



# Speech from the Throne 2019

Delivered on the Occasion of the Opening of

The Fourth Session of  
the Twenty Eighth Legislature  
Province of Saskatchewan

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

The Honourable Russ Mirasty  
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

*A NEW DECADE  
OF GROWTH*

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MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF  
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
HONOURED GUESTS, PEOPLE OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

Welcome to the opening of the Fourth Session of the  
Twenty-Eighth Legislature of the Province of Saskatchewan.

**CONDOLENCES**

I would like to begin today by offering my deepest sympathies  
and condolences to the family and friends of former Lieutenant  
Governor, the Honourable Thomas Molloy, who passed away on  
July 2nd.

Please join me in a moment of silence in remembrance of the  
Honourable Thomas Molloy.

**INTRODUCTION**

Over the past 12 years, Saskatchewan has enjoyed a remarkable  
period of strong and sustained growth – growth our province has  
not seen since the 1920s.

Ten weeks from today, Saskatchewan will enter the 2020s.

My government's goal is to ensure Saskatchewan's strong growth  
continues, that all Saskatchewan people continue to benefit from  
that growth and that the 2020s will be a new decade of growth for  
our province.

Since 2007, Saskatchewan has grown by more than 160,000  
people.

Today, more than 1,170,000 residents call our province home.

More of our young people have chosen to stay in Saskatchewan,  
and we have welcomed new residents from every other province  
and territory and from 170 different countries around the world.

They have come here because of opportunity – opportunity  
created by a strong and growing economy.



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In June of this year, the number of people working in Saskatchewan hit an all-time high of nearly 593,000 – up 83,000 new jobs since 2007.

### ***NEW GROWTH PLAN***

During this session, my government will release a new Saskatchewan Growth Plan to ensure this strong growth continues through the new decade.

The new Growth Plan will set specific targets and provide a roadmap of how Saskatchewan will achieve those targets.

Those targets will include:

- 1.4 million people living in Saskatchewan by 2030; and
- 100,000 more people working in Saskatchewan by 2030.

A strong and growing economy means a strong and growing province, which in turn enables my government to invest in important government services that provide a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

This virtuous circle of growth has replaced the vicious cycle of decline that hindered our great province for so many years.

That's why my government is committed to a new Growth Plan and to ensuring the 2020s are a new decade of growth.

### ***EXPORT GROWTH***

My government's plan for growth will include an aggressive focus on growing our exports by finding new markets and expanding existing markets for what we produce.

Saskatchewan exports two-thirds of what it produces to over 150 countries around the world.

This makes our province the largest per capita exporter in Canada.

Over 100,000 Saskatchewan jobs rely directly or indirectly on exports.

Expanding our exports will be a key pillar of our growth plan.

At the same time, growing international protectionism poses a significant challenge.

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Saskatchewan must meet this challenge head on and seize every opportunity to communicate the benefits of Saskatchewan products to our trading partners around the globe.

Much of Saskatchewan's export growth will be driven by our strong agriculture and resource sectors and the thousands of Saskatchewan people working in those industries.

Increasing crop production and growing the percentage of primary agricultural production that is processed in our province will be part of our plan moving forward.

Growth in the value of exports requires more value-added production.

To ensure our province reaps the full benefit of our agricultural resources, my government will outline measures to increase agricultural value-added exports to \$10 billion by 2030.

## **RESOURCES**

Mining is an important part of Saskatchewan's economic success.

In addition to maintaining a competitive environment for mining in our province, my government will encourage new mineral exploration to support the discovery of emerging and undeveloped commodities, such as base and precious metals.

The Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive is leading to increased activity in our province and creating significant opportunities for future mining investment, particularly for junior companies which often face challenges raising necessary investment capital to fund exploration projects.

As a result of this incentive, 110 new exploratory drilling operations for both base and precious metals and minerals are currently underway.

Strong export growth requires a strong oil and gas industry.

Saskatchewan's new Growth Plan will take action to ensure the competitiveness and strength of an industry that supports more than 30,000 families in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan has some of the best and most cost-effective conventional oil and gas opportunities in the world, with a stable and competitive royalty structure.



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My government remains committed to supporting the growth, diversification and innovation of the energy and resources sector through targeted incentives.

