

Message from The Honourable Gene Makowsky

Our world has suddenly become a very different place.

For many Saskatchewan residents, remaining isolated and physically distancing ourselves from people goes against our nature. We are welcoming folk, proud of our communities and eager to treat guests to the wonders of our province.

This is especially so in tourism – an industry that is driven by innovative, hardworking people. You are entrepreneurs and innovators; managers and employees; people on the front lines and behind the scenes. You are community leaders, event organizers and volunteers eager to showcase our province.

You are professionals in various fields, from food production to craft brewing, from culinary to the performing arts, and much more. Your talents and hospitality create the experiences that visitors treasure.



COVID-19 has abruptly “pressed pause” on tourism in Saskatchewan and worldwide. Out of necessity, attractions are temporarily closed, performances and events cancelled, and limitations placed on travel. Some businesses have increased delivery services. Others are making changes in production, focusing on products needed in health care and emergency services.

People are staying in their homes and practicing safe social distancing to help stem the spread of this pandemic. The change in behaviour is absolutely critical at this time. However, it is contrary to our natural curiosity about different places and experiences – not just far away destinations, but the remarkable sites and locations in our own province.

The Government of Saskatchewan understands that the province’s tourism sector is enduring unprecedented challenges and has serious concerns about the future. Tourism influences almost all other areas of business and commerce. Its stability and success are vital.

We are navigating uncharted territory. Federal and provincial support measures are in place and being developed to help businesses and workers. The Government of Saskatchewan has assembled a Business Response Team to address the economic challenges in Saskatchewan stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accurate and timely information is crucial. [Saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca) is a source for health and businesses information.

As the future unfolds, the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to assisting the tourism industry in recovery efforts. We are actively seeking input from tourism industry operators and stakeholders in how we can best support these efforts going forward. Watch for online survey invitations from Tourism Saskatchewan, which will collect the data required to obtain a full picture of the impacts of COVID-19 on Saskatchewan’s tourism industry.

We all have a role in minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Thank you for understanding the seriousness of the matter and doing everything needed to keep Saskatchewan residents and communities safe.

Gene Makowsky
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
