



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

SIXTIES SCOOP APOLOGY

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

January 7, 2019

Today was an important day. We gathered at the Saskatchewan Legislature as Premier Scott Moe on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan apologized for the Sixties Scoop:

Elder McArthur, thank you for the prayer.

Elders, survivors, Chiefs, distinguished guests, legislative colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning everyone.

Welcome to your legislature.

Welcome to Treaty 4 Territory . . . the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota and Lakota peoples and the home of the Métis.

And welcome to our Dene friends with us this morning.

Before I begin, I want to recognize members of the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Saskatchewan who are with today.

Honoured guests, thank you so much for your participation in the process that has brought us to this point, on this day.

A process that began more than three years ago, under my predecessor, Premier Brad Wall, who first promised this apology on June 24, 2015.

Friends, we would not be here today if not for your determination, your commitment and your courage.

We are deeply indebted to you.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an important day in the life of our province.

This is a day for our government to acknowledge with honesty, with humility and with deep regret what happened in Saskatchewan.

The Sixties Scoop refers to a period in Canadian history when Indigenous children were removed from their families and their communities by child welfare services.

Thousands of First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were placed in non-Indigenous foster and adoptive homes in Saskatchewan, and in some cases across Canada and the United States.

In Saskatchewan, at that time, those who managed the foster and adoption programs believed they had a moral and legal obligation to act.

However, during the Sixties Scoop, not nearly enough consideration was given to the fact that Indigenous children come from communities with their own rich traditions, culture and history. Some Indigenous children were separated from their families and their communities, and as a result those children were cut off from their culture, and they were cut off from their traditions. Despite the good intentions of many foster and adoptive parents, too many of these children were caught between two worlds.

They were stranded in a sense, with no knowledge of who they were, or where they came from. The consequences are still being felt by individuals and families to this day.

The children impacted by the Sixties Scoop are adults now, and we have heard their stories during the last few months.

We are humbled and grateful that they agreed to share their stories with us.

In partnership with our government, the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Saskatchewan facilitated sharing circles in six communities – Meadow Lake, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Fort Qu'Appelle and Regina.

More than 200 survivors participated in the sharing circles or made submissions online, and we are grateful for their candour, and their courage was inspiring.

Thanks to these brave individuals, we know more about what happened during the Sixties Scoop.

We've taken an important step in raising public awareness, through this partnership.

And we welcome an on-going dialogue with those affected by the Sixties Scoop and their families . . . as we build on other initiatives underway in government and at our educational institutions . . . such as the introduction of curriculum in this province that provides a deeper understanding of the history, traditions and values of Indigenous people.

Today in Saskatchewan, we are more informed than ever about our history.

There is a growing awareness of mistakes that were made in the past, and why we need to acknowledge those who may have suffered because of those mistakes.

We heard from some survivors who asked for their historical records from the Ministry of Social Services, so they can find out more about who they are and where they came from, and learn more about their families and their communities.

We have worked to fulfill these requests and we are committed to doing the same in the future.

Each of the sharing circles was attended by cabinet ministers as well as MLAs from the Government of Saskatchewan.

In addition, Deputy Premier Gordon Wyant, Social Services Minister Paul Merriman and Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs Warren Kaeding all met with survivors on a number of occasions.

I had the great privilege of meeting with members of the Society as did the entire government caucus.

In those conversations . . . and in the online submissions . . . the effects of the Sixties Scoop were laid out in detail.

One survivor said: "When I was a child I was taken, placed and abused. That's probably why I get so angry . . . those things come back in my mind. I try not to think about it, but it's still there. I don't know how to heal myself."

Another survivor said she kept running away from foster homes to go back to her family, but each time she was returned to another foster home.

She said: "My sense of security was always temporary. I didn't know my siblings. I met a lot of people who influenced me to start running with the gang lifestyle."

A third survivor recalled returning to his home community. He said: "I wasn't sure if I was a white person or an Indigenous person. People in my original community didn't know who I was. All this time I had thought I was a white boy."

