



Ken Cheveldayoff

## From a Provincial Point of View

April 20, 2012

It has been almost a month since the Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage 2012-13 provincial budget was delivered and we remain the only province in Canada to have a truly balanced budget. We will continue to manage the province's finances in a fiscally responsible way that invests in the programs and services that are important to people of Saskatchewan.

### Did you know:

- In terms of unemployment, the number of people without a job is decreasing. In fact, Saskatchewan currently has the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 4.8 per cent down from 5.0 last month and 5.2 a year ago. It is evident that people have confidence in our economy and businesses are expanding. That's the Saskatchewan Advantage.
- Saskatchewan was also recently ranked by the Fraser Institute's 2011 Global Petroleum Survey as the top jurisdiction in Canada for oil and gas investment. The oil and gas sector is one of Saskatchewan's leading industries, accounting for \$12.2 billion in sales in 2011 and an estimated \$4.5 billion in investment in exploration and development. This means that there were an estimated 33,200 jobs in the upstream oil and gas industry in 2011, a 9.0 per cent increase from 2010. This is another great example of our strong and growing economy.
- Since 2007, our government has increased investments in student housing by more than 3,000 per cent, allowing us to provide more than 1,000 new bed for students across the province.
- Since 2007 our government has increased the number of child care spaces in Saskatchewan by 3,400. Over the next four years, we have promised to further increase that number by 2,000.
- Since 2007, our government has improved 6,000 kilometres of highways. Over the next four years our government will invest a further \$2.2 billion to improve highways.

### JUNIOR ACHIEVERS!

Congratulations to "GreenSleeves" , recipients of the Advertising Contest. This group was nominated for Product Design Award and Company of the Year.

GreenSleeves consisted of 10 dedicated achievers, Spencer Schaan, Cody Diederichs, Emily Sweeney, Amelia Perotta, Rilee Freimark, Jensen Dauvin, Riley Kinsella, Joy Grasley, Brooke McBain and Marci Wuschenny. Their advisors were Charlene Hudym, Melissa Tackaberry-Syed and Ashley Regan.

Company meetings were held on Wednesday nights at City Park Collegiate. They produced and marketed one product, Cup Huggers, which were reusable hot beverage sleeves made from recycled materials. Members of GreenSleeves made a consistent effort towards all aspects of operation, maintained an exceptional attendance rate, and learned the etiquettes of good business. Wages, invoices, materials and other expenses were paid, in addition to all members receiving a \$20.00 bonus. Share value finished at 302.2% of its par value of \$5.00 to \$15.11.



What a great group of young entrepreneurs! The sponsor of the award was the Saskatchewan Research Council.

## **PREMIER WALL ADVOCATES HEALTH REFORM AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Premier Brad Wall spoke at a national health care conference in Montebello, Quebec, April 18 where he made the case for innovative approaches to reform that include bold targets and new ways of delivering services. The Premier participated in a panel discussion at the event, which was organized by the Canada Health Infoway. Also on the panel are respected economist Don Drummond, who recently chaired a commission on reform of Ontario's public services, and award winning Globe and Mail journalist André Picard.

"Our publicly funded health care system will remain sustainable only if we have clear performance objectives and a concerted effort to deliver services in a more efficient, effective manner," Wall said. "I'm looking forward to discussing important initiatives underway in Saskatchewan that are saving money and delivering better patient care."

[Premier Wall Advocates Health Reform at National Conference](#)

## **HOUSING STARTS JUMP MORE THAN 50 PER CENT**

Saskatchewan's urban housing starts took a huge jump in March 2012, up by 53.5 per cent over last March according to a report issued by CMHC today. For the first quarter of 2012 urban housing starts are up 33.8 per cent over the same period in 2011.

"A strong economy is bringing more people to our province, driving a demand for new housing," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "The availability of jobs and business opportunities is attracting people from all over the globe and is bringing our expatriates home. More and more families are choosing our province as the place to start a life."

[Housing Starts Jump More Than 50 Per Cent](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN EXPORTS SOAR IN FEBRUARY**

Saskatchewan's merchandise exports continue to increase, reaching \$2.62 billion in February 2012, up 22.2 per cent from the \$2.15 billion recorded in February 2011 according to a new report from Statistics Canada.

"This is good news for our province and it will lead to more investment, more jobs and a more prosperous Saskatchewan," Enterprise Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Some private forecasters expect Saskatchewan to lead the country in economic growth this year and these export numbers show why so many people are confident in the Saskatchewan economy."

