

# SPORT POLICY IN SASKATCHEWAN



## 1991 - 2001 NDP Roy Romanow

Roy Romanow became the premier when Saskatchewan was dealing with a fiscal crisis. In response to this, there were major cuts to services and reducing government spending through downsizing. The majority of these cuts were implemented in rural areas. Romanow was re-elected in the 1995 election.

Before 2001, ministry responsible from sport had few name changes such as Culture and Recreation; Parks, Recreation and Culture; Culture, Multiculturalism and Recreation; Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing.

**Sask Sport** was created in 1972, which is a non-profit organization serving as the provincial federation for amateur sport.

**The Interprovincial Lotteries Act** was signed in 1984 establishing the arrangement so that the proceeds from Sask Lotteries support organizations throughout the province. Ever since then, Lotteries are a major part of the funding for sport, culture, and recreation organizations in Saskatchewan.

**1989 Canada Summer Games** was hosted in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. With the \$1.3 million profit generated from the games, **1989 Jeux Canada Games Foundation** was established and various funding was provided to sport organizations.

In 1995, **KidSport Saskatchewan** was established to increase youth participation in sport and recreation, targeting disadvantaged populations.

In 1996, provincial government created the **Community Initiatives Fund** through **The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act** to distribute the portion of profits to Saskatchewan communities.

# 2001 - 2007



## 2001 - 2007 NDP Lorne Calvert

Lorne Calvert, as the 13<sup>th</sup> premier of Saskatchewan, increased social spending especially in the areas of education and healthcare. In addition there were investments for renewable energy and reformations toward the immigration system.

Ministry name changed to **Culture, Youth and Recreation**. Five ministers in this period:

- Joanne Crofford (2001-2003)
- Joan Beatty (2003-2006)
- Glenn Joseph Hagel (2006-2007)
- Warren McCall (2007)
- Sandra Morin (2007)

In 2001, the Legislature adopted **curling** as the official sport of Saskatchewan in recognition of the Saskatchewan curlers who made international contributions and the significance of curling in the province.

**2005 Canada Summer Games** was hosted in Regina, Saskatchewan.

In 2006, SaskSport in partnership with Regina Public and Catholic School Boards created **The Dream Brokers** program. This program works with schools to increase sports, culture and recreational opportunities through reducing financial barriers.

In 2007, **Indigenous Sport Enhancement Program** (initially named Aboriginal Excellence Program) was created by SaskSport to raise performance levels of Indigenous athletes and increase the capacity of Indigenous volunteers, coaches, and officials.

# 2007 - 2011



## 2007-2011 Saskatchewan Party Brad Wall

Brad Wall, was the leader of Saskatchewan Party in 2007 elections and served as the Saskatchewan premier. Wall came into power when the Saskatchewan economy was expanding due to agricultural products and mineral resources such as potash, uranium, oil, and coal.

Increases in provincial revenues were reflected in budgets with tax cuts and investments in health, social services, and infrastructure.

Ministry name changed to **Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport**. Three ministers in this period:  
Christine Tell (2007-2009)  
Dustin Duncan (2009-2010)  
Bill Hutchinson (2010-2012)

In 2008, **The Community Sport for Children and Youth Planning Toolkit** was developed by Sask Sport to help communities develop, provide, and evaluate sport programs highlighting Indigenous youth participation, increasing volunteers and encouraging partnerships with the community.

In 2009, the Government of Saskatchewan introduced the **Active Families Benefit** program that aimed to help families with the costs of their children's participation in cultural, recreational, and sports activities. This benefit was a fully refundable tax credit of up to \$150 per child.

In 2009, Sask Sport commissioned an **Officials' Development Task Force** to examine major issues affecting officials and the possibilities of creating a province-wide officials organization.

In 2010, the Government of Saskatchewan and Sask Sport created a **Sport Participation Initiative** that includes the Saskatchewan Program for Athletic Excellence, The Accessibility Program, and the Vancouver Olympic Pavilion Budget Transfer. Sask Sport allocated investment for elite athletes through Athletic Excellence program and athletes with disabilities through The Accessibility Program. Vancouver Olympic Pavilion Budget Transfer was funded from the remainder of Sask Olympic and Paralympic budget that was allocated to youth sport participation.

# 2020 - 2025



## 2020 - Present Saskatchewan Party Scott Moe

Scott Moe continued his position as the premier after 2020 elections. He is known for his opposition to the federal carbon tax and the release of a white paper on “Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan’s Economic Autonomy.”

In 2024, Scott Moe won the provincial election and was re-elected. Currently, he continues to serve his position as the 15<sup>th</sup> premier of Saskatchewan.

Ministry name remained as **Parks, Culture and Sport**. Acting minister in this period:  
Laura Ross (2020-2024)  
Alana Ross (2024-present)

In 2022, **Sport. It’s More Than A Game** campaign was launched by SaskSport to encourage growth and development of amateur sport through featuring stories from Saskatchewan people. These include stories from sport ambassadors who are previous or current athletes, coaches, and officials that aim to promote the benefits of sport.

**The Interprovincial Lotteries Act (1984)** was repealed in 2023 and **Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Legislation** was introduced. The new legislation creates Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan, sets out its powers, and continues important fundings such as the Community Initiatives Fund. There were some structural changes such as introducing **Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan** as a new commercial Crown corporation. In addition, there was an emphasis on online gaming as a growing operation for the corporation.

In 2025-2026 Saskatchewan provincial budget, **The Community Rink Affordability Grant** was increased from \$2500 to \$5000 per ice surface and a new program **School Playground Equipment Grant** was launched to upgrade equipment in schools.