

Classrooms, Care & Communities

Provincial Budget | 2024-2025



2024-25 Key Facts and Figures

Revenue: \$19.9 billion, up 0.9 per cent from the 2023-24 Budget, comprised of:

- Taxation – \$9.7 billion
- Non-Renewable Resources – \$2.7 billion
- Net Income from Government Business Enterprises – \$657.0 million
- Other Own-Source Revenue – \$3.0 billion
- Transfers from the Federal Government – \$3.8 billion

Expense: \$20.1 billion, up 7.9 per cent from the 2023-24 Budget, comprised of:

- Agriculture – \$1.5 billion
- Community Development – \$904.8 million
- Economic Development – \$329.7 million
- Education – \$4.4 billion
- Environment and Natural Resources – \$373.6 million
- Financing Charges – \$911.5 million
- General Government – \$581.4 million
- Health – \$7.6 billion
- Protection of Persons and Property – \$1.0 billion
- Social Services and Assistance – \$1.8 billion
- Transportation – \$678.3 million

Deficit: \$273.2 million

Key Revenue Assumptions for 2024-25

- WTI oil price – US\$77.00 per barrel (total oil and natural gas royalties – \$1.1 billion)
- Potash price – US\$268 per KCl tonne (total potash royalties – \$796.4 million)
- Exchange rate – 74.36 U.S. cents

Classrooms, care and communities

“The purpose of growth is to build a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people – to build strong communities and strong families – and grow a stronger Saskatchewan now, and for the next decade.” – Premier Scott Moe, *Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan*

Saskatchewan’s 2024-25 Provincial Budget focuses on what matters most to Saskatchewan residents – classrooms, care and communities. The budget makes the largest-ever increase in school operating funding, the largest-ever increase in health funding and the largest-ever increase in municipal revenue sharing to respond to the growing needs of Saskatchewan residents, families and communities.

Combined, funding for classrooms, care and communities in Saskatchewan increases by more than \$1 billion in the 2024-25 Budget – the largest increase for these three areas in our province’s history.

Classrooms

- **The 2024-25 Budget includes a record investment of more than \$4.4 billion for education.** Spending for education across government includes the ministries of Education, Advanced Education and Immigration and Career Training, as well as Saskatchewan Polytechnic, regional colleges, Saskatchewan Student Aid Fund and the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission.
- **The 2024-25 Budget supports students and teachers with a record investment of \$3.3 billion for the Ministry of Education,** up 8.1 per cent over last year’s budget. This is an increase of \$247.8 million to support Prekindergarten to Grade 12 students, early learning, child care and libraries.
- **Saskatchewan’s 27 school divisions will receive \$2.2 billion in school operating funding for the 2024-25 school year** – a record increase of \$180 million, or 8.8 per cent, over the previous year.
- **This budget invests \$216 million for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education capital projects, an increase of 41.8 per cent over the year before, including \$28.5 million for relocatable classrooms.** This also includes ongoing funding for 11 projects and three major renovations currently underway across Saskatchewan, as well as planning funding for nine new schools and two renovations.
- The 2024-25 Budget provides \$408.7 million for early learning and childcare to support young families in Saskatchewan, including a \$21.1-million increase to the number of regulated child care spaces for families at \$10 a day.
- **This budget includes \$793 million in funding for the post-secondary education sector,** an increase of 3.7 per cent, to enrich the student experience and provide more opportunities for students to train and pursue careers in Saskatchewan.
- **Post-secondary institutions are receiving nearly \$725 million in operating and capital grants, including \$492.7 million to the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan and the federal and affiliated colleges.**

