

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

The Saskatchewan Party Easily Kept its Seats in Byelections Held in Three of the Party's Strongholds.

The governing party increased its share of the vote in both Kindersley and Melfort, but the NDP made some gains in former premier Brad Wall's Swift Current riding.

Byelections were held March 1 in the three ridings following the resignations of Wall and Kindersley MLA Bill Boyd, and the unexpected death of Melfort MLA Kevin Phillips.

In Kindersley, Ken Francis won handily for the Sask. Party with 88 per cent of the vote, up from the 68 per cent share Boyd managed in the 2016 general election — Boyd resigned last summer amid a conflict of interest scandal. Travis Hebert took 10 per cent of the vote for the NDP.

In Melfort, Sask. Party candidate Todd Goudy won with 79 per cent of the vote, a small bump from the 77 per cent share Phillips had in the last general election. NDP candidate Lorne Schroeder had 19 per cent support.

In Swift Current, Everett Hindley had the support of 73 per cent of voters, compared to Wall's last win in 2016 with 82 per cent. NDP candidate Stefan Rumpel won 24 per cent of the vote.

The Saskatchewan Green Party ran candidates in all three ridings, winning between one and two per cent of the vote. The Saskatchewan Liberal Party only had a candidate in the Swift Current riding, taking one per cent of the vote.



Mark Docherty, the MLA From Regina Coronation Park, has Been Selected the Speaker for Saskatchewan's Legislative Assembly.

First elected in 2011, he defeated six others in a lengthy process to select a new Speaker.

Docherty had previously served as the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Docherty is well-liked, and respected, by members on both sides of the assembly. His infectious positive attitude, especially as someone who battles multiple sclerosis, is welcomed by many who see him daily around the Legislative Building.

An example of that was seen moments after going through the customary “reluctant” drag to the Speaker's chair by the leaders' of both parties — upon taking the chair, Docherty looked at the three-cornered, pirate-like hat adorned by the Speaker and joked, “This is why I ran.”

Before becoming an MLA, he had a long career in community-based organizations. He worked at the Paul Dojack Youth Centre and was the director of Dales House, which offers services to troubled youth through Street Culture Kids Project Inc.

A holder of three degrees, he also taught at the University of Regina. As an avid athlete, Docherty has played lacrosse, rugby and handball at competitive levels as well as competed in triathlons around the world.

He defeated the Saskatchewan Party's Glen Hart, Delbert Kirsch, Warren Michelson, Colleen Young and Eric Olauson and Danielle Chartier from the NDP to become the Speaker.



POSITIVELY PROVINCIAL . . .

Deficit Lower at Third Quarter, Fiscal Plan on Track

Released on March 2, 2018

Saskatchewan's finances continue to be on track in 2017-18, confirmed by a smaller deficit forecast in the province's third quarter financial report released today.

"While we are seeing progress, there is more to accomplish," Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. "Our economy is performing well and is expected to post positive growth for the first time in two years. We will meet our fiscal challenges by controlling spending and ensuring we do what we can to help keep our economy strong. We continue to listen to Saskatchewan people. While staying on course we made adjustments in-year, including fulfilling Premier Moe's commitment to exempt PST on premiums for agriculture, life and health insurance, and restoring needed funding to K-12 education and the College of Medicine."

At third quarter, the 2017-18 deficit projection is \$595 million, \$101 million lower than the forecast deficit of \$696 million at budget. Revenue is projected to be \$13.9 billion at third quarter, down \$222 million (1.6 per cent) from budget. The decrease largely reflects lower than expected 2016 assessments for personal and corporate income taxes, offset by increases in government business enterprise net income and other own source revenue.

Expense is projected to be \$14.5 billion at third quarter, \$273 million (1.8 per cent) less than the budget forecast. A large reduction in crop insurance claims as well as inclusion of pension

accrual adjustments were offset somewhat by utilization-driven spending increases for medical services, income assistance, child and family services, forest fire-fighting costs, and higher custody counts.

The budget and third quarter expense forecast now reflect pension adjustments, aligned with audited financial statements which appear in Public Accounts at year-end.

“Our fiscal plan is focused on returning the budget to balance in 2019-20,” Harpauer said. “Our work is far from done but we are following our plan and continuing on our path of growth, to provide services, programs and infrastructure Saskatchewan people value, today and into the future.”

Small Businesses Commend Premier’s Decision to Remove the PST From Insurance Premiums

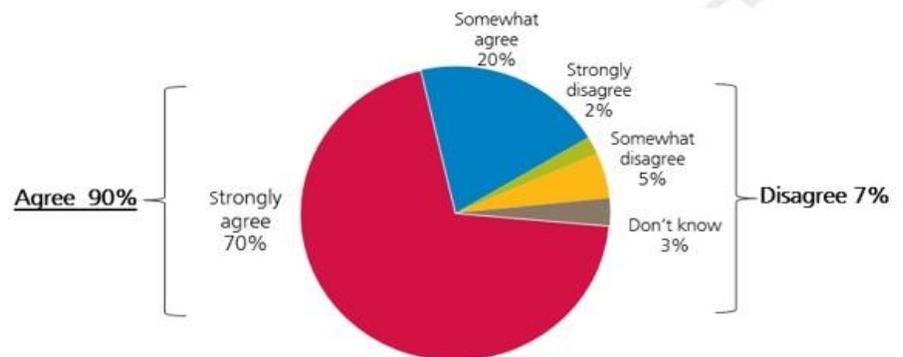
Regina, February 26, 2018 – The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) welcomes Premier Scott Moe’s announcement to reinstate the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) exemption for agriculture, life and health insurance premiums, effective today. A recent CFIB survey found 90 per cent of small business owners agree the provincial government should remove the PST from insurance premiums.

The announcement outlined that the exemption covers agriculture, which includes crop, livestock and hail insurance premiums as well as individual and group life and health insurance premiums. Health includes disability, accident and sickness insurance. The exemption is retroactive to August 1, 2017, the date PST was applied to insurance. The change has an impact of \$65 million on revenue forecast for 2017-18 and a \$120 million impact on revenue forecast for 2018-19.

When asked whether the provincial government should remove the provincial sales tax (PST) from insurance premiums, a strong majority (90%) of Saskatchewan business owners agreed; only 7% disagreed.

Strong support for removing the PST from insurance premiums

Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement:
The provincial government should remove the provincial sales tax (PST) from insurance premiums.



Source: CFIB, Saskatchewan Pre-Budget Survey, October 2017

“This is terrific news,” said Marilyn Braun-Pollon, CFIB’s Vice-President, Prairie and Agri-business. “Given the number of ongoing challenges facing Saskatchewan’s job creators, this was CFIB’s #1 tax cut recommendation. We commend the Premier for listening to small business owners and announcing this decision today, which will give entrepreneurs much-needed certainty in these uncertain times.

On The Lighter Side . . .



Big News at the Constituency Office . . .

Gordon Rutten Has Officially Retired!

We'll gladly pass along any Congratulatory Messages that you would like to send his way as he starts living the dream!

Stop by the office anytime you have any questions. Angela is there to help and would love to meet you.

Spring is coming . . .



"REPEAT AFTER ME: AT LEAST WE DON'T GET HURRICANES...
AT LEAST WE DON'T GET HURRICANES... AT LEAST....."

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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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