

Shellbrook Chronicle

The voice of the Parkland for over 107 years



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www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Skating club shines bright with ice show



Rayne Cyr leads the red CanSkate group through a showcase of the skills they've learned throughout the season. Included in the group were Blake Shindle, Thane Pichula, Karsen Ashworth, Jase Helm, Marek Ceglarz, Phoenix Tremain, Kayne Rempel, Dayton Graham, Bryden Shillington, Corbin Tweedie, and McKenzie Capner. Story and more photos on page 8

Community calls on SRPSD to review teacher transfer policies

When W.P. Sandin High School's School Community Council (SCC) held its regular meeting in the school's multi-purpose room on Monday evening, they were greeted by the largest crowd they had ever seen – and likely ever will see.

The audience of dozens of teachers, students, parents, and community members was reflective of the town's concern, and its collective outrage at a Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD) whose policies, it feels, fail to grasp the differences between urban and rural communities.

More specifically, though, the ire of the concerned citizens was fixed on the SRPSD's

policies and decision making processes regarding the transfer of teachers from small towns like Shellbrook, and the recent revelation that W.P. Sandin staff member Nicole Philp was being transferred to Wild Rose School.

Understanding the audience's frustrations, and having anticipated a larger than normal turnout, SCC representatives were left in the unenviable position of informing those in attendance that, as per the SRPSD's rules, the SCC was forbidden to discuss issues involving school employees at SCC Meetings, on school grounds, or at any public gathering.

In other words, the SCC could confirm that

Philp was being transferred, but could not answer any of the audience's burning questions, or provide any meaningful information on the circumstances that resulted in Philp's transfer – or, indeed, any information at all.

As the school community's representative to the SRPSD, however, the SCC could listen to the concerns of the crowd, and relay them to the school division.

And, boy, was there a lot to be said.

Striving to keep the tone of the forum productive, positive, and professional, Bruce Clements, a Shellbrook town councillor and former teacher, began the discussion by seeking the SCC's approval for the community to

pursue the next step in having Philp's transfer reviewed by the SRPSD – an approval that was granted after some discussion.

That next step, he explained, would be for the community to draft a letter to SRPSD director of education Robert Bratvold, requesting a meeting about teacher transfers. By law, he added, the SRPSD is required to respond, and meet with the community.

"We want the transfer situation in Shellbrook to be revisited immediately, so affected staff can be dealt with in a respectful, caring, considerate, fair, consistent, and professional manner," he said.

Continued on page 3

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Duret rink wins A-event in senior's bonspiel

Senior curlers in Shellbrook capped off another strong season for the sport on Wednesday afternoon, when they hosted their annual season-ending bonspiel.

As always, the senior's league saw a good turnout throughout the season, with enough curlers for eight teams, and a lengthy list of substitute curlers. This held true for Wednesday's season closer, as eight teams were competing across four events, based on their performances in the March 13 and March 18 qualifiers.

Topping the standings out of those two events were the Ben Duret rink, including third Bruce Harper, second Cindy Painchaud, and lead Jerry Clark, and the John Priestley foursome, with

third Grant Martin, second Terry Macsymbic, and lead Terry Zilkowsky.

In an exciting A-event final, it was Duret's team that would emerge victorious, partially on the strength of what Painchaud referred to as her "best game of the season."

Sliding over to the B-event final, which truly came down to the last end, Murray Cameron's rink of third Dale Ledding, second Marion Miller, and lead Wayne Pringle were able to cling to victory over Larry Ferster's foursome of third Connie McIntyre, second Deb Ferster, and lead Dick Clark.

In that final end, Ferster needed to score two to force extra ends, but failed to take a maintain control of the house to

make it happen.

In the C-event final, it was the Amund Otterson rink of third Mark Mintenko, second Jim McComas, and lead Wilf Lindenbach that earned the bragging rights. They did so by besting the foursome of Clarence Bowes, third Orville Agrey, second Brenda Smith, and lead George Tomporowski.

Lastly, in a D-event game that came down to the final rock, Wilbur Grayston's rink of third Brenda Arabsky, second Maurice Tanchuk, and lead Cliff Skauge managed to claim victory over the Gilbert Joan foursome of third Gord Goudal, second Lynn Piper, and lead Val Priestley.

Facing a house littered with opposing stones,



A-event winners, from left: Ben Duret, Bruce Harper, Cindy Painchaud, and Jerry Clark.

Grayston was able to secure a takeout with an impressive shot that allowed his team to earn the D-event plaque.

As always, anyone interested in joining the

seniors for curling can get in touch with Bruce Harper, Jim McComas, or any other senior who's

an active curler.

The seniors typically curl on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.



B-event winners, from left: Wayne Pringle, Marion Miller, Dale Ledding, and Murray Cameron.



C-event winners, from left: Amund Otterson, Mark Mintenko, Jim McComas, and Wilf Lindenbach.



D-event winners, from left: Wilbur Grayston, Brenda Arabsky, Maurice Tanchuk, and Cliff Skauge.



Senior's curling in Shellbrook continues to a solid turnout, with enough curlers for eight teams and a healthy list of substitutes.

Sunday, April 28th, 2019
Celebrate the Coming of Spring!!
 Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc
Spring Fundraising Event
 Supper & Live Auction

At the Parkside Heritage Centre
 To donate an auction item contact:
 David 306-747-2275
 Email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com

Shellbrook Minor Sports
AGM
 Tuesday, April 9th – 7 pm
 Shellbrook Elementary School Gym

We will be discussing the possible impact of the SHA Atom Hockey Proposal (2020/2021)

Visit the following link to view all of the proposed changes:
<https://sha.sk.ca/news/memorandums/atom-hockey-proposal-20202021>

CROWN HILL AUCTION
 Dave Rogoosinsky & Guests Antique Sale
Sat., April 6th, 2019 – 10:00 am
 Legion Hall – 1st Ave. S., Leask, SK

Large antique auction including tin, enamel and porcelain signs; oil cans including Red Indian, William Penn; Dining Room Suite, dresser, pole lamps, wicker furniture, round top trunk, wash stand, lamps, clocks – vintage, alarm, horse, Huckleberry Finn; beaded moccasin tops; Irons – gas, sad, Coleman, cast; Desk top planes; toys – mechanical horse, dolls, sled, various telephones; leather Singer sewing machine, implement seats plus much more.

Listing and pictures at www.saskauctioneers.com or phone 306-466-6727 for more info.

Auctioneer – John Priestley, PL #917023

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 Or
 email: kenhwy55@live.ca

Wage rate will be based on experience and qualifications of successful applicant. All resumes are to be in the hands of the Operations Manager on or before **4:00 p.m., April 12, 2019**. Only those contacted will be granted an interview.

Report from the Legislature

The 2019 Provincial Budget is a balanced budget – and it's the right balance for Saskatchewan.

It's the right balance between keeping your taxes low and providing quality services for our children, families, and seniors.

It's the right balance between important investments in both urban and rural Saskatchewan.

And it's the right balance for building a stronger economy and creating jobs, now and in the future.

This year's budget delivers record investments in mental health services, highway safety, our children's classrooms and supports for persons with disabilities.

And there are no new taxes or tax increases.

This budget fulfills our government's three-year fiscal plan in which some difficult decisions had to be made. Those choices reduced Saskatchewan's reliance on volatile resource revenues and set Saskatchewan on a path to where we are today.



**HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER**
~
MLA for Rosthern -
Shellbrook
Toll Free:
1-855-793-3422
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

With a projected surplus of \$34.4 million, this budget increases support in almost every area – in health, social services and assistance, protection of people and property, education, agriculture, community development, environment and natural resources, and transportation.

This budget provides a \$700,000 increase for the Autism Individualized Funding benefit, increasing the benefit from \$4,000 to \$6,000 per year for children under age six.

Specific health care capital investments in this budget include funding the preconstruction design of a new Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert and planning for a new hospital in Weyburn.

Budget 2019-20 invests in the replacement of Northland Pioneers Lodge in Meadow Lake, fulfilling the government's commitment to replace 13 long-term care facilities for seniors across the province. Additional home care support will also help people stay safely in their homes as long as possible through the Connected Care program.

The 2019-20 Budget also provides \$1.1 million—an increase of more than \$660,000—to the Alzheimer Society for the First Link program.

An increase of more than \$27 million will support at-risk children and families while community-based organizations and those who deliver services to children and families and provide support for people with in-



**NADINE WILSON
MLA**
~
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tellectual disabilities will receive an additional \$5.9 million in 2019-20.

The budget also provides a \$6.6 million increase in support for adults with intellectual disabilities, and \$1.4 million has been designated to increase monthly payments for foster families who complete training.

This budget increases school division funding while Education Property Tax rates remain unchanged.

To improve safety at highway intersections, our gov-

ernment has introduced an Enhanced Intersection Safety Program that will improve signage, sight lines and lighting and add safety features like rumble strips at intersections throughout the province.

The budget also includes more than \$60 million for twinning and passing lane projects. Overall, the budget provides funding to improve about 1,000 kilometres of the highway network in 2019-20.

This year we will continue funding 128 municipal police positions and targeted policing initiatives across the province with an additional \$1.1 million designated for drug-impaired driving detection training for police.

While the formula has changed, communities across the province will continue to receive unconditional funding from the province through Municipal Revenue Sharing. The total allocated this year is up \$10.5 million to \$251 million.

This budget also achieves

the right balance by investing a total of \$2.7 billion into hospitals, schools, highways, and municipal and Crown infrastructure to help meet the needs of a growing population and economy, while ensuring that debt is managed responsibly.

