



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



RUSS MIRASTY INSTALLED AS THE 23RD LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF SASKATCHEWAN

Russ Mirasty was installed as the 23rd Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan during a ceremony at the Legislative Building on September 12, 2019.

“Mr. Mirasty has dedicated his life to serving Saskatchewan and Canada,” Premier Scott Moe said. “His background as an exceptional leader with deep roots throughout Saskatchewan will be an asset to our province, our country and most importantly to our citizens. On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and the people of this province, I offer Mr. Mirasty my congratulations and welcome him to this esteemed role.”

The installation ceremony, which complements Mirasty’s swearing-in last July, was followed by the inspection of an honour guard by the Lieutenant Governor and a fly past from 15 Wing Moose Jaw. As Lieutenant Governor, Mirasty is the personal representative of the Queen of Canada in the province, and is responsible for granting Royal Assent to provincial laws, as well as summoning and dissolving the provincial legislature. Under the Canadian Constitution, lieutenant governors are appointed by the federal government for a minimum of five years; however, there is no fixed term of office.



POSITIVELY PROVINCIAL . . .



NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

The new Jim Pattison Children's Hospital (JPCH) in Saskatoon was showcased, as partners achieved their vision of having Saskatchewan children and expectant mothers receive exceptional health care closer to home.

The JPCH will officially open to patients on September 29, when all pediatric and maternal inpatients will move in from Royal University Hospital and new admissions will be accepted.

Premier Scott Moe was joined by lead donor Jim Pattison, representatives from the Government of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation, donors and community members to celebrate the official grand opening of the hospital.

"The grand opening of the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital marks the culmination of a decade's worth of hard work and determination that started with a simple vision: providing world-class health care for Saskatchewan children and families for generations," Moe said. "This state of the art facility will provide hope and healing, and will have an impact on Saskatchewan that is sure to extend far beyond the walls of this hospital."

Almost 60 pediatric specialists, sub-specialists and surgeons are working in more than 20 specialties at the 176-bed hospital.

“We appreciate the opportunity to be part of this exciting vision that made the children’s hospital a reality to serve the health care needs for children and their families in the province of Saskatchewan,” donor Jim Pattison said.

“I’m so excited for the opening of our new hospital because families will have a state-of-the-art facility with family-centered care to make the hospital experience not so scary and feel more like home for kids who need it,” 2019 Champion Child Blake Wheeler said.

“This hospital is the culmination of a vision and commitment of numerous individuals – the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Foundation staff and donors, the Government of Saskatchewan, hundreds of health care staff, physicians and leaders,” SHA CEO Scott Livingstone said. “Together, with the important input and support of Saskatchewan families, you have collectively brought us to this historic moment. Thank you to each and every person who played a part in this aspiring journey – everyone, in their own unique way, has left their valued imprint on this facility. This impressive hospital will play an integral role in the provincial health care landscape for generations to come, serving Saskatchewan’s children and pregnant women, all because many contributed to make this happen. This is truly a grassroots made in Saskatchewan success story.”

“Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Foundation is grateful to celebrate the true Saskatchewan spirit of the thousands who generously gave, making certain that a dedicated maternal and children’s hospital became a reality in our province,” Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital Foundation President and CEO Brynn Boback-Lane said. “Our Foundation is dedicated to connecting care across the province and ensuring Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital is known for its world-class excellence because Saskatchewan deserves the very best in maternal and pediatric care today, and in the future.”

The total capital cost for the JPCH is \$285.9 million. The province provided about \$257 million in capital costs, while the JPCH Foundation and donor contributions totalled about \$75 million for capital costs (\$28.3 million), hospital equipment and furniture (\$46.6 million).

The 2019-20 Provincial Budget provides \$9.6 million to finalize information technology needs and an additional \$23 million to support operations when the hospital opens later this month.

The number of licensed pediatricians has nearly doubled in Saskatchewan since 2007, from 62 to 122.

SASKTEL NETWORK EXPANDING TO MORE PROVINCIAL PARKS AND RURAL AREAS

The Government of Saskatchewan announced SaskTel will continue to build the most robust LTE network in the province with the addition of 15 new macro towers in more rural areas and provincial parks as part of the Wireless Saskatchewan initiative.

These towers will continue to fill in coverage gaps in busy provincial parks, along major highways, and in areas with little or no cellular coverage and will be in-service by March 2020.

“Our government has an ongoing commitment to ensuring the residents of this province have access to faster and more reliable LTE cellular service,” Minister Responsible for SaskTel Don Morgan said. “As a result of our government’s Wireless Saskatchewan initiative, SaskTel has been able to add these 15 new macro towers and the previously announced 103 small cell sites to enhance coverage in rural communities that previously had little wireless coverage.”

“SaskTel understands the need to continue to build out our wireless network to meet the ever-growing demands for better wireless service in rural areas,” SaskTel President and CEO Doug Burnett said. “We are pleased with the progress that we are making on the Wireless Saskatchewan initiative and we will continue to evaluate further expansion to continue adding capacity and improving our coverage areas across Saskatchewan.”

Since 2010, SaskTel has completed more than 3,200 initiatives to enhance its wireless network that now boosts more than 800 cell sites across the province.

About SaskTel

SaskTel is the leading Information and Communications Technology (ICT) provider in Saskatchewan, with over \$1.2 billion in annual revenue and approximately 1.35 million customer connections including 612,000 wireless accesses, 326,000 wireline network accesses, 283,000 internet accesses and 112,000 maxTV™ subscribers. SaskTel and its wholly-owned subsidiaries offer a wide range of ICT products and services including competitive voice, data and internet services, wireless data services, maxTV services, data centre services, cloud-based services, security monitoring services, advertising services, and international software and consulting services. SaskTel and its wholly-owned subsidiaries have a workforce of approximately 3,700 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs). Visit SaskTel at www.sasktel.com.

