

# TA K I N G   T H E P U L S E

of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan

**64%** **LORD'S PRAYER**

Two-thirds  
want  
prayer in  
the  
classroom

**16%** **DRUNK DRIVING**

5% have driven drunk at least 10  
times in the past five years

**28%** **GAMBLERS  
OVERINDULGE**

Excessive  
gambling  
doubles in  
seven  
years

**86%** **HOSPITALS**

Majority pleased with treatment

**61%** **ABORTION  
RIGHTS**

Most say  
it's a  
woman's  
right to  
choose

A special report by the Saskatoon StarPhoenix and  
social research units of the University of Saskatchewan

# A cross-section of Saskatchewan

The StarPhoenix, U of S collaborate to study the lives of residents in the province and Saskatoon

By Gerry Klein  
SP University Editor

With change and division sweeping the province it has become increasingly important to determine what is driving this change.

In an effort to chart the currents running through the province as a new century begins, The StarPhoenix has entered a partnership with two social research units at the University of Saskatchewan.

In the first of two studies, nearly two dozen academics from colleges across campus were asked to contribute questions covering a broad spectrum of Saskatchewan life.

These questions — which came from a range of colleges including education, kinesiology, agriculture and arts and sciences — were taken to the social research unit (SRU) in the sociology department where director Harley Dickinson and his colleague Bernard Schusel assembled them into two questionnaires.

A second partnership was forged between the Community University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) and The StarPhoenix.

Jim Randall, the institute's co-director, said the project is similar to one done in Arizona where a social research institute partnered with the Arizona Republic newspaper in Phoenix.

"We looked at the results of that partnership and felt a partnership with The StarPhoenix wasn't only a way to do good research, but also a way to disseminate what we learned from that research," he said.

In this partnership, The StarPhoenix contributed the facilities and workers to conduct the poll.

There has been a growing call in academia for the development of ways by which quality of life can be studied and compared across a North American model. Although these life studies have been going on for decades, until now they

were done individually and lacked connections with the communities being studied.

Allison Williams, the principal investigator for the project, worked with the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU) to develop a study that could become a template for future quality of life studies.

In a Herculean effort to make sure it connects with the community, a meeting was held in which more than 90 people from community organizations came to make sure the questions in the survey would be relevant to the people being polled.

"This is community-based research — much different from what people think goes on at universities," Randall said. "We are rethinking our mission. Researchers are getting involved in their communities, working to improve people's lives, and bringing their expertise to make a difference."

Bill Holden, a planner working for the city, developed a model meant to assure the surveys would be contacting people from a wide swath of the city's social and economic populations.

Three neighbourhood profiles were developed:

Blue represents areas of Saskatoon that include higher numbers of low-income people, single-parent families and people with less education.

Green includes areas with a mixed population of low- and high-income groups living in areas such as Nutana which include young singles, seniors, and professionals.

People in red areas have generally higher incomes and educations with more dual-parent families.

Surveys under both partnerships were evaluated and approved by the university's ethics committee because it involved research using human subjects.

As data came in, teams of academics analysed the results. StarPhoenix reporters Kim McNaim and Betty Ann Adam then took their observations to paint a picture of what it means to be a resident of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon.

Kate Waygood, a city councillor and CUISR's community co-director, said disseminating the research through the popular media gives people in power an idea what they are doing right, what they should be doing, and a chance to have people contribute to their own well-being.



McNaim

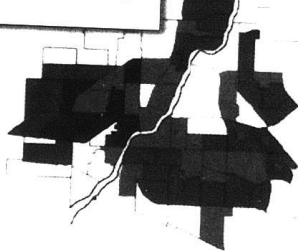
StarPhoenix reporters Kim McNaim and Betty Ann Adam have taken the poll data to paint a picture of what it means to be a resident of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon.



Adam

Saskatoon Residential Neighbourhoods grouped by selected socio-economic characteristics

- Middle class families
- Mixed households
- Lower income families



— City of Saskatoon

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### SASKATOON SURVEY

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## HEALTH CARE

# Users happy with care received

People in rural areas more satisfied with quality of care than urban counterparts

Despite long waits for surgery and lineups in emergency wards, Saskatchewan people are generally very satisfied with the care they get from medical professionals.

Satisfaction levels reached into the 80 per cent range for hospitals, home-care services and nursing homes, according to a StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

"It's a testament to the work being done by the hospital staff, the people who deliver not just the medicine, but the care," says Bernard Schissel, a professor in the U of S's social research unit.

Dependence on hospitals is strong. Almost 50 per cent of respondents or a member of their families had been to the hospital in the past year compared to 12 per cent who had used nursing homes and 15 per cent home care.

"In spite of political efforts to emphasize non-institutional care, there is a heavy dependence on hospital care," said Glen Beck, a U of S economics professor.

Most Saskatchewan people live less than a half hour's drive from a doctor, but urban respondents were twice as likely to say so than their rural counterparts. Thirty per cent of rural residents said they have to travel more than a half hour for medical attention.

Nearly 40 per cent of those polled said they had used emergency medical services in the past year. Twice as many urban people had received help from paramedics or through the emergency room at their local hospital than rural people.

When it comes to quality of the care received, people in rural areas were more satisfied than those in urban areas.

There has been a long-standing problem of inappropriate use of emergency rooms," said Steven Lewis, a health-care consultant. "There are some people, like transients, who don't have regular sources of primary care. They use the emergency rooms for all their sources of care."

The Health Services Utilization and Research Commission (HSURC) reported in 1998 that too many unnecessary cases are turning up in Saskatchewan's emergency wards.

How would you rate the quality of health care that you received in hospital?

Excellent	35.4
Good	50.9
Poor	10.8
Very Poor	2.8

Lewis, a former chair of HSURC, said the general consensus across Canada is that people who have used the health-care system are happy with it.

He said media coverage focused on interest groups and nightmare stories in health-care delivery skew public perceptions about quality of care.

"There is a huge disjunction between what the typical citizen, non-user thinks and what people who actually experience the system think," said Lewis.

"If you get a neurosurgeon in Saskatoon who urges his patients to go to Calgary or otherwise fear for their lives, that is front-page news. The truth of the matter is unlikely to be front-page news."

— MCNAIRN

## Decades of decline

The majority felt health-care reform has more to do with pinching pennies than improving people's health

A distinct pessimism exists among people living in rural and urban areas about the way health care is administered in Saskatchewan, reveals the StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

More than 63 per cent felt health-care reform has more to do with pinching pennies than improving people's health.

They also said overwhelmingly that health boards are not responsive to their health-care needs.

"The people don't like how the system is run. It may be they think there is a lot of waste in it. The money isn't being perfectly spent," said Steven Lewis, a health-care consultant and former chair of the provincial Health Services Utilization and Research Commission.

Country dwellers were more critical of the system than their urban counterparts. Although most rural people said the province can still afford a publicly funded health-care system, those who disagreed outnumbered the urban opinion.

They were also more likely to say that local health boards have not increased local control over health care. However, the majority of people across the province did not want to eliminate the health boards or have fewer, larger districts.

"Despite at least a decade of rhetoric that says costs are spiralling out of control, they say we can't afford it. We have 60 per cent who disagree. Most feel publicly funded is still affordable, probably mismanaged but affordable," said Harley Dickinson, a professor of sociology at the U of S.

Most of those polled said the health boards should be accountable not to the minister of health or health-care providers, but to the public.

People in rural areas were more likely to direct the accountability towards the local community, while urban dwellers favoured a more broad culpability of all provincial residents.

■ CONT'D: Please see Reform/G4

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

Two polls of Saskatchewan were conducted between Nov. 20 and Dec. 15. About 460 and 420 people, selected randomly and contacted by telephone, responded.

A sample of this size results in an accuracy rating of about +/- 4.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20. Not all percentages add up to 100 due to rounding of the numbers.

### HEALTH CARE

During the past year, have you or one of your family members, received emergency medical services?

Yes	39.9
No	60.1

In the past year have you used the services of a...

... chiropractor	%
Never	73.5
A few times a year	20.0
A few times a month	5.6
A few times a week	0.9

How would you rate the quality of care that was received?

Excellent	33.9
Good	46.2
Poor	13.4
Very Poor	6.5

... midwife

Never	100.0
... naturopath	%
Never	94.8
A few times a year	4.1
A few times a month	0.4
A few times a week	0.6

During the past year, have you, or one of your family members received hospital care in the province?

Yes	46.7
No	53.3

How would you rate the quality of care that was received?

Excellent	35.4
Good	50.9
Poor	10.8
Very Poor	2.8

... homeopath

Never	97.2
A few times a year	1.5
A few times a month	0.2
Don't know	0.2

During the past year, have you, or one of your family members received nursing home services in Saskatchewan?

Yes	12.2
No	87.8

How would you rate the quality of care that was received?

Excellent	29.4
Good	58.8
Poor	3.9
Very Poor	7.8

... aromatherapist

Never	98.5
A few times a year	1.3
A few times a month	0.2

During the past year, have you, or one of your family members received home care services in Saskatchewan?

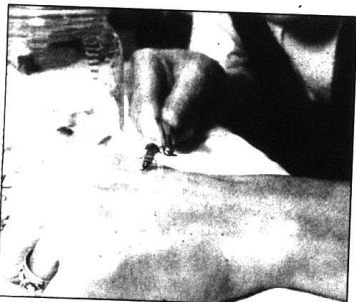
Yes	15.0
No	85.0

How would you rate the quality of care that was received?

Excellent	24.6
Good	62.3
Poor	11.6
Very Poor	1.4

... other

Excellent	24.6
Good	62.3
Poor	11.6
Very Poor	1.4
During the past year have you, or one of your family members, seen a doctor?	%
Yes	97.8
No	2.2
How would you rate the quality of the care that was received?	%
Excellent	34.5
Good	56.8
Poor	7.6
Very Poor	0.9
What is the distance, in travelling time, to the nearest doctor?	%
Less than 30 minutes	86.0
30 minutes to an hour	12.3
More than an hour	1.7
What is the distance, in travelling time, to the nearest hospital?	%
Less than 30 minutes	82.7
30 minutes to an hour	14.7
More than an hour	2.6
Is 911 service available in your community?	%
Yes	69.5
No	30.5
Have you ever used 911 service?	%
Yes	20.5
No	79.5
Do you believe the following should be covered by public health insurance...	%
... the cost of a chiropractor?	%
Strongly disagree	11.0
Disagree	11.3
Neutral	29.1
Agree	22.1
Strongly agree	26.5
... the cost of a midwife?	%
Strongly disagree	13.9
Disagree	15.0
Neutral	28.9
Agree	22.5
Strongly agree	19.8
... the cost of a naturopath?	%
Strongly disagree	27.0
Disagree	22.8
Neutral	27.0
Agree	15.2
Strongly agree	7.9
... the cost of a homeopath?	%
Strongly disagree	28.8
Disagree	22.8
Neutral	29.3
Agree	12.0
Strongly agree	6.7



An apitherapist administers bee sting — SP File Photo

## Alternative therapies gain public support

Many Saskatchewan people support government funding for alternative therapies, but few are using them, reveals the StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

The majority of respondents believed that midwifery, chiropractic services, and massage therapy should be insured services under medicare. Government funding for less conventional treatments — such as naturopathy, homeopathy, aromatherapy and reflexology — was widely opposed.

"Why should I pay to use conventional treatment that doesn't do me any good, and deny me public coverage of alternative treatment that might do me good?" asks Steven Lewis, a health-care consultant based in Saskatoon. "Logically, it is a pretty good argument, but putting it into practice is very difficult."

Lewis said more and more doctors are tapping into the benefits offered by herbal and eastern therapies.

However, insuring those services becomes dicey because of the wide range of therapies and lack of scientific proof of benefits, he said.

"If there is no scientific base, you have a limitless pool of potential approaches for services, some of which will be downright harmful. Others might be quite valuable. Unless you can tell the difference, how can you set limits?"

Flo Lavallee, a Saskatoon herbalist with 19 years experience, said many people are denied alternative medicine because they can't afford it. Many of those who come to her are looking for something hospitals cannot provide.

■ CONT'D: Please see Alternative/G4



## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

... the cost of a massage therapist?

	%
Strongly disagree	14.8
Disagree	16.3
Neutral	26.2
Agree	24.0
Strongly agree	18.7

	%
Strongly Disagree	9.8
Disagree	10.2
Neutral	16.0
Agree	24.5
Strongly Agree	39.4

Do you believe ...

... the cost of an aromatherapist?

	%
Strongly disagree	43.9
Disagree	24.5
Neutral	23.1
Agree	4.8
Strongly agree	3.7

... district health boards have increased local community control over health care services?

	%
Strongly disagree	21.5
Disagree	24.3
Neutral	22.4
Agree	19.1
Strongly agree	12.6

... the cost of a reflexologist?

	%
Strongly disagree	17.1
Disagree	21.6
Neutral	31.5
Agree	20.0
Strongly agree	9.9

... there should be fewer health districts in the province?

	%
Strongly disagree	22.4
Disagree	21.3
Neutral	17.2
Agree	21.0
Strongly agree	18.1

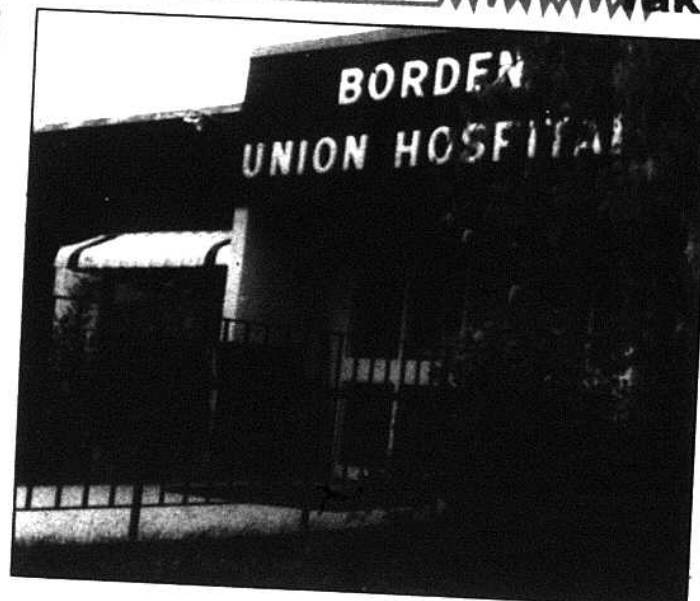
... the cost of other specified alternatives?

	%
Strongly disagree	12.5
Disagree	4.2
Neutral	8.3
Agree	29.2
Strongly agree	45.8

... health boards are responsive to your health care needs?

	%
Strongly disagree	23.4
Disagree	21.6
Neutral	27.5
Agree	20.9
Strongly agree	6.6

Health care reform has more to do with saving money than improving health



— SP File Photo

Pessimism on health care is symptomatic of a larger concern over rural sustainability

## Reform: People don't want user fees despite dissatisfaction with system

■ Continued from G3

Dickinson said the pessimism on health care is symptomatic of a larger concern over rural sustainability.

"Rural Saskatchewan has been going through decades of decline. They knew rural Saskatchewan is the birth place of medicare. They have experienced the closure of their hospitals," he said.

"It's a general sense that the whole quality of life is not sustainable. They are looking for someone to blame."

Lewis said if people want more control over their health districts they should pay more attention to their actual health boards.

"Only in Saskatchewan do people have the entitlement to elect their

health boards. If they chose to, they could have direct impact on the boards and what the board does. The public isn't showing up at election time," said Lewis.

No matter how dissatisfied people are with the way health care is administered in the province, they are not willing to go as far as user fees. More than half of respondents to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll said they didn't like the idea.

But user fees are gaining acceptance across the country, according to a recent poll by Maclean's and Global Television. That poll found that 54 per cent of people would accept user fees as a means to offset spiralling health-care costs.

— McNAIRN

## Taking the PULSE

### Alternative: People seek relief doctor can't provide

■ Continued from G3

Having the treatments recognized and paid for by government would make them more accessible.