Saskatchewan grew by over 11,000 people in 2018. A growing province means a growing demand for government services Saskatchewan people expect and deserve. Our government is committed to a responsible, sustainable plan to deliver and improve those services.

At a time when some jurisdictions have chosen a path of ongoing deficits, this budget sets Saskatchewan on a path to ensure balanced budgets in the years ahead. The 2019-20 Budget is part of our government's plan to continue to balance into the future, and sustain needed investments in high-quality government services for all Saskatchewan people.

You can learn more at saskatchewan.ca/budget.

Community calls on SRPSD to review teacher transfer policies

Continued from 1

"Yes, it is legal for school boards to transfer teachers, but only when the proper steps have been taken according to board policy. The board not following its own policy is inappropriate," he added.

While Philp's pending transfer was no doubt the catalyst for the public's anger, it soon became evident that the concern was less for an individual teacher, and more about protecting all small-town teachers, as well as the communities that they live and work in.

For this reason, Clements said the community is calling on the SRPSD to review its policy for teacher transfers in small communities, and even in Prince Albert, if necessary.

"Teachers that are committed to our community, and who live in our community, shouldn't be transferred out unless they request a transfer, or there is an accountability issue," he said.

"This policy must change. We don't want students traveling to Prince Albert or elsewhere, like a number of years ago," he added, vowing that the community would fight for its teachers, the same way it did for its hospital and many of its other facilities and organizations.

Echoing many of Clements' statements, Jim McComas, who taught in Shellbrook for 30 years, called the SRPSD's decision a case of policy that is "so big that it misses the little things," and urged the school division to consider that

"what's good for Prince Albert isn't [necessarily] good for Shellbrook, Big River, Canwood or Debden."

Acknowledging the teachers who choose to work in Shellbrook but live outside the community, McComas said he has great admiration for those who live in the community, and become part of the fabric of the community through volunteerism. He argued that such people shouldn't be removed from their communities.

"I taught here for thirty years. If you would have transferred me from Shellbrook in the middle of my teaching career, you would have broken my heart," he said.

"We're here tonight because our hearts have been broken by a decision that has been made outside of our control. I don't know where we go from here, but I tell you it's wrong, it's wrong, it's wrong."

Building on points made by Clements and McComas, Yvonne Groenen repeated their calls to have the SRPSD review and change its teacher transfer policies to better suit the unique needs of small towns.

"Small-town teachers are not the same as urban teachers. There should be different rules," she said.

"When an urban teacher moves from one side of the city to the other, their commute changes. When a rural teacher

gets moved to a different school, their community changes."

With the meeting having far exceeded its usual time limit of an hour, the SCC brought the meeting to a close.

However, many of those in attendance chose to relocate to the Shellbrook Recreation Complex to continue the discussion.

The Shellbrook Housing Authority is seeking MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDSKEEPING CONTRACTORS

Reporting to the Manager, these contract positions are responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Shellbrook Housing Authority. Contractors are invited to bid on either or both opportunities and expected to provide their own tools and equipment including a vehicle and cell phone.

Maintenance Contract duties include: ensuring the exterior and interior of all buildings are kept in a state of good repair; ensuring timely attention to maintenance issues (light fixtures and lighting in good working order, replacing, fixing, correcting all building components); performing minor plumbing repairs (unplug toilets, changing taps) and minor carpentry repairs; conducting routine inspections (boilers, fire extinguishers and crawl spaces); acting as a contact person for the housing authority (tenants, service personnel and trades); and ensuring capital assets are maintained in good repair and operated in an efficient, effective manner.

Grounds-keeping Contract duties include: snow and ice removal from all public entrances, parking lots and sidewalks within 48 hours of snowfall; maintaining lawns, shrubs, flowerbeds and garden areas during the entire growing season -- fertilizing, watering, weeding and edging/cutting lawns not in excess of 1.75 inches. The general appearance of all grounds, parking and outdoor storage and trash collection areas must be neat, well-kept and free of garbage/litter at all times. This work is limited to Heritage and Homestead Lodges and any unoccupied rental units.

Prospective Contractors are invited to quote and supply resume outlining experience and qualifications by April 10, 2018 to:

Shellbrook Housing Authority
Donna Skauge, Chair
Box 711, Shellbrook
Or email to: cddskauge@skyvelocity.com
306.714.7360

Notice of Abandonment of Poll

[Section 82 of The Local Government Elections Act, 2015]

The Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 Municipal Elections 2019

Public Notice is hereby given that Levi Schutte was nominated for the office of Division Three and is the only candidate; therefore, no voting for the office will take place on April 24, 2019.

Dated this 21st day of March, 2019.

Lorna Benson
Returning Officer

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“How soon we forget”

Admit it. Just three weeks ago you were one of those checking the outside thermometer and wondering just when the -30-plus temperatures were going to be a thing of the past. Or, whether they were ever going to be a thing of the past.

In fact, if you were to tell people that spring was coming and the snow would melt you might possibly be in line for a throat punch for expressing such a Pollyanna view. It was difficult, if not impossible, to see past the cold for an inevitable thaw and warming.

It calls to mind a stretch in January, 1969, when the temperature was below -40 for about four weeks. I was living in Calgary. Every day, as I drove to work in the morning, the people at the bus stops along the way were all facing west. It took a bit before I twigged onto what was happening, and then it struck me. They were facing west looking for the telltale “chinook arch” that was going to deliver them from the hell in which they were suffering day by freezing day.



DAVE
HYNDMAN
~
Columnist

But even then, they knew they were going to get one, a chinook, that is. And it finally did come.

Well, we never got a chinook, but the temperatures did come up to well above freezing, and the snow started to melt, and the ruts in the street became

far too noticeable. I’m not sure if the Town office heard about the rutted streets from displeased motorists but we sure heard about it on social media.

The ruts on my street weren’t so bad. Oh, they were bad, as far as ruts go, but they did have the effect of slowing the traffic down. Far too many motorists view our street as a racetrack – or maybe a dragstrip – and as long as the street was rutted up, it forced everyone to slow down.

What people didn’t seem to realize at the time was that the Town was short a grader, and it’s difficult to get much snow removal done without one. The new one eventually did arrive, and it took very few days to get the streets levelled off and the snow carried away, and then with a couple of days of sunshine, the streets were, for the most part, dry.

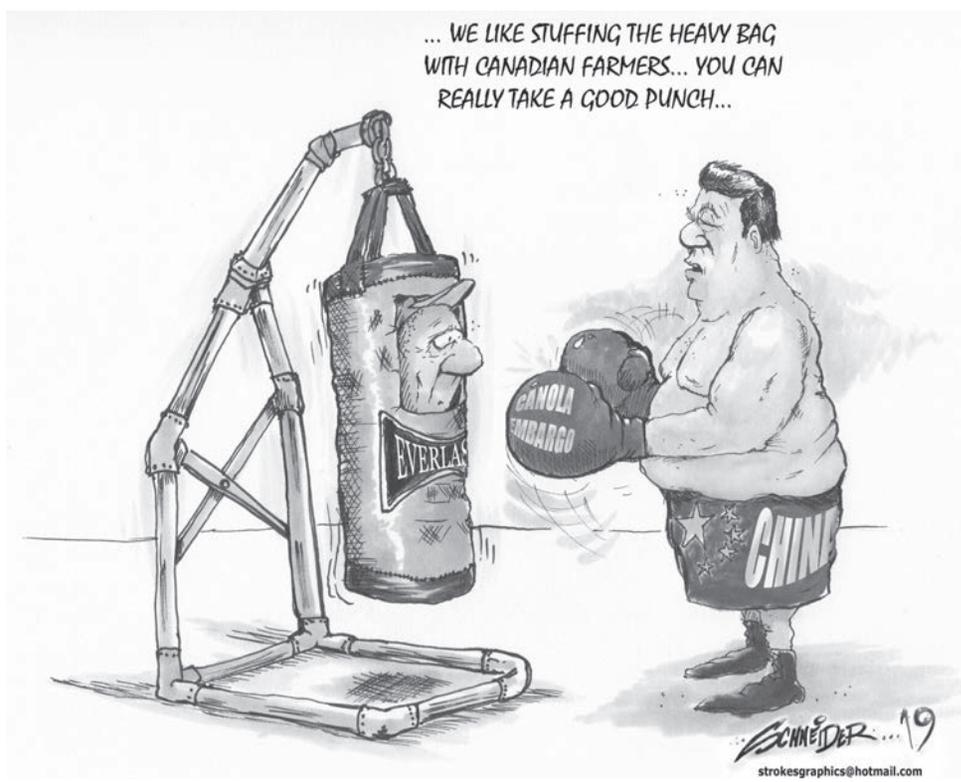
So, there we are. A new grader and no more snow to push. Oh, well, there are a few streets that didn’t winter well, potholes and all. It shouldn’t take too long to get things in shape for summer.

This is changing the subject, but it appears as though the Chinese government has upped the ante in their dispute with Canada, and I’m left wondering what the U.S. is thinking at this moment. China was Canada’s #1 customer for canola, and they have decided that they are not going to buy any more Canadian canola because there are bugs in it, or some cockamamie excuse.

Of course, it all harkens back to when Canadian border officials arrested Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou because the Americans wanted her for violating some of the sanctions put in place against countries dealing with North Korea. China in return arrested a couple of Canadian businessmen and now they’ve placed an embargo on Canadian canola, and it may not stop there.

