

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



## Provincial Point of View

**February 13, 2018**



Well, it's that time of year again...Canada's newest long weekend is approaching! Family Day, as it's known in Saskatchewan, is a chance to set aside the busy-ness of working life and spend some time with the ones we love. Lucky for Saskatonians, there is no better place to get out and enjoy some quality time with our families than right here at home.

### 12 Cool Ways to Celebrate Family Day in Saskatoon

#### 1. [Hit up a \\$3 Movie](#)

Cineplex's Saturday morning's showing of 'My Little Pony : The Movie' is the perfect place to kick off your Family Day Weekend in Saskatoon! Grab some popcorn, cozy up with the family, and

don't break the bank with Cineplex Family Favourites' budget-friendly price of only \$3!

2. [Book a Tour of the Synchrotron](#)

On Friday or Monday of your long weekend, you can book a FREE tour of the brightest light in Canada! The Canadian Light Source, located on the University of Saskatchewan campus, offers informative tours of their cutting edge facility. Just remember to [phone ahead](#) of time to prevent any disappointment!

3. [View Some Celestial Objects](#)

Head to the University of Saskatchewan Observatory on Saturday evening between 7 and 9:30pm where staff can assist you in viewing the night sky through a telescope! The Observatory is FREE.

4. Go Skating

There's no shortage of places to skate in Saskatoon! Take the family to any of the fantastic and FREE [Places to Find Public Skating in Saskatoon](#).

5. [Take the Family Sledding](#)

Winter is a long season in Saskatoon. Why not make the best of it with the family at a [tobogganing hill near you](#)!

6. [Attend a Party](#)

On Family Day weekend, attend a Family Day Carnival with the German Cultural Centre where you can look forward to bouncy castles, snow art, carnival food and more!

7. [Get Moving at an Indoor Play Place](#)

Why not get the family out and active this Family Day Weekend? Whether you've got young kids or are just a big kid yourself, Saskatoon has it's [fair share of indoor places](#) to do just that. And don't forget to check out the newest attraction on the Indoor Play Scene! [Prairie Jurassic](#) is OPEN and ready to entertain your family with hours of arcade, Nerf, and laser fun!

8. [Check out the Remai Modern for FREE](#)

Saskatoon's newest world-class attraction invites you and your family to come enjoy all the museum has to offer for FREE! On Family Day, between 10am and 5pm, drop by and check it out!

9. [Get Arty with SCYAP](#)

Drop in, bring the family, start creating—those are the rules at SCYAP (Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming) between 1 and 6pm on Saturdays! There are materials and helpful staff available to help you in your creative pursuit!

10. [Nab Yourself a Bargain](#)

The Super Duper Saskatoon Lions Flea Market runs at the Western Development Museum on February 17th with knick knacks, antiques, and bargains galore!

11. [Watch a Puppet Show](#)

Get cozy on Family Day Weekend with a puppet performance by Wide Open Children's Theatre. They will be showcasing some Robert Munsch favourites including Mmmm Cookies, Smelly Socks, Up, Up, Down, Hugs, Seeing Red, and Swamp Water in a delightful collection called Very Merry Munsch.

12. [Rev it Up With Some Monster Trucks](#)

Get your tickets to see RAM Motorsports spectacular exhibition of death-defying stunts and revved up FUN! Look forward to The Monster Truck Challenge, Motocross Arenacross, Canadian Tuff Truck Challenge, Side-by-Side Racing, and a Free Style Motocross Radical Jump Showcase!

Enjoy a fun and fashionable Family Day in Saskatoon!

<http://www.familyfuncanada.com/saskatoon/>

Whats open on Family Day in Saskatoon? Check out this [CTV article](#) to find out.

**CELEBRATE FAMILY DAY WEEKEND WITH FREE FISHING,  
FEBRUARY 17 TO 19**



Saskatchewan's annual winter free fishing weekend once again coincides with the province's Family Day holiday weekend on February 17, 18 and 19.

Saskatchewan's public waters are open one weekend each winter to encourage participation in ice fishing. Both residents and visitors may fish in any waterbody that has an open sport fishing season, without purchasing a fishing license.

"Ice fishing is an excellent way to enjoy nature with family and friends during the winter," Environment Minister Dustin Duncan said. "Our lakes attract more than 250,000 anglers each year and the free fishing weekend is the perfect opportunity for both new and experienced anglers."