It is difficult for most of us to comprehend what the individuals of the Sixties Scoop went through.

I certainly can't pretend to know.

But I do know this.

In our province, we are only as strong as our families, we are only as strong as our communities. Family and community . . . those are the bedrock institutions . . . the foundation of a strong Saskatchewan.

We failed the survivors we heard from in the sharing circles, and so many others.

We failed their families.

We failed their communities.

We failed.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan . . . on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan . . . I stand before you today to apologize . . . to say sorry.

We are sorry for the pain and sadness you experienced.

We are sorry for the loss of culture and language.

To all those who lost contact with their family, we are so sorry.

There is nothing we can offer that will fully restore what you have lost.

What we can offer is the solemn assurance that government policies have changed.

And they continue to change.

While there are still too many First Nations and Métis children in care, today we work with 17 First Nations Child and Family services agencies to deliver culturally appropriate child welfare services to vulnerable children in more than sixty First Nations communities.

Whenever possible, we keep families together.

We have strengthened supports intended to maintain a connection to family and culture.

When adoptions take place, we strive to keep siblings together.

We're working actively to recruit First Nations and Métis foster families.

And we're providing cultural training to non-Indigenous foster families.

Our preference . . . our goal . . . is to have no children in care.

Children should be cared for by their families in their communities.

And that's why we're working to support Indigenous people and to strengthen Indigenous families . . .

Through employment, education, health care and cultural programs . . . often delivered in partnership with First Nations and Métis organizations . . .

We've increased support for adult basic education programs, delivered on and off reserve.

We've increased funding for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and we have strong partnerships with the First Nations University of Canada and the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

In our health care system, cultural support programs for Indigenous people are being expanded, including wider access to Elders and healers.

And this year, we will be strengthening addiction treatment programs in Saskatchewan, adding new treatment beds and expanding training for counsellors.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is an earnest and concerted effort underway in Saskatchewan to support and uplift all those in need, including our friends and neighbours still dealing with the impact of the Sixties Scoop.

Everyone in our province who is struggling . . .

Everyone in our province who is vulnerable . . .

Everyone in our province who is in pain and coping with physical and emotional distress deserves our help, deserves our support.

In Saskatchewan, we are one community, and we must comfort and support one another.

I believe that today, progress is being made in many areas, but we know there is more work to do.

We have many miles to travel.

My sincere hope is that we can travel this road together.

Let me close where I began - with a heartfelt expression of gratitude to the survivors.

We have learned so much from you these past few months and years.

You have lit the path forward, by bravely sharing your stories.

And my pledge to you today is that we will honour and respect your experiences.
We will learn from your experiences.
We will continue to engage with you.
And while we will never right this wrong completely, I believe we can move forward with open hearts and a common purpose.
Together, we can build a more compassionate Saskatchewan.
Together, we can build a more respectful Saskatchewan.
Together, we can build a stronger Saskatchewan . . . for our children . . . and for the generations to come.
Thank you.



POSITIVELY PROVINCIAL . . .

SASKATCHEWAN GETS AN 'A' FOR REDUCING RED TAPE AND LAUNCHES WEB PAGE TO FURTHER HELP CUT RED TAPE

Saskatchewan's efforts to reduce red tape and modernize regulations in the province received the highest 'A' grade ranking by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) in their 2019 national Red Tape Report Card. The new grade was announced today at an event where the Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed January 21 to 25 as Red Tape Awareness Week, the 10th anniversary of this event.

Also announced at today's event was the launch of a new 'Help Cut Red Tape' web page, available to all Saskatchewan residents and businesses who want to report red tape concerns they have encountered. This information will make it easier to report red tape to government, while providing valuable perspective from the public on how the province may offer services more effectively.

