

Check out what's happening in Saskatoon Willowgrove and throughout the Province!

FROM A PROVINCIAL POINT OF VIEW



**Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA
Saskatoon Willowgrove**

With snow across our province, just a good reminder spring is hopefully on the way!

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the first signs of spring is the beautiful prairie crocus. (we all anxiously await seeing these crocus')

Growing in locations with plenty of sun (like open prairie, roadsides and hillsides), prairie crocuses often bloom before the snow is gone, adding some colour to the landscape. It's saucer shaped blooms create a nice cozy place for insects to warm up helping them survive the early spring.

By blooming so early, the crocus guarantees itself the attention of available pollinators, like small bees and other insects. The crocus attracts them with the abundance of pollen in their bright yellow centres.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Strong and growing communities are the foundation of a strong and growing province. That's why Saskatchewan's 2024-25 Provincial Budget invests in our province's strong and growing communities - so that Saskatchewan can continue to grow and remain the best place to live, work and raise a family.

For cities, towns, villages and municipalities throughout Saskatchewan, the budget provides a record increase of \$42.4 million in Municipal Revenue Sharing. This is an increase of 14.2 per cent from last year for a total of \$340.2 million in unconditional support for municipalities in the province.

Municipal Revenue Sharing was introduced in our government's first budget in 2008 to help support municipalities across the province. This funding is provided predictably with no strings attached because locally-elected leaders are most familiar with the needs of their communities.

An additional \$350.1 million – an increase of \$2 million – will be directed to infrastructure programs in the province, including funding for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Canada Community-Building Fund and the New Building Canada Fund.

The budget also provides a \$900,000 increase to the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency for total funding of \$12.3 million to maintain its capacity for property inspections.

Investing in municipal and regional transportation infrastructure is a large priority in this year's budget. A \$29.5 million investment will support municipalities and industry partners in making investments in the provincial transportation system, supporting economic growth and safety on rural and municipal roads.

Funding from this year's budget will also support community airport improvements and help short line railways maintain and upgrade their networks. Transportation infrastructure is important in keeping our families safe while travelling, connecting communities, and getting our exports to market, helping to further grow Saskatchewan's communities.

Community safety remains a priority for our government and will receive significant investments in this year's budget. The budget for the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety is \$719.4 million. Together, they will work to maintain and promote public safety in Saskatchewan communities.

More than \$228 million will fund RCMP operations in the province, an increase of \$4.3 million, while the RCMP's First Nations Policing Program will receive \$21.6 million. The budget also provides \$23.1 million for 160 municipal police positions, including 17 Combined Traffic Services positions funded by SGI and other public safety initiatives.

The budget includes \$7 million for the Saskatchewan Marshals Service to continue implementation and hiring; the Marshals are expected to begin operations in 2026. The ministry will also receive \$200,000 to enhance and expand the Saskatchewan Police College.

An investment of more than \$250 million will be provided to the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General to support the province's justice services and community wellbeing, including \$31.7 million for programs and services to reduce interpersonal violence.

The Saskatchewan Firearms Office will receive \$12.4 million, which includes \$3.0 million to establish a ballistics laboratory in Saskatoon.

The budget continues investment in First Nations and Métis communities throughout Saskatchewan. More than \$255 million in targeted funding will be provided for First Nations and

Métis people and organizations, which is an increase of \$6.1 million over last year.

An investment of \$91.2 million from gaming payments will support Indigenous-led social and economic initiatives.

To support the well-being of Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund invests \$800,000 for grassroots organizations to develop and deliver projects that help prevent violence and promote safety.

In an effort to continually enhance consultations related to the duty to consult, the budget provides an increase of \$930,000 to support First Nations and Métis communities in participating in the consultation process.

Our government is committed to investing in community growth, contributing to a high quality of life in communities across Saskatchewan. As we continue this work, I look forward to hearing your feedback. You can reach my constituency office at ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net or call 306.651.7100.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2024



Every April, we celebrate and recognize National Volunteer Week. It provides a chance to celebrate the vibrancy and impact of volunteerism in our communities. Saskatchewan is well known for the importance of every volunteer and each contribution they make in so many aspects of our communities.

This year's theme, Every Moment Matters resonates with me as I witness so many acts of volunteerism right here in our constituency of Saskatoon Willowgrove.



Whether it is participating in community groups, connecting with a senior, organizing food drives or garage sales, coaching teams, it starts with grassroots community groups. The examples are endless and the individual acts of volunteering and participation create major impacts to many.

Volunteering matters. Thank you to the many volunteers for your spirit and commitment to making our communities vibrant places to live, work and raise a family. Let's recognize and celebrate every volunteer for their contribution to strength the well-being in our communities and throughout our province.

This week, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal was presented to 10 recipients by Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty.

[Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal Presented to 10 Recipients by Lieutenant Governor | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION OF OUR VOLUNTEERS



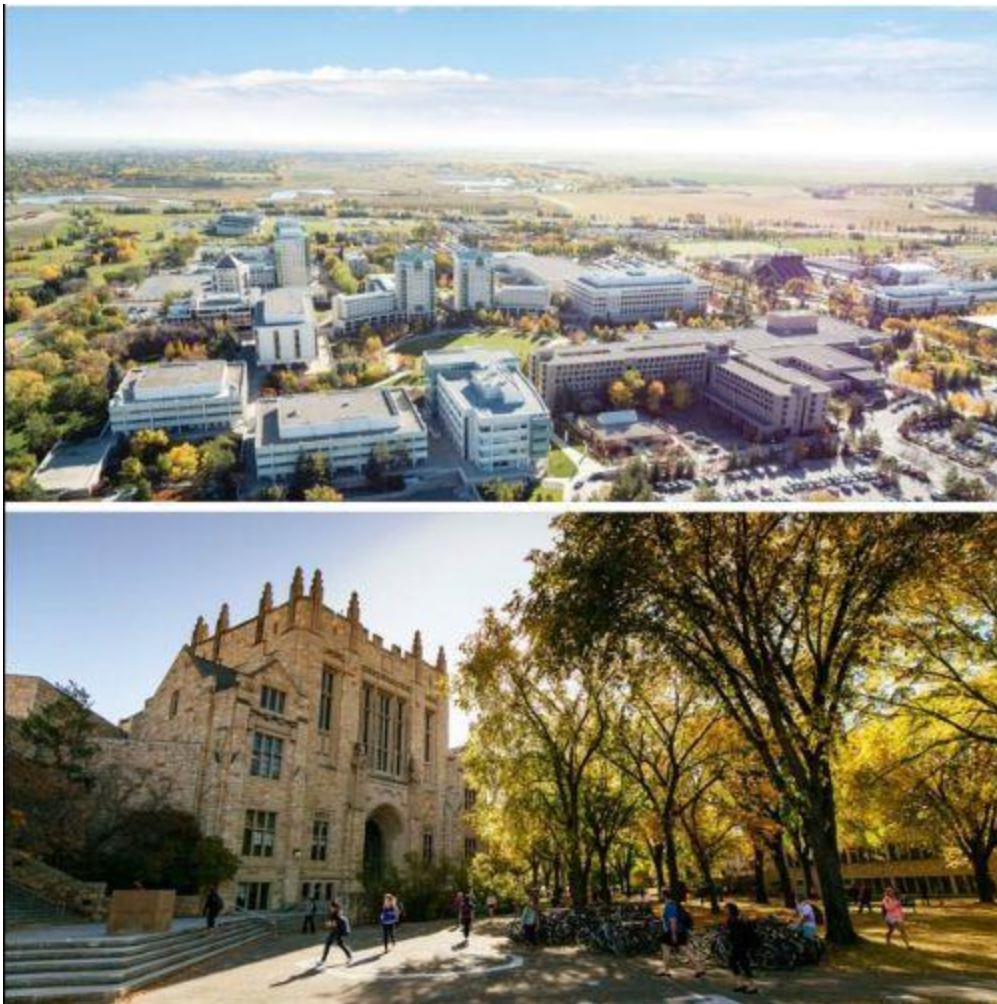
The Government of Saskatchewan is joining Sask Sport, SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association in thanking our province's volunteers and celebrating their accomplishments.

Across the country, April 14 to 20 is being celebrated as National Volunteer Week. This year's National Volunteer Week theme is Every Moment Matters.

"National Volunteer Week is a time to recognize the incredible contributions that more than 330,000 volunteers in communities across Saskatchewan make to our quality of life," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Laura Ross said. "Saskatchewan is well known across the nation for our volunteer ethic, as almost one out of every three Saskatchewan residents volunteer in some way."

[Celebrating the Contributions and Dedication of Our Volunteers | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN & UNIVERSITY OF REGINA NAMED IN TOP 10 MOST BEAUTIFUL UNIVERSITIES IN CANADA

