

LANIGAN ADVISOR

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Canucks capture Senior A provincial title to become first to win A, B, C and D championships

■ Daniel Bushman

History was made on home ice as the Drake Canucks not only won its inaugural Senior A provincial championship but in doing so, according to Hockey Sask, became the first Senior hockey team in Saskatchewan to win Senior A, B, C, and D provincial banners.

With the Drake Sportsplex packed Sunday, Mar. 20 - after losing game one at Flying Dust First Nation Mar. 13 and taking game two back home Mar. 19 - the Canucks defeated the Meadow Lake Broncos 6-3 in game three to claim the title.

"That was a very tough series and I find it a relief when you finally win it," said Drake Head Coach Duane McLaren. "It is maybe a different feeling but I have been on both ends so I find it more of a relief. I knew we were better than we were in game one, it was just a matter of doing it was the big thing."

Captain of the Canucks Cam Blair who grew up watching the team capture provincial and league titles before winning a championship of his own agreed with his coach. "Pretty relieving. It has been something that we have been going after for quite a long time. Even with how things ended the last time we went to provincials when covid kicked in, it is good to get over the hump and finally get the provincial championship."

Drake's quest for a Senior A provincial title started in round one against Balcarres. With wins of 5-2 and 4-3, the Canucks swept its opponents and moved on to meet a tough Milestone squad. In game one, Drake took the opener on the road with a 4-2 victory as Russell Goodman recorded a hat trick to set up game two at home. In that one, the Canucks lost 8-3 which meant a third and deciding game. Battling back after being down 4-2, Drake scored six unanswered markers to win 8-4 and advanced to meet Southey.

One round away from the provincial final, the Canucks headed to Southey for game one and took the opener 8-2. In Drake for game two, as was the case against Milestone, the Canucks were unable to close out the series, dropping the contest 4-2. In game three and looking to move on, Chris Durand would be the hero as Drake took a 3-2 victory to advance to face Meadow Lake.

Set to compete against the Broncos, the Canucks knew they had to bring their best as Meadow Lake's roster included former NHLers DJ and Dwight King, East Coast Hockey League player Todd Fiddler, Western Hockey League netminder Bryan Bridges, who set a WHL regular season record with 13 shutouts and Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League players like Jared Iron and Robin and Regan Yew.

Hoping to take a 1-0 series lead heading home, despite outshooting Meadow Lake in game one Drake fell short, losing 4-1. Blair felt the difference in that contest was the Broncos connecting on their odd man rushes while Drake met a pretty hot goalie. "We gave him all we had in Meadow but he was a pretty big difference. I thought we outplayed them, they just made the most of their chances."

Looking to tie the series back up at home and with a full Drake Sportsplex, the Canucks went to work in front of their home town fans, battling back from a 2-1 deficit. Eventually securing a thrilling 4-2 victory with goals from John Lawrence (two), Cam Blair and David Stumborg (who added the empty-netter), Drake also received some help from veteran goalie



Provincial champions

The 2021-22 Senior A provincial champion Drake Canucks. Pictured back row (left to right): Bob Bergen, Darren Blair, John Lawrence, Carter Coben, Rhett Blackmur, Cody Wourms, Terrell Draude, Steven Toporowski, Kendall McFaull, Emmett Scheidt, Duane McLaren, and Scott Blair. Middle row (left to right): Andrew Johnson, Russell

Goodman, Cam Blair, Nolan Blair, Chris Durand, Neil Landry (directly behind Chris Durand), Maguire Blair (behind David Stumborg), David Stumborg, Maguire Scheidt, and Cody Pettapiece. Front row: Spencer Ewen. Not pictured: Calvin Bartel, Catlin Gusikoski, Matt Rintoul, and Daigon Elmy.

- photo by Daniel Bushman

Calvin Bartel to push the series to a third and deciding game.

With a number of former Canuck players in attendance for game three, many sporting their black championship leather jackets from years prior, as was the case for game two, fans had to arrive at least a half hour before puck drop in order to secure a good spot. A player with the Canucks during a number of those championship teams before becoming the head coach, McLaren also wore his black leather jacket for game three. "When I was sitting at the table watching guys come in before the game, there was a lot of those old black leathers coming in. I was quite surprised."

With hundreds of people attending game three in Drake and not a lot of room to sit, Blair said it was awesome to have such strong support for the team. "It is one of those things that is tough to put into words. It shows the amount of support our small town hockey team has when there is people coming from all over the countryside to come watch our games. Even the

support from surrounding communities like Watrous, Lanigan, Humboldt and all the people in Drake and people from Drake that were coming back and even giving their support online, it really meant a lot."

As game time got closer and players returned to the dressing room after warm ups, when asked if McLaren had one last message for his team, he said, "I am pretty quiet and this time of year I don't think anybody needs an inspirational speech. You either better be ready or you're going to lose. That is all there is to it. We have a very good dressing room. These guys all get along and they are all there for the same reason and that to me is 90 percent of it. They knew they were better than game one and everybody just stepped up."

After the national anthem was played, clubs got down to business to decide who would win this year's Senior A provincial title.

(see page six: **CANUCKS**)

Provincial government tables budget

■ **Daniel Bushman**

After crunching the numbers, evaluating how best to proceed and taking into account the pandemic, tabling Saskatchewan's 2022-'23 Budget, the province's Deputy Premier, Finance Minister and local MLA Donna Harpauer said, "Saskatchewan is back on track."

Highlighting the economy, Harpauer is optimistic that finances will steadily improve on the road to balancing a budget. "This budget makes significant investments that will get important government services back on track as we come out of the pandemic. This budget will fund thousands of surgeries in the first year of a three-year effort to bring the wait list down to pre-pandemic levels. This budget helps make access to high-quality child care more affordable. This budget invests in our economy, it invests in health, education, important capital projects and it ensures our investments in those priorities are sustainable into the future."

The budget unveiled Mar. 23 in Regina by Harpauer contains a projected \$463 million deficit forecast for 2022-'23 which is a \$2.1 billion improvement from last year's budget. Over the next three years, Harpauer noted deficits are projected to be \$384 million, \$321 million and \$165 million respectively. A balanced budget is expected for 2026-'27.

Revenue of \$17.2 billion is forecast, up \$2.7 billion from last year. Non-renewable resource revenue is projected to be

\$2.9 billion, up \$1.6 billion from last year, largely due to higher potash and oil price forecasts because of expected global demand.

