



Ken Cheveldayoff

## From a Provincial Point of View

October 7, 2011

### NOTICE

***Ken Cheveldayoff, Saskatoon Silver Spring MLA Office will be closed as of 6:00 p.m. October 10, 2011 due to the issuance of the Electoral Writ.***

### TODAY IN SASKATCHEWAN WE SEE:

- Rebates up to \$20,000 in undergraduate tuition
- 120 new police officers
- Over 800 more nurse
- 40 new physician training seats
- 60 new medical residency positions
- Cost per prescription for children under 14 capped at \$15
- Funding for a Children's Hospital
- Saskatchewan Trauma and Rescue Service (STARS)
- Surgical wait times reduced
- The largest property tax reduction in Provincial history
- Provincial sales tax eliminated on used cars

### HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving is the holiday of peace, the celebration of work and the simple life... a true folk-festival that speaks the poetry of the turn of the seasons, the beauty of seedtime and harvest, the ripe product of the year.

We have much to be thankful for in Saskatchewan.

I hope you are blessed with peace, love and great joy. My wife Trish, our children Carter and Paige and I wish you and your families a special Thanksgiving weekend.

Happy Thanksgiving!

## PLEASE VOTE



We know that Thanksgiving weekend is a family weekend. Please show your support for Curtis and the Children's Hospital by taking a bit of time to phone in on Sunday night before or after your turkey dinner. We thank you for helping...we want to keep Curtis on the "Battle!" Just keep hitting redial...you'll get more votes in on the phone!

Phone 1-877-844-8153.

## SASKATCHEWAN FAMILIES SAVING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS THROUGH LOWER TAXES

A Saskatchewan family of four earning \$50,000 a year has saved more than \$8,000 over the past four years as a result of the income tax reductions introduced by the provincial government.

If taxes had remained at 2007 levels, that family would have paid \$9,208 in provincial income tax over the past four years. However, income tax reductions introduced by the government starting in 2008 lowered their income taxes to \$1,121 over that same period, a saving of \$8,087 or 88 per cent.

"That's a significant reduction," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said. "Putting that money back in the pockets of Saskatchewan families will go a long way toward making life more affordable."

These calculations include the enhancements made to the basic, spousal and dependent child exemptions, introduction of the Active Families Benefit and the Low Income Tax Credit, and the impact of indexation of tax brackets and personal exemption amounts.

As a result of these improvements, this Saskatchewan family now faces the second lowest overall taxes in the nation, behind only Alberta, and the gap with that province has narrowed over the past four years.

A family of four will pay no provincial income tax on their first \$45,550 of earned income, the highest income threshold in Canada.

A family of four earning \$75,000 will have saved a total of \$7,268, or 36 per cent in income taxes over the past four years as a result of the income tax reductions introduced since 2007.

These income tax reductions have also reduced the number of Saskatchewan income tax payers by more than 110,000 in 2011.

"The Saskatchewan of today is a far more competitive and family-friendly place than it was," Krawetz said. "I think we're seeing that in the level of investment we're enjoying, the strength of the economy and the growth of our population. Our young people are coming home."

Krawetz said the government has also made important progress on reducing education property taxes and business taxes.

Over the past four years, total education property tax reductions amount to \$165.7 million, or 22.2 per cent. This year's reduction in the small business income tax rate from 4.5 per cent to two per cent saves Saskatchewan business operators \$80 million a year.

People buying light used vehicles in Saskatchewan have also seen their tax burden reduced since the government removed the PST on these vehicles. From 2008 to 2010, this new exemption took the PST off an estimated 242,000 used vehicles, saving Saskatchewan taxpayers \$148 million.

While taxes have been coming down, so has the province's debt. Since 2007, the government has paid down more than \$3 billion in debt, bringing the government general debt level to \$3.8 billion, the lowest it has been since 1988.

As a result of the province's strong economy and declining debt, Standard and Poors upgraded the province's credit rating to its highest level of Triple A, the first time Saskatchewan has ever achieved the highest rating.