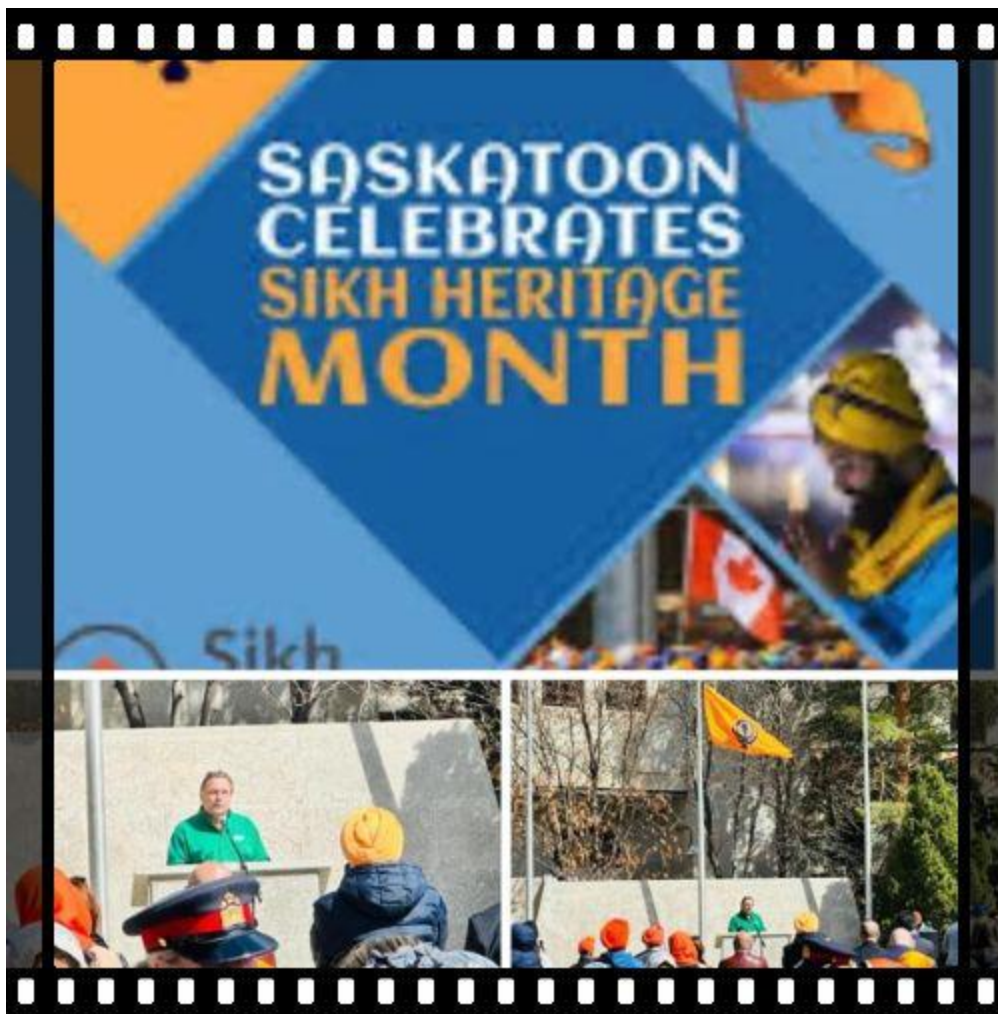


Congratulations to the [University of Regina](#) and [University of Saskatchewan](#) for being named in Global Admissions' Top 10 Most Beautiful Universities in Canada!

When it comes to higher education, Canada boasts not only exceptional academic institutions but also campuses that are truly picturesque. In this article, we will take you on a virtual tour of the top 10 most beautiful universities in Canada, showcasing campuses that are not only centers of learning but also serene havens of natural and architectural beauty. Whether you're a student, an academic, or simply an admirer of fine landscapes, prepare to be captivated by the breathtaking campuses that grace the Canadian landscape.

Read the full article <https://bit.ly/3UfRWh5>

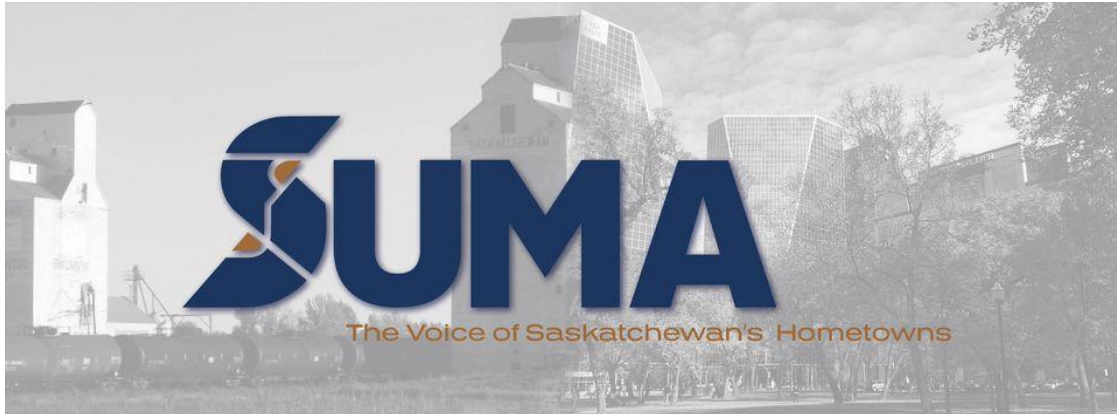
SASKATOON CELEBRATES SIKH HERITAGE MONTH



It was a pleasure to attend the celebration of Sikh Heritage Month and the flag raising at City Hall.

