

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



2024 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S POST SECONDARY TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS



Four of Saskatchewan's top post-secondary educators are receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Post-Secondary Teaching Award for excellence in teaching and commitment to delivering high-quality, innovative student experiences.

"I am grateful to the Ministry of Advanced Education for administering these awards, which help bring attention to the importance of expert educators in the field of post-secondary education," Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty said. "I congratulate this year's recipients, who have distinguished themselves by exhibiting exceptional skill and enthusiasm for their work."

The 2024-25 recipients are:

- **Shannon Forrester, University of Saskatchewan - Distinguished Teaching Award.**
- **Dr. Amrinderbir Singh, University of Saskatchewan - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Teaching Award.**
- **Dr. Colin Laroque, University of Saskatchewan - Indigenous Teaching Excellence Award.**
- **Dr. Benjamin Hoy, University of Saskatchewan - Innovative Teaching Award.**

"I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to the exceptional educators and leaders being recognized today for their commitment to student success," Advanced Education Minister Ken Cheveldayoff said. "We should all be proud of the world class post-secondary sector in Saskatchewan and a large part of that is due to the academic faculty and staff who support our students and prepare them for rewarding careers in our province."

[2024 Lieutenant Governor's Post Secondary Teaching Award Recipients | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN INTRODUCES MORE AFFORDABILITY MEASURES

SASKATCHEWAN AFFORDABILITY ACT

The Saskatchewan Affordability Act will make life more affordable for students, seniors, homeowners, families and everyone by:

- ✓ Reducing provincial income tax, saving a family of four \$3400 and a senior couple \$3100 over four years
- ✓ Doubling the Active Families Benefit and increasing the number of families who qualify for that benefit
- ✓ Increasing the Low-Income Tax Credit by 20%
- ✓ Increasing the First Time Homebuyers Tax Credit
- ✓ Increasing the Graduate Retention Program by 20% to a maximum of \$24,000
- ✓ Creating a Home Renovation Tax Credit
- ✓ Increasing the Disability Tax Credit, the Disability Tax Credit supplement for children under 18 and the Caregiver Tax Credit by 25 per cent
- ✓ Keeping the Small Business Tax rate at one per cent

Premier Scott Moe 

The Government of Saskatchewan is taking action to ensure the province remains the most affordable place to live, work, raise a family and start a business in Canada.

Following up its commitment in the recent provincial election, the government introduced *The Saskatchewan Affordability Act* in the Legislative Assembly today. The Act will enhance Saskatchewan's status as the most affordable place in Canada to live, work, raise a family and start a business by implementing 13 affordability commitments.

"During the recent election campaign, we heard concerns from Saskatchewan citizens about the cost-of-living pressures they are facing today," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Jim Reiter said. "We know these issues are not unique to our province, but we are taking action to make life more affordable for all Saskatchewan residents and families, while ensuring we still maintain a strong economy."

***The Saskatchewan Affordability Act* introduces the largest personal income tax reduction in the province since 2008 by raising the personal exemption, spousal exemption, child exemptions and the seniors supplement by \$500 a year, for the next four years. This is in addition to annually indexing the province's income tax brackets and basic tax credits to offset the impacts of inflation.**

These changes will allow a family of four earning \$100,000 to save more than \$3,400 over the next four years, while two seniors with a combined income of \$75,000 will save more than \$3,100. Upon full implementation, over 54,000 residents will no longer be paying provincial income tax.

The Saskatchewan Low-Income Tax Credit will also increase by five per cent annually for each of the next four years, in addition to annual indexation adjustments. This will benefit more than 300,000 individuals and families in our province.

"*The Saskatchewan Affordability Act* will reduce income taxes for every resident, family and small business in our province," Reiter said. "It also includes additional targeted reforms that will support seniors, families with children, new post-secondary graduates, persons with disabilities, caregivers, first-time homebuyers and people undertaking home renovation projects."

This legislation will also make homeownership more affordable. For those setting down roots in their communities, the Saskatchewan First-Time Homebuyers Credit maximum benefit will increase by 50 per cent. The Home Renovation Tax Credit will allow homeowners to save up to \$420 per year in home renovation expenses, while seniors undertaking home renovations will be able to save up to \$525.

To help ensure Saskatchewan remains one of the best places to grow a small business, the small business tax rate will remain at one per cent. More than 35,000 small businesses in the province will benefit from this change, saving more than \$50 million in corporate income tax annually.

