

## Province planning for growth

The Government of Saskatchewan recently set out its vision for a province of 1.2 million people by 2020. The "Saskatchewan Plan for Growth" frames six main government activities to foster economic growth and address the challenges that come with it. Two of the activities directly impact Parkland College and the advancement of post-secondary education in the region: investing in infrastructure and developing a skilled workforce.

Through the plan, the province intends to pour at least \$2.5 billion into infrastructure over its next three budgets. The plan also called for the establishment of the SaskBuilds Fund, a new government organization designed to develop partnerships with other levels of government and the private sector.

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Parkland College President Dr. Fay Myers (right) and then Mayor James Wilson pose at the City of Yorkton's land donation announcement on September 24. The land, valued at nearly \$3.5 million, is the future home of the Trades and Technology Centre..

## City of Yorkton gives land for Trades & Tech Centre

Parkland College's proposed Trades and Technology Centre has a place to call home thanks to a generous donation of land from the City of Yorkton. On September 24, 2012, the city announced that it will provide 20 acres of prime land to be used as the future site of the Trades and Technology Centre.

The land, bordered by York Road and Darlington Street and located between Highway 9 and Dracup Avenue, is valued at \$3.48 million. It will conform to education tax incentives and, as land used for educational purposes, will be considered tax-exempt. The city and the college have agreed to a symbolic purchase price of one dollar.

"This is a major investment in providing more skills-based education right here at home in Yorkton to serve the growing economic needs of our city and the entire region," said then Mayor James Wilson.

"Labour trends suggest this project is urgently needed," Wilson added. "Approximately 90 per cent of apprenticeship trades in the Yorkton-Melville area are experiencing a shortage of skilled labour. Projections from the Government

of Saskatchewan show that 1,000 additional skilled workers will be required in the Parkland region each year for the next 10 years."

The facility is designed to meet current labour demands and be flexible enough to adapt to the region's future needs, according to Dr. Fay Myers, President of Parkland College. "It will have the capacity to deliver 350 full-time graduates per year in high-demand careers such as power engineering, motive power technicians and mechanics, welding, machining, and construction trades like carpentry and electrical. The facility will also provide skill enhancement and upgrading programs for 2,000 workers per year," said Myers.

"For every dollar invested in Parkland College, taxpayers see a 15 per cent rate of return on investment," Wilson said. The figure was determined through a recent Economic Impact study. The study also found that "over 90 per cent of students trained through the college remain in the province and that translates to more of our youth being able to find good jobs here at home," said Wilson. ■

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Premier Brad Wall knows Saskatchewan must also have a well-trained workforce to meet evolving labour demands. "If we are going to grow to 1.2 million people by 2020, that means at least 60,000 more people working in Saskatchewan by then," said Wall.

The government plans to encourage more career planning initiatives in high schools, as well as increasing training seats for trades like carpentry, electrical and welding. The province will work with First Nations and Métis groups to improve educational outcomes and increase employment. There are also goals to expand the immigrant nominee program and assist private sector employers in recruitment of skilled workers from outside the province.

The ultimate goal is to make sure everyone benefits from Saskatchewan's progress. "Growth is the path to building the kind of province we desire for all Saskatchewan people," Wall said. "Our plan will keep our province growing, improve our quality of life and continue to make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada." ■



## A place to call home

City of Yorkton provides the foundation for a much needed local training facility

It's a mild, sunny September morning as we drive north on Highway 9 through the east end of Yorkton. When we cross the Darlington Street overpass, we look to our left to see a vast parcel of prairie, alive with native grasses, bluffs of trees and small shrubs. It doesn't look like much now, but it represents a bright future for the economy and the people of the Parkland region. It is the future home of the Trades and Technology Centre.

Dr. Fay Myers, President of Parkland College, and Del Killick, chair of the college's Board of Governors, are here to examine the site. Their vehicle turns west onto York Road, the city's main industrial corridor, before heading south down Dracup Avenue for a closer look. They pull over in front of bungalows and duplexes shaded by mature trees. Crossing by foot to the east side of Dracup, they take in the land before them and ponder the possibilities.

"Lots of room for parking. Lots of room for expansion," Myers remarks.

The land is a prime piece of real estate, assessed at almost \$3.5 million. But its value is measured in more than dollars and cents; it is the foundation for an expansion of services and program options that are desperately needed to sustain the growth and rejuvenation of the Yorkton area.

"This gift from the city is huge to move our whole project forward," Myers notes. "Once we build this, we will be able to continue developing the labour market, bringing new training wherever it's required."

Discussions between the college and city council developed over the course of a few years as the partners wanted to select a location that would be appropriate for both of them. Eventually the 20-acre property was chosen - a substantial plot for the facility, currently proposed at approximately 25,000 square feet. But the city's contribution comes with an eye to the future.

