

Speech from the Throne October 27, 2010 Highlights

The New Road

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- Saskatchewan's population hit an all-time high of 1,045,622 people - 16,498 more than last year - the largest year-over-year increase since 1953.
- There are now 6,300 more people working in our province than one year ago.
- For the first time ever, wage rates in our province are rising above the national average, with a percentage increase that is third highest in Canada.

Health – Putting Patients First:

- Creation of health care ombudsman.
- \$200 million for a new Children's Hospital for Saskatchewan.
- 800 new nurses - a target met and surpassed.
- 170 nursing training seats added on top of 130 previously added.
- Establishment of Saskatchewan's physician recruitment agency.
- A dedicated addictions agency and the creation of an additional 100 long-term addictions recovery spaces in the province.
- Innovative funding models to address shortage of long term care beds through partnerships with reputable third party agencies.
- \$5 million for MS liberation clinical trials.

Fiscal Responsibility:

- Reduced government debt by \$2.7 billion.
- Utility costs remain among the lowest in Canada.
- Fulfillment of a promise on one full percentage point of the provincial sales tax with municipal partners.

Education:

- 2900 increase in licensed daycare spaces by March 2011 - 30% increase.
- "School Challenge Healthy Kids" will ensure students spend 30 minutes exercising and make healthy food choices.

Reaching Out to Saskatchewan's Most Vulnerable:

- 161 affordable housing units have been built or have been rejuvenated since the last Throne Speech.
- 175 housing units for persons with intellectual disabilities have been completed or started since the last Throne Speech.
- Review recommendations from the Independent Panel examining Saskatchewan's Child Welfare system.
- New program, "Headstart on a Home", an initiative that will see the construction of 1,000 new, affordable homes over the next five years.

Justice and Public Safety:

- Investment in a new public safety telecommunications network that will ensure communities can keep in touch during emergencies.
- A promise of 120 new police officers, 75 per cent complete.
- Fight against organized crime and gangs will be expanded to adult correctional centers.
- New whistleblowers' legislation will be introduced in Saskatchewan's public service, through the establishment of a new Public Disclosure Commissioner.
- Changes will be proposed to reduce provincial court delays and increase transparency and accountability for complaints involving provincial court judges.
- New human rights legislation to streamline the complaints process and improve efficiency.

Agriculture:

- Over \$30 million will be provided over ten years to restore and repair irrigation infrastructure in the Lake Diefenbaker area.
- Historic education property tax reduction plan.

First Nations and Métis Relations:

- A commitment to improving educational outcomes for our First Nations and Métis students.
- A commitment to pre-kindergarten programs for vulnerable three and four year-olds across our province. Already, 75 such programs serving 3,680 children have been added.
- First Nations and Métis partners are part of a new and innovative approach to development of our northern forests under a new forestry management agreement.

Tourism, Parks, Culture & Sport:

- New program for high performance athletes - Saskatchewan Program for Athletic Excellence - will support high performance athletes to a maximum of \$6,000 each year.
- Work to begin identifying locations for new provincial parks and begin public consultations. This is in addition to the 1,000 electrified campsites government has promised.

Sustainable Energy:

- The allocation of an additional \$9.4 million to the EnerGuide budget despite a federal decision to suspend the ecoENERGY program.

Innovation:

- An investment of \$20 million over five years in a new technology commercialization fund.
- Enhancement of support for Saskatchewan graduate students, especially in fields of new technologies and telecommunications.

Potash:

- Potash belongs to the people of Saskatchewan.
 - Introduction of a resolution calling on the federal government to reject this foreign takeover bid.
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