



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

Brad Wall To Step Down as Leader of the SaskParty and Premier of Saskatchewan



“We want a strong economy not just for the sake of the economy itself, but for the quality of life and opportunities it provides for all Saskatchewan people.”

Brad's Story

I was born and raised in Swift Current, in Saskatchewan’s southwest. I still live there with my wife, Tami, where we raised our three children, Megan, Colter, and Faith. Since I was first elected as an MLA to the Saskatchewan Legislature in 1999, it is the constituency I have represented. Since 2007, I have also had the incredible honour to serve as Saskatchewan’s Premier.

I’ve always thought politics can be the most effective vehicle for truly enacting change and leaving things better than you found them. In the case of our government, we’ve had the opportunity to celebrate some important achievements and milestones that a growing economy has provided:

Accomplishments

- The largest income and property tax cuts in the history of Saskatchewan;

- Reducing the province's operating debt by 40 per cent and saving \$1.2 billion in interest payments since 2008;
- Cutting surgical wait times from the longest in Canada to now the shortest;
- Saskatchewan receiving a AAA credit rating from Standard & Poor's for the first time in the province's history;
- More support for people with disabilities, including the elimination of the original 440 waitlist for people with disabilities waiting for the dignity of a home;
- Population growth of 160,000 people in 8 years – more growth than the previous 75 years for an all-time high of just 40,000 short of 1.2 million;
- The most aggressive youth retention program in the country to ensure Saskatchewan's young people stay and work in the province; and
- Record \$8 billion investment in infrastructure to improve roads, schools, hospitals and senior's facilities all across Saskatchewan.

Progress

Brad's Vision

Despite some great achievements, we still have more work to do. We have to ensure Saskatchewan has the key fundamentals to remain a leader in Canada: competitive taxes & regulations, low debt, and increased trade.

Saskatchewan continues to break records in agriculture exports and production. With expanded trade opportunities to the Asia-Pacific region, Saskatchewan can be well-positioned to provide food security to this growing region of the world.

Our province must be proud of its resource sector, a key component of our economy. We should ensure that our oil, potash, uranium, lumber and many other resources get to international markets.

In health care, we need to continue the use of innovative practices within the public system. Patients must continue to have more choice, quality, and efficiency from their health system all Saskatchewan people depend on.



To view Premier Wall's full statement go to <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/august/10/statement-by-premier-brad-wall>.

SaskPower Releases Annual Report

SaskPower invested \$886 million in the province's electricity system over the past year, as it continues to meet the challenge of sustaining an aging power grid while meeting growing demand and environmental commitments. SaskPower's 2016-17 Annual Report was recently tabled with Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly's Clerks Office, reporting an operating income of \$46 million.

"Our province has been called on to meet many challenges over the last year, and we are succeeding," Minister Responsible for SaskPower Gordon Wyant said. ***"We are investing in the core services that matter to the people of our province to keep Saskatchewan strong. The province recognizes the importance of SaskPower's investment to sustain our growth and maintain our electrical infrastructure."***

While infrastructure investment is crucial and ongoing, SaskPower has also implemented a number of measures to improve processes, work more efficiently and reduce costs. Over the past two years, SaskPower has saved \$73 million in budgeted operating, maintenance and administration spending.

Notable accomplishments for 2016-17 include:

- ***Beginning construction of a 350 megawatt natural gas-fired plant, Chinook Power Station, near Swift Current***
- ***Starting the \$300 million life extension of six units at the E.B. Campbell Hydroelectric Station, which will allow that facility to operate for 50 more years***
- ***Reaching a milestone of capturing nearly 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide at the Boundary Dam Capture Facility since start-up***
- ***Launching the competitive process for our province's first 10 megawatt utility-scale solar project; once built, it will be the first Canadian project of that size outside of Ontario***
- ***Launching the competitive process for up to 200 megawatts of wind generation, with service scheduled to begin in 2021***
- ***Setting three new records for peak electricity demand this past winter, with a total peak increase of 107 megawatts***
- ***Launching the Safety Improvement Program, with a focus on achieving zero workplace injuries and creating a safety-first culture at SaskPower***
- ***Investing more than \$1.4 million in the communities and organizations that make our province a great place to be, with a focus on educational programming in workforce excellence, safety and conservation***



Left to right, Ken Krawetz, Gail Krawetz, Sandy Morgan and Don Morgan enjoying a cruise on the Prairie Lily. On August 2 the Morgan's provided a 'thank you' river cruise for some 50 volunteers who helped out at the 2017 spring BBQs.

Underwater Loans Put Consumers at Risk

A growing trend known as negative equity financing is putting consumers in a risky financial position. Put simply, it is when a buyer owes more than the vehicle is worth. A recent report by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada suggests new vehicles are typically purchased every three to four years and the average length of an auto loan now exceeds six year, demonstrating a growing trend toward negative equity financing.

How does this happen? Typically, consumers will trade-in a vehicle they still owe money on, and roll the debt forward into the financing of a new vehicle, adding their old debt to new debt. At a glance, advertisements offering low rates, longer terms and low monthly payments make vehicles seem attractive and affordable, but it is important to know financing a vehicle this way may make it difficult to pay off the loan.

One example of consumer risk is if a vehicle is destroyed. Depending on the policy, the insurance company will generally pay what the vehicle was worth, not what the consumer owed, meaning the consumer may be on the hook for a large debt and have nothing to show for it.

Tips to avoid negative equity:

- *Pay off existing vehicle loans. Avoid rolling negative equity forward into new purchases.*
- *Don't focus on a low monthly payment. Look at the total cost of the loan.*
- *Buy within your budget and stick to it.*
- *Consider a shorter term loan. Longer term loans are typically more expensive.*

Consumers with questions can call toll-free at 1-877-880-5550 or by email at consumerprotection@gov.sk.ca.

You Know You Live In A Small Town When...

- *The "Road Hog" in front of you on Main Street is a farmer's combine.
- *The local phone book has only one yellow page.
- *Third Street is on the edge of town.
- *You leave your jacket on the back of the chair in the café, and it's still there the next day.
- *You don't signal turns because everybody knows where you are going anyway.
- *No social events can be held when the school gym is being varnished.
- *You call the wrong number and are supplied with the right one.
- *Everyone knows all the news ahead of time; readers just check to see if the publisher got it right.

Aussie Airline Humour

Pilot: "Left inside main tire almost needs replacement."

Maintenance: "Almost replaced tire."

Pilot: "Test flight OK, except autoland very rough."

Maintenance: "Autoland not installed on this aircraft."

Pilot: "Something loose in the cockpit."

Maintenance: "Something tightened in the cockpit."

Pilot: "Dead bugs on windshield."

Maintenance: "Live bugs on backorder."

Pilot: "Evidence of a leak on right main landing gear."

Maintenance: "Evidence removed."

Pilot: "DME volume unbelievably loud."

Maintenance: "Volume set to more believable level."

Pilot: "Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick."

Maintenance: "That's what they're there for!"

Pilot: "IFF inoperative."

Maintenance: "IFF always inoperative in OFF mode."

Pilot: "Number 3 engine missing."

Maintenance: "Engine found on right wing after brief search."

Pilot: "Aircraft handles funny."

Maintenance: "Aircraft warned to "Straighten Up, Fly Right, and Be Serious."

"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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