

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

FALL LEGISLATIVE SESSION DELIVERS ON COMMITMENTS TO STAND UP FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Premier Scott Moe said the government ended the fall sitting of the legislative session by delivering on priorities for the economy and people of Saskatchewan.

"During this fall session, we outlined our commitment to balance the budget in the spring, continued the fight against the federal carbon tax and invested in the services and infrastructure necessary for the people of this province," Moe said. "Over the past seven weeks, our government became a leader in the country through legislation to expand Workers' Compensation coverage for firefighters, create the longest maternity leave in the nation and become the first province in Canada to introduce Clare's Law to help those at risk of intimate partner violence."

As the threat of a federal carbon tax continues to face Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan is implementing Prairie Resilience, the made-in-Saskatchewan climate change plan supported by industry. This includes legislation introduced this fall to establish intensity-based performance standards for large emitters as well as the new Climate Resilience Measurement Framework, the first of its kind in Canada, with 25 different measures to monitor and enhance Saskatchewan's resilience to climate change.

"Even as our province continues to face trade, transportation and economic challenges, this session we saw a year-over-year employment increase of 9,400 jobs – the largest job gains since 2014," Moe said. "We will continue to stand up for our province locally, national and

internationally to continue this job growth and fight the Trudeau carbon tax, which will kill jobs and make our industries less competitive.”

Safety was also a focus of the fall session with the introduction of mandatory minimum training requirements of 121.5 hours for commercial semi drivers, a proposed enhancement to rural policing to allow municipalities with populations under 500 to join regional police services and amendments to trespassing legislation which will afford rural land owners the same requirements for land access as urban land owners.

To help Saskatchewan people who may need time off from work to care for family members, changes to The Saskatchewan Employment Act will create a new critically ill adult leave, expand parental leave and add an additional week of maternity leave. More people who face health challenges because of their jobs will be covered through changes to The Workers' Compensation Act, making Saskatchewan a leader in the country for the number of occupational diseases firefighters will have presumptive coverage for.

Saskatchewan announced plans to be the first province in Canada with Clare's Law, legislation to provide police services with a framework to disclose information about someone's violent past to intimate partners who may be at risk. Interpersonal violence leave will also be expanded to include sexual violence of any kind, allowing Saskatchewan residents to take time off to seek medical attention or access supports.

This session, the government announced a commitment to apologize to those in our province affected by the Sixties Scoop. Sharing Circles, led by the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Saskatchewan, took place across the province to help inform the apology.

Infrastructure investments continued with Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford nearing completion, the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital reaching 92 per cent completion, working on rural cellular service with another 50 communities to see better coverage by the spring and the opening of new bridges, passing lanes and intersection improvements across the province.

Bilateral agreements were signed with the federal government this fall to provide nearly \$900 million for infrastructure projects over the next decade and more than \$5 million to improve access to treatment for people with opioid or crystal meth dependencies.

The next sitting of the Legislative Assembly is scheduled to begin March 4, 2019.



POSITIVELY PROVINCIAL . . .

INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE DISCLOSURE PROTOCOL ACT – CLARE’S LAW – INTRODUCED IN SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan is the first province in Canada to introduce legislation that allows police to release information about someone’s violent or abusive past to intimate partners who may be at risk.

The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare’s Law) Act will provide the legislative framework for police services to disclose relevant information to people at risk through the “right to know” process and to applicants through the “right to ask” process.

“We have seen too many cases of interpersonal, domestic and sexual violence in our province,” Justice Minister and Attorney General Don Morgan said. “If we are able to identify risk and inform those at risk, we hope to help protect people in Saskatchewan from violent and abusive behaviour by a partner.”

“Clare’s Law” was first introduced in the United Kingdom and named in honour of Clare Wood, a woman who was murdered by her partner and unaware of his violent past. Clare’s father advocated for more disclosure by police to protect domestic violence victims.

Work will continue with police services and organizations helping survivors of domestic violence on the protocol in the coming months.

The Government of Saskatchewan is focused on reducing and preventing domestic violence through ongoing collaboration with provincial partners and other ministries.

In 2018-19, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Corrections and Policing will provide more than \$20 million in funding for prevention and intervention services, including funding domestic violence transition houses, sexual assault centres, and family outreach services.

SASKATCHEWAN TO IMPROVE JOB LEAVES FOR NEW PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND ASSAULT SURVIVORS

Today the Government of Saskatchewan announced changes to some job-protected leaves in an amendment to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*.

Maternity and adoption leave will increase from 18 weeks to 19 weeks, which will make Saskatchewan a leader in the country, offering the longest maternity and adoption leave in Canada.

A total of 78 weeks of leave will be available to new mothers or can be shared between parents. On top of the 19-week maternity leave, the province will extend parental leave from 34 to 59 weeks for the mother of a child, if she chooses to take the full leave. If another parent decides to take the entire leave or is collecting Employment Insurance benefits, they will see parental leave expand from 37 weeks to 63 weeks.

The government also announced a new critically ill adult leave which will offer 17 weeks for workers to care for critically ill adult family members.

Changes to the parental leave and the addition of a critically ill adult leave align job-protected leave provisions with benefits available through the federal Employment Insurance program.

“During a major life event, such as bringing a child into the family or assisting a loved one experiencing a serious illness, workers should not have to worry about job security,” Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Minister Don Morgan said. “Some of these amendments were also made to allow Saskatchewan workers to fully access benefits from the federal government.”

The government also extended the 10 days of interpersonal violence leave to include survivors of all forms of sexual violence. The time can be used to seek medical or legal help, access support services, or re-locate to a safe space.

