

"Check out what's happening in Saskatoon Silver Springs and throughout the province!"



## Provincial Point of View October 25, 2013

### HELLO FROM TEL AVIV, ISRAEL!

I had an incredible opportunity this week to present the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan at the WATEC 2013 exhibition and conference in Tel Aviv, Israel. Attending with me is Wayne Dybvig, President of the Water Security Agency.

The WATEC 2013 conference focused on how new technologies in water management can help countries around the world with water management issues. This included panel discussions and presentations on irrigation technology, regional water co-operation and ways to approach financing water technology.

There has been a keen interest from people around the world interested in our government and Saskatchewan's story. It has been a privilege on behalf of Premier Brad Wall and our government to showcase Saskatchewan's 25 Year Water Security Plan on an International stage.

Last October, Premier Wall announced in "The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth", a very ambitious plan that included a 25-year-plan for the Water Security Agency. This plan has garnered attention from countries half way around the world. As our province grows, so does demand for infrastructure and resources like water.

I had the opportunity to make a presentation and talk about Saskatchewan and our 25 Year Water Security Plan. I also had a chance to meet one-on-one with many companies that are interested in doing business in Saskatchewan.

This conference is a great example of people taking notice of Saskatchewan. They have researched our province and realize the vast resources we have and they are interested. We were very pleased and privileged to promote our province. Hopefully some of companies present will take a closer look at Saskatchewan.

The goal of the Water Security Agency and mine as Minister of Environment, is to balance the needs of industry with a healthy water system and do it in an environmentally sustainable way. That is part of our plan going forward. I must say there were a few raised eyebrows when we talked about our growing economy and they learned we are leading the country in growth, in GDP growth and that we have a very low unemployment rate.

It was great to talk about the relevance of water and how it is such a valuable resource. That is something that hits home here; the way they conserve and reuse water. In Israel there are many lessons that we could learn. Going forward, when I have an opportunity to talk to people around the province in my role as Minister of Environment, I will be able to use specific examples that I learned here in Israel to help get that point across.

Water is one of the challenges we face as a growing province. We are very fortunate in the province to have Lake Diefenbaker. Jimmy Gardiner and John Diefenbaker and Tommy Douglas had the foresight to make sure that we have a dam system in Saskatchewan and that we can use that resource in a positive way. We can continue to use water for human purposes, personal consumption as well as for business. As long as we make sure that we do it in a responsible sustainable way, we will be well-served with a clean fresh water supply well into the future.

I am just about to board a plane to make my trip back to Saskatoon. I look forward to bringing back ideas to our province to help us going forward as we look for innovative solutions to better use technology.

### **OPENING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE** **GOVERNMENT AGENDA TO FOCUS ON MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF GROWTH**

Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield formally opened the Third Session of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature with the Speech from the Throne on October 23, at 2 p.m. in the Assembly Chamber of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building. I was not able to be present, but many constituents had the opportunity to be in attendance.

The occasion marked the start of a new tradition for the Government of Saskatchewan. The Black Rod, the design of which was unveiled to the province by The Prince of Wales during a visit to Regina in 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, saw its first official use.

**“Saskatchewan continues to grow – more people, more jobs, more economic activity,” Wall said. “Growth creates many new opportunities and it also creates many new challenges. Our government is working hard to meet those challenges and ensure all Saskatchewan people share in the benefits of a growing economy.”**

**One of the highlights outlined in the Throne Speech as well as the News Release below, was the announcement of another new joint-use school in our constituency!**

**Additional new initiatives outlined include:**

- **A new program to enable some seniors with complex issues to receive house calls from physicians, nurse practitioners and other health care providers;**
- **Amendments to The Personal Care Homes Act to allow for the public disclosure of inspection reports;**
- **New Collaborative Emergency Centres in Shaunavon, Spiritwood, Wakaw and Canora;**
- **New “hot spotting” pilot programs to take pressure off emergency rooms in Saskatoon and Regina by providing more appropriate services to assist high-risk, high-use patients who repeatedly show up in emergency rooms;**
- **A new Student First approach in education that will include wide-ranging consultations with students, teachers, parents and administrators;**
- **New anti-bullying measures;**
- **Nine new joint-use schools to be built using an innovative P3 bundling approach;**
- **Improvement to internet access and speed in all schools through SaskTel’s CommunityNet program;**
- **Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) to become a polytechnic institution;**
- **Further highway twinning in high traffic areas;**
- **New measures to improve traffic safety and reduce fatalities, with a particular focus on tougher penalties for drinking and driving;**
- **Significant infrastructure investments by Crown Corporations including four new cellular sites in the north in Fond du Lac, Stony Rapids, Black Lake and Wollaston Lake;**
- **Expansion of the HeadStart on a Home program to encourage construction of rental properties;**
- **A new Life Lease Program through Saskatchewan Housing Corporation to improve housing options for seniors;**
- **1,000 new training seats, including 300 new apprenticeship seats and 700 new Adult Basic Education seats;**
- **A new Manufacturing Centre of Excellence;**

- A new event hosting strategy through Tourism Saskatchewan;
- A new Saskatchewan International Future Scholarship for up to 20 students annually;
- A new Western Canadian Livestock Price Insurance Program for cattle and hog producers;
- Amendments to The Saskatchewan Employment Act to include the province's essential services law, which was recently upheld by the Court of Appeal;
- A comprehensive public consultation on the province's disability strategy; and
- A new Lobbyists Act.