So, where is the U.S. government in all this? They wanted the Huawei CFO and asked Canada to arrest her. Her company didn’t break any of our sanctions, yet we’re paying the price.

I think a solution might be to release her from custody on her own recognizance and send her back to China, where she can be found when the U.S. wants to move forward with prosecuting her. At least it brings the U.S. back into the picture.



Sentence for Broncos crash driver ends a chapter

Eight years.

That’s how long Jaskirat Sidhu, the truck driver responsible for the Humboldt Broncos bus crash that killed 16 people and irrevocably changed 13 other lives, will spend in prison for the mistakes he made on that fateful April day in 2018.

Eight years. That’s 2,920 days, or 70,080 hours, or 4,204,800 minutes.

But is it enough? Does the punishment, as the old saying goes, fit the crime?

Well, given that this case is without precedent in Canada, that question’s far harder to answer than one might expect. A proper answer requires one to take into account not just the consequences of the crime, nor only the crime itself, but also a myriad of other circumstances.

While some still prefer the ancient idea of an “eye for an eye”, Canadian law, on a philosophical level, is about reparations rather than retribution. It is primarily focused on healing those who have been wronged, but it also cares about fixing those who commit crimes, in the hope that their crimes will not be repeated.

On a practical level, there are some instances in which this legal philosophy is easily applied, making balancing the scales of justice a less arduous task for a judge or a jury. But how does one even begin to balance those same scales when a life, or multiple lives in this instance, have been prematurely taken?

What value does one place on 16 people, many of whom had likely yet to discover their full potential? What prison sentence or financial penalty could ever hope to make up for this needless loss, or heal the pain felt by the loved ones who were left behind?

This is where one must begin to consider the crime itself. And the crime, in the case of Mr. Sidhu, is 16 counts of dangerous driving causing death and 13 counts of dangerous driving causing bodily harm – an entirely different beast from something like premeditated murder.

Does intent, or the lack of it, count for anything? If so, then how much?

And how does a judge – in this case Judge Inez Cardinal – factor in circumstances such as Mr. Sidhu’s admission of guilt, or his cooperation with the RCMP’s investigation of the crash, or his formal apology to the victims and their families, when considering the just sentence?

Taking this, and even more, into account, one can see



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

how a seemingly simple concept like reparative justice becomes nigh impossible to put into practice to everyone’s satisfaction.

So again, did Mr. Sidhu’s punishment fit his crime?

For Crown prosecutor Thomas Healey, who had been pushing for 10 years in prison, followed by a 10 year driving ban, the answer is likely a resounding no. Ditto for those in the “eye for an eye” camp – but then again, they likely would have found even the legal maximum sentence of 14 years to be far too lenient.

Using Canadian legal precedent as the benchmark for determining the “appropriateness” of the sentence, the stiffest prison sentence ever doled out in a dangerous

driving case was six years, and, in that case, there were three casualties and one injury

This means Mr. Sidhu’s eight-year sentence, which was handed down in a Melfort courtroom last Friday, is the new Canadian legal precedent. And that likely has much to do with the unprecedented number of victims in the case.

Now, it should be noted that Mr. Sidhu’s actual sentence was eight years for each of the 16 victims killed as a result of his mistakes, as well as five years for each of the 13 people he injured. However, given the unlikelihood that Mr. Singh would live long enough to serve a 193-year prison sentence, each sentence will be served concurrently, meaning only eight years behind bars, or six months for each life he took.

Additionally, Mr. Singh will face deportation to India upon completing his sentence. And, assuming the remorse he’s shown to date has been genuine, he will also live with guilt for the rest of his days – which, in many ways, is the equivalent of a life sentence.

Whether too lenient or too harsh, Mr. Sidhu’s sentence does bring an end to what has been a harrowing chapter for the victims of the crash, and will hopefully signal a true beginning of the healing process for all those who were impacted.

In the meantime, rather than debating the appropriateness of Mr. Sidhu’s sentence, perhaps we all ought to take a page from the victims and their families, who have shown courage, resilience, compassion, and even forgiveness, to which all of us should aspire.

We can ever get back what was lost on April 6, 2018. But we can always strive to make our province a better, safer place.

Budget solid and honest, but less memorable

When one looks back at this Saskatchewan Party government, it seems unlikely that 2019-20 budget will be all that memorable.

That's usually reserved for budgets that have either a lot of goodies or a lot of pain. This budget really has neither.

Consider this year's assortment of highway upgrade goodies for rural residents:

There's twinning of Hwy. 7 at Vanscoy, completing Saskatoon to Delisle twinning.

There's two sets of passing lanes west of Rosetown on Hwy 7, and a passing lane on Hwy. 2 north of Moose Jaw.

More passing lanes will be completed on Hwys. 6 and 39 between Regina and Estevan, and will be started on Hwys. 9 and 10 between Canora and Melville.

We will also see 32

kilometres of repaving of Hwy. 1 west of Tompkins, 24 kilometres of Hwy. 9 repaving north of Usherville, 26 kilometres of Hwy. 10 repaving east of Fort Qu'Appelle, and 23 kilometres on Hwy. 15 repaving west of Kenaston.

But this isn't like the massive lists we've seen in past years – partly due to re-prioritizing highways dollars to the new Enhanced Intersection Safety program that will see \$13 million spent on what will be a \$65 million program in the next five years.

New turning lanes, better lighting, rumble strips and clearer sight lines don't necessarily provide government with the same bang-for-your-buck as laying down new asphalt under your tires.



MURRAY
MANDRYK

But in the wake of last year's Humboldt Broncos bus crash, it can be argued what the government is now doing is more important.

Moreover, there is less money to go around.

Finance Minister Donna Harpauer's 2019-20 budget has only allotted \$439-million for highways and infrastructure capital works – considerably less than the \$673 million in this year's 2018-19 budget that's

wrapping up. And the budget suggests we will only see \$339 million in capital highways infrastructure spending for each of the three years to follow.

But we are also seeing a \$34.4-million surplus in the 2019-20 budget, and the Sask. Party says to expect surpluses of \$49 million, \$72 million and \$82 million in the years to follow. (However, one should be a little suspicious here, because there's really no way governments can predict surpluses that far in advance.)

Compare that with the \$380-million deficit in the 2018-19 budget, according to the third-quarter update also released last week.

Compare plans for four surplus budgets in Saskatchewan with the four straight deficits since Saskatchewan's

last surplus budget in 2014-15.

That string of deficits has increased the debt service charge (the interest on the "credit card bill" we own the bond companies for past accumulated deficits) to \$694 million – an annual budgetary cost that hasn't been this high in Saskatchewan since the aftermath of the Grant Devine government years.

Clearly, big capital spending and operational deficits has been taking its toll in this province. Public debt is \$19.9 billion right now and is expected to rise to a record \$26 billion in 2023.

Yes, we were hammered by the PST hike to six per cent two years ago and big-time cuts like the shuttering of the STC.

But it's also become

clear that this province can no longer rely on resource revenue windfalls it enjoyed a decade ago.

In fact, resource revenues that once accounted for 20 per cent of all government revenue only accounts for \$1.8 billion of the \$15-billion 2019-20 budget.

And it wouldn't even be that much if it weren't for an additional \$117-million increase in potash revenue that can almost exclusively be attributed to long-overdue elimination of the Saskatchewan Resource Credit – essentially – change to tax laws.

There's not a lot of goodies. There's not a lot of harm.

But it's a responsible, honest budget and should be remembered as such.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Late winter "thaw" of public apathy and indifference

Dear editor,

The recent revelations of our federal Liberal government's apparently "special" (and quite possibly unlawful) relationship with SNC-Lavalin (the Montreal-based engineering and construction corporate giant) has come to the undivided attention of millions of people across Canada -- and millions of people around the world as well. The Conservative Party opposition MPs have aggressively full-court pressed the winded Liberals and demanded that they fully disclose all of their secretive dealings with a globally established conglomerate that has been accused of major bribery and financial fraud activities.

The Conservative's incessant efforts have heated up the media's coverage of this ever-expanding scandal; which, in turn, have tremendously engaged and energized the general public's desire to have all "business of politics" practitioners more closely scrutinized and investigated. From a local perspective, we have been incredibly inspired by the courageous efforts of the No Business in the Park campaigners, whose tireless work has obviously greatly contributed to the (temporary) stoppage of Brandt's construction of the new CNIB "complex" in our beloved Wascana Park. And, hopefully the Sask. Party's highly controversial (and also quite possibly unlawful) handling of the massively over-budget

Regina Bypass infrastructure boondoggle will soon be justifiably exposed.

Maybe, just maybe, more of the marginalized regular citizens of this diverse country will not be so unethically "frozen out" by devious and deceitful political legislators who seem to be far more motivated to initiate lucrative, under-the-table interactions with their private enterprise backers. Here's hoping the groundswell of people who are now demanding to know what illicit arrangements are covertly going down between our elected public servants and their big business bosses will not dissipate anytime soon.

Stay vigilant Saskatchewan,
HighwayRobbery.org team

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Member of



Budget 2019: Provincial government returns to balance

If the Saskatchewan Party government's 2018-2019 budget was a means to get the province "back on the right track," the 2019-2020 budget is proof that its predecessor lived up to the tagline.

At least, as far as the Sask. Party government is concerned.

The budget, tabled by Finance Minister Donna Harpauer in Regina last Wednesday, predicts a \$34 million surplus – which will climb to \$82 million by the 2022-2023 fiscal year – and delivers on the Sask. Party's promise to return the province's finances to the black.

