

Protecting Saskatchewan



WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING WEEKEND



***"For it is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful "-
David Steindl-Rast***

***As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, it is a wonderful
opportunity to reflect on all that we have to be grateful for.***

***I am thankful for the people who make our communities strong - the families,
volunteers, farmers, businesses, community organizations, and countless
individuals who give their time and energy to help others.***

***I am especially grateful for the opportunity to serve and represent the people
of Saskatoon Willowgrove and our great province of Saskatchewan. Your
feedback, ideas, and dedication to our province continue to inspire me every
day.***

***On behalf of my family, I wish you and your loved ones a very happy and safe
Thanksgiving. May the weekend be filled with good food, meaningful
conversations, and time with those who matter most.***

NSBA - LESSONS I'VE LEARNED



What an incredible event October 6th! The largest NSBA dinner event ever held!

It was a pleasure to join nearly 700 people in attendance at the North Saskatoon Business Association (NSBA) for the 20th anniversary of Lessons I've Learned.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, congratulations to the NSBA for two decades of bringing together entrepreneurs, business leaders and professionals to share experiences, lessons and inspiration. Special shout

out to Dinner Chair, Adelle Buettner, Board Chair, Curtis Kimpton and Executive Director , Keith Moen.

This year's event was especially unique, bringing four friends and successful business leaders together on stage: Aaron Loraas, Christian Braid, John Nasser and Brett Marcoux, with Wanda Hunchak as emcee.

Their stories are a great reminder that success is built through hard work, perseverance, calculated risks and learning from challenges along the way.

Saskatchewan is fortunate to have an entrepreneurial spirit, talented people and the resources the world needs — food, fuel, fertilizer and critical minerals. Our business community continues to invest, innovate, create jobs and build opportunities.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes that a strong business community helps create the economic strength that supports the services Saskatchewan families rely on, including healthcare, education, training and infrastructure.

Congratulations to the NSBA on 20 years of Lessons I've Learned, and thank you to everyone who continues to build stronger businesses, communities and a stronger Saskatchewan.

**RENEWING JOINT MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING SUPPORTS A
STRONG SASKATCHEWAN**



Schmalz and Municipal Sector Travel to Ottawa October 6 and 7

Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz and several Saskatchewan municipal leaders are traveling to Ottawa this week to meet with federal leaders as part of the province's on-going efforts for improved infrastructure investment programs.

"Investing in infrastructure remains a top priority for Saskatchewan's municipalities and we need greater flexibility in the federal government's cost-shared funding programs," Schmalz said. "Through our Team Saskatchewan approach, we are able to deliver this message directly to Ottawa, supporting the ability of our municipalities to meet the needs of growing communities."



Minister Schmalz will be joined by the cities of Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Swift Current, North Battleford, Yorkton, Weyburn and

Lloydminster as well as leaders of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), and Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North) in Ottawa October 6 and 7.

[Renewing Joint Municipal Infrastructure Funding Supports a Strong Saskatchewan | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

USASK TO CELEBRATE ALUMNUS TIM GITZEL WITH HONORARY DEGREE DURING FALL CONVOCATION



The University of Saskatchewan (USask) will recognize the accomplishments of a celebrated Canadian and international leader in the nuclear energy sector during Fall Convocation.

USask alumnus Tim Gitzel (BA'86, JD'90), chief executive officer (CEO) of Cameco Corporation, a global nuclear fuel and energy company, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Nov. 10, 2026.

Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio (PhD), USask's president and vice-chancellor, said Gitzel is an inspirational example of how USask alumni are making a difference at home and around the globe. In addition to his contributions to the nuclear energy sector, Gitzel is highly regarded for his philanthropic and community involvement in Saskatchewan.

"It is wonderful to have the opportunity to honour the achievements of an outstanding USask alumnus, Mr. Tim Gitzel, during Fall Convocation," said Bruni-Bossio.

"Mr. Gitzel has more than 30 years of senior management experience in the Canadian and international nuclear energy sector. He is a true leader in his field who has made a remarkable impact around the world while remaining connected to his Saskatchewan roots through his many charitable and non-profit endeavours.

