

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

HAPPY
new year

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SASKATOON
WILLOWGROVE

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS, HAPPY NEW YEAR!



The last twelve months will be remembered for years to come. Saskatchewan found a way to stand fast when faced with post-pandemic challenges. A positive business climate and increased private investment have laid the groundwork for a spectacular 2023.

Saskatchewan's population has surpassed 1.2 million for the first time in history. We have the second lowest unemployment rate in the country, with a new overall employment record of 574,300 people employed. Our real Gross Domestic Product is forecast to increase by 1.9 per cent in 2023, the highest growth among the provinces. Our government can invest in programs and services thanks to the expanding economy, and we are on track to balance the budget, with a \$1.1 billion surplus at mid-year.

Increased revenue has allowed our government to support those facing financial pressure due to inflation and the federal carbon tax. The Four Point Affordability Plan delivered a one-time Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit cheque, changes to PST on fitness memberships and other youth recreational activities, and we extended the small business tax rate reduction. We increased the maximum monthly benefit through the Seniors Income Plan by \$30 per month, with a second \$30 increase for 2023/24.

These measures, along with some of the country's lowest utility costs and income tax levels, have helped Saskatchewan residents with inflation.

In the fall, we launched the Health Human Resource Action Plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health professionals across the province. Adding 1,000 new healthcare staff will directly support the ability to perform more surgeries. This fiscal year we set an aggressive target of performing 97,000 surgeries, the highest number of surgeries ever completed in one year.

We are making Saskatchewan safer with new initiatives like the Saskatchewan Marshall Service, increased funding for the Crime Reduction Team, and the Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team. Over \$23 million in additional funding has been committed to enhancing and expanding agencies that will ensure public safety, respond to emergencies and support programs already in place.

We believe Saskatchewan is the best place to work, live and raise a family. The business climate continues to be supportive and draws new ideas to our province. This economic success allows for further investment into the things that matter to the Saskatchewan people. Things like healthcare, education, better roads and highways, and safer communities.



As we look back on the last year, our province has faced challenges and celebrated success. Saskatchewan will start the new year with one of the best economies in the country, allowing for even more growth in 2023. Forecasters are watching with great interest as we continue to support new opportunities, fresh investment and job growth. We are blessed to live in a bountiful province.

Along with my family, Trish, Carter, Meredith, and Paige, we wish you and yours a Happy New Year!

The Year In Review

POPULATION - Saskatchewan's population recently surpassed 1.2 million for the first time in history. In 2007, the Official Opposition said our population would never grow beyond one million. We believed Saskatchewan had the potential with the support of a strong economy. This achievement puts us closer than ever to our Growth Plan goal of 1.4 million people by 2030.

- **JOBS**- Statistics Canada job numbers for November show our province added 11,800 jobs compared to last year, giving Saskatchewan the second-lowest unemployment rate in the country. Overall employment set a new record with 574,300 people employed.
- **ECONOMY**- Saskatchewan's real Gross Domestic Product is forecast to have grown by 5.3 per cent in 2022 and increase by 1.9 per cent in 2023, the highest growth among the provinces in both years.
 - Merchandise exports increased 47.5 per cent in October 2022 compared to October 2021, the highest increase among provinces.
 - Statistics Canada is reporting a 49.5 per cent jump in wholesale trade for September 2022, compared to September 2021, the highest increase among provinces.
 - The province's manufacturing sales were also up, rising 24.1 per cent from September 2021 to September 2022, ranking third among provinces.



- **INVESTMENTS & BALANCED BUDGET-** Thanks to the growing economy, our government can invest in expanding programs and services. We are adding new healthcare professionals, expanding mental health and addictions services, and investing in new hospitals, long-term care facilities and schools. We are on track to balance the budget, with the Mid-Year Financial Report forecasting a \$1.1 billion surplus. The increase is largely the result of high potash and oil prices, and higher revenues.
- **AFFORDABILITY-** The Four Point Affordability Plan has:
 - delivered a one-time Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit cheque of \$500 to all adult residents who have filed a 2021 tax return in the province,
 - exempted the PST on fitness and gym memberships, along with other recreational youth activities,
 - and extended the small business tax rate reduction.

