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Saskatchewan Economy Continues to Do Well

At the AGM of the Saskatchewan East Enterprise Region (SEER) held recently in Yorkton, Paul Martin, Saskatchewan's own broadcaster and journalist, was the Guest Speaker. Respected for his understanding of business and economic development and appreciated for his sharp wit, Paul delivered an informative and thought provoking message about the state of Saskatchewan's economy. While he applauded all those working to see greater economy activity in their respective regions, he warned that no one should "stand on the highway waiting for the bureaucrats from Regina to save your economic development efforts!"

Some interesting points gleaned from Paul's presentation:

- In 2009, Saskatchewan was the only province to show growth in employment.
- Ontario has been hurt by the global economic downturn because 90% of its exports go into the US.
- In contrast, only 60% of Saskatchewan's exports go to the US.
- India is now Saskatchewan's second largest importer of our exports - due mainly to the pulse crop industry.
- Saskatchewan tripled its exports between 2003 & '08 - going from \$10 billion to almost \$30 billion.
- The University of Regina is the world leader in research relating to the capture and storage of carbon dioxide.
- One mile below the Bakken play field, on the American side of the basin, another pool of sweet crude has been discovered. It's called the Saanich.

Congratulations to:

- The Chamber extends congratulations to **Richardson** on the Grand Opening of their Canola Processing Plant.
- Congratulations are also extended to **Terry Ortynsky's Royal Ford** on being awarded the Ford President's Award for outstanding customer service.
- Congratulations to the **Saskatchewan Abilities Council** on their 60th Anniversary.
- Congratulations to the **City** on the opening of the new Fire Hall!



Paul Martin says the "good times" in Saskatchewan's economy are going to last.

- International immigration to Saskatchewan has increased from 2 - 3000 people per year to roughly 10,000.
- Saskatchewan's population growth rate is positive. No other G8 country, except China, has a growing population. However, Saskatchewan is still lagging behind the rest of the country in terms of annual growth. Case in point: No new federal electoral seats for the province.
- The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce coined the phrase "growth agenda" in its Action Saskatchewan document prepared in 2000.
- Are the "good times" in Saskatchewan's economy going to last? In Paul's opinion, the answer is yes!



The Richardson Canola Processing Plant employs 70 people and will operate 24/7 year round.



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Sask Mining Association Addresses Chamber

At the Chamber's recent Business Breakfast, the guest speaker was Kelvin Dereski, President of the Saskatchewan Mining Association. In his presentation, Mr. Dereski discussed the importance of mining to the province and in particular, the importance of potash to Yorkton and area. As General Manager of Mosaic Potash near Esterhazy, Mr. Dereski is most familiar with the reliance Mosaic has on Yorkton. Currently, 50 - 60 Mosaic employees commute daily from Yorkton to the mine. This means their spouses are employed here and their children are attending Yorkton schools. The availability of residential homes and apartments in Yorkton is, therefore, very important to the Mosaic expansion.

Also speaking at the Breakfast was Clint Pryor, Project Engineer for the Expansion. Mr. Pryor delivered a slide presentation that highlighted some of the construction work occurring at the Expansion.



Kelvin Dereski, President of the Sask Mining Association says that Yorkton will play an important role in the expansion of the Mosaic Potash mine near Esterhazy.

FAST FACTS ABOUT MINING AND POTASH IN SASKATCHEWAN

- Saskatchewan is Canada's 3rd largest mining producing province.
- Mining is the 3rd largest economic driver in Saskatchewan (in 2008, it was ranked second).
- Mining contributes over \$7 billion to the provincial treasury.
- Russia is Saskatchewan's largest competitor in potash production.
- Saskatchewan is the second largest producer of uranium in the world.
- Sask mining industry employs about 35,000 people. Over the next 10 years, the industry will need an additional 10,000 people due to expansion and the mature work force (average age is currently 47 years).
- Mosaic Potash near Esterhazy is the largest potash mining facility in the world.
- It will increase its production of potash from 3.8 million tonnes in 2006 to 5 million in 2010 and 6 million by December, 2011.
- The potash industry is rich in career and employment opportunities for the province's youth.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

July 1

Canada Day celebrations at the Western Development Museum noon to 4:00 pm

July 7 - 10

Yorkton Exhibition Summer Fair (parade July 10)

July 31 & August 1

Annual Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival, Western Development Museum

September 21

Chamber Business Dinner with Premier Brad Wall

November 3 - 6

22nd Annual Grain Millers Harvest Showdown



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Your membership in the Yorkton Chamber gives you access to a number of value-added programs negotiated by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. In the instance of a preferred pricing program for Visa, MasterCard and Interac, TD Merchant Services has been given "the nod" by the Canadian Chamber based on its transparency about fees and pricing. There are no hidden fees through TD Merchant Services - you know what you're paying for and why.

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Jan Fluter is the Sales Executive
for TD Merchant Services
serving the Yorkton area.

Wall of Success Presentation

President Lawrence Wegner presents the Wall of Success Award to Brent and Brian Weber of Weber Construction. Weber Construction has been in business in Yorkton for 59 years.

Federowich Construction and Stamatinos Leland Campbell LLP, were also named recipients and were presented with their Awards at the Celebrate Success gala in March.



Save on Taxes!

**Did you know that your membership fees in the Chamber
are 100% tax deductible?**

If you have been thinking that your business should become a member of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, then there is no better time to join than now.

To learn more about the many other benefits of being a Chamber member, contact the Chamber office 783-4368.