"While volatile world events have made commodity prices difficult to forecast, as always our revenue forecasts are based on cautious oil price projections," Harpauer said. "It's too soon to tell if oil prices will remain high for an extended period and what impact that could have on revenues. We will continue to monitor the impact on both revenues and affordability and respond as required."

Expenses of \$17.6 billion is projected, an increase of \$531 million, or 3.1 percent over last year.

As the provincial government applauded the budget, the Saskatchewan NDP said it failed to live up to expectations.

According to Official Opposition Leader Ryan Meili and Finance Critic Trent Wotherspoon the pair felt the budget deepens the affordability crisis. Claiming there are no new relief measures, 32 new taxes and fees and no support for seniors or students, Meili said, "At a time when Saskatchewan families need a lifeline, the Sask. Party has thrown them an anchor. Hard-working people are struggling with increased costs at the grocery store, at the pump and in their housing but this government isn't listening. Not only does this budget not offer any relief for families just trying to make ends meet, it increases taxes and fees when people are already struggling to make ends meet. These are very serious times, with increased uncertainty caused by world events. Saskatchewan people deserve solutions to serious problems. Budget 2022 fails to offer any vision to grow our province."

The following are some areas within the provincial budget that were announced Mar. 23:

Health care

The Saskatchewan government is making a record investment in health care as the budget provides an increase of \$318.7 million or 5.2 percent from 2021-'22, for a total of \$6.44 billion.

"As we focused our health care resources on the pandemic over the past two years, that limited our ability to deliver health services in other areas, like the number of surgeries performed," Health Minister Paul Merriman said. "This year's budget will address many of those other priorities and get our

health system back on track."

The budget will provide funding for acute and emergency care in urban, rural and northern communities, mental health and addictions supports, cancer treatments and programs, key provincial infrastructure investments, and will protect people through the transition to living with COVID-19.

To attract and retain specialists and physicians, \$3.5 million in new funding will increase the number of specialty and family medicine residency training seats, expand intake for the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) program and enhance rural practice incentives for physicians.

"Planning work has begun for a new and dedicated agency responsible for recruiting and retaining health professionals into our workforce from across Saskatchewan, North America and overseas."

The budget provides the Saskatchewan Health Authority with \$4.2 billion this year, up more than \$277 million, or seven percent, compared to last year.

An increase of \$21.6 million will address the surgical wait-list, and fund thousands of additional surgeries this year, the first year of a three-year plan to deliver on the largest volume of surgical procedures in the history of the province. The aggressive plan targets a return to pre-COVID levels in surgical wait times by the end of March 2025.

This budget invests \$470 million into mental health and addictions programs and services - over seven percent of total health care spending - including a targeted investment of \$8 million over last year, representing the highest investment ever in Saskatchewan for these programs and services. The increase will fund initiatives that provide counselling and treatments and introduce further proactive prevention measures.

A \$17 million increase in this budget supports seniors and includes a number of initiatives, among them: \$4.8 million for home care services; \$4.1 million to provide high-dose influenza vaccine to adults 65 and older; \$1.6 million for operations at the Meadow Lake Northwest Community Lodge; and \$6.5 million in new funding for an additional 117 continuing care aide positions.

(see page eight: **BUDGET**)

DRAKE BRANCH WHEATLAND LIBRARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 5 - 7:30 p.m.

306-363-2101 • drake.library@wheatland.sk.ca
117 Francis Street, Drake, SK S0K 1H0
TUES: 5pm - 8pm • WED: 9am - 12pm • THURS: 10:30am - 2:30pm

Best Wishes to this Sweet Lady

BETHANY PLACE
211

Elaine Seifert is moving on to new adventures in Saskatoon. She will miss the amazing community of Lanigan and surrounding area.



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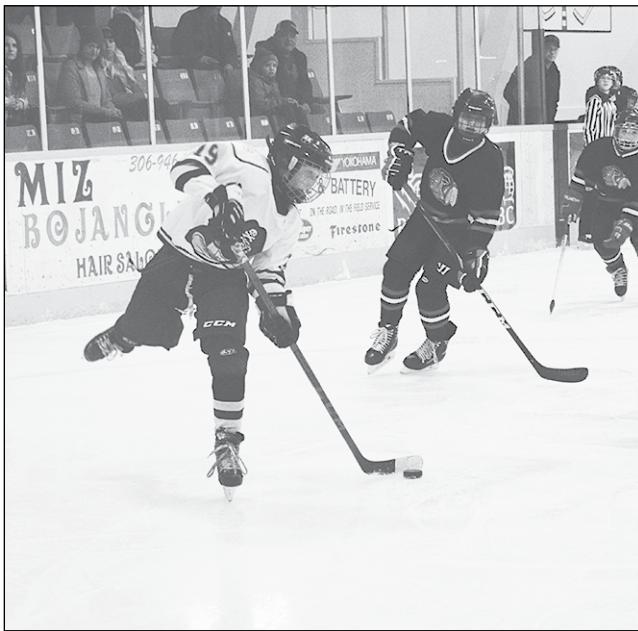
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Local teams compete at tournament

Watrous Centennial Arena was a hub of activity Mar. 18 to 20 as six teams competed for a championship in U11 hockey. With Bruno, Watrous 2 and Lanigan (above) in Pool A and Nokomis/Drake (below), Watrous 1 and Wadena in Pool B, after Friday and part of Saturday's games, Lanigan finished first in Pool A while Watrous 1 was first in Pool B. In playoffs held Sunday, Watrous 2 beat Watrous 1 while Bruno defeated Lanigan. In the B final held later that day, Watrous 1 beat Lanigan while Watrous 2 won in the A final over Bruno.

- photos by Daniel Bushman



Male charged after hundreds of non-emergency 911 calls

Between November 2021 and March 2022, hundreds of calls were made to the Province of Saskatchewan's 911 dispatch centre. The caller did not identify themselves during the calls, nor did they indicate any emergency.

911 dispatchers and police officers treat all calls seriously and have to ensure there is no emergency at the other end of the line, even if no one speaks during the call or the caller hangs up. Officers repeatedly checked the area where these calls were being placed and did not find evidence of any emergency or need for police assistance.