[Saskatchewan Exports Soar in February](#)

## **GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY – UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS SAFEWAY**

As our population grows in Saskatoon Silver Springs, we see additional businesses invested in our community. On Tuesday, April 17 Canada Safeway Limited held their official ground breaking celebration of their University Heights location. Anticipated to open this fall, Safeway eagerly looks forward to serving the surrounding community at its first new Saskatchewan store in over 30 years!

Todd Leibel, District Manager Saskatchewan, Safeway said, "University Heights Safeway is being designed to specifically address the evolving needs of Saskatoon grocery shoppers whom are living increasingly busy lives, want to eat healthier and need solutions to a broad range of dietary or lifestyle requirements. University Heights Safeway will include a number of sustainable and energy efficient elements into the design, construction and on-going operations. We're committed to building a greener future and within the project you'll find a measurable effort to reduce our environmental impact to both our planet and this community."



When the doors open to University Heights Safeway, shoppers will enjoy a store focused on unique customer experiences including:

- Full service deli with a menu of ever changing restaurant quality hot and cold meal options;
- Starbucks with indoor and outdoor seating;
- Affordable organics across almost every category in the store;
- Hot in-store scratch bakery;
- On-staff floral designer;
- Products and services designed to help customers eat healthier.
- Solutions to specific dietary needs including celiac disease (gluten free), diabetes, organics, green lifestyle, all natural products and allergy sensitive products.
- Private pharmacy consultation area
- Safeway donates over \$2.5 million to Saskatchewan charitable organizations annually including needs in healthcare, hunger relief and people with disabilities.

Mayor Atchison and Safeway officials were present at Nelson Road & McOrmond Drive as project plans were outlined. Congratulations Safeway and welcome to our community!

NOTE: If you would like your business to be profiled, just let us know at [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net)

## **HAPPY ADMIN DAY, APRIL 25**

The theme for the 2012 Administrative Professionals Day is: “**Admins, the pulse of the office.**” Administrative Professionals Day will mark its 60th anniversary on April 25, 2012. Over those decades, the job of an administrative professional has changed dramatically thanks to new tools, techniques and seismic shifts in the economy and culture itself. But admins have remained the steady center of efficiency through it all, helping ensure that jobs get done right, on time and under budget. Admins are one of the engines of business, particularly in a complex economy. In a world that demands the accurate and speedy movement of digital information, admins are masters of data. And they do this while maintaining their more traditional role as the gatekeepers for many customers, clients and employees. Quite simply, admins are the pulse of the office.

Special thanks to my admin staff, Marlene, Tennille and Megan for the great work they do!

## **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 15 - 22**

What a great time to recognize the many volunteers that make our city and province a better place. If you are one of those volunteers, thank you for your effort and dedication and countless hours you contribute to working with your organization.

Saskatchewan had the highest volunteer rate in Canada in 2010, according to a Statistics Canada report released Monday at the start of National Volunteer Week. The spirit of Saskatchewan volunteers is so evident in our community and throughout Saskatchewan. The important work of a volunteer is key to so many organizations. Volunteering is an excellent way to make a difference and benefit community organizations.

Thank you volunteers!

Please visit the [Volunteer Canada website](#) for information on how our volunteer communities impact our society as a whole.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GOLD MEDAL WINNERS!**

I had the opportunity to be at the Saskatoon International Airport as the Special Olympics group headed to the 2012 Winter National Games in St. Albert, Alberta.

I was so pleased to hear that the Saskatoon Floor Hockey team was the recipient of the gold medal during the games!

This special group of athletes has been notified by Special Olympics Canada that their team was been selected to represent Canada at the 2013 Special Olympics World Games in PyeongChang South Korea.

I wish them all the best.

GO TEAM CANADA GO!

## **CANADIAN COUNCIL ON REHABILITATION AND WORK YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES 2012**

For the academic year beginning September 2012, the CCRW will be awarding eight (8) scholarships. Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$2,500.

The deadline for application submission is Friday, April 20, 2012

For more information, please visit [www.ccrw.org](http://www.ccrw.org)

## **APRIL IS PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH**

This April, Parkinson's Awareness Month, Parkinson Society Saskatchewan wants the public to know that a Parkinson disease diagnosis is a call to take control, find answers and stay informed. More than 100,000 Canadians are living with Parkinson's.

