

Christine Tell MLA

Regina Wascana Plains

Provincial

Update



JUNE 2008

Regina Wascana Plains Constituency Picnic

Sunday, June 22

W.S. Hawrylak School
Assiniboine Ave.

2:00 - 5:00



Music

BBQ/Refreshments

Face Painting



Door Prizes - Giveaways

This is a non-partisan event for all residents, young and old, of Regina Wascana Plains and Regina Dewdney constituencies

Free Admission

Bring your own lawn chairs

Message from Christine Tell MLA

Dear Constituents,

We are excited about what is happening in Saskatchewan. We are experiencing unprecedented growth and unexpected surpluses.

A primary goal of our government is to ensure all people of our province share in the economic prosperity. We want to help create an environment for all to participate in our economy.

On that note, we want to know what you think we should be doing with the surpluses to ensure long term sustainability. Are there specific priorities, we should be addressing.

Over the next few months I will be knocking on doors in the constituency to listen to your thoughts. If I don't reach you at home, feel free to forward your thoughts to me at my constituency office.

Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing you at the picnic on June 22.

Christine Tell



Howard Schweitzer, CEO of Saskatchewan Special Olympics makes a presentation to Christine.

Promises Kept

“The spring session of the Saskatchewan legislature ended last week. It will be good to be able to spend more time in the constituency in the months ahead. Premier Wall and my caucus colleagues worked hard to ensure all people in Saskatchewan shared in the prosperity. We focused on keeping our promises”.

- Protecting public safety in the event of a strike by introducing essential services legislation
- \$156.6 million to increase property tax rebates for homeowners and farmers
- \$20 million over four years for food banks and community-based organizations
- \$2 million over four years for community schools for school lunch and anti-hunger programs
- Strengthening support for cancer care, through doing things like funding the drug Avastin
- A tuition rebate program for post-secondary graduates worth up to \$20,000 per graduate.
- Increased municipal revenue sharing by 15 per cent.
- A smaller cabinet
- Eliminating the PST on used cars
- Cancelling the DOMTAR memorandum of understanding on the P-A pulp mill that cost taxpayers \$100 million
- Getting tough on repeat drunk drivers
- The creation of a private-public partnership called Enterprise Saskatchewan to facilitate and promote economic growth
- Fixed election dates
- Strengthening the partnership with First Nations
- Keeping prescription drug costs fair for seniors and children
- Expand the number of drugs covered under the provincial formulary
- Elimination of the “wiener roast” tax on campfires
- Provide an insurance discount for the drivers of hybrid and fuel-efficient vehicles
- Review the Crop Insurance Program
- New training seats for doctors and nurses
- Help families with the costs of their children taking part in cultural, sport or recreational activities
- Interest-free loans to assist municipalities develop lots
- Paying down the provincial debt by \$250 million

For a complete list of the Promises Kept go to:
<http://www.gov.sk.ca/premier/promises-kept/>



Christine signs a banner that is to accompany athletes to the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing

Putting People First

Your Saskatchewan Party government's focus is on putting people first by ensuring your security and safety in the event of a strike. You shouldn't have to worry about whether there will be a nurse at the emergency room or if the highways will be cleared when there's a blizzard.

Our government's essential services legislation is about your safety and security. Mandating the employer and the union to negotiate which employees are essential 90 days before the end of a contract addresses that.

Being able to vote without someone else knowing how you cast your ballot is often taken for granted. You do not get a secret ballot when voting on whether to unionize in Saskatchewan.

Your Saskatchewan Party government's Amendments to the Trade Union Act introduces the secret ballot to the union certification process. The amendments will also make it possible for employers to talk to employees during the certification process.

These changes do two things: ensure your safety and security and make the workplace more democratic.

Electronic Newsletter

We produce an electronic newsletter on a monthly basis which will deal with provincial and constituency concerns. If you are interested in receiving this monthly piece, please send an email to: christinetellmla@accesscomm.ca

MLA Activities

Over the past few months, in her role as MLA for Regina Wascana Plains and Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, Christine participated in a number of activities. In addition to her duties during the Legislative session she attended many functions and introduced legislation and changed regulations.

- March 4th - Lectured at the U of R regarding experience and observations in politics.
- March 8th - Attended the opening of the George Layh Theatre and brought greetings from the Government.
- March 9th - Attended the 2008 National Diving Championships-Spring Board to Beijing on behalf of the Government.
- March 12th - Attended the SARM Convention
- March 19th - Brought greetings on behalf of the Government at the Sask. Sports Awards Banquet.
- March 31st - Attended Saskatchewan Publisher Group Stakeholder Dinner.
- April 1st - Attended the Canadian Cancer Society, MLA breakfast
- April 2nd - Met with the Special Olympic Participants
- April 3rd - Conducted a press conference regarding the Bilateral Agreement for Aboriginal Sport Funding
- April 3rd - Presented the Lifetime Achievement Award at SMPA-Saskatchewan's Premiere Film and Television Awards Show.
- April 3rd - Attended a fundraising fashion show for the 2nd Annual Women of Strength and Distinction.
- April 4th - Brought Greetings at the Regional Parks of Saskatchewan Conference.
- April 5th - Participated in the 30th Anniversary of the First Nations University of Canada Pow-wow "Honoring the Missing Family Members"



In her role as Minister of Sport, Christine meets with figure skater, Lauren Weigel, a Team Saskatchewan member at the 2008 Special Olympic National Winter games in Quebec City in March.

