

SASKATCHEWAN PLAN
FOR
GROWTH
VISION 2020 AND BEYOND



2013 PROGRESS REPORT



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Opening Message

The purpose of growth is to secure a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people. This report is a progress report on the key targets, goals and actions outlined in the executive summary of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.

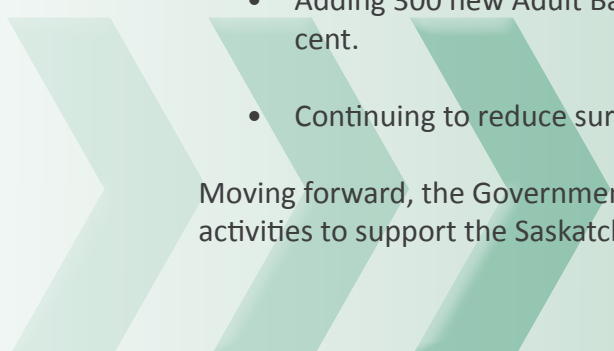
In the year since the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth was released, Saskatchewan has continued to benefit from strong economic and population growth:

- Saskatchewan's population topped the 1.1 million mark for the first time ever. Saskatchewan's population has grown by more than 100,000 people over the last six years. As of July 1, 2013, Saskatchewan's population was 1,108,303.
- Through the first nine months of 2013, the number of people working in Saskatchewan is up by nearly 20,000, on average, compared to 2012. Unemployment in September 2013 was 4.3 per cent - the lowest in Canada for the ninth consecutive month. Regina and Saskatoon have the lowest unemployment rates among Canadian cities at 3.0 and 4.4 per cent respectively.
- Saskatoon and Regina are forecast to have the strongest economic growth among Canadian cities in 2013 at 5.2 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively. The Conference Board of Canada expects the economies of both cities to grow at three times the national average in 2013.

Over the past year, the Government of Saskatchewan has taken action to deliver on the objectives in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth, including:

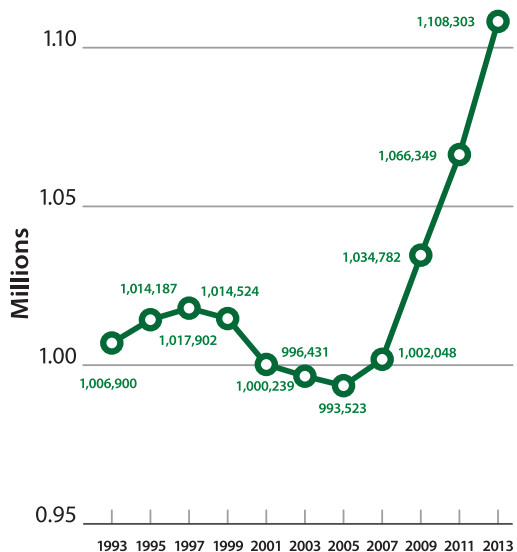
- Maintaining a balanced budget.
- Investing \$847.5 million in infrastructure this year, one-third of the targeted investment of \$2.5 billion over three years, to meet the challenges of growth.
- Adding 300 new Adult Basic Education spaces to reduce the waitlist by 12 per cent.
- Continuing to reduce surgical wait times in the province.

Moving forward, the Government of Saskatchewan will continue working on key activities to support the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.



Population Growth

Goal: 1.2 million people living in Saskatchewan by 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Quarterly Estimates.



Status:

Saskatchewan's population topped the 1.1 million mark for the first time in the province's history. Saskatchewan's population was 1,108,303 on July 1, 2013.

Since 2007, Saskatchewan's population has grown by over 100,000 people. At the current rate of population growth, Saskatchewan is on track to reach the goal of 1.2 million people by 2020.

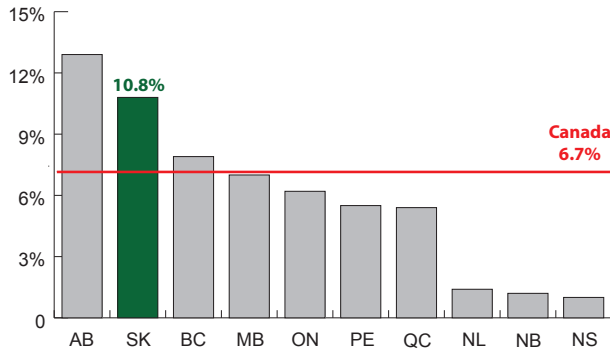
Actions:

The Government of Saskatchewan is supporting Saskatchewan's population growth by making our province one of the best places in Canada to live, work, raise a family, or to start or expand a business.

A Strong Economy:

- Saskatchewan has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada and an abundance of job opportunities. In August 2013 there were almost 18,000 job vacancies advertised on saskjobs.ca.
- As of July 2013, Saskatchewan had the second highest average weekly wage rate among all provinces. A family of four with \$50,000 income has seen their personal income tax bill reduced by more than 90 per cent since 2007. A family of four pays no provincial income tax on their first \$47,790 of combined income - the highest tax-free threshold in Canada.

Second highest rate of population growth in Canada from 2007-2013



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0001.
*2013 population as at July 1, 2013.

- Saskatchewan families pay some of the lowest personal income taxes in Canada.
- Saskatchewan has the second lowest small business tax in Canada.
- Saskatchewan is forecast to have the second or third highest growth in GDP among the provinces in 2013 and the second strongest in 2014.

Retaining Youth and Attracting More People to Saskatchewan:

- The Government of Saskatchewan is making Saskatchewan the best place to get a post-secondary education by providing more than 4,500 students with the new Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship in its first year.

- Young people are staying in Saskatchewan. As of March 31, 2013, approximately \$79 million in Graduate Retention Program benefits have been paid to over 40,000 graduates from the 2008 to 2011 tax years.
- Immigration through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program is increasing. Over 9,000 nominees became permanent residents in Saskatchewan in 2012, compared to 960 in 2006.

Meeting the Challenges of Growth and Building A Better Quality of Life:

- Over the last six years, the Government of Saskatchewan has added 300 more doctors and 1,000 more nurses while reducing surgical wait times.
- Almost \$120 million will be invested in K-12 education infrastructure this year and an additional \$17 million is being provided to school divisions to address growth pressures arising from an increased school enrolment of more than 4,500 students in 2012 and 2013 combined.

