



## Provincial Point of View March 1, 2013

### BUDGET DAY MARCH 20

Please accept this as my invitation to attend the Budget on March 20 at the legislature. I have a limited number of tickets available. If you would like to attend, please either call 306-651-7100 or email [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net) as soon as possible.

The Budget begins at 1:30 pm. Guests are asked to arrive by 1:00 pm.

### SASKATCHEWAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION CONVENTION



Hundreds participated in the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation's Convention on February 15 in Saskatoon. I was honoured to speak to this dedicated group of individuals. As Minister of Environment, I have experienced first-hand the hard work that the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation does to make sure our province is a better place through their great display of good stewardship of our natural resources.

The theme of the Convention this year was, "Contributing to Our Legacy by Engaging Others." The theme speaks to a shared vision of the strong partnerships between the

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and the Ministry of Environment. This partnership will allow us to pass on our natural heritage to the next generation.

By investing in initiatives like the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, which undertakes habitat conservation and enhancement; working toward a sound agreement on The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act; and bringing in the 25 Year Water Security Plan, we are all working together to create our legacy.

With the dedication shown by all members, this legacy is sure to be passed on from generation to generation, making Saskatchewan the most sustainable and beautiful province in the country.

### **SASKATCHEWAN WORKERS EARNING MORE IN 2012**

Saskatchewan workers had a 5.0 per cent increase (\$44.96) in seasonally-adjusted average weekly earnings in 2012, the highest percentage increase in Canada. Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings were \$936.00, above the national average of \$908.35.

“Higher wages for Saskatchewan working people is a true measure of our economic progress,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “With increased salaries in a wide range of jobs, our province is in a great position to be a destination of choice for job seekers in Canada and across the globe.”

[Saskatchewan Workers Earning More in 2012](#)

### **SASKATCHEWAN TRAPPERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION**



**On February 22, as Minister of Environment, it was an honour to bring greetings to the Saskatchewan Trappers' Association (STA) Convention in Humboldt.**

**The Ministry of Environment values the good work of the Trappers' Association. It is important to all of us that we work hard to preserve the environment. The STA is a strong advocate for trapping and furbearer management in the province.**

**It was great to have the opportunity to thank the STA board members for their involvement in the delivery of educational programs to new trappers, as well as the information they provide to the general public regarding the role that trapping plays to help manage our wildlife resources.**

### **SASKATOON ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON**

**On Monday, February 25, I had the pleasure of speaking to the Saskatoon Rotary Club. The Rotary Club has been active in our province since 1905 and since then members have been giving their time to help those in need in their communities.**

**I had the opportunity to share our government's vision and where we hope to be by 2020 with our**

Plan for Growth.

It was fantastic to spend time with the Saskatoon Rotary Club. What a great group of leaders from our community.

If you are interested in joining the Saskatoon Rotary Club visit [www.saskatoonrotary.org](http://www.saskatoonrotary.org) for more information.

### **BREAST FRIENDS WINS INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK AWARD**



Congratulations to the ten Breast Friends from Foam Lake (Patti Hack, Linda Helgason, Nat Dunlop, Anne Reynolds, Val Helgason, Jeannie Johnson, Charlene Rokochoy, Cecile Halyk, Darlene Cooper and Jacquie Klebeck – my Ministerial Assistant) who won an international award for the Best Charity Cookbook in North America presented at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards.

The award ceremony took place in Paris last weekend, where their fifth cookbook, “**Breast Wishes, For the Men in Our Lives**” received this worthy recognition. The book was written to

promote awareness of prostate cancer and support prostate cancer initiatives.

This group of women are a great example of Saskatchewan spirit and volunteerism. They have donated nearly \$1.4 million for cancer-related causes. I encourage you to purchase a copy of this award winning book. Check out their website at [Breastfriends.ca](http://Breastfriends.ca) to find out where the books are available.

### **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR PREMIER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE**

Saskatchewan residents have until April 30 to nominate provincial employees for the 2013 Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the government and citizens of the province.

“Saskatchewan’s public servants are key to our government’s public sector renewal, providing the residents of this province with innovative, efficient and responsive programs and services,” Premier Brad Wall said. “I encourage everyone across Saskatchewan to nominate the public service employee or team who has provided outstanding services in their community.”

[Nominations Open for Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service](#)

### **SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL PARKS ANNOUNCE RESERVATION LAUNCH DATES**



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The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport announced Tuesday, February 26, a staggered spring launch for camping reservations. Depending on the provincial park you plan to visit this year, you can reserve your site starting March 4, March 6 or March 8.

“In 2012 there were 60,000 online reservations made, with 13,500 booked on opening day of the reservation service,” Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Kevin Doherty said. “This year, to improve the system and to spread out website traffic, we are opening the site with staggered launch dates.”

[Saskatchewan Provincial Parks Announce Reservation Launch Dates](#)

### **SURGICAL WAIT TIMES CONTINUE TO DROP**

Saskatchewan people are receiving surgeries sooner – with improved safety procedures – thanks to the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative. The Saskatchewan health system is making good progress toward its April 2014 goal of providing all patients an offer of surgery within three months. However, it is clear that Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region will not reach the target on schedule.

“When we began the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative in 2010, we knew this was an ambitious undertaking,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “We set bold targets, where others set

none. We are proud of what we have accomplished, to provide Saskatchewan people with improved access to quality surgical services. With one exception, our health regions look to be on track to meet the wait times target on schedule. My expectation is that Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region will meet the target, even if they are delayed a year. Patients in this region, and across Saskatchewan, deserve treatment that meets this new standard of care.”