GOVERNMENT INCREASES FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR JURORS

The Government of Saskatchewan is increasing the amount of compensation jurors receive. Jurors will also be eligible for new compensation for dependant care.

“Saskatchewan is grateful for the contributions of everyone who acts as a juror,” Minister of Justice and Attorney General Don Morgan said. “Being a juror is an important civic duty, and these changes will ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to perform this duty regardless of their financial circumstances.”

“The right to be tried by an impartial and independent jury is fundamental to our system of justice,” Martel D. Popescul, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen’s Bench for Saskatchewan said. “That fundamental right depends on citizens being available for jury service. The steps taken today will help to ensure jury duty is an opportunity and a privilege that all citizens are able to exercise.”

Effective September 1, 2019, under The Jury Amendment Act, 2019 and its Regulations, jurors sitting on civil and criminal juries will receive \$110 per day. The \$15 fee currently paid to prospective jurors attending civil jury selection is being removed. Previously, jurors received \$15 per day for civil trials and \$80 per day for criminal trials.

The amendments also introduce new financial aid for child care and dependant care expenses. The amounts payable will be based on the actual expenses incurred, to a maximum of \$40 per day for child care expenses and a maximum of \$80 per day for elder or other dependant care expenses. Jurors who incurred these expenses before being chosen as a juror will not be eligible to claim those expenses retroactively.

Further information on jury service and selection in Saskatchewan is available at <https://sasklawcourts.ca/index.php/home/court-of-queen-s-bench/jury-information>.

NOMINATE A DESERVING CITIZEN FOR THE SASKATCHEWAN VOLUNTEER MEDAL

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

“Our province is well known for our outstanding volunteers,” Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty said. “The Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal allows us to recognize the generosity of those who give their time to improve the lives of others. I encourage everyone to nominate an exceptional volunteer for this provincial honour.”

Saskatchewan has the highest rate of volunteerism in the country. The Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal was established in 1995 as a means to formally recognize the selfless devotion

of the province's volunteers, and as a way to present role models to Saskatchewan citizens. Nominees must be a current or former long-term resident of Saskatchewan. Any individual or group can submit a nomination, but nominations are not accepted for organizations.

The nomination deadline is October 18, 2019. Recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal will be awarded their medals by the Lieutenant Governor at a ceremony in the Spring of 2020.

To nominate an outstanding volunteer, or to learn more, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/government/heritage-honours-and-awards/saskatchewan-volunteer-medal.

SEPTEMBER IS CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Highways and Infrastructure Minister Greg Ottenbreit on behalf of Health Minister Jim Reiter joined with parents and youth at a flag-raising ceremony at the Legislative Building on September 19th to mark September as Childhood and Youth Cancer Awareness Month in Saskatchewan.

"Each year, we recognize September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to acknowledge the impact cancer has on young people, their families and our communities," Ottenbreit said. "As the parent of a child lost to cancer, I support the efforts being made to improve the quality of care for patients, and ultimately, to find a cure."

Representatives of affected families raised a childhood cancer awareness flag, and spoke of the impact that cancer has had on their families, along with the continued need for prevention and treatment. Childhood and Youth Cancer Awareness Month is observed each year in recognition of the impact that cancer has on the lives of children, youth, and families across Saskatchewan.

"Every time I see the gold ribbon worn during Childhood and Youth Awareness Month, I think of the families whose children have been affected," Regina childhood cancer awareness advocate Sherri Melnychuk said. "We ask people to support childhood cancer research, more effective treatments, and improved care for our children."

Melnchuk is the Regina representative of Small But Mighty, an organization that helps raise awareness of childhood cancer. The Melnychuks lost their four-year-old daughter Ava Hope to acute myeloid leukemia in 2011. The number of new pediatric patients seen provincially at Saskatchewan's two cancer centres typically ranges from 40 to 60 each year.

Pediatric oncologists, nurses, social workers, and support staff work together to provide high-quality care to ensure the best possible outcomes. In Canada today, approximately 83 per cent of children diagnosed with cancer will survive.

PRUNE YOUR ELM TREES STARTING SEPTEMBER 1

Saskatchewan home and property owners can start pruning their elm trees again on September 1, as the annual ban on pruning elm trees ends.

Provincial regulations prohibit pruning elm trees from April 1 to August 31 each year to reduce the risk of spreading Dutch elm disease (DED). The elm bark beetles that can carry DED are most active during this time of year, and fresh cuts from pruning can attract the insects to healthy elm trees.

Regular pruning, outside the ban period, helps keep elm trees healthier and less vulnerable to all types of diseases, including DED. Taking away the dead branches makes trees less attractive to elm bark beetles.

The early fall weather can be ideal for tree maintenance and, with leaves still on the trees, homeowners have an easier time seeing and removing dead or unhealthy branches. It's important to prune properly, whether you hire someone or do it yourself.

Incorrect pruning can actually spread DED and other tree diseases. Under provincial regulations, commercial pruners of elms must complete a recognized training program or be supervised by someone who has completed the program.

It is illegal to transport or store elm firewood; the wood can carry the beetles that spread DED. Dispose of elm wood promptly by burning or burying it in a location approved by your local municipality.

To find out more about proper elm disposal in your area, check with your local municipal authority. For more information, or if you suspect an elm tree may have DED, call the Ministry of Environment's general inquiry line at 1-800-567-4224.

On The Lighter Side . . .

- How do you mend a broken pumpkin? — With a pumpkin patch!
- What is a tree's least favorite month? — Sep-Timber!

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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,