Saskatoon RCMP investigated the calls, which were made from an unregistered cell phone. On Mar. 15, 2022, officers executed a search warrant at a residence in Kenaston. As a result, Kenneth Howells of Kenaston was arrested and charged with one count, harassing communications, Section 372(3), Criminal Code. He was also charged with one count, fail to comply with probation order, Section 733.1(1), Criminal Code.

He will next appear in Saskatoon Provincial Court on Mar. 30, 2022.

"911 is the life line for Saskatchewan residents experiencing an emergency," said Sgt. David Pidlisy of the Saskatoon RCMP. "We can't tolerate any misuse of it – it needlessly ties up 911 dispatchers' and police officers' time. I'm pleased our officers were able to investigate thoroughly and determine the origin of these calls."

Tisdale RCMP seize drugs and firearm

On Mar. 16, 2022, Tisdale RCMP executed a search warrant at a residence in Bjorkdale.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL TOWN OF LANIGAN

Pursuant to subsection 214 of *The Municipalities Act*, notice is hereby given that the assessment roll of the Town of Lanigan for the year 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the Office of the Assessor, #110 Main Street, Lanigan SK from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday inclusive March 25th to April 25th, 2022.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his/her assessment, or classification, to the Board of Revision, is required to file his/her Notice of Appeal with:

The Secretary of the Board of Revision,
Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0
OR The Assessor of the Town of Lanigan,
Box 280, Lanigan, SK S0K 2M0
on or before Monday, April 25th, 2022.

A Bylaw has been passed and no assessment notices will be sent if the assessed value of a property has not changed from the previous year's assessed value.

Dated at Lanigan, SK this Friday, March 25th, 2022.
Kelli Timmerman, Assessor

RCMP Report

Officers located and seized: 252 grams of methamphetamine; 237 hydromorphone pills; drug trafficking paraphernalia and a sum of cash; one loaded prohibited firearm; and ammunition.

As a result, Rudi Betthel of Bjorkdale has been charged with: two counts, possession for the purpose of trafficking, Section 5(2), Controlled Drugs and Substances Act; one count, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, Section 354(1)(a), Criminal Code; four counts, fail to comply with release order condition, Section 145(5)(a), Criminal Code; one count, unsafe storage of firearm, Section 86(2), Criminal Code; one count, possession of weapon for a dangerous purpose, Section 88(2), Criminal Code; one count, possession of prohibited weapon knowing possession unauthorized, Section 92(1), Criminal Code; one count, unlicensed possession of restricted firearm/prohibited weapon with ammunition, Section 95(2), Criminal Code; and counts, possession of weapon contrary to order and fail to surrender authorization, Section 117.01(3), Criminal Code

A warrant has been issued for his arrest and Tisdale RCMP are actively trying to locate and arrest him.

Rudi Betthel is described as approximately 5'10" tall and of medium build. He has brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information on Rudi Betthel's whereabouts should call their local police service. Information can also be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

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OPINIONS

Jansen

Louise Shannon

Beth Neuman passed away peacefully surrounded by her family Mar. 17, 2022. She was 93 years old.

Spring is here and some people have seen geese and gophers.

The Kinettes are selling Purdys chocolates for Easter. I purchase some every year. They are delicious.

Get well greetings to those who are ill.

Happy anniversary to Dwayne and Val Koshinsky.

Happy birthday to Doreen Johnson, James Moss, Lyndsay L'Heureux and Grayson Eichorst.

Don't get fooled April Fool's Day. Someone could phone and tell you that you owe them a lot of money.

Prairie Rose Bowling



Seniors

Mens

Thursday, Mar. 17

LHS: Marilyn Kline, 176

LHT: Marilyn Kline, 485

MHS: Vic Kline, 286

MHT: Vic Kline, 668

Mixed

Thursday, Mar. 17

LHS: Fran Lang, 243

LHT: Fran Lang, 531

MHS: Greg Blyth, 247

MHT: Greg Blyth, 615

Monday, Mar. 21

MHS: Rodney Liebrecht, 264

MHT: Rodney Liebrecht, 666

Ladies

Wednesday, Mar. 23

LHS: Lisa Kimpton, 230

LHT: Lisa Kimpton, 532

uncompliCATED -Nothing was more relaxing.. than the winding driveway that led up to my house. ~Winston Churchill



■ by Arlene Martin

An old friend called me this week. Through the shuffle of life's busyness we lost touch with each other's lives. It hurt to hear about the blows she has dealt with. Because of health limitations she spoke from a new place, a place she is now having to call home. Loneliness clung to each word as I listened and linked the losses attached to her trying to acclimatize her small new space.

My mind cannot rid itself of the televised image and words of a weeping young Ukrainian mother. It truly sums up the desire of every heart, "I don't want to be a refugee. I just want to go home."

Those who have lost their homes and the things they most cherished through devastation face enormous emotional and identity crises. Being without a home is overwhelming on personal, public and so many other levels. When we moved my father from his big home to a care home he held up bravely, courageously but I knew his heart, even his spirit was broken. It followed on the heels of losing mother and life as he knew it was removed.

My one thought - through the long nights and days when I reflect on the times I've spent in hospital - was always the same.

I just wanted to go home.

The anguish of watching the devastation of Ukraine villages, towns and cities - and human life resonates the truth within each of us. How lost, how vulnerable we all are to losing the anchor of our existence. And those who have watched their homes being destroyed by flames and with unimaginable heavy hurting hearts have sifted through the ashes of what was once their personal castle. Unfathomable loss. Home - a gathering place for friends, neighbours and family. It is one's harbour, haven, a peaceful escape from the world's hectic pace. Your home is the story of you, your story is written inside its walls.

Facebook brought up a memory, something I had written seven years ago and the timing of it revealed and underscored the truth inside. If you are familiar with my writing, I often resonate the beauty and the solace of the lights of home. I wrote: "Sometimes I forget, I just forget how beautiful it is to have a roof over my head. I looked around today and am so, SO grateful. A roof is more than that. It is a place to come home to. Forget the size, forget that it's not a mansion or the neighbour has a bigger, newer one. I will never forget to appreciate and love - the lights of home. Like the people I share the space with, under this warm cozy roof, oh - it can be gone in a blink!"

Home sadly, often has to be replaced by memory, with the warmth and comfort of a friend. Sooner or later we all face the moment when we can only go home in nostalgia. Still it is the journey back that time and change can never touch. I hang on to the hope inside the words of Emily Dickinson. In 1870 she wrote, "Home is the definition of God."