Anglers are reminded to use caution and common sense, and always put safety first when going out on frozen lakes. This includes testing the ice thickness before travelling on it. A minimum of 10 cm of good ice is required for walking and 30 cm for light vehicle travel. Wear warm clothing.

Read the entire news release [here](#).

## **PREMIER SCOTT MOE ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE EDUCATION FUNDING OF \$7.5 MILLION FOR SASKATCHEWAN CLASSROOMS**

Premier Scott Moe announced immediate mid-school year funding of \$7.5 million that will be provided to school divisions to assist in dealing with front line pressures.

The funding will allow school divisions to hire education professionals immediately. This funding comes earlier than committed and will increase to \$30 million directed to hiring 400 in-school education professionals and other school board priorities once annualized in the 2018-19 budget.

"Over the last several months, I have heard from parents and educators that additional funding is essential to ensure that our children receive the highest quality education possible," Premier Moe said. "This \$7.5 million in immediate funding will put essential classroom supports in place before we introduce the full amount of \$30 million in the 2018-19 budget."

"I fundamentally believe that not a wheel turns in our economy without quality education and that societies that prosper and succeed are those that invest in education," Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant said. "Premier Moe and I are committed to ensuring Saskatchewan students have the supports they need to succeed and today's announcement is just the beginning of a renewed and respectful relationship with our teachers and education partners."

"Saskatchewan's school boards greatly appreciate increased funding to support the students in our province's education system," President of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Dr. Shawn Davidson said. "We hope this announcement signals that the 2018-19 provincial budget will provide the restored and renewed investment that is critically needed in school division operating budgets."

The funding will be distributed through the Ministry of Education by way of the current education funding formula using the components that directly provide supports for the classroom. The Ministry will work closely with school divisions to ensure the mid-school year funding increase is distributed as quickly as possible.

### **CANADA 150 LEGACY BOARD GAME UNVEILED**



*It is fitting that one of my first responsibilities in my new Ministerial role was to unveil this great board game. Our family has spent many hours playing board games and this Family Day Weekend, I look forward to playing "It's Democracy!"*

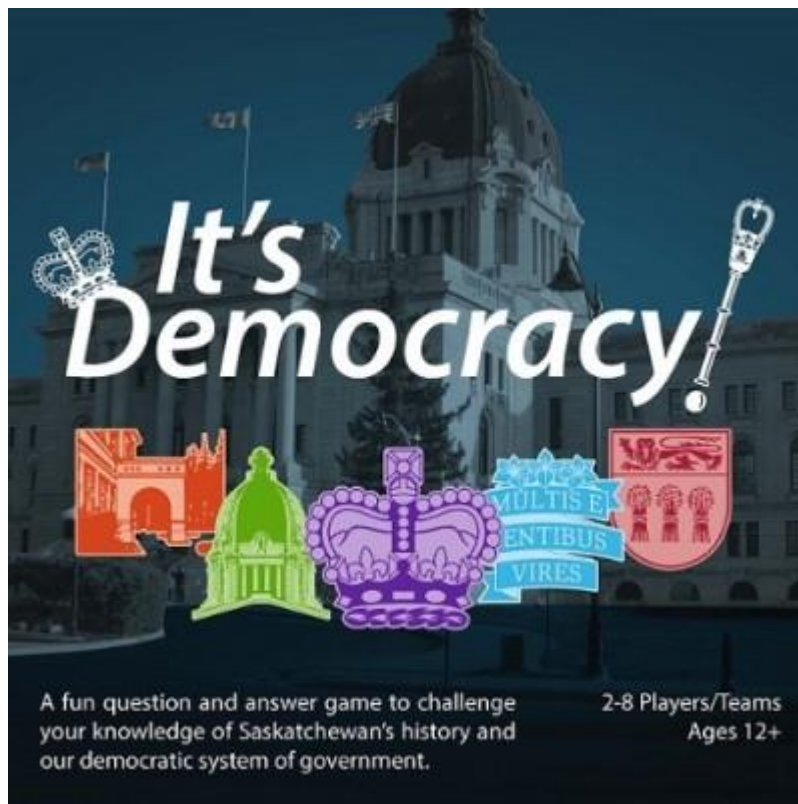
Grade Eight students around Saskatchewan are being provided with a fun, educational way to remember Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation with the launch of the It's Democracy! board game.

The Canada 150 legacy project was undertaken by the Provincial Capital Commission, with financial support from the Government of Canada through the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

"The game can be used as a tool to help teach students about our democratic system of government, provincial history and leaders, and about our connection to the Crown," Minister

Responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission Ken Cheveldayoff said. "We're confident that the knowledge the students will gain from this valuable resource will leave a lasting impression. The It's Democracy! game is a fitting conclusion to a wonderful year of Canada 150 celebrations."