We increased the maximum monthly benefit through the Senior's Income Plan by \$30 per month, with a second \$30 increase for 2023/24. These measures, along with some of the lowest utility costs and income tax levels in the country, have helped Saskatchewan residents with inflation.

- **SASKATCHEWAN FIRST ACT-** Due to interference from the federal government, we introduced the *Saskatchewan First Act* that clearly defines that Saskatchewan has the constitutional rights over natural resources and economic future. Supported at Second Reading by the opposition NDP, this legislation ensure Saskatchewan continues down a path of growth.
- **HEALTH CARE-** We recognize the pressure a growing population puts on the healthcare system. Our Health Human Resource Action Plan has already seen success as we work to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health professionals across the province. On a recent recruitment mission to Manila, Philippines, nearly 130 conditional offers were made. More frontline staff will directly support our ability to perform more surgeries. This fiscal year we have set an aggressive target of performing 97,000 surgeries, the highest number of surgeries ever completed in one year.
 - **SAFETY-** We are making Saskatchewan safer with several new initiatives like the Saskatchewan Marshall Service, increased funding for the Crime Reduction Team along with the Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team. When fully operational, 70 officers will make up the Saskatchewan Marshall Service, providing an additional layer of law enforcement. Over \$23 million in additional funding has been committed to enhancing and expanding agencies that will ensure public safety, respond to emergencies and support programs already in place.

- **NEW YEAR-** We are ending 2022 with one of the strongest economies in the country, with several major private investments coming to fruition in the new year. These new businesses are poised to create thousands of jobs, inject further revenue into the province, and support government investment in programs and services residents need. That's growth that works for everyone.

HUSKIES HOST UKRAINIAN NATIONAL HOCKEY TEAM TO SUPPORT UKRAINE



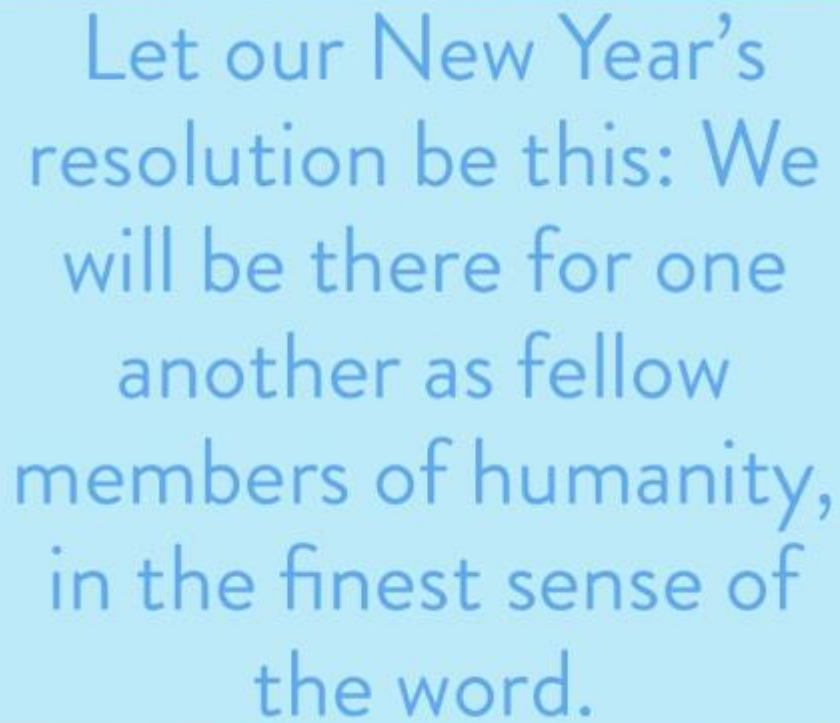
I was pleased to join Merlis Belsher, Rob Norris and Brad Sylvester at the U of S Huskies versus the Ukraine National Team fundraising hockey game. The Ukraine's national U-25 team has travelled to our city to play in the first game of the Hockey Can't Stop Tour.



