

# Backgrounder

## **Important Investments to Keep Saskatchewan Moving Forward**

Improving Highways and Transportation Infrastructure

New Investment in Park Infrastructure

Improving Saskatchewan's Community Rinks

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### **\$2.2 Billion Investment in Highways and Transportation Infrastructure**

Over the last four years, the Saskatchewan Party government has invested over \$2.2 billion to construct or improve over 6,000 kilometres of Saskatchewan's road and transportation network and assist in sustaining Saskatchewan's economic growth. This investment represents an increase of 64 per cent compared to the last four years of the NDP government.

New transportation investments such as a West Truck Bypass at Yorkton will support efficient and safe movement of truck traffic to new canola crushing plants west of the city, while investments such as the Global Transportation Hub in Regina are attracting new businesses and jobs to the province.

Other major highways and transportation investments completed or in progress over the last four years include:

- 770 km of major rural highway upgrades (rebuilt) to support economic development and improve safety, such as Highway 40 near Battleford, Highway 303 near Lloydminster, Highway 368 near St. Brieux, Highway 47 near Stoughton, Highway 48 east of Wawota, Highway 32 near Lancer and many more;
- 1,485 km of major repaving and 3,856 km of light and medium preservation treatments on some of the province's most heavily-travelled highways such as Highways 1, 11 and 16;
- Accelerated twinning of Highway 11 between Saskatoon and Prince Albert with 72 km of new lanes;
- \$150 million in funding to Saskatchewan cities and towns through the Urban Highway Connector Program to improve infrastructure that connects to the provincial highway system, including \$98.5 million in funding for Saskatoon's Circle Drive South bridge, interchanges and connector roads;
- New infrastructure to support the Global Transportation Hub in Regina including upgrades to Pinkie Road and Dewdney Avenue, the construction of a new access road, a divided four-lane highway from Highway 1 to Dewdney Avenue, an interchange at Highway 1 and the overpass at the CPR tracks to accommodate high volume truck traffic;
- Safety improvements, including exit ramps, along Highway 1 East Corridor;
- A new truck bypass at Yorkton and plans for a future truck route at Estevan;
- 109 bridge replacements or rehabilitations completed or in progress including a long-anticipated new bridge on Highway 2 at St. Louis;

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- \$115.5 million in provincial funding provided to rural municipalities for transportation improvements;
  - \$2.2 million in provincial funding for shortline rail and five new shortlines operating an additional 900 km of track; and
  - \$2 million in provincial funding for community airport improvements which has benefitted 20 communities.

To ensure Saskatchewan's economy continues to grow, a re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will continue to invest another \$2.2 billion into the province's road, highway and transportation system over the next four years.

### **New Investment in Park Infrastructure**


Over the last four years, the Saskatchewan Party government has created over 1,000 new electrified campsites and undertaken significant improvements to our provincial parks while providing increased funding for Saskatchewan's regional parks.

To ensure Saskatchewan residents continue to enjoy the benefit of Saskatchewan's provincial parks, a re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will continue to invest an additional \$10 million in provincial parks infrastructure over the next four years to improve campground facilities like showers and bathrooms and create more electrified campsites.

**Cost:** \$2.5 million annually

Since 2007, the Saskatchewan Party government has:

- Provided a record investment of \$91.5 million to Saskatchewan's parks – an increase of 90 per cent compared to the last four years of the NDP government.
- Invested \$33 million in improving parks infrastructure, like bathroom and shower facilities.
- Provided over \$3 million to Saskatchewan's regional parks.
- Committed nearly \$18 million to parks programs in the last four years - \$6.2 million more than in the previous four years under the NDP.
- Provided a 45 per cent increase to urban parks in Saskatchewan compared to the previous four years under the NDP.
- Created the Reserve-a-Site program allowing campers to pre-register and pre-pay their camping spots in 19 provincial parks.



Since 2007, the number of visits to Saskatchewan's provincial parks has increased by nearly 240,000 annually and visitor satisfaction ratings have increased by 10 per cent.

### **Making Community Rinks More Affordable**

Community hockey and curling rinks are a source of pride and the heart of activity in many small and large communities throughout Saskatchewan. In fact, Saskatchewan has the largest number of ice rinks per capita in Canada.

The Saskatchewan Party recognizes that many municipalities, particularly smaller communities, have difficulty affording the operating expenses, like power and energy costs, for community rinks.

To assist communities in the cost of operating municipally-owned ice surfaces, a Saskatchewan Party government will create a new **Community Rink Affordability Grant** – a new \$2,500 per year per indoor ice surface grant to municipalities to help offset operating costs.

This grant will apply to all of the approximately 750 municipally-owned ice surfaces in Saskatchewan and will be delivered through the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport beginning next year.

#### **Cost:**

\$1.9 million annually (750 ice surfaces X \$2,500)