- There is \$193.8 million for Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the Dumont Technical Institute, as well as \$37.1 million for Saskatchewan’s regional colleges.
- **The 2024-25 Budget includes \$46.5 million in financial supports for post-secondary students**, including a new grant to help reduce financial barriers for low-income students with dependants.
- The Graduate Retention Program, the most generous support program of its kind in the country, will continue to provide up to \$20,000 in tax credits to post-secondary students who remain in the province to work. In total, the program provides approximately \$65 million in support annually, which has benefitted more than 81,600 students.
- The 2024-25 Budget includes funding for several workforce development programs, including:
 - \$24.1 million for adult essential skills training;
 - \$23.0 million for pre-employment programs;
 - \$21.8 million for credentialed skills training programs delivered through post-secondary institutions; and
 - \$9.9 million to support employment of persons with disabilities.
- The budget includes an increase of \$1.5 million for the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship Trade Certification Commission to add 250 additional seats for construction-related trades, including electrician, plumbing and welding. This increases the investment in apprenticeship training to \$22.9 million and expands the number of training seats to 4,700.
- An increase of \$856,000 in this budget will support a record-high allocation of 8,000 nominations through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program and provide enhanced fraud detection and integrity services within the program.

Care

- **The 2024-25 Budget delivers a record investment of \$7.6 billion into health care through the Ministry of Health, an overall increase of \$726.4 million, or 10.6 per cent, over the previous year’s budget.**
- **The Saskatchewan Health Authority will receive \$4.68 billion, or a 5.6 per cent increase, compared to last year.** Other commitments in the 2024-25 Budget include an increase of \$6.6 million to e-Health for a total budget of \$151.9 million to modernize and improve health IT infrastructure and security.
- **The 2024-25 Provincial Budget builds on the foundation of the Health Human Resources Action Plan (HHR Action Plan)** by continuing to invest in recruiting, training and retaining health professionals throughout the province.
- The HHR Action Plan will continue to build strong and diverse health care teams with a \$39.4-million increase, including \$11.6 million to fully deliver the commitment to add 250 new or enhanced permanent positions in rural and remote locations.

- In **Advanced Education**, \$3.5 million in new funding will create 66 additional training seats in programs in high-demand health training programs. In 2024-25, there will be a focus on training for registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses and other hard-to-recruit professions.
- **A further \$7.9 million will support continued implementation of the previously announced significant seat expansions in high demand health training programs.**
- In addition, \$11.4 million will be invested to create Saskatchewan-based Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Respiratory Therapy and Physician Assistant programs.
- **The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training** will be investing \$4.1 million for training and settlement supports for in-demand health occupations.
 - This investment includes \$2.4 million to support training seats for continuing care aids, licensed practical nurses and medical lab assistants.
 - It also includes \$1.8 million for credential recognition supports, such as streamlined and accelerated assessments, training and licensure pathways and settlement programming for internationally trained health care workers.
- **The 2024-25 Budget includes record capital investment of \$516.8 million for facilities and equipment, which is \$179 million higher than last year's budget.**
 - This includes:
 - \$180 million for Prince Albert Victoria Hospital;
 - \$55 million for Weyburn General Hospital;
 - \$27 million for La Ronge long-term care;
 - \$21.9 million to complete the Regina General Hospital Parkade; and
 - \$20 million for specialized long-term care beds in Regina.
 - Other key infrastructure investments include:
 - \$10 million for the construction of the Grenfell Long Term Care facility; and
 - \$3 million for the Saskatoon Urgent Care Centre.
- **Since 2007, the province has invested more than \$2.9 billion into facilities and equipment to improve health care across the province.**
- A \$16-million increase for primary and community care programs in the province, including extending a primary care pilot in Swift Current; further integrating nurse practitioners in support of physician clinics; enhancing HealthLine's 811 services; increasing access to chronic pain clinics in Regina and Saskatoon; and improving testing capacity and expanding access to testing for sexually transmitted and blood borne infections.
- This budget also includes a \$30 million increase to support the Saskatoon and Regina Capacity Pressures Action Plan.
 - Other measures to improve patient care include:
 - A \$7.5-million increase in annual funding to enhance emergency medical

