

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Media Release
December 23, 2009

Population Hits Record High

Statistics Canada announced today that as of October 2009 Saskatchewan's population was 1,034,974. A record high for the province, surpassing the previous record of 1,032,799 reached in July 1987.

"A growing population is one of the most positive signs for the provincial economy," noted Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve McLellan. "A good deal of economic prosperity is dependent on population growth in general and population growth in the workforce age group in particular."

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's "*Sustainable Growth Strategy for a New Saskatchewan*" has projected that by 2030 the population of the province should be 1.5 million in order for Saskatchewan to afford the cost of serving our aging population while continuing to provide a range of public services and a high standard of living.

"At first glance the Growth Strategy target may be seen as ambitious, particularly if you compare it to the historical population trend in the province," continued McLellan. "However, as the numbers show today, Saskatchewan is positioned to achieve great things in the coming years,"

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's full 2009 Growth Strategy Annual Update was released today, and the majority of the 21 key indicators identified in the Strategy have shown positive progress since 2006, but there is still room for improvement.

"Everyone needs to be onside to make sustainable and strategic growth a reality in Saskatchewan," said McLellan. "While your family is here for the holidays tell them about Saskatchewan's success and the great opportunities we have here. Inter-provincial migration is a great way to grow the province and the best way to make sure your grandkids are close to home."

The Saskatchewan Chamber will also continue its efforts to support the province's growth in all 21 key areas and will continue to raise concerns over the number of post secondary students and private sector capital investment.

"Despite the uncertainty and decline experienced across the world this past year, Saskatchewan continues to show positive growth, however, we cannot get complacent. We need to make sure we are able to support and facilitate balanced growth of our economy and population or else we will face significant challenges in the future," McLellan concluded.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of our members from throughout the province by advocating for expanded opportunities and regulatory simplification. The Chamber launched a Growth Strategy in October of 2007 to encourage and help facilitate strategic growth, it can be found at www.saskchamber.com.

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