- An additional 500 licensed child care spaces will be created this year, bringing the total number of licensed child care spaces in Saskatchewan to more than 13,700 – a 48 per cent increase since 2007.
- Crime is being reduced in Prince Albert and the successful Prince Albert Community Mobilization crime reduction model is being expanded to more communities.
- Saskatchewan’s provincial parks are being improved through an additional \$10 million investment in parks infrastructure over four years. Saskatchewan Provincial Parks had another banner year with an estimated 3.679 million visits, breaking the 2012 visitation record by 3.3 per cent. This is a 21.6 per cent increase in visitation since 2007.

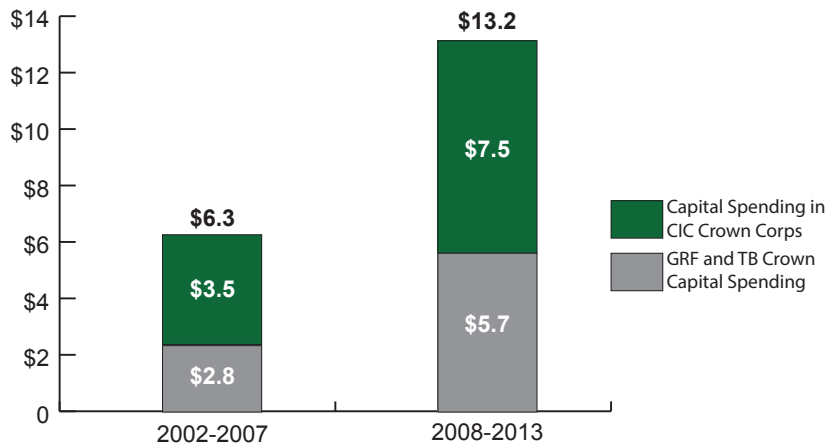
Infrastructure Growth

Action: Invest \$2.5 billion in infrastructure over three years

Status:

Budget 2013-14 invested \$847.5 million in infrastructure. This is one-third of the targeted investment of \$2.5 billion over three years. Including CIC Crowns such as SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SaskTel, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested \$13.2 billion in infrastructure since 2008 - a 110 per cent increase over the previous six years.

\$13.2 billion in capital spending since 2008



Actions:

The Government of Saskatchewan increased infrastructure investment by 7.6 per cent increase in the 2013-14 Budget. Crown corporations will invest approximately \$1.9 billion this year to ensure Saskatchewan's infrastructure is ready for growth.

Investing in Infrastructure and Planning for Growth:

- The 2013-14 Budget provided over \$500 million to build, maintain and operate Saskatchewan's highway system this year, including a \$281 million highway construction budget. Construction investments include:
 - \$86.3 million to repave 280 km of highways;
 - \$25.5 million to rural municipalities through the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program; and
 - \$64 million for economic corridors such as the Regina West Bypass, the Estevan Bypass, passing lanes on Highway 10 and completion of the Highway 11 twinning to Prince Albert.

- Amendments to *The Planning and Development Act* give government the tools to help build regional partnerships by providing the ability to create regional planning authorities.
- This year, \$25.5 million in capital funding has been provided to the province's post-secondary institutions.

Crown Infrastructure Investment:

- SaskTel is expanding 4G cell coverage and broadband internet access throughout rural Saskatchewan.
- In 2013, SaskEnergy is projected to connect more than 6,200 new customers.
- SaskPower will invest over \$1.3 billion in 2013 to renew and upgrade Saskatchewan's electrical infrastructure.

Action: Invest \$344 million to add 12,600 new housing units by 2016

Status:

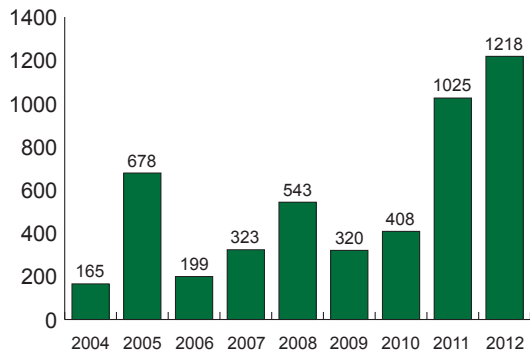
Budget 2013-14 includes almost \$29 million to support the development of 605 beds for post-secondary students, construction of nearly 1,800 affordable homes and social housing units and the repair of another 275 existing affordable housing units.

In 2012 there were 9,968 housing starts in Saskatchewan, which is the highest number of housing starts in any single year since the 1970s. There were 1,072 rental starts in 2012, a greater number of units than in the years 2002-2009 combined.

Actions:

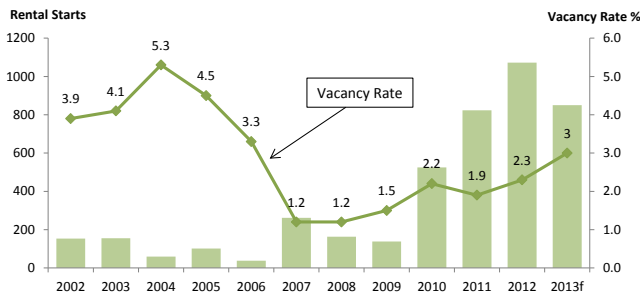
- \$6 million to assist in the construction of 1,300 new rental units through the Rental Construction Initiative.
- \$1.2 million to fund development of 240 new homeownership units through the Affordable Home Ownership Program.
- Construction of 140 new government-subsidized rental units through the federal/provincial Rental Development and Capital Rent Subsidy Programs.

Over 1,200 completed housing units received Sask Housing Corp funding in 2012



Source: Sask Housing Corporation

Over 1,900 rental starts in 2012 and 2013



Source: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
f - Forecast

- \$10 million investment in a new student residence at the University of Regina that will provide housing for 605 students.
- Construction of 40 new homes through \$2 million provided to Habitat for Humanity.
- \$1 million to support the creation of 70 secondary suites.
- \$3.2 million invested to repair 275 existing affordable housing units to keep them viable.
- As of the end of August 2013, the HeadStart on a Home program has provided more than \$193 million in construction financing to create 1,159 entry-level homes.
- As of September 2013, SaskHousing has sold 22 government-owned housing units in Regina and anticipates the sale of eight additional units by the end of December 2013. Proceeds from the sale of these units have been invested in the creation of 48 new rental units with construction expected to start in early October 2013.