I was joined by MLAs, Muhammad Fiaz Marv Friesen, and Nathaniel Teed. MP Kevin Waugh and Deputy Mayor Cynthia Block.

PREMIER SCOTT MOE ADDRESSES DELEGATES THE THE SUMA CONVENTION



It was a pleasure to attend the annual SUMA convention in Regina this week and hear Premier Moe as he addressed the delegates.

At his address to delegates at the SUMA convention, he continued to call on the federal government for predictable infrastructure investment and a removal of the carbon tax on everything for everyone.



Listen to the full presentation here: [Scott Moe | Facebook](#)



Pictured above with SUMA Provincial Board Member and Saskatoon City Councillor Randy Donauer.

SASKATCHEWAN HOUSING STARTS SURGE BY 12.1 PER CENT



Latest Housing Starts Figures Show Strength of Saskatchewan's Economy

Numbers released April 16 by Statistics Canada indicate that in March 2024, urban housing starts in Saskatchewan increased by 12.1 per cent, compared to March 2023. This increase is indicative of the overall strength of the province's growth.

"Our province continues to grow at rates not seen in more than a century and these numbers show just how many people are choosing to build a life in Saskatchewan," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "The growth we are seeing in housing starts is a result of our commitment to building a reliable market through the strength of our economy that is leading to more opportunities, more job, and more investments into our communities."

[Saskatchewan Housing Starts Surge By 121 Per Cent | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



New StatsCan numbers show that building permits nearly doubled between January 2024-February 2024, reaching a total of \$235 million!

The rising value of building permits means more jobs and more opportunities for Saskatchewan businesses and workers as we support our strong and growing economy.

**SIGNIFICANT BUDGET INVESTMENTS SUPPORT CONTINUED
PROGRESS ON SASKTCHEWAN'S HEALTH HUMAN
RESOURCES ACTION PLAN**



The Government of Saskatchewan continues to build on the successful foundation of the province's Health Human Resources (HHR) Action Plan by investing over \$141 million in this year's budget.

"Continued investment into our ambitious HHR Action Plan ensures Saskatchewan remains an attractive place for health care professionals to live and work," Health Minister Everett Hindley said. "I am pleased to see steady progress being made on multiple initiatives to recruit, train, incentivize and retain more health professionals, strengthen health care teams and deliver improved patient care to residents in communities across the province."

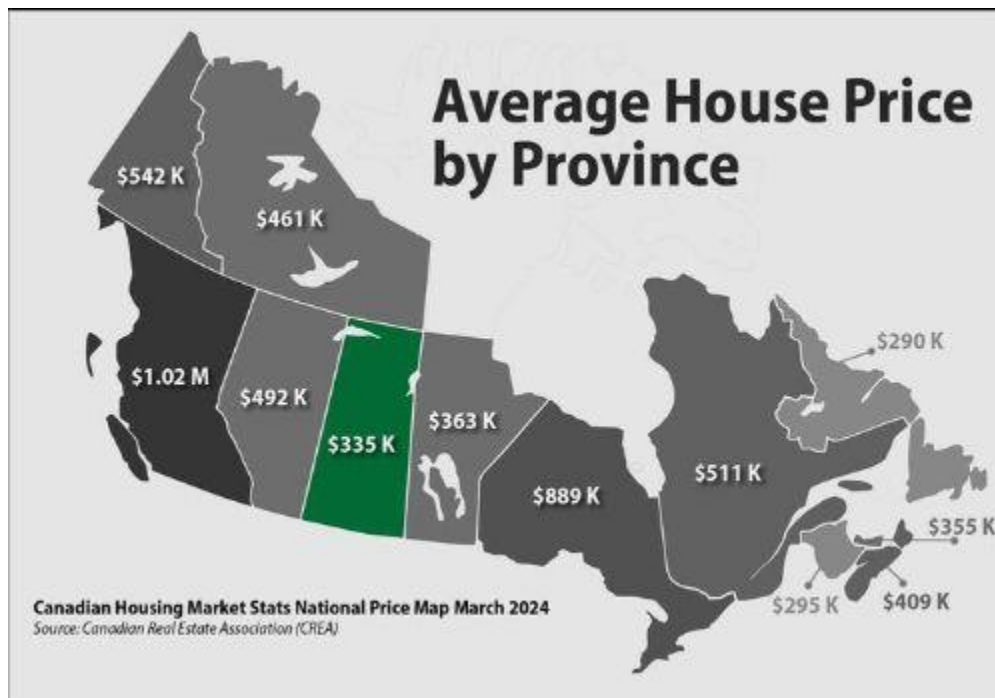
Physician Recruitment and Retention

Several new incentives are available to support recruitment and retention of specialists in high demand:

