

Highlights of recent news and public events from Saskatoon Southeast MLA Don Morgan

Saskatchewan Budget

On Track

Provincial Budget 2018-19

Saskatchewan is on track. Faced with challenging years marked by significant resource revenue decline, a plan to restore balance was initiated last year. Budget 2018-19 follows that plan with major investments in health care, education, social services and infrastructure, and a steadily improving outlook over the next four years.

This year's budget is keeping Saskatchewan On Track by:

1. [Controlling Government Spending](#)
2. [Delivering High Quality Services](#)
3. [No Increases to Tax Rates](#)
4. [Keeping Our Economy Strong](#)
5. [Returning to Balance](#)

1. Controlling Government Spending

Government continues to control and carefully manage spending in the 2018-19 Budget. Many ministries are forecasting lower spending than in the previous fiscal year, while continuing to provide valued core services that are sustainable into the future.

Examples of controlled spending

- In this budget expense is forecast to be down 1.4 per cent from last year's budget
- \$5 million savings by reducing the number of government-owned vehicles
- \$19 million savings from amalgamation into one health region, while improving front-line care

Budget savings through lower government vehicle costs

Government of Saskatchewan

Following cost-saving measures, government's 2018-19 vehicle fleet budget is reduced by over \$5 million.

- Fewer government-owned vehicles**
A more strategic approach to management of vehicles reduced government's vehicle fleet size.
- Short-term private rentals**
A yearlong pilot project took place, using private sector short-term vehicle rentals in Saskatoon, Prince Albert and North Battleford.
- Strategic procurement**
Government partnered with other provinces to buy vehicles, and achieved volume discounts on items like tires and windshields.

2. Delivering High Quality Services

Government is continuing to invest in the priorities of Saskatchewan people – in particular, in health care, education and social services. Investment in these three areas is \$10.4 billion in this budget. That's an increase of \$4 billion, or more than 64 per cent, since 2007-08. Funding is at record levels in 2018-19 for health care and social services and assistance.

- \$700,000 for universal 100 per cent coverage for HIV drugs and other supports
- More than \$520,000 for a new program to screen babies born in Saskatchewan hospitals for hearing loss
- \$2.8 million to provide individualized funding for children under six with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- \$30 million increase in operating funding for the 2018-19 school year
- Nearly \$77 million in child care funding
- More than \$10 million for those who provide direct daily care to adults with intellectual disabilities, children in need of protection, plus supports for families. This includes foster families and CBOs that deliver day programs and residential services to people with intellectual disabilities and provide family-focused services.

To keep Saskatchewan ***On Track***,
we are investing in ***health care***:



Two new major
hospitals opening
by the end of next year:

