

FACT SHEET

Premier's Fall 2008 Announcement

Addressing the priorities of Saskatchewan people

Saskatchewan's economy is strong, vibrant and diverse, which has provided our government with an opportunity to share this prosperity with Saskatchewan people. This summer, the Government of Saskatchewan consulted with the public and asked: ***"How would you like to share in this prosperity?"***

This is what we heard ...

- **Reduce our taxes**
- **Reduce the Province's debt**
- **Invest in Saskatchewan's infrastructure to secure our growth**

With strong world demand for our resources and commodities, Saskatchewan is better-positioned than other jurisdictions experiencing hardships due to uncertainty in the world's financial markets. That said, we are also **providing a fiscal insurance policy, with a \$1.9 billion balance in the Growth and Financial Security Fund**, should there be any economic spillover effects in Saskatchewan.

Lowering Taxes

We are introducing the **largest single-year income tax reduction** in the Province's history. All income tax filers over 18 will experience a tax reduction, retroactive for 2008.

- **Family-based tax exemptions are highest in Canada** – a couple earning \$50,000 with two children saves \$1,320.
- 80,000 low income taxpayers will **no longer pay** provincial income tax.
- Refundable tax credit for lower income individuals is doubled; eligible families will receive up to \$600 per year.
- Single taxpayers realize \$440 in tax savings.

Bringing Down Debt

We are transferring \$1 billion from the Growth and Financial Security Fund and applying it to debt. This means significant interest cost savings, and helps to ensure a healthier bottom line for future generations.

- We have made debt reduction a priority and lowered Saskatchewan's debt by **almost 40 per cent** in less than one year.
- Government debt will drop from \$6.8 billion to a forecasted \$4.2 billion.
- This is our **lowest debt level since 1988**.
- The GFSF will retain a balance of \$1.9 billion to mitigate financial risks for the province during these uncertain economic times.

Investing In Infrastructure

We are **boosting our *Ready For Growth* infrastructure program by another 50 per cent or \$500 million** for a total investment of \$1.5 billion in 2009-10.

This is the **largest capital commitment in Saskatchewan's history** and is three times the capital spending of just four years ago, aiming to:

- Build and maintain our roads and highways to carry the heavy loads a healthy economy attracts.
- Expand and improve hospitals and health facilities for Saskatchewan people.
- Make our schools centres of excellence to give Saskatchewan youth a lifelong head start.