

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



Provincial Point of View

February 28, 2018

PINK SHIRT DAY PROMOTES STANDING UP TO BULLYING



Celebrated annually around the globe, Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students, David Shepherd and Travis Price, took a stand against homophobic bullying after a new year 10 student was harassed and threatened for wearing pink. Since then, over 233,000 people in Saskatchewan have participated in Red Cross Pink Day celebrations. We encourage you to join us this year and help change the culture around bullying in our province! Click [here](#) to read about Red Cross Pink Day.

Pink shirt day still resonates with Saskatchewan students. The following is a great article taken from the Saskatoon Star Phoenix. Credit to Morgan Modjeski:

Ten years after the movement started at a Nova Scotia High School, the Pink Shirt Day anti-bullying campaign still matters to Saskatchewan students, say the people helping lead the charge in the province.

Pink Shirt Day began in 2007 when students at a Nova Scotia High School wore pink shirts to show support for another student who had been bullied for wearing a [pink shirt to school](#).

The campaign has [evolved into a national event](#), with thousands of students across the country wearing pink shirts to show support for anti-bullying efforts. Events are held across the country on Feb. 28.

After speaking to a group of students at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School, Scott McHenry, a former Saskatchewan Roughrider and bullying expert with the Red Cross, said he feels the focus of the campaign has shifted.

“Pink Day has gone through a bit of transition in the 10 years,” he said. “Early on, it was about education and talking about it ... I think we’re kind of past that now. We have to understand what role do we play.

“We know what bullying is. We know what verbal and cyberbullying looks like; it’s more about a call to action,” he said. “It’s about what we can do, as youth especially, to make a difference.”

McHenry, who displayed bullying behaviour while growing up, said each individual has the power to make a change, telling the crowd: “It’s not about doing something crazy, it’s about doing something kind.”

He said he changed his behaviour after his classmates helped him realize the consequences of his actions. He told students intervention in bullying can take many forms, including asking for help from an adult or standing up for a victim.

McHenry is part of a group of players associated with the Roughriders who are touring Saskatchewan to talk about Pink Shirt Day. This week, the Red Cross will hold Imagine No Bullying presentations at 30 schools. Overall, more than 100 schools participate across the province.

Kelsi Prince, a respect education program coordinator with the Red Cross, said the way schools are participating in the 2018 campaign ranges from signing “kindness pledges” to holding peer-to-peer support groups where students can share their own experiences.

For students to have a solid understanding of the issue, they have to hear from people who have displayed bullying behaviour as well as those who have been victims, because it helps them understand at a young age that their behaviour and actions can affect other people, she said.

“It’s important for kids to understand that every day, they’re presented with hundreds and thousands of little moments where they make a choice about how they treat people — and that in this world, where we can truly be anything that we want to be, the most important thing to choose is to be kind.”

SUPPORT FOR VONN!



Saturday, February 24th, Saskatchewan residents from the ages of 17-35 gathered at the Cooperators in Regina to get a simple swab of the inside of their cheek. Vonn is an 8 year old in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant but does not have a match. All it takes is one special person and that is where the people of Saskatchewan play a role by coming together to help each other when there is a need.

Vonn's family saw incredible support and we all hope a match is made!

Premier Scott Moe, "Vonn, this great province of ours has your back. 2,925 of you showed up in Regina to [#getswabbed](#) and help find a match. It was the largest drive of this nature ever in Canada"

If you couldn't attend last weekend, it's not too late.. get a swab kit at www.onematch.ca, you could help save a life. You can also register online [here](#).

PREMIER ANNOUNCES EXEMPTION ON AGRICULTURE, LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE



Premier Scott Moe fulfilled his commitment to reinstate the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) exemption for agriculture, life and health insurance premiums, effective today.

"Our government will help families and small businesses save money, invest and help our province grow," Moe said. "Part of that commitment is to exempt agriculture, life and health insurance from PST."

