



Provincial Point of View February 22, 2013

SGI RATE REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a public meeting regarding the new SGI Rate Increase Proposal taking place at the Saskatoon Travelodge on April 22, 2013, beginning at 7:30 pm.

If you are unable to make this meeting, but would still like your input to be taken into consideration you can:

Email: input@saskratereview.ca

Phone: 1-877-368-7075

Mail: SGI Rate Review Panel

PO Box 1301

Saskatoon SK, S7K 3N1

The deadline for your submissions is April 24, 2013.

SESSION TO BEGIN MARCH 4, 2013

In the coming weeks, we will return to the legislature for the spring session. Shortly thereafter, we will announce our next budget. Not only will it be balanced, it will further reflect our government's commitment to ensure that the benefits of growth are used to improve the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

One of the key components of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth is our government's commitment to balanced budgets. Our record in this area is strong - we've had balanced budgets every year since 2007. Last week's release of the 2012-2013 Third Quarter Financial Report shows that we are on track to do the same thing this year, despite falling resource revenues. Those declines are being offset in large part by the benefits of growth,

including a growing tax base thanks to higher employment and record population growth.

Fiscal responsibility is an important element of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth. Without it, achieving the plan's ambitious goals will be even more of a challenge. If we want to grow our province to 1.2 million people by 2020, double our exports, and continue to invest in programs and services important to you and your family, we must be prudent.

Together we will maintain the Saskatchewan Advantage and continue to move our province forward.

SASKATOON NUMBER ONE IN GROSS DOMESTIC PROUDCT GROWTH

Last week, the Conference Board of Canada released the "Metropolitan Outlook: Insights into Canadian Economies, winter 2013." The report looked at 28 census metropolitan areas in Canada.

It was reported that Saskatoon is attracting newcomers in large numbers. With such a successful economy, new settlers are finding work quickly. Last year, employment jumped by 4.6 per cent in 2012, the highest jump since 2007, and is expected to rise by 2.8 per cent in 2013.

According to the Report, Saskatoon's real GDP growth in 2012 was 2.9 per cent, ranking the city fifth out of the 28 census metropolitan areas. The Conference Board of Canada estimates that the GDP growth will increase to 3.7 per cent in 2013, and 3.8 per cent in 2014, making Saskatoon number one in the nation for growth.

RECORD RETAIL SALES IN DECEMBER

Retail sales were on the rise in December, increasing 4.4 per cent (seasonally-adjusted) over December 2011– the highest on record jump for the province in more than 20 years. According to a report released today by Statistics Canada, this ranked Saskatchewan in first place among the provinces in terms of percentage change. Nationally, retail sales fell 0.7 per cent for the same time period.

“Consumer confidence is a surefire sign of the strength of our Saskatchewan economy,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “We have plenty of good paying job opportunities in every corner of this province, and this is reflected in the spending habits of our Saskatchewan

residents.

[Record Retail Sales in December](#)

SASKATCHEWAN RESIDENTS CAN UPDATE AND SUBMIT HEALTH CARD INFORMATION ONLINE

Saskatchewan residents now have the option to update and submit their health card registration information directly online at any time that is convenient to them.

“We continue looking for ways to improve the timeliness, efficiency and quality of our services,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “This 24/7 online service provides an easy and streamlined process for our residents to more efficiently update their health card information. This is another example of our commitment to putting the patient first.”

[Saskatchewan Residents Can Update and Submit Health Card Information Online](#)

SASKATCHEWAN FORESTS ARE HEALTHY

Saskatchewan’s forests are healthy according to the Ministry of Environment’s 2012 Report on Saskatchewan Forests, now available on the ministry’s website.

As noted in the news release from the Ministry of Environment on February 20, “I am pleased to say that this report finds that our forests are being maintained in a healthy state. Forests provide many benefits – economic, environmental and social – that enhance our quality of life. Our government is committed to protecting this significant part of Saskatchewan’s natural heritage and to reporting regularly on our progress.”

[Saskatchewan Forests Are Healthy](#)

SASKATOON BLUES FESTIVAL WINTER MELTDOWN 2013



Next week will mark the 11th year that Saskatoon will celebrate the Blues. Once again, the Saskatoon Blues Society has geared up to present some of the best artists from the local, national, and international music scene.

The Saskatoon Blues Festival Winter Meltdown 2013 takes place from February 25 to March 3 at venues all around the city. Tickets can be purchased at Cherry Insurance locations, Long & McQuade Music locations, McNally Robinson, St. John's Music, as well as online at www.saskatoonbluessociety.ca.

DID YOU KNOW?

- John G. Diefenbaker International Airport (JGDIA) serves an area in Northern Saskatchewan with more than 500,000 people.
- JGDIA has more than 300 acres of land available for future development as our city and airport continue to grow.
- Between 1995 and 2009, the number through JGDIA almost doubled, from 598,763 to 1,157,393 people.
- JGDIA has some of the lowest user fees in Canada.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saskatoon Blues Festival

Date: February 25 to March 3

When: Various times

Where: Various Venues

For a full schedule of events please visit www.saskatoonbluessociety.ca

WUHCA Soccer and Softball Registration

Date: February 28

When: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Centennial Collegiate

Saskatoon Sports and Leisure Show

Date: February 28 to March 3

When: February 28th - 6:00pm - 10:00pm, March 1st - 12:00pm - 9:00pm, March 2nd - 10:00am - 9:00pm, March 3rd - 10:00am - 5:00pm

Where: Prairieland Park

EACCA Spring Registration

Date: March 4

When: 7:00 pm

Where: Dr. John G. Egnatoff School

Registration for Kindersport, Soccer, Softball, and Tennis

Rajaton & Friends in Concert

Date: March 6

When: 7:30 pm

Where: Cathedral of the Holy Family

Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$35 for students, available at McNally Robinson, U of S Bookstore, or online at www.saskchoral.ca

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Well done is better than well said."
Benjamin Franklin

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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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