

2002-03

Budget

Meeting
the
Challenge
for Saskatchewan People

Saskatchewan's 9th consecutive balanced budget focuses on priority funding for health care, education and economic development. At the same time, it addresses the public's desire for lower income taxes and leaner, more efficient government.

Meeting the Challenge for Saskatchewan People strikes the right balance between available revenue and public demands.

A Leaner Government ✓

- A smaller, more efficient government through elimination of five government departments
- Reduction of more than 300 public service positions
- Anticipated savings of more than \$40 million over two years

Health ✓

- \$2.3 billion for health – a \$129 million, 5.8 per cent increase over 2001-02
- Increasing health research funding from \$5.2 million to \$9.2 million, an increase of almost 80 per cent
- \$10 million for medical equipment
- \$24 million for capital improvements and construction

Education ✓

- \$1.2 billion for education – a \$78.6 million, 7.2 per cent increase over 2001-02*
- A capital expenditure program of \$40 million for K-12 schools and \$50 million for the two universities, SIAST and regional colleges for building improvements

Building Better Roads ✓

\$300 million for more than 700 km of reconstruction and paving work on highways, including:

- Completing 24 km of twinning on Highway No. 1 West
- Reconstructing 150 km of Thin Membrane Surface (TMS) highways in rural Saskatchewan to a paved standard
- Resurfacing 370 km of paved highways

* \$1.2 billion includes \$90 million in grants and loans for capital projects

Research and Technology

- \$132 million for research and development in the areas of agriculture (biotechnology), education, medicine, health care, and natural resource extraction and processing

Agriculture

- Increased funding for crop insurance of \$14 million
- \$3.9 million for farmers participating in the Conservation Cover Program
- \$4.35 million for the Family Farm Opportunities Initiative

Tax Reform

- 2002 is the fifth consecutive year Saskatchewan residents will see personal income tax rates go down
- In 2002, an average Saskatchewan family will pay almost one-third less income tax than in 1993, an annual reduction of more than \$1,300

Creating Jobs and Investment

- Encouraging Saskatchewan jobs and investment by increasing the Corporation Capital Tax exemption to as high as \$15 million
- Building on last year's small business tax reductions by simplifying tax filing and remittance
- Effectively eliminating the Fuel Tax on ethanol produced and sold in the province

Safe and Healthy Communities

- Finalizing a Long-Term Drinking Water Strategy, to ensure Saskatchewan people are drinking clean, safe water
- An additional \$7.3 million for policing – to fully fund RCMP operations and provide for 26 new police officer positions, including 14 municipal officers and 12 new RCMP positions.
- \$10 million or 18.2 per cent increase in revenue sharing grants to urban, rural and northern municipalities
- \$756,000 in new funding for the Northern Health Access Program, providing opportunities for Aboriginal people and Northerners to obtain the skills necessary to enter the health profession

All budget material is available online:
www.gov.sk.ca/finance/budget



Government of
Saskatchewan