The exemption covers agriculture, which includes crop, livestock and hail insurance premiums as well as individual and group life and health insurance premiums. Health includes disability, accident and sickness insurance.

The exemption is retroactive to August 1, 2017, the date PST was applied to insurance.

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

SASKATCHEWAN RANKS NUMBER 1 IN CANADA



Saskatchewan is #1 in Canada and #2 on earth for mining attractiveness, according to a new Fraser Institute report.

Please see some encouraging quotes from the report:

“Saskatchewan has a great permitting process that meets time lines and provides certainty for investors.”

“Saskatchewan’s mineral leasing system is excellent compared to other jurisdictions.”

Premier Scott Moe, "We will continue to work hard to make Saskatchewan a top jurisdiction on the planet for investment creating more jobs and opportunity for Saskatchewan people."

STRONG AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS GROWTH

Average weekly earnings in Saskatchewan were up 2.7 per cent year-over-year in December 2017, the second highest percentage increase among the provinces and ahead of the national increase of 2.3 per cent.

Month-to-month, Saskatchewan led the country in growth with an increase of 1.6 per cent, above the national increase of 0.2 per cent.

“This is good news, not only for our economy, but for the hard working men and women in our province,” Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “Strong growth in weekly earnings is important and will help retain and attract workers to Saskatchewan.”

December’s average weekly earnings were \$1,033.57, third highest in the nation and above the national average of \$992.87.

Industries with the highest year-over-year earnings growth rate were management of companies and enterprises (+20.9 per cent), accommodation and food services (+9.5 per cent) and construction (+7.8 per cent).

TELEMIRACLE 2018



The Kinsmen Foundation, through donations to Telemiracle, assists Saskatchewan people to acquire special needs equipment and access to medical treatment.

Telemiracle 42 will be broadcast live from Conexus Arts Centre on March 3 and 4, 2018, starting at 9 p.m. Watch it on all four Saskatchewan CTV stations and NewCap Television in Lloydminster, or stream it on the CTV Regina or CTV Saskatoon websites!

New to Telemiracle 42...Countdown to Telemiracle! It's a 2 1/2 hour, web-based show which will be broadcast live from Conexus Arts Centre on March 3 between 6:30 and 8:55 p.m. It will feature performances by eleven of the province's best acts as we count down to show time!

A dedicated, hard-working group of volunteers will be making dreams come true for Saskatchewan families. Kinsmen and Kinettes and volunteers in communities across the province work tirelessly all year raising money for this incredible cause. From businesses selling helping hands to fundraisers in several schools and communities, Telemiracle 42 is sure to a success. This weekend Saskatchewan will show the world how to improve the quality of life for so many, right here at home!

MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES LONG-TERM RESIDENT AND FAMILY SURVEYS

As part of its commitment to improve quality of long-term care in Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Health is asking residents and their families more directly how long-term care is performing across the province.

In 2017, the Ministry of Health and the former health regions (now the Saskatchewan Health Authority) concluded the first Resident and Family Experience Survey. This survey provides a first-hand account of the satisfaction of residents who live in special-care homes, as well as hearing from their families. More than 2,700 residents and 2,400 family members responded to the survey. The results show that 88 per cent of residents and 83 per cent of family members are generally satisfied with their long-care homes.

Concerns shared by residents and family members are considered as opportunities for improvement. Survey results at the facility level were shared with the Saskatchewan Health Authority so they could plan quality improvement work that corresponds to specific facility concerns. The transition to a single health authority has provided an opportunity to change the way long-term care reporting is done.

These surveys will complement the annual Long-Term Care CEO tours. Officials from the new Saskatchewan Health Authority will continue to visit long-term care facilities and report back results. Starting in 2018-19, the ministry will conduct the Resident and Family Experience Survey every two years.