The Oil and Gas Processing Investment Incentive supports infrastructure upgrades for companies, as well as value-added processing and improved emissions management.

The Saskatchewan Petroleum Innovation Incentive, based around research and development, also provides transferrable royalty/freehold tax credits for qualified innovation and commercialization projects.

Saskatchewan uranium provides clean, safe and reliable power all around the world.

About one in 10 homes in Canada, nearly one in 20 in the United States and millions more in other countries receive electricity produced from Saskatchewan uranium.

Despite challenges stemming from low uranium prices, Saskatchewan sees opportunity in new discoveries and uranium projects.

Last month, ALX Uranium announced the commencement of a drilling program at Close Lake in the Athabasca Basin.

NexGen also announced its maiden drilling program in the same region.

These are just a few examples of new prospects that will position Saskatchewan to be a leader in supplying uranium to global markets.

At the same time, SaskPower will continue to explore the potential for small modular reactors using Saskatchewan uranium to produce safe, emissions-free electricity here in our province.

## **REDUCING EMISSIONS**

Saskatchewan's energy and resource sector has remained strong in spite of lower oil prices, lack of new pipelines and challenges from our own federal government like a costly and ineffective carbon tax.

Saskatchewan's court challenge to this intrusion on provincial responsibilities will continue in the Supreme Court of Canada, supported by the provinces of Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Quebec.

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While my government continues to oppose this tax grab poorly disguised as environmental policy, it also continues to take real action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of the Prairie Resilience Climate Change Strategy.

This plan includes commitments to reduce annual emissions from electrical generation, decrease methane emissions from upstream oil and gas production and implement output-based performance standards for large emitters.

The federal government's decision to accelerate the phase-out of conventional coal-fired electricity by 2030 will negatively affect over 1,300 workers in Saskatchewan coal-producing communities.

My government will assist the communities of Estevan and Coronach and surrounding areas to transition to new economic development opportunities with the creation of a fund of up to \$10 million that will be directed by the impacted communities.

Last session, my government produced the first progress report on climate resilience in order to provide a picture of how the province is strengthening its ability to adapt and thrive in a changing climate.

To support this work, my government launched consultations on the development of the carbon offset framework for the province.

These measures are in addition to significant measures already underway.

Our agriculture industry has annually sequestered nearly 12 million tonnes of carbon in recent years and during this session, the carbon capture and storage unit at Boundary Dam 3 will remove its three millionth tonne of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The ground has been broken on a new 200 megawatt wind farm near Assiniboia, nearly quadrupling our wind capacity since 2007, and SaskPower has been accepting applications to fulfill 35 megawatts of renewable and carbon neutral non-renewable self-generation in its Power Generation Partner Program.

DEEP Earth Energy Production Corporation (DEEP) announced the successful drilling of a preliminary well for its geo-thermal power facility.

My government announced that it was investing \$175,000 in the project through Innovation Saskatchewan.



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SaskPower and DEEP have signed a power purchase agreement that will allow further research into the potential for Canada's first geothermal power project.

My government also signed the first agreement in Canadian history between a provincial government and a First Nation to provide provincial support in environmental regulation to an entire reserve at Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

One of the ways my government is directly supporting the Prairie Resilience plan is through a pilot project using technology to monitor and measure electrical consumption at the Cooper Place building in Regina.

Since January 2018, this effort has resulted in a 30 per cent savings and a reduction of more than 500 tonnes of carbon emissions per year.

Based on this success, this type of green monitoring has been expanded to 11 additional government buildings, including this Legislative Building and the four others commonly referred to as the Legislative Loop:

- The Walter Scott Building;
- The T.C. Douglas Building;
- The Powerhouse; and
- Lloyd Place.

Saskatchewan's Prairie Resilience plan will accomplish the goal of adapting and thriving in a changing climate, resulting in real emission reductions and ensuring our industries remain competitive without the harm to our economy caused by the costly and ineffective federal carbon tax.

## ***PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT***

My government has also filed a statement of claim against the federal government for restoration of equal, cost-shared funding toward the remediation of the Gunnar Mine in northern Saskatchewan, as was originally agreed to in 2006.

My government takes seriously its responsibility to environmentally restore this area and protect northern Indigenous communities and expects the federal government to live up to its responsibility for environmental protection in northern Saskatchewan.