"Most people come out of desperation. They have to dig deep in their pockets for the service. We need a balanced approach with medicine — both that provided in a hospital and the herbal medicine," she said.

She said many people are starting to use reflexology, reiki and other alternative treatments because they need care for chronic ailments. People are taking power over their own health, she said, and looking for relief their doctors can't provide.

"I get people who are angry. They have put all their trust in western medicine and come out feeling there is something more they want. They want answers. They are looking for something else," she said.

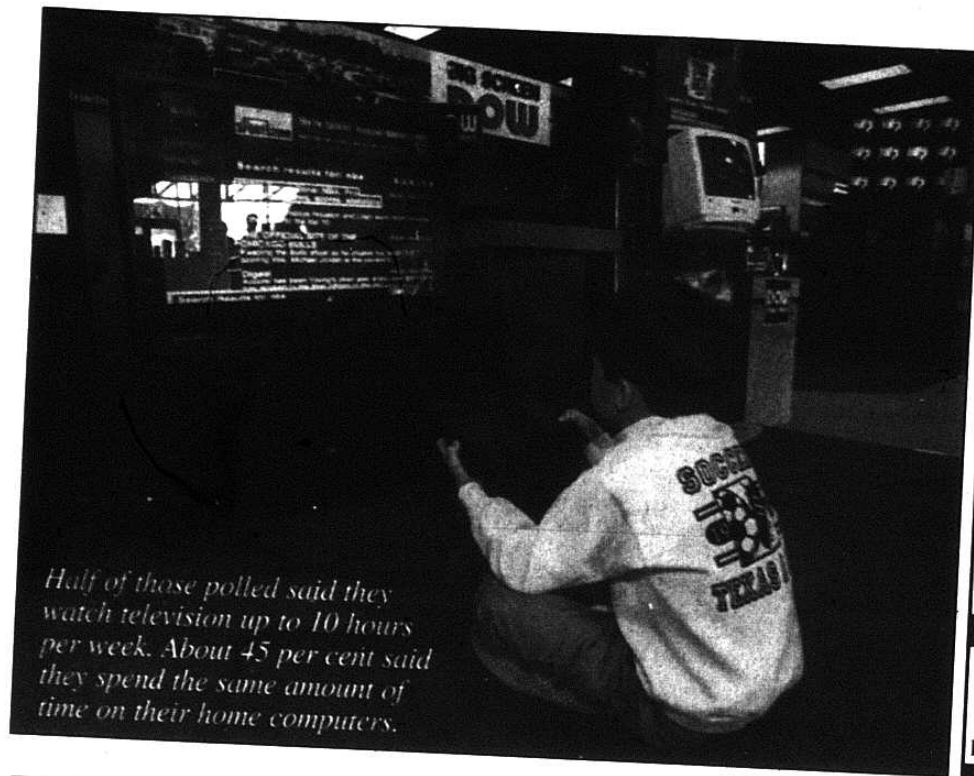
A study released by the Fraser Institute in 1999 revealed 73 per cent of Canadians have used at least one alternative therapy in their lifetime.

— McNAIRN

Those who can afford to should pay for their health-care services.

	%
Strongly Disagree	37.5
Disagree	28.3
Neutral	18.5
Agree	10.9
Strongly Agree	4.8





Half of those polled said they watch television up to 10 hours per week. About 45 per cent said they spend the same amount of time on their home computers.

## PC use makes gains on TV

The personal computer is no longer a dusty plastic box buried under stacks of paper in home offices across Saskatchewan.

The PC has become almost as popular as the TV in Saskatchewan homes, according to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

About 56 per cent of those polled said they watch television up to 10 hours per week. About 69 per cent said they spend the same amount of time on their home computers.

Hard-core TV viewers, those who watch more than 20 hours per week, clocked in at 19 per cent. The number of people who spend the same amount of time at their computers was about 11 per cent.

Part of the issue with computer use is accessibility, says U of S sociology pro-

### TV and computers

**32% of Saskatchewan residents watch between 10 and 15 hours of television per week, while 19% spend the same amount of time on a computer.**

fessor Bernard Schissel. He noted that 34 per cent of the people polled did not have computers to start with.

"Once more households get computers, you could see considerably more computer use. It could outstrip the television," he said.

Computer use is more than just plucking away on a word processor, he added. People are surfing the Internet for information or chatting with friends from around the world.

"It is probably good news that more people are using computers. It is not as passive an activity as the television is," said Schissel.

Statistics Canada reports that about half of Canadian households have computers, with about one-third hooked up to the Internet.

Televisions, VCRs and CD players still outnumber the computers in homes, according to the agency.

A study by the Angus Reid Group last spring estimated that the 300 million global Internet users will triple.

—McNAIRN

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

...health districts should be eliminated altogether?

Strongly disagree	32.6
Disagree	24.6
Neutral	17.2
Agree	8.9
Strongly agree	16.7

Disagree	28.3
Neutral	18.5
Agree	10.9
Strongly agree	4.8

...patients and their families should have a greater say in how their health care needs are met?

...those who can afford to, should pay for their health care services?

Strongly disagree	37.5
-------------------	------

Strongly disagree	3.5
Disagree	4.2
Neutral	15.5
Agree	37.9
Strongly agree	38.9

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## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

... nurses and other health care professionals, such as physiotherapists, chiropractors, etc. should have a greater say in how their patients health care needs are met?

	%
Strongly disagree	1.8
Disagree	5.5
Neutral	17.3
Agree	43.6
Strongly agree	31.9

... the health care system should cover more health care services?

	%
Strongly disagree	4.2
Disagree	14.0
Neutral	21.7
Agree	36.5
Strongly agree	23.6

... we can no longer afford a publicly funded health insurance system?

	%
Strongly disagree	47.2
Disagree	26.9
Neutral	14.7
Agree	7.8
Strongly agree	3.3

... waiting times to receive essential hospital care are too long?

	%
Strongly disagree	4.2
Disagree	4.4
Neutral	12.6
Agree	25.8
Strongly agree	53.0

... waiting times to see medical specialists are a serious problem?

	%
Strongly disagree	3.3
Disagree	7.3
Neutral	7.9
Agree	26.0
Strongly agree	55.5

... our current health care system covers too many health care services?

	%
Strongly disagree	26.9
Disagree	41.7
Neutral	19.8
Agree	9.8
Strongly agree	1.8

To whom do you feel the Saskatchewan district health boards should be most accountable for their decisions?

	%
The health minister	12.4
All provincial residents	38.7
All district residents	19.0
Only ward residents	8.3
Local interest groups	0.6
Health-care providers	13.5
Don't know	5.5

## DRUGS/SPIRITS

When it comes to drugs, have you ever used ...

... diet pills?	%
Never	91.2
Once in your life	6.4
Once a year	0.9
Once a week	0.4
Daily	1.1

... non-prescription steroids?

	%
Never	98.9
Once in your life	0.4
Once a year	0.2
Several times a year	0.2
Once a month	0.2

... cigarettes, cigars?

	%
Never	44.2
Once in your life	19.5
Once a year	2.1
Several times a year	3.4
Once a month	1.1
Once a week	1.7
More than once a week	1.9
Daily	26.0

... chewing tobacco?

	%
Never	90.8
Once in your life	6.0
Once a year	1.1
Several times a year	0.2
Once a month	0.6
Daily	1.3

... drunk beer?

	%
Never	16.3
Once in your life	9.0
Once a year	6.9
Several times a year	22.1
Once a month	20.0
Once a week	17.4
More than weekly	8.2
Daily	0.2

... drunk other alcohol?

	%
Never	11.4
Once in your life	4.5
Once a year	9.0
Several times a year	23.2
Once a month	25.1
Once a week	16.3
More than weekly	9.0
Daily	1.5

... marijuana?

	%
Never	72.0
Once in your life	19.6
Once a year	2.8
Several times a year	2.6
Once a month	1.9
Once a week	0.4
Daily	0.6

... hash oil?

	%
Never	88.8
Once in your life	8.6
Once a year	1.1
Several times a year	1.1
Once a month	0.4

## RELIGION



## Prayer in school supported

*Half believe some sort of religious teaching needed for students*

Nearly two-thirds of Saskatchewan people want The Lord's Prayer in public schools.

Half of those surveyed in the StarPhoenix-U of S poll favoured some kind of religious instruction in public schools.

The Saskatoon Board of Education scrapped daily reading of The Lord's Prayer last year after a heated debate and replaced it with a controversial spiritual policy.

Marlene Polson, an advocate of The Lord's Prayer in schools, said more people would be comfortable with just the prayer because it does not involve interpretation.

"They can opt out of The Lord's

Prayer if they want. When you include instruction, it starts to take time out of the school day," she said.

The public school board pulled The Lord's Prayer from its schools in 2000. The Christian prayer was replaced with a new policy allowing a moment of silence, writing in journals or sharing thoughts for the day.

Prayers are also allowed before or after the school day.

The controversy over the prayer began in 1993 when a group of parents complained to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission that reciting prayer was discriminatory to non-Christian students.

A tribunal heard the complaint in

1999, and in July of 2000 retired judge Kenneth Halvorsen ruled the prayer violated the province's human rights code. The new policy was passed by the school board, but with some vocal opposition from a minority of trustees.

Board chair Don Morgan said the policy will be problematic for future school boards because it is not specific enough.

James Mullens, head of the U of S religious studies department, said one option is to have a course on world religions in public schools.

He also noted that people feel that religion is important in their daily lives. More than 80 per cent of people said so in the poll.

— McNAIRN

## Religion remains vital to many

They may not make it to church every Sunday, but a majority of Saskatchewan people say religion and spirituality are a vital part of their lives.

More than 80 per cent of respondents in the StarPhoenix-U of S poll said religion and spirituality are significant to them. Forty-five per cent said they prayed at least once a day. Half of those prayed more than once each day.

But when asked if they go to church more than once a month, half said no.

"We have people here who have enough personal strength in their spirituality to pursue it in their own lives," said James Mullens, head of the religious studies department at the U of S.

"It reflects how busy people are these days. On any given Sunday, they are probably doing some work they didn't have time to in the week or taking their kids to play hockey or other sports."

According to Statistics Canada figures, church attendance is dropping across the country. In this province, between 1986 and 1998, the numbers fell to 39 per cent from 55.

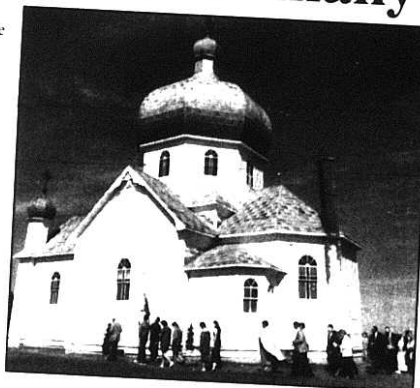
Other academics have noted that the decline is in part due to people looking for spiritual answers to their lives outside of the traditional churches.

According to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll, people living in rural areas were more inclined to say spirituality and religious beliefs were important to them. They also went to church more often and prayed more than people in the cities.

Mullens said people tend to seek out spiritual guidance in times of hardship or stress. People with fast-paced lives may be looking for some solace outside the workplace, he said.

Respondents in the poll were also asked if Christian churches should pay for residential school abuses.

About 6,000 former Indian residential school students are suing the federal government, religious orders and churches.



— SP File Photo

They want compensation for alleged abuse and cultural genocide at the residential schools.

Some dioceses, including the Anglican diocese of Qu'Appelle, fear the lawsuits will force them into bankruptcy.

Poll respondents said the churches should pay up by a two-to-one margin.

Mullens said the results reflect the consciences of people who are largely spiritual to begin with.

"It's to make sure the religious community makes good on the things they do wrong, as well as right," he said.

— McNAIRN



# Home, sweet home:

## A safe place to hang hat

Perception of crime actually higher than incidence, police say

Most Saskatchewan people go to sleep confident they are safe in their homes, according to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

Staff Sgt. Al Sather of the Saskatchewan Police Service said the fact most people feel safe in their communities testifies to good police service and work by homeowners to secure their properties with locks and alarms, he said.

The public's sense of security comes despite the fact Neighbourhood Watch programs are no longer active in most communities. "People are starting to realize that the perception of crime in their neighbourhood is greater than the actual incidence of crime," said Sather.

Although 83 per cent of people feel safe in their homes, there are still 17 per cent who do not.

Sather said the force must constantly take steps to diminish both actual crimes and the fear among people that they will be victims.

How satisfied are you with the police service in your area?

Poor	8.5
Fair	19.6
Good	44.0
Very Good	19.4
Excellent	8.5

Almost three-quarters of those polled were satisfied with the service of the police.

Sather said the force must do more to let those who feel their dealings have gone sour. Just under 30 per cent of people said they are not satisfied with police in their area.

With some people, the only time they come into contact with a police officer has been to get a speeding ticket, he said. "People are not in contact with police at any level is a concern," he said.

John Roberts, a criminologist from the University of Ottawa, said the feel-

ing of safety extends to most Canadians.

According to Statistics Canada, the crime rate across the country has been dropping for the past eight years. The five per cent decrease in 1999 represented the lowest crime rate in 20 years. Despite a 2.5 per cent decline in the crime rate in Saskatchewan that year, the province still reported 12,155 criminal incidents for every 100,000 people — substantially higher than the national average of 7,733 incidents.

—McNAIRN



—SP File Photos

How would you describe over all the safety of your neighbourhood?

Poor	5.3
Fair	11.1
Good	35.2
Very Good	35.9
Excellent	12.6

—Thompson & PCL

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

... cocaine or crack?

Never	97.6
Once in your life	1.9
Several times a year	0.4

### EMPLOYMENT

At what age do you feel adolescents should begin working outside the home?

Seven years of age	0.2
Nine years of age	0.6
10 years of age	0.2
11 years of age	0.2
12 years of age	2.1
13 years of age	1.5
14 years of age	7.9
15 years of age	13.7
16 years of age	47.6
17 years of age	6.4
18 years of age	15.6
19 years of age	1.1
21 years of age	0.2
22 years of age	0.2
Not sure	2.4

... downers to get a high?

Never	98.7
Once in your life	1.3

... inhalants to get high?

Never	98.9
Once in your life	0.9
Once a year	0.2

... gasoline to get high?

Never	99.6
Once in your life	0.4

... psychedelics?

Never	89.3
Once in your life	8.8
Once a year	1.1
Several times a year	0.6
Once a month	0.2

... ecstasy?

Never	99.4
Once in your life	0.6

... heroin?

Never	100.0
-------	-------

... other drugs?

Antidepressants	0.2
Opium	0.4
Unknown substance	0.2

Have you ever used a needle to administer a drug for recreational use?

Never	99.6
Once in your life	0.2
Several times a year	0.2

How optimistic are you about the possibility of younger people finding work in Saskatchewan?

Extremely optimistic	9.6
Somewhat optimistic	41.8
Somewhat pessimistic	37.0
Extremely pessimistic	11.6

How confident are you in the future prospect of young people finding work in your home community?

Extremely optimistic	11.1
Somewhat optimistic	34.8
Somewhat pessimistic	31.3
Extremely pessimistic	22.8

How confident are you in your local government's ability to secure economic opportunities for the community in which you live?

Extremely optimistic	5.2
Somewhat optimistic	36.0
Somewhat pessimistic	39.1
Extremely pessimistic	19.7

How confident are you in the provincial government's ability to maintain a trained workforce?

Extremely optimistic	6.4
Somewhat optimistic	42.6
Somewhat pessimistic	35.3
Extremely pessimistic	15.7

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System	Drive Select 4x4	4x4 System	AWD	Full Time AWD	Real Time AWD	Full Time AWD
el Frame	Yes	Full Frame	Unibody	Unibody	Unibody	Unibody
el Base	2800 mm	2718 mm	2622 mm	2620 mm	2622 mm	2490 mm
all Length	4655 mm	4681 mm	4395 mm	4500 mm	4510 mm	4195 mm
thk	7	5	5	5	5	5

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## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

Have you changed jobs in the past six months?

	%
Yes	15.1
No	84.9

Have you changed jobs in the past year?