"At USask, we are grateful for Mr. Gitzel's ongoing support of his alma mater, including his previous service as a member of the College of Law and Edwards School of Business Dean's Advisory Councils. We are also grateful for the support that Mr. Gitzel and his family have continued to provide to our USask students through the establishment of the Gitzel Family Fund for Mental Health. On behalf of the USask community, I thank Mr. Tim Gitzel for his many contributions to our university and far beyond, and I offer him our heartfelt congratulations as he receives the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree."

An honorary degree is the highest honour the university can bestow.

"I am deeply honoured to receive this recognition from the University of Saskatchewan, a place that is incredibly meaningful to my family," said Gitzel. "I, along with my wife Bonnie and our children Ty and Bailey, are all graduates of USask. It is the place that fostered our curiosity, challenged our viewpoints, introduced us to lifelong friends, and laid the foundation to help us realize our dreams. Throughout my career, as I've travelled the world and met with leaders and decision-makers, I have always been proud to be a USask graduate."

Gitzel is Cameco's current CEO. He previously served as Cameco's president and CEO from July 2011 to August 2025, as president from 2010 to 2011, and

as senior vice-president and chief operating officer prior to that. Before joining Cameco, he served as executive vice-president, mining business unit for Orano in Paris, France, where he was responsible for global uranium, gold, exploration, and decommissioning operations in 11 countries.

Prior to his full-time work in the uranium industry, Gitzel studied at USask's College of Arts and Science, earning a Bachelor of Arts (honours) degree in political studies in 1986. From there, Gitzel embarked on a year of French immersion in Laval, Quebec, before returning to USask, where he studied at the College of Law and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1990.

As a student, Gitzel worked for two summers in France with Areva (now Orano). After graduating from law, he worked for a local law firm before joining Areva in Saskatoon, eventually moving to the company's Paris office to head up its worldwide mining operations. Gitzel and his family moved back to Saskatoon from France in 2007, when he joined Cameco as its chief operating officer.

The members of the Gitzel family are all USask alumni who are committed to giving back to USask; thanks to their generous gift of \$1 million to establish the Gitzel Family Fund for Mental Health in 2023, as part of USask's historic *Be What the World Needs* Campaign, USask can respond to current student needs and ensure additional supports are available.

In 2025, in his role as Cameco's president and CEO, Gitzel also announced a transformational \$10-million gift from Cameco, also as part of the *Be What the World Needs* Campaign. The funding will support an undergraduate Nuclear Fuel Cycle program that will bring together geology, geophysics, and engineering, as well as a graduate Certificate in Energy and Resource Management that will convene USask students from across policy studies, law, sustainability, and business. This gift will also foster northern and Indigenous students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines, starting from the earliest learners through the Science Ambassador program and the Cameco STEM Pathways Initiative at the USask Prince Albert Campus.

Today, Gitzel serves the nuclear industry in many capacities, including leadership positions as a board member of the World Nuclear Association

and the Nuclear Energy Institute and, since 2023, as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Standing Advisory Group on Nuclear Energy. He has served as chair of The Mosaic Company's compensation and human resources committee for six years and is a member of its corporate governance and nominating committee. He is also a member of the Business Council of Canada and a member of the CEO advisory council of the Canada-India Business Council, as well as a co-chair of the Kazakhstan-Canada Business Council.

Gitzel is past president of the Saskatchewan Mining Association, and he has served on the boards of SaskEnergy Corporation, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, and Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan. Some of Gitzel's volunteer affiliations have included serving as honorary chair of the Cameco Cares Concert Series, co-chair of the Telus Cup West Regional Championship, co-chair of the World Junior Hockey Championships Mastercard Memorial Cup, and co-sponsor of the Cameco Touchdown for Dreams Campaign. Gitzel also served as the co-chair of the Royal Care campaign, raising funds for Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, and as vice-president, communications for the 2010 World Junior Hockey Championships. In 2007, he was named one of the 100 Alumni of Influence at the University of Saskatchewan, and he is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and of both the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Medals.

2026 HILL BUSINESS DINNER



It was a pleasure to join students, business leaders and future leaders at the 2026 Hill Dinner hosted by the Hill Levene School of Business at the University of Regina.

Events like this are a fantastic opportunity to connect, share experiences and build meaningful relationships between Saskatchewan's business community and the next generation of leaders.

Thank you to the business community for investing your time and knowledge in these students, and to the Hill Business Students' Society for organizing such a great evening.