Produced in both official languages, the game is being supplied to approximately 700 public, separate and Band operated schools around the province. It was developed and designed in consultation with the Ministry of Education, a focus group of educators and other partners, with the Grade Eight social studies curriculum in mind.



## **HIGHEST URBAN HOUSING STARTS GROWTH IN CANADA**

Urban housing starts in Saskatchewan rose 123.5 per cent in January 2018 when compared with January 2017, the highest percentage increase among the provinces according to Statistics Canada. Nationally, housing starts were up only 4.8 per cent.

Urban housing starts totaled 409 in January 2018, up from 183 in January 2017.



“These are exceptional figures for urban housing starts,” Export and Trade Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “Compared to what is happening in the rest of the country, Saskatchewan’s home building industry is starting the year off in great shape.”

Five provinces had decreases in housing starts, while the western provinces were the only ones to see gains on a year-over-year percentage basis.

In Regina, housing starts were up 169.0 per cent year-over-year, while Saskatoon had an increase of 54.2 per cent.

Multiple dwellings were up 344 per cent year-over-year.

## **CONGRATULATIONS MARK McMORRIS - SASKATCHEWAN STRONG!**



These hashtags along with the photo above say it all .... Anything is possible. [Mark McMorris](#) [#NeverGiveUp](#) [#pyeongchang2018](#). After suffering a near-fatal crash last March which left Mark suffering breaks to his jaw and left arm, a ruptured spleen, a pelvic fracture, rib fractures and a collapsed left lung, the world witnessed this outstanding athlete earn a bronze medal at the Olympics! Just remarkable!

I don't think there is anyone that deserved to be on the podium more than Saskatchewan's Mark McMorris. Our province is so proud of Mark, now a two-time Olympic medalist. What an inspiration to all of us. Mark's determination and tenacity is an incredible example of an amazing strong willed individual. The people of Saskatchewan and those around the world are all so proud. Once again, Congratulations Mark.

Watch a few great videos by clicking [here](#) and Mark's amazing run [here](#).

## SASKATCHEWAN ATHLETES COMPETE IN THE OLYMPICS





Hey Saskatchewan! It is an exciting week as we cheer on our athletes representing Team Canada at [#PyeongChang2018](#)!

- Regina's [Mark McMorris](#), Slopestyle and Big Air
- Regina's Kali Christ, Speed Skating
- White City's Marsha Hudey, Speed Skating...
- Regina's Ben Hebert, Curling
- Saskatoon's Emily Clark, Hockey
- Wakaw's [Linden Vey](#) Team Canada Vey, Hockey
- Moose Jaw's [Ben Coakwell](#), Bobsleigh
- Regina's Andi Naude, Mogul Freestyle Skiing

Check out the schedule for their events (thanks CBC Sask): <http://www.cbc.ca/.../cbc-saskatchewan-olympic-athletes-1.452...>

As of today Canada has earned 10 medals. Three gold, four silver and three bronze!

Congratulations and good luck everyone!

## **CELEBRATING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF IN SASKATCHEWAN**



It's time to highlight the personal and professional contributions that teachers and school staff make for their students each day!



The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed February 11-17, 2018 as Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week in the province.

"This week is an opportunity for Saskatchewan residents to recognize and celebrate our teachers and school staff," Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant said. "Education professionals in our province work tirelessly to educate and inspire students to reach their full potential and engage in lifelong learning."

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is acknowledged annually across Canada to highlight the invaluable work of education professionals in our schools. This year, the Saskatchewan Association of School Councils (SASC) has chosen the theme *Inspiration Through Learning*.

"Teachers and staff inspire and motivate learners when they provide students with opportunities to understand, develop and practice positive attitudes and actions that will result in the achievements of their goals and dreams," SASC Director Joy Bastness said. "They inspire new understanding and skills, initiate new experiences, spark students' interest and enthusiasm, while infusing learning with life and a desire to learn."

This marks the 31st year that Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week will be celebrated in Saskatchewan.

## **SPRING RUNOFF EXPECTED TO BE BELOW NORMAL**

February 8, the Water Security Agency (WSA) released the preliminary spring runoff outlook for 2018.

With the dry conditions in the summer and fall of 2017 combined with below normal winter precipitation so far, a below normal spring runoff is expected across southern Saskatchewan this year.

