

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



**FROM A PROVINCIAL
POINT OF VIEW.**

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March 22, 2022

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**SASKATOON
WILLOWGROVE**

I hope you enjoy our newsletter. If you are no longer interested in receiving it, please click the unsubscribe button at the bottom. Thank you.

REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE



Premier Scott Moe, "Tomorrow, we will release the 2022-23 Budget which will invest in creating jobs, opportunities and improving the quality of life for everyone in our province. After a couple of very challenging years, Saskatchewan is back on track!"

March 23, the Government of Saskatchewan will present the 2022 budget. This roadmap for the future will provide the framework for further economic growth and prosperity for Saskatchewan families. In recent weeks and months, our province has been making positive headlines, from economic development and private investment to record-breaking exports and job numbers. Saskatchewan is leading the way, and we are committed to keeping things on track.

We want to ensure communities have the financial support needed to grow and prosper. One way is through Municipal Revenue Sharing Grants that will see the Government of Saskatchewan invest \$262 million for 2022. This unconditional funding helps lay the foundation for stronger communities and a stronger Saskatchewan. Since 2007, more than \$3.7 billion has supported municipalities and the needs that matter most to them.

Despite the employment challenges COVID-19 presented us, our economy is off to a roaring recovery. A strong indicator can be found in February job numbers from Statistics Canada. That report indicates Saskatchewan added more than 30,000 new jobs compared to February 2021. That breaks down to three jobs created per hour, every hour, every day, for the last 365 days. Month-to-month seasonally adjusted employment increased by 7,400, the highest employment growth rate in western Canada. Unemployment for the province fell to 4.7 per cent, the second-lowest in the country. That is the lowest unemployment rate that Saskatchewan has recorded since spring 2015.

In addition to a thriving labour market, Saskatchewan's year-over-year wholesale trade is leading the nation. Between January 2021 and January 2022, wholesale trade increased by over 34 per cent. This is yet another major indicator that Saskatchewan's economy is in a strong position. Last year, Saskatchewan recorded all-time highs in agriculture exports, forestry product sales, and merchandise exports. In January 2022, wholesale trade in Saskatchewan was valued at more than \$3.3 billion.

While our economic indicators are strong, we continue our work to keep on the right track. Our government has announced \$4 million for the Economic Recovery Work Experience Initiative to make that happen. This one-time pandemic recovery initiative will provide paid work experience for job seekers to obtain practical skills in priority areas. Our goal is to address the skilled labour gap in several key sectors such as hospitality, agriculture, retail services, health, and child care. To be eligible, job seekers must be working with SaskJobs Career Services or another approved service provider. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age, entitled to work in Saskatchewan, facing job search and skill-related barriers to employment and be unemployed or underemployed. Employers

interested must provide meaningful work experience and then receive cost-sharing for wages up to \$6,000 for each participant per week.

We want to ensure Saskatchewan families can have access to affordable, high-quality early learning and child care should they choose to use these services. In partnership with the federal government, we are pleased to announce that another 1,202 child care spaces are on the way for 21 Saskatchewan communities. See the following spaces in **Saskatoon**:

Catholic Family Services - 51 spaces

Roots of Learning - 60 spaces

Parent's – St. Philip - 20 Spaces

Faith Alive Ministries; Prairie Christian - 16 spaces

Grace Capstone Ministries - 36 spaces

Spadina Early Learning and Child Care Centre - 51 spaces

This announcement is in addition to the December 2021 announcement of 601 new spaces and is part of a much larger goal to create 28,000 new spaces by the end of March 2026. This partnership with the federal government will bring down average fees for regulated child care to \$10-a-day.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, international students contributed more than \$252 million to the provincial economy. This week, our government launched a first of its kind in Canada new program to deliver international education training to the post-secondary education sector. The International Education Practitioner Program is a key component of the new International Education Strategy and strengthens the international education program in Saskatchewan.

The International Education Practitioners Program will ensure service delivery of international education is consistent across Saskatchewan. Students will benefit from the same experience and level of support no matter where they study in our province.

It is not too late to enroll or change coverage for 2022 Crop Insurance. The deadline to enroll for 2022 Crop Insurance has been extended to April 14 to allow additional time to review all insurance options for your operation. For more information, contact your local Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation office or call 1-888-935-0000.

NEW CHILDCARE SPACES BEING ADDED IN SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNITIES



1,202 new child care spaces are being added across 21 Saskatchewan communities! This is a step towards the goal of 28,000 new regulated child care spaces by 2026. It is just one of many programs funded by a nearly \$1.1 billion federal investment in early childhood education.

ANNUAL INDIA NIGHT



It was an honour to attend the Annual India Night in Saskatoon Saturday, March 19th. I was pleased to join an association that has evolved into a vibrant way for Indo-Canadians to actively express their pride and heritage in our community.

On behalf of Premier Scott Moe and the Government of Saskatchewan & Minister of Parks, Culture & Sport, the Honourable Laura Ross, it was a pleasure to bring greetings to an amazing group. Our province's cultural life is so much richer for the generous involvement of the India Canada Cultural Association.