Action: Create SaskBuilds and transfer \$150 million into a new SaskBuilds Fund to drive innovation in infrastructure financing, design and delivery, including public-private partnerships

Status:

SaskBuilds was established in October 2012. \$166.5 million is earmarked in the Growth and Financial Security Fund for growth, including the \$150 million commitment to be utilized by SaskBuilds.

Actions:

- SaskBuilds is exploring innovative ways, such as public-private partnerships, or P3s, to deliver large, high-cost infrastructure projects that must be delivered in a timely manner to support growth and a better quality of life. SaskBuilds is working with government ministries on the following infrastructure projects:

New School Construction:

- Exploring innovative design and construction models for new schools.

Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford:

- The Prairie North Health Region has begun its Lean 3P work involving patients, families and staff to ensure the new hospital will allow health providers to best serve patients, both from a design and programming standpoint. SaskBuilds, the Ministry of Health and Corrections and Policing are working together to explore the potential benefits of a joint public-private partnership to build two new facilities – a mental health hospital and an integrated corrections facility.

Regina Bypass:

- Construction of the Regina bypass will be the single largest highways project in the history of the province. The project is urgently needed to facilitate the continued growth of the Global Transportation Hub and to deal with safety and other issues caused by rapid growth and congestion.

Swift Current Long-Term Care Facility:

- The Government of Saskatchewan and the Cypress Health Region are moving forward with plans to build a new long-term care facility in Swift Current. SaskBuilds is managing a P3 Design, Build, Finance and Maintain procurement process for this project. The Cypress Health Region will maintain full ownership of the facility and will operate all aspects of the health care provided within the facility.

Job Growth

Goal: 60,000 more people working in Saskatchewan by 2020

Status:

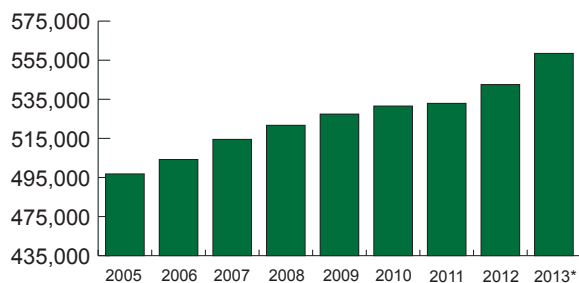
The number of people working in Saskatchewan is up by nearly 20,000, on average, through the first nine months of 2013.

Unemployment in September 2013 was 4.3 per cent – the lowest in Canada for the ninth consecutive month. At the current rate of employment growth, Saskatchewan is on track to exceed the target in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth of 60,000 more people employed by 2020.

Regina and Saskatoon have the lowest unemployment rates among Canadian cities at 3.0 and 4.4 per cent respectively.

Off-reserve Aboriginal employment grew by 4,800 or 12.3 per cent between September 2012 and September 2013, while Aboriginal unemployment dropped from 14.6 per cent to 12.0 per cent over the same period.

Record job growth in 2013



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 282-0002.

* YTD - Average monthly employment, January to September 2013

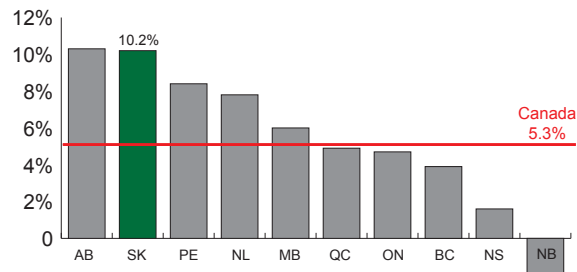
Government of Saskatchewan has invested \$4.6 billion in students and the post-secondary system since 2008.

Actions:

More Training, Education and Skills Development:

- An additional 300 apprenticeship spaces were added in Budget 2013-14. Since 2007, the number of apprenticeship training seats has increased by 68 per cent and the number of apprenticeship completions has doubled.
- In 2012-13, the Saskatchewan post-secondary system supported approximately 73,000 learners. The

Second-highest employment growth in Canada from 2007 to 2013



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 282-0002.

* YTD - Monthly data January to September 2013

Increased Employment Opportunities for First Nation and Métis People:

- Northern Career Quest will provide 800 jobs over the next two years for Aboriginal people.
- The Work Readiness Employment Development Initiatives received a \$1.5 million increase in the 2013-14 Budget to accelerate essential skills training and increase employment opportunities for First Nation and Métis people.

- The Government of Saskatchewan is supporting greater access to employment by First Nation youth by paying for on-reserve driver education training.
- The number of First Nation and Métis journeyperson certifications has doubled since 2007.

Promoting Opportunities in Saskatchewan:

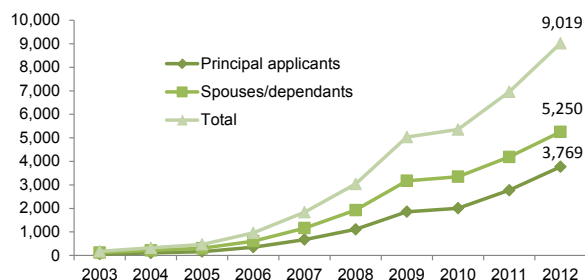
- The Government of Saskatchewan will undertake four national and four international job fairs in 2013-2014, with a focus on attracting immigrants to fill jobs where Saskatchewan is currently experiencing a labour shortage.
- New job matching features have been added to the SaskJobs website to better target a job seeker's occupational skills with job vacancies.

Action: Increase the cap on provincial immigrant nominees from 4,000 to 6,000

Status:

The Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) received approval from the federal government for an additional 450 nominations in March 2013, bringing the annual nomination level to 4,450. The increase is expected to result in more than 1,200 additional newcomers to Saskatchewan.

Growth in immigration through the SINP



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2013

The allocation of an additional 450 nominees to Saskatchewan represents 27 per cent of the additional nominees allocated by the federal government across Canada as a whole in 2013.