The surplus budget also includes record levels of spending on mental health, as well as increased spending on healthcare, education and other key portfolios, and does so without any tax increases – like last year's unpopular decision to raise

the PST to 6 per cent, and expand the goods and services tax it's applied to.

It's no small wonder, then, that the Sask. Party chose "the right balance" as the tagline for this year's budget.

"This year's budget provides the right balance by increasing support for mental health and vulnerable families," Harpauer said when she tabled the budget.

"It increases funding to classrooms and it improves highway safety."

As has been the case with the Sask. Party government's three previous budgets, the budget's projections are predicated upon conservative outlooks that the price for West Texas Intermediate will remain around \$59.75 per barrel, potash will go for \$221 per KCI tonne, and the Loonie will continue to fly low in comparison to the American greenback at 77.19 cents.

The province's projected \$15.03 billion in revenues, meanwhile, will come primarily from taxation (\$7.59 billion), non-renewable resources (\$1.83 billion), government businesses (\$1.08 billion), other "own-source" revenue (\$2.06 billion), and federal government transfers (\$2.47 billion).

In the expenses column, increased spending on healthcare (\$5.89 billion, up from \$5.77 billion) takes up the lion's share of the projected \$14.99 billion in expenditures, followed by education (\$3.28 billion up from \$3.26 billion), and social services and assistance (\$1.43 billion, up from \$1.3 billion).

Taking a deep dive on healthcare, \$3.6 billion will go to operate the Saskatchewan Health Authority, a funding increase of \$113 million.

The 2019-20 health capital budget includes \$12 million

to begin construction of a new long-term care facility in Meadow Lake, with capacity increased from 55 to 72 beds, and, in non-capital spending, families with children under the age of six with Autism Spectrum Disorder will now receive \$6,000 annually in individualized funding, up from \$4,000.

The healthcare budget also includes \$20.6 million for the Connected Care strategy, which aims to keep people safely in their homes for as long as possible, and \$1.1 million for the Alzheimer Society to help those newly diagnosed with dementia.

Elsewhere, the province is also shelling out \$402 million for mental health and addictions, an increase of nearly \$30 million over last year. Part of that increase (\$13.7 million) will go to the Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford, to help it address and improve mental health and addictions services.

Another \$8.4 million, meanwhile, will create 75 new residential support beds for individuals with "intensive mental health needs" who are transitioning back to their communities, 50 pre- and post-addiction beds, and other localized initiatives.

The mental health budget also includes \$1.6 million for Rapid Access to Addiction Medicine clinics in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert, which will aim to reduce emergency department visits, reduce wait times, and improve patient outcomes.

"A ray of hope within this budget is some of the dollars dedicated towards mental

health services. This is an area we've really advocated on, along with Saskatchewan people," said NDP Finance Critic Trent Wotherspoon.

"Far too many people are suffering in silence and darkness, without the supports that they so desperately need, and there's a real cost to that," he added, noting, however, that the budgeted initiatives are only a "first step".

In education spending, \$1.9 billion will go to school divisions to cover their operating costs, while the province will spend \$72.6 million to provide 16,745 childcare spaces. The budget also includes a slight increase in library funding (up to \$11.2 million), as well as for the Early Childhood Intervention Program (up to \$4.3 million).

On the education front, Wotherspoon says the Sask. Party failed to deliver "the right balance".

"The budget really failed to invest in classrooms – classrooms that have been without the supports they need for far too long," he said, noting that the increased spending fails to make up for the spending cuts in the 2018-2019 budget.

"We are really disappointed with the failure to step up and invest our future. We believe that holds back our province. When you short-change the education of the next generation, that shows up in negative ways going forward."

In social services spending, the province's income assistance budget is growing by \$10 million, including a

\$6.3 million boost for Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program. SAID's income exemptions will also be increased and simplified.

Starting this summer, individuals will be able to earn up to \$6,000 (up from \$3,900), couples will be able to earn up to \$7,200 (up from \$5,100), and families can bring in \$8,500 (up from \$2,400).

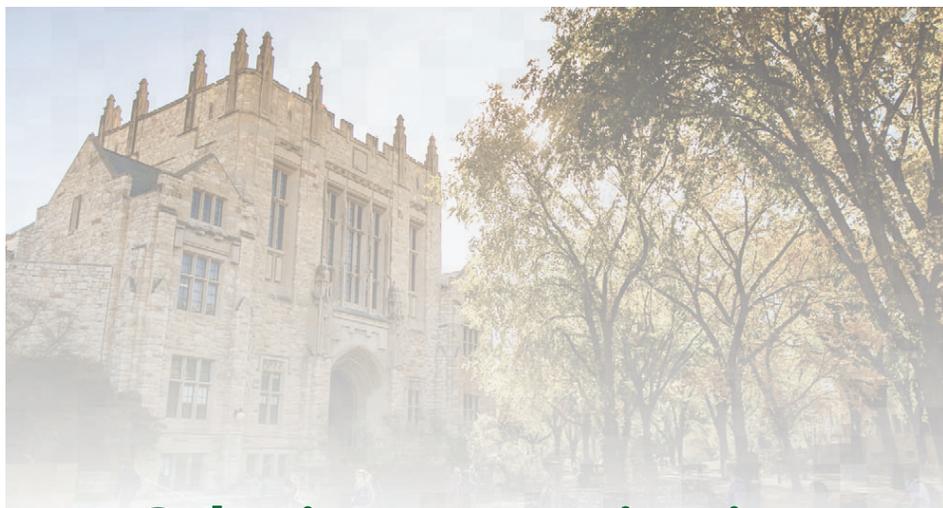
The social services budget also includes a \$27.7 million increase in spending to help at-risk youth, and an increase of \$6.6 million for supports for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

But, criticizing the Sask. Party government for "slamming the breaks" on a slowing economy with its expansion of the PST, Wotherspoon says that decision is being felt by families across the province.

"Households were hit hard. The average household is now incurring costs of more than \$800 more than they were four years ago, on the PST alone," he said. "That's a hard hit on families, and those are dollars that have been pulled out of the economy."

In other assorted budget highlights, the Sask. Party government is introducing a \$3,000 tax credit for volunteer firefighters who have volunteered more than 200 hours, spending \$13 million to improve intersection safety, and eliminating a provincial tax credit for potash.

For more on what this year's provincial budget might contain for you, visit saskatchewan.ca/budget



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Visit usask.ca/secretariat for more information or to submit a nomination.

The deadline for nominations is April 5, 2019.

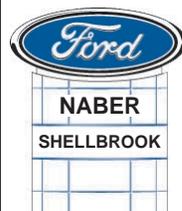


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Canola to face many challenges this season

The ongoing issues with canola exports to China has to have Prairie producers adding a wild card to the deck as they prepare to deal out their 2019 cropping intentions.

Canada's trade diversification minister has come out with a statement calling on the Chinese government to "show us the evidence" of alleged impurities it used as justification for yanking Richardson International Ltd.'s canola export licence, details a recent Star Phoenix story.

"The Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspected this canola, said it was of high

quality as is the nature of the product that we export. The Chinese say that it has impurities. We say to the Chinese, 'Show us. Show us a sample,'" Jim Carr said.

It is more than likely the so-called impurities are nothing more than the Chinese government putting some trade pressure on Canada as a way to show strength regarding issues between the two countries which have nothing to do with agricultural trade.

It is a tactic that definitely gets noticed here since, in 2017, the last year for which annual data are available, Saskatch-



CALVIN DANIELS

ewan exported \$3.6 billion worth of canola seed — about 26 per cent of all agricultural exports. China was among its best customers, buying \$1.4 billion of that total, according

to the Star Phoenix article.

Long term China is going to remain a buyer of canola oil based on a growing middle class looking for it on their store shelves.

But, short term, the commodity can certainly be a political football, which can raise some questions for farmers here headed to spring planting.

Farmers have never had control over political posturing using agricultural products as a hammer, and they have even less control over weather.

In December an article at

www.theweathernetwork.com also has to be a wild card for farmers in general and canola producers specifically.

"The influence of El Niño can be felt far and wide and heavy rainfalls, catastrophic flooding, and mass crop failures can all be attributed to this powerful climate cycle. Early compilations of 2018's data indicate that this year will likely become the fourth warmest on record, and the developing El Niño event is increasing the odds that 2019 will be the hottest year that human life has ever experienced," noted the article.

Is a forecast in December a guarantee? Of course not, but it does suggest some reason for concern.

Extreme heat, especially at the time canola flowers, can cause problems as blooms are lost to the heat, which impacts the number of pods on a plant.

While the Chinese situation could be solved long before the 2019 crop is harvested and ready for sale, and weather has a tendency to moderate closer to the actual date of a forecast, the two factors do suggest canola could face some definite production and marketing challenges in 2019.

Shellbrook farm kid reflects on farm life in book

When Mark Hillenbrand was still just another prairie farm kid growing up on a family farm south of Shellbrook, he imagined he'd follow in his parents' footsteps and become a farmer himself.

But when the reality hit that staying on the family farm and starting his own operation wasn't financially feasible, Hillenbrand says he took the advice of one his favourite teachers, who told him, "You've got to pick a career in which you can pay somebody \$10 an hour to make you \$20."

Hillenbrand says that nugget of wisdom stuck with him, and eventually led him to the University of Saskatchewan, and then on to law school. And yet, even as his dreams for the future changed, he says he still remained connected to the farm.

