



Provincial Point of View February 1, 2013

SASKATCHEWAN BIRTH COUNT HITS 22-YEAR HIGH

The number of live births registered in Saskatchewan in 2012 has cracked the 15,000 mark for the first time in nearly a generation. To date, a total of 15,035 live births have been registered in the province, compared to 14,577 in 2011.

"We haven't seen a figure this high since 1991," Minister responsible for Information Services Corporation Don McMorris said. "People are coming to Saskatchewan for the opportunities that exist here and thanks in part to a rising birth count, our population has never been higher."

[Saskatchewan Birth Count Hits 22-Year High](#)

NOVEMBER WAGES RISE FOR SASKATCHEWAN WORKERS

Saskatchewan workers had more money in their pockets during the month of November, according to the latest numbers released today by Statistics Canada. The report indicates Saskatchewan workers had a 3.7 per cent increase in wages in November of 2012 when compared with November 2011, the third highest percentage increase among the provinces.

"The Saskatchewan economy continues to make strides, and more importantly, Saskatchewan people are seeing the real benefits of positive economic growth," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "The rise in weekly earnings is significant as it helps to attract more people to our province who are looking for career opportunities."

[November Wages Rise for Saskatchewan Workers](#)

PAY IT FORWARD SPLASH PARK A GRAND PRIZE WINNER



A few months ago we shared a story about Chase Kraynick. Chase was a young boy from Canora who tragically lost his life in a farming accident two years ago. In his kindergarten class, he was taught the concept of "Pay it Forward". Chase took this lesson to heart by helping everyone around him whenever he could.

Chase's parents wanted to follow in his footsteps and Pay it Forward by building a splash park for the community to enjoy in Chase's legacy.

On January 30, it was announced that the Chase Kraynick "Pay it Forward" Splash Park is the grand prize winner of the Ariva Community Fund grant worth \$90,000. The splash park competed against 400 other community projects across Canada and won in the medium-sized project category.

Congratulations to the Kraynick family and everyone involved with the "Pay it Forward" Splash Park project!

GOVERNMENT WORKING WITH THE CHALLENGES OF GROWTH

Saskatchewan's economic and population growth have provided us with the resources to improve services, invest in our communities and provide sound fiscal management. This growth however does come with challenges. If you own property, chances are the value of that property has increased greatly over the past few years. The flip side of this is good news is that it may translate into higher property taxes. Over the past four years, the value of property in Saskatchewan has increased 67 per cent, moving from \$58 billion in 2009 to \$97 billion in the 2013 revaluation year. Since the education property tax is levied on the assessment of property, our government will need to take a close look at the potential impact of the increase in property assessments on taxpayers. In 2009, the provincial government delivered the largest education property tax cut in

Saskatchewan's history, reducing education property taxes by more than 80 per cent on farmland and nearly 30 per cent on residential properties. Our government is taking a thoughtful approach during our budgeting process to mitigate increased property taxes.

MARK MCMORRIS BRINGS HOME GOLD AND SILVER FROM 2013 X-GAMES



I join our entire province as we applaud the success of Mark McMorris! Mark delivered on his prodigious promise at the X Games last Saturday and won his second consecutive gold medal in the slopestyle contest with the best-ever score in the event's history at the X Games in Aspen. McMorris also won a silver medal in the Big Air Final Competition. What an outstanding performance.

Mark's family was there to witness this incredible performance. Mark is the son of Cindy and the Honourable Don McMorris. We look forward to continuing to follow Mark's career. Congratulations and best of luck as you compete in the international level!

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF SASKATCHEWAN RADIOTHON

The Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan Radiothon will be taking place February 6 to 8 at the Centre Mall. In partnership with Saskatoon Media Group, the Radiothon will be broadcasting on Magic 98.3, 600 CJWW, and 92.9 The Bull. You can be part of it now, by fundraising to help make this year's Radiothon better than ever, as they work toward building the new Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan. If you would like to volunteer answering phones, taking in-person donations, or would like to share your family's story, you can email info@chfsask.ca or call 931-4887 to find out more.

2013 HERITAGE FESTIVAL



It is incredible to look back at the city of Saskatoon and see how we have grown. The 2013 Heritage Festival will do exactly this.

The theme this year is *Our City: From Prairie to Metropolis*. The Festival will take place from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Sunday, February 3 at the Western Development Museum. The Opening Parade will kick-off the festivities at noon. Displays and interactive exhibits will be on display throughout the Western Development Museum. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in hands on activities as well as witness demonstrations and entertainment throughout the day.

There is no admission to attend the Museum and the Festival. I encourage you to celebrate our heritage at the Western Development Museum this upcoming Sunday!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Crude oil production in the province reached 172.9 million barrels in 2012
- On a daily average, oil production was 473,000 barrels per day
- The oil and gas industry represents about 20.7% of Saskatchewan's GDP
- The combined value of oil and gas sales for 2012 was an estimated \$12.5 billion
- The oil and gas industry provides more than 34,000 direct and indirect jobs in the province

JUST THE LINKS

- **January 25, 2013** - [Government Invests More than \\$1.6 Million in Local Rinks Through Community Rink Affordability Grant](#)
- **January 30, 2013** - [Changes Coming for Charitable Gaming](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PotashCorp WinterShines

Date: January 26 to February 10

When: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm weekdays, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Saturdays, and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm Sundays

Where: Various Saskatoon Locations

<http://potashcorpwintershines.ca/>

Heritage Festival of Saskatoon

Date: February 3

When: 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Where: WDM Saskatoon

Chinese New Years Celebration with The Vancouver Chinese Lion Dancers

Date: February 6

When: 6:30 pm

Where: Dakota Dunes

Tickets \$38 available at [Dakota Dunes Box Office](#)

Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan Radiothon

Date: February 6 to February 8

Where: Centre Mall

Saskatoon Wellness Expo 2013

Date: February 8 to February 10

When: Friday 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Where: Prairieland Park

General Admission \$10, Seniors and Students \$8, Kids 14 and under Free when accompanied by and adult

Wounded Warriors Presents "The Heart of Country" Fundraiser Concert

Date: February 15

When: 8:00 pm

Where: Broadway Theater

<http://www.picatic.com/theheartofcountry>

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."
Aristotle

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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 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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