

2005-2006 SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL BUDGET

BUILDING FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

The 2005-06 Budget is about building for Saskatchewan's next 100 years.

This budget marks year two of Government's four-year fiscal plan. It is a plan that continues on the path of good financial management and allows continued investment in Saskatchewan priorities.

INVESTING IN PRIORITIES

- Health and education funded to record levels
- Enhanced social programs including social assistance increases, as well as child care, immigration and affordable housing initiatives
- Measures to build the economy, including establishment of an independent Business Tax Review committee, to see how we can make Saskatchewan an even better place to do business
- Increased capital budget to build for future generations

BUDGET 2005-06 HIGHLIGHTS

- 3.0 per cent real GDP growth in 2005
- 12th consecutive balanced budget
- No tax increases
- 28 per cent debt to GDP ratio forecast (compared to a high of 69 per cent in 1993)
- \$179.3 million in permanent debt reduction in 2004-05; heading into 2005-06, government debt is at its lowest point in 14 years
- Health spending of \$2.9 billion (up 7.1 per cent or \$192 million)
- Education spending of \$1.2 billion (up 6.8 per cent or \$74.4 million); when including teachers' pensions and benefits, the total climbs to \$1.33 billion
- \$6.7 million one-time Saskatchewan Centennial University Tuition Grant, so universities can hold tuitions at 2004-05 levels in the Centennial year
- \$6.5 million in new funding for youth initiatives
- \$55.05 million in education property tax relief; \$110.1 million over two years
- \$326.9 million in total capital spending for schools, universities, hospitals, highway twinning and other capital projects

- \$3.15 billion in transfers to third parties such as schools, municipalities and hospitals (up 7.3 per cent or \$215.3 million)
- \$19.2 million for forest fire capital, including two tracker aircraft as well as infrastructure upgrades (\$42 million committed in total)
- \$57.9 million in health capital for buildings and equipment, including funds for facilities in Swift Current, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Preeceville, Moosomin, Maidstone, Outlook, Humboldt, Saskatoon and Regina. This also includes \$1.2 million for first steps towards a new Provincial Lab (\$27 million committed in total for the Lab)
- \$3.9 million for the first year of replacement of the 1913 section of the Regina Correctional Centre (\$40.7 million committed in total)

BUILDING THE FUTURE HERE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- \$160 million in total to fund more than 27,000 training opportunities
- \$16.2 million (6.8 per cent) increase for universities, federated and affiliated colleges, which includes the \$6.7 million Saskatchewan Centennial University Tuition Grant
- \$4.75 million (6.8 per cent) increase for SIAST, which includes \$900,000 for expansion of the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan
- An increase in the Graduate Tax Credit for post-secondary grads to \$675
- 600 training opportunities through the Northern Skills Training program
- 86 seats reserved for Saskatchewan students at post-secondary institutions across Canada
- Student loans for 16,500 students
- \$6.5 million in funding for youth initiatives which includes:
 - \$3.4 million to expand the Saskatchewan Bursary program by increasing bursary assistance for up to 10,000 students
 - \$2 million to increase training opportunities through 1,000 additional training seats in JobStart/Future Skills, Basic Education and Apprenticeship programs
 - Doubling the Centennial Merit Scholarship Program from \$500,000 to \$1.0 million for 2005-06

All Budget material is available on-line:
www.gov.sk.ca/finance/budget



Government of
Saskatchewan