"Less debt, lower taxes, and more money back in Saskatchewan families' pockets - that's the Saskatchewan Advantage," Krawetz said.

## **ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO START ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 10**

Premier Brad Wall today said he will visit the Lieutenant-Governor late Monday afternoon to ask him to dissolve the Legislature and issue the writ of election, officially starting the campaign for the November 7 provincial election.

"I hope everyone in Saskatchewan enjoys the Thanksgiving weekend, spends some time with their family and friends, and then let's have an election campaign," Wall said.

Unlike previous provincial elections, the timing of this election comes as no surprise. Wall set the election date the day after the last election in 2007 - keeping a promise to establish set election dates and ending the governing party's chance to play games with the election call.

"As we head into the Thanksgiving weekend, we have a lot to be thankful for in Saskatchewan," Wall said. "We have a strong and growing economy, and Saskatchewan people are enjoying the benefits of that growth.

"Still, there is more work to be done. In the next few weeks, we will be talking about our government's record over the past four years and our plan to keep moving Saskatchewan forward."

Wall wished everyone in Saskatchewan a Happy Thanksgiving.

## **SASK REAL ESTATE BEAR PIT**

I, along with my colleagues, the Honourable Don Morgan and the Honourable Bill Boyd were pleased to



Back row: Bill Madder, Al Didur, Richard Brown, Rhonda Toth,  
Front row: Ken, Minister Don Morgan, Minister Bill Boyd

pertaining to the Saskatchewan Realtors.

have the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with the Saskatchewan Realtors last week in Regina.

Moderator Richard Brown will welcomed the guests and the panel. We were given a few minutes to introduce ourselves prior to questions posed by the moderator interspersed with questions from the audience. The questions included issues



Ken with Gary Busch, constituent

It was a great opportunity to meet with this progressive group of people that continue to do great work in our province.

## **STRONG EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS: 4,900 MORE JOBS, 13,800 MORE FULL-TIME JOBS, LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN CANADA**

Saskatchewan has set an employment record for the month of September and for the seventh consecutive month has the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

There were 530,200 people employed in Saskatchewan in September 2011. Employment increased by 4,900 jobs compared to September 2010, according to today's Statistics Canada Labour Force survey.

Saskatchewan's unemployment rate was 4.6 per cent, the lowest in Canada for the seventh consecutive month, and well below the national average of 7.1 per cent.

Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said compared to the economic uncertainty in many other parts of the world, Canada's and Saskatchewan's economies are doing extremely well in terms of creating new jobs and keeping unemployment low.

"We've seen records for employment, job postings and earnings for workers in Saskatchewan," Norris said. "Now, with an all-time high in population, Saskatchewan's strong and steady economy is poised to lead the nation in growth next year."

Full-time employment increased by 13,800, a 3.2 per cent increase in September. Off-reserve Aboriginal employment was up by 4,200, an increase of 11.2 per cent and the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year increases.

"Even with record numbers of people working, more opportunities are available," Norris said. "This morning, the SaskJobs.ca website has almost 11,000 job vacancies posted in every part of the province. "Saskatchewan's economy is on the right track and our government is working hard to keep our economy moving forward."

## **NINE TO RECEIVE SASKATCHEWAN'S HIGHEST HONOUR**

Today Lieutenant Governor Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart announced the names of nine recipients to be invested into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

"The nine remarkable individuals who will be invested with the Saskatchewan Order of Merit this year are outstanding citizens who have made a tremendous difference in the lives of countless people; we are truly in their debt," Barnhart said. "I am proud and pleased that our province has established the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, so that we may honour these extraordinary men and women."