- services across the province;
 - A \$4.5-million increase to stabilize and enhance neurology and cardiology services;
 - A \$2.5-million increase for kidney health and organ and tissue donation programs; and
 - A \$2.2-million increase for children’s care, including the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit and pediatrics unit at the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital, as well as the provincial pediatric gastroenterology program.
- It also includes a \$5.1-million increase for specialized medical imaging services to add essential CT and MRI capacity and reduce the waitlists for these important diagnostic procedures.
- This budget includes a \$3.5-million increase for surgical programs to improve the quality of life for thousands of patients and continue to reduce the surgical wait list.
- The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency will see an increase of \$26.1 million for a total record budget of \$248.9 million to ensure patients can access the most effective and leading-edge oncology drugs, therapies and treatment options.
- A \$3.5-million increase for breast cancer care and screening initiatives includes technology enhancements, new diagnostic imaging equipment and the establishment of the Breast Health Centre of Excellence in Regina.
- A \$1 million grant will be designated for important ongoing ovarian cancer research.
- Targeted seniors’ care initiatives will receive a \$43.4-million increase to stabilize services and programming so Saskatchewan seniors can live safely and comfortably in their home communities for as long as possible.
- **Mental Health and Addictions will receive its highest-ever budget of \$574 million, with an increase of \$34 million for targeted incentives. This represents 7.6 per cent of the overall Ministry of Health budget.**
- This budget includes a significant investment of \$4.7 million to targeted mental health initiatives with a strong focus on youth. This includes \$1 million to expand the Mental Health Capacity Building Program in schools, \$150,000 for Prenatal Outreach and Response Teams through the Sanctum Care Group and \$120,000 for Saskatchewan youth homes.
- The budget also provides a \$29.2-million increase for targeted initiatives to address addictions and vulnerable populations.

Communities

- **The 2024-25 Budget provides a record increase of \$42.4 million in municipal revenue sharing.** This is an increase of 14.2 per cent from the year before, and a total of \$340.2 million in unconditional support for municipalities in the province.
- **This budget invests \$29.5 million to support municipalities and industry partners to make investments in the provincial transportation system.** These investments include supporting economic growth and safety on rural and municipal roads.

Community Safety

- **The 2024-25 Budget provides \$719.4 million for the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety to maintain and promote public safety and the well-being of our communities.**
 - More than \$228 million will fund RCMP operations in the province through the Provincial Police Services agreement, while the RCMP's First Nations Policing Program receives \$21.64 million. This budget also provides \$23.08 million for 160 municipal police positions, including 17 Combined Traffic Services positions funded by SGI and other public safety initiatives through the Municipal Police Grants Program;
 - \$7 million to continue the implementation and hiring for the Saskatchewan Marshals Service, in anticipation of the service becoming operational in 2026; and
 - A \$37-million investment in the ongoing expansion of the Saskatoon Remand Centre, which will provide more space to manage and provide rehabilitative programming.
- The 2024-25 budget includes \$12.35 million for the Saskatchewan Firearms Office, an increase of \$8.93 million, which will help fund a ballistics laboratory at its headquarters in Saskatoon.
- **An investment of \$251 million for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General will support justice services and community well-being in our province.**
- **This year's budget is investing \$31.7 million for interpersonal violence programs and services**, which includes \$4.66 million in funding through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- It also includes annualized funding of \$328,000 for second-stage shelters and an increase of \$577,000 for community-based organizations.

Wildfire Safety

- The 2024-25 Budget provides the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency with a \$5.52 million deposit on four airtankers to help manage wildfires and will replace our current fleet. The first of the four airplanes is expected to arrive in late summer of 2025, with the remaining arriving by the end of 2027.
- The province will receive federal funding to offset the cost of the aircraft through Natural Resources Canada's Fighting and Managing Wildfires in a Changing Climate Program.

Investments in First Nations and Métis Communities

- **The 2024-25 Provincial Budget continues investment in First Nation and Métis communities throughout Saskatchewan.** More than \$255 million in targeted funding will be provided for First Nation and Métis people and organizations, which is an increase of \$6.1 million over the previous year.
- The budget includes a \$91.2-million investment from gaming payments to support Indigenous-led social and economic initiatives.

