



## From a Provincial Point of View

April 22, 2011

### Happy Easter!

May the promise of Easter fill your heart with peace and joy. Take a moment to remember Easter's true meaning and celebrate with those you love. Trish, Carter, Paige and I wish you and yours a very happy Easter.

### SASKATCHEWAN MOURNS THE LOSS OF FORMER PREMIER ALLAN BLAKENEY

Saskatchewan is mourning the loss of former Premier Allan Blakeney, who passed away April 16th following a battle with cancer. Blakeney was Premier of Saskatchewan from 1971 to 1982.

Premier Brad Wall expressed condolences on behalf of the government and people of Saskatchewan.

"Premier Blakeney will be remembered as a steady leader during a volatile decade," Wall said. "He was a strong voice for Saskatchewan, but he also believed in a strong and united Canada. He balanced those interests throughout his term and especially during the negotiations that led to the repatriation of the constitution in 1982."

Wall noted that Blakeney came to Saskatchewan from Nova Scotia in 1950 to provide "temporary" service to the Douglas government and remained in Saskatchewan for the rest of his life.

"I think that says a lot about both Allan Blakeney and about Saskatchewan," Wall said. "He obviously grew to love his adopted province and he served Saskatchewan well in many different roles as a civil servant, MLA, Minister, Opposition Leader and Premier.

"Tami and I want to express our deepest sympathies to Premier Blakeney's wife Anne and to his children Hugh, Barbara, Margaret and David and their families."

The flags at the Legislature will fly at half staff until Blakeney's funeral and a condolence book will be set up in the rotunda of the Legislature for citizens to provide messages to the Blakeney family

### FORMER MLA AND FRIEND, SERGE LeCLERC PASSES

We were saddened to hear the news of Serge's passing on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our friend and colleague will be remembered for bringing the teen challenge program to Saskatchewan. He had a way of making kids feel valuable and we will concentrate on the many good things Serge accomplished. He always focused on changing the lives of others and that was very inspirational to us all. We'd all like to leave this world knowing we have made it a better place and have contributed to changing somebody's life for the better. Serge was certainly able to do that, especially through his work with troubled youth.

We admired many things in Serge's political life such as how articulate, outspoken and passionate he was. He never missed an opportunity to speak his mind!

On behalf of my wife Trish, and my colleagues, our sincere and heartfelt sympathy go out to his wife Janine and her two children.

**Greg Ottenbreit was Serge's seatmate and good friend. Greg read the following statement in the Legislature on Monday:**

It is a privilege, but with sadness that I rise in this assembly today to speak about the passing of an individual, who at times seemed bigger than life...humanitarian, motivational speaker, author, former MLA for Saskatoon N.W., but to me firstly, a friend...Mr. Serge LeClerc

His life of hardship, and at times survival through crime, is well documented in his autobiography, "Untwisted"...born of a young aboriginal girl who was a victim of rape, he stood little chance for a productive life. Years of physical abuse, a risky lifestyle, and incarceration should have left him dead many times...

...but through an eventual encounter with a Christian Pastor who asked Serge some difficult questions...he was renewed through faith in Jesus Christ...turned his back on his old life, and strived to offset the wrongs of his past!

He used his story to educate young people of the pitfalls and repercussions of drugs and crime, but was very careful not to glorify it, and would often say "my testimony is a powerful one, but it isn't a good one!"

Serge was instrumental in bringing the highly successful "Teen Challenge" program to Saskatchewan, before retiring from that organization and being elected to this assembly in 2007.

He became ill almost 1 year ago, was diagnosed with cancer some time after, and passed away Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> in Trenton, Ont...A celebration of his life will be held there on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Serge was not perfect...none are...to some he seemed stubborn, abrasive, and blunt, and at times he may have been, but always with the best of intentions from a passionate heart!

I believe we should measure a man, not only by where he is, and what has accomplished, but by how far he has come...I have never met anyone that has gone such a distance...and touched so many in such a positive way, as Serge LeClerc has!

May God bless his family...and Godspeed, my friend!

...Rest in peace...

**SASKATCHEWAN'S CODIE PREVOST OFF TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL**



Ken with Codie Prevost.

We look forward to Codie's performance at our Picnic in the Park on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

during the Prairie Scene send off.

Government's direct investment in Prairie Scene will give established and emerging artists and leaders in the province's creative industries a chance to be seen and heard on the national and international stage.

[Read more . .](#)

The Government of Saskatchewan is wishing Saskatchewan artists - musicians, performers, writers, dancers and visual artists - all the best as they leave for the Prairie Scene Festival in Ottawa.

Saskatchewan artists will be entertaining audiences and impressing talent scouts and booking agents from all over Canada. I had the opportunity to visit with Codie at the legislature today as he performed

## **TOURISM AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

I had the privilege of attending the Tourism Awards of Excellence last night at TCU place along with Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, The Honourable Bill Hutchinson. Contributions to the province's tourism sector were recognized during the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Saskatchewan Tourism Award of Excellence Gala.

I had the opportunity to present the Service Excellence (Business) Award sponsored by Casino Regina. The award was presented to a business that has shown obvious commitment to customer service over a prolonged period and demonstrated high levels of customer satisfaction.

The gala attendees included representatives of the hospitality industry, award sponsors and nominees. It was great to see the hundreds of people in attendance for this special event.

## **POTASH CORPORATION HELPS BRING AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE TO SASKATCHEWAN**

Another milestone in the development of helicopter air medical services in Saskatchewan was announced last week when Potash Corp came forward with a corporate donation of \$27 million in support of Saskatchewan's new 10-year agreement with STARS (Alberta-based Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society).