Plunkett

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

Sorry that I did not write any news, but I was in Humboldt hospital for one month. It sure was nice getting home again.

TeleMiracle was a huge success this year.

Dennis and Leona Credgeur are away to Meadow Lake to drive their grandchildren to school while their father is recuperating from shoulder surgery.

We sure have had quite the winter storms. We haven't seen snow like that for years.

The curling fans had a real good week of curling.

Gary and Linda Whitehead had their grandson visit them. It was very cold and they could not drive their snowmobiles.

Lorie Giddings returned home from Mexico.

Our grandchildren recently visited us.

Soon it will be spring.

There is not much news around.

Get well greetings go out to anyone ill. We wish them well.

Viscount

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

Well, I think spring has sprung. Personally I am hoping it stays. It is always nice to see all the spring articles in stores, a refresh. I love spring, bring it on.

Wednesday, Mar. 16, three of us lovely ladies joined together at Blankets for Canada. We sewed together many crochet and knitted squares. It was an awesome afternoon joining together for a cup of tea and great conversation. We are always looking for new or old members to join us every Wednesday afternoon at the Viscount library. We are always in need of 8 x 8 inch squares, knitted or crocheted squares and yarn if anyone has some to spare. Our blankets are made and delivered to shelters.

Best wishes to anyone who is under the weather. I hope you feel better soon. Please let me know if you have some news to share. Have a great week stay warm, stay safe and enjoy all that you can.

The Lion's Roar

■ submitted by Lion Oz Lutz

The hoopla and fanfare of TeleMiracle 46 passed quickly Mar. 5 to 6, but miracles in excess of \$8,000,000 will continue for many months in the future. Once again it was evident that the citizens of Saskatchewan - the most generous in the nation - dug deep despite serious issues

like COVID, the invasion of Ukraine, soaring gas and grocery prices, etc. However, these generous donations do not occur automatically; volunteers behind the scenes spend many hours making it happen. We, the members of the Lanigan Lions, tip our hats (toque in my case) to the Kinsmen and Kinettes of Saskatchewan and especially our friends at Jansen. Your dedication and service is amazing.

The Lanigan and District Music Festival is scheduled for Apr. 25 to 27 (piano) and May 2 and 3 (voice). We will once again provide a \$100 scholarship in each category.

LFC (Lions Foundation of Canada) is now focusing its efforts in assisting the people of Ukraine. Our own club is examining our participation in this program. Details of our involvement will appear in the future column.

In closing: Happy Easter to all our readers.

"He is risen; he is not here.

Behold the place where they laid Him."

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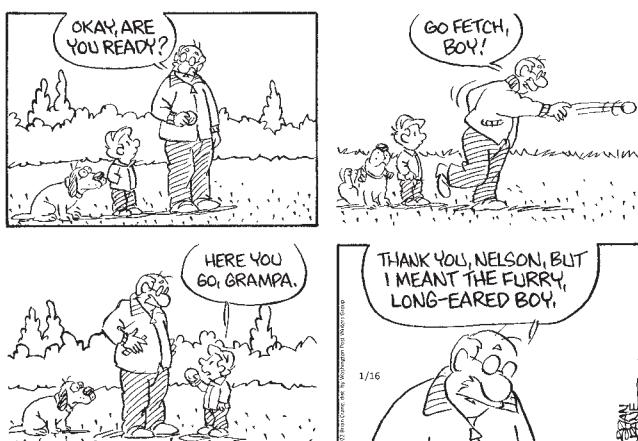
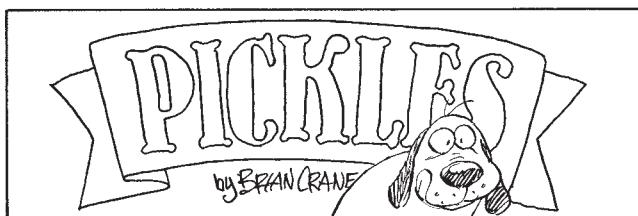
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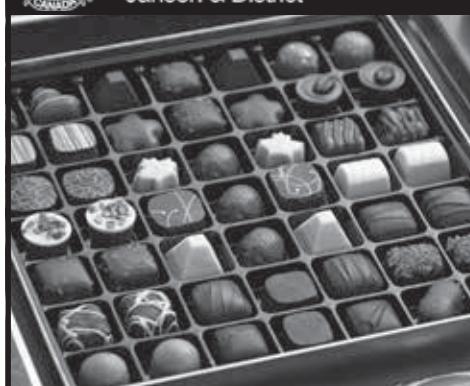
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LEVEL: BEGINNER

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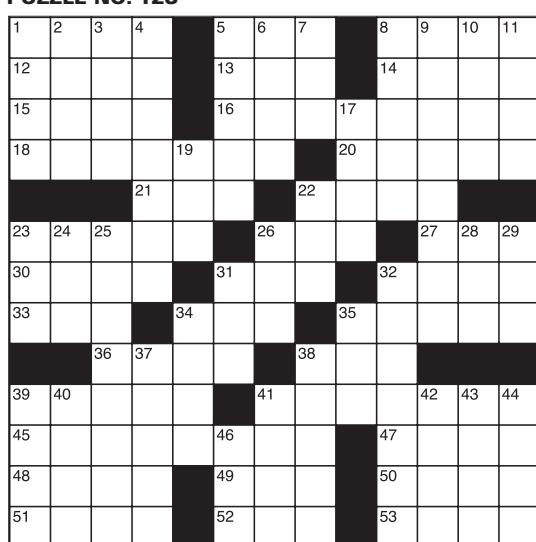
THIS WEEK'S
ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD



*Look What's Cooking by
Laura Novecosky*

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE NO. 123



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ACROSS

- Aerosol spray
- Tricky
- Marble slice
- At a standstill
- Stick for billiards
- Wear down
- Sports group
- Exit's opposite
- Packing down
- VIII
- Eden dweller
- Rhymes with pain
- Pushy
- Broom's relative
- Hurried
- Litter's littlest
- Title
- Folder
- "You _____ Sixteen"
- Grass-covered ground
- Moved slowly
- Heroic poem
- Rightful
- Shaving need
- Got slimmer
- Oversight
- Dam
- Clamors
- In fashion
- Unzip
- Brink
- Tissue layer
- Disarray

DOWN

- Catcher's catcher
- What's the big ____?
- Close with force
- Violent storm
- View
- Breathing organ
- Nonetheless
- Blot
- Undies
- Building curve

FOR ANSWERS
TO SUDOKU AND
CROSSWORD,
SEE THIS PAGE

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp. canola oil to coat bottom of slow cooker
- 4 pound pork roast
- 1 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. mustard
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp. chili powder
- 1 extra large onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. dried thyme

Directions:

Use the oil to coat the bottom of your slow cooker. Place the roast in the slow cooker. Combine all remaining ingredients and pour over the roast. Cover and cook on high for about five hours. Remove the roast from slow cooker, shred the meat with two forks and return to slow cooker to coat with the sauce. We usually cook about a two pound roast, halve the sauce ingredients and check it after three hours. This freezes well.