To the students, I encourage you to ask questions, make connections and take advantage of the many opportunities Saskatchewan has to offer. Your talents will help shape the future of our province!

Pictured with Paul Hill and keynote speaker, Michael H. McCain, Executive Chair of Maple Leaf Foods.

**BELL AI PROVIDES CONSTRUCTION UPDATE IN SASKATCHEWAN,
ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENT**

Bell



More than 500 people are working on the 300 MW data centre site in the Rural Municipality (RM) of Sherwood, with all four building shells taking shape and more than 30 local firms supporting the project.

Bell Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan marked major construction milestones at the 300-megawatt Bell AI Fabric data centre campus in the Rural Municipality of Sherwood, where structural steel is rising, all four buildings in the first phase are taking shape and more than 500 people are working on site.

John Watson, Group President, Business Markets, Bell Cyber, AI Fabric and Ateko, joined Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation Jeremy Harrison, and local stakeholders at the site to highlight the project's progress. Just months after breaking ground, preparations are underway for the first building's interior fit-out, and the first data hall remains on track to come online in the first half of 2027.



“Saskatchewan has worked to create the conditions to attract investment and ensure major projects are not just talked about, they are moved forward at pace,” Harrison said. “The rapid progress at the Bell AI Fabric campus demonstrates what can be achieved when government, industry and local partners work together. This is a project that is creating thousands of jobs and opportunities for people and businesses in the RM of Sherwood, Regina and across the province, while helping position Saskatchewan as a leading hub for Canadian AI infrastructure.”

[Bell AI Fabric Provides Construction Update in Saskatchewan, Announces \\$1 Million Mental Health Commitment | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE OPENING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTIETH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