"I took an agriculture law class at the University of Saskatchewan when I was in law school, and we were encouraged to try to incorporate some stories about agriculture, if we had personal experiences in the context of this major paper," he recalled.

"I used some of my thoughts, and what growing up on the farm had meant to me."

That particular paper went over well with his professor, who urged him to tell the rest of his story. And, Hillenbrand says it's this encouragement that planted the seed in him to write a book about his life growing up on a family farm.

Fast forward 23 years, and that seed has finally borne fruit in the form of Hillenbrand's first book, *Fields and Fencelines: Stories of life on a Family Farm*, which is releasing this month through B.C.-based self-publishing firm Friesen Press.

"It was a slow process," Hillenbrand says. "I've always enjoyed the process of writing, but my life and career are pretty hectic, so it's not like I was able to dedicate significant chunks of time to it."

That hectic life and career has seen Hillenbrand start practicing law in Saskatoon, before completing a brief stint in Shellbrook, and eventually moving on to Ed-

monton.

There, he owns his own busy and successful law firm, Hillenbrand Kozicki LLP, where he specializes in real-estate, real-estate development and corporate commercial law, and lives with his wife Kristin, and his children Luke and Kendall.

Even with all that, thoughts of the family farm have never been far off for Hillenbrand. Indeed, he says his plan when he began his legal career was to practice for five to 10 years, then use his earnings to kickstart his own farm.

But 20 years later, he's still in Edmonton — though, he adds that he does own a few parcels of farm land in the Edmonton area, and remains indirectly connected to agriculture.

"I'm not out on the combine, but we own several parcels of land. It still gives me an opportunity to interact with farmers as we're doing the leases," he says, noting that his dream for the future has changed again.

"My hope now would be to retire to an acreage. I always say to my wife that I'm definitely owning a tractor before I die, so, at some point, I need to get back to it."

Though his career has derailed his plans to return to the farm life, Hillenbrand's vision for *Fields and Fencelines* was merely delayed.

Hillenbrand says he chipped away at the project over the years, whenever he was feeling nostalgic, and that his father's cancer diagnosis was what truly pushed him to finish writing the book, and pursue the self-publishing route.

That led Hillenbrand to Friesen Press. And though the publishing process took the better part of a year, Hillenbrand says it was a good, fun experience that has allowed him to tick an item off of his bucket list.

"I did some research in the traditional publishing world, and the probability of a significant publisher being interested in stories from the family farm seemed pretty

unlikely. You also lose your creative control over the process," he said.

"The process [with Friesen Press] has been pretty good. They help with the editing and the layout, and the cover design. They developed a web page for me. They support you in the entirety of the process."

Reflecting on his life on the farm, Hillenbrand says it always appealed to him because he loved the outdoors and machinery. More importantly, though, he says he loves how tangible farming is.

"Law is a very indirect, sometimes frustrating path. You can have things that drag on for months and years. With agriculture, it was do the task, see the result."

Hillenbrand says he also owes much of his success in his legal career to his farm upbringing, explaining that growing up on the farm gave him his work ethic, and that it also gave him a certain credibility with his clients, some of whom are in the agriculture industry.

"Growing up on a farm has translated really well into everything else that I've done."

Fields and Fencelines is available for purchase through Amazon, Friesen Press and other retailers, including the Shellbrook Pharmacy.

For more information, visit www.markehillenbrand.com.

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Skating club shines bright with ice show



Program assistants Erika Stene and Jessica Sharron lead the blue CanSkate group through some whirls and twirls. Members of the group included: Emma Lauder, Lincoln Scriven, Samaya Mumm, Ryder Wood, Kasen Helm, and Kaleb Gouldhawke.

Continued from 1

The stands inside the arena and the lobby at the Shellbrook Recreation Complex were filled with proud parents, family mem-

bers, and friends, Sunday afternoon, when the Shellbrook Skating Club presented "Night and Day", its dazzling, year-end showcase. Sponsored by the Shell-

brook Kinsmen, the showcase boasted 24 show-stopping solo and group routines, giving skaters of all ages the opportunity to demonstrate the skills

they've acquired or improved upon throughout the skating season.

And with strong attendance, as well as strong support for the afternoon's 50/50 and raffle prizes, Shellbrook Skating Club coach Tasje Sharron says the show was a great success by all metrics.

Of course, though, she says it couldn't have happened without a great deal of local support.

"All the parents, volunteers, and executive members who put in the endless man hours for decorating, building, and organizing is phenomenal and can't be thanked enough," she said.

"I [also] appreciate Ev Hollowell and Michelle Fortin, who come out and add their personal strengths to the club so we can make it better," she added.

Hollowell's commitment to the Shellbrook Skating Club has – deservedly – been oft-recognized over the 30-plus years she's spent volunteering with the club.

But as a newer addition to the club, Fortin has brought



Erika Stene demonstrates her skills during a solo performance.

with her a wealth of experience as a dance instructor and choreographer, and helped the club's skaters add extra elements to their routines.

Sharron says that this has also added a little more fun to the hard on-ice work of choreographing and learning new routines for competitions and showcases like Sunday's, as well as the Saskatchewan Stars on Ice Road Show that the club

hosted and took part in earlier this month.

Most importantly, says Sharron, it's paying big dividends for the young skaters.

"The season as a whole went really well. These skaters work hard and achieved a few more tests this year, and that's always the goal, to keep moving forward," she said.

"Next season hopefully sees a handful of skaters moving up into the Star-skate program, and the ice will be busier."

This past season has, indeed, been a big one for the Shellbrook Skating Club. Not only did it successfully apply to host the aforementioned Stars on Ice Road Show, its skaters also garnered a laundry list of accolades (medals, and/or personal bests) at multiple competitions.

For starters, club skater Ashlyn Schmitz, and her pairs partner Tristan Taylor, represented the province at the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alta., and brought home a bronze medal.

Meanwhile, after improving by leaps and bounds over the past season, Julia Schindle was recognized by the club for being named the Skate Canada - Saskatchewan Rising Star for the month of February.

In other year-end accolades tied into the season-ending ice show, the club also selects a CanSkater(s) of the Year. This year, two awards went to Nash Helm and Abby Piprell.

Meanwhile, for the Most Improved Skater award, there were three recipients: Jacey Keyowski, Kasen Helm, and Emma Lauder.



The Right
Balance
Provincial Budget 2019-20

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Balanced budget



No new taxes



Invests in health care, seniors, families and classrooms



Invests in infrastructure – rural and urban

To learn more, visit
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Saskatchewan



The Advance Canskaters put their own spin on the show. The group included Kayla Klaassen, Alexandra Ekins, Anya Linn, Navarra Mumm and Bella Ledding.



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Canada

Op-ed: The right questions

**By Ryan Meili
Leader, Sask. NDP**

Changes in growing seasons and moisture levels, extreme weather, floods and wildfires: the economic and human costs of climate change are already hurting Saskatchewan and will only get worse.

When dealing with an issue of this magnitude, all options need to be on the table, which means all of the players need to be at the table. But in Canada today, one topic is taking up all of the oxygen – if not necessarily any carbon dioxide – and that's an oversimplified debate on one approach: carbon tax.

When it comes to lowering emissions, Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Moe have us asking the wrong question, reducing climate change to a simple yes or no. If you don't support the federal carbon tax, you must be a climate change denier. If you're open to market measures like a price on carbon,

you're accused of being against the economy and the West.

We know it's not that simple. Trudeau's plan is one option among many. And Moe's own carbon tax on heavy emitters, introduced last fall, shows that even the loudest objectors see a role for pricing pollution. The most important issue facing humanity today has been reduced to a political football.

The question we should be asking is how Saskatchewan can create the conditions for a strong, diversified economy while making the transition to clean energy. We need a plan to lower emissions, keep Saskatchewan people working, and protect families from increased costs. That means a plan that recognizes how farmers and ranchers contribute to carbon sequestration. It means better regulation of our biggest sources of pollution. It also means building the broad public support to actually get the

job done.

The federal carbon tax fails the test, most of all in how it's applied uniformly across the entire economy, hitting ordinary people who have little choice whether to drive or how to heat their homes. It's particularly unfair to rural and Northern families who have to travel long distances with no other transportation options. And it's unfair because, if we're putting a price on pollution, it's the largest polluters who should pay the most.

And Saskatchewan people have spoken: they don't like the federal plan, but they do want action on climate change. In a recent Abacus survey, only 32 per cent of Saskatchewan respondents selected carbon pricing as their preferred option. In the same poll, 63 per cent of Saskatchewan people rank action on climate change as a high or moderate priority, and 83 per cent supported a transition to a low-carbon economy.

So how do we reconcile these seeming polar opposites? By rejecting all-or-nothing political games and choosing a Saskatchewan solution. Inaction is not an option: we have a moral duty to act wisely and act now. With our incredible opportunities in alternative energy, Saskatchewan can proudly lead the way.

Unfortunately, the Sask. Party's record shows they don't take climate change seriously. In 2009, they promised to reduce emissions by 20 per cent by 2020. Instead they've allowed them to climb by over 10 per cent. After a decade of inaction, their latest promise would decrease emissions by only 12 million tonnes per year by 2030, less than half of the 28 million tonnes Saskatchewan has committed to. And that's if the Sask. Party actually follows through.

What's more, Moe hasn't even tried to negotiate an

equivalency agreement, leaving us with the federal carbon tax to be imposed this April 1. The province has launched a court challenge that is expected to go to the Supreme Court, which could take five years or more. We'll learn something about federal and provincial jurisdiction when it's resolved, but we can't let the courts delay us taking action.