[Surgical Wait Times Continue to Drop](#)

### **BOB MCGRATH RECOGNIZED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO SASKATCHEWAN**



**Premier Brad Wall presented the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award to entertainer, actor and humanitarian Bob McGrath in Saskatoon on Thursday, February 28.**

**“It is truly an honour to present this award to such a worthy individual,” Wall said. “For more than three decades Mr. McGrath has touched the lives of thousands of Saskatchewan families**

through his work with the Kinsmen Telemiracle. On behalf of a very grateful province, I would like to thank Mr. McGrath for all that he has done for our most vulnerable citizens.”

Perhaps best known for his iconic role as that music teacher “Bob” on the children’s television show Sesame Street, Mr. McGrath has also served as host of the Kinsmen Telemiracle 35 times, helping raise more than \$95 million to assist Saskatchewan people to acquire special needs equipment and access to medical treatment.

[Bob McGrath Recognized for Distinguished Service to Saskatchewan](#)

### **2013 BIG YEAR FOR EVENTS IN SASKATCHEWAN**

On Thursday, February 28, Tourism Saskatchewan kicked-off a year in which the province will play host to several national events, in addition to a number of long-standing annual festivals and events that attract thousands of visitors.

“The events featured on Saskatchewan2013.com are opportunities to position Saskatchewan on the national and international stage,” Minister Responsible for Tourism Tim McMillan said. “Investing in events aligns with the government’s goals identified in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth and will yield benefits for Saskatchewan citizens, communities and the province.”

[2013 Big Year for Events in Saskatchewan](#)

### **"THANKS COACH" TICKET PACKAGES FOR THE CIS UNIVERSITY CUP CHAMPIONSHIP**





For those of you with children in Minor Hockey you know how hard the volunteer coaches work. It is often hard to show just how much the parents and teams appreciate them. The Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association is providing "Thanks Coach" Team Packages for the PotashCorp CIS University Cup Championships presented by Co-Op.

March 16 is being celebrated as "Thank You Coach Day" at the University Cup to show appreciation for everything Minor Hockey Coaches do for our kids and for the game.

The package includes a brunch with Dave King, Saskatchewan's coaching legend on March 16 at 10:00 am, followed by a University Cup game at 1:00 pm. For \$250, you will get the brunch tickets for your coaches, 17 youth game tickets, and 3 adult game tickets!

For more information or for the ticket package order form visit the [Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association](#) website.

### **SASKATOON SPORTS AND LEISURE SHOW**

The Saskatoon Wildlife Federation is presenting the Saskatoon Sports and Leisure Show. The show began yesterday and runs until Sunday, March 3. This year promises to be the best show yet with Terry Grant - the Real Mantracker at the show all four days!

Events include dog shows, reptile shows, filleting demonstrations, Family Fun Challenges, and more. Exhibitors range from Summer Destinations, RV Stores, sport outfitters, to food distributors. With the wide variety of displays there is a bit of something for everyone.

For a full list of events, exhibitors, hours, and ticket prices visit the [Saskatoon Sports and Leisure Show](#) website.

**TELEMIRACLE 37**



Telemiracle 37 kicks off tomorrow, March 2nd and runs until March 3. This year the event will once again be hosted by Bob McGrath and will feature Victoria Banks, Beverly Mahood, Andrea Menard, Donny Parenteau, Jeffery Straken, Brad Johner and the Johner Boys, The Arrogant Worms, Prism, The Sadies, The Stellas and performers from all over the province.

Telemiracle 37 is in Saskatoon this year at TCU Place and will also be broadcast on CTV stations. Doors open at 8:00 pm. I encourage you to go down and see the event live and call in to help them "Ring Those Phones."

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- The unemployment rate fell to 4.0 per cent in January, making this the lowest unemployment rate since November 2008.
- There were 545,300 people working in Saskatchewan in January 2013, and increase of 24,700 workers from January 2012.
- Employment for women increased by 5.1 per cent to 254,000 in January, hitting an all-time high for the number of women employed in the province.
- The province's youth unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) was 9.1 per cent, the second lowest among the province behind Alberta (7.8 per cent) and below the national rate of 13.5 per cent.

#### JUST THE LINKS

- February 26, 2013 - [Government Provides Additional Funding for FASD Awareness and Prevention](#)
- February 27, 2013 - [Saskatchewan Continues International Labour Recruitment](#)
- February 27, 2013 - [Saskatchewan E.Coli Case Connected to Beef Burger Recall](#)
- February 28, 2013 - [Seasonal Weight Restrictions Go Into Effect March 1](#)
- March 1, 2013 - [Social Services Benefit Cheques Delayed](#)
- March 1, 2013 - [Engineering and Geoscience Week Proclaimed in Saskatchewan](#)

## 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](http://www.saskatoonbluessociety.ca)

### Saskatoon Sports and Leisure Show

Date: February 28 to March 3

When: March 1: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm, March 2: 10:00 am - 9:00 PM, March 3: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

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: Holy Family Cathedral

Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$35 for students, available at McNally Robinson, University of Saskatchewan Bookstore, or online at [www.saskchoral.ca](http://www.saskchoral.ca)

### HomeStyles HomeShow

Date: March 7 to March 10

**When: March 7: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm, March 8: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm, March 9: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm, and March 10: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Where: Prairieland Park**

**Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$25 for a weekend pass, and children 12 and under are free**

**CIS Men's Hockey Championship**

**Date: March 14 to March 17**

**When: Various game times**

**Where: Credit Union Centre**

Visit [University Cup](#) for game times and ticket information

**Gardenscape**

**Date: March 22 to March 24**

**When: March 22: 11:00 am - 10:00 pm, March 23: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, March 24: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Where: Prairieland Park**

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

"Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

A.A. Milne

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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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