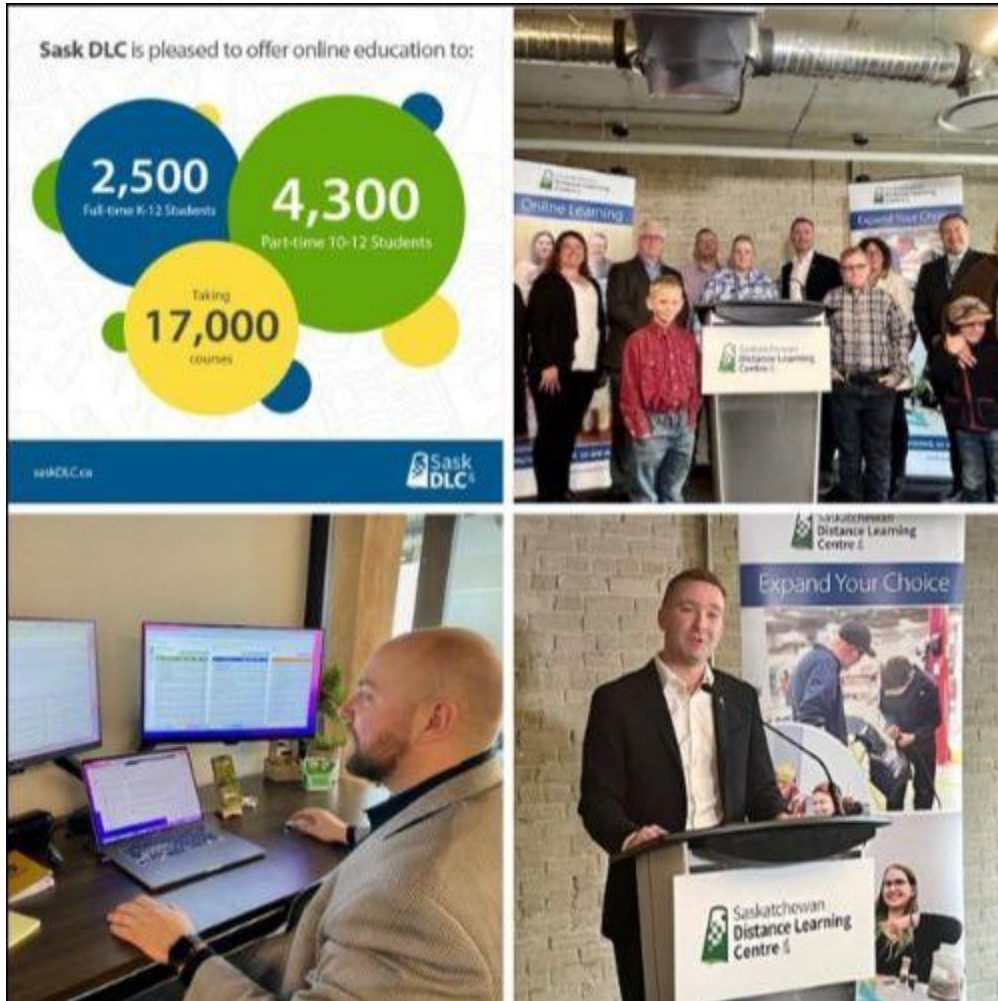
- An incentive package for anesthesia, which includes a relocation grant, as well as an annual incentive of \$200,000 over five years for regional service and \$100,000 over five years for urban service;
- An incentive of \$200,000 over five years for regional service for psychiatry; and
- An incentive of \$200,000 over five years for breast and interventional radiology in approved sites.

[Significant Budget Investments Support Continued Progress on Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources Action Plan](#) | [News and Media](#) | [Government of Saskatchewan](#)

SASKATCHEWAN REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST AFFORDABLE PLACES IN CANADA TO BUY A HOME



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR K-GRADE 12 ONLINE LEARNING AT SASK DLC



Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill, joined students and staff at Sask DLC's Saskatoon Campus to celebrate a successful first year providing online education to more than 6,800 Saskatchewan students. Sask DLC is committed to working with students, parents and school divisions to continue expanding student learning opportunities through online learning. Registration for the 2024-25 school year is now open and summer school registration will open in May 1. Learn more at www.saskDLC.ca. #SaskED #SaskDLC

[Registration is Open for K-Grade 12 Online Learning at Sask DLC | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

SURVEY SEEKING FEEDBACK ON ACCESSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



The Government of Saskatchewan is inviting members of the public to fill out an accessibility survey from April 15 until May 10, 2024. The survey asks about accessibility barriers persons with disabilities may experience when they use government facilities, programs and services.