- **To support the well-being of Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund invests \$800,000 for grassroots organizations and communities to develop and deliver projects that help prevent violence and build safety.**
- The 2024-25 Provincial Budget provides an increase of \$930,000 to support First Nation and Métis communities to participate in consultations related to the duty to consult.

Strong Families and Affordability

Affordability for Saskatchewan Residents

- **This budget continues to deliver more than \$2 billion in affordability measures for Saskatchewan residents announced in previous budgets.**
- **Today, Saskatchewan is one of the most affordable places in Canada to live, work and raise a family.**
- **The 2024-25 Budget includes no new taxes and no tax increases.**
- **Saskatchewan continues to maintain the lowest personal taxes in the country.** Since 2007, Personal Income Tax exemptions have removed more than 112,000 residents from the income tax role. In total, exemptions provide more than \$830 million in annual income tax savings to Saskatchewan people.
- A family of four pays no Provincial Income Tax on their first \$59,475 of combined income. This is the highest tax-free threshold in Canada – and more than twice as much as in 2007, when a family of four began paying provincial income tax once their combined income reached just \$26,150.
- A family with two adults, two dependent children, owning their own home with annual family income of \$75,000, \$100,000 and \$125,000 have the lowest combined totals paid for taxes, utilities and housing compared to the rest of Canada.
- A single person living in a rental accommodation, with an annual income of \$40,000 ranks third across the country in affordability.
- **Saskatchewan families will continue to benefit from reduced education property tax and programs and services designed to make life more affordable.** This includes the Active Families Benefit, Children’s Drug Plan and programs to help fund insulin pumps and glucose monitors.
- The 2024-25 Budget includes targeted investments to support families and includes a \$4-million increase to the Autism Spectrum Disorder Individualized Funding Program to continue to meet the needs of children and their families.
- This budget includes a \$17-million investment to deliver the first full year of the Saskatchewan Employment Incentive Program, making life more affordable for working families with lower incomes.
- The Personal Care Home Benefit monthly income threshold will increase by \$100 to \$2,500.

Affordability for Homeowners

- The 2024-25 Budget provides continued affordability for homeowners with the PST Rebate on New Home Construction Program and the recently introduced Saskatchewan Secondary Suite Incentive Grant Program to help homeowners with affordability and increase housing availability across the province.
- **Homeowners will continue to receive additional relief this year** as a result of the Government of Saskatchewan's direction to stop SaskEnergy and SaskPower from collecting the carbon tax on natural gas and electric residential home heating, saving families \$400 a year on average. This is in addition to a SaskEnergy rate decrease that lowered bills for the average residential customer by nearly eight per cent beginning in October 2023.

Assisting the Vulnerable

- **The 2024-25 Budget includes a record \$1.5 billion for the Ministry of Social Services, an increase of \$112.4 million over last year's budget, helping vulnerable people and families as they build a better quality of life.**
- The Ministry of Social Services continues to work with community partners to enhance services to individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Implementation of the Provincial Approach to Homelessness continues with an increase of \$16.7 million over the previous year, including a \$7.2-million increase to support ongoing emergency shelter operations across the province and \$9.5 million to develop supportive housing spaces in Regina and Saskatoon.
- The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation will invest \$83.4 million in the repair and maintenance of provincially owned housing units to provide affordable rental options to people and families in 280 communities across the province. This includes an additional \$9.6 million in provincial funding to prevent and reduce vacancies and respond to the increasing demand for social housing.
- **Monthly income assistance benefits will rise by three per cent for Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) clients.**
- **Funding of \$7.4 million will increase Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) basic and shelter benefits** by three per cent, an increase of up to \$60 per household per month. The Alternative Heating Benefit will increase by \$30 per month.
- **The Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) monthly Living Income Benefits will also increase** by three per cent as a result of \$6.3 million in funding in the 2024-25 budget. This represents a monthly increase of up to \$55 per household.

Assisting People with Disabilities

- With an understanding of the challenges faced by people with disabilities, the Government of Saskatchewan is providing additional funding support in the 2024-25 Budget.
 - This includes \$10.4 million in additional funding to support the changing service needs of current adult clients with intellectual disabilities, as well as the

delivery of residential and day programs for new clients.