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During this session, the Ministry of Environment and the Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee will seek public input on three code chapters regarding hydrostatic testing amendments, wildland urban interface and forest inventory.

## ***TECHNOLOGY SECTOR***

A growing economy in the 2020s will require a rapidly advancing technology sector.

The Saskatchewan Technology Startup Incentive is the most aggressive angel investment tax credit for startups in western Canada.

This incentive is creating new jobs in Saskatchewan, attracting private investments and increasing the number of start-up technology companies in our province.

With the support of my government through Innovation Saskatchewan, Co.Labs Technology Incubator has helped 72 companies receive programming support and mentorship, resulting in more than \$6.85 million in private investment for those companies.

## ***THE BENEFITS OF GROWTH***

Saskatchewan's first Growth Plan released in 2012 stated that my government does not seek growth simply for the sake of growth.

The purpose of growth is to secure a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

Not only does a growing economy mean more jobs and opportunities, it also means government has the resources to improve important government services for Saskatchewan residents.

Over the past 12 years, this has meant:

- More hospitals, doctors and nurses;
- Shorter surgical wait times;
- More schools, teachers and funding for education;
- Lower personal income taxes and Saskatchewan people keeping more of the money they earn;

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- Safer highways;
  - More police officers;
  - More long-term care beds and tripling the Seniors Income Plan benefit;
  - More child-care spaces;
  - More funding for post-secondary education;
  - Doubling of funding to municipalities; and
  - 70,000 students benefitting from the Graduate Retention Program after graduation by staying in Saskatchewan.

There was a time in this province when every one of these government services was moving in the wrong direction.

Not anymore.

My government's new Growth Plan will ensure Saskatchewan people continue to enjoy the benefits of a strong and growing economy.

## **HEALTH**

One of the most important benefits of growth is a high quality health care system.

Since 2007, my government has shown a strong commitment to health care.

Health care funding has more than doubled.

There are about 3,800 more nurses and nearly 900 more doctors practicing across the province since 2007, thanks to my government's significant emphasis on recruiting and retaining medical professionals.

Hospitals and other health care facilities are also critical in delivering these services.

Since 2007, over \$1.6 billion has been invested into health care infrastructure.

These funds have allowed my government to open five new or replacement hospitals and 13 long term care centres, and fund 20 additional major capital projects.



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Earlier this year, my government announced that the Weyburn Hospital replacement project and the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital redevelopment project will be entering their final planning stages.

In March, my government delivered on its commitment to mental health with the opening of the 284-bed Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford.

And as of just last month, for the first time, Saskatchewan has its own children's hospital – the new Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon.

Along with the commitment to that new facility came an investment in the health care professionals who will work there, including 72 physicians in more than 20 specialties.

Most importantly, many more children will now receive the care they need right here at home in Saskatchewan, without having to travel out of province with their families.

My government continues its commitment to mental health and addictions services, including a record investment of \$402 million this year, an 80 per cent increase since 2007.

These investments have provided Saskatchewan families better access to the supports they need, increased the number of mental health and addictions beds, reduced wait times for child and youth psychiatry and added more front-line health care workers to the system.

Through partnerships with our Community Based Organizations (CBOs), my government has also worked to ensure that these services are available closer to home.

Increased support has enabled CBOs such as Family Service Saskatchewan to offer walk-in mental health services to 18 different communities and the Canadian Mental Health Association to expand its Roots of Hope Suicide Prevention Program to three northern Communities.

Organ donations save lives.

My government is working to improve organ donor rates through the creation of an organ donor registry, where Saskatchewan residents can register their intentions to be an organ donor.

This registry will help ensure that families and loved ones are aware of an individual's donation intentions.

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My government was pleased to renew its 10-year funding agreement with the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS).

Since STARS began operating in Saskatchewan in 2012, it has transported over 4,500 individuals in need of medical attention.

The unveiling of the newest helicopter in the Saskatchewan STARS fleet will ensure the dedicated health care providers who work for STARS will continue to save lives across the province.

My government is committed to better meeting the health needs of a growing seniors' population by connecting seniors to the care they need and by strengthening support for individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

New community health centres were recently opened in Regina and Saskatoon.