This year's recipients are:

- Chief Darcy M. Bear, Whitecap Dakota First Nation - Whitecap
- Mr. Joseph L. Bourgault, President of F.P. Bourgault Tillage Tools and Entrepreneur - St. Brieux
- Dr. Edward Busse, Retired Cardiac Surgeon - Qualicum Beach, B.C.
- Mr. Ronald Carson, Chief Executive Officer, Carson Energy Services - Lampman
- Mr. Malcolm Jenkins, Entrepreneur - Prince Albert
- Mr. Courtney Milne (posthumous), Photographer - Grandora;
- Dr. Karim Nasser, Professor Emeritus of Engineering - Saskatoon
- Ms. Shirley Schneider, Retired Educator - Regina
- Ms. Ruth Smillie, Artistic Director and Chief Executive Officer, Globe Theatre - Regina

[Read more . . .](#)

## **LOWS IN MOTION**



Ken & Trish at Lows In Motion

I had the opportunity to join over 800 people at the 3rd Annual Lows In Motion Fundraiser. It was a pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of Premier Wall and the Government of Saskatchewan.

The crowd was entertained the entire evening by Maurice Drouin and Heidi Munro's musical talents, followed by Gerry Dee. Dee made the crowd roar in laughter until their stomachs hurt and brought tears to many eyes. There was never a dull moment throughout the evening with people trying to outbid each other on the many silent and live auction items. To complete the night, Nokyo took the stage. Nokyo is a cabaret style band that brought people to the dance floor for the remainder of the night.

Travis Low, the Chair of this event is excited to announce that he has just accepted the Executive Director position for the Parkinson Society Saskatchewan. He is very excited for the challenge and feels that there is a lot of work to be done. Travis became involved with the Parkinson Society over 3 years ago because his dad was diagnosed with the disease at the young age of 48. He is very passionate about the Society and wants to bring a lot of positive change to the province of Saskatchewan. Congratulations Travis!

## **ECONOMIC INDICATORS SOAR IN THE NEW SASKATCHEWAN**

Saskatchewan's economy is soaring and today Enterprise Saskatchewan released a wide range of economic indicators charting the province's growth over the past three years versus the previous three years. Providing economic updates and analysis is a key part of Enterprise Saskatchewan's mandate.

Enterprise Saskatchewan calculated the province's long-term economic growth from 2008 through 2010 in comparison to the years 2005 through 2007 in the following categories:

- Private sector investment in Saskatchewan increased by 46.8 per cent.
- Building permits issued have increased by 66.7 per cent and urban housing starts are up 14.5 per cent.
- New motor vehicle sales have increased by 13.8 per cent.
- Retail sales have increased 24.9 per cent.
- New incorporations have increased by 30.8 per cent while business bankruptcies have decreased by 53.8 per cent.
- Average employment has increased by 5.1 per cent.
- Real GDP growth has risen by 5.4 per cent.

Enterprise Saskatchewan, as the province's investment attraction and development agency, has worked hard on numerous projects that are changing the province's economic landscape:

- BHP Billiton's Jansen Lake potash project represents an estimated investment of \$12 billion.
- Tower III in Regina is a new 20-story office building and the first such project in the city in more than two decades.

- Potash Corp of Saskatchewan is investing \$5.6 billion in expansions and is creating about 730 new permanent jobs.
- The Federated Co-op Upgrader in Regina is moving forward on its \$1.9 billion expansion which will create 100 new permanent jobs.
- The new Global Transportation Hub west of Regina will create more than 1,800 new jobs.

[Read more . . .](#)

## **PREMIER CONGRATULATES BRIAN TOWRISS FOR MOST WINS IN CANADIAN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL HISTORY**

Premier Brad Wall congratulated University of Saskatchewan Huskies head coach Brian Towriss on his 170th win, making him the winningest coach ever in Canadian university football. All of Towriss' 170 wins have been as head coach of the Huskies.

The Huskies defeated the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds (36-33) in Saskatoon. Towriss now has a regular season and playoff record of 170-95-1, for an outstanding .641 winning percentage as a head coach

Wall called 170 wins a remarkable achievement, particularly in a league where teams play just eight regular season games a year.

"Coach Towriss is now in his 28th season as head coach of the Huskies and he has achieved a record of consistency and excellence that is simply unmatched - 19 winning seasons, nine Vanier Cup appearances and three national titles," Wall said.