***The Saskatchewan Affordability Act* will benefit persons with disabilities and caregivers. The Disability Tax Credit and the Disability Tax Credit supplement for children under 18 will both increase by 25 per cent, in addition to indexation. The Caregiver Tax Credit will also increase by 25 per cent, in addition to indexation, which provides financial support for families who care for adult children or parents with physical or mental impairments.**

Other measures in *The Saskatchewan Affordability Act* include:

- **Doubling the Active Families Benefit, and the income threshold to qualify for that benefit, making it more affordable for more families to access children's sports, arts, cultural and recreational activities.**

- To help ensure more young people stay to live and work in Saskatchewan, the Graduate Retention Program's tax credit benefits will increase by 20 per cent.

The commitments in *The Saskatchewan Affordability Act* are in addition to the more than \$2 billion in affordability measures already included in each and every provincial budget. Additional affordability initiatives will be released in the 2025-26 Provincial Budget, including increasing the Personal Care Home Benefit; increasing the earned income amount for the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Program; offering a refundable tax credit toward the costs of an eligible fertility treatment; introducing the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Investment Tax Credit; and introducing a Class 1 commercial driver's licence training rebate.

WATER SECURITY AGENCY REMINDS PUBLIC TO VERIFY ICE THICKNESS THIS WINTER



With colder temperatures arriving and ice beginning to form on our waterbodies across the province, Water Security Agency (WSA) is reminding the public about ice safety. Ice does not freeze at a uniform thickness and its strength can vary considerably from one area to another. The date that ice becomes safe at a particular site varies from year to year, requiring the verification of the thickness each year as opposed to relying on past experiences.

As a guideline, you need at least 10 cm (four inches) of ice to walk on, 20 cm (eight inches) to drive a snowmobile or ATV on, 30 cm (12 inches) to drive a car or light truck on, and more than 30 cm (12 inches) to support a heavy truck.

Be aware that any activity on ice has risks and guidelines are provided to help individuals make a decision about whether to venture onto the ice. Thickness is just one consideration when evaluating ice safety. Clear, hard ice is the only ice recommended for travel.

Also avoid ice that:

- **looks slushy;**
- **has thawed, then froze again;**
- **is near moving water;**
- **is layered, caused by sudden temperature changes; or**
- **has structures on it, such as pressure ridges.**

Ice thickness can be unpredictable and difficult to assess at times. To be sure, always check the ice thickness before you travel on it.

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO KEEP FEDERAL CARBON TAX OFF HOME HEATING

CARBON TAX EXEMPTION ON HOME HEATING **EXTENDED**

Premier Scott Moe 

Keeping the Federal Carbon Tax Off SaskEnergy Bills Will Save Families \$480 in 2025

Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Jeremy Harrison introduced *The SaskEnergy (Carbon Tax Fairness for Families) Amendment Act, 2024*, which will fulfill the government's commitment in the recent provincial election to extend the carbon tax exemption on home heating.

"Our government is protecting Saskatchewan families' ability to affordably heat their homes this winter and ensuring fairness for those same families who were left out in the cold by the Prime Minister's decision to exempt the carbon tax from home heating oil," Harrison said. "Our government will keep fighting until the carbon tax is removed everywhere, on everything, for everyone."

In response to the federal government's decision to stop charging the carbon tax on home heating oil, which primarily benefits families in Atlantic Canada, the

Government of Saskatchewan ensured fairness for Saskatchewan families by removing the carbon tax on home heating, effective January 1, 2024.

The removal of the federal carbon tax from residential SaskEnergy bills is saving the average Saskatchewan family approximately \$400 in 2024. Due to the expected increase in the carbon tax on April 1, 2025, from \$80 to \$95 per tonne, the continued removal of the federal carbon tax from residential SaskEnergy bills will save the average Saskatchewan family approximately \$480 in 2025.

The Bill proposes to amend *The SaskEnergy Act* and *The SaskEnergy (Carbon Tax Fairness for Families) Amendment Act, 2023*, to repeal a sunset clause which is set to take effect on December 20, 2024, thus ensuring that the Government of Saskatchewan remains the sole registered distributor of natural gas for the purposes of the federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* throughout 2025 and beyond.