“Since the launch of the CEO Tours in 2013, we’ve learned a lot, which has helped us to make improvements to benefit residents,” Health Minister Jim Reiter said. “The Resident and Family Experience Surveys give us the opportunity to harness a greater degree of feedback from

residents and their families.”

The results of the 2017 CEO tours and the first Resident and Family Experience Survey are now available at www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health/other-reports/ceo-visits-to-long-term-care-facilities.

OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES WRAP UP!

PyeongChang 2018



Congratulations to all athletes that competed in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games. After 19 days of competition at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, Canadian athletes brought home 29 medals: 11 gold, 8 silver and 10 bronze.

Shaunavon was named Canada's top town for producing Winter Olympic athletes! Maclean's had a great article on the history of athletes from Shaunavon. Read it [here](#).

We all watched and cheered on Mark McMorris from Regina who recovered from a near-fatal crash less than a year ago. Mark earned a bronze medal in Men's Snowboard Slopestyle. There were numerous tweets during the Olympics but the one that stood out the most to me was Mark's tweet, "I'm too blessed to be stressed."

We couldn't be prouder of our athletes who represented Saskatchewan on Team Canada!

FARM STRESS LINE AVAILABLE



If you're experiencing
symptoms of stress,
the Farm Stress Line
is available 24/7 at

1-800-667-4442



Feeling the winter blues? Contact the Farm Stress Line at 1-800-667-4442 for support. The confidential line is available 24/7.

NORTH COMMUTER PARKWAY BRIDGE SHORTLIST OF NAMES ANNOUNCED



City of Saskatoon: As part of the community-led bridge naming process, a committee of Métis and First Nation leaders, Elders and City representatives have chosen two historical figures and two Cree words as potential names for the North Commuter Parkway (NCP) Bridge.

The four names (in alphabetical order) gathered from the community are: Chief Mistawasis (miss-tuh-WA'-sis), Louis Riel, Waniskâ (WOHN'-skuh) and Wicîhitowin (wee-chee-HEE'-toh-win).

Waniskâ is a Cree word meaning 'to arise' and Wicîhitowin is a Cree word meaning 'to help mutually' or 'the act of helping one another'.

The NCP Bridge Naming Committee revealed the names today at the Roxy Theatre. Four educational vignettes were screened for students from local community groups, elementary and high schools which explained the significance of each one selected for the shortlist.

"In naming the bridge, it shows our commitment to answering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the process of reconciliation," says Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Mark Arcand.

"We are all committed to a better future, and we value everyone's participation. Reconciliation is about understanding the past and choosing to build a better future. It's about respecting each other and building trust."

The committee is now asking the community to 'share their voice' on the short-listed four names. It's asking for input via an online and television campaign, as well as providing opportunities for people to provide feedback in-person at a number of free public and community screenings.

"We encourage the community to watch the vignettes and begin their own educational journey about the names and their significance to our shared history," says Judy Pelly, Elder and Indian residential school survivor.

There will also be specific sessions organized for groups such as newcomers, youth, seniors/old people and people living with disabilities. The deadline to provide feedback is March 31, 2018.

"Our aim is to encourage respectful dialogue and conversation within our community, and bring a greater awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history and culture," Shirley Isbister, President, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.

“It’s also an exciting opportunity for our school children, our youth, and the entire community to be part of our history and come together in the spirit of reconciliation.”

The community-led project responds directly to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action #79: *Participate in a strategy to commemorate Aboriginal People’s history and contributions to Canada.*

The NCP Bridge Naming Committee consists of community leaders from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, Saskatoon Tribal Council and Central Urban Métis Federation.

For more details on the naming process and how to provide feedback online and in-person, visit Saskatoon.ca/namethencp.

Under the City of Saskatoon’s Strategic Goal of Quality of Life, this project supports the recognition of our built, natural, and cultural heritage. The naming of civic facilities celebrates the history, environment, and outstanding contributions of our diverse community.