(from front page: **CANUCKS**)

With Bartel unable to suit up for game three, goalie Spencer Ewen got the nod and was tested early. After applying some early pressure, Drake gave up a breakaway and with Meadow Lake's first shot of the game, Regan Yew beat Ewen upstairs to make it 1-0. The marker, a stretch pass from Calvin Fiddler to set up the breakaway, came 1:38 into the game.

After Meadow Lake had gotten out to an early edge in the previous two games, when they scored to start game three, McLaren noted there was no panic on the Drake bench. Understanding how tough it was for Ewen to get the late call to start and then face a breakaway early on, McLaren said his netminder shook it off and settled in.

Then with 13:11 illuminated on the scoreboard and deep in Meadow Lake territory, it was Drake's turn to notch one of its own. With the puck on his stick, Maguire Blair spotted Andrew Johnson in the slot and the forward made no mistake going high blocker side on netminder Bryan Bridges to tie the game.

With a bit of momentum, Drake would receive a power play late in the period and just 39 seconds with the man advantage, former Calgary Hitmen Terrell Draude would strike with a quick shot, beating Bridges on his glove side and giving the Canucks a 2-1 edge. With helpers from John Lawrence and David Stumborg, the Canucks not only grabbed the lead, they held a 9-5 advantage in the shot department.

As the crowd watched with eager anticipation, the opening 20 minutes soon came to a close and Meadow Lake found itself in more penalty trouble to begin period two. Despite being shorthanded to start the middle frame Stanley Cup winner Dwight King, who sported number 74 for the Broncos, found some space with the puck and rang a hard shot off the post. Coming close to seeing a 2-2 contest, Drake maintained the lead as the puck stayed out of the net.

With some big hits, crisp passing and hard shots, teams sought the next goal, one that would come with 4:14 left in the second. Looking for some separation on the ice, Cam Blair found room and drilled a laser that found the back of the net. With Chris Durand feeding the former University of Saskatchewan Huskie from beside the Bronco cage, Blair blasted a shot at the faceoff dot on Bridges' blocker side to beat the goalie and give the Canucks a 3-1 advantage.

Feeding off of the crowd's energy after notching the team's



Grabbing momentum

Returning home down 1-0 in the Senior A provincial final series, the Drake Canucks forced a deciding game three after a victory on home ice in game two. Remaining in Drake and with a packed arena, the Canucks fell behind early but came back thanks to a power play

marker by Terrell Draude (pictured). The goal by Draude gave the team a 2-1 lead, a lead that Drake would maintain throughout the contest. At the buzzer, the Canucks skated away with a 6-3 win and the championship.

- photo by Daniel Bushman

third of the game, Blair said, "Coming home to a full rink, that was as many people as I have ever seen in Drake. It definitely made a pretty big difference."

Shortly after getting a two goal lead, Drake found itself with

a late power play. While the team was unable to score, not long after, both clubs were assessed penalties and the period came to a close. Up by two through two, Drake outshot Meadow Lake (see page seven: **CANUCKS**)

Thank You!

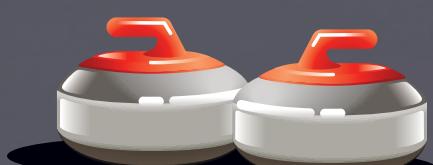
The Lanigan & District Curling Club has closed its doors on the season, but looks forward to opening again in the fall. Each and every sponsor listed here, as well as the many local community members who have donated their time and money, are the reason we were able to operate.

We wrap up the season that contained:
 Tuesday League, Thursday League, School League, School Phys Ed Classes, Ladies, Mens, and Mixed Bonspiels, an appearance from Team Dunstone, and private ice & building rentals.

The season would not have been possible without the help from each and every business and person, so for that, we thank you!

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**Until next year,
 The Lanigan & District Curling Club Board**



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LANIGAN ADVISOR

(from page six: **CANUCKS**)

25-14 after 40 minutes of play.

Noting how game three was more physical than the previous two, with his team leading, McLaren said, "I think maybe it got a little rougher when they were on the ropes a little bit. I understand that, we'd be the same way I'm sure."

Just 20 minutes away from capturing its first ever Senior A provincial title, Drake headed out to a raucous crowd for period three and took aim at securing the victory.

Having strong depth on the bench throughout the team's provincial run, McLaren explained how the team continued to roll. "That really makes things easy. Any one of them can be on the ice and you don't have to worry about anything and that makes it easy."

After a slashing penalty just over four minutes into the third, Meadow Lake went down a player once again. Looking to his bench and hoping to add to Drake's total, McLaren's club took advantage of the power play. A rocket from the blueline by Cody Pettapiece with 16:36 left hit the back of the net and made it 4-1. With Russell Goodman adding the assist on the team's fourth of the night, the Canucks looked to lock things down.

However, with tremendous fire power themselves, Meadow Lake had other ideas as Shane Hounsell cut the lead in half 27 seconds later, burying a cross-ice feed into the back of the net. Wanting to build off that momentum, the Broncos continued to press and with the intensity cranked up, tempers also started to rise.

With both netminders making big saves in the final frame, less than halfway through the period, Meadow Lake would manage to get to within one. With assists from Trevor Bailey and Taylor Arnold, Regan Yew notched his second of the contest and it became a nail-biting 4-3 score.

Still with over 12 minutes left, teams went back and forth and it was not until the latter part of the period when Meadow Lake received an unsportsmanlike and misconduct to put Drake back on the power play.

Looking to regain some separation on the score board, Drake attacked the Bronco zone and with less than three minutes to play, Stumborg set up Durand and he made it 5-3. The Canucks would then add an empty net goal from Lawrence as tempers flared and a few fights broke out.