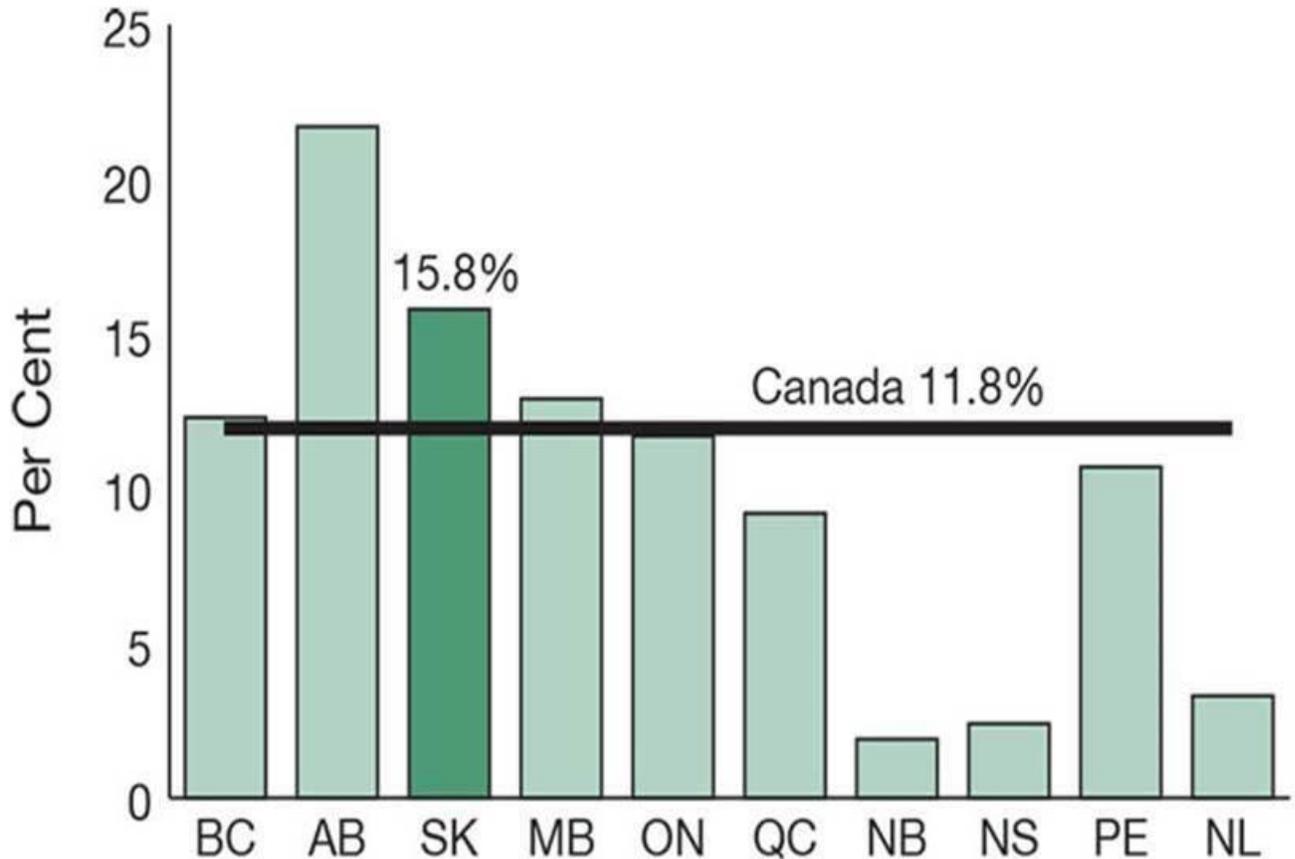
- Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford
- Jim Pattison Children's Hospital

3. No Increases to Tax Rates

- Low personal and corporate income tax rates remain the same
- No increases to Education Property Tax (EPT) or Provincial Sales Tax (PST) rates

- Competitive taxes help to attract people, businesses and investment to Saskatchewan

**Population Growth by Province
(January 2018 over January 2008)**



4. Keeping Our Economy Strong

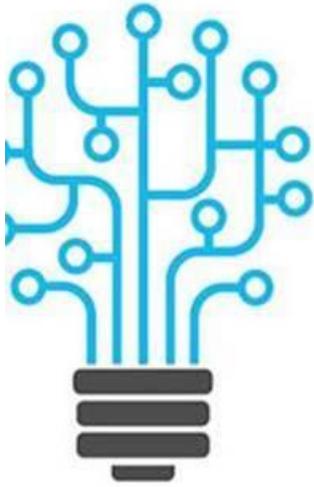
Saskatchewan is projected to have the fourth highest growth in the country in 2018 and third highest in 2019, according to private sector forecasts. Competitive taxes and targeted incentives support continued diversification and growth in Saskatchewan’s economy.

- \$413 million of direct support to municipalities and \$123 million for municipal infrastructure
- Increased funding to STEP – the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Program to expand the province’s export markets
- \$2.7 million investment in infrastructure, including Crown corporations, to support the growing province

- Growth tax incentives to encourage investment, diversify the economy and create jobs



Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive



Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive

5. Returning to Balance

Non-renewable resource revenue now accounts for just 10 per cent of the province's total revenue, down from a high of 32 per cent in 2008-09. One of the main goals of our three-year budget plan was to reduce Saskatchewan's reliance on resource revenue, and that plan is on track.

A return to balance expected in 2019-20.