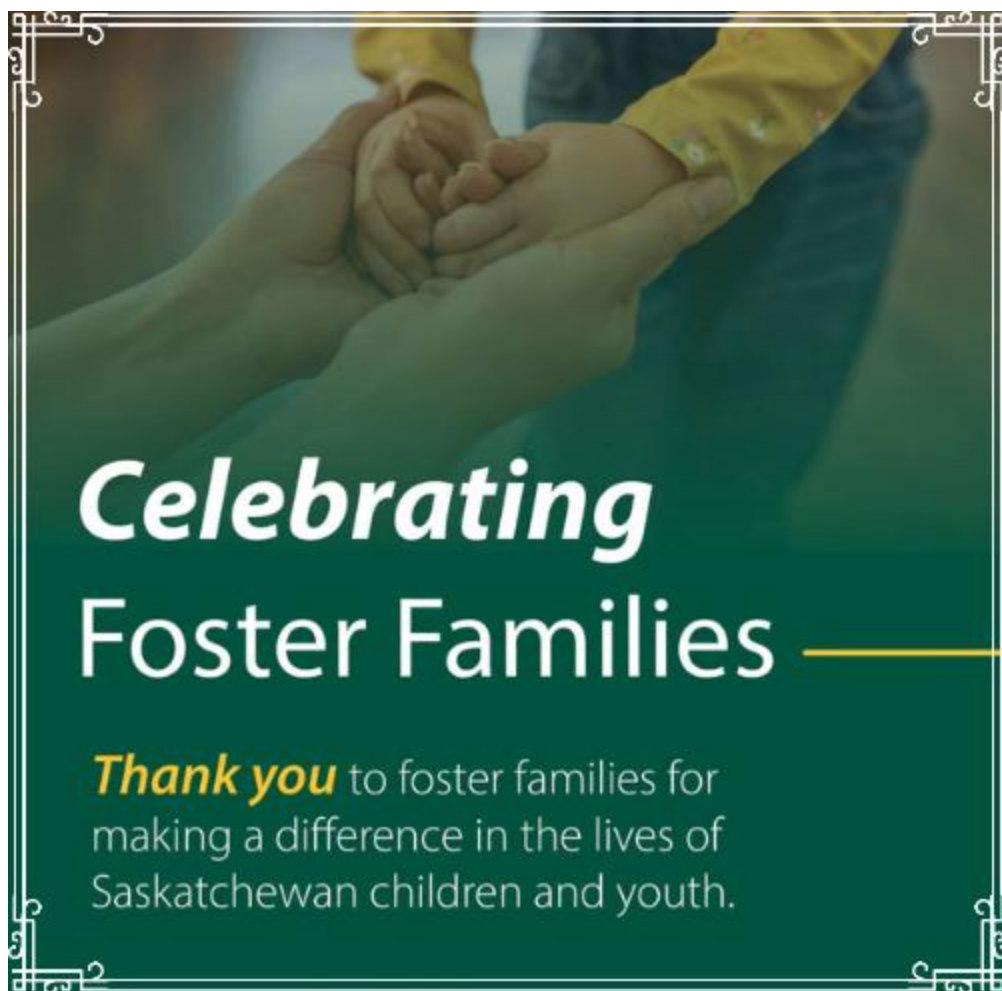


Mark you calendars for the opening of the legislature.

If you are available to attend, please contact our office by email at ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net or call 306.651.7100

Additional details to follow in the next newsletter.

SASKATCHEWAN RECOGNIZES FOSTER FAMILIES THIS OCTOBER



The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed October as Foster Families Month to recognize and celebrate the dedication of foster families across the province.

"Foster families make a lasting difference in the lives of children and youth across Saskatchewan," Social Services Minister Terry Jenson said. "Their compassion and willingness to provide safe and supportive homes help children and youth build stronger futures. We are grateful for everything they do and celebrate them this month."

Foster families play a vital role in supporting children and youth who are unable to remain safe with their families. When foster caregivers open their homes, they are providing stability, guidance and a sense of belonging during

what can be a challenging time in a child or youth's life.

[Saskatchewan Recognizes Foster Families this October | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK FOCUSES ON LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY



The Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) have proclaimed October 4 to 10, 2026, as Fire Prevention Week in the province.

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is "*Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower.*"

The campaign focuses on helping people understand how everyday charging habits can help prevent fires involving lithium-ion batteries. These batteries are common in electronic products and can be at risk of overheating, catching fire or exploding if used improperly.

"Many of the devices we use every day rely on rechargeable batteries," SPSA Fire Marshal Wayne Rodger said. "Fire Prevention Week is an opportunity to remind Saskatchewan residents that simple actions, such as using approved chargers, charging devices on hard surfaces and unplugging devices when fully charged, can significantly reduce the risk of fire."

SASKATCHEWAN PROCLAIMS AGRICULTURE WEEK



Saskatchewan is celebrating Agriculture Week from October 4 to 10, 2026, recognizing the province's strong farming and food sector and the people and innovations that drive it.

"Agriculture is a way of life, driven by the hard work, innovation and resilience of those who produce our food," Agriculture Minister David Marit said.

"Agriculture Week is an opportunity to recognize farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses for their contributions at home and globally."

[Saskatchewan Proclaims Agriculture Week | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

PROVINCE IMPROVES ACCESS TO EXCEPTION DRUG COVERAGE



The Government of Saskatchewan is expanding the Limited Access Exception Drug Status Application (LAEA) allowing participating community pharmacists to submit online requests for select Exception Drug Status (EDS) medications on behalf of eligible patients.

The online process will reduce the administrative workload for health care professionals and help eligible patients receive coverage decisions faster.

Exception Drug Status is a Saskatchewan program that provides coverage for certain prescription drugs when a patient meets established clinical and program criteria.

"Patients deserve to have timely access to the medications they need," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "By expanding exception drug coverage requests through community pharmacies, we are making the process faster and more responsive for patients in support of our Patients First Health Care Plan."

[Province Improves Access to Exception Drug Coverage | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN SASKATOON



PUMPKINS AFTER DARK AT PRAIRIELAND PARK



Is your family ready to go big or gourd home at Pumpkins After Dark? Saskatoon's Halloween tradition returns with even more family fun, new features and more displays. Start your spooky 2026 season with a one-of-a-kind walk-through experience featuring over 10,000 hand-carved pumpkins that will light up the night. [Pumpkins After Dark Saskatoon](https://www.familyfuncanada.com/sask.../pumpkins-after-dark/) is a magical experience for all ages, from toddlers to grandparents, as they watch the Jack-o'-lanterns at Canada's award-winning outdoor Halloween event come to life. Tickets are available now, and for an extra 15% off, use the code:

FAMILYFUN. Find out how to grab your tickets

here: <https://www.familyfuncanada.com/sask.../pumpkins-after-dark/>

YXE ARTISAN MARKET



October 10th !