One is at Market Mall in Saskatoon, in a neighbourhood with a large proportion of seniors.

Recently, my government launched MySaskHealthRecord, a secure, privacy-protected website that will give Saskatchewan residents age 18 and over quick and easy access to their personal health information, including lab results, clinical visit history, prescription history and immunization history.

During this session, my government will introduce and fund a plan to reduce surgical wait times.

## **EDUCATION**

Last month, 191,000 Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 students started their school year in 770 schools throughout Saskatchewan.

That's an increase of over 27,000 students, or nearly 17 per cent, from 12 years ago.

While the growth in the number of students has been significant, my government's commitment to education has grown even more.

Over the same period, operating funding to schools has increased by 34 per cent, while investment in school capital is nearly five times higher.

This includes 46 new schools and 23 major renovation projects in schools throughout the province, a far cry from when enrolment numbers were declining and schools were being closed at a rate of one every month.



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My government has placed a high priority on ensuring students with intensive needs get the support they need in our schools.

Since 2007, the number of students with intensive needs has increased by about 38 per cent, from 6,700 to 9,300 students.

During that same period, funding for intensive needs supports has more than quadrupled, from \$64 million to \$285 million per year.

My government recently released the results of an online survey which was completed by 9,000 students, parents, teachers and other Saskatchewan residents.

The survey is part of a major consultation process that will form priorities for the education system over the next decade, ensuring students continue to receive the best possible education in Saskatchewan schools.

A growing province needs a well-educated workforce.

That's why post-secondary education will also continue to be a priority for my government, and that's why operating funding to Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions has increased by more than 50 per cent since 2007.

This year, nearly 80,000 students are enrolled in Saskatchewan's universities and technical colleges.

They will receive education and training that is well suited to Saskatchewan's growing economy.

Nine out of 10 post-secondary graduates are now choosing to stay and work in Saskatchewan after graduation.

This year, my government has invested \$45 million to support post-secondary programs and skills training employment initiatives.

This includes over \$9.5 million to the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, which has seen its funding more than double since 2007.

### ***A HAND UP TO THOSE IN NEED***

A strong and growing province gives everyone the opportunity to succeed while at the same time protecting its most vulnerable.

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This summer, my government launched a new Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program for all new income assistance clients.

SIS will help our clients achieve independence through a simplified and increased earned income exemption that will keep more money in their pockets.

This past spring, my government signed three new agreements and created a stronger relationship with the Saskatoon Tribal Council - a relationship that is focused on making life better for Indigenous children and youth in care and their families.

The Children and Families Reconciliation Partnership Agreement will focus on the safety and well-being of First Nations children and youth.

A new Delegation Agreement will re-establish the Saskatoon Tribal Council First Nations Child and Family Services Agency and join the 17 First Nations agencies that deliver services on reserve to First Nations communities around the province.

The First Contact Panel Protocol will help reduce the number of children coming into care and reduce the amount of time a child is in care.

Earlier this year, my government successfully finished transitioning over 150 people from the Valley View Centre into suitable communities of their choice.

This process has involved working with residents and their families to develop a person-centered planning approach that included family, residents and their Valley View family.

These residents will be able to enjoy more accessible communities as this fall, my government will continue to implement the Disability Strategy by consulting on a new *Accessibility Act*.

My government has significantly increased funding for the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program, including a 45 per cent increase this year that will partially fund up to 15 new paratransit vehicles in the province.

## ***PUBLIC SAFETY***

A strong and growing province keeps all of its citizens safe.



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While Saskatchewan's crime rate has fallen since 2007, my government recognizes that there are areas of the province where crime remains a serious concern and there is still much more to be done.

The need to provide enhanced visibility in rural areas was clearly heard during the consultations conducted by the Caucus Committee on Crime.

With the increase in the number of RCMP officers and the launch of the Protection and Response Team, there are now over 300 more frontline officers providing service in rural areas of the province, an increase of 40 per cent since 2011.

Other important initiatives, such as Saskatchewan Crime Watch, will continue to be supported by our government.

Our government also continues to support frontline municipal police services.

Important, specialized units such as the Internet Child Exploitation units, Police and Crisis Teams, and units designed to target drug and gang activity play important roles in communities across Saskatchewan.

