



# Provincial Point of View

## May 17, 2013

### STRONG ECONOMY, BALANCED BUDGET, NEW EMPLOYMENT ACT HIGHLIGHT LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Premier Brad Wall said a balanced budget, continued economic strength and a new Saskatchewan Employment Act that modernizes the province's labour legislation were the highlights of the 2012-13 legislature session which wraps up today.

"Sound financial management is the foundation of our government's Growth Plan," Wall said. "We are one of only a few provinces in Canada with a balanced budget - a budget that controls spending while making important investments in health, education, infrastructure and people with disabilities."

Wall said Saskatchewan continues to be an economic leader in Canada.

"Saskatchewan just set an all-time high for job creation in April and we have the lowest

unemployment rate in Canada, " Wall said. "We are closing in on 1.1 million people and our economy is leading the nation. It's a great time to be in Saskatchewan."

Other highlights for the legislative session include:

- Introduction of the province's first private liquor stores;
- New laws to improve safety in highway construction zones;
- Legislation to allow Saskatchewan workers to enroll in a Pooled Registered Pension Plan (PRPP) and to allow the Saskatchewan Pension Plan to be offered as a PRPP;
- Legislation to allow a public share offering in Information Services Corporation (ISC); and
- The introduction of the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) to help families save for their children's post secondary education.

Wall said the spring session of the Legislature was largely overshadowed by the big story of the spring - the weather.

"That's what Saskatchewan people were really talking about this spring," Wall said. "First we had the winter that seemed like it would never end and then when the spring melt finally came, there was flooding to deal with in many parts of the province.

"I want to thank all the highways workers for the work they did keeping our highways safe and open through some brutal snowstorms and I want to thank all the community leaders, government officials and volunteers who put in long hours to deal with flooding in many parts of the province. Once again this shows the determination, resilience and community spirit of Saskatchewan people."

**MEMORIAL CUP BEGINS!**



It will be an exciting week in Saskatoon as our city hosts the MasterCard Memorial Cup! I was thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in the opening ceremonies held yesterday, Thursday May 16th at the Vimy Memorial in Kiwanis Park. A fly-over by the Canadian Forces Snowbirds helped welcome the MasterCard Memorial Cup to Saskatoon.

Dignitaries present included Canadian Hockey League officials, military representatives and alumni from the host Saskatoon Blades. The fly-over by two members of Canada's famed acrobatic team, the Snowbirds, capped the ceremony.

"We are proud to honour the brave men and women who serve," says the MasterCard Memorial co-chair Jack Brodsky. "Their sacrifices are extraordinary and this ceremony is an opportunity for all of us to say Thank -You in a very public way."

Originally donated by the Ontario Hockey Association in 1919, the Memorial Cup trophy was dedicated to the memories of the Canadian soldiers killed in World War I. The trophy has since been rededicated to honour all of Canada's fallen military personnel.

MasterCard Memorial Cup action begins tonight when the host Blades meet the OHL-Champion

London Knights. I encourage you to attend this world class event.

Get in the action- Single-game tickets are now available for the 2013 MasterCard Memorial Cup through Ticketmaster. Purchase on-line at [Ticketmaster.ca](http://Ticketmaster.ca) or by phone (306) 938-7800 or 1-800-970-SEAT (7328). Event details are available at [www.mastercardmemorialcup.ca](http://www.mastercardmemorialcup.ca)

### CENTENNIAL FAIR-- 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORESTRY FARM



On May 26th the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary with the Centennial Fair. It will be at the Park from noon until 5pm, with no charge for the fair activities and parking.

The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo is a National Historic Site. It was originally the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station founded in 1913. It researched and produced trees that were adapted to the prairies. It also showcased the prairie farm beautification program in which it helped to distribute and plant millions of trees to make a shelter-belt for protection, ensuring that prairie farming would be a success.



Take a step back in time with the Forestry Farm to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station. Centennial Fair activities include:

- Commemorative Ceremony @ 2pm.
- Concessions.
- Wagon Rides.
- Old-fashioned games and contests
- Artisan Marketplace.
- Demonstrations: horticultural, farrier, genealogical, historical and more!

### HELPING THOSE IMPACTED BY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



Currently, approximately 18,000 people in Saskatchewan are affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Individuals and families living with this disease will be able to access more services through the expansion of the First Link Program to five additional communities; North Battleford, Swift Current, Prince Albert and Weyburn, with a satellite office in Estevan.

Championed for its collaborative and responsive approach by working with other agencies, community resources, family physicians and other health care providers, this expansion of First Link across the province will enhance the quality of life for people living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

The program allows clients to link with agencies and supports at the time of diagnosis

and throughout the course of their disease, rather than seeking help when in crisis. First Link provides a referral process that ensures both the engagement of those involved by facilitating the paperwork and other task related tasks on the client's behalf.