Actions:

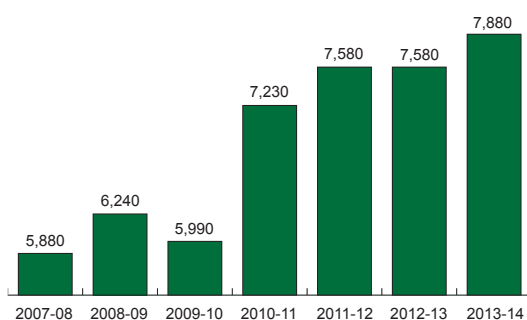
In addition to pressing the Government of Canada for increases to the SINP, the Government of Saskatchewan is increasing support services for new Canadians and working with post-secondary institutions to increase the number of

international students studying in Saskatchewan:

- Budget 2013-14 provided an additional \$1.5 million for immigrant settlement services such as language training.
- As of December 1, 2012 there were 5,675 international foreign students, an increase of 2,158 since 2007.

Action: Eliminate the wait list for Adult Basic Education programs by the end of the government's current term

34 per cent increase in ABE seats since 2007-08



Source: Ministry of the Economy, Labour Market Division

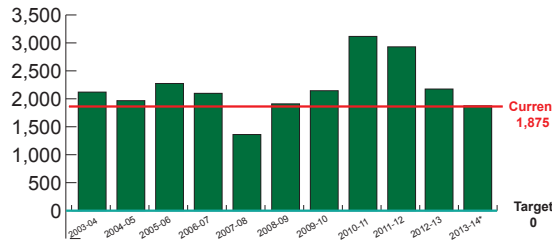
Status:

An additional 300 Adult Basic Education (ABE) spaces were funded in Budget 2013-14, bringing total funding for ABE to \$22.9 million this year and reducing the waitlist from 2,120 to 1,875 – a 12 per cent decrease.

Actions:

- The 300 additional ABE seats added in the 2013-14 Budget brings the total number of ABE seats to 7,880 – a 34 per cent increase since 2007-08.

ABE waitlist reduced by 12 per cent in 2013-14



Source: Ministry of the Economy, Labour Market Division

- Work is underway to redesign ABE programs to better meet the needs of students and employers:
 - For adults with low literacy and significant skills gaps, new Essential Skills for the Workplace programming will ensure that participants are provided with basic employment skills, literacy and personal development programming.
 - New online and distance delivery course options are being pursued to improve access to ABE for northern and remote learners close to major resource projects and create an alternate pathway to ABE.
 - Specific skills training programming is being offered to prepare individuals for immediate job placement.
- New reporting will be established to track program completion rates, employment rates after program completion, and satisfaction from both students and new employers. In addition, a new common methodology has been developed with all institutions to provide better access for individuals seeking ABE programs.
- The provincial government will work with institutions such as regional colleges to more effectively target resources to areas with the greatest demand among learners and employers.

Action: Create the Saskatchewan International Future Scholarship

Status:

The Saskatchewan International Future Scholarship is under development for the 2014-15 Budget. The scholarship will provide up to 20 Saskatchewan students annually with the opportunity to study business internationally if they commit to return to Saskatchewan after they graduate.

Connecting Saskatchewan to the World

Goal: Grow trade and investment and double the value of export sales by 2020

Status:

Saskatchewan exports increased from \$29.6 billion in 2011 to \$32.6 billion in 2012 – a 10 per cent increase.

Record Saskatchewan exports in 2012



Source: Industry Canada, Trade Data Online

Actions:

- Funding of more than \$3.4 million to the Saskatchewan Export and Trade Partnership (STEP) this year to provide export readiness services to Saskatchewan companies and undertake trade missions. In 2013, STEP will undertake 42 trade missions encompassing 27 countries.

- The Government of Saskatchewan will engage in 30 national and international investment attraction missions, including missions to key markets such as Europe, India, United States, China and Japan, to assist exporters to enhance their business presence in countries with significant growth potential and attract investment in the agricultural, oil and gas, mining, forestry and manufacturing sectors.
- Building trade relationships with members of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) region. Saskatchewan exports more goods to the ASEAN region than any other province and it is Saskatchewan's third largest export market.
- In October 2013, Premier Wall paid his second visit to Singapore and his first visit to the Philippines. The Philippines is the second fastest growing economy in the ASEAN region.
- Advocating in the United States for construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which will allow Saskatchewan to export more oil and bring economic benefits to the province while promoting innovative energy development in Saskatchewan such as clean coal technology.

Advancing Saskatchewan's Natural Resource and Agricultural Advantage

Goal: Saskatchewan is a global leader in food and energy security and innovation by 2020

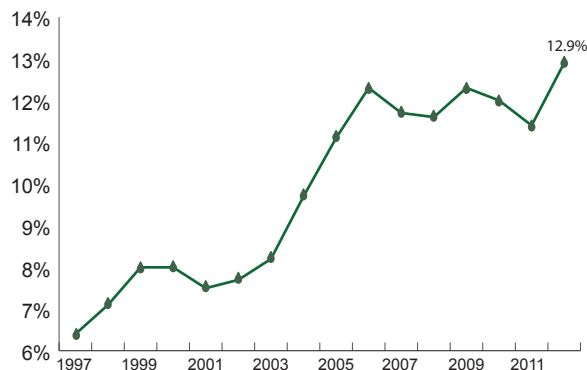
Status:

Saskatchewan remains a leader in Canada and the world in natural resource and agricultural production. The Government of Saskatchewan is taking action to further diversify the province's natural resource base and add value to its energy, mining and food resource sectors, particularly through innovation.

Actions:

Developing Saskatchewan's Energy and Mineral Resources

Almost 13 per cent of oil produced in 2012 used Enhanced Recovery Techniques



Source: Ministry of the Economy

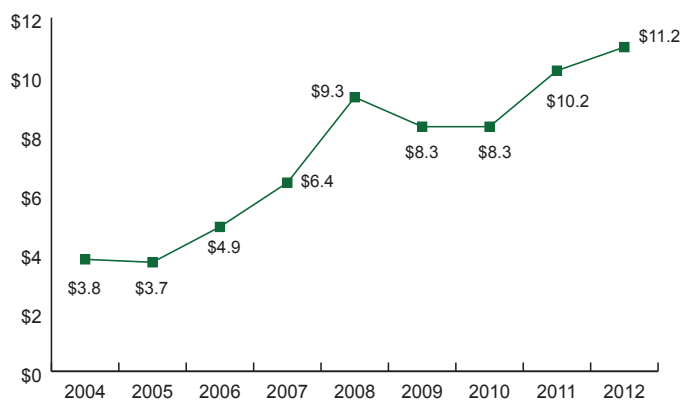
- In 2012, Saskatchewan was amongst the largest mining jurisdictions in Canada with mineral production of \$7.45 billion.
- Saskatchewan is maintaining its place as the number two supplier of oil in Canada and is increasing production. Crude oil production in the province reached a record 172.9 million barrels in 2012, an increase of more than seven per cent from the previous record of 161 million barrels set in 2008.
- Implementing a new, more competitive uranium royalty structure in Budget 2013-2014.
- Deploying Process Renewal and Infrastructure Management Enhancement (PRIME) to better manage royalties and lease information and make submitting requests easier for the oil industry.
- Reviewing surface rights practices and legislation.