"I encourage all interested members of the public to provide their accessibility experiences when accessing Government of Saskatchewan services," Social Services Minister Gene Makowsky said. "We are seeking diverse perspectives to guide our work to develop government's accessibility plan."

[Survey Seeking Feedback on Accessibility of Government Facilities, Programs and Services | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

Help in the development of the Saskatchewan accessibility plan by taking this survey, running April 15 until May 10.

Participate in the survey at <https://accessiblesk.saskatchewan.ca/accessibility-plan...>

CELEBRATE SASKATCHEWAN TOURISM WEEK APRIL 15 - 19

The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed April 15-19 as Saskatchewan Tourism Week. The week coincides with the national celebration of Tourism Week in Canada.



Saskatchewan Tourism Week brings attention to the significance of tourism, which generates over \$2.4 billion in annual travel spending and employs almost 71,000 Saskatchewan residents in full and part-time positions. It is a time to acknowledge tourism businesses and operators, whose efforts drive a vibrant visitor economy, create jobs and enhance quality of life.

"Our government is pleased to proclaim April 15-19 as Saskatchewan Tourism Week," Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan Jeremy Harrison said. "This week draws attention to the value of our province's tourism sector, and its impact on the local economy through continued entrepreneurial opportunities. Visitors and residents alike benefit from an industry that provides enticing travel discoveries and showcases Saskatchewan's natural beauty and warm hospitality."



The week will be a time to encourage Saskatchewan residents to discover something new this summer - to plan road trips through the province, try new activities, taste different flavours and explore unique, authentic experiences.

"Saskatchewan Tourism Week highlights the wide variety of businesses, experiences and attractions that make our province an appealing place to visit," Tourism Saskatchewan CEO Jonathan Potts said. "It is an opportunity to recognize the dedication of tourism operators and their employees who go above and beyond expectations to deliver great service. We recognize innovative entrepreneurs creating new businesses and experiences that enhance our remarkable tourism offerings and shine a spotlight on Saskatchewan."



There is enthusiasm among industry as travel steadily increases and operators prepare for a busy summer season. Throughout the week, Tourism Saskatchewan will release a series of videos on Facebook. These stories showcase the province's abundant tourism resources and some of the people, attractions and events that make Saskatchewan an inviting destination.

For more information on Saskatchewan Tourism Week, visit business.tourismsaskatchewan.com

SASKATCHEWAN DECLARES PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK



📞 It's Public Safety Telecommunicators Week! Join us in honouring the unsung heroes behind the scenes - our dedicated 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers across the province.

📍 These highly trained individuals answer 9-1-1 calls from Regina, Saskatoon and near Prince Albert.

They play a vital role when the public is most in need, and we express our gratitude for their unwavering dedication to safeguarding the people of Saskatchewan.

[Saskatchewan Declares Public Safety Telecommunicators Week | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

KEEP IN TOUCH



I appreciate any opportunity to make a positive difference in our 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.*

ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net or call 306.651.7100

*If you are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter, please click on
the **UNSUBSCRIBE** option at the bottom.*

