



2004–2005

Saskatchewan

Provincial Budget

The 2004-05 Budget is about priorities and values. It is about a province we will shape through conscious choices, move forward by action and deliver to future generations.

Budget 2004-05 is the Government's 11th consecutive General Revenue Fund (GRF) balanced budget. This is a budget that responds to the fiscal reality in Saskatchewan – a province that places a high priority on essential programs and services such as Health and Education. A province that is committed to prudent fiscal management, but not at the expense of vital public services and programs.

Health Care... a Saskatchewan Institution

- a record \$2.7 billion in health, 44 per cent of all government operating spending
- an increase of \$223 million in spending and 72 per cent of that is going to health care – \$160 million including:
 - \$115 million for salaries/benefits/medical fees for service to help attract and retain qualified health professionals
 - \$46 million in facilities and equipment, includes \$27 million in capital and \$19 million in diagnostic equipment
 - \$6.6 million dollars more to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
 - \$1 million for prevention projects, enhanced diagnosis and assessment for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and other cognitive disorders
- 72 more training seats in the Nursing Education Program
- funding to the *KidsFirst* program for 60 new families to enter the pre-natal program and receive support

Focusing on Children, Youth and Opportunity

- \$1.2 billion for education, a 3.8 per cent increase over last year

- \$24 million in capital improvements for K-12 schools and \$16 million for post-secondary institutions
- increasing Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit to \$1000 over four years. In 2004, the tax credit will go from \$350 to \$500
- launching the Young Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan Program
- creating 200 new child care spaces
- increasing the Child Benefit payments for single parents

Supporting Communities

- an investment of \$295 million to fix the roads, and build better highways
- resurfacing 325 km of highways, continuing to twin the TransCanada and Yellowhead Highways
- a further \$10 million in revenue-sharing grants for municipalities, a 13 per cent increase over last year and the third \$10 million increase in three years
- \$1 billion over five years in provincial support for the Agricultural Policy Framework and income support program
- \$12.6 million for affordable housing construction under the Provincial Housing Policy Framework
- \$211 million in job training and creation
- \$200,000 to launch the Green Team, a summer student employment program focused on environmental management and energy conservation

Fiscal Management and Accountability

- reducing the dependence on the fiscal stabilization fund by 40 per cent from last year
- improving our summary financial results by over \$380 million since 2002-03
- introducing a summary financial plan – a consolidated look at all government departments, Crowns, agencies, and boards
- introducing a new GRF four-year financial plan that will generate a \$42 million surplus over the next four years and meet the requirements of the provincial *Balanced Budget Act*

All Budget material is available on-line:
www.gov.sk.ca/finance/budget



Government of
Saskatchewan