Innovating Around Saskatchewan's Natural Resources

- Providing more than \$55.1 million over seven years to increase innovation in energy and minerals through the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, University of Saskatchewan Cyclotron and other research projects and organizations.
- Investing \$1.7 million in the development of the International Minerals Innovation Institute.
- Investing \$6.4 million in 2013-2014 to continue research in new approaches to enhanced oil recovery.
- The Carbon Capture and Storage project at Boundary Dam Power Station near Estevan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from an existing power station by up to 90 per cent or approximately one million tonnes per year – the equivalent of taking more than 250,000 cars off the road annually.

Action: Increase exports of agricultural and food products from \$10 billion in 2011 to \$15 billion by 2020

\$11.2 billion in agri-food exports in 2012



Source: Statistics Canada

Status:

In 2012, Saskatchewan's agriculture exports climbed to \$11.2 billion, an increase of almost 10 per cent from 2011. The \$11.2 billion in agri-food exports in 2012 is a 32 per cent increase over the five-year average of \$8.5 billion.

For the first six months of 2013, Saskatchewan's agriculture exports were \$6.1 billion, an increase of 13 per cent compared to the same period in 2012.

In 2011, Saskatchewan overtook Ontario as the top agri-food exporting province and maintained this position in 2012. Saskatchewan now accounts for 23.5 per cent of total national agri-food exports. The top five export destinations for Saskatchewan products are the United States, China, Japan, Mexico and India.

Actions:

- Established the Market Development Program under Growing Forward 2, which will provide \$9 million over five years to support international and domestic market development activities of Saskatchewan agri-businesses. In 2013-14, \$1.6 million is budgeted to conduct these activities.
- Participated in the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit in Alaska delivering a strong advocacy message to United States legislators on concerns with country-of-origin labeling.
- Established a new value-added unit in the Ministry of Agriculture to attract investment and work with companies interested in processing Saskatchewan-grown grains, oilseeds and livestock.
- Collaborated with Alberta and B.C. under the New West Partnership in a trade mission to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai and South Korea.
- Conducted a mission to Singapore and Indonesia focusing on market development activities and investment attraction.
- Conducted a U.S. trade mission focusing on market development, investment attraction and trade policy.
- Delivered programming such as the Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative and the Saskatchewan LEAN Improvements in Manufacturing to assist Saskatchewan agri-businesses in improving productivity, increasing efficiency and enhancing processing capacity. Under Growing Forward 2, these programs will provide \$16.5 million over five years, including \$2.9 million budgeted in 2013-14 to conduct these activities.

Action: Increase crop production by 10 million tonnes by 2020

Status:

Crop production reached 26.4 million tonnes in 2012. Producers are expected to harvest a record crop of well over 30 million tonnes in 2013.

Seeded acreage is estimated at 35.5 million acres for 2013, an increase of 2.3 per cent from 2012. Summerfallow acreage is estimated at 2.4 million acres for 2013, a decline of 56 per cent from the five-year average.

Crop production expected to exceed 30 million tonnes



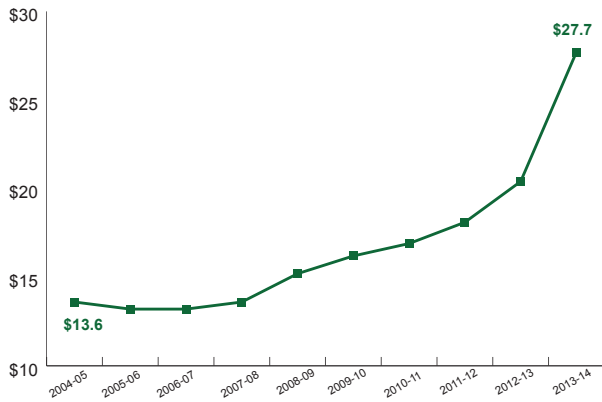
Source: Statistics Canada

* Forecast

Actions:

- Launched Growing Forward 2 (GF 2), a federal-provincial policy and program framework. In Saskatchewan, GF2 will invest \$388 million in strategic initiatives over five years – an increase of more than \$25 million per year over the previous framework.
 - The 2013-14 agriculture research budget is a record \$27.7 million, an increase of 104 per cent since 2007-08.
- Invested \$3 million for the first year of a seven-year \$15 million commitment to establish the Global Institute for Food Security.
 - Committed \$5 million over five years to Canadian Wheat Flagship Strategic Alliance Agreement leveraging \$92 million in additional research activity from the Crop Development Centre, National Research Council and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to develop new and improved varieties for Saskatchewan producers.
 - Continued to improve the Crop Insurance program for producers, including record funding and coverage levels. On average, coverage levels have more than doubled since 2007.
 - Established Saskatchewan Wheat and Barley Development Commissions enabling Saskatchewan producers to invest \$5 million annually in check-off dollars for research, marketing and promotion.

A record \$27.7 million investment in agriculture research in 2013-14



Source: Ministry of Agriculture

- An additional \$9 million was allocated to the irrigation district component of the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program in 2012, resulting in the development of infrastructure capacity to support an additional 6,750 acres of irrigation.
- Under GF 2, additional infrastructure capacity will be developed to support a further 11,500 acres of irrigation over five years; increasing crop production and contributing to the growth of livestock production, value-added activity and the achievement of export targets.

- The Ministry of Agriculture is developing a Professional Ag Operators Training Program to address the sector’s labour and skills needs.

