Speech from the Throne Highlights – November 7, 2005

TOWARD OUR NEW CENTURY

OUR VISION

Our vision is that of a province where no one is left behind on the path to opportunity, a province with an unbreakable social fabric, built on the foundation of diverse and growing communities, in a green and prosperous economy.

KEY INITIATIVES

A Green and Prosperous Economy

• Continue implementation of the province's new economic strategy, the *Saskatchewan Action Plan* for the Economy: A New Century of Opportunity, a plan developed by the people of Saskatchewan.

 Act upon recommendations of the Business Tax Review Committee and invest in programs that encourage new business entrepreneurs.

 Develop and implement a climate change and energy initiatives package that will contribute to an even greener and more prosperous economy.

 Pursue investment in additional heavy oil upgrading capacity, clean coal technologies, natural gas in coal and poly-generation opportunities.

 Establish an Asia-Pacific Desk in the Department of Industry and Resources to pursue

opportunities in Asia.

- Fully fund the provincial share of the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program for 2005.
- Introduce a major multi-year northern road building strategy that includes an all weather road to the far north.

Diverse and Growing Communities

- Through the Saskatchewan "Energy Share" program help consumers this winter with the increased costs of heating, and provide support to homeowners who make energy-saving upgrades.
- Establish a new Building Communities Fund to meet the economic development, cultural, social and recreational needs of our province.

 Increase the film employment tax credit, enhancing the efforts of Saskatchewan's growing film and video industry to attract new productions.

An Unbreakable Social Fabric: No One Left Behind

- Provide support for midwifery services as part of multi-disciplinary teams in hospital and community settings, contributing to care that is safe, flexible and meets the needs of families.
- Increase support for the College of Medicine to train future doctors, and provide for major investment towards a new state-of-the art Academic Health Sciences Centre.
- Partnering with Aboriginal leaders, communities, police services and other agencies, develop an effective province-wide strategy for missing persons cases.
- Build on the recommendations of a comprehensive external review of the training and apprenticeship system in Saskatchewan to expand skills training and apprenticeship opportunities and ensure that our training system meets the needs of Saskatchewan people.
- Working with other provinces, territories, the federal government, and regional health authorities, develop a federal-provincial influenza pandemic plan.
- Continuing Saskatchewan's leadership in innovative justice practices, grow the Aboriginal Court for Northern Saskatchewan, implement a new police complaints process, expand our domestic violence courts, establish a Drug Treatment Court and make improvements to our Coroner's Office.
- Provide additional funding of about \$30 million over a three-year period to address issues of staff wages, recruitment and retention for communitybased organizations.
- Act on the report of the Commission on Improving Working Opportunities for All Saskatchewan Residents.
- Establish a pre-kindergarten program for fouryear-olds, and work to expand high quality and accessible child care throughout the province.
- Introduce a new Saskatchewan Youth Award, which will recognize the commitments and accomplishments of youth in the province.
- Introduce a Saskatchewan Seniors' Gold Card for residents 65 years of age and older, which will provide a source of information, and a passport to a variety of programs.