Since 2007, my government has provided municipalities over \$150 million in municipal police grants, including \$15 million this year, to support these frontline positions.

Last spring, my government, in partnership with the federal government, introduced the Gang Violence Reduction Strategy.

This strategy will provide \$11.8 million over the next five years to help address the issue of gang violence in our province by:

- Expanding and improving addictions supports in correctional facilities;
- Launching the Community Intervention Model, a community-based program focusing on intensive outreach and support for high risk youth; and
- Continuing to support policing units that focus on combatting gangs and drugs, including expansion of the successful Crime Reduction Team policing model to Saskatoon and Regina early in the new year.

My government is committed to reducing the number of traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities by improving traffic safety.

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More than \$9 billion has been invested in highway infrastructure over the past 12 years, repairing and replacing 14,000 kilometres of Saskatchewan highways and 280 bridges.

Next week, the Regina Bypass will open, on time and on budget.

It is the largest transportation infrastructure project in Saskatchewan history, with 12 interchanges, 40 kilometres of new four-lane highway, 20 kilometres of resurfaced four-lane highway and 55 kilometres of service roads, all designed to improve the flow of traffic around Regina and reduce the amount of large truck traffic through the city.

Above all else, this project is about improving driver safety and reducing the number of serious accidents, particularly at highway intersections that have now been replaced with much safer overpasses.

My government will continue to improve highway safety throughout the province with more passing lanes and a commitment of \$100 million over five years to improve safety at highway intersections.

While improving highway conditions improves driver safety, the dangers posed by impaired and distracted driving remain a serious concern.

Over the past number of years, my government has introduced several measures to reduce impaired driving rates in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan children are now learning about the dangers of impaired driving well before they ever get behind the wheel.

My government is proud to partner with Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada by providing \$700,000 to bring the interactive mobile classroom “SmartWheels” to Saskatchewan schools.

This unique mobile classroom will help educate young people in grades 4 through 6 about the risks of alcohol, drugs and impaired driving.

SmartWheels is expected to visit more than 100 schools and be seen by approximately 9,000 Saskatchewan students over the coming school year.

While there is more work to do, we are seeing results.

In our most recent progress report, the number of fatalities caused by impaired driving is down 45 per cent and the number of people injured has fallen by 64 per cent since 2008.



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But while impaired driving numbers are falling, distracted driving offenses are not.

Distracted driving is one of the leading factors in collisions and injuries from automobile crashes in Saskatchewan.

Sandra LaRose of Tyvan and Constable Mike “Hawkeye” Seel of the Regina Police Service join us here today.

Sandra’s daughter Kailynn tragically passed away in August 2018 due to distracted driving.

Since then, Sandra has shared Kailynn’s story to try to reduce distracted driving.

But as Constable Seel’s efforts illustrate all too well, that message has not gotten through to everyone.

This year alone, he has written over 1,000 cell phone tickets.

I want to thank both of them for being here today and for their commitment to help keep our roads safe.

During this session, my government will introduce tougher distracted driving penalties to make driving safer for everyone on Saskatchewan’s streets and highways.

## **PARKS AND TOURISM**

Saskatchewan is a beautiful province that attracts visitors from around the world.

Our 36 provincial parks now welcome nearly four million visits a year.

My government is committed to ensuring visitors have a great experience at Saskatchewan parks through significant capital investments in campgrounds, boat launches and shower and washroom facilities.

Further improvements this year will increase the total provincial investment in parks to over \$127 million since 2007.

Saskatchewan continues to attract world class events, like the Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic this Saturday at Mosaic Stadium in Regina.

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Next year, Saskatchewan will play host to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Moose Jaw, the Juno Awards in Saskatoon and the Grey Cup Championship in Regina, and in 2021, Saskatoon will host the Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings Olympic Curling Trials.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

A strong and growing province requires significant investment in infrastructure to keep pace with that growth.

Over the past 12 years, my government has made a massive investment of \$30 billion in Saskatchewan infrastructure - \$13 billion through executive government in projects like hospitals, schools, highways and long-term care facilities, and \$17 billion through Crown Corporation capital projects.

Today, it is more important than ever to ensure access to fast and reliable wireless communications services throughout Saskatchewan.