Competitiveness

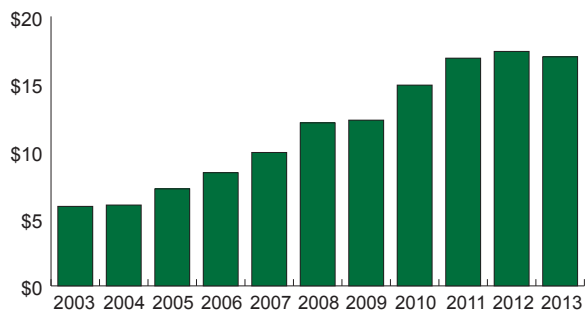
Goal: Saskatchewan's economy will remain amongst the most competitive in Canada in 2020

Status:

Saskatchewan continues to experience strong economic growth and private sector investment. Saskatchewan is forecast to have the second or third highest GDP growth among the provinces in 2013 and the second strongest in 2014. Saskatchewan experienced the highest growth in real GDP of all provinces between 2007 and 2012.

- Saskatoon and Regina are forecast to have the strongest economic growth among Canadian cities in 2013, at 5.2 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. The Conference Board of Canada expects the economies of both cities to grow at three times the national average in 2013.
- Saskatchewan's manufacturing sales increased 6.3 per cent in July over the same period in 2012. This is the largest year-over-year percentage increase among the provinces. Manufacturing sales for the first seven months of 2013 were up 5.8 per cent.
- Private sector capital investment, a standard indicator of a jurisdiction's competitiveness, has grown from \$9.9 billion in 2007 to a projected \$17 billion in 2013 – a 70 per cent increase.

\$17 billion in private sector capital investment expected in 2013



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 029 0005

* Preliminary

** Intentions

Actions:

Removing Red Tape

- *The Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act* was passed in the spring of 2013. The legislation requires annual reporting of the regulations reviewed and progress towards reducing the burden and cost of regulation. Within 10 years, all business-related regulations will be reviewed.

- 77 changes were undertaken to modernize Saskatchewan's liquor regulations.

Employment and Labour Environment

- *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* was passed in spring 2013, consolidating 12 pieces of labour legislation into one updated and comprehensive act.
- While incidents of workplace injury are still too high, the time loss injury rate in Saskatchewan is at its lowest level in 20 years.

Creating a Competitive Investment Climate

- The uranium royalty regime was improved in Budget 2013-2014 to encourage capital investment and growth in the uranium industry, which is the largest employer of First Nation people in Saskatchewan.
- Saskatchewan continues to maintain a stable royalty regime and a competitive tax and regulatory environment.
- The Mineral Administration Registry Saskatchewan (MARS) program allows companies to stake claims online, reducing administrative burden and allowing companies to focus on exploration. 1,035 claims covering over three million hectares have been issued since the implementation of MARS in 2012, saving industry \$30 to \$33 million in on-site staking costs.

Tourism

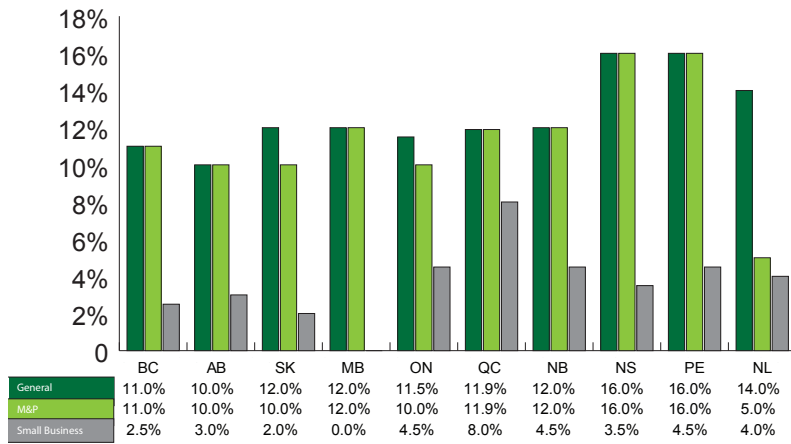
- The government of Saskatchewan has provided financial support for major events such as the Junos, Grey Cup and Memorial Cup and will introduce a new event hosting strategy.

Action: Lower the incorporated business tax rate from 12 per cent to 10 per cent.

Status:

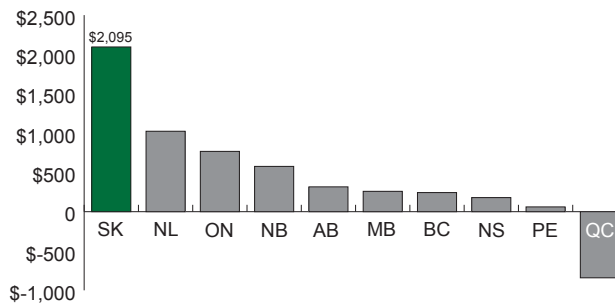
A decision to reduce the corporate business tax rate from 12 per cent to 10 per cent will be revisited during the preparation of the 2014-15 Budget to determine whether it is affordable within a balanced budget.

Saskatchewan has the second-lowest small business tax rate in Canada



Source: Ministry of the Economy, Economic Development

Annual income tax savings for a family of four since 2007



Source: Ministry of Finance
Savings based on a family of four earning \$50,000.

Actions:

Saskatchewan's overall tax and royalty regime remains competitive with other provinces.

- Saskatchewan continues to maintain a balanced budget on a GRF and Summary financial reporting basis.

- Saskatchewan is tied with Alberta and Ontario for the second lowest tax rate on manufacturing and processing.

- Saskatchewan has the second lowest small business tax rate in Canada.

- Saskatchewan does not impose a provincial payroll tax or health premiums.

- A family of four pays no Saskatchewan income tax on their first \$47,790 of income - the highest tax-free income threshold for a family of four in Canada.

- Tax savings by Saskatchewan residents include:

- \$300 million in reduced provincial income taxes since 2008. Reductions in provincial income taxes have removed 114,000 low-income Saskatchewan residents from the tax rolls.

- Small businesses have saved an estimated \$80 million in annual taxes since the small business tax rate was reduced to two per cent in 2011.
- Education property taxes have been reduced by over \$165 million, or 22 per cent, since 2009.