Parkinson Society Saskatchewan is a proud member of the Parkinson Society Canada. The Parkinson Society Canada has been providing education, support, and advocacy on behalf of over 100,000 Canadians living with Parkinson's since 1965. Its research program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Canadians living with Parkinson's, identifying causes and someday, a cure. To find out more about Parkinson's disease and services available near you, call 1-800-685-0059 or visit [www.parkinsonsaskatchewan.ca](http://www.parkinsonsaskatchewan.ca).

## **SAID APPLICATION REMINDER**

The Government of Saskatchewan has committed to expanded enrolment and substantial increases to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) benefit. In addition to the \$50 increase in January 2012, there will be increases of \$100 per month over four years for those living in residential care, \$350 per month over four years for those in independent living arrangements, and \$400 per month over four years for couples with disabilities who are living independently. Between March 12 and 30, 12,000 application and assessment packages were mailed out across the province in order to help expand the SAID program and increase enrolment from the current caseload of 3,500 people. These assessments are underway with enrolment and new benefits scheduled to begin June 2012.

All individuals currently receiving a disability benefit through the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) are reminded to complete and return their application and disability impact assessment packages as soon as possible to determine if they are eligible for the SAID program.

"The SAID program expansion is one way that this government is helping to make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for people with disabilities," Social Services Minister June Draude said. "In order to ensure we include as many qualified people as possible in the enhanced program, it is vital that these assessment packages are completed."

Drop-in sessions for people who want help filling out their SAID application and assessment forms will be held in Regina and Saskatoon over the next couple of weeks. All persons who have received a SAID application package are welcome to attend these sessions. For more information, please call the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living at 306-955-3344

## **AN INVITATION TO ALL GOLFERS WANTING TO PLAY FOR FUN AND FOR SOMEONE WITH MS**

Many of us know someone with MS and would like to help. A fun game of golf may be the answer. GOLFUN is fun way for each of us to support the Cameco Neuroscience Research Center located at the Saskatoon City Hospital. You can participate in this important *Funraiser* by entering a team or any number of players, or by sponsoring a Tee or one of the special events. You really do not have to be a good golfer to play in GOLFUN so enter as a family, a group of friends, or perhaps treat the person you

know with MS to an afternoon on the golf course even if it is just riding the golf cart or hosting a Tee. There is also a silent auction for you to spend a few dollars in a fun and friendly bidding war. Everyone has fun at GOLFUN. If there is one tournament a year that you choose to support...please make it GOLFUN. Keeping score is optional but having fun is mandatory. To register for golf or a sponsorship please complete the attached form and return at your earliest opportunity. Don't miss out on all the fun!

Should you not be able to support the event this year...may we please ask that you to forward this information to someone you may know who has a family member or friend with MS. Thank you!

For further information contact Hugh Vassos, Committee Chair at hvassos@sasktel.net.

## **DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS GRANT**

**Application Deadline is May 7, 2012**

Launch a second funding initiative to support the 60th anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Funding is available for Diamond Jubilee community celebrations that **will take place between September 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012**. Detailed funding criteria and the application form can be found at [www.pch.gc.ca](http://www.pch.gc.ca) and by clicking on the Diamond Jubilee icon, or by contacting the Canadian Heritage regional office nearest you.

## **2012 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The Saskatchewan Arts Board is accepting nominations for the 2012 Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards. This annual celebration recognizes the contribution and achievements made by individuals, groups and organizations to the arts, including all arts disciplines. The awards also promote public awareness, participation and support for the arts. Categories are: Lifetime Achievement, Saskatchewan Artist, 30 Below, Leadership, Arts and Learning and Volunteer. **Deadline for nominations is 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2012** and the awards banquet will be held in Saskatoon on Tues., Sept. 18, 2012.

The criteria and nomination form for all awards is available on the Arts Board website:

<http://www.artsboard.sk.ca/showcase/awards-and-honours/2026-lg-awards>

## **JUST THE HEADLINES**

- April 16, 2012 – [Specialist Streamline Patient Appointments](#)
- April 17, 2012 – [Challenging Year for SGI and the Saskatchewan Auto Fund](#)
- April 17, 2012 – [Manufacturing and New Motor Vehicles Make Gains in February](#)
- April 18, 2012 – [Record Levels for Non-Residential Construction in Saskatchewan](#)

## **SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON**

### **Living Well with Lupus Spring Symposium**

When: April 21st, 2012

Where: Smiley's Buffet & Catering - Banquet Room B, 702 Circle Drive E

Time: Registration 12:30; Presentation: 1:00-4:00

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

## **THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

“Until you commit your goals to paper, you have intentions that are seeds without soil.”  
Author Unknown

## **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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**“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.

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