



**Saskatchewan  
Trucking  
Association**



# News Release

**Embargoed until delivery of Finance Minister's address**

24 March 2010

## **STA FAVORS GOV'T COMMITMENT TO HIGHWAYS/INFRASTRUCTURE**

REGINA, Sask. – Steadfast budgetary support towards highway infrastructure programs coupled with new roadway development, will pay major dividends to the people of Saskatchewan, says the executive director of the Saskatchewan Trucking Association (STA).

“Even in uncertain economic times, the Wall Government has remained solidly committed to actively promoting and enhancing better highways that – through time – will yield significant economic returns, said Al Rosseker. “Treating highways and infrastructure as a longer term investment shows the government's vision for the bigger picture.”

Even though the highways ministry's budget was cut by 12.5%, Mr. Rosseker said the overall government spending plan shows a confidence in the economy evidenced by the amount of money funneling to smaller communities in terms of jobs, wages, service supplies and maintenance. “The budget takes into account the need to have renewed economic activity in smaller communities. Infrastructure projects means jobs, jobs mean paycheques, paycheques mean spending, spending stimulates economic growth,” he said, in response to release of the 2010-2011 provincial budget on Wednesday.

Citing the second largest transportation budget in the province's history at \$551-million, he said the STA is particularly encouraged to see the government's continued priority for funding the highways and infrastructure ministry. A major factor in the maintaining strong funding at the finance table is the ministry's demonstrated leadership, he said. “This ministry is well in control of its spending, the value its projects return to stakeholders and the general public, as well as its vision for growing the economy.”

In Saskatchewan, close to 92% of the products and goods moved are truck-dependent and about 70% of provincial exports are moved by truck.

Established in 1937, the STA is a not-for-profit trade association advancing the truck transport industry in Saskatchewan through member services that include training, safety initiatives, government relations, policy formulation, education, insurance and health benefits plans. The association is also represented on the board of directors of the Canadian Trucking Alliance, an affiliation of provincial truck transport associations.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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## **STA Fast Facts:**

The following statistics on the truck transport industry have been gleaned from a variety of sources, including Transport Canada's annual report, the provincial governments and other trade associations.

- ❑ 92% of the goods moved within Saskatchewan depend on trucks.
- ❑ \$5.35 billion of Saskatchewan's exports are to the United States.
- ❑ \$6.38 billion of Saskatchewan imports are from the United States.
- ❑ 70% of Saskatchewan's merchandise trade with the United States is shipped by truck.
- ❑ There are approximately 2,300 trucking companies registered within Saskatchewan.
- ❑ Transportation industries employ more than 28,000 persons, or 5% of the Saskatchewan labor force. These persons are residents and taxpayers within our communities.
- ❑ More than 227,000 Canadians are truck transport drivers, making it one of the top occupations in this country.
- ❑ The Canadian Trucking Alliance estimates that annual industry fuel purchases are 7,000,000,000 litres.
- ❑ A typical tractor trailer unit raises approximately \$60,000.00 a year in federal/provincial taxes and fees, excluding drivers' income tax.
- ❑ If all the inter-provincial trucking companies with headquarters in Saskatchewan relocated to other provinces, Saskatchewan would lose \$300 million in gross income.
- ❑ In more buoyant economic times, more than 200,000 commercial trucks cross the Saskatchewan/U.S. Border each year.
- ❑ Canada and the United States trade \$300 billion in goods and services every year. More than 60% of these goods travel by truck.
- ❑ Commercial truck operators must comply with the National Safety Code and provincial regulations that include driver, vehicle and operational related safety regulations.