HELP THE WILLOWGROVE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BUILD AN OUTDOOR RINK



The WUHCA association has entered the GO OUT AND PLAY CHALLENGE for a chance to win \$10,000 towards our community outdoor rink.

The most minutes logged during the 10-day challenge will be declared the grand prize winner. We need your help! It’s easy; here’s what you need to do:

1. Be physically active every day – go out and play!...
2. Create a profile on the challenge website: challenge.saskatchewaninmotion.ca
3. Log on to the challenge website every day March 1 – 10, 2018 to enter your minutes of physical activity to add to our community/community association’s total!

4. Don't forget to log your minutes every day you can't go back in time and log yesterday's minutes.

Every minute counts! Please pass like and share this to everyone you know – friends, family, neighbours – and encourage them to get active and register their minutes too. Check out their facebook page [here](#).

ENHANCEMENTS MADE TO CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE FOR 2018

February 27th, Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart announced details of the 2018 Crop Insurance Program. Saskatchewan producers will have access to very high coverage as the Crop Insurance Program continues to improve, as a result of the success of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers.

“Risk management is more important than ever for Saskatchewan producers,” Stewart said. “The Crop Insurance Program is more responsive than ever and will be extremely valuable this year as we come off of one of the driest years in the province’s history.”

On average, Crop Insurance coverage levels are \$216 per acre, compared to \$217 per acre in 2017. The slightly lower coverage is a result of lower insured crop prices in 2018; however, coverage levels remain very high thanks to the success of Saskatchewan producers as average yields continue to move higher. The average premium for 2018 is \$8.41 per acre, down slightly from \$8.51 per acre in 2017.

Click [here](#) to read the entire news release.

Cannabis

Wholesaling & Retailing



Wholesaling and retailing of cannabis will be conducted by the private sector and regulated by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.



Approximately 60 cannabis retail permits in up to 40 eligible municipalities/First Nation communities (population of 2,500 or larger).
(Communities will be able to opt out)



Cannabis retail stores must be standalone businesses, selling only cannabis, cannabis accessories and ancillary items.

Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming
Authority



Cannabis will be sold by private retailers and regulated by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) in the province.

SLGA will issue approximately 60 cannabis retail permits to private operators in as many as 40 Saskatchewan municipalities and First Nation communities. Eligible First Nations and municipalities will have the option to opt out of having a retail cannabis store in their... community if they choose.

Stores will be limited to selling cannabis, cannabis accessories and ancillary items.

Specific details regarding application criteria, permit licensing fees, application timelines and other associated details will be finalized over the coming weeks. A decision on the minimum age for cannabis consumption will be made later this spring. [See More](#)



Saskatoon Sports and Leisure Show

When: March 2 - 4

Where: Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth St. W

[Click here](#) for information



Mid Winter Craft Show

When: March 3 - 4

Where: German Cultural Centre, 160 Cartwright St E

[Click here](#) for information



Homestyles

When: March 8 - 11

Where: Prairieland Park, 503 Ruth St. W

Click [here](#) for information



Gardenscape

When: March 23 - 25

Where: Prairieland Park

Click [here](#) for details



**North Saskatoon Business Association (NSBA) 21th Annual Business
Builder Awards - Building Bridges to Success!**

When: March 28, 5 - 9 pm

Where: Prairieland Park, Hall A

Click [here](#) for information and to register



READ ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES [HERE](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Stress less

1. Focus on what you can control;
2. Go for a walk;
3. Color;
4. Talk about it;
5. Breathe;
6. Look for opportunities in life's challenges;
7. Dance it out;
8. Treat yourself;
9. Reminisce about good times;
10. Ask for a hug;
11. Go to bed earlier;
12. Smile.

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

I appreciate the many opportunities to make a positive difference in my constituency. Your phone calls, letters, and emails make a big difference in keeping me informed on the issues that matter to you.

If you would like me to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

"From a Provincial Point of View" is a weekly message from Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon 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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