We can't afford five years of Trudeau's tax. And we certainly can't afford five more years of Moe's inaction.

The time to act is now.

A New Democratic government will work with the public, leaders in agriculture, industry and public policy to balance economy and environment, allowing us to lead on addressing climate change while stimulating the economy and keeping life affordable, all without introducing an economy-wide carbon

tax. A cornerstone of this plan will be Renew Saskatchewan, helping families, farmers, businesses and communities make the transition to renewable energy while lowering power bills and employing thousands of Saskatchewan workers in secure, well-paying jobs. This will be accompanied by the regulation of pollutants like methane, replacement of coal-fired power stations, investments in public transportation and energy conservation, and incentive programs that make low-emission choices easier and more affordable.

All of this is possible. It starts with asking the right questions and having the tough conversations, not punting the crucial issue of our time years down the road. With vision and courage, we can strengthen our economy and lead the way on addressing climate change.

Provincial Budget 2019-20

The Right Balance

- ✓ **Balanced Budget**
- ✓ **No New Taxes or Tax Increases**
- ✓ **Record Investment to Improve Highway Safety**
- ✓ **Historic Investment in Mental Health and Addiction Services**
- ✓ **Investments in Infrastructure - Rural and Urban Communities**

"This budget is a balanced budget, and it sets Saskatchewan on a path to ensure balanced budgets in years ahead."

Honourable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Finance

Scott Moe and the
**Saskatchewan
Party Caucus**
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Learn more at saskatchewan.ca/budget

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Books, Movies, Magazines, Children's Section, Internet, Printing, Study/Meeting Space, Proctor Service, Community Programming. Hours: Wednesday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm; Saturday 12 pm - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Regular Library Hours - Tues. 1 - 5 p.m., Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 4 pm & Friday 1 - 5 pm. Storytime: Fridays 2 pm. Play cards the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Crafter's Choice the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 am.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Monday 3 pm - 7 pm; Tuesday 11 am - 4 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library Hours: Tuesday 1 pm - 5:30 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 5 pm.

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library is open Tues. 2 pm - 6 pm; Thur. 2 pm - 8 pm; Sat. 10 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Mon. 2 - 6:30 pm; Tues. 2 - 8 pm; Wed. 2 - 8 pm; Thur. 2 - 6:30 pm; Fri. 9 - 4 pm. Children's Story Time: Fri. 10:30 am (Sept - June).

CANWOOD: Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative *Annual Meeting*, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, Canwood Legion Hall. Supper 6:30 pm ~ Meeting to follow. \$10/person ~ Everyone Welcome! ***A resolution to have a review of the financial books instead of an audit will be voted on by the members present at this meeting! Please come out and show your support for your community clinic. If you have any question please call Donna at 1-306-468-7040.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Theatre Movie Night, Fri., Apr. 12, Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse. Doors Open 7 p.m. Showtime 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Minor Sports AGM, Tuesday, April 9 - 7 pm, Shellbrook Elementary School Gym. We will be discussing the possible impact of the SHA Atom Hockey Proposal (2020/2021). Visit the following link to view all of the proposed changes: <https://sha.sk.ca/news/memorandums/atom-hockey-proposal-20202021>

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Eighth annual Jim Willoughby Memorial Rec Hockey Tournament held in Shellbrook

By Ken Person

This year at the eighth annual Jim Willoughby Memorial Rec Hockey Tournament, which was played in Shellbrook March 22 and 23, we had total of eight teams participating: Dales Piprell's Elks, the Silvertips, the Midget Elks, the Wash-ups, the Cromarties, Team Pilsner, the Debden Jets, and the Willoughbys.

The A-event at this year's tournament was won by Silvertips over the Jets. The B-event had the Willoughbys defeat Dale Piprell's Elks, and the C-event saw the Washups triumph over

the Midget Elks.

Special acknowledgement goes to all refs Greg Spencer, Scott Galloway, Curtis Bloom, Ethan Bell, and Zach Bell, as well as the two time keepers, Tavis Galloway and Lynden Kerber.

All teams played Friday night and everything wrapped up on Saturday night. All had fun and always brings out some good laughs throughout the weekend.

One thing that I am still looking for is Jim's Trophy for this tourney. This means a lot to many people and was

in the rink by the other trophies last April, but could not be found. If anyone knows where this cup is please let me know at (306)747-7407.

Jim's passions were hockey and the rec center, as everyone knows, and this year we have \$2,400 to be split between the rec center and Minor Sports.

Appreciation goes to everyone for another great weekend, and for all the people who came to remember Jim, and look forward to next year's tourney.

We all miss you Jim.

Your friend,
Ken Person



A-event winners: back row, left to right: Brendan Canaday, Jory Segberg, Brendan Beaulac, Nick Martin, Nathaniel Martin, and Mathew Kutnikoff. Front row, left to right: Jason McComas, Brayden Turner, Daryl Blais, Parker Turner, Noah McPherson, and Todd Bazley.

Rosella Teer celebrates 90th birthday

By Kathleen Nording

Rosella Teer turned 90 on March 17, but celebrated with family and friends on Saturday, March 16 at the Legion Hall in Big River.

After a short welcome and thank you to friends and family who travelled from British Columbia, Alberta and various parts of Saskatchewan, Becky Wilson entertained playing several songs on her fiddle including Amazing Grace and Orange Blossom Special ending with Happy Birthday.

A plaque was presented to Rosella from the Big River Seniors, depicting a lifetime membership. It was noted that she was president of this club for 25 years. Her words were, "Nobody else wanted the job."

Family pictures were taken as all seven of her children were in attendance.



Rosella Teer celebrates 90 years.

Lunch and visiting followed.

Later, a family supper was enjoyed by around 50 people ending a very special day.

Canwood Regional Park hosts annual supper and auction

By Donna Lovberg

The Canwood Regional Park hosted their 18th Annual Supper and Auction Fundraiser. The money raised goes to the Park and also other community groups.

The evening started off with a delicious supper that Neighborhood Caterers cooked and served. Following the supper the door prizes were drawn and the winners were, Darryl Willoughby, Sherry Moar, Carol Svendsen, Justin Henry, Arnold Bartley and Sharon Korody.

Then the auction started, with many tables full of items to bid on, as well as live auction items. There were two 50/50 draws which were won by Colin Hughes and Vince White.

The Loonie auction items were won by Wendy Otterson and Lori Christiansen. Through the evening our capable auctioneer, Doug Byrne was very entertaining as he auctioned off the bigger auction items.

Over the years the Canwood Regional Park have made donations to various groups. This year, it gave \$5,000 to the Canwood Curling Club, which was presented to Lorne Benson who is the President of the Curling Club.

We appreciate the generosity of all the folks who continue to donate and purchase items every year. The Regional Park continues to improve as a result of this fundraiser.



Learn more at saskatchewan.ca/budget

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✓ The right balance between important investments in both urban and rural Saskatchewan.

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Nadine Wilson
MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Jays won't strike fear into A.L. opponents

The clocks have sprung ahead, the NHL playoffs won't begin for another three weeks or so, but it's baseball season, so buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack and take me out to the ballgame.

Major League Baseball has its earliest start ever, with the 162-game regular season kicking off March 28, not counting two games in Japan March 20-21 featuring Oakland and Seattle.

Canadians, of course, get excited about the Toronto Blue Jays, who are starting the season with a new manager, Charlie Montoyo, who replaces John Gibbons. Montoyo could use some new pitchers, too, but the Jays didn't do much in the off-season to address their mound situation. Marcus Stroman is hoping to rebound from a 4-9 injury-riddled 2018, and he'll pitch opening day against the visiting Detroit Tigers. After him, the Jays staff is suspect. J. A. Happ (10-6) was the only Toronto pitcher to reach double figures in wins last year, but he's wearing pinstripes in New York this

year after a late-July trade last season. Free agent signee Matt Shoemaker, 40-32 in six seasons with the Angels, is slated to be the Jays' second-game starter. The rotation of Stroman, Shoemaker, injury prone Aaron Sanchez and perhaps Ryan Borucki won't instill fear in opponents. Jays fans, however, will have lots to cheer for as soon as the can't-miss kid (he'd better not miss) Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., joins the big-league club in late April. Fellow phenom Bo Bichette may also rise from the minors after a terrific spring at the plate.

Around the Big Leagues, eyes will be focused on Philadelphia, where Bryce Harper joined the Phillies with a \$330 million 13-year contract, and San Diego, where Manny Machado signed with the Padres for \$300 million over 10 years.

The Yankees, who belted a record 267 home runs last year, could exceed that mark this year, and probably win the A.L. East over defending Series champion Boston Red Sox. The Sox will likely be



BRUCE PENTON

without closer Craig Kimbrel (who as a free agent still hadn't found a new home as of press time). Houston Astros, led by the diminutive Jose Altuve, are still going to be powerful, and the Dodgers will once again contend in the National League, proving once again that money not only talks, it wins. Mike Trout of the Angels remains the game's best player and fans in Atlanta will be anticipating more heroics from Ronald Acuna, Jr., last year's rookie of the year.

The beer will be cold, the hot dogs reasonably warm and the popcorn salty, and

games will drag on despite efforts by Commissioner Rob Manfred to speed things up. But to baseball fans, it won't matter. Baseball's back and for real fans, it's always a hit.

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Japanese startup Vaak claims it has developed artificial-intelligence software that identifies shoplifters — based on their body language — before they actually steal. Mariners opponents plan to test it out on Dee Gordon this season."