Conditions are near normal across northern areas of the province. Meadow Lake and the Upper Churchill River Basin is the exception with this region receiving extremely high rainfall in 2017 which created a wetter than normal landscape at freeze-up. This area is expected to experience normal to slightly above normal spring runoff in 2018.

The summer of 2017 saw extremely low rainfall across a large portion of southern Saskatchewan with record dry conditions in some locations. These conditions continued into the fall where precipitation was also below normal. As a result, soil moisture conditions were dry at freeze-up and significant wetland storage was available in many areas.

Read the entire news release [here](#).

## **DECEMBER BUILDING PERMIT GROWTH LEADS THE WEST**



According to Statistics Canada, December 2017 building permits were up considerably in Saskatchewan, rising 69.7 per cent year over year (seasonally adjusted), the second highest percentage increase among the provinces, and the highest percentage increase in western Canada. Nationally, permits were up only 11.5 per cent.

The total value of building permits in Saskatchewan was \$242 million.

“Saskatchewan’s building permit growth rate in December was significantly higher than the national average,” Export and Trade Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “This shows confidence in our economy in both the short and long term with jobs and investment.”

Read more [here](#).



**I hope everyone enjoys a Happy Valentines Day. February 14 is a great day to remind us to show those we care about how much they mean to us.**

**A few fun facts about Valentine's Day:**

- In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
- On Valentine`s Day every year, there are at least 36 million heart shape boxes of chocolates sold.
- The red rose was the favourite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.
- Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone to see. That was the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve."
- Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800's.
- Probably the first greeting cards, handmade valentines, appeared in the 16th century. As early as 1800, companies began mass-producing cards. Initially these cards were hand-colored by factory workers. By the early 20th century even fancy lace and ribbon-strewn cards were created by machine.



## **SIGNS OF PROGRESS: HISTORICALLY LOW NUMBER OF TRAFFIC DEATHS IN 2017**

*Fewest deaths on Saskatchewan roads since 1954*

In 2017 Saskatchewan recorded the lowest number of traffic fatalities in more than six decades.

There were 102\* deaths on Saskatchewan roads last year, a notable improvement from the 125 deaths in 2016 and the yearly average of 145 deaths in the previous decade (2007-2016).

The last time Saskatchewan recorded fewer traffic deaths was in 1954, when 74 people were killed. For context, there were less than one-third the number of registered vehicles in the province as there are today.

“We need to remember that traffic fatality statistics are so much more than numbers; each one was a real person who died needlessly, leaving behind a devastated family and loved ones,” Minister Responsible for SGI Joe Hargrave said. “It’s terrible that the families of 102 people had to deal with a tragic loss last year. The fact that we saw 23 fewer deaths than the year before is an encouraging sign. The credit for this improvement has to go to every single person in Saskatchewan who has made the choice to drive more safely.”

Click [here](#) to read more.

## **SECOND LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN CANADA**



**Premier Scott Moe, "Wow Saskatchewan, you created 1,100 jobs last month! The fastest growth in Canada, dropping the unemployment rate by a full 1%."**

***We will keep standing with you so families and businesses always have the opportunity to prosper across our great province."***

Saskatchewan's unemployment rate was 5.4 per cent (seasonally adjusted) in January – tied for the second lowest rate among the provinces and below the national rate of 5.9 per cent according to Statistics Canada.

There were 560,100 people employed, 1,500 more jobs compared to January 2017, including an increase of 4,900 full-time jobs.

Employment in Saskatchewan was up 1,100 from the previous month (0.2 per cent), the highest percentage increase among the provinces (seasonally adjusted). There were 6,200 full-time jobs

created month-over-month.

Read the entire news release [here](#).

**HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!**  
**新年好 / 新年好 (Xīnnián hǎo)**



Chinese New Year is one of the world's most colourful and exuberant events and triggers celebrations across the country. 2018 is the year of the dog. A very happy New Year to those celebrating Chinese New Year Friday, February 16th.

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY THIS FAMILY DAY WEEKEND**

***"EVERYONE NEEDS A HOUSE TO LIVE IN, BUT A SUPPORTIVE FAMILY  
IS WHAT BUILDS A HOME."***

Anthony Liccione

family | fām-məl-ee | *n.*  
a group of people, each a unique  
masterpiece, sharing unconditional  
love, hugs and support • one of life's  
greatest blessings • cherish always

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### **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 Willowgrove. Your opinions are important and your letters, emails, and phone calls on any issues relating to the provincial government are welcomed.**

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