### **NEW LABOUR LEGISLATION FOR SASKATCHEWAN PASSED**



The Saskatchewan Employment Act-Bill 85, passed its third reading on May 13, 2013. The Act consolidates 12 pieces of labour legislation into one updated and comprehensive Act that protects workers, promotes growth and increases accountability.

Some of the amendments include:

- Creation of three additional leaves; for critically ill child care, crime-related child death and disappearance.
- Providing part-time employees with overtime for all hours worked in excess of eight hours in a day.
- Clarification that employees are entitled to overtime where the daily maximum hours established by their work schedule are exceeded.
- Addition of the definition of "emergency circumstances" to mean a situation where there is an imminent risk or danger to a person, property or the employer's business that could not have been foreseen by the employer.

Some of the provisions of the new Act:

- There are two work arrangements permitted in the legislation for the 40 hour work week- eight hours per day for five days per week, or 10 hours per day for four days per week.
- No individual or group may be compensated differently on the grounds of any prohibition identified within The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.lrws.gov.sk.ca/modernizing-legislation>

### **2013-14 CONSTRUCTION KICKS INTO GEAR**



The 2013-14 highway construction season is gearing up to provide for a safer highway network and support the provincial government's growth agenda for Saskatchewan.

Today marks the first weekly construction update that will be issued from now through the fall to provide Saskatchewan residents with the latest details on projects underway.

"A safe, reliable, efficient transportation system is vital to our province as our population continues to grow," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Don McMorris said. "This year's construction plans build on the momentum of previous construction seasons and include multi-year mega projects designed to handle increasing traffic. We've invested more than a half a billion dollars per year in transportation each year since coming to office - a total of \$3.7 billion, and this year is no exception."

"The Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association members are ready to go to work building and maintaining our highway system and appreciate the government's commitment to their long-term infrastructure program," Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association President Shantel Lipp said. "Strategic investment into our transportation network creates a platform to fuel economic growth - nothing moves until the roads are built. Long-term commitment means industry will continue to reinvest back into the province through their capital investments and labour."

The 2013-14 Budget will continue to improve Saskatchewan's highways by providing \$576.0 million to build, maintain and operate the highway system. This includes a \$280.8 million

highway construction budget. Motorists are reminded they must slow to 60 km/hr in work zones.

Construction season highlights include:

- Completing the last 13 km of twinning on Highway 11 between Saskatoon and Prince Albert (at Macdowall) to improve safety and traffic movement on this vital north-south corridor.
- Continuing construction on a new four-lane highway from Dewdney Avenue to Highway 1, known as the West Regina Bypass, as well as a new interchange (overpass) at Highway 1, to support safe and seamless traffic movement for TransCanada highway traffic and to the Global Transportation Hub.
- Breaking ground on new passing lanes between Balgonie and Fort Qu'Appelle to safely and cost-efficiently handle heavy traffic volumes.
- Beginning construction on the new 12 km, two-lane Estevan Truck Route, which will be built from the intersection of Highway 39 and Shand Road to Highway 39 west of the city.
- 280 km of repaving work on the province's busiest highways including Highways 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 32, 33, 37, 40, 41, 46, 55 and 106.
- 75 km of rural highway upgrades which rebuild the highway from the roadbed up, including:
  - Highway 22 from Southey to Earl Grey
  - Highway 27 from the Junction of Highway 2 to Vonda
  - Highway 48 from the Junction of Highway 9 to Kipling
  - Highway 55 from Peerless to the Alberta border
  - Highway 58 from Lafleche to Gravelbourg
  - Highway 123 west of Cumberland House
  - Highway 263 Murray Point Access
  - Highway 310 from Balcarres to Ituna
- 33 major bridge and culvert replacements to ensure the safety of these structures on the highway system.
- 45,590 km of centre line and shoulder lines painted on highways, as well as 28,258 pavement signs (such as arrows and stop bars).
- More than 9,100 signs replaced/installed in the highway right of way.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure operates and maintains 26,000 km of provincial highways, 12 ferries and 17 northern airports. The ministry also regulates about 2,000 km of shortline railways.



All motorists are reminded they must slow to 60 km/hr in highway work zones. New simplified signage will direct drivers exactly when to slow to 60 km/hr. Drivers now face three times the normal fines for speeding and heavier enforcement in work zones. For your safety and the safety of workers, slow to 60 km/hr.