NEW RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE

New Recruitment Incentive

Up to \$60,000 for Medical Residents in Targeted Specialties



Medical residents in their fourth and fifth years of Emergency Medicine, Anesthesia and Diagnostic Radiology programs can now receive a financial incentive of \$30,000 per year, totaling up to \$60,000 over two years. This incentive is designed to support residents as they complete their training, with a commitment to work in Saskatchewan immediately following program completion.


This initiative aims to retain physicians trained in high need specialties right here in our province, helping build a stronger healthcare system for all.

The incentive is retroactive for residents who started their fourth or fifth year in July 2024, and can be combined with other targeted practice incentives following residency.

With an estimated cost of \$1.1 million, this program demonstrates our commitment

to supporting medical professionals and improving healthcare access across Saskatchewan.

THE LARGEST PERSONAL INCOME TAX REDUCTION SINCE 2008



**The Largest
Personal
Income Tax
Reduction
Since 2008**

The personal, spousal and child exemptions, as well as the seniors supplement will increase by \$500 per year for the next four years, in addition to fully indexing income tax brackets.

**Saskatchewan
Party Caucus**

Speech from the Throne 2024

This income tax reduction will save a family of four more than \$3,400 over the next four years and a senior couple will save over \$3,100. When fully implemented, an additional 54,000 people will no longer pay any Saskatchewan income tax.

WORKING FOR YOU



I hope you enjoy our newsletter. Your feedback is important. If you have any suggestions or ideas to make our newsletter better, please contact our office at ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net

*If you are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter, please use the UNSUBSCRIBE button, located below.
Thank you.*

We're here to help

you navigate provincial
government programs
and services.

Ken Cheveldayoff

MLA for Saskatoon Willowgrove



Please reach out, we look forward to hearing from you.
306-651-7100 • ken.cheveldayoff@sasktel.net

REDUCING SURGICAL WAIT TIMES

Speech from the Throne 2024

Reducing Surgical Wait Times

> 450,000 surgeries will be performed
over the next four years



Increasing capacity over the next four years will reduce surgical wait times to no more than three months, ensuring everyone gets the timely care they need.

MUNICIPAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Municipal Grant Opportunity



Targeted Sector Support Initiative

Intake Open



Apply now for municipal grants through the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative. Partnering municipalities can get funding for up to 75 per cent of project costs to improve municipal service delivery. For more information or to apply, visit saskatchewan.ca @SUMA @SARM <https://bit.ly/3QY29KN>

SASKENERGY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SHARING THE WARMTH



In recognition of the 30th anniversary of SaskEnergy's Share the Warmth program, the Corporation is investing \$100,000 in grants to charitable organizations that help our province's most vulnerable through the cold winter months.

Starting out as a sweater recycling program in the '90s that redistributed more than a million articles of clothing, Share the Warmth has transformed over the last decade into a grassroots initiative that supports charitable organizations in bringing warm shelter, clothing and mental health services to those who need it most.

"We are very proud that the program has reached this milestone anniversary," said Mark Guillet, SaskEnergy's President and CEO. "As the province's natural gas utility, we understand the importance of staying warm and we are proud to support community-based groups that are also committed to sharing warmth throughout Saskatchewan."

Learn more about the [Share the Warmth Grant Program](#) and eligibility.

For more information, contact:

SaskEnergy Media Relations

Phone: 1-306-552-4838

[Email](#)

[SaskEnergy Celebrates 30 Years of Sharing the Warmth | SaskEnergy](#)

**GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN ACCESSIBILITY PLAN RELEASED ON
INTERNATION DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