"Skills-based training is so important to business, which creates jobs and develops the basis of the well-being of our families in this area," then Mayor James Wilson told reporters at the donation announcement news conference.

"We needed ample land for growth. As the region grows, and as the demand grows for training and education, there may be other phases to this project," he continued. "In the process of good planning, you always do look to the future, and that's what we are doing with this land. Twenty acres gives ample property for future development."

Myers noted the land isn't just important for the future of the facility; she highlighted the benefits it will bring to students and residents in the region, something she believes the college is well known for. ■

**The land's value is measured in more than dollars and cents; it is the foundation for an expansion that is desperately needed in the Yorkton area.**

## THE OUTLOOK

### Slow growth for Canada in 2013; Saskatchewan among leaders

A recent forecast (Nov. 2012) from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects continued slow growth for the Canadian economy - but Saskatchewan is near the top as a national power.

Weaker global conditions are to blame for Canada's impeded growth, according to the Paris-based organization. It projects the economy will grow by just 1.8 per cent in 2013 before being boosted to 2.4 per cent in 2014. The forecast closely mimics that of the Bank of Canada.

However, Saskatchewan remains a bright light to many economists. The province's 4.9 per cent growth in 2011 ranked behind only Alberta and the Yukon. Most projections for 2013 expect growth in Saskatchewan to be in the range of 2.5-3.0 per cent. The healthy outlook is based largely on natural resources, and continued strength hinges on whether demand recovers for oil, natural gas and potash. ■



(L to R) LEON RAM executives Carla Lammers, John Malinowski, David Malinowski and Linda Turta pose with two green bricks to symbolize their company's commitment to education and sustainable growth in the Parkland region.

With roots reaching back to 1952, LEON RAM Companies have an established relationship with the Parkland region. That bond strengthened recently when the business donated \$100,000 to the Trades and Technology Centre.

"We are very pleased to support this important educational initiative," said Linda Turta, President of Ram Industries Inc., Executive Vice President of Leon's Mfg. Company Inc. and co-chair of Parkland College's Capital Campaign Cabinet. "The increased availability of a trained and skilled workforce will directly benefit our organizations and be a critical factor in achieving our business objectives."

Turta knows quite a bit about successful enterprises. Ram Industries Inc. won the 2012 Business of the Year at the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Celebrate Success awards. She readily points out that employees are critical to the success of any company.

"The construction of a Trades and Technology Centre will not only provide upgrading opportunities to current employees," Turta explains, "it sends a strong message to students planning their future that careers in skilled trades are an important need in our regional market."

LEON RAM Companies believe

the Trades and Technology Centre will diversify the mix of industry in the region and generate a significant positive impact to economic growth. Turta is confident the facility will have substantial and broad reaching benefits to the entire Parkland area — and it's clear she's not alone.

"It's been a pleasure to receive such immediate and positive response to our proposals for participation," Turta says. "This enthusiastic feedback certainly reaffirms that the vision of Parkland College to pursue the Trades and Technology Centre is timely, important, and exactly what our region needs." ■

## Facts and figures: Shortcomings in education

51%

Proportion of **Saskatchewan workers** with a post-secondary education, 10th among the provinces and well below the national average of 60%

40%

Proportion of **Parkland Region workers** with a post-secondary education

30%

Proportion of **Parkland Region residents** without a high school diploma



## Parkland College — A Provincial Leader

Parkland College is rapidly expanding to keep pace with regional development. The college has grown from a small special interest training centre into a provincial innovator and leader in education. The College boasts provincial firsts such as the only professional firefighting program, the only rural industrial mechanics apprenticeship program, and the most diverse off campus university program in Saskatchewan.

Parkland College is the leading post-secondary educational institution in East Central Saskatchewan and leading innovation across the province through the delivery of a diverse programming mix, including:

- Master Degrees
- Bachelor Degrees
- Apprentice level training
- Diplomas
- Certificates
- English as an Additional Language
- Safety certifications
- Customized industry and business training
- High school diploma

The new Trades and Technology Centre will help make Parkland College and Yorkton an Educational Destination for students and support the growth of local businesses.

## An evolving campus

Engaged, passionate, and innovative. Parkland College is constantly evolving and repositioning to better meet the needs of its stakeholders.

### MISSION:

Parkland College is a catalyst; changing lives, communities and industry, one learner at a time.

### VISION:

Prosperous individuals, enterprises and economies – driven by excellence at Parkland College.

## Capital Campaign Cabinet

The Capital Campaign Cabinet is a group of forward-thinking industry leaders which will provide key industry insight, generate support and build awareness for the project.



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