With some rough stuff near the end of the game, that put Drake back on the power play, the eighth penalty for the visiting club in the contest. But with just nine seconds remaining on the clock, the power play didn't matter as time ran out and the Canucks took a 6-3 victory on home ice while outshooting the Broncos 36-24.

As sticks and gloves flew in celebration and fans cheered, the team marked its first ever Senior A provincial title before plaques, a banner and trophy were presented by Hockey Sask to the Canucks.

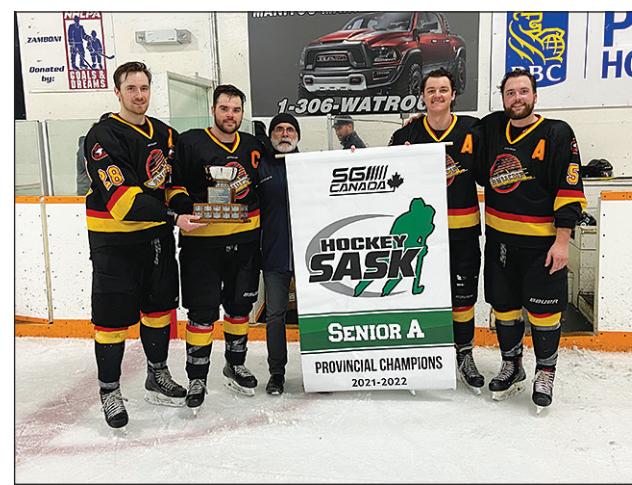
The win at home gave Drake its 12th Senior title, previously winning Senior B in 2021, Senior C in 2010 and 2005, and Senior D in 2013, 1996, 1995, 1994, 1990, 1978, 1976, and 1974. While no other team in Saskatchewan has won A, B, C, and D, according to Hockey Sask, Drake ranks only behind Kindersley (15), Shellbrook (14), and Wilkie (13) for total overall Senior titles.

Winning five of those championships as a player and now four as a coach, McLaren said being able to make history as the only team in Saskatchewan to win in all four categories says a lot. "With a small population our local guys seem to be dwindling and there is not that much coming up but it is connections, everyone knows somebody. And to get everyone coming out, I think they enjoy coming out there. There are so many other places to play but these guys like to come out there and they are a good bunch. As far as 12 for our town, I think that is pretty spectacular. It is pretty remarkable to win A, B, C, and D."

With his dad and uncle earning a few of those provincial titles before winning one of his own with his brothers, Blair said, "It is pretty cool. It is an interesting piece that our little small town has been able to do all of that and win all these different championships of different sizes. It just goes to show the support and the guys in the room that make it happen. We might not have the payroll that other teams have so in order for us to compete, we have guys that want to come out and play for the right reasons. They want to win and play for each other in the room and it is pretty awesome."

When asked what McLaren has done as a coach to have so much success over the years, he said, "Ninety-percent is the guys that you have. You have to have guys that get along. If you have a good dressing room that is very easy for me. I don't think I do anything different than others. I am very soft spoken so I just try to keep everybody loose and enjoy it. You don't know if it is going to be your last one so make the most of it."

Recognizing the value of having a coach like Duane, Cam shared the dedication that he brings. "Duane has been awesome, he is there every game. He is the first one to the rink every day. He helps pack bags, he is the one pulling the trailer behind his truck to every game and it shows quite a bit of how much he



The Drake Canucks came back from a 1-0 series deficit to defeat Meadow Lake in game two Mar. 19 and then again in game three Mar. 20. The game three victory on home ice (pictured) also gave the Canucks a Senior A provincial title, becoming the first team in the province according to Hockey Sask to win A, B, C and D championships. Pictured clockwise from top left: members of the Drake Canucks accept the championship banner and trophy; captain Cam Blair celebrates after scoring against the Broncos; head coach Duane McLaren watches his team during game three; teams shake hands following the contest in a packed Drake Sportsplex; Andrew Johnson (#22) beats netminder Bryan Bridges during the first period of game three in Drake; and the Canucks celebrate a provincial victory Sunday after defeating Meadow Lake 6-3.

- photos by Daniel Bushman

cares about the team with the amount of time he puts in. You know he cares a lot. Sometimes he might not have the most to say but when Duane does speak up and says something, everybody listens. He has been a huge part of the Drake Canucks - long before I was there - even when he was a player. His accolades and the amount of championships he has been a part of shows that."

Having a captain who essentially grew up at the Drake Sportsplex before competing for the Huskies while developing his skills and leadership, McLaren noted how valuable Cam has been to the team. "He is definitely a leader by example for sure and he is probably the hardest working guy I've ever seen. He is great in the room, has all the connections and is the hometown kid. He is very easy to work with and he helps out a lot."

As both coach and captain have been able to celebrate championships in the past, when asked where the 2022 title ranks, the pair acknowledged pretty high.

"Since we have never won A before that is pretty huge," shared McLaren. "We have won some series in the past that maybe we shouldn't have and those always stick out in my mind. As far as ranking one ahead of the other, this one being most recent, it is probably my favourite at the time."

Explaining it was the best game he has ever been a part of in Drake, Blair said the win on home ice was his number one highlight of Senior hockey. "I played in quite a few good games before. The Can West championship (with the Huskies) would be up there as well, winning it at Rutherford, but this would definitely be right up there with it."

As for the dedication of the players on this year's team, both McLaren and Blair appreciated the effort made by them throughout the season.

"I would like to give a shout out to those city guys that drive every game depending on weather it doesn't matter," said the

head coach. "Even late nights, they are off to work the next morning. That is a huge commitment and I really appreciate that."

Blair shared that the objective when it came to bringing in players was to have athletes who were going to be there when it really mattered. "They are going to go the extra mile or take a hit or block a shot for you. I think the guys we brought in were all there for the same goal, everybody cared and everybody wanted to win. It is easy to say that but you could just tell. There was no quit."

And it was not just on the ice that the captain explained was a big part of the team's success but off it as well. Appreciating all of the volunteers and people behind the scenes that helped to make things tick, Blair said, "They are a big part of these small town teams that keep things going. Whether they are running the gate, the 50/50, making meals for the team, sharpening skates, there are a lot of people that probably go unrecognized that mean a lot to not just our team but to every small town senior hockey team keeping these small town rinks thriving. It is definitely a community run organization and it goes a long way. It was nice to finally win one to give them a little bit of something to be proud of as well."

