

# Making Life Better



*Saskatchewan!*

## Budget 2007-08 is Making life better in Saskatchewan by:

- Introducing a new \$15 Seniors' Drug Plan for those 65 and over
- Creating a new five-year \$10,000 annual tax exemption for new graduates
- Freezing university tuition at 2004 levels until 2008
- Adding more than 2,100 new training seats, bringing the total to almost 31,400 seats
- Cutting business taxes so businesses can expand and create even more career opportunities for our young people
- Funding our largest budgeted capital program – for improvements to roads and highways, schools, hospitals and other community infrastructure
- Providing more than \$107 million in education property tax relief
- Providing the lowest PST rate in 20 years, at 5%

For more information visit: [www.Saskatchewan.ca](http://www.Saskatchewan.ca)



Saskatchewan Finance

Hon. Andrew Thomson  
Minister

## Making Life Better Keeping the Strong Economy Growing



- Maintaining the lowest PST rate in 20 years, at 5% – resulting in \$340 million in tax savings or \$300/year in savings for an average family
- Cutting business taxes by \$155 million to encourage jobs and growth:
  - Eliminating the Corporate Capital Tax (CCT) by July 2008
  - Cutting the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) to 12% by July 2008
  - Increasing the small business threshold to \$500,000 by July 2008
- Cut the small business tax rate from 5% to 4.5% as of January 1, 2007
- Permitting pension income splitting for seniors
- Providing \$107 million in education property tax relief
- Providing over \$430 million for road and highway improvements
- Fully funding CAIS for Saskatchewan agricultural producers

**Since 1999, we have cut taxes for the average family by almost \$1,200.**

## Making Life Better Making Saskatchewan an Even Better Place for Young People



- Introducing a new five-year \$10,000 annual Graduate Tax Exemption – post-secondary graduates will pay no provincial income tax on the first \$20,000 income they make for each of the first five years after graduation
- Freezing university tuition at 2004 levels until 2008
- Providing \$23.7 million for 2,118 new training seats including:
  - 544 additional training opportunities in health education, trades, skills and basic education
  - 1,297 additional CareerStart training expansion opportunities
  - 105 seats over four years for the health care professional training expansion
  - 104 additional Early Childhood Education training spaces
  - an additional 75 on-reserve basic education opportunities offered through the regional colleges
- Giving them a strong start: \$3.13 million in literacy funding and 500 new licensed child care spaces, for a total of 9,300 spaces

**The Budget funds almost 31,400 training opportunities, a 24% increase since 2004.**

## Making Life Better

# Increasing Access to Health Care for Saskatchewan Families and Seniors



- Introducing a new \$15 Seniors' Drug Plan – people 65 and older will pay a maximum of \$15/prescription for all drugs under the Drug Plan, benefiting 115,000 seniors, and saving them an average of \$400 annually
- Shortening wait times by:
  - Providing 3,117 more MRI scans
  - Providing 5,455 more bone mineral density scans
  - Increasing access to cardiac catheterization lab and renal dialysis and clinic services
  - Providing \$1.6 million for 160 more hip and knee replacements
  - Continuing the \$8.9 million surgical incentive fund to increase the number of surgeries

- Providing \$78.5 million in Cancer Agency funding
- Providing extended health benefits for up to 30,000 low income workers
- Expanding the College of Medicine – providing more opportunities for careers in the health field for our young people
- Providing an additional \$22.5 million for physicians and other professionals – to help keep them here
- \$36.5 million for capital improvements to hospitals and health facilities and \$22 million for medical equipment
- Improving services for children's health by:
  - Providing a targeted dental sealant program for Grades 1 & 7 students in community schools
  - Providing \$2.25 million to improve access to mental health services and therapies for children
  - Implementing coverage for insulin pumps for children under age 18

**The \$15 Seniors' Drug Plan, effective July 1, is the most significant expansion of health services for seniors in a generation.**

## Making Life Better

# Building Highways and Infrastructure to Secure Growth



- Funding the largest infrastructure budget ever at \$534.8 million (up 31.3%). This includes support to:
  - Complete twinning Highways 1, and 16 West
  - Rebuild rural economic corridor highways
  - Continue twinning work on Highway 11
  - Undertake other primary and regional highway network projects
- An additional \$5.0 million will be directed to municipalities for Municipal Resource Roads in the Lloydminster area

- Funding a record \$127.3 million in revenue sharing for municipalities (a \$30 million increase), and \$58.2 million for municipal infrastructure

**The Transportation for Economic Advantage initiative provides \$5 billion over 10 years for road and highway improvements.**

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