Over the years, proceeds from this evening have helped countless deserving charities and grassroots projects. The evening was filled with recognitions as everyone attending celebrated the contributions of their volunteers, community and business partners.

We celebrate our provinces excellent relationship with India. Last year the value of Saskatchewan's exports to India was just under \$604 million. The Ministry of Trade and Export Development opened an International Trade and Investment Office in New Delhi, India. This office will be an important part of our government's overall international engagement strategy as we promote Saskatchewan around the world as a place that has what a growing world needs – food, fuel and fertilizer.



TAKE HOME NALOXONE NOW AVAILABLE AT 225 LOCATIONS IN 76 COMMUNITIES



The Government of Saskatchewan continues to expand public access to free Take Home Naloxone kits to help prevent overdose deaths in our province.

Free Take Home Naloxone kits are now available at more than 70 pharmacies across Saskatchewan.

Naloxone can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, potentially providing the time for medical help to arrive. Residents who are at risk of an opioid overdose, or friends and family who may witness an opioid overdose, can now receive free training and naloxone kits from more local pharmacists.

[Take Home Naloxone Now Available At 225 Locations In 76 Communities Across Saskatchewan | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

POTASH SECTOR SETS NEW RECORDS IN PRODUCTION AND SALES IN 2021



Photo Global News - THE CANADIAN PRESS/Liam Richards

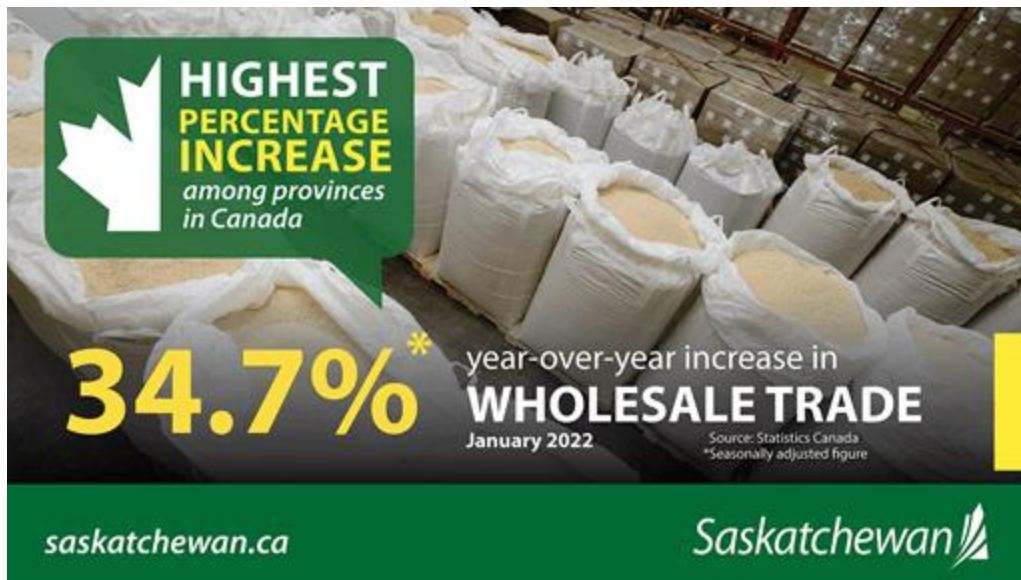
Strong Market Conditions Result In Decade-High Price Levels

The potash sector in Saskatchewan hit all-time record highs in 2021, with production reaching 14.2 million tonnes K₂O and the value of sales hitting \$7.6 billion.

"Saskatchewan continues to lead the world in the production of potash, which emits 50 per cent fewer emissions and is more sustainably produced here than in any jurisdiction in the world," Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. "Over the past 15 years, the Saskatchewan potash sector has committed more than \$30 billion of investment in mine expansions and new projects. It directly employs some 6,000 people and contributes to the livelihoods of thousands more."

[Potash Sector Sets New Records in Production and Sales in 2021 | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

SASKATCHEWAN LEADS CANADA IN WHOLESALE TRADE GROWTH



Year-Over-Year Wholesale Trade increased by 34.7 per cent to \$3.3 billion

Saskatchewan is leading the nation in year-over-year growth in wholesale trade.

Saskatchewan's wholesale trade increased 34.7 per cent (seasonally adjusted) between January 2021 and January 2022, which was first among the provinces.

"This major increase in wholesale trade is yet another key indicator that Saskatchewan's economy is in an enviable position coming out of the pandemic and poised for real growth," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "In 2021, Saskatchewan hit all-time records in agricultural exports, forestry product sales, and merchandise exports, while our unemployment rate has dropped to a seven-year low. This is good news for jobs, businesses, and our communities across the province as we continue to see significant investment pour into our strong, sustainable Saskatchewan."

[Saskatchewan Leads Canada in Wholesale Trade Growth | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS



The Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$245,000 in 2021-22 to Healthy Campus Saskatchewan in support of student mental health and wellbeing.

