

Saskatchewan's 2025-26 Provincial Budget

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – March 19, 2025 – The NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association expresses its gratitude to the Government of Saskatchewan for the 2025-26 Budget, which demonstrates a strong commitment to enhancing public safety, investing in early childhood education, and bolstering economic growth—areas that align with the priorities previously highlighted by our association.

Balanced Budget and Fiscal Responsibility

The NSBA commends the Government of Saskatchewan for delivering a balanced budget with a surplus of \$12 million, ensuring financial stability while making strategic investments that benefit businesses and residents alike. Maintaining fiscal responsibility while funding critical initiatives reflects strong leadership and prudent financial management.

Enhanced Funding for Crime and Safety

The budget outlines significant investments aimed at bolstering public safety across the province. Notably, there is funding allocated to hire approximately 100 new municipal police officers and 14 additional personnel for the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) program, targeting nuisance properties and reducing crime. These measures are anticipated to strengthen law enforcement capabilities and contribute to safer communities.

Investments in Education, Focusing on Early Years

We are particularly encouraged by the government's increased funding for education, with a focus on the critical K-3 grades. The budget includes plans for constructing new schools in Saskatoon, such as a new elementary school to replace Princess Alexandra, King George, and Pleasant Hill elementary schools, as well as a new francophone elementary school. These investments are poised to enhance learning environments for our youngest students, laying a strong foundation for their future academic success.

Strategic Infrastructure Investments

The budget allocates \$4.4 billion toward capital projects, marking a record investment in infrastructure. This includes \$2.6 billion dedicated to enhancing and expanding Crown utilities infrastructure, ensuring reliable services for residents and businesses alike. Additionally, \$617 million is earmarked for operating, maintaining, building, and improving roads and highways, with \$73.5 million specifically allocated to northern Saskatchewan's transportation system. An investment of \$59.3 million is designated for repairing or rebuilding 17 bridges and replacing over 100 culverts, further strengthening our transportation infrastructure.

Support for Economic Growth and Affordability

The NSBA acknowledges the government's efforts to support economic growth and affordability. The budget introduces measures such as the Saskatchewan Critical Mineral Innovation Incentive and the Critical Mineral Processing Investment Incentive to stimulate investment in the resource sector. Additionally, more than \$40 million is allocated to support the growth of Saskatchewan's economy, including competitive business incentives and initiatives to expand the province's presence in international markets.

Affordability measures are also a key focus, with over \$2 billion included in the budget to maintain Saskatchewan's status as one of the most affordable places to live in Canada. Notably, there are no new taxes or tax increases, and the province continues to maintain among the lowest personal income taxes in the country.

The NSBA appreciates the government's responsiveness to the concerns raised by our members and the broader community. By prioritizing public safety, education, infrastructure, economic growth, and affordability in this budget, the government is taking meaningful steps toward fostering a secure and prosperous environment for businesses and residents alike.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the provincial government to ensure the successful implementation of these initiatives and to address other pressing issues affecting our community.

For more information: The NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association is a member-driven and focused business association in Saskatoon that serves, promotes and protects businesses throughout Saskatoon and beyond. The NSBA has developed its mandate and reputation by being a relevant, topical and effective organization that interacts with all levels of Government and industry on various issues for the betterment of our local economy.

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