The University of Saskatchewan Huskies welcomed the Ukrainian Nation Team on December 30th to give them the opportunity to play and prepare for the upcoming Winter University Games, while raising money for refugees and Ukrainian communities torn apart by the war. Profits from ticket sales go toward restoring damaged arenas and supporting Ukrainian hockey.

The foundation will give the majority of funds to Save Ukrainian Hockey Dream - a charitable organization with a goal of supporting plays at home and abroad, and restoring Ukrainian arenas damaged by the war.

A fantastic crowd was in attendance and nearly \$50,000 was raised at Merlis Belsher Place in Saskatoon.

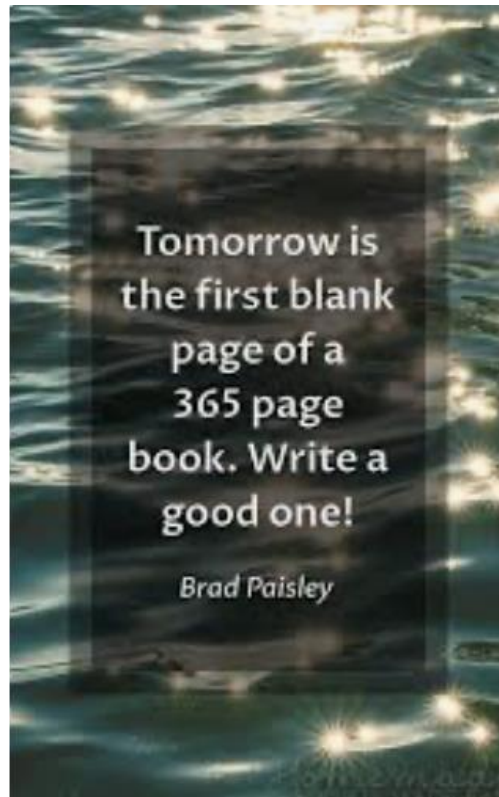


Let our New Year's
resolution be this: We
will be there for one
another as fellow
members of humanity,
in the finest sense of
the word.

Our province is set to kick off 2023 with vigour and enthusiasm. The last year has been anything but ordinary as we have faced challenges and celebrated successes.

As a new year approaches, I want to take this opportunity to thank the constituents of Saskatoon Willowgrove for allowing me the privilege to serve them in the Saskatchewan Legislature. I welcome your comments and will continue to do my best to address your concerns.

Each year's regrets are envelopes in which message of hope are found for the new year. With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts. The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book waiting to be written.



There is so much to do New Years Eve in Saskatoon. Whether you are planning to attend "A night to Remember" at TCU Place, tour the BHP Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo, go skating at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink at Nutrien Plaza, or just staying home with family and friends, have a wonderful evening ringing in the new year.

I hope 2023 brings you peace and good health.

PROVINCIAL INDEXATION, TAX CREDITS HELP WITH AFFORDABILITY



The Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit (SATC) payment and indexation are among the government initiatives helping make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people.

Indexation of the provincial Personal Income Tax (PIT) system preserves the real value of personal tax credits, the income tax brackets, as well as benefits such as the Saskatchewan Low-Income Tax Credit.

Indexation will result in Saskatchewan residents seeing \$94.5 million in annual income tax savings. The level of indexation in 2023 will be 6.3 per cent, which matches the annual average national inflation rate from October 2021 to September 2022. The combined effect of the indexation of the tax system from 2007 through the 2023 taxation year is saving Saskatchewan taxpayers a total of approximately \$284.5 million on their 2023 taxes.