	%
Yes	19.7
No	80.3

Do you intend to change jobs in the next year?

	%
Yes	25.4
No	74.6

Does it bother you that openly gay or lesbian people are teaching in schools?

	%
Strongly disagree	33.5
Disagree	23.9
Neutral	18.7
Agree	10.2
Strongly agree	13.7

Do you think it is better to have many sexual partners before one settles down rather than just one or two?

	%
Strongly disagree	50.9
Disagree	21.5
Neutral	16.5
Agree	8.3
Strongly agree	2.8

Do you think most women with young children would be happier if they could stay home and take care of their children?

	%
Strongly disagree	7.1
Disagree	15.2
Neutral	20.8
Agree	25.9
Strongly agree	31.0

Do you believe that access to abortion is a woman's right?

	%
Strongly disagree	17.1
Disagree	9.1
Neutral	12.6
Agree	21.3
Strongly agree	39.9

How sexually active would you describe yourself?

	%
Very active	15.7
Somewhat active	51.6
Not very active	17.5
Not at all active	15.2

## ATTITUDES ON SEX

Do you believe society's attitudes towards things like premarital sex, people living together instead of marrying and other alternative lifestyles and sexuality is too permissive in Canadian society today?

	%
Strongly disagree	17.9
Disagree	12.9
Neutral	19.8
Agree	22.0
Strongly agree	27.4

Do you believe homosexual couples should be able to adopt children?

	%
Strongly disagree	43.3
Disagree	12.0
Neutral	17.9
Agree	13.3
Strongly agree	13.3

## Drunks still get behind the wheel

*MADD perplexed as to why people attempt driving while intoxicated*

Despite awareness campaigns about the dangers of drinking and driving, 16 per cent of Saskatchewan people in the survey admitted to mixing the two in the past five years.

The persistence of impaired driving revealed by the StarPhoenix-U of S poll worries Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

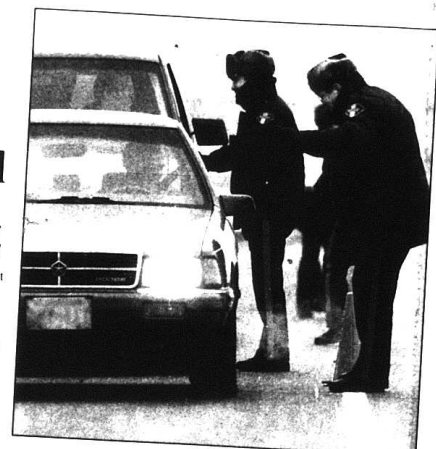
"It causes us great concern that this is an ongoing activity and people feel it is OK to still do it," said central Saskatchewan chapter president Roberta Doell.

In the survey, 10.5 per cent of people said they had driven drunk between one and five times in the past five years. Five per cent said they had done so more than five times.

Those who said they had never driven drunk clocked in at 77.6 per cent. Kwai Quaye, traffic safety evaluation manager for Saskatchewan Government Insurance, said alcohol continues to be a major cause of automobile accidents.

"It is the number one traffic safety issue for us because of its contribution to people dying on the road. It takes quite a while to get those messages to sink in," said Quaye. By December of 1999, 84 people had died in automobile accidents where alcohol was a factor. That was double the rate three years earlier.

In 2000, Quaye said the number of people killed in drunk driving accidents fell dramatically. As of Nov. 30, 40 people had died in such accidents. He credits the decline to in-



— SP File Photo

creased enforcement of drunk drivers by police in 2000.

A national opinion survey by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation in 1999 found that most people drive drunk because they believe they won't get caught and because they are not severely impaired.

In that study, 11.4 per cent said they had driven drunk in the past year. The findings also showed that most of drunk driving is done by a small number of chronic offenders.

The province and groups like MADD are trying to battle impaired driving with education, enforcement and legislation.

Quaye hopes the number of drunk drivers will dwindle with active enforcement and tougher laws, both in the works for 2001.

Education must continue to be a key, said Doell, because many people don't realize that impairment starts with that first drink.

— M-NAIRN

How many times in the past five years have you driven while intoxicated?

	%
0	77.6
1	2.6
2	4.8
3	1.4
4	0.5
5	1.2
6	0.2
7	0.2
8	0.5
9	0.5
10	1.4
12	0.2
15	0.2
20	0.5
25	0.2
30	1.0
30	0.5
100	0.5
Refused	0.2
	6.4

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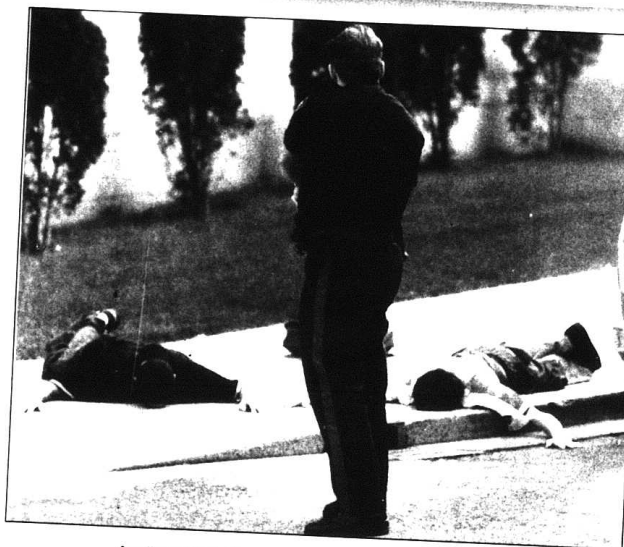
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**YOUTH CRIME**



A police officer holds two youths following the report of gun fire south of the Delta Bessborough August 31, 1998  
— SP File Photo

# Public view of violence not borne out by facts

Given the number of high-profile crimes involving youth in Saskatchewan in recent years, it's no surprise that people believe young people are more violent today than in the past.

Nearly 80 per cent of respondents to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll held that belief. But Julian Roberts, a criminology professor from the University of Ottawa and editor of the Canadian Journal of Criminology, said it is mistaken.

"The evidence is quite clear that the violent crime or youth crime is in fact better," said Roberts in an interview from his Ottawa home.

"The reality is that the crime problem which is serious and concerns a lot of people is not getting worse on a statistical basis. The statistics from the police show stable or declining rates of crime involving a young person."

According to Statistics Canada, fewer youths have been charged with offences than at least five years ago. The number of charges laid in violent crimes is also down slightly.

However, the number of girls committing violent crimes has increased.

In Saskatchewan, of the 6,683 youths convicted of crimes in 1998-99, about 35 per cent went into custody and 48 per cent got probation.

Roberts said people can't just blame the media for the perception that youth crime is on the rise.

"The more sophisticated research shows now that what happens is the media sets an agenda, brings these issues to our attention, and then they get discussed. The discussion of them creates the impression of this being an important problem," said Roberts.

The StarPhoenix-U of S poll also indicates that more than four-fifths of people believe youth are less respectful than in past generations.

Bernard Schissel, a U of S sociology professor, said the perception problem also stems from youth crime being a political football.

"Youth are a political issue. They can't vote. They



are easy to attack. The public says it doesn't trust kids," said Schissel who has studied and written on the issue of youth crime.

He said empowering youth would help people realize that they are not all hoodlums.

"Giving 14-year-olds the vote would make a difference. It is easy to criticize a population that is disenfranchised. If they had the vote, they wouldn't be so easily attacked. Let them be on the city councils, school boards and police commissions," said Schissel.

He said society now seems to have a lower tolerance for crime. A schoolyard fight now attracts the police when it likely wouldn't have 10 years ago.

Staff Sgt. Al Sather, spokesperson for the Saskatoon Police Service, said in his 30-year career he has noticed an increase in youth crime.

The most common crime among young people, he noted, is property offences.

Assaults remain a relatively low proportion of the offences, he said.

—McNAIRN

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

Since you were 18, have you had sexual relations with anyone of the same sex as you?

Yes	2.2	%
No	97.8	%

Have you had sexual relations with more than one partner in the past five years?

Yes	23.0	%
No	77.0	%

How would you rate your chances of contracting a sexually transmitted disease in the last two years?

Increased	10.7	%
Not changed	71.4	%
Decreased	17.9	%

When you have sexual relations is a condom used?

Always	17.9	%
Often	4.8	%
Sometimes	10.0	%
Rarely	5.3	%
Never	62.0	%

### RELIGION

Spirituality and religious beliefs are important in your life.

Strongly agree	39.9	%
Agree	43.0	%
Neutral	9.4	%
Disagree	4.6	%
Strongly disagree	3.1	%

How often do you pray at times other than in church?

More than once a day	21.0	%
Once a day	24.2	%
Once or twice a week	18.5	%
Less than once a week	3.0	%
Once in a while	21.5	%
Never	11.9	%

How often do you read religious books other than in church?

More than once a day	3.2	%
Once a day	8.1	%
Once or twice a week	15.3	%
Less than once a week	4.9	%
Once in a while	38.2	%
Never	30.3	%

Do you attend church or other religious institutions more than once a month?

Yes	48.2	%
No	51.8	%

The scriptures of your faith should be taken literally?

Strongly agree	14.0	%
Agree	34.5	%
Neutral	18.3	%
Disagree	26.4	%
Strongly disagree	6.9	%

Religious instruction should be included in public school education.

Strongly agree	16.0	%
Agree	34.2	%
Neutral	14.7	%
Disagree	27.3	%
Strongly disagree	7.9	%

The Lord's Prayer should be a part of the school day in public schools.

Strongly agree	26.0	%
Agree	37.5	%
Neutral	10.2	%
Disagree	20.0	%
Strongly disagree	6.3	%

Religious denominational schools should receive public funding.

Strongly agree	9.7	%
Agree	40.8	%
Neutral	15.9	%
Disagree	26.4	%
Strongly disagree	7.2	%

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## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

## Christian religions should be given a voice in social policy

Strongly agree	8.5
Agree	40.8
Neutral	17.0
Disagree	27.5
Strongly disagree	6.3

## Non-Christian religions should be given an equal voice in social policies.

Strongly agree	7.2
Agree	43.1
Neutral	16.5
Disagree	23.9
Strongly disagree	9.2

## Religious diversity is a benefit to Saskatchewan's society.

Strongly agree	22.5
Agree	59.1
Neutral	10.0
Disagree	6.1
Strongly disagree	2.2

## Christian churches involved in residential schools should pay the victims of residential school abuses.

Strongly agree	15.3
Agree	34.3
Neutral	21.1
Disagree	22.4
Strongly disagree	6.9

## FAMILY LIFE

## How many people live in your household?

1	20.6
2	31.4
3	16.1
4	18.5
5	8.9
6	2.6
7	0.5
8	0.7
10	0.5
22	0.2

## Do you have any children?

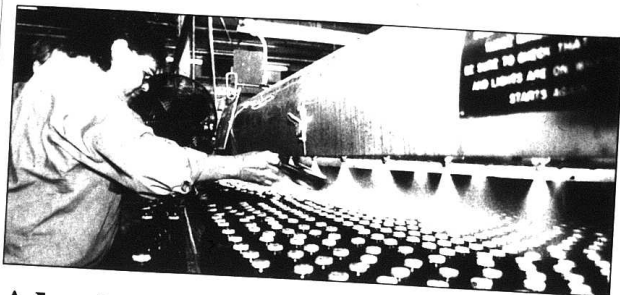
Yes	73.5
No	26.5

## How many children younger than 18 live in your household?

0	63.8
1	10.9
2	15.7
3	6.8
4	2.2
5	0.2
6	0.2
7	0.2

## How many children older than 18 live in your household?

0	85.2
1	11.4
2	2.9
4	0.2
5	0.2



— SP File Photo

## Alcohol the drug of choice

## Canadian culture allows easy acceptance of booze into lifestyle

Alcohol is the drug of choice for Saskatchewan people. One-fifth of respondents to a StarPhoenix/UL of S poll said they drank beer once a week or more.

One-quarter said they indulged in wine or spirits at least once a week.

Jan Freyling, who has worked with addiction issues for more than 20 years and is currently outpatient services manager for Saskatoon District Health's addiction services, said acceptance of alcohol in Canadian culture contributes to people starting to drink socially.

"We believe — young people especially — that it is a right of passage. Our culture invites us into it," she said.

Dan Davies, a psychologist with addiction services, said cost and access also make alcohol inviting. He said some people do not want to be connected to illicit drugs so they look to alcohol for an escape.

Few people said that they had ever used illicit drugs. However,

about 30 per cent of respondents said they had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.

Davies said younger people are more likely to use multiple substances at one time such as alcohol, marijuana, smoking and sometimes drugs they can buy on the street.

"The younger ones are the multi-drug users," he said. "In general, he said, the most popular drugs being used are alcohol followed by marijuana and street drugs."

The popularity of street drugs — everything from cocaine to Ritalin — ebbs and flows, said Freyling. Alcohol and drug use, split along urban and rural lines, shows little difference. Freyling said drugs are more easily available these days in rural areas.

"It has become an issue of how available they are. As we move to easier access, it makes more sense that the substances can get to the very remote places," she said.

—McNAIN

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# Men more promiscuous

More men than women have had more than one partner in last five years

Saskatchewan men are more likely than women to fear catching sexually transmitted diseases, according to the StarPhoenix U of S survey.

Although about three-quarters of respondents felt their risk level has not changed in the past five years, one in 10 people said they are in a worse position.

Just over 15 per cent of men said they were at higher risk compared to seven per cent of women.

Evelyn Reischer, executive director of Planned Parenthood in Saskatoon, said the reasons behind the difference could have to do with generally unhealthy sexual practices and men having more sex partners than women.

The poll showed that men are more promiscuous than women — 25 per cent having slept with more than one person in the past five years — compared to 22 per cent of women.

"Culturally, as we grow up, men and women are taught very differently about sexual behaviour. Men have been given permission to be sexually active. Women are taught more to be the guardians of appropriate sexual behaviour," said Reischer.

She said men and women are guilty of believing they are immune to STDs. "The reality out there is Saskatoon has

a thriving community of people who have contracted various forms of STDs and AIDS," said Reischer.

"It's a misconception that it's a big city thing and small-town Saskatoon can't have it."

Asked about their use of condoms, 62 per cent said they never use them.

Another five per cent said they rarely use condoms. Reischer said the figures could be skewed by people who are married or in monogamous relationships. However, she said something dubbed "condom fatigue" could be a factor.

"We have been given lots of solid information about condoms and how they prevent

STDs and AIDS. There are horror stories. Some people just buckle under the pressure," she said.

Bernard Schusel, a sociology professor at the U of S, led a study in 1996 of 2,600 youths including questions about condom use.

Many people in rural areas said they didn't use condoms because they felt uneasy about buying them.

The reluctance to use condoms is higher in the rural population, according to the poll. About 70 per cent of people in rural areas said they did not use condoms compared to 55.9 per cent in cities.

"If you have ever tried to buy a con-

**Have you had sexual relations with more than one partner in the past five years?**

	%
Yes	25.0
No	75.0

dom in a drugstore in small town Saskatchewan, it is tough. It has to do with issues of anonymity and confidentiality," said Schusel.

"The woman working at the store is likely someone you know."

—McNAIRN

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

How many children do you have, younger than 18, who no longer live in your household?

	%		%
0	25	25	6.2
1	26	26	2.7
2	27	27	5.2
3	28	28	3.7
4	29	29	4.2
5	30	30	2.2
6	31	31	1.7
7	32	32	2.5
8	33	33	1.2
9	34	34	1.2
10	35	35	0.5
11	36	36	0.5
12	37	37	0.2
13	38	38	0.5
14	39	39	0.2
15	40	40	0.5
16	41	41	0.5
17	42	42	0.2
18	43	43	0.2
19	44	44	0.2
20	45	45	0.2
21	46	46	0.2
22	47	47	0.2
23	48	48	0.2
24	49	49	0.2
	50	50	26.2

does not apply

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## Abortion seen as women's right

Pro-choice alternative seen as very important to urban residents

Access to abortion is a women's right, according to a large majority of Saskatchewan men and women polled in the StarPhoenix U of S survey.