📍 : Saskatoon, Sk [TCU Place](#)

🕒 : 10am-5pm

🎫 : \$5 tickets at the door 12 and under is free!

🛍️ : 100 swag bags

OPTIMIST HILL 2026 GALA PASSES



2026 Optimist Hill Gala! 🥂

Saturday, October 17th at Smiley's Saskatoon Buffet for a fantastic night of food, fun, and giving back! Cocktails start at 5:30 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM.

Every ticket purchased directly supports Saskatoon's non-profit winter recreation spot, helping us keep the hill accessible, active, and affordable for everyone in YXE.

Here is what we have planned for the evening:

- 🍴 A delicious dinner buffet at Smiley's
- 🔨 Live and silent auctions with amazing local packages and experiences
- 🎯 High-energy games like Heads & Tails
- 🍷 Entry into our popular Booze Tube raffle
- ❤️ An Inspired Giving drive to support youth passes and equipment

Plus, as Optimist Hill is a Designated Municipal Project, cash contributions qualify for City of Saskatoon tax receipts!

Tickets are limited, so gather your friends, family, or coworkers and get yours before they sell out.

👉 Get your tickets today on our website:

<https://shop.optimisthill.ca/product/gala/>

FAMILY FUN SASKATOON HALLOWEEN EVENTS



Halloween event guide:

<https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/halloween/>

GREATER SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PREMIER'S PANEL



The Saskatoon Chamber is pleased to present the Premier's Panel on Business and Economy featuring the provincial ministers shaping the economies of our city and province.

Government policy — from regulation to investment to taxation — plays a critical role in making it easier, or harder, to do business here. This is your opportunity to hear directly from the ministers driving that agenda, ask the questions that matter most to your business, and get a firsthand briefing on the policies and priorities shaping the road ahead. Whether you're a small business owner, an entrepreneur, or an industry leader, this is a rare chance to connect directly with the decision-makers shaping our economic future.

<https://thechamber.saskatoonchamber.com/.../premier-s...>

FAMILY FUN - WHATS HAPPENING IN OCTOBER



Are you excited for what's in store in October! It's the month of all things orange, spooky, fun, and pumpkin-y!

If you're looking for things to do with your family in October, make sure to check out our guide! We're also adding to the calendar all the time.

The link is here: <https://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/october-events/>

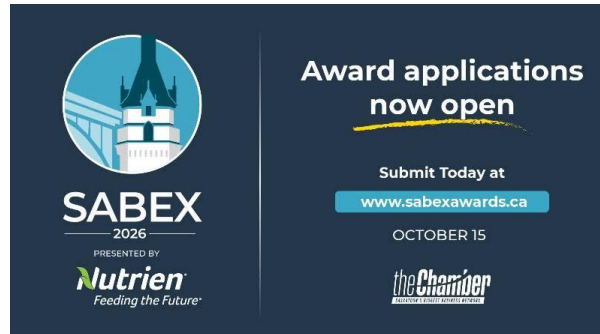
CHECK OUT THIS NETWORKING EVENT FOR ENTREPRENEURS



Support this news business, Lucky Bastard Distillers with hosts Debbie Calladine & Megan Casey as they host a networking event Wednesday, October 21 from 6 - 9 pm

Tickets and information: Contact Debbie at 306.260.1031

SABEX AWARD APPLICATIONS OPEN

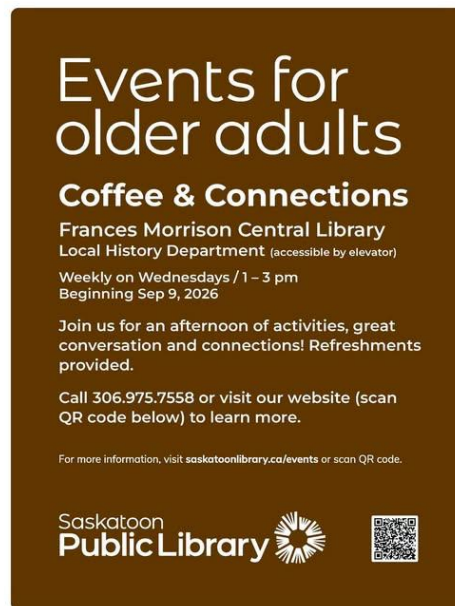


🏆 **APPLY FOR A 2026 SABEX AWARD!** 🏆

October 15th - mark your calendars

<https://www.sabexawards.ca/>

SHARING WUHCA EVENT FOR OLDER ADULTS



Each Wednesday from 1 - 3 pm at the Saskatoon Public Library

CHECK OUT ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASE LINKS BELOW



[Business Expo and Procurement Forum Connects Suppliers to Public Sector Opportunities | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