In 2023 through indexation, on average, an individual with an income of \$25,000 will see \$125 in savings, a family of four with a combined annual income of \$75,000 will save \$371 and a family of four with a combined annual income of \$100,000 will save \$362.

Saskatchewan has among the lowest personal taxes in the country. Since 2007 PIT exemptions have removed more than 112,000 people from the province's income tax roll. In total, PIT reductions since 2007 are providing over \$720 million in annual income tax savings to Saskatchewan people.

In addition, a family of four pays no provincial income tax on their first \$56,550 of combined income which is among the highest thresholds in Canada and more than twice as much as in 2007, when a family of four began paying income tax once their combined income reached just \$26,150.

In late August, the Government of Saskatchewan introduced the Four Point Affordability Plan and in addition to the one-time \$500 SATC payments, the small business tax rate reduction was extended by a year to further support small businesses as they continue to recover from the pandemic and face inflationary pressures.

The plan also included keeping gym and fitness memberships and recreational activities for youth PST exempt. The province's strong finances allow government to reduce borrowing and retire up to \$1 billion in debt, resulting in lower annual interest costs and allowing those savings to be invested into priorities such as health care, education and social safety nets.

"Saskatchewan is forecast to lead all provinces in economic growth this year and next, and strong revenue from our resources has allowed us to help individuals and businesses with higher costs due to inflation, while paying down debt. That's growth that works for everyone," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said.

Also helping with affordability, families in Saskatchewan with children enrolled in sports, arts and cultural activities will continue to be able to claim the Active Families Benefit on their 2022 taxes.

The benefit was reinstated in 2021 and provides a refundable tax credit of \$150 per year, per child, to eligible families. Families of children with a disability will receive an additional \$50, for a total tax credit of \$200 per year, per child. Parents who enroll their children in sports, arts and cultural activities are reminded to keep their receipts so they may claim the benefit with their annual tax filings.

"Our government recognizes that costs have risen due to inflation, and we are committed to taking steps to help keep life affordable for Saskatchewan people," Harpauer said.

SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE



Looking for a rewarding summer job with a competitive salary, networking opportunities, and future employment possibilities? The [Government of Saskatchewan](https://www.saskatchewan.ca) has got you covered with a variety of jobs for all interests.

Visit [saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca)

WINTER ACTIVITIES AT ECHO VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK OPEN FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY



Winter activities, including skating, snowshoe hikes and a new Ninja-Warrior-style activity course will open at Echo Valley Provincial Park beginning January 1, 2023.

Popular Skating Loop Is Back

"Skate the Park", a unique ice-skating loop winding through Aspen Campground with multiple campfires to warm up at, is back for a third year.

"The ice-skating loop has been a big hit at Echo Valley and continues to get better each year," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Laura Ross said. "We are excited to offer this for families to enjoy during their holiday break - a great way to get outside and kick off the New Year."

The skating loop is open until early March, pending weather conditions, with the following weekly hours of operation.

Read the entire news release: [Winter Activities at Echo Valley Provincial Park Open For New Year's Day | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

SASKATOON DOG RESCUE CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UPS



Ready to dispose of your live Christmas tree?

For a \$20 donation, a Saskatoon Dog Rescue volunteer will pick up your live (undecorated) tree and take it to one of Saskatoon's composting depots!

*Runs until January 31, 2023. Must be within Saskatoon city limits.

To request pickup, complete this short form:

https://form.asana.com/?k=DJj_i4vQtvrpzTik418igg...

GREAT SHOVELLING TIPS FROM DONALD PHYSIOTHERAPY



Photo credit Donald Physiotherapy facebook

With all the snow we have had this past week, I wanted to share these great tips from Donald Physiotherapy.

The tips below will help with the success at battling this latest storm!

