

# KEEPING ✓ THE SASKATCHEWAN ADVANTAGE

## ✓ **A Balanced Budget and a Growing Economy**

The Government of Saskatchewan has achieved a **balanced budget that keeps the economy growing** by:

- Maintaining lower debt, historic tax reductions;
- Investing in key capital and programming areas; and,
- Sustaining and enhancing core government services.

## ✓ **Better Access to Health Care**

- **Regional Health Authority funding increases** \$98.2 million, a 3.5 per cent increase.
- \$60.5 million for the **Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative** to add 8,000 more surgeries, additional physician services, home care and rehabilitation services.
- \$2.5 million increase to reduce costs for those with diabetes by adding two forms of long-acting insulin to the Drug Plan and expand the **Children's Insulin Pump Program** from age 17 up to 25 years old.
- \$4.0 million to expand **colorectal screening program** province-wide, providing early detection and prevention of later treatment.
- \$5.5 million increase for the **Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS)** Helicopter Ambulance.
- \$16.9 million increase in **Saskatchewan Cancer Agency** for drug, medical and operating costs, funding new patient referrals, chemotherapy treatments and mammograms.
- \$42.7 million to begin **construction** of seven previously announced Long-term Care (LTC) facilities in a new shared ownership model which will continue to use the 80 per cent, 20 per cent local cost share.
- Additional third party grants to **continue with six LTC** facilities currently underway in Radville, Redvers, Rosetown, Shellbrook, Tisdale and Watrous.
- \$5.0 million for planning and redesign of **Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford**.
- Planning and design work will continue in 2012-13 to replace the **Moose Jaw Union Hospital**.

## ✓ **Improved Quality of Life**

- In keeping with platform commitments, \$3.5 million for the new **Seniors Personal Care Home Benefit**, estimated to be \$278 per month rising to \$369 per month by the fourth year.
- \$24.2 million, a \$3.3 million increase to provide **Seniors Income Plan** benefit increases of up to \$50 per month starting July 2012 with increases of up to \$10 per month in each of the next three years.

- \$113 million, a net \$17.8 million increase to provide expanded **Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability** eligibility – number of clients will expand from 3,000 to 10,000 adults and benefits increase by \$200 per month (couples up to \$230 per month) in July 2012 and by \$350 per month (couples up to \$400 per month) in the fourth year.
- \$6 million net increase for the **Saskatchewan Children and Youth Agenda**, including \$1.0 million for enhancements to **Autism Spectrum Disorder therapies**, \$600,000 for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and \$450,000 for Community Mobilization Prince Albert.
- \$46.0 million for child care operating, including a \$2.0 million increase to create **500 new child care spaces**, and \$4.0 million for **child care capital** to support the 500 new child care spaces, of which 300 will be built in schools or post-secondary institutions.
- \$1.74 billion in **total school operating funding**, a five per cent increase.
- \$38.6 million to begin construction of **six new school projects** in a new shared ownership model.
- \$50.1 million in third party grants for **15 major school capital projects** which are already under construction or are major renovations.
- \$4.0 million in **planning for three school projects**.
- Total Highways budget of \$581.5 million, commencing our campaign commitment to spend \$2.2 billion over four years on **highways spending**.
- \$321.4 million to fund **Crop Insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest**.
- \$237.4 million in **Municipal Revenue Sharing**, an increase of \$20.6 million.
- \$11.8 million, an increase of \$2.5 million in **parks capital** to meet the commitment to enhance parks infrastructure.

## **✓ Making Life More Affordable**

- \$4.6 million to meet the 2011 platform commitment of establishing the **Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship Program** that provides any high school graduates from 2012 onwards with up to \$2,000 over four years to be applied toward tuition fees at any Saskatchewan post-secondary institution.
- A new **rental housing construction initiative** providing a 10-year rebate of Corporate Income Tax equal to 10 per cent of the expected rental income from new multi-unit residential rental projects.
- \$3.0 million increase to expand the **Active Families Benefit Program** to include all children and youth under 18 years old.
- The new **Saskatchewan First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit** of up to \$1,100 against Saskatchewan income tax payable.
- \$100,000 to establish a program to meet the 2011 platform commitment to forgive up to \$120,000 in student loans for **new doctors** and up to \$20,000 for **new nurses** and **Nurse Practitioners** that practice in qualifying rural and remote communities for five years.
- \$36.5 million for the **Student Aid Fund**, an increase of \$6.7 million
- \$12 million increase to support operating costs at **post-secondary institutions**.
- \$10.3 million to continue to meet Government's commitment of expanding the **Registered Nurse** training program by 170 seats.