SASKATCHEWAN INTRODUCING MANDATORY MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL SEMI DRIVERS

New Requirements Effective March 15, 2019

Starting March 15, 2019, drivers seeking a Class 1 commercial licence in Saskatchewan to drive semi trucks will be required to undergo a minimum of 121.5 hours of training.

The change was announced by the Government of Saskatchewan to make Saskatchewan roads safer for commercial semi truck drivers and everyone who shares the road with them.

“Saskatchewan has been working to improve standards for training curriculum and driver testing for semi drivers since mid-2017,” Minister Responsible for SGI Joe Hargrave said. “Our ongoing consultations with other provinces have helped address gaps and inconsistencies when commercial drivers cross provincial borders. Stronger training requirements in Saskatchewan and across Canada will help make our province’s and our nation’s roads safer.”

The new curriculum will include instruction in a classroom, in the yard, and behind the wheel. Training will focus on priority curriculum areas including basic driving techniques, professional driving habits, vehicle inspections and air brakes. Driver’s tests will be aligned to the curriculum ensuring more rigour. Training schools will receive instruction and training on the new curriculum, and the people who deliver training will be held to higher standards.

“The Saskatchewan Trucking Association applauds this move,” Saskatchewan Trucking Association Executive Director Susan Ewart said. “The industry is on-board with strengthened training requirements. Commercial drivers play a critical role delivering goods that keep our economy moving. Our industry also has a responsibility to make sure commercial semi drivers have the knowledge and skills to do their job ensuring the safety of everyone on the road.”

Existing Class 1 drivers will be grandfathered in as of the implementation date.

Government continues to consult with the agricultural industry on impacts of potential mandatory training requirements for their sector, given these vehicles generally travel less frequently, shorter distances, and through less densely populated areas. Effective March 15,

2019, anyone wishing to drive a semi used in farming operations will need to successfully obtain an "F" endorsement on their existing driver's licence and will be restricted to operating within Saskatchewan's borders. The "F" endorsement will not be required if they already have a Class 1 licence or have taken the mandatory training.

Effective immediately, a 12-month safety monitoring program is being introduced for all new semi drivers. This means, in addition to the existing monitoring that occurs for all drivers, SGI will monitor semi drivers more stringently for a year post-testing so remedial action can be taken if there are safety concerns.

Further, as of March 15, 2019, Class 1 road tests will be undertaken with SGI examiners only.

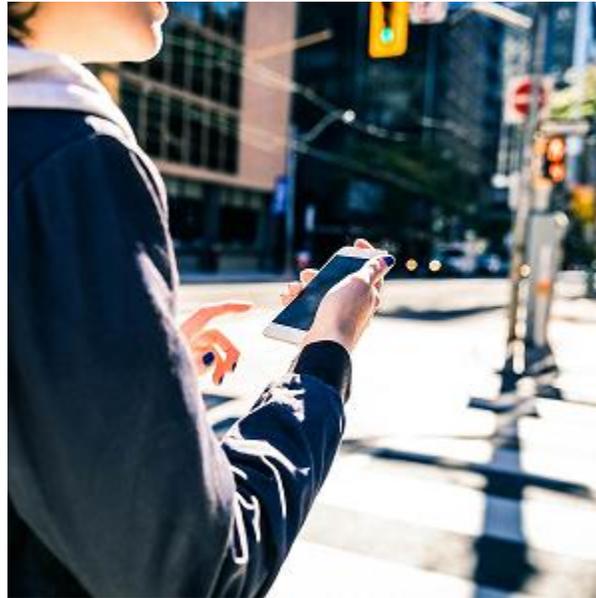
MORE OPTIONS FOR A SAFE RIDE HOME: RIDESHARING REGULATIONS APPROVED

Government has approved regulations that will open the door for rideshare companies to begin operating in the province, as long as they follow requirements set out by the municipality in which they operate. Regulations will take effect on December 14, 2018.

"After extensive consultation with numerous stakeholders – including rideshare and taxi companies, municipalities and law enforcement – SGI has developed a provincial framework that strikes a good balance between public demand and safety," Minister Responsible for SGI Joe Hargrave said. "Ridesharing will provide Saskatchewan residents more ways to get around in the province, and another option for planning a safe ride home."

"Saskatchewan has some of the strongest impaired driving legislation in the country, but in addition to having effective legislation and strong penalties, it is crucial to ensure the availability of safe, convenient and reliable transportation options," MADD Canada Regional Manager Michelle Okere said. "By establishing provincial rules to enable ridesharing, the Government of Saskatchewan is providing a framework for an industry that will provide more safe rides and be an effective partner in the effort to end impaired driving."

Rideshare drivers transporting passengers will have the option to use a commercial class licence (Class 1-4), or a Class 5 licence if they meet certain conditions.



All drivers transporting passengers for hire will be required to pass annual criminal record checks and have their vehicles inspected annually. If opting for a Class 5 licence, only drivers who meet certain additional conditions, including having a safe driving record, will be allowed to work as a rideshare driver.

Requirements for rideshare drivers using a Class 5 licence must:

- be an experienced driver, not in the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program;
- have at least two years post-GDL driving experience in Canada or a reciprocal jurisdiction; and
- have a satisfactory driver history (meaning less than 12 points under the Driver Improvement Program in the last two years, and no impaired driving-related suspensions in the last 10 years).

Taxi and limousine drivers will have the same driver's licence options as rideshare drivers. They can continue to transport passengers for hire using a Class 4 licence, or they can use a Class 5 licence if they meet the above requirements.

Rideshare companies will be required to hold at least \$1 million liability coverage for all affiliated drivers and vehicles.

For more information about rideshare requirements, visit SGI's website at www.sgi.sk.ca/rideshare.

On The Lighter Side . . .

This is actual advice the news is giving to Southerners for driving in snow



And Just One Last Thing . . .



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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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