



Ken Cheveldayoff

## From a Provincial Point of View

December 9, 2011

### THRONE SPEECH KEEPS PROMISES AND MOVES SASKATCHEWAN FORWARD

The 2011 Throne Speech kicked off the opening of the first session of the 27th Legislature by outlining a plan to fulfill election commitments while living within our means and keeping the province moving forward.

Premier Brad Wall said the Throne Speech shows the government's plan to keep the commitments it made in the recent election campaign. The Throne Speech listed seventeen promises that will be kept in this session. Here are a few samples:

- continued economic and population growth
- further improvements to Saskatchewan's highways
- improving the availability and affordability of housing
- introducing a new Saskatchewan First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit
- extending the Active Families Benefit to all children under 18
- increasing support for autism
- continuing to reduce surgical wait times; and
- improving access to health care services in rural communities

"These measures will keep our province moving forward and will make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people," Wall said. "Most importantly, they are sustainable and will be achieved within a balanced budget."

Read more . . . Throne Speech Keeps Promises – Government of Saskatchewan

Read more . . . Government Unveils Throne Speech – Regina Leader Post

Read more. . . Business give thumbs-up to speech The Star Phoenix

### JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT LUNCHEON



I had the opportunity to attend the First Annual Junior Achievement Regina Luncheon, December 6.

The Regina & District Chamber of Commerce sponsored this excellent event, providing everyone present an opportunity to learn about, celebrate and support Junior Achievement. It was fantastic to see and celebrate with such amazing young achievers in our province. Bill Doyle, CEO of PotashCorp was the guest speaker at the event.

Read

more... <http://www.leaderpost.com/PotashCorp+Bill+Doyle+says+Sask+back+philosophy+failure/5820431/story.html>

## **SASKATOON CITIZENS AMONG THOSE TO RECEIVE SASKATCHEWAN'S HIGHEST HONOUR**

I had the great pleasure of attending the Saskatchewan Order of Merit ceremony in Regina, December 7.

Lieutenant Governor Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart invested nine people into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

"The newest members of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit are individuals of great achievement, astonishing generosity and uncommon creativity," Barnhart said. "I am grateful that our province established the Order, which enables us to pay tribute to our citizens who have made such tremendous contributions to the world."

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; and
- Ms. Ruth Smillie, Artistic Director and Chief Executive Officer, Globe Theatre - Regina.

The Saskatchewan Order of Merit is the province's highest honour, recognizing individuals who have contributed significantly to the well-being of the province and its residents. Including the nine new members, there have been 184 appointments to the Order of Merit since its inception in 1985.

Congratulations to these worthy recipients!

## **HUGE INCREASE IN SASKATCHEWAN EXPORTS**

Merchandise exports in the province took a huge jump in October according to a report released today by Statistics Canada. Merchandise exports increased by 53.6 per cent over October of 2010, well ahead of the 13.9 per cent rise nationally. Saskatchewan ranked first among the provinces in terms of percentage change.

"Trade is an important factor in attracting new investment and new people to our province," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "The Saskatchewan brand is gaining momentum on a global front and it means more opportunities for families and businesses in the future."

[Read more . . .](#)

## EDMONTON OILERS vs NEW YORK ISLANDERS – September 27, 2012 in Regina



I had the pleasure of joining Mark Allan, Jeff MacPherson, Brent Parker and John Graham as well as colleagues Gene Makowsky and Warren

Steinley to make an exciting announcement on behalf of Premier Wall.



**The NHL is coming to Regina!** The game between the Edmonton Oilers and the New York Islanders scheduled to take place in Regina September 27, 2012. Our province has a tremendous track record of hosting world-class national and international sporting events and I know this NHL game will be no exception.

Hockey fans across our province will have the opportunity to see some world class hockey in Regina or in Saskatoon when the Winnipeg Jets play the Boston Bruins on September 22, 2012.