More than 60 per cent of respondents said abortion is a woman's right, while 26 per cent disagreed.

The pro-choice voice was loudest in the cities where a majority of people strongly agreed. Most rural dwellers simply agreed.

For the most part, men and women agreed on the issue. About 40 per cent of each strongly supported the pro-choice position.

Evelyn Reischer, executive director of Planned Parenthood in Saskatoon, said the 60 per cent rate is below the national average of between 70 and 80 per cent.

She said the pro-choice-pro-life ratio will fluctuate depending on the political climate of the day.

Cecilia Forsyth, provincial president of the REAL Women of Canada, said

most of the abortions which happen across the country are not for medical reasons.

Abortion is primarily used as a form of birth control, she said.

She said abortion is technically not a constitutionally guaranteed right. Had the question been asked differently, without reference

to a right, Forsyth said the pro-life position would have been stronger.

"If an abortion was medically necessary to save a woman's life, she should have access. But that's not why we have more than 100,000 abortions in Canada a year," she said.

Reischer said although many men are pro-choice, they don't leave all of the abortion decision-making process up to women.

She said many men come into the Planned Parenthood office with their partners to be more informed.

According to Statistics Canada, women across the nation in 1998 obtained 110,331 abortions, a 1.2 per cent decrease from a year earlier.

Women had 1,779 abortions in Saskatchewan hospitals in 1998.

—McNAIRN



Forsyth

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E.H. Brust

President and Chief Executive Officer



# Gays OK to teach — but line drawn at adopting kids

*More than half in poll say teacher's sexual preference no big deal*

Gay and lesbian people should be able to teach children, but should not have kids of their own, according to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

It's a peculiar contradiction says Prof. Don Cochrane, head of the department of educational foundations at the U of S.

"Schooling is an area of employment, the influence of which some believe is modest," said Cochrane, who developed a course on gay issues in education.

"Yet people still have a view that the family is much more intimate and there are only certain conditions under which to grow up 'normally.'"

When asked if it bothers them that openly gay or lesbian people are teaching in schools, about one-quarter of the Saskatchewan respondents agreed or strongly agreed.

About 57 per cent said it did not bother them.

"Reaching the 57 per cent mark is dramatic," said Cochrane.

However, he said he knows of no gay teachers who are open about their sexual orientation at school.

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code protects workers from discrimination due to sexual orientation, but

Cochrane said gays are still reluctant to come out.

The teaching associations, school boards, local school administrations and the provincial Education Department must be willing to back those teachers up, he said.

Until now, said Cochrane, most of the groups have been pretty quiet.

"Teachers feel they must stay in the closet either because they fear their administrations or they fear their communities. They are not in a position of equality with respect to their jobs," said Cochrane.

Fifty-five per cent of people in the survey felt gay couples should not be able to adopt children. About 18 per cent said it didn't matter either way.

Gens Hellquist, executive director of Gay and Lesbian Health Services, said the response may be due to people not having enough information.

Studies across North America indicate children raised by gay parents turn out just fine. Some of the children, he noted, turned out better than average.

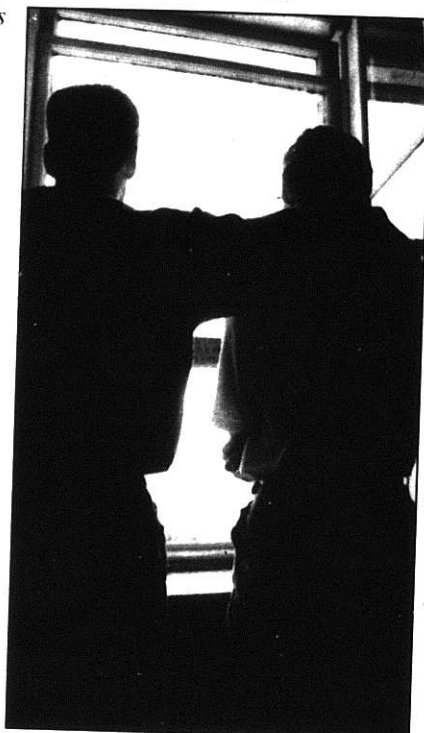
"The better adjusted part comes in from their acceptance of diversity."

Hellquist was surprised by how few people admitted having homosexual relationships. He suspects many people were shy about their sexuality in the survey.

Just over two per cent of those asked said they have had sex with someone of the same sex over the age of 18. Hellquist said 10 per cent is the generally accepted level of gay people in the larger population.

"I have no reason to believe Saskatchewan is any different."

—McNAIRN



— SP File Photo

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

### Children under 18

	%
0	25.5
1	12.9
2	15.2
3	6.7
4	1.9
5	0.5
6	0.5
does not apply	36.7

### Children over 18

	%
0	33.8
1	12.9
2	3.8
3	1.0
4	0.2
does not apply	48.1

### Have you changed residences in the last five years?

	%
Yes	38.8
No	61.2

### How many times?

	%
1	18.6
2	8.7
3	5.3
4	2.7
5	2.2
6	0.2
8	0.2
10	0.2
12	0.2
does not apply	61.6

### Where do you expect to be living in the next five years?

	%
Rural Saskatchewan	42.6
Urban Saskatchewan	41.9
Other Western province	8.3
Central Canada	1.2
Eastern province	0.2

The United States	0.7
Outside N. America	0.5
Don't know	3.3
Refused	1.2

### How many bedrooms are there in your household?

	%
1	6.3
2	16.6
3	39.4
4	25.0
5	10.3
6	1.9
10	0.2
33	0.2

### What type of dwelling do you currently live in?


	%
House	82.6
Apartment	10.9
Mobile home	2.1
Duplex	0.2
Town house	0.2
Condo	0.2
Convent	0.2
Nursing home	0.4
Seniors complex	0.2
Other	1.4

### Is your dwelling owned by you or a member of this household?

	%
Yes	83.0
No	17.0


### In general, how would you describe your relationships with other members of your family?


	%
Poor	1.2
Fair	2.4
Good	18.4
Very good	33.2
Excellent	44.8



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## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

Taking things altogether, how would you describe your family life in Saskatchewan?

	%		%
Very happy	55.4	39	0.2
Somewhat happy	40.9	40	1.2
Not too happy	2.4	45	0.2
Not at all happy	1.2	50	0.5
		70	0.2

In general, do you feel that your family's quality of life is better off, the same or less well off than five years ago?

	%
Better off	44.3
The same	32.9
Less well off	22.8

In general, do you feel that your family's quality of life will be better off, the same, or less well off in the next five years?

	%
Better off	46.4
The same	40.8
Less well off	12.7

In comparison with other households would you describe your family's financial situation as...

	%
Wealthy	0.5
Well off	8.4
Comfortable	44.8
Adequate	33.5
Difficult	10.1
Poor	2.7

## LEISURE

In general, how do you feel about your time, would you say you are...

	%
Always rushed	25.7
Sometimes rushed	55.8
Almost never rushed	18.4

On average how many hours do you spend per week watching TV?

0	3.6
1	3.1
2	6.5
3	5.1
4	4.4
5	8.2
6	4.6
7	6.8
8	3.1
9	0.5
10	13.8
12	2.2
14	9.7
15	6.1
16	0.7
17	0.5
18	1.2
20	6.5
21	3.6
24	0.5
25	1.0
28	2.7
30	1.5

## COMPUTERS

On average how many hours do you spend per week using a computer?

	%
0	13.3
1	11.0
2	16.7
3	4.3
4	5.7
5	6.7
6	3.3
7	6.7
8	1.4
9	1.0
10	12.9
11	0.5
12	0.5
14	2.4
15	2.4
20	4.8
21	1.4
24	0.5
25	1.0
28	0.5
30	1.9
45	0.5
50	1.0

Is computer used for... work?

	%
Yes	56.8
No	43.2

Book keeping?

	%
Yes	46.6
No	53.4

Playing games?

	%
Yes	71.8
No	27.7

Word processing?

	%
Yes	81.5
No	18.5

School work?

	%
Yes	55.1
No	44.9

Internet?

	%
Yes	73.8
No	26.2

E-mail?

	%
Yes	72.8
No	27.2

# Home is where the heart is

More than half of respondents said mothers would be happier if they could stay home and take care of their children

Family is important to Saskatchewan residents, many of whom are optimistic that their families are going to get stronger in the near future.

According to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll, more than 96 per cent of people reported their family life is good to excellent.

About half said the home front has improved in the past five years. A similar percentage anticipate their family situations improving in the next five years.

Family life will always be important to people no matter how busy their lives get, said Cecilia Forsyth, provincial president of the REAL Women of Canada. She said the poll results are reassuring.

"You have to have balance as well as allowing for work outside the home and doing family activities," she said. "There is not a lot of spare time, but in large, people manage."

Forsyth said financial pressure on families has forced many women into the workplace.

The federal government recently extended parental leave benefits to 50 weeks from 35.

More than 56 per cent of the respondents said mothers would be happier if they could stay home and take care of their children. Women agreed more strongly than men, as did rural people more than those in urban areas.

"Nothing is more important to women than their families," said Forsyth.

Marriage and workplace consultant Ted Cardwell said people often feel they are not whole until they have a family.

"The family is really the most important garden in which to grow people," said Cardwell, who for 14 years was executive director of Saskatoon's Family Service Bureau. Cardwell noted that families and the demands on them are changing.

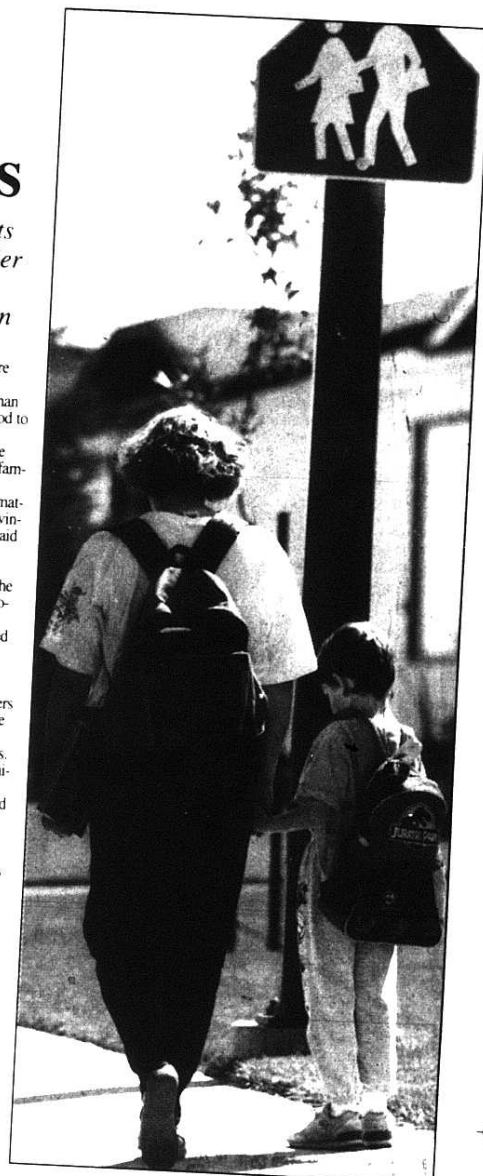
"Birth rates are falling. Most family sizes are getting smaller. There are single-parent families, births out of wedlock, divorce, common-law relationships. Lots of families don't have a stay-at-home to care for the children," said Cardwell.

Forsyth said the 23 per cent of people reporting that their family situations have deteriorated in the past five years is disturbing.

REAL Women of Canada is pressuring the federal government to give incentives such as tax deductions to encourage people to take marriage and family counselling.

"It is a tragedy that, in our society, we don't do enough to support families in trouble," she said.

— McNAIRN



— SP File Photo

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## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

## Other?

Creative Arts	0.2
Drawing programs	0.2
Entertainment	0.2
Genealogy program	0.2
Job search	0.2
Special needs child	0.2
Music	0.5
Pay roll	0.2
Photo processing	0.2
Photocopying	0.2
Pornography	0.2
Printing information	0.2
Programming	0.2
Research	0.6
Shopping	0.2
Video conferencing	0.2
Volunteer work	0.2
Web design	0.2
Does not apply	95.0

On average how many hours per week do you spend on the internet at home?

0	4.5
1	7.6
2	19.1
3	2.5
4	13.4
5	12.7
6	4.5
7	5.7
8	2.5
9	6.4
10	0.6
11	8.9
12	0.6
13	1.9
14	2.5
15	0.6
16	1.3
17	0.6

Is Internet used for ... Work?

Yes	50.6
No	49.4

Managing investments?

Yes	28.0
No	72.0

Purchasing gifts?

Yes	15.2
No	84.8

Buying books, or music?

Yes	22.0
No	78.0

Listening to, or downloading music?

Yes	44.5
No	55.5

Banking?

Yes	31.7
No	68.3

Researching for school?

Yes	51.8
No	48.2

Looking for information?

Yes	89.6
No	10.4

E-mail?

Yes	91.5
No	8.5

Chat rooms?

Yes	16.0
No	84.0

Pornography?

Yes	10.4
No	89.6

Other?

Advertisements	0.4
Booking reservations	0.2
Cooking, travel, medical	0.2
Entertainment	0.5
Games	0.2
General information	0.2
Developing home page	0.2
Horoscope/health	0.2
Leisure activities	0.2
Medical needs	0.2
Search for jobs	0.4
Stock market	0.2
Travelling bargains	0.2
Working on websites	0.2

## FIREARMS

How would you rate your attitude towards big game hunting?

Strongly disagree	14.6
Disagree	12.7
Neutral	29.5
Agree	23.7
Strongly agree	19.5

How would you rate your attitude to upland bird and waterfowl hunting?

Strongly disagree	10.8
Disagree	14.3
Neutral	33.3
Agree	24.4
Strongly agree	17.2

Do you own a rifle or shotgun?

Yes	28.6
No	71.4

How would you rate your attitude towards the gun registry?

Strongly disagree	39.5
Disagree	13.8
Neutral	13.3
Agree	13.8
Strongly agree	19.5

## THE CROWNS

The provincial government should sell SaskTel.

Strongly disagree	27.9
Disagree	32.6
Neutral	17.9
Agree	13.2
Strongly agree	8.4

The provincial government should sell SaskPower.

Strongly disagree	27.7
Disagree	34.7
Neutral	14.4
Agree	12.7
Strongly agree	7.5

The provincial government should sell SaskEnergy.

Strongly disagree	28.1
Disagree	32.6
Neutral	18.5
Agree	12.8
Strongly agree	8.1

The provincial government should sell SGI.

Strongly disagree	22.7
Disagree	28.1
Neutral	16.2
Agree	18.0
Strongly agree	14.9

The provincial government should sell the Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC).

Strongly disagree	21.3
Disagree	26.8
Neutral	21.3
Agree	16.5
Strongly agree	14.2

## POLITICAL CHOICES

Which provincial party is more interested in improving public education in Saskatchewan?

Saskatchewan Party	11.2
New Democrat	23.6
Liberal	6.2
Coalition	0.2
Other	5.4
Don't know	46.2
Refused	6.4

Some have said that well qualified people seem to be leaving Saskatchewan, how serious do you believe the problem is?

Extremely serious	35.1
Very serious	30.1
Serious	24.1
Not very serious	9.7
Not at all serious	1.0

## Medical Specialists

Extremely serious	56.0
Very serious	27.3
Serious	12.8
Not very serious	3.2
Not at all serious	0.7

## Family Doctors

Extremely serious	41.3
Very serious	27.5
Serious	21.5
Not very serious	8.4
Not at all serious	1.2

# Gamblers roll dice and lose

## More people finding more time to spend more money

The number of Saskatchewan people who have lost control of their gambling doubled in the past seven years, according to The StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

Twenty-eight per cent of respondents said they have spent more time or money than intended while gambling at some point in their lives.

A provincial survey conducted in 1993 found only 14 per cent of people with similar concerns.

"You have fairly dramatic increases in people who are either more willing to acknowledge that they have some loss of control over it, or real increases in problem gambling," said Harley Dickinson, a sociology professor at the U of S and government adviser on the 1993 provincial gambling study.