This initiative is also receiving significant financial support from lead donor Crescent Point Energy, which committed \$5 million over the next few years, and from Mosaic, which came forward as a founding donor with a \$5.5 million commitment. Other notable donors include Enbridge, Husky and Rawlco Radio.

Medical helicopter service will be based in both Saskatoon and Regina and will significantly improve access to highly-skilled medical professions, particularly for patients in rural and remote areas.

This service is a great enhancement to the existing ground and air ambulance services and one that will be closely coordinated with those services.

## **SUMMIT TO FOCUS ON HOUSING IN SASKATCHEWAN**

The ongoing effort to effectively meet the growing demand for housing in Saskatchewan is taking center stage at the Building Communities, Building Saskatchewan Housing and Development Summit being held this week in Saskatoon. The summit is presented by Saskatchewan Housing Corporation in partnership with the Canadian Home Builders' Association - Saskatchewan.

Social Services Minister and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation June Draude said, "This summit will allow government and housing industry stakeholders to take an in-depth, co-operative approach to solving our province's housing challenges, and to continue to develop a housing system that enables all citizens to build a better future."

"It is incumbent upon all communities, industry partners, builders, developers, municipalities, and the province to work together to build the necessary capacity to satisfy the emerging demand for housing throughout Saskatchewan," Canadian Home Builders' Association - Saskatchewan CEO Alan Thomarat said. "It is Saskatchewan's time we can build our future and chart a strong future for all communities. We are all in this together, building communities and building Saskatchewan."

As part of the recently released Saskatchewan Advantage Housing Plan, more than \$252 million is being invested in Saskatchewan to add more than 4,600 new homeownership and rental housing units across the province over the next five years. This is in addition to the 861 new government-funded rental units completed over the last three years and the more than 1,100 additional government-assisted homes that are currently under development around the province. The overall aim of the comprehensive housing strategy will be to complement these investments with creative solutions that make life more affordable for Saskatchewan citizens and help the Saskatchewan housing market match the demands of a growing population and a growing economy.

[Read more . . .](#)



Premier David Alward with Ken



As part of my Ministerial responsibilities, I travelled to Ottawa to attend the third meeting of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group. Provincial and territorial ministers from across Canada met with leaders from five national Aboriginal organizations to work on a plan to increase graduation rates, support economic development and end violence against Aboriginal Women.

## **SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT REWARDS GREEN DRIVERS WITH SGI REBATES**

Reducing pollution is important to Saskatchewan drivers and the Saskatchewan Government is making it easier to make environmentally friendly choices by delivering SGI rebates for fuel-efficient vehicles.

The Saskatchewan Government is making the environmentally friendly choice an even better deal with the Go Green rebate that lowers insurance bills by 20 per cent for fuel-efficient vehicles.

The rebate applies to all hybrid vehicles, as well as vehicles meeting Transport Canada's ecoAUTO thresholds for fuel efficiency, for model years 2006 and newer. Owners of hybrid and qualifying fuel-efficient vehicles will receive a 20 per cent rebate on their 2010 Auto Fund insurance and registration costs.

[Read more . . .](#)

For more information about the green rebate, visit SGI's website at [www.sgi.sk.ca](http://www.sgi.sk.ca).

## **THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

"You get the best out of others when you give the best yourself." Harvey Firestone

## **JUST THE HEADLINES – [www.gov.sk.ca/news](http://www.gov.sk.ca/news)**

Apr. 21, 2011 - PROVINCE INVESTS \$6 MILLION TO INCREASE HOUSING SUPPLY IN SASKATCHEWAN  
Apr. 21, 2011 - \$700,000 IN SHORTLINE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS ANNOUNCED  
Apr. 21, 2011 - SASKATCHEWAN RETAIL SALES HIGHEST IN CANADA  
Apr. 21, 2011 - YUKON SIGNS ON TO SASKATCHEWAN'S MS LIBERATION CLINICAL TRIALS  
Apr. 21, 2011 - GREENING INNOVATION  
Apr. 20, 2011 - CROWN SECTOR PERFORMS WELL IN 2010  
Apr. 20, 2011 - MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS KICKS OFF 2011-12 CONSTRUCTION SEASON  
Apr. 20, 2011 - GOVERNMENT SEEKS FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENTS  
Apr. 20, 2011 - MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS KICKS OFF 2011-12 CONSTRUCTION SEASON  
Apr. 20, 2011 - GOVERNMENT SEEKS FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENTS  
Apr. 19, 2011 - PROVINCE WELCOMES NEW CANPOTEX RAILCAR MAINTENANCE AND STAGING FACILITY  
Apr. 19, 2011 - UPGRADED AMPHIBIOUS AIRCRAFT ARRIVES IN SASKATCHEWAN  
Apr. 19, 2011 - SASKATCHEWAN VOLUNTEERS HONOURED  
Apr. 18, 2011 - PUBLIC MEMORIAL SERVICE TO BE HELD FOR FORMER PREMIER  
Apr. 18, 2011 - MORE STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS  
Apr. 18, 2011 - ANOTHER LARGE DROP IN EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFICIARIES

## **DID YOU KNOW ? ? ?**

- The University of Saskatchewan is one North America's most beautiful campuses with its distinctive architecture.
- The Target 8,000 Project is an initiative to the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce produced monthly to track our job creation performance.

## **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 to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call me.





**Follow Me On Facebook – [www.facebook.com/pages/Ken-Cheveldayoff/52760912740](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ken-Cheveldayoff/52760912740)**

***“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. Contact Ken by calling (306) 651-7100, emailing [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net) or writing Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs, 1106A Central Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 2H1. **To subscribe or be removed from this newsletter, please send an email message.** This newsletter is produced with the assistance of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus Office.