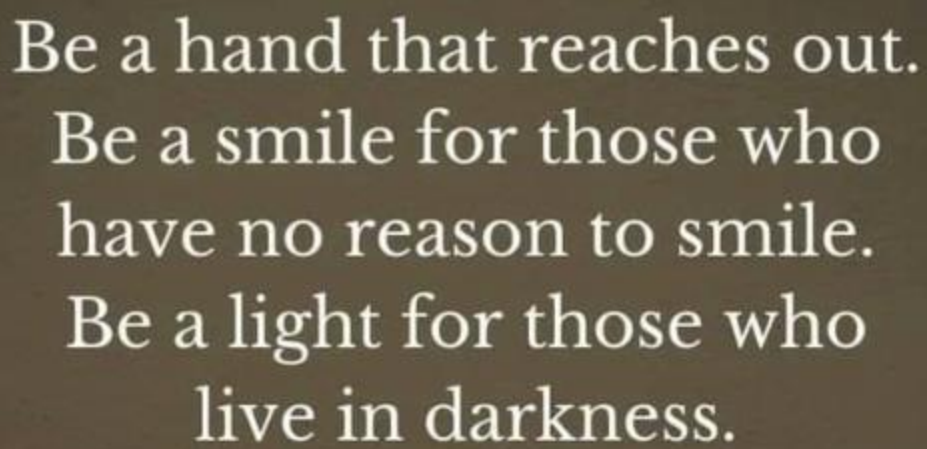


The Government of Saskatchewan has marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2024, with the release of the province's first Accessibility Plan. Government is recognizing this important day in collaboration with Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

"The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to enhancing the accessibility of its facilities, programs and services," Social Services Minister Terry Jenson said.

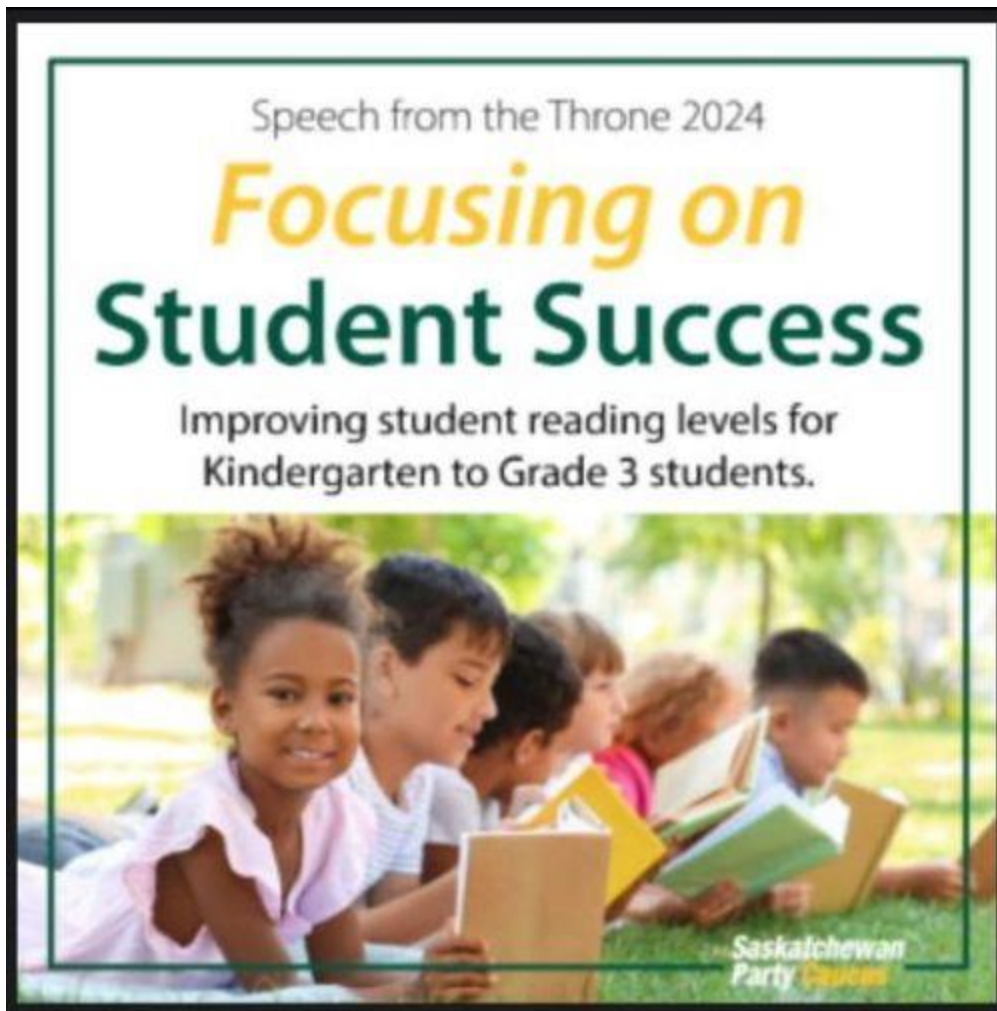
"Our Accessibility Plan represents a comprehensive, government-wide approach aimed at removing and preventing barriers that individuals with disabilities may encounter when accessing government resources, fostering a more inclusive and fair province for everyone."