- ❄️ Make sure the shovel isn't too big or too small for you!
- ❄️ Make sure to bend with your knees when lifting the snow
- ❄️ If the snow feels too heavy, break it up into smaller scoops
- ❄️ Take breaks as needed
- ❄️ Make sure to dress for the weather - we don't want to hear about frostbite!
- ❄️ Be sure to ask for help when things get tough
- ❄️ Finally, don't forget to stretch when you are done - you need to be ready for the next time to shovel!

PLEASE, ALWAYS FIND A SAFE RIDE!



Getting closer to New Year's Eve, the SPS wants to remind everyone to always drive sober. With so many options available, there is no excuse to drive impaired. Keep safe and all the best for 2023.

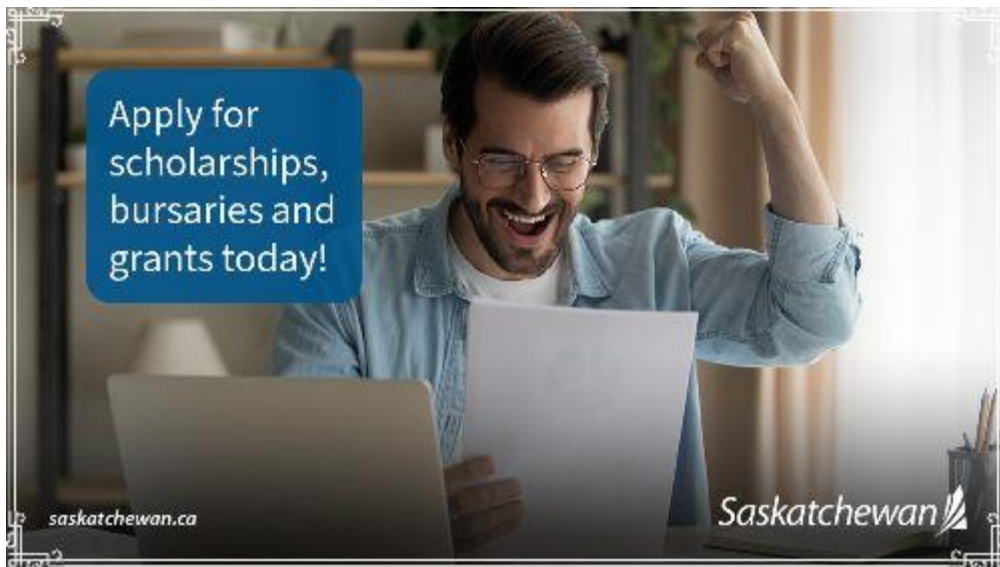
PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTAKE PIPES AND EXHAUST VENTS



With the recent influx of snow, Saskatoon Fire Department wants to remind residents to check intake pipes and exhaust vents that may be blocked with snow or ice. A plugged exhaust could result in carbon monoxide (CO) being pushed back into your home or cause your furnace to shut down. Residents should check their intake pipes and exhaust vents during and after heavy snowfalls and clear any snow away from the opening if it builds up.

PSA: <https://bit.ly/3jEVbhW>

ATTENTION SASKATCHEWAN STUDENTS



Did you know that you can apply for more than just a student loan?

Students can apply for scholarships, bursaries and grants through the [Government of Saskatchewan](#). This type of funding does not need to be paid back and has no impact on student loan eligibility.

Learn more about eligibility and how to apply at the links below:

Scholarships: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/.../scholarships.../scholarships>

Grants and Bursaries:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/.../scho.../grants-and-bursaries>

GREATER SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON FEATURING THE HONOURABLE BRONWYN EYRE

theChamber

Thursday, January 12th
Luncheon 11:15 am - 1:00 pm
Park Town Hotel

Members **\$40** plus GST
Non-Members **\$65** plus GST

POWERHOUSE SERIES



Unpacking the Act

The Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, will talk through the purpose and focus of *The Saskatchewan First Act*, including its implications for Saskatoon businesses, our economy and future resource development.