• Brad Rock of Salt Lake City's Deseret News, on the man who is suing the AAF because he says it was his idea: "Considering the history of other startup football leagues, he may want to keep a low profile on that."

• Dwight Perry again: "Best bet to score a bloated NFL contract this fall? Ex-LSU cornerback Greedy Williams."

• Remembering the late, great sportswriter Dan Jenkins, on the Winter Olympics (without the expletive): "Cross-country skiing's not a sport, it's how a (...) Swede goes to the 7-Eleven."

• Texas buddy Jim Mackey, posting a Facebook photo of a man with a 'O-for-4' licence plate on his truck: "I asked this guy if it stood for failed marriages. He said worse... he is a Buffalo Bills fan!"

• Brad Rock again: "ESPN's Jessica Mendoza has been hired by the New York Mets as an operations adviser. She will be allowed to keep both positions, despite an apparent conflict of interest. In response, the Yankees allegedly are looking to hire umpire Chad Fairchild as the team's hitting instructor."

• Comedy writer Alex Kasberg: "Lori Loughlin and her husband, Massimo Giannulli, paid \$500,000 to

have their two daughters admitted to USC as rowers. And now they're all up a certain proverbial creek without a paddle."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Struggling tennis star Eugenie Bouchard's Twitter date from losing an ill-considered Super Bowl bet is reportedly being made into a rom-com. Possible titles include I Dream of Genie, Backhand to the Future and Blunder Woman."

• Currie again, with a bit of a stinker: "The Toronto Argonauts signed defensive tackle Cory 'Poop' Johnson. Might be the first CFL lineman to wear No. 2."

• Perry again: "Q: How do MLB apologists try to spin it when a player vanishes for half a season because of a marijuana suspension? A: Tommy Chong surgery."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

LUTHERAN CHURCH
Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Chris Dean

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10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Doug Hope
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Glenn Blazosek
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Lorne Valuck

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Pastor Bill Klumpenhowe

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Debden
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Fr. Michael Fahlman
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Michael Fahlman
Eucharist Celebrations
Muskeg
Sunday, 3 p.m.
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday - 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Saturday - 7 p.m.
St. Joseph's - Marcelin
Mass - Sunday - 9 a.m.
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Sunday, 11 a.m. - Service
2 p.m. Service 2nd Sunday
of the month
Rev'd Eyad Ajji
306-980-5916

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Shellbrook - Knox United
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at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

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Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
Pastor: Rick Schellenberg
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Worship

Hockey Day Committee presents \$70,000 to Steering Committee



Representing the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee, Amund Otterson, Tasha Cyr, Jay Ferster, and Brent Miller accept a \$70,000 cheque from Hockey Day in Shellbrook committee members Becky Fisher and Mason Wallin. The money will be a boon to the committee, as it embarks on phase two of its three-phase project to upgrade the Shellbrook Recreation Complex. The major components of phase two include a new ice surface, boards and glass, and players' benches and penalty boxes. That work is set to commence this spring, and be completed ahead of the next hockey season.

OBITUARY

Marvin Ledding



LEDDING - Marvin Aby Ledding

Born Nov. 10/1920 Deceased Feb. 17/2019

Marvin left to meet his Lord on February 17/2019 leaving his 7 children, 24 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren to celebrate his life and miss his inspiring bright presence in our lives. He was predeceased by his parents Charles and Maria [Mattson] Ledding, his brothers Walter and Clarence, his beloved wife for 57

years Nora, niece Eleanor Ledding, sisters-in-law Ellen and Frances Ledding, brothers and sisters-in-law Dan & Isobel McAvoy, Joe and Isobel McAvoy, and Jim Murphy. Marvin left behind son Dr. M. David [Marie] children-Jeff, Eric, Dr. Kris, Carl, Janine, Yvette, Paul. Son Dr. Daniel [Judy] children Andrea, Matthew, Dr. Kevin, Tim. Daughter Mary-Children Michael, Jennifer, Kirsten, Corryn. Daughter Nora. Daughter Linda [David Stevens], children Brandyn, Kim, Kathryn. Son Dr. Ted [Brenda] children Jeremy, Teneille, Brooke. Daughter Lois [Dr. Raymond Tervo] children Dr. Chris, Mark, Sarah. Marvin valued education and encouraged all his children and grandchildren to further their Post Secondary Education. In addition, Marvin also had 47 great grandchildren. Most of them had the opportunity to get to know him and he knew them

well. They always brought a sparkle to his eyes, a box of chocolates and some games to play while he updated himself on their lives and just had fun. Family was important to him. He also loved his nieces and nephews and they brought him pride and joy. Marvin was born and raised at Parkside, SK. where he attended school when he was not out walking trap lines, working and entrepreuneuring to survive the hard times of the thirties. Later Marvin attended a dairying Course in Wpg. He went on to work in the Parkside Dairy Pool where he met his wife Nora. He said that she was the best wife he could ever have had. They then moved to Biggar SK where he spent the rest of his life. He worked and did management at the dairy pool in Biggar until his family outgrew his income. At this time he hired on to the CNR and worked as a Trainman-conductor for 32 years

after which he retired to community service for another 36 years. He spent his last years in Rosetown at the home of his son David and with Marie and his wonderful caregiver Jenifer Garcia's help it became Dad's harbour for family interaction. Later he went to the Rosetown Health Center and then Rose Villa Care home where he received exceptional care .Marvin was dedicated to making the world a better place and helping those who needed assistance. He coached baseball, belonged to the Elks and Kinsmen. He spend 20 years on the hospital board most of that as chairperson, he was chair of St. Gabriels School Board for 12 yrs and was responsible for them getting a new school. He was named to the Provincial Educational Council for 6 years and spent his energy to getting Healthy Lunches in the schools and helping the disadvantaged in the Schools. He was on the

town council for more than 28 yrs and retired at the age of 80, going back regularly to help with tax appeals. He was politically active and acted as Premier Woodrow Lloyds campaign leader. He was very active in the 1962 medicare crisis and on the community clinic board always acting to improve health care access.

He drove the courtesy car in Biggar for years and on his 90th birthday he made 37 calls. When he told his great-grandchildren this, they said "but how old are the old people then?" Marvin believed in for community service and many years of volunteerism. He kept an extremely sharp mind to his last days. He knew by heart his sin #, bank account #s and every one of his friends' and family's phone numbers. He loved to visit and even surprised strangers by telling them things about their families they did not know. His life is written up in the

Biggar history. "One Hundred People- One Hundred Years" His health deteriorated the last years but he always said "as long as I can do some good there is a reason to keep living." Some say with his Family he left a big footprint. Others say that he left a big Blueprint on how to live a fulfilled life. Marvin chose Cremation, his Funeral is on Saturday March 30th at one pm at St. Theresa's Church in Rosetown, Sask. Lunch will be served for all afterwards in the Church's Auditorium. Friends and family are welcome to stay afterwards and share memories, visit and and share a pot luck before heading home. Memorial donation may be directed to the Alex Ostitis Foundation Box 1251 Rosetown, Sask. SoL2Vo. Grondin Funeral Services Biggar entrusted with the arrangements. Bob Clothier director 306- 948-9216 www.grondinfuneralservices.com.

GOOD NEWS

THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE AREN'T SO AT ODDS

By Scott Manly
Seventh Day Adventist Church

Is the Bible just a mythical book? Or is it indeed the Word of God? In today's scientific age, many have cast doubts on the Bible as an authoritative book on our origins. After all, hasn't science proven the universe began some 13.5 billion years ago? And that earth is some 4.5 billion years old? Didn't Darwin prove the Evolution of all species from the first living cell over hundreds of millions of years?

I may be a pastor, but I also have a science background, having ever had an interest in science and having both studied engineering in college as well as worked in a lab for the space industry at the same time. In my years of study, I have ever more found much evidence and reason to believe the Bible account. It is not my purpose here to get into the details of this (I have recorded a 14-disc series delving into more details), but I do want to touch on a few things.

I will admit, when we consider the creation account in Genesis 1 and 2, there are parts of it that do sound mythical, especially when it comes to the creation of Adam and Eve. I mean really, did God create Adam from dirt and Eve from a rib of Adam? All we see today speaks the opposite. Men (and women) come from women, not from men (even

though men have a part in that). And a rib? Come on!

Well, what is most fascinating to me is that this very story, contrary to the mythical sound of it, is actually quite consistent with science. Take for instance the account of woman coming from man. Again, all we ever observe is men and women coming from women, not from men. But in the beginning, woman must have come from man, and not man from woman because man has something genetically that women do not – a Y chromosome. Men have an X and a Y chromosome, and women only have two X chromosomes. So man could produce a woman with his X chromosome, but a woman could not produce a man since she has no Y chromosome. Did Moses know this? I don't think he did. He was just recording what had been revealed to him.

Second, the creation account states that God took a rib from Adam's side to make Eve. In our generation, we no longer have room to scoff at the idea of God making an entire person out of a small body part because of advances in cloning where we know we can clone an entire animal from a single cell (see Dolly the sheep). But a rib?

And as it turns out, to this day, the rib is the only bone in our bodies that we know can regenerate.

That said, scientists are working to use adult stem cells and other methods to get other bones to regrow, but the process is far from natural; it requires a great deal of medical manipulation. By contrast, the rib will regrow on its own as long as the membrane is left intact, within 4 to 12 months.

As I said before, when we look at this seemingly mythical creation story through the eyes of modern science, we see it isn't so mythical anymore. In fact, it is actually quite consistent with modern science.