"Red tape costs businesses, residents and the government \$300 million and thousands of hours in lost time every year, and for the past decade, Red Tape Awareness Week has helped draw

needed attention to this issue,” Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “The launch of the new web page, and other efforts to modernize regulations and reduce red tape, are reasons why Saskatchewan has received the CFIB’s highest ‘A’ grade this year and strengthens our resolve to continue to support the residents and businesses we serve.”

The new ‘Help Cut Red Tape’ web page offers an “always-on”, client-centred platform for citizens and businesses to report red tape irritants they have encountered in the province. Each submission received from the public will be referred to the appropriate Government of Saskatchewan ministry, agency or Crown corporation for effective follow up.



“We commend the Government of Saskatchewan for its ongoing leadership to make red tape reduction a priority,” CFIB Executive Vice President Laura Jones said. “We’re especially pleased to see the province’s hard work of setting clear targets for reduction, as well as measuring and reporting the regulatory burden, has resulted in Saskatchewan moving to the head of the class with an ‘A’ on CFIB’s Red Tape Report Card. We also thank the province for listening to small business owners and introducing the ‘Help Cut Red Tape’ web page, which is an easy, practical way for entrepreneurs to submit their red tape headaches directly to the government and have them addressed. This is another clear example the government is serious about cutting red tape.”

The ‘Help Cut Red Tape’ web page is a continuation of the Government of Saskatchewan’s efforts to modernize regulations in the province. Other initiatives include an ongoing commitment to a multi-year review of all business-related regulations for their impact and costs, to remove barriers to growth. In 2017-18, regulatory modernization efforts across Saskatchewan

were forecast to achieve \$132.9 million in savings over the next 10 years—across government and Crown corporations.

Effective red tape reduction also means recognizing and addressing inter-provincial regulatory irritants. To this end, Saskatchewan actively participates as a member of the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table, as part of the Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Saskatchewan and Ontario are working with industry to identify opportunities to remove red tape for businesses selling goods or services across Canada. Premier Scott Moe and Premier Doug Ford signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on October 29, 2018, to show leadership within Canada on reducing internal trade barriers and exploring opportunities for greater regulatory harmonization. On November 26, 2018, Saskatchewan announced the first initiative under this MOU—harmonization with Ontario relating to the use of wide base single tires, making it easier for trucking companies to ship Saskatchewan goods to other provinces.

For more information on how to Help Saskatchewan Cut Red Tape, visit the new web page at <http://saskatchewan.ca/help-cut-red-tape>.

TRANSITION AT THE GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION HUB

Firm To Be Retained To Help Identify New Private Sector Management Structure

Minister Responsible for the Global Transportation Hub (GTH) Don Morgan confirmed today the Government of Saskatchewan's intention to move forward with the divestment of the GTH.

Morgan announced that the GTH's board of directors are in the process of hiring a third party consultant to lead that transition and define a new governance structure for the GTH.

While the transition proceeds, the GTH's current clients and future prospects will remain a priority. Key staff members working in operations, business development, marketing, and investment attraction will remain in place to ensure there is no disruption in business operations.

"We believe the GTH plays a vital role in Saskatchewan's export oriented economy and will for many years to come," Morgan said. "However, the GTH will be in a better position to reach its full potential operated by the private sector. This process will be handled professionally and responsibly to ensure the GTH can continue to help drive economic growth in Saskatchewan."

GTH President and Chief Executive Officer Bryan Richards will not be a part of the transition. Matt Schroeder, the organization's current Vice President of Finance will serve as Acting CEO.

The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act, the provincial legislation governing the GTH, will remain in place.

"I want to thank Bryan for his work and vision over the past five and a half years," GTH Board Chair Terry Baker said. "We wish Bryan all the best with his future endeavours and we will work closely with Matt and the remaining staff as the divestment proceeds."

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU EMBARK ON YOUR NEXT VACATION

If you are planning a trip and thinking about purchasing travel insurance, the Financial and Consumer Affairs authority (FCAA) wants to make sure you understand coverage options as well as the exclusions and pre-existing condition clauses.

