



SASKATCHEWAN – *by the numbers*

Saskatchewan is home to over a million people, and is ranked No. 1 in terms of growth in Canada. We have the world's richest uranium deposit, supply 10 per cent of the world's total exported wheat, and are responsible for 40 per cent of the world's trade in potash.¹ This province also accounts for a third of Canada's primary energy production, and is one of the few jurisdictions in the world to produce crude oil, natural gas, uranium, biofuels, geothermal, wind and hydro power. On top of this, Saskatchewan boasts over 100,000 lakes and rivers, 34 provincial parks, 300 golf courses, and has more hours of sunshine than any other Canadian province or territory.² By the numbers, Saskatchewan is one of the greatest places to live, work and play.

In addition to these many great resources, it is our tremendously rich and diverse workforce that needs to be recognized. Saskatchewan's "oil and gas industry provides direct and indirect employment for more than 29,000 people".³ Last year, Summit Liability Solutions' Weyburn office was home to five employees but in the past year, it has grown to 15 staff. Hiring skilled and educated personnel in this competitive market is a difficult task in its own right. Hiring 10 individuals that not only meet the requirements of an environmental specialist but who are also born, raised and educated in this province is testament to the depth of this resource pool.

Maintaining a strong and emergent pool of skilled employees is increasingly important if you follow the newest forecast by the Conference Board of Canada (CBOC). The CBOC has Saskatchewan "leading the country in economic

growth in 2011 and 2012 and expects that Saskatchewan will be "leading the way" in the coming year by posting the strongest economic growth in Canada - a gain of 3.9 per cent in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)".⁴ This strong forecast demonstrates that Saskatchewan is a great place to live and do business, not only today, but also looking forward. In fact, the CBOC reports higher commodity prices, continued population growth, gains in the energy sector, a significant rebound in agriculture and increased activity in resource development are key factors for even stronger anticipated growth in 2012 (4.5 per cent in real GDP).⁵

All these numbers represent a positive outlook for our province, but for how long? In fact, the answer to that question might be the most important number we consider as this province continues to gain the economic prosperity and respect it deserves.

Investment expert Bob Haber says that, "The world is currently seeing a bullish trend, where developing countries are moving fast to become industrialized", and the resulting demand on our resource markets has not "been seen before in our history". This trend is fueling the demand for natural resources of which Saskatchewan is blessed to have an abundance, and this is why Haber predicts Saskatchewan's economic boom will last one or two decades rather than one or two years.⁶

By the numbers, it is clear that Saskatchewan is one of the greatest places in which to live, work and play. It doesn't matter if it's the positive economic trends, the depth of our resource pool



Photography courtesy of Chris Maki, Phresh Photography. chris@phresh.net — Calgary, Alberta, Canada

or the 100,000 lakes and rivers with more sunshine per year that is of importance to you; the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, which means that it is not any one of these individual items that makes Saskatchewan great – it is all of these factors put together.

Summit is proud to be part of this great province and it is the sum of our parts – our people – who make us better. In closing, we would like to thank our personnel for their hard work and dedication to excellence: thanks for making Summit a “whole lot better”. Summit is proud to be part of the 2011 Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Show. Please come by our display at booth 69 to learn more about our industry leading environmental services or see our compliance management system Summit Earth™. For additional information about Summit or Summit Earth™ please visit www.summitls.ca.

FOOTNOTES:

¹ Online:

www.enterprisesaskatchewan.ca

² Online:

www.aboriginalbusinessdirectory.com

³ Online:

www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=2fd03ad9-9d51-41cf-8dcc-cd69b22c5333

⁴ Online:

www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=61e04ac3-e03b-4eb0-a565-b6c3ddeb63a4

⁵ Online:

www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=61e04ac3-e03b-4eb0-a565-b6c3ddeb63a4

⁶ Online:

www.newstalk980.com/story/20110219/47291 ■

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