[Government of Saskatchewan Accessibility Plan Released on International Day of Persons with Disabilities | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



Be a hand that reaches out.
Be a smile for those who
have no reason to smile.
Be a light for those who
live in darkness.

FOCUSING ON STUDENT SUCCESS



A child's ability to read at grade level by Grade 3 is the single greatest predictor of future academic success, because this is when they transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Improving reading levels will give students every opportunity for academic success throughout their time in school.

MLA'S MEET WITH STF REPRESENTATIVES DECEMBER 3



It was a great opportunity to meet with Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation Leaders. I enjoyed my conversation with Samantha Becotte. Our government, with the direction from Education Minister, Everett Hindley, looks forward to collaborating on issues to provide benefits to students and teachers across our province. m

GIFT CARDS



GIFT CARDS

Have you lost or are you having technical issues with your gift card?

You may have options to fix it!

Contact the business right away to see if they can issue you a new gift card.

If you need a gift card reissued, make sure to have your receipt and be aware that the business may charge a fee to replace a lost or stolen card. To learn more, visit: <https://bit.ly/3COFBtN>

QUINN STEVENSON MEMORIAL OUTDOOR RINK IS OFFICIALLY OPEN!



Once again, several great community rink volunteers are excited to announce that the Quinn Stevenson Memorial ODR is officially open for the 2024-2025 season! Benches and nets are out and the warm-up shack is ready. 📖

Family/Public Skate times at the rink are Mondays and Wednesdays, 4pm-6pm and Saturdays 10am-12pm.

A friendly reminder of some rink rules:

- Have fun and be respectful. ❤️
- No sticks during family/public skating times or learn to skate programs. Respect the rink skating schedule as posted. 📖
- Spend a few minutes scraping the ice. 📖
- Shovel snow OVER the boards. When shovelled snow is left against the boards, it turns to solid ice and the volunteer crew is getting too old to shovel hard now. 🌨️
- Always leave the place cleaner than you found it. Don't leave garbage and if you see some, please pick it up. There are garbage cans outside and inside the warm-up rink. 🗑️
- Children and inexperienced skaters should use an approved helmet while on the ice to prevent injuries. 🧑🏠🧑🏠🧑🏠
- Do not use the rink during unusually warm weather. ☀️
- Stay off the ice surface while it's being resurfaced. 💧

Parents, please share these rules with your kids if they frequent the ice as few follow our Facebook page. Our volunteers spend countless hours away from their own

families over the winter season to maintain this rink for our neighbourhood. Respect is requested. Thank you!

WORK BEGINS ON NEW SASKATCHEWAN STUDENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



Photo credit 650 CKOM

Guided by the Provincial Education Plan (PEP), the Government of Saskatchewan is working with education partners to develop a Saskatchewan student assessment program that will provide data on how students are doing in core subject areas.

"We want our students to receive the foundational skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a growing province," Education Minister Everett Hindley said. "A provincial assessment program will help us identify how kids are doing in the classroom so we can provide teachers and students with the building blocks needed to have the best learning experience. We look forward to working with the education sector to get back to basics with a renewed focus on K-3 reading."

The goals of assessment are to provide a fair and objective measure of how students are doing, help guide instruction and assist schools, divisions and government in improving student achievement.

The ministry will be collaborating with PEP partners to further develop the assessment approach for Saskatchewan. This includes exploring a common approach to reading.

Learning and assessment is one of four priorities in the [Provincial Education Plan](#), along with Indigenous education, mental health and wellbeing and student transitions.

The PEP was developed with the education sector, Indigenous organizations, post-secondary education institutions and School Community Councils representing parents.

Assessments will be implemented in a staggered approach. Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, Grade 5 and 9 students will participate in an annual mathematics assessment, and Grades 4, 7 and 10 students will participate in an English language arts assessment. All other Canadian provinces currently have their own assessment programs, based on their respective curricula.

For more information, visit: saskatchewan.ca/assessment.