“These are just some of the actions our government will be taking to address the challenges of growth, with more to come in the next provincial budget in March,” Wall said. “Growth creates many challenges, but they are sure preferable to the challenges of decline that Saskatchewan was facing just a few years ago.”

Also during this session, former University of Saskatchewan President Peter MacKinnon will release his report on the Saskatchewan Heritage Initiative – his recommendations on how best to ensure that resource revenues become a permanent source of wealth for current and future generations.

“While many jurisdictions are saddling future generations with huge debt burdens, Saskatchewan's natural resources have given us an opportunity to pay down debt,” Wall said. “Now we have an opportunity to look ahead and make sure that our children and grandchildren benefit from our natural resources and the decisions we make today.”

[Government Agenda to Focus on Meeting the Challenges of Growth](#)

### **NEW JOINT-USE SCHOOL ANNOUNCED FOR EVERGREEN**

Premier Brad Wall joined Education Minister Don Morgan, students, teachers and school division administrators at Dundonald School in Saskatoon to announce that the Government of Saskatchewan will build nine new joint-use schools. These schools will be located in communities experiencing unprecedented growth including: Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville.

The government will construct these schools through a Public Private Partnership (P3). This model will enable the province to build more schools in less time than our typical funding and procurement approach would allow. The government will undergo due diligence to determine the

best approach for moving forward and the school divisions will be very involved in this process.

“Saskatchewan is experiencing remarkable growth across the province, and some of it is right in the classroom,” Wall said. “We need to meet the challenges of growth and have adequate infrastructure in place. This approach will put our students first, provide them with the best learning environments, and do so much quicker than government could build schools the conventional way.”

Joint-use schools between Catholic and public school divisions offer options for shared programming opportunities for students, and shared maintenance costs between the divisions.

“Saskatoon Public Schools has seen unprecedented growth in the last few years,” Saskatoon Public School Division Board Chair Ray Morrison said. “With new neighbourhoods being built, we need to ensure we can provide the right facilities to support learning for our students. On behalf of our board, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the provincial government for responding to the needs of our students and families. By providing vibrant learning spaces for our students, we are fostering their potential and building stronger communities.”

“Our division has been growing on average the size of an elementary school each year for the past four years,” Regina Catholic School Division Board of Education Chair Vicky Bonnell said. “While this growth is welcome, it does strain our facilities. It is wonderful to see the provincial government actively addressing these pressures and the new schools announced today will go a long way in helping our division accommodate the city’s growth. While we are very appreciative of today’s announcement, we remain committed to advocating for the capital funding needs of our existing schools.”

The 2013 budget committed nearly \$120 million to maintain existing schools, and responded to the need for additional space as a result of the increased enrolments throughout the province. The Ministry of Education has consulted with impacted school divisions to ensure they are aware of the highest infrastructure priorities concerning growth. These new schools are in response to the extraordinary growth pressures in newer areas and subdivision

[Government of Saskatchewan Announces Nine New Joint-Use Schools](#)

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**



I'm sure the children are looking forward to Halloween next week. For many children Halloween night is one of the most exciting nights of the year. I encourage everyone to follow the tips below to ensure our children enjoy a safe Halloween.

- Plan a route, if you have little ones this can be the best way to navigate a path to avoid tired legs and sore feet.
- Costumes should be bright, though some of our scary ones will be in dark costumes to cause the most fright, a little reflective tape or a bright scarf will make them better to see. If the best costume ever needs a mask, make sure that the eye and mouth holes are big enough for them to see and breath out of. And also make sure you and the little ones are in comfy shoes, this will be a blessing when it comes time for 'one more house, pleeease!'
- The older kids, who can go on their own without an adult, should have a flashlight, stay in a group and have an agreed upon time to return home to check out the loot.

I hope that everyone has a safe and fun time this Halloween!

### TELEMIRACLE 38 AUDITIONS



Kinsmen Telemiracle is busy preparing for Telemiracle 38! The call for auditions is out.

Auditions will be held in Saskatoon November 3. Telemiracle has helped many people with special needs over the years with everything from medical supplies, equipment, health centres and travel expenses. Telemiracle is truly an amazing organization that brings together the people of Saskatchewan to raise funds for people with special needs in our province.

