



Saskatchewan Government Cabinet Shuffle August 2017

August 30, 2017 – Premier Brad Wall today announced his much-anticipated cabinet shuffle to replace the cabinet ministers who resigned to run for the Saskatchewan Party leadership.

This substantial shuffle had some expected changes, such as the appointment of Don Morgan as the Minister of Justice (he is a lawyer by trade and a past Justice Minister), and the re-entry of Nancy Heppner to cabinet. One very unexpected change is former Finance Minister, Kevin Doherty, once again becoming the Minister of Advanced Education. In a media scrum, both the Premier and Kevin Doherty indicated that it was in fact Doherty's choice to change portfolios.

New faces to cabinet include: Steven Bonk as the Minister of the Economy, Paul Merriman as the Minister of Social Services, Larry Doke as the Minister of Government Relations, and Gene Makowsky as the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Notable changes to Ministers' portfolios are:

- + Minister of CIC, Joe Hargrave, is now responsible for SaskTel
- + Minister of the Environment, Dustin Duncan, is now responsible for the GTH
- + Minister of Highways, David Marit, is now responsible for SaskBuilds and Priority Saskatchewan
- + Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Gene Makowsky, is now responsible for SLGA

Greg Brkich takes over as Government House Leader, and Warren Kaeding is now the Legislative Secretary to the Minister responsible for SaskTel (Cellular and Internet Coverage) in addition to his current duties as Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Irrigation Expansion).

The Premier noted that this cabinet provides a strong balance of experience and new perspectives as they go through the "transition period" until a new Premier is elected in early 2018.

Typically, transitional cabinets are not known for being activist; however, since this government is still operating as a Brad Wall-led cabinet, we may see more policy changes than one would normally expect. Given the fallout from the most recent budget and the commentary by leadership hopefuls, it is tough to predict how the politics of the upcoming legislative session will play out. Under harsh public criticism, the government has already rolled back several budget changes introduced this spring. In fact, the Premier has openly mused that the government is reconsidering legislation that would allow it to sell up to 49 per cent of a Crown corporation.

In the ministries where no changes were made, we can expect business as usual. In ministries with new or returning appointees there will be a period of adjustment as the ministers learn their portfolios. With fresh faces entering cabinet, there is significant opportunity and value in meeting with and discussing your issues with the new ministers. A shuffle of this significance will no doubt create a different dynamic at the cabinet table and we anticipate that the new ministers will have many new ideas to put forward.

Changes to Boards and Committees will also occur in the very near future. We will provide an update as this information becomes available.