**REMOVAL OF CARBON TAX KEEPS INFLATION RATES LOW IN
SASKATCHEWAN**

Consumer Price Index

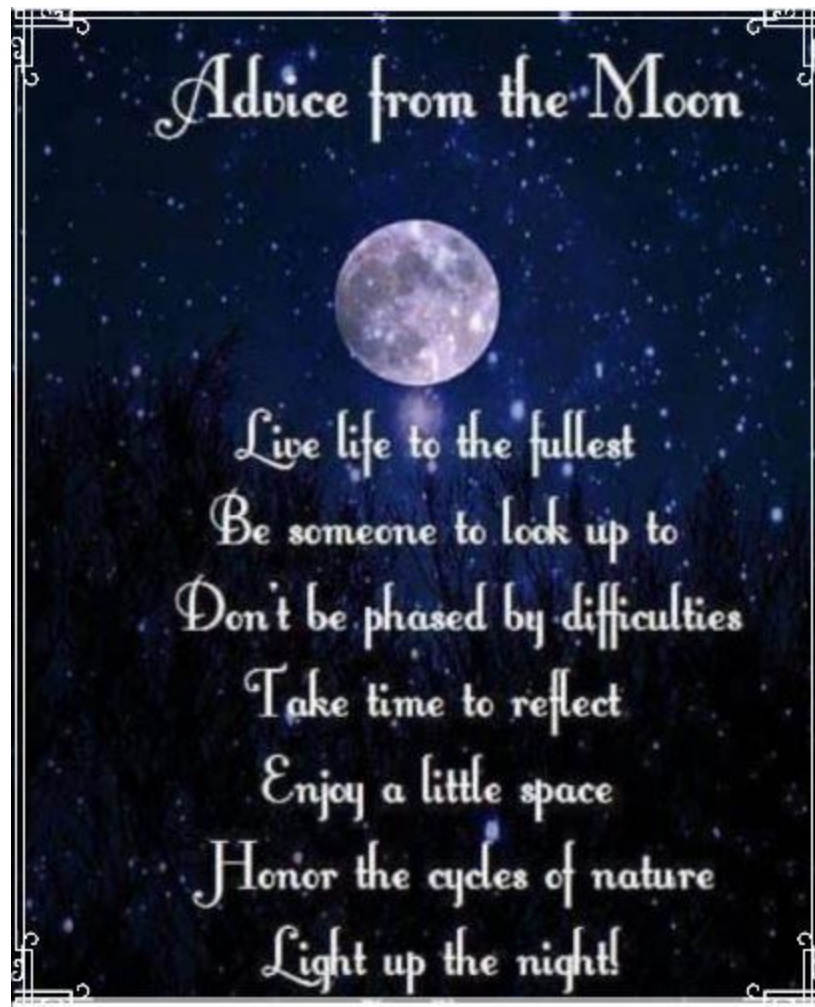


Consumer Price Index Increases Remain One of the Lowest in the Nation

Saskatchewan continues to tackle inflationary pressures. In March 2024, the consumer price index in Saskatchewan increased by only 1.5 per cent from March 2023 (seasonally-unadjusted). This is the second lowest increase in Canada, and well-below the national average of 2.9 per cent.

"Saskatchewan is well-below the national average in terms of consumer price index increases in Canada, and we are seeing further proof that removing the carbon tax on home heating is keeping inflation down," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "We will continue to push back against policies and initiatives that are not in the best interest of Saskatchewan and help to make life more affordable for the people of our province."

[Removal of Carbon Tax Keeps Inflation Rates Low in Saskatchewan | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



SASKATCHEWAN'S INFLATION RATE

**SASKATCHEWAN'S
INFLATION RATE**

1.5%

**NATIONAL
INFLATION RATE**

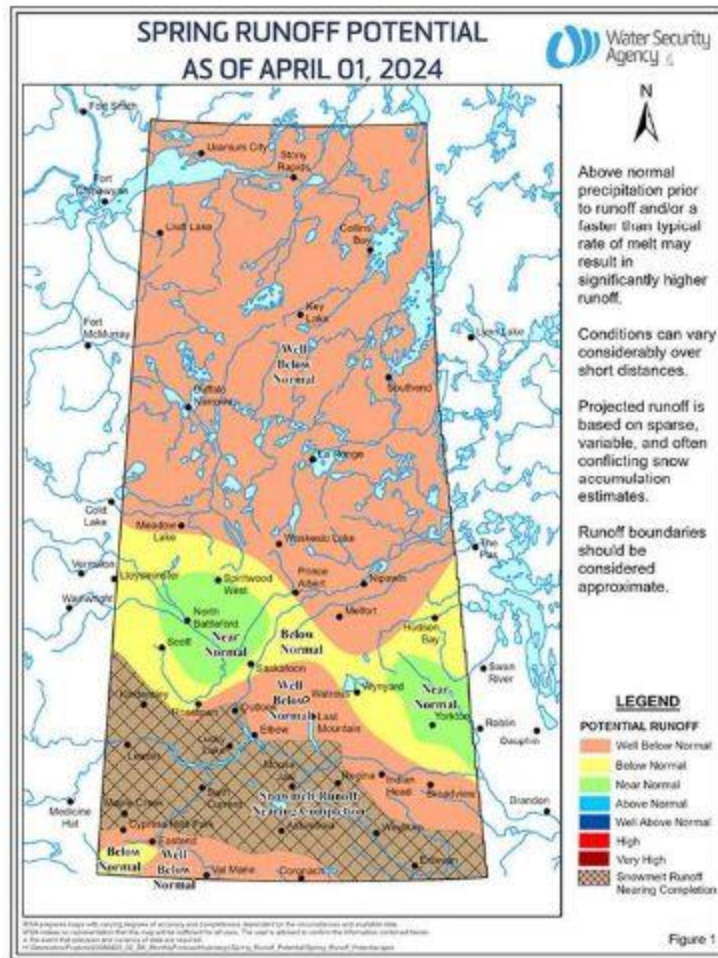
2.9%

SOURCE: CPI FOR THE PROVINCES - STATSCAN

Saskatchewan's inflation rate in March was down to about half of the national rate, largely due to our government's decision to take the carbon tax off home heating.

In the federal budget, the Trudeau government could reduce the cost of living for all Canadians by taking the carbon tax off everything for everyone.

**WATER SECURITY AGENCY ISSUES UPDATED RUNOFF
FORECAST**



April 12, the Water Security Agency (WSA) issued an update to the Spring Runoff Forecast for 2024.

