Speech from the Throne Highlights – March 18, 2004

MAKING SASKATCHEWAN READY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

In our Centennial year the government of Saskatchewan will:

EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY

- Implement the Career Start Program to prepare youth for career opportunities here in Saskatchewan and connect youth to jobs.
- Expand the School^{Plus} model to more schools.
- Add more child care spaces.
- Establish Green Teams, bringing together young people, jobs and the building of a greener Saskatchewan.
- Expand the youth job recruitment plan to include the broader public service and private sector.
- Enhance the Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit program.
- Open the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron.

BUILDING A GREEN AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

- Host the first Saskatchewan summit this fall, to achieve economic, environmental and social progress.
- Expand the Immigrant Nominee Program.
- Work to open the borders to Saskatchewan livestock.
- Open the new forest centre in Prince Albert.
- Further develop the uranium industry and the potash industry.
- Further enhance green power generated by the wind.
- Make Saskatchewan the national model in researching and demonstrating hydrogen as a new source of energy.

- Continue to work with Alberta to see the road between La Loche and Fort McMurray finalized.
- Entrench the principle of public ownership of the Crown utilities in legislation.
- Provide Saskatchewan families with the lowest cost package from utility providers in Canada.
- Establish Investment Saskatchewan.
- Establish The Young Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan program.
- Unveil a Green Strategy to ensure the sustainability of our resources.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- Assess how health dollars are used with a view to ensuring that resources are used most effectively for the benefit of Saskatchewan people.
- Reduce waiting times for surgery and diagnostic imaging.
- Introduce legislation that will ban smoking in public places across Saskatchewan in 2005.
- Introduce a strategy to assess and support people with cognitive disabilities, which includes Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- Introduce a new housing strategy for low income families.
- Introduce compassionate care benefits for people caring for gravely ill family members.
- Enhance the Saskatchewan Employment Supplement and Family Health Benefits programs.
- Release a comprehensive disability strategy.
- Improve the safety and security of our neighbourhoods.
- Strengthen and support Saskatchewan's volunteers, communities and families.
- Seek new directions and new strategies with municipal leaders.
- Seek new directions with our partners in education, and begin the challenging work in providing for the funding of education.
- Build a stronger Saskatchewan and a stronger Canada by tackling fair equalization, health care, and the fiscal imbalance, in co-operation with the Council of the Federation and the national government.