Fiscal Responsibility

Action: Continue to balance the Budget every year

Status:

The 2013-14 Budget is balanced on a GRF and Summary Financial basis, with a pre-transfer surplus of \$33 million forecast for the General Revenue Fund.

Action: Maintain a target amount of \$500 million in the Growth and Financial Security Fund with any excess amounts used to invest in infrastructure and reduce debt

Status:

The Growth and Financial Security Fund has a \$682.8 million balance, with \$516.3 million of that amount reserved for security and \$166.5 million reserved for growth.

Goal: Cut the provincial debt in half from its 2007 level by 2017

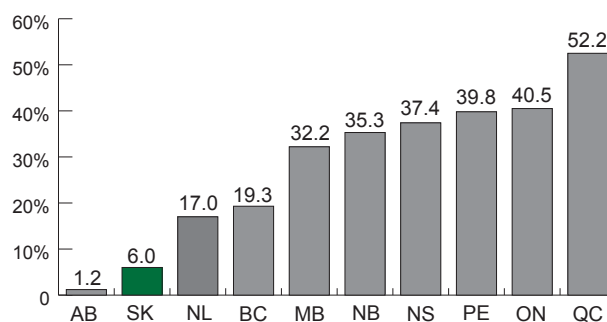
Status:

The Government of Saskatchewan will make progress towards an additional \$400 million in debt reduction by 2017 as it is affordable within a balanced budget. Under the Growth and Financial Security Act, half of all surpluses go to reduce debt.

Actions:

- Since 2007, government debt has been reduced by \$3 billion, or 44 per cent. This has saved taxpayers approximately \$600 million in interest costs.
- As of March 31st of this year, Saskatchewan's tax-supported debt as a percentage of GDP was just six percent — the second-lowest level amongst provinces, behind only Alberta.

Second lowest debt to GDP ratio in Canada



Source: DBRS; Statistics Canada; Conference Board of Canada

Action: Deliver a targeted 15 per cent reduction in the size of the public service by 2013-2014

Status:

The four year plan to reduce the size of the public service is on track to be completed in 2014.

Public service as a percentage of the population is declining



Source: Ministry of Finance

Actions:

In the 2010-11 Budget, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a plan to reduce the size of the public service by 15 per cent. To date:

- More than 1,900 positions have been eliminated or identified for elimination since the commitment was made in 2010-11.
- These changes have resulted in cumulative annual savings of more than \$198 million over the four-year period, allowing government to redirect savings to priority areas.
- At the same time, government has addressed new service demands in priority areas by establishing 127 positions in new or expanded front-line roles such as child protection workers and corrections staff.
- The public service has diminished as a percentage of the population each year since 2007-08.

Purpose of Growth

Goal: Building a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people

Growth in our province is providing the financial resources to make significant investments to improve the quality of life for Saskatchewan citizens and address the challenges that accompany growth.

Investing in Infrastructure to Address the Challenges of Growth

- Almost \$120 million will be invested in 2013-14 to improve school infrastructure, including 21 ongoing major school capital projects, two new projects at Gravelbourg and Langenburg and 15 new pre-kindergarten programs.
- Since November 2007, the Government of Saskatchewan has committed more than \$620 million toward 43 major school capital projects and approximately 900 smaller school capital projects across the province. More than 65 per cent of Saskatchewan's schools have been repaired, renovated or built in the last six years.
- \$27 million has been committed this year to introduce 36 new relocatable classrooms and support up to 70 smaller maintenance projects.
- 500 new child care spaces will be created this year, bringing the total number of licensed child care spaces in Saskatchewan to more than 13,700 – a 48 per cent increase since 2007.
- Investments in post-secondary infrastructure this year include \$4 million for a total \$17 million investment in Southeast Regional College, \$1 million to begin planning activities for a new Trades and Technology Centre at Parkland Regional College in Yorkton and \$10 million for the construction of a new University of Regina student residence.
- This year over \$70 million is being invested for new long-term care (LTC) facilities in Biggar, Kelvington, Kerrobert, Kipling, Maple Creek and Prince Albert and \$15.9 million for LTC facilities already underway in Radville, Redvers, Rosetown, Shellbrook and Tisdale. This is part of an overall \$237.5 million commitment to construct 13 new LTC facilities.
- Construction of the Moose Jaw Hospital is underway.

Addressing the Needs of a Growing Population:

- Funding for K-12 education increased by 6.7 per cent this year. In addition, the Government of Saskatchewan provided an increase of \$17 million to school divisions to address growth pressures created by increasing enrolment of more than 4,500 students in 2012 and 2013 combined.
- Operating funding to universities has increased by 50 per cent over the last six years.
- Increased funding of \$132 million to regional health authorities this year includes \$29 million to address increased usage of health care services because of Saskatchewan's growing population.
- Monthly benefit increases to the Seniors Income Plan, monthly increases to the Personal Care Home Benefit and additional funding this year to improve care and address infrastructure challenges in long-term care (LTC) facilities.

More Support for the Most Vulnerable and Making Saskatchewan the Best Place in Canada for Persons with Disabilities:

- This year, an additional \$7 million is being provided to agencies that provide services and support to children in care and their families.
- Over 11,000 individuals with disabilities enrolled in the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program will see increases to benefits this year.
- This year, children and youth with autism will see increases in direct client service hours ranging from 100 to 750 per cent across provincial health regions.

Building Safer Communities:

- Since the implementation of Prince Albert community mobilization model in 2011, crime rates have fallen significantly in that city. Since 2011:
 - Overall crime rate has decreased by 18 per cent;
 - Violent crime rate has decreased by 38 per cent; and
 - Property crime rate has decreased by 20 per cent.

- Significant expansion of the HUB model has taken place throughout Saskatchewan. To date there are six active community mobilization models across the province: Prince Albert, Yorkton, LaRonge, North Battleford, Moose Jaw and the Weyburn/Estevan region.
- Increased funding for women’s shelters to expand two facilities in Regina and Prince Albert and the opening of a new transition house in Melfort – the first new transition house in Saskatchewan since 1989.
- New measures to reduce speeding in construction zones on Saskatchewan highways and improve traffic safety.

Protecting the Environment

- Creating the largest provincially-designated ecological reserve in Saskatchewan. The new protected area north of LaRonge is 3,660 square kilometres – approximately two-thirds the size of Prince Edward Island.