DECEMBER 2024



1. GIVE SOMEONE A HUG OR COMPLIMENT	2. LET SOMEONE IN FRONT OF YOU IN LINE	3. BUY A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE COFFEE	4. HOLD THE DOOR OPEN FOR SOMEONE	5. GIVE A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE YOUR FULL ATTENTION
6. DONATE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO A CHARITY	7. TELL A JOKE TO MAKE SOMEONE SMILE	8. DO SOMETHING KIND FOR YOURSELF	9. HIDE A HAPPY NOTE FOR SOMEONE TO FIND	10. DONATE UNWANTED BOOKS TO CHARITY
11. TAPE SOME MONEY ON A VENDING MACHINE	12. SMILE AT A STRANGER OR 2. OR 15	13. GET IN TOUCH WITH AN OLD FRIEND OR RELATIVE	14. LET A CAR IN FRONT OF YOU IN TRAFFIC	15. WRITE OR SEND A THANK YOU NOTE TO SOMEONE
16. SMILE AND THANK SOMEONE WHO SERVES YOU	17. TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM	18. PAY FOR A STRANGER'S COFFEE	19. OFFER TO HELP SOMEONE	20. FEED ANIMALS (BIRDS, DEER, ETC.)
21. DONATE UNWANTED CLOTHES TO CHARITY	22. DO SOMETHING UNEXPECTED FOR SOMEONE	23. GIVE A TREAT TO YOUR POSTAL CARRIER	24. DO SOMETHING KIND FOR YOURSELF	25. REFLECT AND RECORD HOW MUCH JOY THIS SEASON BROUGHT YOU

The Tie Tuesday Project

Nov 25, 2024

ADVENT OF KINDNESS

ARE YOU LOOKING TO FIND A REAL CHRISTMAS TREE?



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, I wonder where to find Real Christmas Trees in Saskatoon! There's nothing quite like a real Christmas tree! The family outing to find just the right one with the perfect tree smell. Check out this guide to find your perfect tree this season: <https://www.familyfuncanada.com/.../where-to-buy-real.../>

YOUR HOLIDAY EVENT GUIDE



Tis' the season for festive fun! 🎉

Saskatoon is full of holiday events that are ready to be enjoyed. Our holiday event guide has everything you need for a fun and magical season! 🎄

See the guide **HERE** 🖱️: <https://www.discoversaskatoon.com/.../festive-fun-your...>
[BHP Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour](#) [Wheatland Express - Excursion Train Glow](#)
[Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra](#) [Remai Modern](#) [The Roxy Theatre](#) [Colosseum](#)
[Presents TCU Place](#) [Black Fox Farm & Distillery](#) [Nutrien Wonderhub](#) [Broadway](#)
[District Persephone Theatre](#) [Festival of Trees, Saskatoon](#)

REMINDER - CHECK OUT THESE GREAT EVENTS HAPPENING IN SASKATOON



OPTIMIST HILL IS OPEN!



The snow is here, and it's your turn to hit the slopes! Optimist Hill is open for the season. Information: [Optimist Hill – Go Play Outside!](#)

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AND SHOWS IN SASKATOON



CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Fa la la let's get the season rolling with some fabulous Christmas Concerts and Shows in Saskatoon! It's Christmas time in the city! There's something for every artistic taste in Saskatoon so bundle up and get your Christmas-on at these fantastic shows. We've got a list ready for you to check out here: <https://www.familyfuncanada.com/.../christmas-concerts.../>

SANTA SIGHTINGS



SANTA SIGHTINGS

Whether it's a stop at an event or if he and the elves are stationed at a permanent location, we've got a lot of fun ideas for Santa visits. Find out more here: <https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/santa/>

COCA-COLA CARAVAN IS BACK IN TOWN

THE COCA-COLA CARAVAN IS BACK IN TOWN

Take a free family photo for the holidays



DATE	AREA
SUNDAY, DEC 1ST	Montgomery, Parkridge, Kensington
MONDAY, DEC 2ND	Hudson Bay Park, Mount Royal, Confederation, Dundonald, Hamptons, Westview
TUESDAY, DEC 3RD	Richmond Heights, River Heights, City Centre, Riverlandings, Spadina Cres
WEDNESDAY, DEC 4TH	Arbor Creek, Brighton, University Heights, Willow Grove, Evergreen
THURSDAY, DEC 5TH	Stonebridge, Eastview, Lakeview, Roswood, Briarwood
FRIDAY, DEC 6TH	Varsity View, Brevort Park, Greystone Heights, College Park
SATURDAY, DEC 7TH	GLOW @ Prairieland Park 5:30pm-7:30pm

Santa Claus is coming to town! (Arbor Creek specifically!)