With this investment, Healthy Campus Saskatchewan will focus on supporting campus communities as they work to implement the National Standard for Mental Health and Wellbeing for Post-Secondary Students. This is a key step to creating healthier and safer institutional environments, increasing overall awareness of mental health, and promoting resiliency skills to help students succeed.

"Through this collaborative initiative, Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions are working together to advance priorities related to student mental health and wellness," Advanced Education Minister Gene Makowsky said. "By working together, we are better able to address the evolving needs of students across the province."

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for Post-Secondary Students | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

ATTENTION STUDENTS



Want to spend your summer working outside in the sunshine? Looking for a summer job with a competitive salary? Work with the [Government of Saskatchewan](https://www.saskatchewan.ca) and the Ministry of Highways as an equipment operator, flag person or highway crew labourer.

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

PROVINCE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL \$1.8 MILLION TO SCHOOL DIVISIONS FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR



March 21, the province announced that Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will be provided an additional \$1.8 million in funding to alleviate additional substitute teacher and other school-based employee costs. This funding will be used for additional costs incurred in the 2021-22 school year.

"We are happy to provide this additional funding to school divisions for the unforeseen costs they have incurred this school year," Education Minister Dustin Duncan said. "We appreciate the work of our school divisions, teachers and other school-based staff for their dedication to supporting students."

The funding will be dispersed among all the divisions by the end of March.

SASKATCHEWAN ANNOUNCES FUNDING OF \$880,000 FOR DIGITAL LITERACY FOR JOB SEEKERS



March 22, the Government of Saskatchewan announced an investment of \$880,000 for the Digital Literacy for Job Seekers Initiative. The funding supports individuals to develop the foundational digital skills they need to secure employment.

"As digital technology continues to transform every aspect of our lives and economy, having basic digital literacy skills is becoming increasingly important," Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "The Digital Literacy for Job Seekers Initiative helps individuals with limited experience acquire the digital skills they need to enter and compete in our labour market."

[Saskatchewan Announces Funding of \\$880,000 for Digital Literacy for Job Seekers | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

REGULATED CHILD CARE CENTRES TO RECEIVE WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

The Ministry of Education is offering a one-time grant to regulated and operational child care centres to assist them in recruiting and retaining qualified early childhood educators (ECEs). Funds awarded will be calculated at \$145 per regulated child care space. This grant is supported by funding provided through the *Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*.

“Early childhood educators are at the very core of the Canada-wide system we are building with provinces and territories,” said Canada’s Minister for Families, Children and Social Development, Karina Gould. “Today’s announcement in Saskatchewan is another meaningful step in valuing their essential work and providing them with the tools, resources and training they need to succeed.”

“The Government of Saskatchewan understands that qualified ECEs are an essential part of providing high-quality, affordable child care,” Education Minister Dustin Duncan said. “This workforce enhancement grant benefits early childhood educators, the centres that employ them, and the families that use child care services.”

[Regulated Child Care Centres To Receive Workforce Enhancement Grants | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

NEW INITIATIVE AIMS TO GROW SASKATCHEWAN HELIUM SECTOR



Helium Liquefaction Hub Study Will Accelerate Provincial Development of Helium Export Infrastructure

The Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), is accelerating the development of helium processing and liquefaction hubs in the province.

The Ministry of Energy and Resources (ER) will support the SRC with a grant of \$140,000 to complete a Helium Liquefaction Hub Study, which will incorporate technical and economic components and provide the critical information needed to develop a commercial scale, value-added, export-oriented helium sector in Saskatchewan.

"We are already home to Canada's largest purification facility, near Battle Creek, and liquefaction is the crucial, next step, as we aim to supply ten per cent of global helium market share by 2030," Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. "Only liquid helium can be exported overseas and as many end-users require liquid helium, a provincial liquefaction facility will improve both the marketability and pricing for Saskatchewan's significant helium resources."

[New Initiative Aims to Grow Saskatchewan Helium Sector | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

**LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT TO FEATURE IN THIS
SECTION!**



End of Winter Celebration

When: Saturday, March 26

Time: noon - 3 pm

Where: Briarwood Park

Hot dogs & drinks available

Fun family activities!



Provincial Budget Overview with Finance Minister Donna Harpaurer

Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

When: Monday, March 28

Virtual Q&A

Register: <https://saskatoonchamber.com/>



Swinging With the Stars

When: Friday, April 8

Where: TCU Place

<http://swtsevents.com/>

March 28, 2022



ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES



[Regulated Child Care Centres To Receive Workforce Enhancement Grants | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Celebrating March 20-26 as Social Work Week in Saskatchewan | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Jim Pattison Recognized for Distinguished Service | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[EGADZ Relaunches I Am Not 4 Sale App | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Next Gen Agriculture Mentorship Program Welcomes New Mentees and Mentors | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[More Than 100 Additional Full Time Equivalent Continuing Care Assistants Now Working In Saskatchewan | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

[Public Awareness Campaign Encourages Firearms Safety in Saskatchewan | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Choose happiness
by taking life day by
day, complaining
very little, and
being thankful for
the little things that
mean a lot.

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

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.
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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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