Honourable Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General

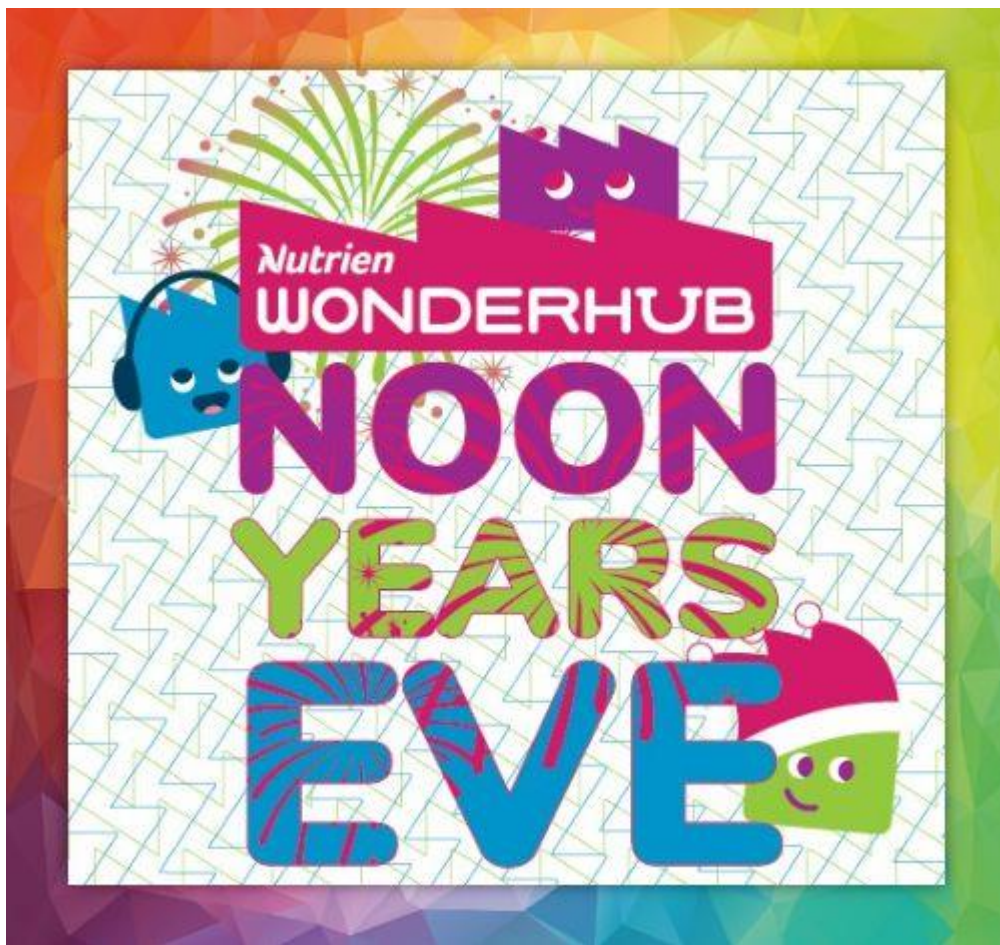


The Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, will talk through the purpose and focus of The Saskatchewan First Act, including its implications for Saskatoon businesses, our economy and future resource development.

Register at: <http://ow.ly/3ynh50M3R9N>

[Canpotex](#) [Saskatchewan Polytechnic](#) [Saskatchewan Realtors Association](#) [Nutrien](#) [Saskatchewan Blue Cross](#)

NUTRIEN WONDERHUB NOON YEARS EVE



Ring in the New Year with Wonderhub! On December 31, 2022, come to visit Wonderhub where we will be ringing in the new year on the hour throughout the day starting at 10:00am.

There is no cost to attend the free activities that are located in the Performance Hall

Wonderhub will also be open to the general public on December 31, 2022 for paid admission to the galleries.