That is why my government introduced the Wireless Saskatchewan initiative.

As part of that initiative, SaskTel is investing up to \$50 million to further increase coverage in rural Saskatchewan.

Work has begun on 15 new cellular sites.

As part of phase two of the Wireless Saskatchewan initiative to provide rural communities with enhanced access to reliable cellular and high speed internet services, 103 rural communities will receive a new small cell site by the end of 2020, with over half of these new sites already in service.

In recent weeks, my government has partnered with the federal government to make a number of significant infrastructure funding announcements, including:

- The Globe Theatre in Regina;
- The Gordie Howe Bowl in Saskatoon;
- Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan in Saskatoon;
- A new multi-purpose recreational facility in Prince Albert;
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Community Ice Rink in Southend;



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- Thunderchild Wellness Centre on Thunderchild First Nation;
  - Improved internet service on Whitecap Dakota First Nation;
  - Two water and wastewater projects serving nine communities in northern Saskatchewan; and
  - 21 water, wastewater, waste management and road infrastructure projects in towns and rural municipalities throughout Saskatchewan.

The total provincial contribution to these 30 projects is over \$85 million.

During this session, my government's commitment to building a strong Saskatchewan will continue with a significant investment in infrastructure in the 2020 budget.

### ***STRONG FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND BALANCED BUDGETS***

Sound management of Saskatchewan taxpayers' dollars has been and will continue to be the foundation of my government's plan for a strong and growing Saskatchewan.

This spring, my government completed its three-year plan to return the provincial budget to balance after a sharp downturn in resource prices left a billion dollar hole in the province's finances.

This past summer, the three major credit rating agencies – Moody's, Standard and Poor's and DBRS affirmed the province's high credit ratings, which are among the strongest in Canada.

In its August 7th affirmation of Saskatchewan's AA credit rating, Standard and Poor's said: "We believe that Saskatchewan's creditworthiness is supported by the province's strong financial management."

There are some who say sound management of taxpayers' dollars means cutting services.

It actually improves services by redeploying resources to where they are most needed.

For example, my government decided to end the Executive Air service in 2017 and sell two of the airplanes, saving Saskatchewan taxpayers \$1 million per year.

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A third airplane was provided to Saskatchewan Air Ambulance.

The repurposed Executive Air plane ensures there are always two aircraft available for medical flights, many of which are to northern Saskatchewan.

The repurposed aircraft is also available for life-saving trips to support the Organ Transplant Program, making 74 total flights transporting patients or organs since 2017.

## **LEGISLATION**

During this session, my government will implement Clare's Law in cities with municipal police forces.

Clare's Law, which was passed last session, allows police to disclose information to individuals who might potentially be at risk of interpersonal violence.

Saskatchewan is the first province in Canada to pass this legislation and other provinces are now following our lead.

During this session, my government will introduce a number of pieces of legislation, including:

- A new *Fisheries Act* to modernize the legislation and provide greater protection against invasive aquatic species;
- Amendments to *The Lobbyists Act*, to address recommendations made by the Registrar of Lobbyists in his recent annual reports;
- Legislation for the regulation of vaping and vaping products;
- Amendments to strengthen the enforcement of maintenance orders for child support payments;
- Amendments to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* to increase parental leave by eight weeks to ensure that employees who are entitled to the new shared parental Employment Insurance benefit have job protection while using the new leave benefit; and
- Further amendments to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* to extend employment leave to individuals who are running for election to a First Nations Band Council.



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## **CONCLUSION**

Today, as this new legislative session begins, we have the honour and the privilege to meet in this Legislative Building that serves as a testament to the incredible growth and prosperity Saskatchewan's first Premier Walter Scott envisioned for this great province and its people.

Let us be mindful of this vision for our province, of how far we have come and how there is still much work to be done on behalf of the people we serve.

Saskatchewan today is a strong and growing province.

My government is committed to ensuring that strong growth continues, that all Saskatchewan people continue to enjoy the benefits of that growth and that the 2020s are a new decade of growth for Saskatchewan.

I now leave you to the business of the session, knowing that you will favourably discharge your duties and responsibilities.

May Divine Providence continue to bless our province and guide this Assembly in all of its deliberations.

God bless Saskatchewan.

God bless Canada.

And God save the Queen.