[2027 Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship Now Accepting Applications | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Saskatchewan Welcomes Canada's Diplomatic Corps | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Saskatchewan Celebrates Community Inclusion Month | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

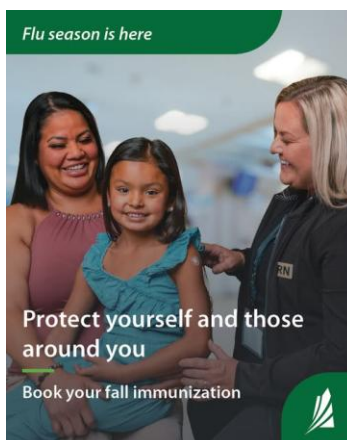


[Work Continues at Smoothstone River Bridge, Danielson Provincial Park and Near Muenster and Wadena | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



[Saskatchewan Proclaims October as Disability Employment Awareness Month | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Fall Immunization Appointment Bookings Open Now | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



[Crop Report for the Period September 22 to September 28, 2026 | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)



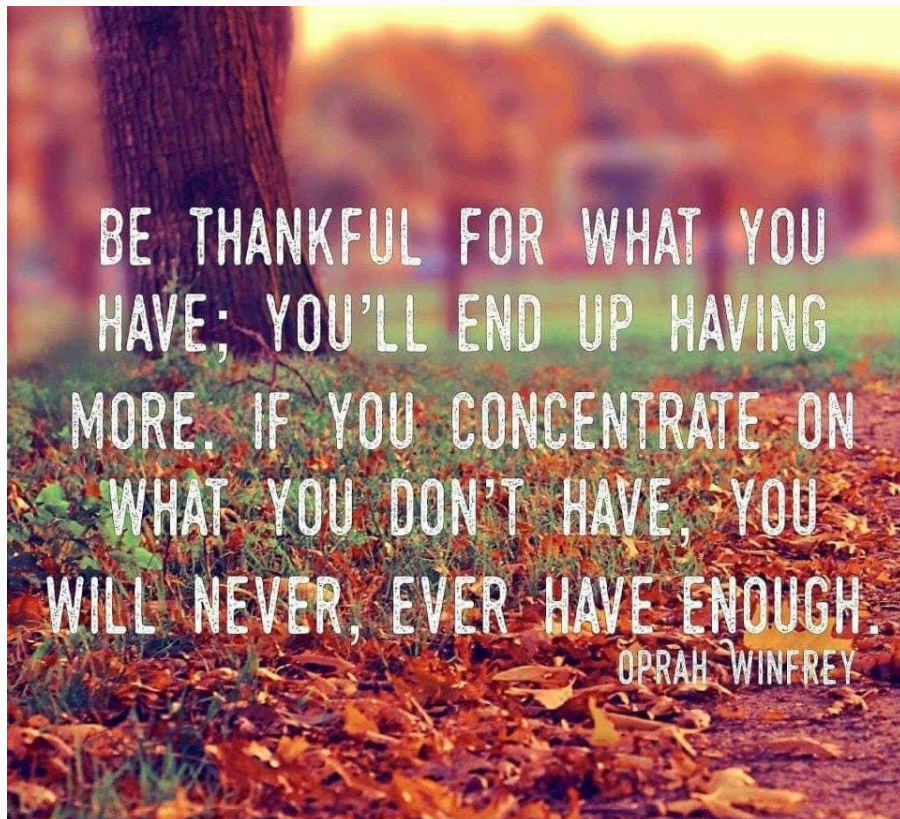
[Saskatchewan Increases Court Capacity with New Associate Judges at the Court of King's Bench | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Historic Yorkton Brick Flour Mill Opens Interpretive Centre Strengthening Cultural Tourism to Share Saskatchewan's Agricultural Story | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)





THOUGHT OF THE DAY



[forward to a friend](#)

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