Action: Reduce surgical wait times to no more than three months by 2014

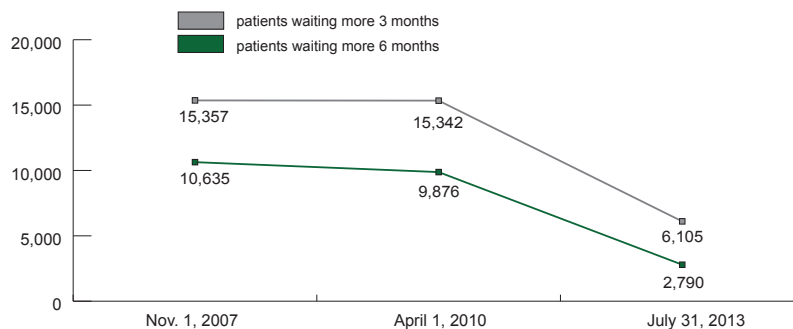
Status:

As of July 31, 2013, 80 per cent of patients were receiving surgery within three months of their referral from a surgeon and 91 per cent within six months. Nine out of 10 health regions are providing surgeries to more than 90 per cent of their patients within six months and are on track to reach the goal of reducing surgical wait times to no more than three months by 2014.

There were 6,105 patients waiting more than three months for surgery as of July 31. This is a decrease of 61 per cent (or 9,237 fewer patients) compared to the start of the initiative in April 2010 when more than 15,000 patients were waiting more than three months for surgery.

After earlier setbacks, the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region (RQHR) has made major strides recently, reducing the number of patients waiting more than three months for surgery by 32 per cent. RQHR is on track to reduce surgical wait times to no more than three months by 2015.

Surgical wait times in Saskatchewan have been significantly reduced since 2010



Source: Ministry of Health

Actions:

- The province has committed \$70.5 million to improve access to surgery in the 2013-14 fiscal year, resulting in a seven per cent boost in the number of surgeries performed so far this year. About 89,000 surgeries will be performed in Saskatchewan this year, an increase of 7,000 from last year.

Action: Eliminate wait times in emergency rooms by 2017

Status:

The Ministry of Health has established a project team and advisory group to lead this effort, including members of the Health Quality Council, clinical experts in geriatrics and emergency medicine and representatives from key health regions. In 2014, the project team will be announcing a province-wide implementation strategy building on the results of the regional improvement initiatives highlighted below.

Actions:

Thirty regional improvement initiatives have already begun across the province specifically focused on key patient issues that impact wait times in ERs. Examples of the results of these initiatives include:

- A 58 per cent reduction in ER wait times at Royal University Hospital (RUH) in Saskatoon for cardiac patients.
- A 90 per cent reduction in the amount of time ambulance drivers/EMTs spend in handing patients over to the emergency room team at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon.

- A 33 per cent decrease in low urgency patients presenting at the Meadow Lake ER as a result of a Primary Health Care innovation site in that community offering patients better access to a team of health professionals.
- A 47 per cent reduction in ER admission time in Prince Albert Parkland Health Region.
- A 50 per cent reduction in the time it takes for a patient to be taken to X-ray in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region when an ER has ordered an X-ray.

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to take action to increase the number of doctors and nurses working in Saskatchewan and deliver innovative models of primary health care:

- The number of physicians practicing in Saskatchewan has grown by more than 300 over the last six years.
- Over the last six years, Saskatchewan has seen an increase of 1,000 new nurses.
- The first Collaborative Emergency Centre (CEC) was opened in Maidstone in September 2013, offering extended hours of primary health care and 24/7 emergency care. Additional CECs will be opening in other sites in the province in the coming months. In Nova Scotia, CECs have resulted in a 92 per cent reduction in temporary suspensions of services in ERs at that province's seven CEC sites.

Action: Reduce the difference in graduation rates between aboriginal and non-aboriginal students by 50 per cent by 2020 and lead the country in Grade 12 graduation rates by 2020

Status:

Saskatchewan ranks eighth amongst provinces in high school completion, with 68 per cent of all Grade 10 students completing high school within three years.

In Saskatchewan, 30 per cent of Grade 10 First Nation and Métis students complete Grade 12 within three years versus 83 per cent of non-aboriginal students.

Actions:

The Government of Saskatchewan is moving forward with a Student First Agenda that will involve consultations with students, teachers and stakeholders throughout the

education system to improve results and the school experience for Saskatchewan students. The following initiatives are underway to support the Student First Agenda and achieve the goals in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.

Investing in School Infrastructure and Addressing the Challenges of Growth:

- This year's budget increased funding by 6.7 per cent, including an increase of \$17 million for enrolment increases of more than 4,500 students in 2012 and 2013 combined.
- An additional \$119.6 million in capital funding is being invested in schools this year, an increase of \$7.2 million or 6.4 per cent from 2012-13.

Increasing Student Achievement by Improving School Readiness:

- Evidence shows that early childhood literacy skills are a significant determinant of future success in schools. To help teachers and parents identify which children (aged three to six) may require additional assistance in transitioning to school, an Early Years Evaluation (EYE) is being expanded throughout the province.
 - EYE assesses a child's readiness for school which assists teachers to organize their instruction, increase learning time and monitor each child's progress. This year, 6,105 or 33 per cent of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students participated in EYE and all schools will implement EYE by September 2014.

Increasing Student Achievement by Providing More Educational Supports for Vulnerable Children and Children with Additional Needs:

- Budget 2013-14 provided an additional \$1.6 million for 15 additional pre-kindergarten programs that support vulnerable children and their families. Since 2007, 146 new pre-kindergarten programs have been created – a 94 per cent increase.
- A total of \$268 million is being provided this year to school divisions for Supports for Learning which is directed to classroom supports such as:
 - Education Assistants;
 - English as an Additional Language; and
 - Psychological services, speech-language services and occupational and physical therapy services.

Increasing Student Achievement By Listening to Students and Teachers to Improve Student Engagement

- Last year, 74,670 students and 4,225 teachers from 27 school divisions and 320 schools in Saskatchewan participated in the Tell Them From Me Survey, an online, anonymous survey which provides students and teachers in grades 4 to 12 an opportunity to provide feedback on their school experience and which in turn helps teachers, schools and school divisions to identify and deliver improvements in their schools. This year, 90,000 to 100,000 students in Saskatchewan will participate in the survey.



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