## BUILDING PERMITS TEN TIMES HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE

Construction continues to rise at a rapid pace according to the October building permit statistics released today by Statistics Canada.

Saskatchewan's building permits are up by 22.4 per cent in October 2011 over October 2010, ten times higher than the national average of 2.2 per cent and the highest increase among the provinces.

"Our economy is growing at a rate that is the envy of many other jurisdictions due to strong expansion in the resource sector and a growing population," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Saskatchewan is showing the rest of the world that we have an advantage in our province that maximizes both personal and business opportunities, while we continue steady, reliable fiscal management."

[Read more . . .](#)

## FEDERAL – PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



I had the privilege of participating in two significant funding announcements Friday, December 2 on behalf of my colleague, the



Honourable Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and Premier Wall, I had the pleasure of announcing a joint \$515,500 for the Development Association (SEDA) Small Business Workshops through the federal/provincial Western Economic Partnership Agreement.

This kind of initiative strongly ties into our Saskatchewan "Real Growth, Real Opportunity" campaign that aims to keep Saskatchewan as the best place to live, work, and do business.

Also on Friday, December 2, I joined the Honourable Lynn Yelich once again to participate on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan to support funding to POS Bio Sciences, a project that will help bring new bio-based oil ingredients to market.

This project fits with our government's vision to further develop our knowledge economy through research and development, innovation and technology commercialization.

## **ONLINE HEALTH CARD APPLICATION SERVICE EXPANDED**

Saskatchewan's online Health Services Card application service has been expanded to other categories of new residents, including foreign nationals and returning Canadian citizens.

After the service expansion, all new Saskatchewan residents living in the province are eligible to use the online application process.

"We are very pleased to provide a more convenient health benefits registration experience to our new residents," Health Minister Don McMorris said. "Phase one of the integrated online service has been well received by the public. We now feel very confident in extending our online service to better serve even more new residents in the province. This is another example of how we are putting the patient first."

[Read more . . .](#)

## **ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES**

*Campaign Promise Improves Quality of Life*

Saskatchewan is following through on its commitment to provide more support for people with diabetes. Health Minister Don McMorris announced today the government is meeting its election commitment to move two long-acting insulins from Exception Drug Status listing to full formulary listing, and expand the insulin pump program to cover residents up to the age of 25.

"Diabetes is a serious disease affecting a growing number of residents in our province," McMorris said. "These two measures will realize significant cost savings for families affected by the disease. The enhancements also help individuals with diabetes to better manage their conditions and make real progress in improving their quality of life. This is another way our government is putting patients first."

[Read more . . .](#)

## **JUSTICE MINISTER INTRODUCES MOTION TO STUDY PROVINCIAL LOBBYIST LEGISLATION**

At the request of Premier Brad Wall, Justice Minister and Attorney General Don Morgan today introduced a motion to refer the issue of lobbyist legislation to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice for review and to report back to the Legislative Assembly.

With the large increase in economic activity in Saskatchewan over the past several years, it was recognized that paid lobbyists may seek to play a greater role in the province.

"Lobbying public office holders is a legitimate activity when done appropriately," Morgan said. "This legislation must strike a balance between free and open access to government decision makers by legitimate lobbyists, and the public's need to know who is attempting to influence the government."

[Read more . . .](#)

## **LOCAL AURORA GIRLS SOCCER TEAM PREPARES FOR LAS VEGAS TOURNAMENT!**

Congratulations to the The Aurora Mirage U16 girls' soccer team who will be participating in the U17 division of the Las Vegas Mayor's Cup Soccer Tournament from Feb 17-21, 2012! ( <http://lvmayorscup.com> ) This a high caliber international tournament and is described as a showcase for soccer talent; as well an opportunity for players & teams to come together in the spirit of sportsmanship and an opportunity to be viewed by scouts from across North America. The 16 girls on the team are really looking forward to the event and are training hard.