Above freezing temperatures throughout the middle of March resulted in snowmelt runoff either beginning, or in some instances being complete, over much of southern Saskatchewan.

While many areas of the province's moisture levels remain below normal or well-below normal in many areas of the province, late season snowfalls at the end of March have improved conditions.

[Water Security Agency Issues Updated Runoff Forecast | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)


61 MORE COMMUNITIES TO CONNECT TO infiNET

Saskatchewan Provincial Budget | 2024-25
Classrooms, Care & Communities

61 More Communities to Connect to *infiNET*

RURAL FIBRE INITIATIVE PHASE 7

Once completed, SaskTel's *infiNet* network will reach approximately 85% of all households in the province.



Saskatchewan
Party **Caucus**

When complete, SaskTel will have invested over \$1 billion to connect 225 communities. This massive investment to expand the infiNET and 5G networks across the province will ensure Saskatchewan remains one of the most well-connected regions in the country and an attractive place to start a family and grow a business.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR SASKATCHEWAN INCOME SUPPORT AND SASKATCHEWAN ASSURED INCOME FOR DISABILITY CLIENTS

\$1.5 billion

for the *Ministry of Social Services*, up 7.8%,
including increased funding for Saskatchewan
Income Support and Saskatchewan Assured
Income for Disability clients.



Saskatchewan Provincial Budget | 2024-25
Classrooms, Care & Communities

Saskatchewan
Party **Caucus**

This record budget will increase income assistance benefits, rejuvenate social housing and address vacancies, continue to implement integrated approaches to respond to homelessness, enhance services for people with disabilities and increase supports for at-risk individuals, families, children and youth.

A GUIDE TO SPRING WILDFLOWERS IN SASKATOON



Spring is a great time to get out and explore the colorful burst of wildflowers, with tips from local experts! Read our latest blog to find out where you can see some of spring's most colorful wildflowers!

<https://www.discoversaskatoon.com/.../a-guide-to-spring...>

VALUE OF AGRI-FOOD EXPORTS TO VIETNAM SEES 227 PER CENT INCREASE



In 2023, Saskatchewan exported \$46 million worth of agri-food products to Vietnam, over tripling the increase in value from 2022.

The most significant increase in value came from the export of non-durum wheat which skyrocketed to \$40.6 million from \$3.7 million the previous year. Non-durum wheat was Saskatchewan's largest agri-food export in 2023, rising nearly 32 per cent to a total of \$3.7 billion in world-wide exports. Other top agri-food exports to Vietnam include peas and pure-bred swine.

"Saskatchewan producers provide high-quality agri-food products that are increasing in demand across the globe, which is reflected in numbers like these," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "The growth in export value to Vietnam highlights our commitment to providing communities world-wide with food that is sustainable, safe and reliable."

[Value of Agri-Food Exports to Vietnam Sees 227 Per Cent Increase | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

2024 SPRING SUMMER STUDENT AID APPLICATIONS



You can now apply for full-time or part-time 2023-24 spring/summer student aid!

Applications must be submitted at least three weeks before the end date of your spring/summer term. Contact your institution to determine your course load percentage or credit hours.

Apply online  <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/.../education.../student-loans>

**LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT YOU WOULD LIKE
INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER!**

UPCOMING EVENTS



When: This Friday & Saturday

Where: Prairieland Park

Information: Saskatoon Market Details:

 **Tickets on sale NOW**

 **Market April 19th (1-9PM) & April 20th (9:30AM-4PM)**

 **Prairieland Park**

ONLINE TICKETS GET YOU:

- Fast pass line

- Automatically entered to WIN 2x passes to Country Thunder SK this July

Visit us whatwomenwantevent.com for ticket purchases and further information

REMINDER:



SPRING MARKETS



SPRING MARKETS

Family Fun Saskatoon is still adding to their list of Saskatoon Spring Craft Fairs and Markets! Local makers, small shops, happy people and Spring fun are all things you can find when you visit a Craft Fair or Market. If you have any to add, let us know. Check out the upcoming markets [here](https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/craft-fairs/):

<https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/craft-fairs/>

I encourage you to check out the Family Fun calendar of events here: [Calendar of Events for Families in Saskatoon \(familyfuncanada.com\)](https://www.familyfuncanada.com/calendar-of-events/)

ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES

[Saskatchewan Signs New Partnership with France | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Empowering Women in Leadership: Government Sponsors Women Breaking Barriers Conference | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[SRC Expects to Produce 400 Tonnes of Rare Earth Metals Per Year Beginning in 2025 | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Life is full of surprises.
When your day is wonderful,
cherish it. When it becomes
difficult, **stay strong.**
There are no guarantees how
many days you have left, so
**be grateful for each and
every one of them.**



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

Copyright © *|2024, Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon
Willowgrove|*, All rights reserved.

*

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

Email: ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net