The 2021-'22 Drake Canucks provincial roster included: Calvin Bartel (35), Spencer Ewen (1), Catlin Gusikoski (3), Cody Pettapiece (4), David Stumborg (5), Matt Rintoul (6), Maguire Blair (7), Rhett Blackmur (8), Terrell Draude (9), Chris Durand (10), Russell Goodman (11), Emmett Scheidt (14), Nolan Blair (15), Neil Landry (16), Cam Blair (17), Maguire Scheidt (19), Carter Coben (20), Steven Toporowski (21), Andrew Johnson (22), Daigon Elmy (24), Kendall McFaull (27), John Lawrence (28), Cody Wourms (90), Head Coach Duane McLaren, Assistant Coach Darren Blair, and Manager Scott Blair.

(from page two: **BUDGET**)

The new care aide workers represent the second year of a three-year, \$18.4 million commitment to hire 300 continuing care aides to work in long-term care and expanded home care services. The two-year total is now 225, and the final 75 will be funded next fiscal year.

This budget establishes a new and independent agency dedicated to recruiting and retaining health care workers. This budget also includes a \$1.5 million increase to support recruitment initiatives including the development of a settlement and relocation incentive program, to recruit 150 health care workers to Sas-

katchewan from the Philippines. It is the first year of a two-year program aimed at bringing 300 health care workers from the Philippines to Saskatchewan.

There is \$12.5 million in new funding for 11 additional intensive care beds across the province, the first year of a three-year strategy to add 31 ICU beds to bring the total to 110 by 2024-25, up from the current 79.

A \$4.9 million increase will expand the number of specialized medical imaging procedures, including CT and MRI scans. An added \$3 million will fund 10 high-acuity beds at Regina General Hospital to support capacity expansion. The beds will be used to reduce

demands on the ICU and improve patient flow.

A nearly \$11 million increase will support stabilization of emergency medical services (EMS) with additional paramedics, ambulances and funding in 27 communities across the province, particularly in rural and remote areas, as well as Regina and Saskatoon. This funding will also support additional training and resourcing for community paramedicine in a number of rural and northern communities.

Education

Education spending is \$3.8 billion, up more than \$47.2 million, or 1.3 percent compared to last year.

Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive \$1.99 billion in operating funding for the 2022 school year, an increase of \$24.9 million over last year.

A new \$7 million fund

in this budget will allow school divisions to hire up to 200 additional, full-time educational assistants to support students and manage increasingly diverse classrooms.

Funding for child care and early learning is \$309.6 million, including funding provided through the Federal-Provincial Early Years agreements. Of that funding, \$4.3 million will create 6,100 new child care spaces, part of government's goal to create 28,000 new licensed spaces over the next five years.

"Starting in February 2022, parent child care fees were reduced by up to 50 percent in licensed care. This year's funding will support further reducing parent fees as early as September 2022, making life more affordable for Saskatchewan families," Harpauer said.

The budget also includes

a \$4.9 million increase to expand nurse training by 150 seats. More than \$680 million for operating and capital grants to post secondary institutions is included in this budget. As well, this budget includes \$38 million for student supports.

Agriculture

This year's budget is \$462.4 million, a 19.5 percent increase from the previous year that is driven by the 2022-23 Crop Insurance Program and record agriculture research funding.

The budget includes \$338.5 million to fund a suite of business risk management programming, including Crop Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest and Livestock Price Insurance. More than \$250 million is budgeted for Crop Insurance. Average coverage will reach a record level of \$405 per acre this year, due to higher commodity prices and increased yield coverage.

Effective Apr. 1, 2022, a number of clarifications are being made to Provincial Sales Tax (PST) related to farming and agriculture activities, including establishing the exemption for the on-farm digging of dugouts, among other activities.

Agricultural research funding in 2022-23 is a record \$33.8 million. This

includes \$2 million in new funding for the Global Institute for Food Security to define, accelerate and communicate the agriculture sector's contributions to improved environmental outcomes.

Again this year, \$2.5 million of additional provincial support is being provided for irrigation development to help producers develop irrigation infrastructure projects.

The budget provides \$1.6 million to Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan (APSS) for sustainable animal welfare enforcement in the province. This is an increase of \$800,000 from the previous year's budgeted amount and it will enable the organization to expand its effective services to include the City of Saskatoon.

Municipalities
The provincial budget provides more than \$448 million in support to Saskatchewan municipalities.

The 2022-23 municipal investment includes over \$262 million in Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS). The funding formula is based on a percentage of the amount the province collects in Provincial Sales Tax.

This provincial budget also invests more than \$135 million in municipal infrastructure. This includes the provincial portions of \$71.2 million for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, \$32.7 million for the New Building Canada Fund and \$22.5 million for the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth Program.

Additional municipal investments include: \$21.1 million in policing grants; \$11.3 million to provincial libraries; \$3.8 million for the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program; \$1.7 million for the Community Rink Affordability Grant; and \$1.4 million funding for Urban Parks.

Investment in Film and Television industry
The budget includes an

(see page nine: **BUDGET**)

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Saskatchewan Provincial Budget | 2022-23

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COMING EVENTS

ESTATE SALE 16 SHANNON Cres., Lanigan. Furniture, dishes, outdoor items, small appliances, cat carriers. All must go! Sat., Apr. 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sun., Apr. 3, 1 to 4 p.m./14-1p

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(from page eight: **BUDGET**)

increase of \$8 million, bringing the total funds available to \$10 million, for the Creative Saskatchewan Production Grant Program, for film and television. Only Saskatchewan labour, goods and services are eligible for support under the program, ensuring dollars stay in the province.

"This investment is estimated to generate a \$50 million increase in film and television production and millions in annual economic activity, including significant increased spending in the hospitality industry, which has been hit hard by the pandemic," Harpauer said.

Capital Projects

There is \$3.2 billion for capital projects in the 2022-'23 Budget, record investment in Saskatchewan. This budget includes \$156.6 million for health care capital, including \$15.2 million for urgent care centres in Regina and Saskatoon, \$13.5 million to continue construction at the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital, \$6 million to continue the project to replace the Weyburn General Hospital, and \$6.5 million to continue design and procurement activities for specialized and standard long-term care beds in Regina.