The team is seeking sponsorship from local and provincial businesses and corporations to help with expenses. The team is also pursuing other fundraising events. The major fundraiser is a steak night and silent auction on Jan 21, 2012 at Mulberry's. The team needs and would appreciate donations from local businesses to be used in the silent auction to assist us with our fundraising endeavors. Businesses will be recognized for their contributions at this event that is expected to host 125-130 people.

As ambassadors, they would also appreciate any marketing items such as pins or stickers, etc that businesses could provide to promote your company or organization.

If you have a business that is interested in becoming a sponsor of the team or making a donation, please contact the head coach, Mark Schramm at (306) 292-7106. Any form of support that you are able to share that would help us reach this lofty goal, would be greatly appreciated.

## **NEW UPGRADES TO SASKATCHEWAN'S HIGHWAY HOTLINE**

Customizable Map Information and Cameras Now Available Online.

The Highway Hotline has officially launched its upgraded Internet map that allows motorists to see road conditions from four cameras and to customize the information they want.

"We want motorists to have as much information as possible," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Jim Reiter said. "We're also piloting the use of these cameras for the first time with the Highway Hotline."

[Read more . . .](#)

## **DISABILITY INCOME PROGRAM TO BE ENHANCED IN 2012**

The Government of Saskatchewan is committing to significant enhancements to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program following through on another campaign commitment.

"These enhancements will increase the benefits paid through SAID, boost enrollment by up to 7,000 new individuals and further distinguish SAID from the Saskatchewan Assistance Program," Social Services Minister June Draude said. "These enhancements continue the multi-year commitment made by our government to develop the SAID program with the input and participation of the disability community."

[Read more...](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN RENTAL HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

Anyone wanting assistance with the rental process in the province should contact the Tenant Assistance Process (TAP) by calling 306-653-7149.

### **DID YOU KNOW**

- Our population is now at an all-time high: 1,057,884. It has grown by 13,856 people in the past year, making Saskatchewan the third-fastest growing province in Canada (+1.33 per cent). The province's population has now increased for 21 consecutive quarters, and in the past five years, Saskatchewan has grown by over 65,000 people – the fastest and most sustained period of population growth in decades.
- New employment numbers show that 524,200 people were employed in November 2011, the second-highest level of employment on record for the month of November. There were employment increases in construction, retail and wholesale trade, finance, insurance and real estate, services, and public administration.
- Saskatchewan's unemployment rate (seasonally-unadjusted) now stands at 4.7 per cent, the lowest rate in Canada and well below the national rate of 7.0 per cent. (Note: The seasonally-adjusted rate is 5.1 per cent, the second-lowest rate in Canada and also below the national rate of 7.4 per cent).

### **THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

“Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow”.

Melody Beattie

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

Dec. 8, 2011 - NEW LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO BENEFIT SASKATCHEWAN BUSINESSES

Dec. 8, 2011 - AMENDMENTS TO CUT POLICE PAPERWORK, STREAMLINE WARRANT APPLICATIONS

Dec. 8, 2011 - DECEMBER LAND SALE EXCEEDS \$20 MILLION MARK

Dec. 6, 2011 - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Dec. 5, 2011 - DISCOUNTED BUS PASS PROGRAM RENEWED

### **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.**

#### **Persephone Theatre Presents a Christmas Story**

When: November 23-December 11, 2011

Where: Frank & Ellen Remai Arts Centre

Details: Buy tickets online, by phone or in person. Call 384-7727 or visit [persephonetheatre.org](http://persephonetheatre.org)

### **BHP Billiton Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour**

When: November 18, 2011-January 8, 2012

Where: Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park, 1903 Forestry Farm Park Drive

Time: 5:30 pm-11:00 pm nightly

Details: A spectacular forest drive-through Christmas light show featuring illuminated evergreens and computer animated character light displays on a 2.5km route. \$6.00 per person, \$25.00 per car, 3 and under free.

### **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.



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