Do you gamble at Saskatchewan Casinos?

Never	57.3
Once in your life	6.0
Once a year	9.4
Several times a year	12.4
Once a month	3.2
Once a week	1.2
More than once a week	0.2
Everyday	0.5

That study was conducted prior to the provincial government boosting the number of VLTs in bars and expanding the casino industry.

Casino gambling increased threefold in the seven years, according to the poll. In 1993, six per cent of respondents went to casinos compared to 18 per cent in the StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

"In the post-1993 period, the availability of gambling opportunities increased dramatically," said Dickinson. "I think that increase is partly the root of these differences."

The vast majority of people gamble for recreational purposes and don't have a big problem, he said. "But for some small proportion — but not an insignificant proportion — gambling really overtakes their lives," he said.

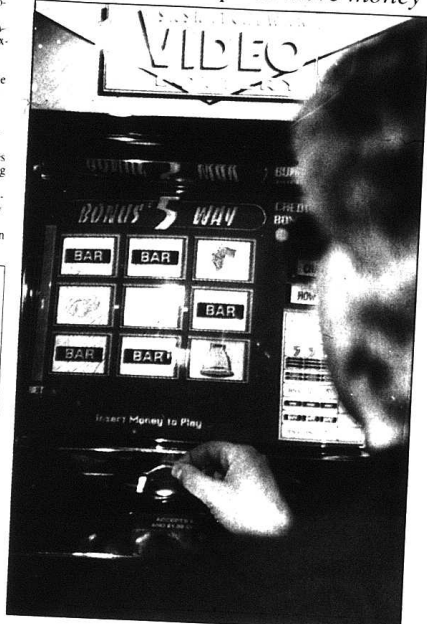
When asked if they have ever felt like they wanted to stop gambling, but couldn't, about nine per cent said yes. In the 1993 provincial survey, only one per cent answered that way.

"With the expanded opportunities, the real concern with the figures is the proportion of people who find their gambling is out of control could increase," said Dickinson.

Sandy Ervin, a professor of anthropology at the U of S and a gambling opponent, noted from the poll that nearly half of Saskatchewan people have been to a casino.

"With a massive amount of revenue, that small proportion of people must be spending huge amounts of money," he said.

"It's a big social concern. Families are hurt."



— SP File Photos

Across the nation people are gambling more according to Statistics Canada. In 1999, people wagered \$8.1 billion on non-charitable forms of gambling — three times as much as in 1992.

The federal study also showed that gambling revenues in Saskatchewan during that period grew at more than twice the national rate.

Jean Dunlop, team leader of Saskatoon District Health's problem gambling program, said for some people, gambling problems start at a very early age.

"A number of clients do present with a host of early gambling activities. Childhood games like marbles they will often describe as being more than just a childhood game," she said.

In Dunlop's experience, the bulk of people who ask for help with gambling problems are fixated with VLTs. Bingo is runner up, she said.

Some problem gamblers are focused on one activity, she said, while others participate in many games of chance.

—MCNAIRN



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**FIREARMS**

# Majority oppose gun registry

## Poll shows Saskatchewan is unlike other provinces

Saskatchewan residents oppose gun registration whether or not they own firearms, the StarPhoenix-U of S poll has found.

More than half of respondents said they disagree or strongly disagree with the registry, though slightly more than one quarter said they own firearms.

About one-third of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the registry.

The poll results didn't surprise Wendy Cukier, president of the Coalition for Gun Control, who said other polls have also shown Saskatchewan is distinct from other provinces in the lack of support for gun registration laws.

### How would you rate your attitude towards the gun registry?

	%
Strongly disagree	39.5
Disagree	13.8
Neutral	13.3
Agree	13.8
Strongly agree	19.5

While other provincial governments have opposed the law, as Saskatchewan's does, police chiefs, women's groups and other organizations in those provinces have countered with strong campaigns in support of the law.

"In your province, we didn't see advocates in support of the law being as vocal as we did in other areas, even Alberta," she said.

"The gun lobby (in Saskatchewan) has been very vocal and the government has basically worked hand in hand with them to fight the legislation all the way to the Supreme Court," she said.

Even the Saskatchewan chiefs of police were slow to join their counterparts from other provinces in supporting the legislation, a factor which contributed to the opposition, she said.

Cukier observed that the coalition has gathered statistics showing that between 1991 and 1995, one in 100,000 children 14 or younger was killed by firearms in Saskatchewan compared with the national average of 0.4 per 100,000.

"Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of gun death and injury in the country so it's rather ironic that, rather than focusing on reducing death and injury, your government has focused on championing the interests of the gun lobby."

"The rate of kids killed, in respect to Saskatchewan, is as high as in Israel and Northern Ireland together. It makes one wonder about the priorities of your government," Cukier said.

Len Jabush, executive director of the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation, said he doubts the validity of the coalition's numbers showing Saskatchewan's high rate of death among children.



— SP File Photo

"I find that hard to believe," Jabush said.

He thinks firearm safety courses have improved the situation over the past 30 years.

When asked to comment on comparisons with other industrialized nations that show Canada has the fifth highest rate of firearm-related deaths among children younger than 15, Jabush questioned how registering firearms would help reduce the rate.

Jabush said even more Saskatchewan residents would oppose the registration law if they considered how much it has cost taxpayers.

"The \$480 million is just the tip of the iceberg," he said.

— ADAM

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

### Nurses

	%
Extremely serious	38.2
Very serious	27.4
Serious	23.9
Not very serious	8.5
Not at all serious	2.0

more, the same or less respectful than older generations?

	%
More respectful	2.0
Same	14.1
Less respectful	83.9

### CRIME AND JUSTICE

How safe is your home from theft?

	%
Poor	10.4
Fair	19.7
Good	32.7
Very Good	24.3
Excellent	12.9

How would you describe overall the safety of your neighbourhood?

	%
Poor	5.3
Fair	11.1
Good	35.2
Very good	35.9
Excellent	12.6

How satisfied are you with the police service in your area?

	%
Poor	8.5
Fair	19.6
Good	44.0
Very good	19.4
Excellent	8.5

Do you think that, with respect to violence, youth are

	%
More violent	78.9
Same	18.5
Less violent	2.5

Do you think that youth are

How many times in the past five years have you been questioned by police?

	%
0	89.8
1	2.1
2	1.0
3	1.0
4	0.7
5	0.2
50	0.2
Refused	5.0

How many times in the past five years have you been convicted of a non-traffic crime in court?

	%
0	92.4
1	1.2
2	0.7
3	0.5
4	0.2
Refused	5.0

How many times in the past five years have you been in a fight involving pushing shoving or slapping?

	%
0	84.0
1	5.5
2	2.1
3	0.5
4	0.2
5	0.7
10	0.7
12	0.2
15	0.5
20	0.2
Refused	5.2



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## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

How many times in the past five years have you stolen something from a store?

0	93.1
1	0.7
2	0.5
5	0.5
Refused	5.2

How many times in the past five years have you been in a fight involving fists or weapons?

0	88.8
1	3.1
2	1.2
3	0.5
5	0.2
10	0.7
15	0.2
Refused	5.2

How many times in the past five years have you driven while intoxicated?

0	77.6
1	2.6
2	4.8
3	1.4

How often in the past year have you been yelled at to the degree that it frightened you?

0	81.2
1	5.7
2	4.3
3	1.4
4	0.2
6	0.2
9	0.2
10	0.2
20	0.5
21	0.2
50 or more	0.4
Refused	5.2

# Survey shows local outlook influenced by economic divide

By Gerry Klein  
SP University Editor

While 62 per cent of Saskatoon residents responding to a StarPhoenix survey said their quality of life was either excellent or very good, that doesn't mean those feelings are universal, researchers say.

"Definitely things aren't all [good] out there," said Ron Labonte, director of the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU) and a member of a team of University of Saskatchewan researchers who assisted with the study focusing on Saskatoon's quality of life.

The study was a collaborative effort between the university's Community University Institute for Social Research, of which SPHERU is a member.

While it's too soon to tell why so many people are left out of Saskatoon's bounty, the survey shows people with lower income and education or those who live in poorer neighbourhoods are less satisfied with their lot than the majority, he said.

"The first thing this shows us is that people's quality of life and their

satisfaction levels vary," Labonte said. "It's the old story: the more money you have the better your life is."

But things aren't all dark for those with low incomes. The study also shows that people with lower incomes and less education are more optimistic that their lives will get better than those on the top of the social-economic scale.

More than 56 per cent of respondents living in the poorest neighbourhoods indicated they felt their lives would be better in the future, compared with only 45 per cent of those in wealthier areas.

On the other hand, only 66 per cent of the people in the poorest neighbourhoods indicated they would describe themselves as happy, compared with 72 per cent in the richest neighbourhoods and 74 per cent in the middle neighbourhoods.

People in the poorest neighbourhoods were also less likely to feel their health was either excellent or very good (52 per cent) compared with 61 per cent in the richest part of town and 71 per cent in the areas with the greatest mix of incomes and families.

But those from the poorer neighbourhood have something else going for them. While 10 and 13 per cent of those living in the mixed and rich neighbourhoods respectively described their lives as stress-free, 17 per cent in the poor neighbourhoods said they lived without stress.

And those living in the poor neighbourhoods were just as likely to feel job satisfaction was important in their lives (73 per cent) as were those in the richer neighbourhoods (74 per cent).

The study is part of an effort to give officials the tools to make that prediction come true, however, said Allison Williams, the principal investigator of the quality of life study.

"The survey itself is part of a number of other studies done in Saskatchewan and nationally and it is meant to build on what we already know," she said.

Over the next few months the researchers will do a detailed analysis of the data provided by the survey and they will conduct face-to-face talks with some of the people who were contacted by The StarPhoenix and agreed to let their names stand for future discussions.



## Fur, Fin & Feather

### Gazette

January 2001

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## Ear-itated Dogs



— SP File Photo  
SaskPower office in Regina

## Privatization of Crowns gets cool reception

The hand of the provincial government must stay firmly in control of the Crown corporations, say the majority of Saskatchewan people consulted in the StarPhoenix U of S poll.

On average 60 per cent of respondents, disapproved of selling SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SGI and the Saskatchewan Transportation Corporation.

Respondents placed the highest value on provincial ownership of SaskTel, SaskPower and SaskEnergy.

Richard Truscott, provincial director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, said most people are not aware of the options that exist with regards to privatization.

Selling the Crowns does not necessarily mean giving up government control, he said.

"The government could open up ownership to private shareholders and partners and then use those proceeds to pay down debt, reduce interest costs, cut taxes and fund education and health care," said Truscott.

The provincial government should sell off SaskPower.

Strongly disagree	27.7
Disagree	34.7
Neither agree or disagree	17.4
Agree	12.7
Strongly agree	7.5

He said Saskatchewan is unique in having its major utility companies owned by government. Most jurisdictions, he said, have privately owned utilities.

The attachment to the Crowns is more of a philosophy than reasoned analysis, he said. The need for ownership of the provincial utilities, noted Truscott, is much less vital than it was 70 years ago.

"There certainly was a need for government ownership at one point because private companies were not willing to come in and make the investment in the infrastructure," he said.

"I think it's a bit of a hangover from the Depression era. People feel that they need own things. You have to own property, own the utility companies, to feel secure,"

— McNAIR



Robert Church  
Saskatoon's public relations consultant for the past 10 years, Church is a member of the Saskatchewan Public Relations Association.

Get inside your dog's head. Literally. Most dogs at some point in their lives will experience an ear infection deep inside their heads, because their long, L-shaped ear canal is the ideal breeding ground for yeast and bacterial infections. Many problems are initially caused by parasitic ear mites, foreign objects like grass awns (seeds), water, dirt, allergies (more common in the spring and fall), and

some dog breeds are just genetically prone to ear infections.

Some common symptoms to watch for include: smelly ears, an unusual amount of discharge, redness, or inflammation, and excessive scratching, head shaking, and signs of pain. The majority of ear infections occur in the middle and inner ear, but occasionally occur in the outer ear, but occasionally occur in the middle and inner ear, but occasionally occur in the middle and inner ear, but occasionally occur in the middle and inner ear.

To prevent problems, clean your dog's ears regularly with a proper ear cleanser like Four

Paws Ear Wash, especially if your dog spends a lot of time in the water. Use cotton balls to clean your pet's ears, rather than Q-tips, which tend to impact the wax rather than remove it.

Discuss with your groomer or veterinarian whether or not your dog's ears should be plucked, because in some dogs it opens air passages that aid in drying the ears, and in others it disrupts the ear's healthy balance of bacteria and yeast and can actually cause problems.

Regular care and observation of your pet's ears should help prevent infections and problems that can all too often escalate quickly, painfully, and expensively.

By the way, when are dog groomers like Pirates? When they're Pluck-in ears.

## Pet Loss

Most people at some point deal with the loss of a cherished animal companion and cope with a sense of grief that other people may make light of or do not understand. One place people can go to share their feelings of loss is the virtual pet cemetery. Every time I read the following epitaph, I get all verklempt and my eyes well up, because it brings back memories of my pets and how much I loved them and how much I hurt to let them go.

The following was written by 10-year-old Anna Biggarstaff.

## Jasper

I'm sorry, boy, that I ignored you that day.

I'm sorry that I took your routine and cheerful greeting for granted and when you insisted on sitting on my important papers, I got frustrated and simply pushed you aside.

Your soft orange and white body rubbed beneath my chin but I did not have time for you, boy.

Nevertheless, you persisted. Your purr grew louder and I grew more annoyed.

I was busy, boy, with my important work. I was much too busy for you.

You soon gave up and went on with your business and I went on with mine.

I am sorry, boy, that I did not understand what you were doing that day.

I turned my head, not knowing, that what you were trying to tell me was ...

Goodbye.



## Separation Anxiety

Many dog owners have to deal with canine separation anxiety when leaving their pet alone in the house. Reports of dogs barking non-stop for hours, destructive chewing, garbage raiding, and refusing to eat are all typical behaviors for dogs who panic when their owners leave them alone. These are some things you can try to help your dog overcome.

Many people make a big fuss over their pet before they leave and after they return home. This reinforces the dog's anxiety, since he thinks he is being reassured because something is wrong. Your dog will mirror your attitude, so if you avoid making a big display over your dog's chances are he will become more relaxed with your comings and goings.

The second step is to over expose your dog to your departures and arrivals. Without making any fuss, walk out and leave your dog alone.

Return to him in two minutes, stay for a few minutes, and leave again. Repeat this process over and over, varying the times you are away, until your dog accepts your leaving and returning without anxiety. Be patient and persistent and you should be successful in dealing with this problem.

## Frosty Pets

Cold Saskatchewan winters mean that special care should be taken with pets that go outdoors. Even though very few animals ever suffer from actual hypothermia, common problems associated with extreme cold include cats with their ears frozen off and dogs suffering damage to their paws from ice that builds up between the pads of their feet.

Cats left outdoors during the cold weather will often crawl into a car engine to warm up on the block heater, so get in the habit of giving a bang on the hood of your car and boot the horn a couple of times before starting the engine. If you own a cat that regularly goes outside, this is a good time to start thinking about training it to live as an inside cat.

If your dog is a short haired breed or just doesn't like the cold, he would probably appreciate a doggy parka or sweater. Droopy-eared dogs like Basset Hounds, or dogs who have had their ears cropped, like Dobermans, should have their ears tucked up inside of a toque. Paws of properly fitted doggie boots. All this may take a little getting used to for the dog, so try not to embarrass him by laughing in his face because he's wearing boots, parka, and a toque.

You may however, want to take his picture.

## Motion Sickness

Motion sickness can be a real problem for many dogs if they are not properly acclimated to traveling in vehicles. These are some ways to help keep your dog from barking in the back seat.

Start early with gradual exposure to cars. You and your puppy can just sit in the car with the engine off, then with it on, then start taking some very short drives to happy destinations like the park. You can even feed your dog in the car to make him more comfortable.