### [SASKJOBS.CA](http://SASKJOBS.CA) STRONG RESOURCE FOR SUMMER STUDENTS



Employment opportunities in Saskatchewan continue to be plentiful – the busy Saskjobs website saw an increase in job vacancies of 9.26 per cent in April over March and an increase of 12.58 per cent year-over-year. Postings for summer jobs are abundant as well with close to 5 per cent of the postings in April targeted for students.

“We know that Saskjobs is the trusted resource for those seeking permanent employment but it is also an excellent resource for students looking to land a great summer job in Saskatchewan,” Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. “We continue to see strong numbers of mobile traffic to the site, which tells us that students are becoming aware of the great opportunities on Saskjobs.”

Visits from cell phones and other mobile devices rose by 122 per cent in April year-over-year. Of the 1.1 million visits to the site, 319,500 of them originated from a mobile device.

The majority of job postings in April were in the trades, transport and construction (35.2 per cent) and sales and service (30.5 per cent) categories. 4.5 per cent of the opportunities posted were identified as Summer Student Jobs.

Visits to saskjobs.ca remain steady at 1,134,078 in April; this is an increase of 20,124 visits over March, 2013. This is also a year over year increase of 13.8 per cent from 996,565 visits in April, 2012.

Job postings were placed in 350 communities with the majority being located in Regina (29 per cent), Saskatoon (21.5 per cent) and Estevan (5.5 per cent). Meadow Lake experienced the greatest increase year-over-year (182.4 per cent) followed by North Battleford (39.2 per cent) and Prince Albert (32.4 per cent).

“Our economy continues to thrive and contribute to a great quality of life in Saskatchewan,” Boyd said. “Whether you are a student eager to make some good money this summer, or you are looking for something more permanent, Saskatchewan is sure to have what you are looking for and Saskjobs.ca is the place to find it.”

### SASKATCHEWAN MARATHON



May is Marathon Month in Saskatoon!

The grand finale of the Saskatchewan Marathon is on May 26th and is being held at Prairieland Park on St. Henry Avenue.

In 1972 the federal government introduced ParticipAction and is from this physical activity initiative that the Saskatoon Road Runners Association (SRRA) was formed in 1975. They are responsible for organizing the Saskatchewan Marathon since 1979, and it is now in its 35th year and is the longest running marathon in Canada.

The SRRA is putting on a Movie Night featuring 'Marathon Challenge' at the Broadway theater on Tuesday May 21st. It is open to the public and admission is \$5 with all proceeds going to THE ONE FUND, to help the families affected by the Boston Marathon Bombings.

For more information go to: <http://www.saskmarathon.ca/>

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

At 100 years old, Fauja Singh became the oldest person — and the first centenarian — to finish a marathon when he crossed the finish line at the 2011 Toronto Marathon. His final time: eight hours, 11 minutes, and 5.9 seconds.

Famed theorist/physicist Albert Einstein played goal for the Canwood Canucks one winter while sojourning north to Canada to "find peace and silence" for his work on the Theory of Relativity.

The day the hippocampus is destroyed by Alzheimer's, the person will lose the ability to recall the last 3 years of their life, because the hippocampus is essential to memory storage.

The Memorial Cup was proposed by Captain James T. Sutherland during World War I. He wanted to create a trophy that would memorialize the OHA players that died fighting for Canada in the War. The trophy was rededicated in 2010 to include all of the soldiers that died fighting for Canada in any conflict.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **MasterCard Memorial Cup**

**Date:** May 16 to May 26

**When:** Various times

**Where:** Credit Union Centre

Visit [www.mastercardmemorialcup.ca](http://www.mastercardmemorialcup.ca) for game times, to purchase tickets, and for more information.

### **NatureCity Festival**

**Date:** May 25 to May 31

**When:** Various times

**Where:** Various locations

For a full schedule visit [www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org](http://www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org)

### **Saskatchewan Marathon**

**Date:** May 26

**When:** Marathon and Half Marathon 7:00 am, 10K 8:00 am, Marafun 11:00 am

**Where:** TBA

**PotashCorp Children's Festival of Saskatchewan**

**Date: June 2 to June 5**

**When: June 2: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; June 3 to June 5: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Where: Kiwanis Memorial Park**

**WaterFront Craft Art Festival in Partnership with Affinity Credit Union**

**Date: June 8**

**When: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Where: River Landing**

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

"It is not the failure of others to appreciate your abilities that should trouble you, but rather your failure to appreciate theirs."

Confucius

[friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

**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.

*Copyright © 2013 Saskatoon Silver Springs, All rights reserved.*

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a dark grey rounded rectangle. The text "MailChimp" is written in a white, cursive script font.

**Our mailing address is:**

1106A Central Avenue  
Saskatoon , SK. S7N 2H1

Phone: 306-651-7100

Fax: 306-651-6008

Email: [ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)