- A deficit of \$365 million projected for 2018-19. A return to balance is expected in 2019-20 with a modest project surplus of \$6 million.
- Balance ensures long-term sustainability and continued investments in infrastructure
- Improved revenue stability, diversified economy, less dependence on resource revenue
- Third lowest debt-to-GDP in Canada resulting in strong credit ratings

The plan to keep
Saskatchewan ***On Track***, includes:



Controlling spending



Delivering high quality services
for Saskatchewan people



No tax rate increases



Keeping our economy strong



Returning to balance in 2019-20

Automatic PST Refunds on Certain Types of Insurance

Released on April 6, 2018

Policy holders of crop, livestock, hail, margin/income, life and health insurance in Saskatchewan will soon receive a sales tax refund or credit from their insurance provider. Refunds and credits are automatic, meaning no action is required of policy holders.

As announced February 26, 2018, Provincial Sales Tax (PST) no longer applies to the following types of insurance:

- Individual and group life, health, disability, accident and sickness insurance; and
- Crop, livestock, hail and margin/income insurance.

The PST exemption on these insurance products is retroactive to August 1, 2017, the date certain insurance premiums became taxable in Saskatchewan.

Insurance providers who collected and remitted the PST will calculate all refunds payable and either credit each policy holder's account or provide a refund.

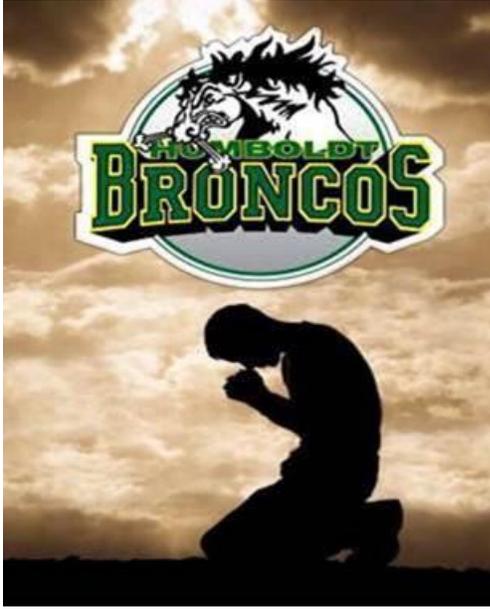
Policy holders do not have to request or submit a claim to their insurance provider or to the government to receive a refund or credit. Most refunds or credits will be paid by June 30, 2018.

If you do not receive a refund or credit by that date, or have questions about the process, please contact your insurance provider.



POSITIVELY PROVINCIAL . . .

Kindness everywhere after Humboldt Broncos bus crash kills 16



THEY WOKE UP THAT MORNING WITH HOPES TO WIN THE GAME
BUT INSTEAD THEY **CHANGED THE WORLD.**







Minister Morgan is seen here signing a book of condolence for the victims of the Humboldt Broncos bus tragedy that has been placed in the rotunda of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building. Those interested are invited to sign the book during weekday business hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) thru April 20.

We, along with the rest of the people of Saskatchewan, have no words to express the shock and sadness that we are all feeling after the tragic accident on April 6. Just know that the team members, their families and friends, their communities, and every one of the first responders and medical professionals who were there that evening, and are still caring for those in need of medical care, are in our thoughts and prayers.

We have shown the world once again what our province is made of. Please don't forget to sign your organ donor cards, and head back to the Canadian Blood Services for another blood donation, as the need never ends!

Lieutenant Governor Announces Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal Recipients

Released on April 17, 2018

Today Lieutenant Governor W. Thomas Molloy presented individuals who exemplify the spirit of volunteerism with the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

“These individuals have selflessly given their time and energy to make our province a better place,” Molloy said. “Their commitment to their communities is an inspiration, and I am truly thankful for their service to Saskatchewan. I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to each of them for receiving this honour.”



The recipients of the 2017 Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal are:

- Michelle Al-Katib, Community Leader, White City;
- Mal Barber, Business Owner, Weyburn;
- Scott Boyes, Public Servant, La Ronge;
- Robert Dumur, Business Owner, Pasqua Lake;
- Shirley Frydenlund, Community Builder, Allan;
- Audrey Heit, Retired Special Care Aide, Kindersley;
- Paul Jaspar, Chartered Professional Accountant, Saskatoon;
- Helene Kesten, Social Worker, Regina;
- Eugene Paquin, Retired Educator, Saskatoon; and
- Vincent Somogyi, Farmer, Willowbrook.

The recipients were presented the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal during a ceremony this morning at Government House and will be welcomed as guests in the Legislative Assembly by Premier Scott Moe. The ceremony coincided with National Volunteer Week.