For longer road trips, make sure you bring plenty of water and food from home for your dog. Don't feed your dog a huge breakfast and then jump in the car and drive for ten hours, it's better to feed small amounts more frequently during the day. If your dog has quite a sensitive stomach, talk to your vet about giving the dog an anti-nauseant like Gravol.

Dogs may get stomach upset from looking out the car window and watching the scenery fly by. A kennel in the car will provide the security of an enclosed space for your pet, and you may even want to try covering the kennel up so the dog can't see out. A hot car can aggravate motion sickness, so try to keep things cool.

One last suggestion is to get a dog seatbelt harness for your pet. It will keep him from jumping all over the car and will protect him in case of an accident. Dogs on these harnesses should be kept in the backseat so that they don't get squashed by an air bag.



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The winning drawing was by Becky Toth

## LIFESTYLE

# All in a day's work

Eighty per cent content with balance between home, professional lives

Like circus performers on the high wire, most Saskatoon people must strike a delicate balance between work and home life.

About 87 per cent of respondents to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll reported being content with the balance. However, 13 per cent were not satisfied with the juggling act.

Nazem Muhajane, a sociological epidemiologist at the U of S, said the satisfaction levels were surprising because other studies in Canada have shown that about half of people are not handling the balance so well.

He said by breaking down the poll results further and comparing them against the factors which strain the family-work balance, a slightly different impression emerges.

People who reported in the poll to be extremely stressed were 10 times more likely to say their work and family situation was problematic than people with low stress levels.

"That is a huge magnitude of risk," he said. "It could be feeling overwhelmed with the different roles having to play with life."

The multitude of roles, he said, will

overload people with responsibilities. Time crunches and overlooked schedules then emerge.

"I also looked at the how long they have lived in their neighbourhood. People living short times in neighbourhoods tend not to be as satisfied."

By living in a community, noted Muhajane, people develop friendships and family support. The stability also helps people feel more positive about life in general, he said.

A 1998 provincial study which interviewed about 5,400 workers found that about half of people feel overloaded with work and home responsibilities. A third felt that if they didn't do extra work at the office they would be passed up for promotions and raises.

Judith Martin spearheaded that study and is executive co-ordinator of the provincial Department of Labour's work and family unit. The interference be-

between work and family duties increases, she said, with factors such as age of children and hours of work.

With more families now taking care of not just children but aging parents, the interference and overload of responsibilities can rise, she said.

"There is no such thing as a perfectly orderly life. We all need a little reserve energy to deal with the little things that come up so they don't become a crisis," said Martin.

There are a lot of workers in the province who lack reserve energy," Ted Cartwell, a family and workplace consultant with Cardwell Human Resources, said part of the overall satisfaction levels is related to people making more of their time.

"People are getting better at knowing what quality time means," said Cartwell, who for 14 years was executive director of the Family Service Bureau in Saskatoon. He said people today are also more adaptable to change and have more resources at their fingertips to make their lives more comfortable.

Increased accessibility to family and marriage counselling has also helped make families stronger, he said.

"There are a lot of people giving advice, a lot of courses, lots of Oprahs teaching us how to do it. When you have the bread and butter issues managed, you can think about the other things," said Cartwell.

—McNAIRN

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

Was the attacker a...	%	Downtown	0.2
Friend	1.4	Refused/didn't apply	86.9
Family member	4.6	Did the person have a weapon?	
Someone at work	2.3	Yes	7.4
Patient or client	1.2	No	92.6
Police officer	0.2	Did the person threaten to harm you in anyway?	
Stranger	3.5	Yes	29.6
Refused/didn't apply	86.9	No	70.4
Did you contact the police?	%	How often in the past year have you been sexually assaulted?	
Yes	16.4	0	91.4
No	83.6	1	0.2
Did this incident take place in a city, town, or rural area?	%	2	0.5
City	8.1	Refused	7.9
Town	2.4	Where did the incident take place?	
Rural	2.8	At Home	4.5
Refused/didn't apply	86.9	In neighbourhood	1.2
Where did the incident take place?	%	At school	0.5
At Home	4.5	In a remote area	0.2
In neighbourhood	1.2	At work	3.8
At school	0.5	Hotel	0.2
In a remote area	0.2	Elsewhere	1.9
At work	3.8	Was the attacker...	%
Hotel	0.2	Customer or family	0.2
Elsewhere	1.9	Stranger	0.5
		Doesn't apply	99.3
		Did you contact the police?	%
		Yes	66.7
		No	33.3

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## LIFESTYLE

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## STRESS: The dreaded S-word haunts Saskatoon

Thirty per cent say levels of stress still rising

The push and pull of daily life confounds many Saskatoon people with constant stress. Almost 70 per cent of people polled in the StarPhoenix U of S survey said their lives were moderately stressful. Roughly 16 per cent said their lives were extremely stressful.

About 40 per cent of respondents said their stress levels have remained constant in the past three years. However, just under one-third reported stress levels rising.

How stressful is your life	%
Extremely	16.3
Moderately	69.6
Not stressful at all	14.2

Roumen Milev, president of the Saskatchewan Psychiatric Association, says people now are less willing to tolerate stress and adapt to it as other generations have.

He said stress levels reflect an increasingly demanding society. "Are you going to be up to the challenge? Are you going to measure up to what is expected from you?"

"You have a role to fulfill. You have to be successful. You have to find nice work. You have to find a perfect partner to create perfect kids. Anytime you fail at it, that creates an awful lot of anxiety," said Milev.

In addition to anxiety, Milev said stress can sometimes lead to other mental problems such as depression. The prescriptions for anti-depressants issued in Saskatchewan is expected to hit a record of 419,400 for the year 2000.

Despite the stress, about 70 per cent of people polled were still happy and optimistic. Nearly half of people said they are more happy now than three years ago.

Ted Cartwell, a Saskatoon family and work consultant, said stress at work can infect home life.

"You bring those scars and wounds home. They spill over into your family. Your problems at home don't get left at the door of the office, and vice versa," said Cartwell.

He said most of the people who report being stressed are not just people with demanding careers.

"People who are over stressed are the poor. They are visible minorities. They are ill people or people exposed to some kind of loss or change," said Cartwell.

To get a handle on stress, Milev advises people to start reducing their expectations of themselves. Take a vacation and exercise more, he adds.

—McNAIRN

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## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

Did the sexual assault take place in a city, town or rural area?

	%
Town	100

Where did the incident take place?

	%
In your neighbourhood	0.2
In a remote area	0.2
Hotel	0.2
Refused/doesn't apply	99.3

Did the person have a weapon?

	%
Yes	33.3
No	66.7

Did the person threaten to harm you in anyway?

	%
Yes	66.7
No	33.3

How often in the past year have you been physically assaulted?

	%
0	87.9
1	2.9
2	1.0
3	0.2
4	0.2
5	0.2
20	0.2
Refused/doesn't apply	7.4

Was the attacker ...

	%
Friend	1.0
Family member	0.5
Patient or client	0.5
Stranger	2.9
Refused/doesn't apply	95.0

Did you contact the police?

	%
Yes	35.0
No	65.0

Did the incident take place in a city town or rural area?

	%
City	60.0
Town	15.0
Rural	25.0

Where did this take place?

	%
Your Home	1.0
In your neighbourhood	1.0
At school	0.2
At work	0.5
Elsewhere	1.4
Down town	0.2
Hotel	0.4
Refused/doesn't apply	95.2

Did the person have a weapon?

	%
Yes	20.0
No	80.0

Did the person threaten to harm you in anyway?

	%
Yes	55.0
No	45.0

In the past year were you a victim of a property crime?

	%
Yes	16.9
No	83.1

How were you victimized?

	%
Break and entry	4.6
Theft	6.1
Robber/mugging	0.7
Vandalism	4.7
Refused/doesn't apply	84.8

Did you contact the police?

	%
Yes	72.3
No	27.7

Did the incident take place in a city, town or rural area?

	%
City	9.8
Town	2.6
Rural	2.9
Reserve	0.2
Refused/doesn't apply	84.5

Where did the incident take place?

	%
At home	11.2
In your neighbourhood	2.9
At school	0.5
In a remote area	0.2
At work	0.2
Shopping mall	0.2
Refused/doesn't apply	84.8

## GAMBLING

Do you play Sports Select/Scratch and Win?

	%
Never	33.3
Once in your life	2.2
Once a year	6.9
Several times a year	21.6
Once a month	14.0
Once a week	10.3
More than once a week	4.2

Do you play Bingo?

	%
Never	71.7
Once in your life	5.4
Once a year	5.2
Several times a year	4.2
Once a month	1.0
Once a week	2.5
More than once a week	0.5
Everyday	0.2

## TRANSPORTATION



— SP File Photo

## Few bumps found in city's roadways

More than 50 per cent don't have issues with traffic, bus system

Saskatoon residents were generally satisfied with roads, traffic and public transportation in The StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

Almost 60 per cent of respondents rated those services as good, very good or excellent.

There aren't very many areas in the city where there are substantial delays or very serious congestion," said Murray Totland, manager of the city's municipal engineering branch.

"For the most part the city system operates fairly effectively."

Saskatoon's road system compares well with other cities considering the number of congested intersections, traffic safety problems and travel times within the city.

The problems tend to be along Circle Drive, in areas such as between Millar Avenue and Avenue C, at 22nd Street and at Attridge Drive, which have been plagued with delays and collisions.

After a number of years during which the city did not invest much new money in roads and while the population and number of vehicles increased, the city has some catching up to do on improving major roadways, Totland said.

"We've had problems at all the major intersections on Circle Drive so we've put interchanges in at Taylor Street and Eighth Street. We're working on Circle and Attridge and we're widening the Idylwyld Drive (over-

How would you describe the condition of public transit in your neighbourhood?

	%
Excellent	7.2
Very good	18.8
Good	43.8
Fair	19.5
Poor	10.6

son would like to see the university being a transfer hub to create more direct routes for students.

"Maybe that's something Saskatoon Transit has to start looking at," Jackson said.

"The service is pathetic," said George Davis, who uses low-floor buses and the paratransit service to get around in her wheelchair.

Davis, a member of the Saskatoon special needs transportation advisory committee, said she hears many complaints from users of the paratransit service about availability and long waits on the phone when trying to get bookings.

"If you do get a booking it's a miracle," she said.

Wheelchair users do have the option of using one of 17 low-floor buses that run on a schedule with regular buses. Waits are often one and two hours for them, she said.

Some users of regular public transit have problems with lack of service to the north industrial area.

Chris Dekker, a spokesperson for the city, said that even after the recent fare increases, Saskatoon still has one of the lowest rates in the country.

The increases covered operating costs that soared when fuel prices increased 20 to 25 per cent last year.

— ADAM

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## PARKS



— SP File Photo

## City's green much appreciated

### Saskatoon residents report parks in very good condition

Saskatoon people are happy with their green spaces.

About three-quarters of respondents in the StarPhoenix-U of S poll reported the condition of their parks as good to very good. About 80 per cent called the parks excellent.

But there are still about 20 per cent of people who say the parks are in rough shape.

Bill Kalyn, manager of the city's parks branch, said the city is taking a more ecological approach to maintaining the parks and green spaces than a decade ago.

Since 1992, the City of Saskatoon's parks branch has reduced the amount of pesticide sprayed on green spaces in the city. The city has also been mowing its parks, boulevards and roadsides on a longer cycle than it did a decade ago.

Kalyn said the city decided to cut back the mowing to save labour and fuel.

"When you allow the roadside grasses to grow and go seed, you have the

#### How would you rate the condition of parks in your neighbourhood?

	%
Excellent	10.4
Very good	29.5
Good	40.0
Fair	14.2
Poor	5.8

plants actively compete with the broadleaf weeds. I think we have seen a reduction in the number of broadleaf weeds because we have allowed the grasses to compete."

There is a real movement across Canada to eliminate the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes, says Ann Coxworth, executive director of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society.

She said people are becoming more aware of the "subtle effects" on health

and the environment of chemicals.

"The city is caught in a bind here where some people look for neat and tidy parks and others look for ones free of toxic chemicals," she said.

City staff try to keep the weeds to a minimum in parks by feeding the grass fertilizer to help it compete against the tough weeds. The fertilizer program does not extend to open spaces like boulevards and roadsides.

In the StarPhoenix-U of S poll, three-quarters of people said the condition of boulevards and roadsides was good to excellent.

Kalyn said the city has no plan to change its mowing cycles on roadways, boulevards and parks this year.

However, several neighbourhood parks, including Dr. Seager Wheeler, will be upgraded in conjunction with community associations and other park users. Upgrading can include partial irrigation, re-seeding, landscaping or new equipment.

— McNAIRN

## PROVINCIAL SURVEY

## Do you play VLTs?

	%		%
Never	60.0	Once a year	2.5
Once in your life	4.7	Several times a year	1.3
Once a year	8.4	Once a month	0.5
Several times a year	10.1	Everyday	0.5
Once a month	5.7		
Once a week	2.0		
More than once a week	0.2		
Every day	0.2		

## Do you play cards for money?

	%		%
Never	77.6	Other	
Once in your life	2.7	50-50s	0.2
Once a year	4.4	649	5.0
Several times a year	3.0	Doesn't apply	93.1
Once a month	1.7	Casino in Vegas	0.4
Once a week	0.7	Play pool	0.2
More than once a week	0.7	Tickets for charities	0.2
Every day	0.2		

## Do you gamble at sporting events?

	%		%
Never	77.8	0	57.4
Once in your life	1.7	1	5.7
Once a year	5.4	2	1.9
Several times a year	3.0	3	0.5
Once a month	1.0	4	0.7
Once a week	0.5	5	1.2
More than once a week	0.5	6	0.2
		10	0.2
		20	0.5
		30	0.2
		Refused/doesn't apply	31.4

## Do you gamble at Saskatchewan casinos?

	%		%
Never	57.3	0	57.9
Once in your life	6.0	1	7.1
Once a year	9.4	2	1.0
Several times a year	12.4	3	0.7
Once a month	3.2	4	0.5
Once a week	1.2	5	0.5
More than once a week	0.2	6	0.2
Everyday	0.5	Refused/doesn't apply	32.1

## High-risk stocks or commodities?

	%		%
Never	83.7	0	57.9
Once in your life	1.5	1	7.1
		2	1.0
		3	0.7
		4	0.5
		5	0.5
		6	0.2
		Refused/doesn't apply	32.1

## How many times in the last five years have you travelled outside Saskatchewan to gamble?

	%
0	57.4
1	5.7
2	1.9
3	0.5
4	0.7
5	1.2
6	0.2
10	0.2
20	0.5
30	0.2
Refused/doesn't apply	31.4

## Out of the times you have left the province to gamble, how many have been outside of Canada?

	%
0	57.9
1	7.1
2	1.0
3	0.7
4	0.5
5	0.5
6	0.2
Refused/doesn't apply	32.1



## Ladies' Wear Fashions

# PROVINCIAL SURVEY

How often have you spent more time or money gambling than you intended?

Never	71.9
Rarely	13.1
Sometimes	10.0
Often	5.0

How often, when gambling, have you felt like you would like to stop but didn't think you could?

Never	91.2
Rarely	5.4
Sometimes	2.7
Often	0.8

Have you ever hidden a betting slip from someone important in your life?

Never	98.1
Rarely	1.5
Often	0.4

Have you ever borrowed money or not paid someone back as a result of your gambling?

Never	98.1
Rarely	1.2
Sometimes	0.4
Often	0.4

Over the long run do you believe you have ...

Won more	12.4
Broke even	27.1
Lost more	60.6

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Do you currently live on/in?

Farm	15.2
Acres	3.6
Village	5.2
Resort settlement	0.7
Town	18.1
Reserve	2.1
City	51.2
Other	3.1

What is your age category?

18 to 25	12.0
26 to 39	24.8
40 to 54	37.3
55 to 70	17.9
Over 70	8.1

What was your place of birth?

Saskatchewan	79.2
Other province	15.2
Other country	5.6

What year did you come to Canada?

1928	0.7
1937	0.2
1946	0.2
1949	0.2
1951	0.5
1953	0.2
1954	0.2
1957	0.2
1965	0.5
1967	0.5
1968	0.2
1977	0.5
1990	0.2
Doesn't apply	95.7

What is your citizenship?