FESTIVAL OF TREES



2022 SASKATOON FESTIVAL OF TREES

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 3

HOURS 9:00 AM TO 9:00 PM DAILY

Proudly located at the
Western Development Museum

[Festival of Trees, Saskatoon](https://www.festival-of-trees.com/) is on now at the WDM Saskatoon. For information on Festival of Trees, including hours, general admission, and special event tickets visit <https://www.festival-of-trees.com/>

BHP ENCHANTED FOREST



Event November 16, 2024-January 5, 2025

The BHP Enchanted Forest, a special holiday event of the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation and Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park. Open November 16, 2024- January 5, 2025. This unique partnership has provided the citizens of Saskatoon and visitors from throughout Saskatchewan and beyond with the spirit of the Holiday Season for over 25 years. Saskatoon is proud of the BHP Enchanted Forest, one of the longest-running and best Christmas light shows in Canada. The Foundations and our Sponsors invite you to enjoy the light show from the comfort and safety of your own vehicle again this special holiday season.

GLOW SASKATOON



Don't miss this incredible event!

YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SASKATOON'S HOLIDAY MARKETS



Check out the many holiday markets in our city! [Your Ultimate Guide to Saskatoon's Holiday Market Magic | Discover Saskatoon](#)

BOWLING IN SASKATOON - A GREAT FAMILY OUTING!



BOWLING

With the Christmas rush upon us and the chilly weather here, give your family a fun break at one of Saskatoon's awesome Bowling Alleys. Have some laughs with your kids and enjoy a nice break from the cold. Find our list here:

<https://www.familyfuncanada.com/sas.../bowling-in-saskatoon/>

READ ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES



[Lithium, Potash Interest Drives \\$2.3 Million in Subsurface Mineral Bids | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

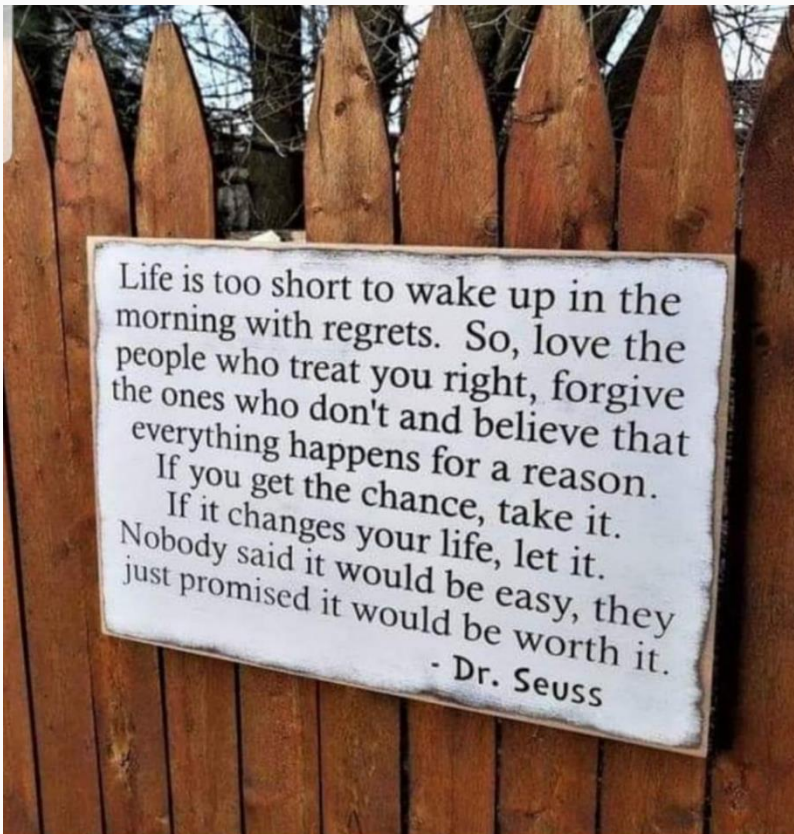
[53rd Geological Open House Highlights Saskatchewan's Leadership in Critical Minerals | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Saskatchewan Municipalities Can Apply for Targeted Sector Support Funding | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Government of Saskatchewan Releases 2024-25 Mid-Year Report | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[\\$2.8 Million in Charitable Gaming Grants Paid to Community Groups Across Saskatchewan | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY



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