"The great news is - he became head coach when he was just 27 in 1984, so he still has lots of years of coaching left. That means a lot more winning seasons and a lot more championships for the Huskies."

## **SASK SMALL BUSINESS OPTIMISM STRENGTHENS; 2<sup>nd</sup> MOST OPTIMISTIC IN CANADA**

The Saskatchewan September 2011 Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) Monthly Business Barometer®, which reveals optimism for the year ahead among small business owners in Saskatchewan increased again by 2.8 points in September to 71.9 from an index of 69.1 in August, and nine points above the national index of 62.7. A strong 60 per cent of Saskatchewan small business owners rated their overall state of business as good, compared to 41 per cent nationally. Twenty per cent also plan to increase full time employment in the next 3 to 4 months – the second highest in Canada.

Provincial highlights include:

- 60 per cent of businesses in Saskatchewan say the overall state of business is good (41 per cent nationally); 37 per cent say it is satisfactory (44 per cent nationally).
- 20 per cent of Saskatchewan businesses plan to increase full-time employment in the next 3-4 months (13 per cent nationally) and only three per cent plan to decrease (14 per cent nationally).
- The shortage of skilled labour (55 per cent) is identified as the main business constraint.
- Major cost concerns causing difficulties for small business include: fuel/energy costs (63 per cent); wage costs (49 per cent); and tax/regulatory costs and insurance costs (44 per cent).

For additional information go to: <http://www.cfib-fcei.ca/english/barometer> and [www.cfib-fcei.ca/cfib-documents/Canada-BarometerHistory.xls](http://www.cfib-fcei.ca/cfib-documents/Canada-BarometerHistory.xls)



## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Your life and my life flow into each other as wave flows into wave, and unless there is peace and joy and freedom for you, there can be no real peace or joy or freedom for me. To see reality – not as we expect it to be but as it is – is to see that unless we live for each other and in and through each other, we do not really live very satisfactorily; that there can really be life only where there really is, in just this sense, love."

Frederick Buechner

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

Oct. 6, 2011 - [THE WEEKLY PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE](#)

Oct. 6, 2011 - [SASKJOBS CONNECTS SASKATCHEWAN EMPLOYERS WITH JOB SEEKERS](#)

Oct. 6, 2011 - [ADVANCED EDUCATION MINISTER APPLAUDS JUMP IN STUDENT ENROLMENT](#)

Oct. 6, 2011 - [RECORD BUILDING PERMIT NUMBERS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST](#)

## SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON

(If you would like your event listed in Provincial Point of View, please contact [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net))

Please check my website at [www.cheveldayoff.com](http://www.cheveldayoff.com) for additional information.

### **Canadian Federation of University Women Saskatoon, Inc.**

When: Oct 18, 19 & 20

Where: German Concordia Club

Details: Mammoth book sale. Most books sell for \$1.00. Art, biographies, novels of all kinds, craft, hobbies, cooking, reference, histories and many more. Old books and almost new books. Funds raised support University of Saskatchewan scholarships, Royal West Campus bursary, awards to the Science Fair and Music Festival, Pianos in the City, Something on Sunday at eh Mendel, donation of a painting by a local artist to an elementary school in Saskatoon.

### **"DRESS for the CAUSE"**

When: Oct 28, 2011

Where: All over Canada

Details: Dress for the Cause is an annual event, held this year on Friday, October 28th, to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Breast Cancer Society of Canada is asking companies, schools, organizations and clubs to participate in this event by recruiting their employees, clientele, teachers, students and members to donate to the Breast Cancer Society of Canada and Dress for the Cause! This year we are asking participants to show their support by wearing our "support bra" t-shirts. While our ultimate goal is to see breast cancer eliminated, our short term goal is to see as many men and women wearing pink bras in support of the cause. So let's get dressed and let's get fundraising!  
Visit: [dressforthecause.ca](http://dressforthecause.ca)

## **Provincial General Election**

When: Nov 7, 2011