What I am finding is that despite science's boasts that it doesn't need God anymore, God's claims to creation are not disproven by science. Science only has speculations about the origin of life, all of which contradict Louis Pasteur's biogenic law (we only ever observe life coming from other living things). But God (the eternal source of life who Himself has no beginning) claims to have given life to all living things on earth. That is consistent with the biogenic law. I have read atheist's claims to the origin of the universe and all the matter in it, but they still do not answer how you get something from nothing (nothing meaning not even time and space). But God claims to have spoken it all into existence.

I believe the beginning of the Bi-

ble, and I hear God's call to worship Him as Creator in Revelation 14:7, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea, and the fountains

of waters." In the last days, according to Revelation, God is calling us back to worship the Creator, the one whom the Bible says created all these things according to Genesis 1 & 2.

The Shellbrook Museum's mystery artifact of the month



Can you identify this groovy mystery object that was donated to the Shellbrook Museum by Krista Batten?

March's mystery object is made entirely of wood, with what appear to be handles at either end, and a centre portion with some deep ridges.

Think the answer is ready to roll off the tip of your tongue?

Well, the artifact is currently available for viewing at the Shellbrook Library, where you can put your guess into a draw for a book from the Library's deposits.

In the absence of a correct answer,

a winner from the most creative answers will be selected instead.

February's winner was Cheryl Tieszen, who correctly guessed that the item was a textile stamp.

Some of the more unique guesses included a branding iron, and a cookie press.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the estate of Leroy Donald Brown, late of Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to me before the 18th day of April, 2019. Scott D. Wolfe Solicitor for the Executor Parchomchuk Sherdahl Hunter 110-11th Street East Prince Albert, SK S6V 1A1 2-14C

NOTICE

FORM C NOTICE

The Tax Enforcement Act

TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Blaine Lake intends to be registered pursuant to the above Act as owner of the land described below.

The municipality claims title to the land by virtue of an interest based on the tax lien registered against the existing title to the land in the Land Titles Registry as Interest Number 155455601.

TAKE NOTICE that unless you contest the claim of the municipality or redeem the lands pursuant to the provisions of the above Act within six months from the service of this notice on you and, subject to the further provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, a title will be issued to the applicant and you will thereafter be forever estopped and debarred

from setting up any claim to, or in respect of, the land.

The amount required to redeem the land may be ascertained on application to the Clerk, Treasurer or Administrator of the municipality.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2019 (Seal)

Anna Brad, Treasurer
To: Helen Plotnikoff and William Pehudoff
To: Gwen Janzen (as the occupant of Lot 13, Blk 24, Plan BL5947)

To: The Public Guardian and Trustee for Saskatchewan
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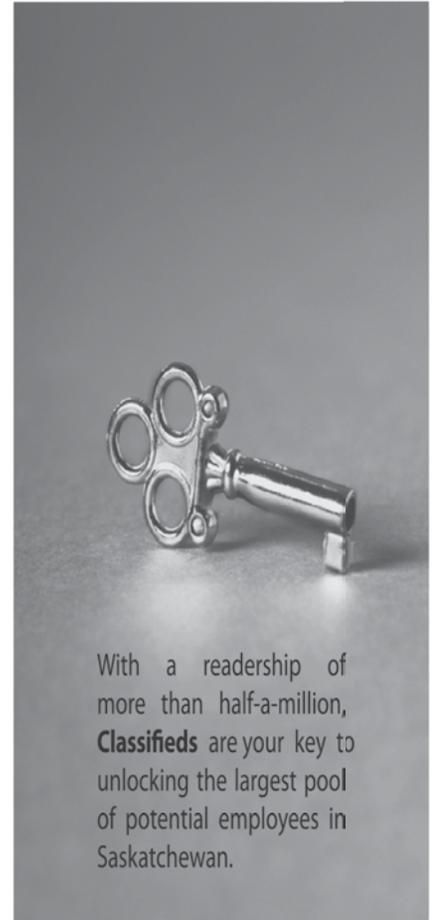
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Federal budget positions Liberals for fall election

If Saskatchewan residents were left wondering what measures contained within the Liberal Federal government's 2018 budget would make their lives easier and more affordable, they'll likely be asking the same question of the 2019-2020 budget.

Tabled by federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau in Ottawa last Tuesday, the Liberal government's 464-page pre-election fiscal road map contains far more references to the province than the paltry five that appeared in last year's budget.

However, most of these mentions are in relation to the unpopular federal carbon tax and the Climate Action Incentive, both of which are old Liberal promises that came into effect this year.

Other than that, most of the remainder of the Liberals' mentions of Saskatchewan have to do with the 2019 budget's promised Indigenous Services spending of \$3.25 billion to improve water quality, child welfare, education, and other services on First Nations and in Indigenous communities.

Elsewhere, some Saskatch-

ewan municipalities will likely benefit from the Liberal government's one-time doubling of Gas Tax cash – a \$2.2 billion promise that will help cities and towns fund infrastructure projects.

Similarly, Saskatchewan's dairy, egg, and poultry producers could see some benefit from an up to \$3.9 billion expenditure, which is aimed at offsetting the impact of recently signed trade deals, including the renegotiated NAFTA deal (now called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement).

Of that \$3.9 billion, \$2.4 billion will take the form of income supports for producers, while the remaining \$1.5 billion will go into a Quota Value Guarantee Program, which will protect producers against reductions in quota value due to trade.

In other agriculture-targeted spending, the federal government will shell out \$134.4 million for an as yet undefined "national food policy," as well as \$100 million for the processing sector. Another \$1 million will go to Western Economic Diversification to "develop a new

strategy to sustainably manage water and land in the Prairies."

Rounding out the spending and initiatives, the feds will also look at ways to extend the farm fuel exemption to fuel bought at cardlocks, and spend \$1.7 billion over 13 years to deliver high-speed internet to all Canadians by 2030.

Looking more broadly at the budget, which is titled "Investing in the Middle Class," the Liberal government is promising a whopping \$22.8 billion worth of new spending, and projecting a deficit of \$19.8 billion for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Based on the government's current projection, the deficit will drop slightly to \$19.7 billion in 2020-2021, before gradually declining to \$9.8 billion in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Despite these large deficits, and the fact that a balanced budget (once promised by the feds for this year) is nowhere in sight, the budget projects that the federal debt to GDP ratio will decline from 30.8 per cent this year to 28.6 per cent in 2023-24, giving

Canada one of the lowest levels among leading industrialized nations.

So what's responsible for this year's big deficit?

Targeting younger Canadians, especially those looking to join Canada's home-owning class, the feds are promising to spend \$1.25 billion over three years, starting this year, for a First-time Home Buyer Incentive.

Managed by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the incentive would see the federal housing agency share the cost of a mortgage with first-time homebuyers, by putting up 10 per cent of the value of a newly constructed home, or five per cent of an existing home, and sharing in the homeowner's equity.

Though many of the program's finer details need to be fleshed out, the program would essentially function as an interest-free loan, which would have to be paid back once the mortgage of the home is paid off, or the home is sold.

Still, the feds contend that up to 100,000 first-time homebuyers will be eligible for the incentive, and that it could reduce monthly mortgage payments by up to \$228.

In other housing-related measures, the feds will also increase the limit on the Home Buyers' Plan, allowing first-time homebuyers to withdraw \$35,000 from their RRSPs – or \$70,000 for a couple – to purchase a home. The current limit is \$25,000.

Looking at the supply side, the feds will spend \$10 bil-

lion over nine years on a program, first launched in 2017, that provides low-interest loans for the construction of new rental housing for low to middle income Canadians.

Citing Canadians' growing concerns of job instability, the federal government is introducing \$586.5 million in new Employment Insurance benefits to pay for training and cover up to four weeks of lost income when a person takes a leave from their job to take a course.

The budget also includes a credit of up to \$250 per year – or \$5,000 maximum – that can be used to pay up to half the cost of a course or training programs.

For students, meanwhile, the budget reduces the interest rate on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans by 2 per cent, and adds a six-month grace period after graduation before interest begins to accrue.

It also expands a work placement program, and will create 40,000 work placements for students within five years.

Continuing the federal government's baby steps towards the implementation of a national pharmacare plan, Mr. Morneau said in his budget speech that the

government will work with the provinces and territories to create a Canadian Drug Agency.

The organization, Mr. Morneau said, will leverage bulk buying power to reduce pharmaceutical costs for Canadians by as much as \$3 billion per year over the long term.

Elsewhere, the final major pillar of the Liberals' 2019 budget, targeted at seniors, includes changes to exemptions under the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

Beginning in July of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, seniors will be able to earn up to \$5,000 before their benefits are clawed back – the current limit is \$3,500. Additionally, a partial exemption of 50 per cent will be applied to up to \$10,000 of income beyond the new \$5,000 limit.

Lastly, to ensure that seniors don't miss out on their pensions, the budget promises to proactively enrol Canada Pension Plan earners who are 70 years old or older in 2020, but who haven't yet applied to receive their retirement pension.

Seniors wishing not to be enrolled will also be given up to a year to opt-out, up from the current timeline of six months.

Correction

In the March 21 edition of the Chronicle, a story about a hockey tournament at the Leask arena mistakenly stated that there hadn't been ice on the rink for some time. In fact, the Leask rink has had ice in the past years, put in by the Leask Village Council. The ice has just seen small amounts of people over the last few years, with the March 9 event being its first hockey tournament in years. The author of the article apologizes for the error.

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