office garage sale map!



## Race for Kids

When: Saturday, May 27

Where: Rotary Park, 10 am start

"Support of Boys and Girls Clubs"

Click [here](#) for details



## The Teddy Bear Picnic 2017

When: May 27

Where: Deifenbaker Park

Click [here](#) for details



Tim Horton's Camp Day

Buy and coffee and help turn a kid's life around!

When: Wednesday, May 31

Click [here](#) to find out more



Team Naomi Get Well Now 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

When: June 3

Where: Greenbryre Golf and Country Club

For information contact [teamnaomigetwellnow@gmail.com](mailto:teamnaomigetwellnow@gmail.com) and watch this newsletter for more details



PotashCorp Children's Festival of Saskatchewan

When: June 3 - June 6

Where: Kiwanis Memorial Park

[Click here for details](#)



Original 16 Country Concert Series at Rock Creek

**ORIGINAL 16  
country concert  
series  
AT ROCK CREEK!**

TUES. JUN. 6.17 JACKIE GUY, SHANTAIA POULIN  
TUES. JUN.20.17 JJ VOSS, BRODY SIEBERT  
TUES. JUL.11.17 BRUIN, LISA MOEN  
TUES. JUL.25.17 ERIN HILL, BROCK ANDREWS  
TUES. AUG.15.17 JUSTIN LABRASH, KELSEY FITCH  
TUES. AUG.22.17 MABALEKA, AARON RIDGEN  
TUES. AUG.29.17 ALEX RUNIONS, ELLY THORN  
TUES. SEPT.5.17 DARLENE TULETA, ROLAND CORRIGAL  
WED. SEPT.6.17 AMANDA HAGEL, STEVE GIBSON  
THUR. SEPT.7.17 TENILLE ARTS, SAMARA YUNG

ALL CONCERTS WILL TAKE PLACE  
AT ROCK CREEK TAP AND GRILL: MCORMOND LOCATION,  
#102-1820 MCORMOND DR.  
RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED! CALL 306.979.7337 TO RESERVE A TABLE.  
ALL CONCERTS START AT 7:30PM.

**SASKO MUSIC** **Rock Creek** **ORIGINAL** **COUNTRY MUSIC WEEK**  
TAP AND GRILL GREAT WESTERN BEERINGS 16

## Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame

When: June 7

Where: TCU Place

Inductees: Darcy Bear, Betty-Ann Heggie and Vaughn Wyant

[Click here for details](#)



## 20th Annual Zoogala

When: June 16

Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm and Zoo

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



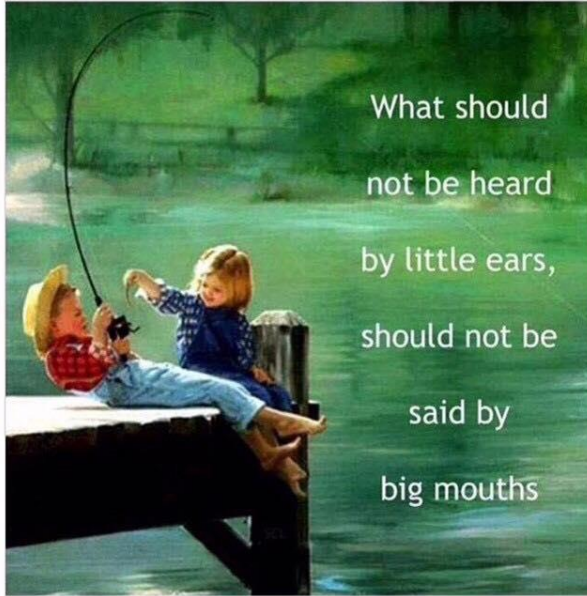
## Canadian Country Music Association Awards

When: September 10

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



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY



[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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