If you would like to take part in Telemiracle 38 by auditioning, please contact the Kinsmen Telemiracle Office at 306-244-6400 ext. 2 to register.

### **SASKJOBS WEBSITE SURPASSES ONE MILLION VISITS**

Saskatchewan's hot job market continues to be reflected in the latest figures from the saskjobs.ca website, which saw a 15.5 per cent increase in the number of postings for the month of September. The popularity of the website is also reaching new highs as the total visits surpassed one million in September.

Visits to SaskJobs were up 13.9 per cent or 127,089 year-over-year to reach 1,038,709. Notable increases in terms of their place of origin included the Philippines (65.3 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (44.7 per cent), India (39.1 per cent), Alberta (34.2 per cent), the United States (33.4 per cent) and Quebec (31.9 per cent).

"The popularity of SaskJobs is understandable when you look at the range of opportunities we have to offer in the province," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "People go to where the jobs are, and right now that's Saskatchewan. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country and the second highest average earnings."

[SaskJobs Website Surpasses One Million Visits](#)

### **CELEBRATING EDUCATION WEEK IN SASKATCHEWAN**

The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed October 20 to 26 as Education Week. This year's theme, Supporting and Celebrating Success, highlights the exceptional, and important, work that teachers, parents, caregivers, leaders and support staff do to support the success of Saskatchewan students.

Each year, Education Week is proclaimed to highlight the achievements of Saskatchewan

students and commend the dedication of teachers and staff. This week is celebrated through various events and public activities in schools throughout the province.

The theme Supporting and Celebrating Success encourages those in the sector to share best practices and examples of great work not only within their schools and communities, but across the province.

To view success stories please visit [www.education.gov.sk.ca/student-first](http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/student-first).

[Celebrating Education Week in Saskatchewan](#)

### **FASTER INTERNET ACCESS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

Today, Premier Brad Wall announced SaskTel will be investing more than \$5 million in capital investments over two years to upgrade CommunityNet. This will ensure faster, and more equitable, internet access for teachers, students and administrators across the province. Wall made the announcement at the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Councillor Conference in Saskatoon.

In addition to the initial investment, SaskTel and the Ministry of Education will also begin consulting with school divisions to determine growing bandwidth needs in the long term.

"We have been talking to teachers, and one thing we've heard is the need for better internet access in schools," Wall said. "Improvements to CommunityNet mean that all students across the province, will have better access to the digital tools and learning opportunities they need to succeed in a digital world, and to compete on an international level. This new investment is the most significant increase in bandwidth access for students since the program's inception in 2001."

[Faster Internet Access for Students and Teachers](#)

### **JUST THE LINKS**

October 18, 2013 - [Premier Welcomes Agreement on Canada-European Trade Deal](#)

October 21, 2013 - [Saskatchewan Honours Foster Families](#)

October 21, 2013 - [Saskatchewan Proclaims BDC Small Business Week 2013](#)

October 21, 2013 - [Government Launches Online Consultation Tool for Mental Health and Addictions](#)



[Action Plan](#)

October 22, 2013 - [SaskBuilds Announces New President and CEO](#)

October 22, 2013 - [Governments Announce Funding to Boost Awareness of Agriculture in Saskatchewan](#)

October 24, 2013 - [Prestigious Scholarship Awarded to Saskatchewan Students](#)

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- October 21 was School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- Saskatchewan school enrollment is up 2140 students overall from last year
- The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure's five paint trucks will travel further than the distance around the equator this construction season, creating more than 52,000 km of white and yellow lines and applying about 1.2 million litres of paint on Saskatchewan's highways

**COMING EVENTS**

**Centennial Chargers vs P.A. St. Mary - Playoff High School Football**

Date: October 25

Where: Gordie Howe Bowl

When: 5:15 pm

**Kids Gone Wild for Wildlife**

Date: October 26

Where: Prairieland Park Hall A

When: 9 am - 5 pm

**Pumpkin Maze**

Date: October 26 - Last Day

Where: Dutch Growers

When: 10 am - 6 pm

**Saskatoon Fall Fair**

**Date: October 30 - November 2**

**Where: Prairieland Park Ag Centre**

**When: 9 am - 8 pm Daily**

**Boo Town**

**Date: October 30**

**Where: Western Development Museum**

**When: 5:30 pm - 8 pm**

**Random Acts of Kindness Day**

**Date: November 1**

**Where: Everywhere**

**When: All Day**

**Lows In Motion**

**Date: November 2**

**Where: Prairieland Park**

**When: 7 pm - 2 am**

**Tickets Still Available**

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

**“Isn’t it funny how day by day  
nothing changes,  
but when you look back  
everything is different?”**

**~ C.S. Lewis**

[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 a teal-colored rounded rectangle containing the word "MailChimp" in a white, cursive script font.

Phone: [306-651-7100](tel:306-651-7100)

Fax: [306-651-6008](tel:306-651-6008)

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