



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

Premier Moe Announces Cabinet Changes



Premier Moe today announced changes to his cabinet including a new Agriculture Minister and a new Minister of Highways and Infrastructure following the resignation of Lyle Stewart from cabinet for health reasons.

- David Marit becomes Minister of Agriculture. Marit previously served as Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.
- Lori Carr becomes Minister of Highways and Infrastructure. Carr previously served as Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Government Deputy Whip.
- Deputy Premier Gordon Wyant remains Minister of Education, while adding responsibility for SaskBuilds.

“I am confident that both Dave and Lori will bring an important perspective to their new portfolios, and I look forward to working with them as we stand up for Saskatchewan” said Moe. “I would also like to thank our Deputy Premier as he takes on additional responsibility in an incredibly important file to our province’s infrastructure needs. Lyle Stewart will remain a strong mentor and advisor to our cabinet when it comes to supporting our agriculture sector while we stand with him in his battle against cancer.”

Stewart previously announced he was stepping down as Saskatchewan’s Minister of Agriculture to focus on his battle with cancer. Stewart will remain as MLA for Lumsden-Morse. Premier Moe also announced that Lisa Lambert becomes Government Deputy Whip.



POSITIVELY PROVINCIAL . . .

Impaired Driving Laws are Changing: Stronger Penalties Take Effect Sept. 1



Consequences for impaired driving are getting even tougher in Saskatchewan as of Sept. 1, including stronger penalties for drug-impaired drivers and for impaired drivers who transport children.

The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2017 and *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017* were both passed in the Spring sitting of the Legislature and come into effect Sept. 1.

“It’s never OK to drive impaired, whether it’s by drugs or alcohol,” Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) Joe Hargrave said. “This new legislation reflects the seriousness of this offence, with more severe punishments for drug-impaired drivers, and those who make the bad decision to drive with children in the vehicle.”

As of Sept. 1, zero tolerance for drug impairment will apply to all drivers. Zero tolerance means that drivers should not get behind the wheel with any level of impairing drugs in their system detectable by a federally-approved screening device, or a standardized field sobriety test. The province has also updated legislation and regulations so that tough administrative penalties that impaired drivers in Saskatchewan faced under existing legislation will also apply to anyone charged under three new federal drug-impaired driving laws (<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/sidl-rlcfa/index.html>).

There will also be longer vehicle seizures for impaired drivers with passengers under 16 years of age in the vehicle. In addition, experienced drivers who are impaired and transporting passengers under 16 will face longer roadside licence suspensions.

PENALTIES INCLUDE:

Drug-Impaired Driving

- Zero tolerance for all drivers
- Immediate licence suspension
- Vehicle seized for up to 60 days
- Licence suspension for up to 5 years if convicted

Impaired Drivers with Passengers Under 16

- Vehicle seized for up to 60 days
- Licence suspended for up to 120 days
- Licence suspension up to 18 months for new drivers

Police can tell if you’re driving while high. If they suspect that a driver is impaired by a drug or alcohol (or a combination of both), they can demand that the driver take a standardized field

sobriety test or use a roadside screening device. If the driver fails the field sobriety test or registers a failure on the roadside screening device, they can have their vehicle seized and licence suspended for at least three days. If the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a driver is impaired by a drug or alcohol they can demand that the driver submit to an evaluation conducted by a Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE) or a breath test at the police station.

If a driver subsequently fails a DRE, or exceeds .08 blood alcohol concentration, that triggers Criminal Code charges, which results in a minimum 30-day vehicle seizure, an indefinite licence suspension until the charges are dealt with, and – upon conviction – potential fines, jail time, ignition interlock requirements and driving prohibitions.

It doesn't matter if a drug is legal or not. If it impairs your ability to drive safely, don't get behind the wheel.

Prescription and over-the-counter drugs can also make you impaired, and combining drugs with alcohol increases impairment.

For more information on the consequences of impaired driving, visit SGI's Drugs and alcohol page (<https://www.sgi.sk.ca/drugs-alcohol>).

MOODY'S CONFIRMS SASKATCHEWAN'S AAA CREDIT RATING

Moody's Investors Service today confirmed Saskatchewan's AAA credit rating, the agency's highest rating for Canadian provinces.

"Moody's AAA rating for our province is a further demonstration that our government's fiscal plan is on track," Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. "We're heading in the right direction, reducing our deficit through careful management of our spending, keeping our economy strong and investing in priorities for Saskatchewan people. We're focused on returning the budget to balance by 2019-20."

In its update report, Moody's cites "very strong debt affordability, a health liquidity cushion and conservative fiscal and financial management practices."

Moody's goes on to state that "Saskatchewan's strong debt affordability and healthy cash levels position the province solidly against provincial peers and support its strong credit rating."

Saskatchewan and British Columbia are the only two provinces with AAA ratings from Moody's. Saskatchewan continues to have the second-highest overall credit rating among provinces, behind only BC, when the ratings of the three major agencies (Moody's, Standard and Poor's and Dominion Bond Rating Services) are considered.

Smoke Alarm Check: Working Alarms Protect Your Family

Saskatchewan residents are encouraged to "look up" and check their smoke alarms.

"Working smoke alarms save lives," Government Relations Minister Warren Kaeding said. "Since home is the place where fires happen most often, it is vital that smoke alarms are installed in every residence and they are checked every month. They are your first and best protection for you and your family."

Working smoke alarms should be installed on each level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on where to place the alarm to ensure best performance and to minimize false alarms. When conducting your check, go to each of the smoke alarms in your home to:

- Determine the age of each alarm: if a smoke alarm is older than 10 years, the alarm needs to be replaced.
- Replace batteries: smoke alarm batteries should be replaced annually and always when the alarm 'chirps'.
- Test your alarms monthly: post a smoke alarm test checklist in your home to remind you to test each one monthly.



Test each smoke and carbon monoxide alarm in your house following the manufacturer's instructions. If the alarm doesn't work when tested, replace it immediately. You should also practice your home fire escape plan with all members of your family during your check. Refer to your plan as you walk through the escape routes for each room. Practicing allows you to ensure all exits are practical and easy to use.

For more information about preparing a home escape plan or about installing and testing smoke alarms, contact your local fire department.

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON TRESPASS LEGISLATION

The Government of Saskatchewan is reviewing trespass legislation to determine if changes are needed to better address the balance between rural landowners and the public.

Existing access and posting rules vary for different activities under *The Trespass to Property Act*, *The Wildlife Act, 1998*, *The All-Terrain Vehicles Act*, *The Snowmobile Act* and *The Provincial Lands Regulations*.

These different rules may contribute to confusion on what legally constitutes trespassing. As part of the review, the Ministry of Justice is asking Saskatchewan citizens for their input.

In particular:

- Should all access by members of the public to rural property require the express advance permission of the rural land owner regardless of the activity?
- If so, how should permission be sought and granted?

The questionnaire can be found at www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/justice-crime-and-the-law/review-of-trespass-related-legislation.

Please provide responses to the questionnaire by October 1, 2018 to:

Ministry of Justice

Legislative Services Branch

Attn: Review of Trespass Related Legislation

800 – 1874 Scarth Street

Regina, SK S4P 4B3

Or by email at LSBQuestionnaire@gov.sk.ca.

On The Lighter Side . . .

FOUND IT !!!!!!





And Just One Last Thing . . .

If you get a chance to drop by the Constituency Office, make sure to sign the Farewell to Gordon Journal. I'm sure he would appreciate any kind wishes, retirement advice or funny stories from his many years as Don's right hand man!

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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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