Free Activities include:

Photobooth

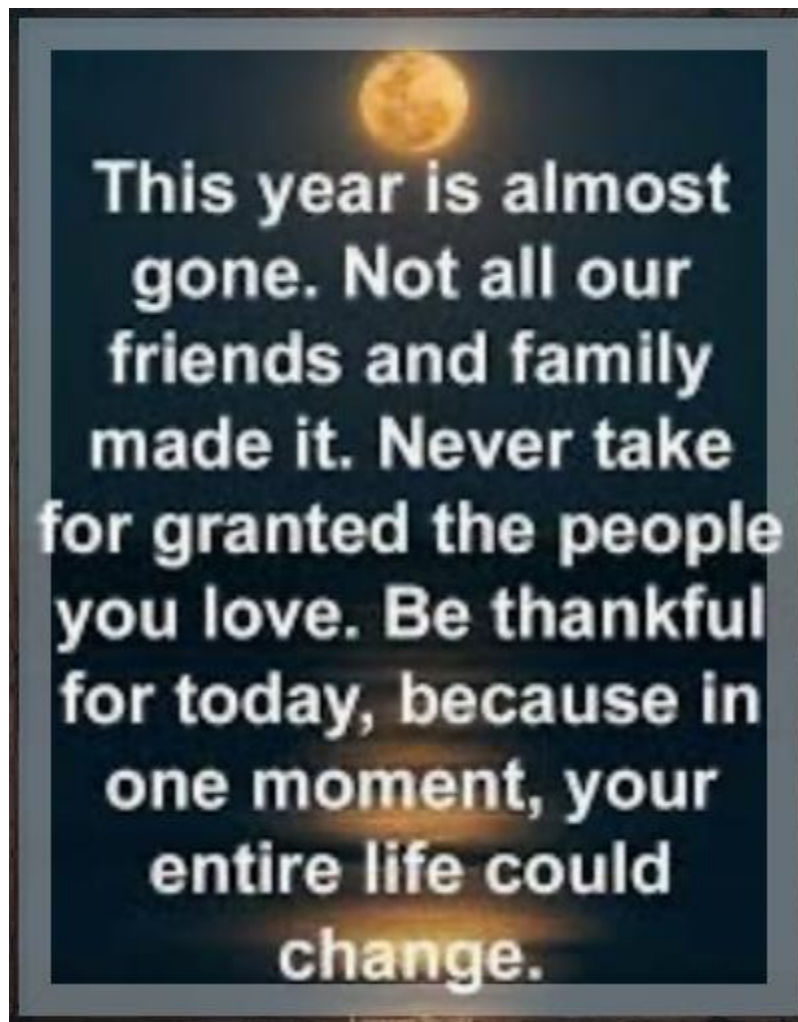
Design Your Own New Year's Props

New Year's Goals Activities

Wish for the New Year Paper Chain

Design Your Own Noise Maker

Music & Dancing



**POINTSETTIA SALE - PROCEEDS TO JIM PATTISON
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**



PLANT LOVERS! For a minimum \$5 CASH donation per plant, you can bring home a 14" potted poinsettia that literally decked the halls at [Glow Saskatoon!](#) All proceeds will be given to the [Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation](#). Plants will be chosen on a First Come, First Served basis. Hundreds of plants can be found at the [Prairieland Park](#) Main Foyer on Saturday, December 31 between 12:00 and 3:00 pm to pick your plants!

Please Note: You'll need to bring your own boxes and packing material for transport as poinsettias don't do well in cold temperatures. While they were lovingly cared for throughout the show, Glow isn't responsible for the quality and condition of the plants and they'll be offered for sale "as is."

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**"NEW YEAR—A NEW CHAPTER, NEW
VERSE, OR JUST THE SAME OLD STORY?
ULTIMATELY WE WRITE IT.
THE CHOICE IS OURS."**

—ALEX MORRITT



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