Canadian citizen	91.2
Landed immigrant	1.0
Treaty	0.2
Refused	7.1

What is your marital status?

Single never married	22.9
----------------------	------

Legally married 53.8

Common law 5.9

Living with a partner 1.2

Separated 2.7

Divorced 6.4

Widowed 7.1

How much education do you have?

Less than Grade 9	4.2
Some high school	12.4
High school diploma	22.5
Some trade school	9.4
Diploma	15.1
Some university	13.9
University graduate	22.5

How many jobs do you have?

0	10.2
1	57.9
2	9.8
3	4.0
4	0.5
Retired	14.5

What kind of job do you have?

Self-employed	15.5
Full-time	46.9
Part-time	11.2
Unemployed	1.7
Student	3.5
Homemaker	4.2
Retired	15.2
On leave	1.7

How many of your grown children still live in your home community?

0	32.4
1	14.0
2	10.5
3	5.0
4	2.6
5	0.7
6	0.2
Refused/Not sure	6.9
Doesn't apply	27.4

How many of your grown children still live in Saskatchewan?

0	20.7
1	14.0
2	14.5
3	7.4
4	3.8
5	2.1
6	0.5
7	0.2
Refused/Not sure	6.9
Doesn't apply	29.5

What is your income?

Less than \$10,000	4.4
\$10,000 to \$20,000	13.2
\$20,000 to \$30,000	16.5
\$30,000 to \$40,000	15.3
\$40,000 to \$50,000	12.4
\$50,000 to \$60,000	13.5
\$60,000 to \$70,000	7.6
\$70,000 to \$80,000	5.6
\$80,000 or more	11.5

What language do you speak most often?

English	93.1
English and Native	0.2
English and Ukrainian	0.2
French	0.5
A Native language	1.7
Chinese	0.2
Hindu	0.2
Polish	0.2
Other	3.1

What is your gender?

Male	39.1
Female	60.9

## QUALITY OF LIFE

# Life is good

When asked to rate their personal lives, about nine in 10 respondents reported being in high spirits

The vast majority of people — young and old, rich and poor — are as happy as the day is long about the quality of their lives in Saskatoon, according to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

When asked to rate their personal lives in the city, about nine in 10 respondents reported being in high spirits.

"The lives of people in Saskatoon are a little rosier compared to Canadians on the whole," said Ronald Labonte, director of the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU).

Further results in the survey illustrate why the satisfaction levels are high, said Labonte.

When asked what conditions in their neighbourhoods are important to their quality of life, most people answered with fire and police services, roads and safety from violent crimes.

When asked how they felt about those issues, the vast majority said they were happy with all three.

"Feeling safe is important to quality of life," said SPHERU researcher Allison Williams.

"You get a sense of well-being and belonging in your community. It affects what you do and when."

Two polls for the City of Saskatoon — one in 1998 and the other in 2000 — showed a majority of people are happy with the quality of life in the city. The 2000 poll reported a 92 per cent satisfaction level.

"People are expressing a strong sense that life is good. That is fairly clear across all the neighbourhoods," said Bill Holden, a senior planner with the City of Saskatoon.

"People have reasonable amount of opportunities and make good on those opportunities. It is a relatively small city and that has an impact. You can get around the city, it is manageable."

However, about one in 10 people in the StarPhoenix-U of S poll said their lives are fair to poor — a startling figure according to Labonte. He said the trend in other surveys is that most people asked about their quality of life will report favourably, regardless of problems.

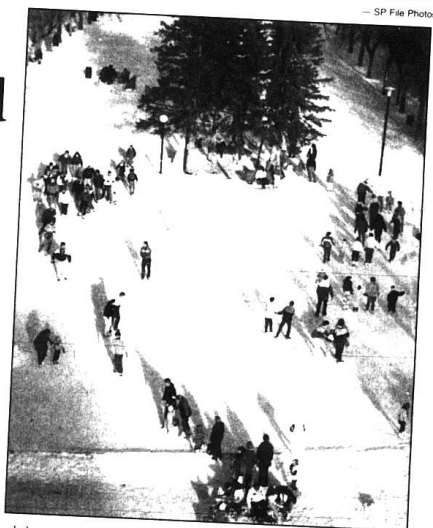
"Such a high number saying they are not happy is a stunning revelation because the usual tendency is to put on your best face. The people who rate low must not be in really good shape," said Labonte.

People with low incomes and who live in the core neighbourhoods, were more likely to look down on their lives compared to higher income earners.

For example, about 30 per cent of people reporting earnings of less than \$10,000 said their lives were fair to poor compared to about three per cent of people earning \$50,000 to \$60,000.

"The work that is being done research wise on health issues, the worse your financial situation, the poorer your physical and mental health is," said Kathy Cram, a member of Saskatoon District Health's community development team who works on poverty issues.

"Your health is going to be better if you have more money."



— SP File Photos

Labonte said the satisfaction and despair are linked to a number of factors in a community ranging from friends and family to health, work and neighbourhood conditions. The friendship factor has been noted to be vitally important to all aspects of life in previous studies, said Labonte. According to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll, more than 90 per cent of people are happy with their friends and about

three-quarters of people with partners are pleased.

"There is a huge amount of literature out there that if you don't have friends, you are going to die sooner," he said.

"People who don't have good relationships compared to those who do face the same kind of health risks as people who smoke two packs of cigarettes a day. It is very powerful."

— MCNAIRN

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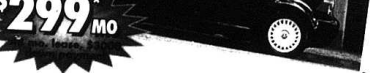
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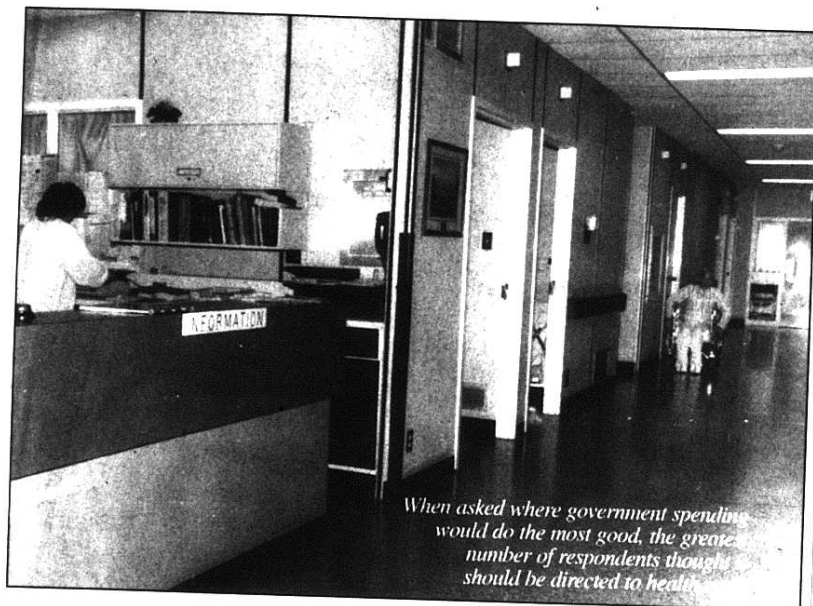
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— SP File Photo

## GOVERNMENT



When asked where government spending would do the most good, the greatest number of respondents thought should be directed to health.

— SP File Photo

## Gov't receives poor marks for health-care performance

Governments were slammed for poor performance in providing health care in a StarPhoenix-U of S poll, with residents of affluent neighbourhoods of Saskatoon most likely to criticize.

When asked where government spending would do the most good, the greatest number of respondents think it should be directed to health care.

Twenty-four per cent of respondents cited health care when asked to come up with an area where government should spend.

That number corresponds with poor reviews for government performance on health care, as 64 per cent of respondents thought it had worsened, while 29 per cent thought it had stayed the same and only seven per cent thought it had improved.

A breakdown of neighbourhood responses reveals residents of areas such as Briarwood and College Park were most likely to say government performance had worsened related to health care, although respondents throughout the city were generally critical.

Polls such as this reflect people's perceptions, which may or may not reflect reality, said Laurie Thompson, CEO of the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission (HSURC).

A report card on the health-care sys-

tem released by HSURC in the fall demonstrates that compared with the rest of the world and even with other Canadian provinces, Saskatchewan's health system is very good, but somewhat inefficient, Thompson said.

"In the grand scheme of things, we have a pretty damn good system worldwide. Any of the reports worldwide that assess Canada and Saskatchewan, we're near the top end.

"The problem with being inefficient is you're not getting as good health care as you could. You're not getting the bang for the buck."

The Saskatchewan government has budgeted to spend \$2 billion on health this year, and Thompson doesn't think the system needs more money.

The high number of people who think government is doing worse in health care may be caused by people having to wait for care or being treated badly by some member of the health-care team, he said.

"That's what people react to. It may not be so much the quality of care that they're getting but the thing people perceive is whether they have to wait or how they're treated. It's important that we pay attention to that."

The nursing shortage is definitely an

issue, but there are more doctors in Saskatchewan now than there were a few years ago, he said.

Part of the perception problem is caused by the increased demand for services that have become more accessible with improved medical technology, he said.

For example, hip replacements, knee and cataract surgery have become so simple that doctors are recommending them for more patients. Far more people are receiving the treatment, but the demand is so great, people must wait.

"The challenge is to see that the people who need surgery the most urgently get it first, to make sure the waiting lists are organized in some sort of priority so people don't suffer while they're on waiting lists and get the care they need as quickly as possible. We could do better at that," he said.

As for the high number of poll respondents who think services should be paid for by user fees, Thompson referred to a study that examined the effect of such fees in the 1960s.

User fees did not reduce the demand for health services or the overall cost, but they did reduce the use of services among poorer people, Thompson said.

"They had a very targeted effect on poor people and given that poorer people are often the ones in worst health that's not necessarily what you want to achieve with a user fee system," he said.

— ADAM

## CITY OF SASKATOON SURVEY

## QUALITY OF LIFE

How would you describe your overall QOL?

	%
Excellent	20.9
Very good	40.9
Good	29.8
Fair	6.8
Poor	1.7

Compared with others your age, how would you describe your health?

	%
Excellent	21.2
Very good	40.4
Good	26.1
Fair	9.6
Poor	2.7

How satisfied are you with your neighbourhood?

	%
Very satisfied	57.6
Somewhat satisfied	31.1
Somewhat dissatisfied	8.1
Very dissatisfied	3.2

How satisfied are you with your city?

	%
Very satisfied	55.2
Somewhat satisfied	39.6
Somewhat dissatisfied	4.2
Very dissatisfied	1.1

How satisfied are you with your housing?

	%
Very satisfied	63.7
Somewhat satisfied	29.7
Somewhat dissatisfied	4.6
Very dissatisfied	2.0

How satisfied are you with your friends?

	%
Very satisfied	74.0
Somewhat satisfied	23.8
Somewhat dissatisfied	1.4
Very dissatisfied	0.7

How satisfied are you with your relationship with your spouse or partner?

	%
Very satisfied	80.2
Somewhat satisfied	15.6
Somewhat dissatisfied	2.4
Very dissatisfied	1.8

How satisfied are you with your relationship with the rest of your family?

	%
Very satisfied	79.9
Somewhat satisfied	17.5
Somewhat dissatisfied	1.7
Very dissatisfied	1.0

How satisfied are you with the quality of your leisure activities?

	%
Very satisfied	43.0
Somewhat satisfied	47.0
Somewhat dissatisfied	6.9
Very dissatisfied	3.0

How satisfied are you with your health?

	%
Very satisfied	53.5
Somewhat satisfied	36.9
Somewhat dissatisfied	7.7
Very dissatisfied	1.9

How satisfied are you with your treatment by public employees?

	%
Very satisfied	36.2
Somewhat satisfied	46.6
Somewhat dissatisfied	12.3
Very dissatisfied	4.9

How satisfied are you with your treatment by store owners?

	%
Very satisfied	46.3
Somewhat satisfied	47.6
Somewhat dissatisfied	5.0
Very dissatisfied	1.1

How satisfied are you with your job or main activity?

	%
Very satisfied	55.4
Somewhat satisfied	38.0
Somewhat dissatisfied	4.7
Very dissatisfied	1.8

How satisfied are you with the balance between your work and family?

	%
Very satisfied	41.8
Somewhat satisfied	45.2
Somewhat dissatisfied	11.3
Very dissatisfied	1.7

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## CITY OF SASKATOON SURVEY

How satisfied are you with the amount of money you have?

	%
Very satisfied	32.2
Somewhat satisfied	41.7
Somewhat dissatisfied	16.7
Very dissatisfied	9.3

What will become of your ability to provide for your family in the future?

	%
Become better	51.0
Stay the Same	36.6
Get worse	12.4

## HAPPINESS/STRESS

How would you usually describe your life?

	%
Very happy	69.9
Somewhat happy	26.0
Somewhat unhappy	2.8
Very unhappy	0.7
Life isn't worth living	0.6

How stressful is your life?

	%
Extremely	16.3
Moderately	69.6
Not stressful at all	14.2

## LIFE EVALUATION

How important to you is your satisfaction with your job?

	%
Very important	74.8
Moderately important	23.1
Not important	2.1

How important to you is your ability to provide for family?

	%
Very important	83.3
Moderately important	15.7
Not important	1.1

How important to you is the quality of your housing?

	%
Very important	68.7
Moderately important	29.9
Not important	1.4

How important to you is the quality of your friendships?

	%
Very important	82.0
Moderately important	16.6
Not important	1.4

How important to you is the quality of your family relationships?

	%
Very important	88.1
Moderately important	10.9
Not important	1.1

## LIFE CHANGES

Over the past three years, how has your health changed?

	%
Improved	27.8

Stayed the same 54.7  
Became worse 17.5

Over the past three years, how has your overall life satisfaction changed?

	%
Improved	48.1
Stayed the same	44.0
Became worse	7.9

Over the past three years, how has your level of stress changed?

	%
Improved	28.5
Stayed the same	41.3
Became worse	30.2

Over the past three years, how has your happiness changed?

	%
Improved	43.3
Stayed the same	49.9
Became worse	6.8

## NEIGHBOURHOODS

How would you describe the condition of roads in your neighbourhood?

	%
Excellent	5.1
Very good	15.5
Good	39.3
Fair	25.2
Poor	14.9

How would you describe the condition of housing in your neighbourhood?

	%
Excellent	10.5
Very good	29.3
Good	42.5
Fair	12.9
Poor	4.8

How would you describe the condition of parks in your neighbourhood?

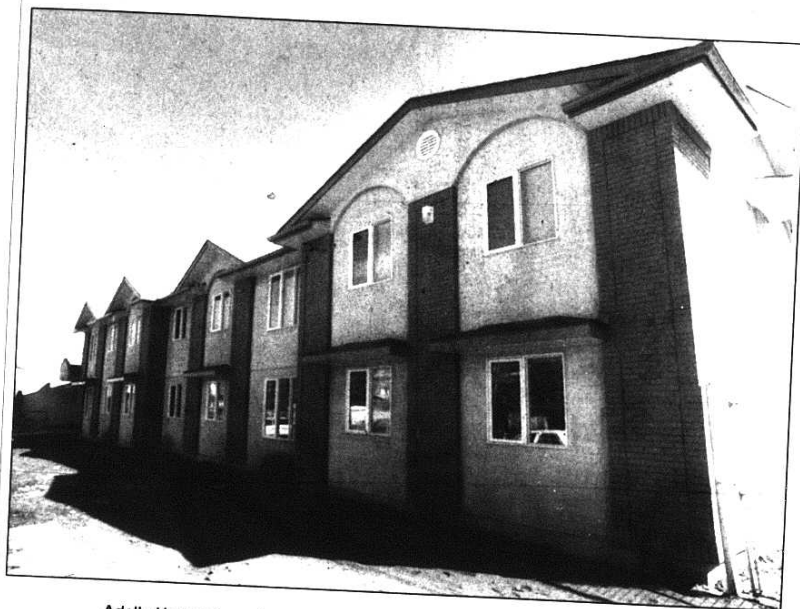
	%
Excellent	10.4
Very good	29.5
Good	40.0
Fair	14.2
Poor	5.8

How would you describe the condition of other green space in your neighbourhood?

