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Saskatchewan population tops 1.1 million, sets another new benchmark

BY JONATHAN CHARLTON, THE STARPHOENIX SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 12:00 PM

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SPOTLIGHTS

According to the latest population estimates from Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan has broken the 1.1 million mark for the first time — growing over the past year by more than 20,000 people to 1,108,303.

Photograph by: The StarPhoenix , file photo

More than 35 million people now live in Canada and a record-number of those reside in Saskatchewan.

According to the latest population estimates from Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan has broken the 1.1 million mark for the first time — growing over the past year by more than 20,000 people to 1,108,303.

Premier Brad Wall said the rapid growth shows the strength of Saskatchewan's economy. When the Saskatchewan Party took government in 2007, it set a goal of increasing the population by 100,000 within 10 years. After reaching that target in six years, Wall says the government is now hoping to reach 1.2 million by 2020.

“Saskatchewan is the place to be in Canada right now. We have the strongest job growth and lowest unemployment in Canada, and we have a great quality of life in this province,” he said in a news release.

The numbers are from the latest population estimate from Statistics Canada, in which the agency corrected for census undercoverage and incomplete counts on First Nations. According to StatsCan, the increase of 6,895 over the last quarter is the largest jump for Saskatchewan in any quarter since the agency began keeping quarterly estimates.

Wall boasted about the rapid growth over the past six years. From 1905 to 1930, the province grew from 236,000 to 900,000. In 1983, the province finally hit one million residents before dropping below that number in 2001. In 2007, Saskatchewan reached one million again and has been growing since.

“So from 1930 to 2007 — 77 years — Saskatchewan grew by 100,000 people,” said Wall.

“Because of that, some thought 100,000 people in 10 years was impossible. Now, we’ve grown by 100,000 in just six years. It really shows the economic strength of this new Saskatchewan, and it shows the naysayers who believed this kind of growth was impossible were dead wrong.”

The newest StatsCan figures do not include municipal populations. In June, Saskatoon’s city planning branch pegged Saskatoon’s population at 246,300 — a 24,000-person jump from the 2011 census estimate. For the entire Saskatoon census metropolitan area, in 2012 StatsCan estimated a population of 284,008.

In total, Canada now has 35,158,304 residents, up by 403,992 over the past year.

jcharlton@thestarphoenix.com

twitter.com/J_Charlton

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