Since its establishment in 1995, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal has been awarded to extraordinary citizens across the province for their outstanding contributions to

Saskatchewan.

Today's recipients join the ranks of 194 exemplary volunteers recognized in previous years.



Minister Don Morgan with Saskatoon Southeast Constituency President Mr. Eugene Paquin. Congratulations Eugene, on an award well deserved!

On The Lighter Side . . .

Canadian Premiere for Local Filmmaker

The award-winning film, **Because of Grácia**, written and directed by local high school teacher, Tom Simes, will have its Canadian Premiere in Saskatoon, April 19-22.

Simes and select cast members, including the male lead Chris Massolgia of Hollywood fame, will entertain questions after each screening.

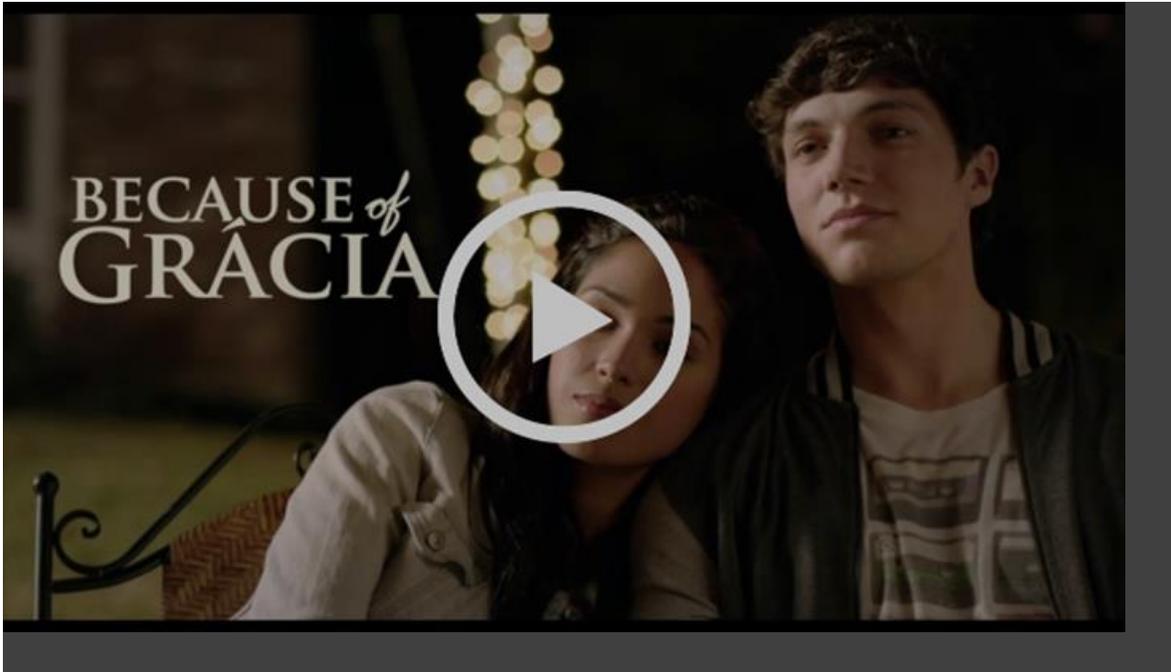
Because of Grácia tells the story of four high-school students dealing with the challenges of relationships and dating, teen pregnancy and Christian identity. Simes and his film partner, Myron Glova, shot the film in Louisiana with the producers of "God's Not Dead".

The film has won 19 awards including three Best Film awards, and the prestigious Frank Capra Spirit Award for Best Director.

Because of Grácia will have nine showings at the Roxy Theatre from April 19 to the 22. Tickets can be purchased at McNally Robinson, Kennedy's Parable, or at the door.

For more information please contact Michelle Simes at 306 260-1242 or

tom@fivestonesfilms.com



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“**Saskatoon Southeast Newsletter**” is a message from Don Morgan, MLA Saskatoon Southeast. Your opinions are important and your letters, emails and phone calls on any issue relating to the provincial government are welcomed. Contact Don Morgan by calling 955-4755, emailing mla@donmorgan.ca or writing Don Morgan, MLA Saskatoon Southeast, 109-3502 Taylor Street East, Saskatoon, S7H 5H9.

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