- A further \$7.6-million investment will help plan and construct 10 new group homes, along with one assessment and stabilization home.

Community-Based Organizations

- **In 2024-25, community-based organizations across government will receive an increase of \$18.1 million.**
 - Social Services will provide \$13.7 million to third-party service providers it contracts to effectively meet the needs of the people we jointly serve.
- **In the coming year, the Ministry of Social Services will provide nearly \$500 million in funding to community-based service providers to help Saskatchewan people achieve a better quality of life.**

Building a strong economy

Bringing Saskatchewan to the World

- **With a budget of \$40.6 million, the Ministry of Trade and Export Development is supporting Saskatchewan's economy by growing our presence in international markets.** Leading the way will be *Securing the Next Decade of Growth: Saskatchewan's Investment Strategy*, which will help grow and maintain capital investment in the province.
 - Private companies have committed to more than 60 large-scale investment projects across the province in recent years – totalling more than \$39 billion. These include projects in the agri-value, manufacturing and processing, mining, forestry and energy sectors.
 - Private sector capital investment is expected to reach \$14.2 billion this year, making Saskatchewan a leading contributor to economic growth in Canada.
- Saskatchewan's recently announced labour market strategy – *Building the Workforce for a Growing Economy: the Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy* – outlines how the province will ensure Saskatchewan people benefit from the jobs our economy is creating. The strategy also ensures that Saskatchewan employers have access to the workforce needed to succeed.

Assisting Small Businesses

- **The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the contributions of small businesses to the provincial economy.** For that reason, the 2024-25 Budget maintains the small business tax rate at the current rate of one per cent until June 30, 2025. It was scheduled to return to two per cent in July, but the extension of the existing rate will assist owners with the challenges facing businesses these days.
- The amount of eligible business income on which the small business tax rate applies will remain at \$600,000 – the highest threshold in Canada. Saskatchewan will also continue to have the second-lowest small business tax rate in Canada.

Growing Economy

- **The 2024-25 Budget includes \$53.8 million for the Ministry of Energy and Resources to support our growing economy with a focus on Saskatchewan’s world-class natural resources.**
- Included in the budget is \$10 million in funding over 10 years for the Public Geoscience initiative, which will increase exploration to drive the province’s critical minerals strategy.
- In recognition of the important role of critical minerals, the 2024-25 Budget introduces the **Saskatchewan Critical Mineral Innovation Incentive** for new pilot projects and the complementary **Critical Mineral Processing Investment Incentive** for new or expanded value-added processing projects.
- To further encourage investment in the provincial economy, the 2024-25 Budget includes enhancements for the following industry programs:
 - **Saskatchewan Petroleum Innovation Incentive** – extends the application period an additional five years and increases the program funding cap to a maximum of \$100 million in royalty credits.
 - **Oil and Gas Processing Investment Incentive** – extends the program an additional five years and increases the program funding cap to a maximum of \$500 million in Crown royalty credits.
 - **Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive** – extends the program by one year to allow for a program review, which will include engaging with industry.
 - **Saskatchewan Technology Start-Up Incentive** – doubles the annual program cap on the amount of non-refundable tax credits that may be issued to \$7 million annually; expands eligibility to start-ups in the cleantech and all agtech sectors; and extends the program by one year.
- The budget introduces the Multi-Lateral Well Program, which will facilitate the development of previously inaccessible or uneconomic oil plays and will attract increased oil well drilling to Saskatchewan.
- The 2024-25 Provincial Budget also introduces the Clean Electricity Transition Grant and the Small Modular Reactor Investment Fund. Revenues from the electricity sector will all be dedicated to priorities that support the province’s clean electricity transition with a focus on reliability and affordability.