The budget includes \$846 million to operate, maintain, build and improve the province's roads and highways, through the Ministry of Highways.

The budget provides for over 1,100 kilometres of improvements on provincial highways. Upgrades include Hwy. 3 twinning west of Prince Albert, and Hwy. 5 corridor improvements east of Saskatoon.

The budget includes \$168.6 million for school infrastructure. This budget includes \$95.2 million to support the ongoing planning and construction of 15 new schools and the renovation of five existing schools, as well as \$55.9 million for preventative and emergency maintenance. An additional \$12 million provides for the purchase of relocatable classrooms.

Implementing revenue measures

The existing application of PST is being broadened to match the federal GST base for admissions and entertainment events. Effective Oct. 1, 2022, the PST will apply to sporting events, concerts, museums, fairs, movies, gym memberships, green fees - among others. There are exemptions for children's activities, amateur events and events run by schools and non-profits. This change is projected to add \$10.5 million in PST revenue this year, and \$21 million annually.

Mill rates for the education portion of property taxes (EPT) are being adjusted slightly, including a decrease to the differential between the highest and lowest EPT mill rates, to improve overall fairness. Slight increases to mill rates, combined with forecasted base growth are expected to total about \$20 million in 2022-'23.

Tobacco taxes are increasing by two cents per cigarette

and eight cents per gram and 1.3 cents per stick of heat-not-burn products. Tobacco tax increases were effective midnight Mar. 23, 2022, and are expected to generate \$12.1 million in additional annual revenue.

Total public debt is forecast to be \$30 billion at Mar. 31, 2023, a \$2.3 billion increase from the public debt forecast in last year's budget.

A strong economy and higher revenues have reduced operating debt requirements by \$450 million in 2021-'22, bringing operating debt to less than \$10 billion.

The \$450 million lower operating debt requirement carries through to the 2022-'23 debt forecast, as well.

Provincial reaction

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is disappointed the budget continues to increase the provincial debt and fails to provide tax relief. "The Saskatchewan budget projects soaring revenues, but the government is planning to spend every penny and still borrow another \$463 million," said Todd MacKay, Prairie Director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

CTF said despite huge revenue increases, provincial spending is up, leaving an operational deficit of \$462 million this year. Interest charges on the debt will cost taxpayers \$812 million this year. "Now is the time to get spending under control and get the budget back to balance," concluded MacKay.

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation said it is disappointed that the government has chosen not to make education funding a priority. STF said an increase of 4.7 percent was required to simply maintain the status quo of programming and services. This budget results in a more than three percent cut to K-12 operational spending.

"These cuts will directly impact students across the province," said STF President Patrick Maze. "School divisions will be left with no choice but to cut programs and services that are already underfunded and insufficient to meet students' needs."

In the past five years, STF said Saskatchewan's K-12 operational budget has not kept pace with increased costs and enrolment, resulting in a five-year funding shortfall of 10 percent.

Meanwhile, Saskatchewan's creative sector is celebrating as the government announced an increase from \$2 million to \$10 million into Creative Saskatchewan's production program.

"We applaud the Government for this investment," said Erin Dean, CEO of Creative Saskatchewan. "Productions are a multi-faceted endeavor, built around labour with the potential to create hundreds of new jobs, ranging from cinematographers, assistant directors, electricians, carpenters, sound engineers, composers, editors, and more. This goes beyond contributing to Saskatchewan's economic recovery,

it's truly improving the livelihoods of Saskatchewan residents."

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) felt the budget provides little relief for small businesses hoping to see measures to reduce costs and help with recovery.

"CFIB recognizes the province has managed the pandemic well by allowing businesses to stay open as much as possible, but small businesses are still very much in recovery mode," said Kathleen Cook, CFIB provincial affairs director. "After dealing with two years of the pandemic, only 34 percent of Saskatchewan small businesses are at normal sales levels and the average small business has accumulated \$95,188 in COVID-19 related debt."

Brianna Solberg, CFIB senior policy analyst said, "We would have liked to see additional cost relief measures introduced in the budget, such as holding the small business tax rate at zero percent for the foreseeable future and freezing education property tax mill rates. These actions would go a long way to help small businesses."

While Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association appreciated investments in a few areas, it had hoped to see more. "Access to healthcare, from emergency medical transport to mental health and addictions support, is pivotal to ensuring the quality of lives of the residents in Saskatchewan's hometowns," said Mayor Mike Strachan, SUMA's Vice-President of Villages, Resort Villages, and Northern Municipalities. "While we are very appreciative of increased investments in the health of our residents, more support is needed."

SUMA welcomed the continued investment in Saskatchewan's hometowns through Municipal Revenue Sharing, but was disappointed with the reduction in funding. Municipal Revenue Sharing for the 2022-'23 year is set to be approximately \$262 million, a reduction from the 2021-'22 budget.

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is supportive of the provincial government's budget for the Ministry of Agriculture.

"While the province continues to manage the debt after COVID-19, APAS remains appreciative of the government programs geared towards helping agriculture thrive in Saskatchewan," APAS President Ian Boxall said. "Given the higher crop values and crop production costs, we are especially appreciative to see the increase in Crop Insurance coverage for 2022-'23."

APAS was also appreciative of the \$338.5 million investment to fund business risk management programs. "Producers are coming off of a historic drought and heading into one of the most unpredictable years on record," Boxall said. "It's important for the provincial government to support producers in case another drought is on the way this summer."

APAS is also appreciative of new investments in research, irrigation, and PST measures to support agriculture.

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LLHL Award Winners

After finishing in first place during the Long Lake Hockey League 2021-'22 regular season a number of Drake Canucks were recognized by the league for their achievements. With LLHL President Ryan Collins on hand during game one of the league final between Drake and Foam Lake Mar. 22, Collins presented Drake's Duane McLaren with the Coach of the Year award (above right). Collins also presented John Lawrence with the Most Gentlemanly award (below right) and netminders Calvin Bartel and Spencer Ewen with an



award as Drake had the best combined goals against average (above middle). The Canucks also received recognition for taking first place in the league standings (above left). Also winning awards this year were Foam Lake's Ron Zadorozniak as he was named Coach of the Year along with McLaren, Travis Mayan of Foam Lake received league MVP honours and Lanigan's Colby Harmsworth was named Top Defenseman. The individual awards were selected by votes from the teams in the league.

- photos courtesy Calla Blair





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