



# Regina Qu'Appelle Valley Laura Ross, MLA



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With the spring session now behind us, my colleagues and I get back to our home constituencies to focus on our most important work – listening to and representing our constituents. This feedback is essential as it helps to form our government's priorities moving forward.

Just a reminder that extra care and attention is required now that highway construction crews have begun their work building and

maintaining Saskatchewan's highways. Simplified signage is in place directing drivers exactly when to slow to 60 km/h. Drivers who don't, run the risk of facing three times the normal fines for speeding. Wherever you go this spring and summer, safe travels!

*Laura Ross*

## Coffee Connection

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  
**Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
4519 Rochdale Blvd.

Drop by and say hello  
you will meet some very interesting  
people from your community.



# In Our Community



On May 7th, I was delighted to bring greetings at the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards, where Lisa Koch won the Leadership & Management Award. Congratulations Lisa, on all of your hard work at the Regina Humane Society. In this photo: Karen Dackiv, Director of Development at RHS, Lisa Koch, Executive Director at RHS and Laura Ross, MLA of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.



MLA Nadine Wilson and I were able to attend the ovarian cancer flag raising ceremony at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building.

## CANADIAN HUMANITARIAN FUNDRAISER

The local chapter of Canadian Humanitarian, a registered charity, whose mission is to provide the basic necessities of life, such as food and shelter to orphaned and vulnerable children in Ethiopia and now Uganda and Malawi, along with event sponsor K + S Potash, brought Commander Chris Hadfield to Regina on March 28th, 2014. On the afternoon of the 28th, Mr. Hadfield spoke to 650 Grade 6 students who had participated in a Rocket Launching competition that was organized by Canadian Humanitarian, with the help of the Regina Public and Separate school boards. Grade 6 students were targeted with this competition as this is where space and flight is part of the curriculum. The students had to design and launch an object that was to be powered only by elastic bands. They were to use objects around the house to design and build their launchers and then were judged on flight time. 21 schools participated in the competition. Each school sent their top 3 contestants to a city-wide competition which was held on March 5 at the University of Regina. 44 students arrived on this stormy winter day to compete. The top 4 contestants from the city competition arrived at the Conexus Arts Centre in a limo and got to dine with Mr. Hadfield during the fundraising dinner and silent auction on the evening of March 28th. Commander Hadfield gave 2 amazing presentations on March 28th. Over 1000 local people got to hear his inspiring words while he was in Regina.



I was honoured to meet Commander Chris Hadfield a retired Canadian astronaut who was the first Canadian to walk in space. Hadfield flew two space shuttle missions and served as commander of the International Space Station.

# REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE

Today, Saskatchewan is home to more people, more activity and more opportunities than ever before. This is reflected in our province's unemployment rate of 3.4 per cent – the lowest in all of Canada, less than half of the national average and our lowest level ever on record.

Our strong and growing economy is driven by the contributions of a diverse and growing population. This growth means we can deliver a balanced budget while still making the important investments needed to ensure Saskatchewan is a great place to live, work and play. Our government's seventh consecutive balanced budget and continued investments in infrastructure and people were the highlights of the spring session of the Legislative Assembly.

Some of the investments and new initiatives announced during the spring session include the new Regina Bypass project, a commitment to a new Saskatoon commuter bridge, passing lanes and twinning projects on a number of Saskatchewan highways, a new Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford and the renewal of Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert.

Our government is committed to education and, to that end, we are building nine new joint-use schools in Regina, Saskatoon, Warman and Martensville; we're investing in upgrades to bandwidth to increase internet speeds in schools and we're investing in 1,000 new training seats and doubling the funding for initiatives to improve education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people. Our government is also investing in infrastructure that includes a new Trades and Technology

Centre in Yorkton, continued construction at Southeast Regional College in Weyburn and the Health Sciences Centre at the U of S in Saskatoon. These are only some of the projects introduced or funded this session that will keep Saskatchewan on the path of steady growth.

Saving for our children's education is a priority for all parents and our government recognizes and understands the challenges families may face. The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) is one way we're working to make post-secondary education more affordable. Modelled after the Canada Education Savings Grant, it enables the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a grant of 10% on contributions into a Registered Education Savings Plan (to a maximum of \$250 per child per year). People with new and existing RESP's can apply through participating financial institutions or investment companies. Contributions made to eligible RESP's will receive the SAGES grant retroactively to January 1, 2013.

One of our ongoing priorities is providing support for those who need it and the Discounted Bus Pass Program is one way we're able to do that. Whether it's getting groceries or going to appointments, this program helps our province's most vulnerable people get where they need to go. The Discounted Bus Pass Program allows participating cities to set the retail rate they charge to the client, while still ensuring it is at least \$25 below the full fare. It makes accessing public transit easier for those receiving income assistance and, in many cases, eligible riders will only pay approximately one-third the cost of a regular bus pass.

## MACKENZIE ART GALLERY'S ART IN BLOOM FUNDRAISER

The delights of France awaited our guests at Art in Bloom this year. A biennial event that is a principal fundraiser for the MacKenzie Art Gallery. The table was created by Jeannie LeBlond and I with the hopes that people dreamt of wandering amidst lavender fields in Provence, enjoying the sun filled vineyards of Burgundy, admiring the celebrated lily ponds of Giverny.



# In Our Community



On Wednesday, April 9th, I hosted over 200 young girls who participate in the guiding program at the Legislative building. They walked to the Legislature to show support against bullying.



On Saturday, March 29th, I was honoured to bring greetings on behalf of the government at the YMCA Megathon Carnival. This carnival promoted the YMCA strong kids campaign.



On Saturday, March 1st, I had a great time at the Westhill Park Baptist Church. The young ladies in the Northwest area of Regina who participate in the guiding programs hosted a fabulous tea and bake sale.



## I'd like to hear from you!

- Share your ideas and concerns
- Request special Anniversary and birthday greetings from the Premier or the Queen
- Tour your Saskatchewan legislature with your organization

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