	%
Excellent	6.5
Very good	19.7
Good	45.0
Fair	21.6
Poor	7.2

How would you describe the condition of public transit in your neighbourhood?

	%
Excellent	7.2
Very good	18.8
Good	43.8
Fair	19.5
Poor	10.6



Adelle House: Long-term, low-income housing for victims of family violence — SP File Photo

## Social programs suffering

A significant number thought government performance had worsened for income support, housing and education

Saskatoon residents give governments passing marks for social programs, but significant numbers also think their performance has worsened in the past three years, according to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll.

Almost half of respondents rated government performance the same over the past three years in education, income support and housing and help to volunteer groups.

But a significant number thought performance had worsened for income support, housing and education.

Social insurance has not increased in decades but expenses for recipients have continued to climb, said Kathy Cram, a community

development worker with Saskatoon District Health.

The lack of social housing results in some families becoming almost nomadic, moving three or four times in one school year, she said.

"Housing is a major issue and underlying the quality of life, I think it's the main issue," said United Way executive director Arla Gustafson.

However, provincial government programs to supplement incomes for poor families have done "phenomenal things" to help these people break free of welfare, Gustafson said.

But she said those families still need help from other programs to access costly programs and services that affect quality of life, including recreation and counselling.

Education ranked highly among poll respondents, who cited it second most often as an area where government spending would do the most good. Education was also an area where many think government has done worse.

"That doesn't surprise me at all," said Rene Baxter, director of education for

Regarding education, rate the government's performance over the last three years?

	%
Become better	11.3
Stayed the same	46.9
Become worse	41.8

Saskatoon public schools.

"There's a sense in the community that education needs to be higher up on the priority list for government spending," she said.

Bruce Bradshaw, principal of Nutana Collegiate, said there is optimism on some of the front lines in education.

"From my perspective, at our school, the government is doing a pretty good job. They're allowing us opportunities to offer some new programs and new ways of offering programs," he said.

Meanwhile, environment issues have resurfaced in the public consciousness in part because of the contaminated water tragedy in Walkerton, Ont., said Roger Peters, president of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society.

Residents are also concerned about

pesticide use, but those who think government has done better on environment issues may be considering the efforts the province has made to protect endangered ecological species.

Gustafson said she hopes the poll results will spur governments to support volunteer organizations that help provide the community support needed for a healthy society.

"What we haven't seen, and which is critically important, is an investment of money into the management, training and retention of volunteers," she said.

When asked which people government should help, poor children, elderly and disabled were named most frequently.

Cram said while people have sympathy for children in poor families, they didn't show the same willingness for governments to help poor people in general.

"There is some public will. But at the same time, there are feelings that families should get priority, not poor individuals. It's like the children and elderly are innocent bystanders and the adults and individuals have contributed to their personal situations."

"The results of the poll suggest people are seeing certain groups as deserving and others as not," Cram said.

—ADAM

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## CITY OF SASKATOON SURVEY

## How would you describe your satisfaction with social programs in your neighbourhood?

Excellent	3.4
Very good	19.8
Good	48.1
Fair	19.5
Poor	9.2

## How would you describe your satisfaction with recreation programs in your neighbourhood?

Excellent	7.2
Very good	27.7
Good	46.8
Fair	12.5
Poor	5.7

## How would you describe your satisfaction with caregiver services in your neighbourhood?

Excellent	5.3
Very good	20.5
Good	47.8
Fair	18.7
Poor	7.7

## How would you describe your satisfaction with protection services in your neighbourhood?

Excellent	7.8
Very good	27.7
Good	45.6
Fair	14.1
Poor	4.8

## WEIGHING OPTIONS

## Name the neighbourhood service that impacts your quality of life the most.

Protection services	17.3
Condition of roads	10.1
Safety from violence	9.3
Condition of housing	8.3
Health services	8.0
Public transit	7.1
Condition of parks	5.9
Schools	5.4
Friendliness	4.2
Neatness	3.7
Environment	3.4
Recreation programs	3.0
Traffic conditions	2.4
Green space	2.3
Safety of property	2.3
Religious activities	2.3
Shops and services	2.0
Volunteer organizations	1.2
Caregiver services	1.2
Social programs	0.5

## Name the neighbourhood service that impacts your quality of life the second most.

Health services	11.5
Protection services	11.3
Safety from violence	9.1
Condition of parks	8.4
Safety of property	6.3
Friendliness	6.0
Schools	5.6
Neatness	5.2
Condition of housing	4.7
Condition of roads	4.2
Environment	4.1
Shops and services	4.1
Public transit	3.5
Traffic conditions	3.3
Recreation programs	3.2
Social programs	2.9
Volunteer organizations	2.2
Green space	2.1
Caregiver services	1.2
Religious activities	1.0

## Name the neighbourhood service that impacts your quality of life the third most.

	%
--	---

Protection services	12.0
Health services	8.2
Safety of property	7.8
Schools	7.4
Recreation programs	7.2
Safety from violence	6.1
Shops and services	5.7
Friendliness	5.3
Neatness	5.1
Condition of roads	4.9
Condition of parks	4.6
Public transit	4.5
Environment	3.9
Social programs	3.4
Traffic conditions	3.1
Volunteer organizations	2.8
Religious activities	2.6
Condition of housing	2.0
Caregiver services	1.9
Green space	1.5

## FITTING IN

## How much do you feel a part of your neighbourhood?

Very much a part	23.9
Somewhat a part	51.2
Not very much a part	24.9

## How comfortable are you about participating in neighbourhood projects?

Very comfortable	55.4
Somewhat comfortable	34.1
Uncomfortable	10.6

## Would you feel comfortable to call for your neighbours' help during a crisis?

Yes	81.5
No	18.5

## Do you volunteer in any organizations?

Yes	65.2
No	34.8

## How would you describe your feelings of safety and security?

Excellent	18.5
Very good	36.4
Good	28.1
Fair	11.6
Poor	5.3

## A CHANGING CITY

## Over the past three years, what changes have occurred in Saskatoon's quality of life?

Improved	26.8
Stayed the same	56.7
Become worse	16.5

## Over the past three years, what changes have occurred in your neighbourhood's quality of life?

Getting better	20.8
Staying the same	66.2
Becoming worse	12.9

## GOVERNMENTS

## Over the past three years, what changes have occurred in the way governments have dealt with...

... health issues?	%
Become better	6.8
Stayed the same	29.0
Become worse	64.2

## ... environmental protection?

Become better	13.3
Stayed the same	53.4
Become worse	33.3

## ... education?

	%
--	---

Become better	11.3
Stayed the same	46.9
Become worse	41.8

## ... unemployment?

Become better	20.4
Stayed the same	51.6
Become worse	28.0

## ... recreation?

Become better	24.3
Stayed the same	63.2
Become worse	12.5

## ... income support?

Become better	11.1
Stayed the same	51.8
Become worse	37.1

## ... housing?

Become better	18.1
Stayed the same	56.9
Become worse	25.0

## ... support to volunteer organizations?

Become better	24.4
Stayed the same	56.4
Become worse	19.2

## ... improving the business climate?

Become better	31.0
Stayed the same	47.0
Become worse	22.1

## SETTING PRIORITIES

## Considering the previous list, where do you think government funding should be used first to improve quality of life?

Health services	24.6
Schools	15.3
Roads	14.2
Housing	9.2
Protection services	5.5
Public transit	4.7
Environment	4.5
Traffic conditions	4.4
Social programs	3.7
Violent crime	3.6
Parks	2.9
Recreation programs	2.0
Green space	1.1
Neatness	1.0
Friendliness	0.7
Property crime	0.6
Shops and services	0.6
Caregiver services	0.6
Religious activities	0.5
Volunteer organizations	0.1

## Considering the previous list, where do you think government funding should be used second to improve quality of life?

Schools	19.9
Health services	17.2
Roads	6.3
Housing	5.8
Protection services	5.8
Social programs	5.7
Traffic conditions	5.3
Property crime	4.8
Violent crime	4.0
Parks	3.7
Environment	3.7
Public transit	3.7
Recreation programs	3.0
Caregiver services	2.5
Neatness	2.2
Friendliness	2.0
Green space	1.3
Shops and services	1.3

Volunteer organizations	1.2
Religious activities	0.5

## Considering the previous list, where do you think government funding should be used third to improve quality of life?

Health services	13.7
Schools	12.5
Protection services	11.2
Social programs	10.4
Environment	7.3
Property crime	5.2
Recreation programs	5.2
Roads	5.1
Violent crime	5.1
Housing	4.0
Traffic conditions	3.0
Parks	2.7
Public transit	2.5
Caregiver services	2.4
Shops and services	2.1
Neatness	1.9
Friendliness	1.8
Volunteer organizations	1.8
Religious activities	1.2
Green space	0.7

## PAYING THE BILL

## What would your first choice be for governments to raise money for these priorities?

Personal taxes	61.9
User fees	32.1
Corporate taxes	4.4
Reduce spending	1.4
Sales taxes	0.1

## What would your second choice be for governments to raise money for these priorities?

Personal taxes	81.9
User fees	16.5
Corporate taxes	1.1
Sales taxes	0.3
Reduce spending	0.2

## What would your third choice be for governments to raise money for these priorities?

User fees	71.7
Personal taxes	21.9
Reduce spending	3.4
Corporate taxes	3.1

## GETTING THE BENEFIT

## What would your first choice be for a group that should benefit from governments spending?

Poor families/children	41.9
The elderly	15.1
Single parents	10.1
The disabled	7.9
Native groups	7.5
Unemployed youth	6.0
Poor individuals	5.3
New immigrants	3.5
Other	2.6

## What would your second choice be for a group that should benefit from governments spending?

The elderly	22.8
Poor families/children	14.3
New immigrants	12.4
The disabled	12.3
Unemployed youth	11.0
Single parents	10.1
Poor individuals	7.3
Native groups	7.3
Other	2.5

## What would your third choice be for a group that should benefit from governments spending?

	%
--	---

The elderly	19.1
The disabled	15.7
Single parents	15.7
Other	13.1
Unemployed youth	8.8
Poor families/children	8.3
New immigrants	7.1
Native groups	6.7
Poor individuals	5.5

## DEMOGRAPHICS

## What age category do you fall into?

18 to 24	14.8
25 to 34	21.9
35 to 44	18.7
45 to 54	21.3
55 to 64	12.4
65 to 74	7.2
75 and older	3.7

## What is your gender?

Male	41.9
Female	58.1

## What is your ethnic origin?

White	83.9
Black	0.7
Filipino	0.4
Japanese	0.2
Chinese	1.6
Native	4.2
South Asian	0.5
Southeast Asian	1.3
Middle East	0.7

## Were you born in Canada?

Yes	89.4
No	10.6

## For those who weren't born in Canada, how long have you lived in Canada?

Less than one year	2.4
One to two years	1.7
Three to five years	3.5
Five to 10 years	3.5
More than 10 years	88.9

## What is your marital status?

Single/never married	31.2
Married	52.8
Separated	3.6
Divorced	7.5
Widowed	4.9

## What is the highest level of education you've completed?

Less than Grade 9	3.2
Some high school	9.0
High school	16.0
Some trade school	7.4
Diploma or certificate	11.4
Some university	18.8
University graduate	22.6
Postgraduate	11.6

## During the past year, what was your employment status?

Working fulltime	50.9
Working parttime	16.0
Unemployed	4.4
Retired	14.2
Homemaker	3.3
Student	10.0
On leave	1.3

## How many people contribute to your household income?

None	9.6
One	45.8
Two	37.4
Three	5.3
Four or more	1.9



## INCOME/HOUSING

# City's rich get richer while poor still pay price

*Fears of ghettoization real in Saskatoon, U of S professor says*

A canyon is opening between Saskatoon's richest and poorest inhabitants.

That is the conclusion of a University of Saskatchewan academic, after reviewing results of a joint poll with the StarPhoenix.

And the growing schism could have detrimental effects on the quality of life for people living at or below the poverty line, says Ron Labonte, director of the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, at the U of S.

"If we don't move in a direction to bring in social policies to bridge the gap, we will have ghettoization like we have seen in the United States," he said.

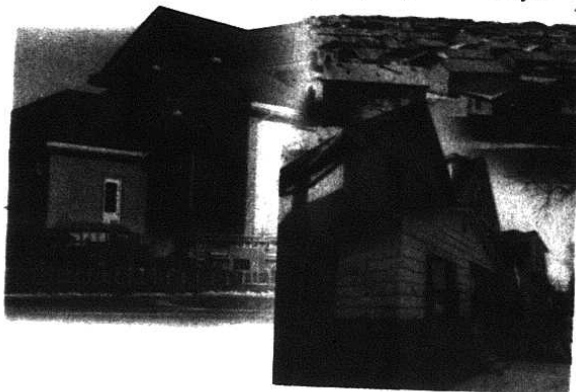
Labonte arrived at his conclusion after looking at a number of factors including home ownership, income, education levels and what is happening in other Canadian cities.

A Statistics Canada report released in December showed the income gap between rich and poor neighbourhoods in Canada's eight largest cities widening significantly between 1980 and 1995.

According to the national census data, family incomes in Riversdale, Pleasant Hill and Meadowgreen are not increasing nearly as much as in the rest of the city. Incomes rose 19 per cent in Riversdale compared to 25 per cent citywide between 1988 to 1996.

In Briarwood, East College Park and College Park, income levels skyrocketed by almost 90 per cent — more than four times more than in the city core.

Labonte said home ownership plays a major factor in the widening schism.



In core neighbourhoods, he said 34 per cent of people own homes compared to 78 per cent in more affluent areas.

"One of the major ways people accrue income in their lives is through home ownership. We are also seeing home ownership rise in the red (affluent areas) and drop in the blue (lower income areas)," said Labonte.

According to the StarPhoenix-U of S poll, people in core neighbourhoods were generally satisfied with their housing. However, they were also about five times more likely to be unhappy as people in neighbourhoods like East College Park.

Kathy Cram, a member of the community development team for Saskatoon District Health, said stagnant social assistance programs and insufficient housing are partly to blame for poverty in Saskatoon.

Poorer people, she said, are forced

to take money out of their already small food budgets to pay rent.

"Housing is so much a part of quality of life, they need stability. Some people are moving three to four times in the school year. If their children have learning disabilities, they could suffer severe effects," she said.

Even though people living in the core neighbourhoods are more pessimistic than their suburban counterparts, they are for the most part satisfied with life and optimistic about the future.

Labonte said the government, in conjunction with communities, must start bridging the gap between low- and high-income earners to make sure those dreams of success are not dashed.

"If we adopt policies moving in that direction we will be able to honour their optimism for the future."

— McNAIRN

## CITY SURVEY

What is your estimated total family income?

	%		%
None	71.0	Do you own or rent your home?	
One	10.5	Own	62.2
Two	11.1	Rent	37.2
Three	4.9	Other	0.6
Four or more	2.4		

In comparison to others, how would you describe your family's financial situation?

	%	How long have you lived in your neighbourhood?	%
Wealthy	1.5	Less than 1 year	16.2
Well off	15.8	One to two years	14.2
Comfortable	41.4	Three to five years	18.5
Adequate	27.0	Five to 10 years	15.0
Difficult	11.7	More than 10 years	36.1
Poor	2.6		

How many people, other than yourself, live in your house?

	%	How long have you lived in the city?	%
None	4.4	Less than 1 year	5.5
One	19.0	One to two years	5.1
Two	37.1	Three to five years	10.6
Three	15.9	Five to 10 years	10.4
Four	12.6	More than 10 years	68.3
Five	6.8		
Six	2.7		
Seven	0.9		
Eight	0.2		
Nine	0.2		
10 or more	0.2		

In the past year, how many homes have you lived in other than your current one?

	%
None	28.7
One	56.0
Two	11.8
Three	2.5
Four or more	1.1

How many kids younger than 18 years old live with you?

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