Agriculture

- **The 2024-25 Budget includes \$570.6 million for the Ministry of Agriculture, a 4.1 per cent increase from the previous year’s budget.** The budget invests in programs, services and agricultural research, as well as providing business risk management programs.
- **This budget provides \$89.4 million for strategic initiatives under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.**
 - Included among these initiatives are the Irrigation Development and Irrigation Efficiency programs that will help develop new irrigated acres and support

improved energy and water efficiency of existing systems.

- An investment of \$38 million will help support research in the agriculture sector, including Saskatchewan institutions that do state-of-the-art research.
- **In recognition of the challenging weather and soil conditions faced by some producers, the ministry's budget provides \$431.7 million to fund federal-provincial risk management programs, including Crop Insurance and Agri Stability.** This is an increase of \$23.7 million from the previous year.
 - Average Crop Insurance coverage for 2024 is \$389 per acre, a decrease from 2023, largely due to an average decrease in insured commodity prices.
 - In turn, the average premium also decreases to \$12.71. Producers' coverage and premium are individualized to their operations. Coverage reflects each producer's production records and the premium reflects each producer's claim history.

Tourism

- The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport receives \$15 million for capital and infrastructure improvements in Saskatchewan provincial parks, including:
 - A new service centre at Nut Point Campground in Lac La Ronge Provincial Park.
 - Bike trail development and multi-use trail improvements at Buffalo Pound Provincial Park.
 - Major road improvements and resurfacing at Pike Lake Provincial Park.
 - Water system upgrades at Narrow Hills Provincial Park and Moose Mountain Provincial Park.

In addition to these new projects, several facilities will be completed for the summer 2024 camping season, including:

- A new Visitor Reception Centre at Crooked Lake Provincial Park.
- A new group pavilion at Rowan's Ravine Provincial Park for large gatherings.
- A play-structure development at Pine Hill Campground in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.

Improved Infrastructure

- **The 2024-25 Budget delivers the largest total capital budget in Saskatchewan history, the largest Crown corporation capital budget in Saskatchewan history and the largest Executive Government capital budget in Saskatchewan history.**
- **The budget invests \$741 million in safe and efficient transportation to meet the growing needs of Saskatchewan families and communities,** including \$417.3 million in transportation capital.
 - This includes more than 1,100 kilometres of improvements on provincial highways, including 260 km of repaving, 765 km of light and medium pavement preservation, 58 km of Thin Membrane Surface improvements and 25 km of gravel rehabilitation.
- Several major construction projects will carry on or are expected to be finished to improve safety and traffic flow, including:

- Twinning projects near Rowatt and Corinne on Highways 6 and 39 between Regina and Weyburn;
 - Corridor improvements on Highway 5 east of Saskatoon; and
 - Completion of the replacement of two Highway 6 bridges over Regina’s Ring Road.
- **Road safety remains a top priority for the Government of Saskatchewan. Through the Safety Improvement Program, the province will invest \$17.6 million toward intersections, guardrails and lighting across Saskatchewan.** This follows last year’s completion of a five-year, \$100-million investment in road safety.
 - **With this year’s budget, more than \$13 billion has been invested into transportation infrastructure since 2008, improving more than 20,700 kilometers of provincial highways.**

Crown Capital

- In 2024-25, Crown corporations will invest a record \$2.6 billion into major capital to improve infrastructure in the province.
 - This includes \$1.6 billion by SaskPower to improve the province’s electricity system to meet demand and maintain reliability, as well as support the transition to a modern grid. This includes construction of the natural gas plant in south-central Saskatchewan, improvements to the plant near Kerrobert and expanding the southwest transmission interconnection.
 - SaskEnergy is investing \$416.9 million in the province’s natural gas transmission and distribution system to meet increased demand and ensure safe, reliable and affordable services for customers.
 - In this budget, SaskTel is investing \$439.8 million to improve its networks to ensure the information and communications technology infrastructure is in place to help connect Saskatchewan residents. Investments include continuing to deploy fibre to rural Saskatchewan and rolling out the 5G wireless network.
 - The Government of Saskatchewan continues to invest in the Regina Non-potable Water System Project through SaskWater. This project will support the growth of agricultural and value-added processing in the Regina area.