- April 5th - Grand Opening of her Constituency office.
- April 5th - Brought Greetings on behalf of the Government at the Regina and District Association for Community Living Spring Fling.
- April 8th - Attended the Sask Health Research Foundation
- April 9th - Attended Regina Wascana Plains AGM.
- April 10th - Brought greetings at the Tourism Regina AGM.
- April 11th - Hosted a table at the MacKenzie Art Gallery- "Art in Bloom" fundraiser.
- April 11th - Attended the Pilot Butte Appreciation
- April 15th - Attended PNWER Delegation Luncheon.
- April 15th - Attended MLA Reception for the Insurance Broker's Association of Saskatchewan
- April 17th - Brought greetings on behalf of the Government at the media launch for the Festival of Words in Moose Jaw.
- April 21st - Brought greetings on behalf of the Government at the Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala.
- April 22nd - Attended the Regina Leader's Dinner
- April 23rd - Attended the Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit.
- April 27th - Brought greetings and threw the first pitch at the Regina Minor Girls Softball Opening Day Ceremony.
- Met with Grade 4 students from St. Gabriel school touring the Legislative Bldg.



Premier Wall joins Christine in meeting with members of Saskatchewan's Special Olympics team.

- May 2nd - Addressed the 2008 Arts Congress. This is an annual meeting of Sask. Arts organizations.
- Met with Grade 4 students from Jack McKenzie school touring the Legislative Bldg.
- May 6th - Attended in "Filling Empty Bowls". This is a charity event hosted by Alfredo's to assist the Regina & District Food Bank.
- May 8th - Brought greetings from the Government to the 3rd annual fundraising dinner of Friends of Wascana Marsh.
- May 14th - Attended a luncheon to honour the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.
- May 20 -23 - Attended the Provincial and Territories Conference for Sport Ministers in Victoria May 20-23.

Legislation

- Passed Bill 33, the Active Families Benefit Tax Credit. This Bill allows a tax credit of \$150.00 to parents of children who are enrolled in cultural or sporting activities. This credit will apply to children between 6- 16 years of age and will come into effect in 2009. Cultural and sport organizations will be consulted to set guidelines for applicability of the credit.
- Passed Bill 37 - The Parks Amendment Act 2008. This amendment has two facets. It allows for more effective park enforcement by giving parks officers the ability to ticket vehicles that are in breach of park regulations. It also makes legal refinements to park boundaries to allow for current digital mapping technology carried out by ISC.
- In a very popular move, Hon. Christine Tell, Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Parks eliminated the campfire permit fees, or what came to be known as the "Weiner Roast Tax", which had been implemented by the NDP in 2004. Saskatchewan campers since then had expressed their displeasure over paying a \$3 per day fee to purchase firewood. The Sask Party said in its election campaign that they would remove this nuisance tax, and very early in the Spring session, they followed through on this promise so that campers were free of this tax effective for this summer's camping season.



Christine greets members of the paralympic team at Kidsport Challenge

Government Seeks Public Input On Education Property Tax

Would you like to weigh in on education property taxes? The Government has launched an online form via the Ministry of Education website asking residents to put forward their ideas about how the province can find a solution aimed at reducing education property taxes.

“We made a promise during the election campaign to review education property taxes, as Saskatchewan relies more on property taxes to fund education than any other province in Canada,” Education Minister Ken Krawetz said. “Finding a long-term solution is a priority for our government and my ministry.”

Rosetown-Elrose MLA Jim Reiter, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Education, has been assigned to lead the Property Tax Initiative to review the role of property tax in the funding of K-12 education.

In addition to the website submissions, Reiter is inviting written submissions through his office. He will also meet with stakeholder groups and review best practices from other provinces. Recommendations will be provided to the Minister of Education by early 2009.

Interested Saskatchewan individuals and organizations are invited to provide their views by September 1, 2008.

As the government works to develop a long-term solution, it has provided \$156.6 million to go toward property tax rebate programs across the province in the 2008-09 Budget. This includes an increase to the agricultural property tax credit from 38 per cent to 47 per cent and an increase to the commercial and residential property tax credit from 10 per cent to 12 per cent, as promised during the election campaign.

To submit your ideas or to learn more about the review, please visit www.learning.gov.sk.ca/property-tax-review.

Artwork

We have room in the constituency office to display artwork from Saskatchewan artists. If you have any or know of someone who would like to display their art, please contact the office.

Nominations Open For Saskatchewan's Highest Honour

Saskatchewan residents have until July 5th to nominate individuals for the province's highest honour, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. The Order of Merit recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the well-being of the province and its residents.

“We are fortunate in Saskatchewan to benefit from visionary and accomplished people who define excellence and contribute immensely to the greater good,” Lieutenant Governor Gordon L. Barnhart said. “I encourage my fellow citizens to nominate a deserving individual for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, which enables us to publicly recognize outstanding achievement.”

Any Saskatchewan resident, or former resident, is eligible for nomination with the exception of current elected members of the Legislature or Parliament and judges currently holding office. Nominations are accepted for individuals only, not for couples, groups or organizations. Posthumous nominations are accepted within one year of the date of the person's death.

The fields of endeavour recognized by this honour include: agriculture; business and industry; education and research; literary; visual and performing arts; occupational and professional achievement; sport and recreation; and, public and community service.

For information and nomination forms call 1-877-427-5505 or go to www.ops.gov.sk.ca/protocol.

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