"Travel insurance can protect you in case of unexpected medical emergencies and other related expenses that you may incur while you are travelling," FCAA's Insurance and Real Estate Division Director Jan Seibel said. "If you choose to purchase travel insurance, it's important to understand the coverage you may already have and the coverage you may want to add before you leave."

Here are some tips to consider if purchasing travel insurance:

- **Purchase the coverage you need** - Make sure you know what types of coverage you want. There are different coverage options available and not all of them may be suitable for your needs. Carefully read the policy to understand what you are agreeing to. If your vacation plans are for an extended period of time, make sure your coverage is sufficient for your entire trip.
- **Understand the exclusions and pre-existing conditions clauses** – You are required to fill out an application when applying for coverage. It is your obligation to provide the insurer with an accurate response to the questions. If you have questions about the application, contact your insurance agent or insurer. If you have questions about your medical history, contact your

doctor. If you fail to provide the health and medical information requested or provide inaccurate information, your future claim may be denied.

- **Read your policy** – Even though insurance policies and documents may be lengthy and complex, make sure you take the time to read these documents so you know what type of coverage you have and what types of exclusions and limitations may apply. If you have questions, ask the provider before you purchase the insurance.
- **Understand the claims process** – Before you purchase insurance make sure you understand the claims process, what is required and who to contact. Knowing the process before a situation arises can prevent unnecessary stress.

Has your claim been denied?

If your claim was denied by your insurance provider, call them and try to resolve the issue. If you are still not satisfied with the response, contact the OmbudService for Life and Health Insurance at <https://www.olhi.ca/> in the case of health claims, or the General Insurance OmbudService at <https://www.giocanada.org/>, in the case of property claims.

These organizations provide independent complaint resolution and information services for the insurance industry. Time restrictions might apply, so make sure to ask the OmbudService about limitation periods.

For more information about travel insurance, visit <http://fcaa.gov.sk.ca/consumers-investors-pension-plan-members/consumers/insurance-consumers/travel-insurance>



January 30, 2019

Help end the stigma around mental illness.

It's easier than you think! Send a message of support – join the conversation . . .

It's a fact: One in five Canadians will suffer from mental illness at some point in their lifetime. One of the biggest hurdles for anyone suffering from mental illness is overcoming the stigma. It is the number one reason why two-thirds of those living with a mental illness do not seek help.

Developed in partnership with Dr. Heather Stuart, the Bell Canada Mental Health and Anti-stigma Research Chair at Queen's University, here are 5 simple ways to help end the stigma that keeps too many who struggle with mental illness from seeking the help they need.

1-Language Matters – The words you use can make all the difference. Words can help, but they can also hurt.

2-Educate Yourself – Stigma has been around for a long time, and knowing the facts and myths about mental illness can be a great way to help end the stigma

3-Be Kind – Simple kindness can make a world of difference. Whether it be a smile, being a good listener or an invitation for coffee and a chat, these simple acts of kindness can help open up the conversation and let someone know you are there for them.

4-Listen and Ask – Mental illness is a very common form of human pain and suffering. Being a good listener and asking how you can help, sometimes, just even being there for people you care about, can be the first step in recovery.

5-Talk About It – Break the silence. Mental illness touches us all in some way directly or through a friend, family member or colleague. Stories of people who are doing well can really challenge stereotypes. Most people with mental health issues can and do recover, just by talking about it.

On The Lighter Side . . .

A SASKATCHEWAN POEM

It's winter in Saskatchewan,
And the gentle breezes blow.

Fifty kilometers an hour,
At thirty-five below.

Oh, how I love Saskatchewan,
When the snow's up to your butt.
You take a breath of winter air,
And your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful,
So I guess I'll hang around.
I could never leave Saskatchewan,
'Cause I'm frozen to the ground!



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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 306-955-4755, emailing mla@donmorgan.ca or writing Don Morgan, MLA Saskatoon Southeast, 109-3502 Taylor Street East, Saskatoon, S7H 5H9.

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