



CITY OF REGINA

Profile of our Capital City

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Whether you arrive by land or air, Regina seems to sprout right out of the flat prairie. Its skyline towers over the crops in the fields that surround it.

Regina began as an agricultural community, providing a distribution point for farm materials and produce for a wide area. In the early 1880s, there was little here – just fertile land, a small creek and a great deal of potential.

Originally called Pile of Bones because of the huge piles of buffalo bones left in the area by First Nations hunters, the community was renamed Regina (Latin for queen) after Queen Victoria, who was the monarch at the time. It has been the “Queen City” ever since.

The arrival of the railroad in 1882 led to rapid growth of the small village. Immigrants from Europe and the United States bought fertile homesteads for just \$10. Regina became the capital of the Northwest Territories – a 2.5-million sq. mile land mass larger than present-day Europe. In 1883, the North West Mounted Police moved their headquarters to Regina. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police training facility is still in the city and Regina is proud to be the “home of the RCMP.”

Regina grew quickly during its first few years, becoming a city in 1903. When Saskatchewan became a province in 1905, Regina was chosen as its capital. Construction of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building began in 1908. The creek

passing in front of the Legislature was dammed and the lake became the focus for a large park. It later became Wascana Centre, one of North America’s largest urban parks.

Regina’s rapid growth was slowed by drought and poor crops in the settlement’s early years. A tornado in 1912 devastated parts of the residential area south of downtown, the downtown, and the warehouse district north of the railway. Twenty-eight people were killed and thousands lost their homes.

The economy of Regina and region is now strong and diversified. Though farming remains a core industry, oil, potash, finance, telecommunications, natural gas, filmmaking, steel pipe production, and technology are very important. An oil upgrader and refinery takes Saskatchewan’s heavy crude and turns it into gasoline and other products. Potash and nitrogen-based fertilizers are produced in plants west of the city. A steel pipe manufacturing plant has been located here since the 1950s. Regina Research Park, located adjacent to the university, is working on technologies vital to our future, such as greenhouse gases and their effect on global warming. As provincial capital, Regina is also home to head offices of most Crown-owned corporations, as well as many federal regional offices.



City Government

The powers and duties of the City of Regina are set by the provincial Cities Act. Regina's municipal government is run by an elected City Council. City Councillors are elected through a ward system with the city divided into 10 wards. The Mayor is elected at large and chairs the Council meetings. Councillors and the Mayor are elected for three-year terms.

The City Manager handles the day-to-day administration of the City, under policies set by City Council.

Residents are invited to comment on issues at committee meetings or at City Council meetings. As well, they are invited to contact their City Councillor or the Mayor. For information, call 777-7000 or visit the City Web site at www.regina.ca.

Taxes

Just over half of the money needed to provide civic programs and services comes from property taxes. Other revenue sources include user fees, utility fees and grants from other levels of government.

More than half of each dollar the City of Regina collects in property taxes goes to both school boards and the public library system. Only about 44 per cent of each property tax dollar is used by the City of Regina in providing services.

CIVIC SYMBOLS

Coat of Arms



In September 1992, the new heraldic symbols were presented to the City of Regina by the Governor General of Canada.

The Coat of Arms was designed to include some elements of the 1906 original insignia. The colours reflect the yellow and gold of the grain fields which surround the city and the blue of the prairie skies.

The buffalo or bison honours the First Nations people who first lived in the area. The golden wheat sheaf depicts the role of agriculture in our economy.

The mural or stone crown (above the shield) is built from stones and symbolizes the municipal government. The royal crown above it recognizes the city being named after Queen Victoria and our status as the provincial capital.

The grassy mound at the base of the Coat of Arms represents Regina's many parks and green spaces. The two Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers celebrate the relationship between the force and the community as the "home of the RCMP." The figure on the left is a man dressed in an 1882 uniform – the year our community was founded. The figure on the right is a woman dressed in the RCMP uniform of today.

Motto

Regina's historic motto is "Floreat Regina." Translated from the Latin, it means "Let Regina flourish."

Regina's Flag

The blue upper portion of the flag symbolizes the wide prairie skies that arch over the city. The gold at the bottom represents the fields of grain that surround us. The Royal Crown symbolizes our royal roots and status as the capital of the province.



Chain of Office

The Mayor's Chain of Office was presented to the City by Frederick W. Hill, then-president of McCallum Hill Limited in 1978. It commemorates the 75th anniversaries of both the City and the company.

The gold-plated chain consists of 13 round disks which depict local historic events. The disks are linked with gold bars with the name of a Regina mayor inscribed. The former Coat of Arms is suspended from a Saskatchewan coat of arms.



Utilities

Water, sewer and residential garbage services are municipally owned. SaskPower and SaskEnergy are provincial Crown corporations, which provide electricity and natural gas, respectively. Another Crown corporation, SaskTel, provides local telecommunications services. Mobile or cellular and long-distance phone services are provided by a number of firms, including SaskTel.

Media

The community is served by eight English-language and one French-language radio stations. As well, there are three English-language and one French-language television stations, a community access cable station, one daily newspaper, a Sunday community newspaper, a French newspaper and bi-weekly community paper.

Recreation and Culture

Regina's early settlers planted trees and shrubs that turned the community into a park-like oasis on the prairies. We now have over 300,000 trees – most of which were hand planted.

Regina is also home to more than 100 parks – the largest being Wascana Centre. This 930-hectare (2,300 acre) park is home to some of Regina's most popular attractions, including the Legislative Building, Conexus Arts Centre, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the Saskatchewan Science Centre.

Government House is the oldest building in the city and was formerly the home of the Lieutenant Governors of the Northwest Territories and the Province of Saskatchewan. It has been returned to its Victorian Age splendour and offers free tours.

The Devonian Pathway is an eight-kilometre asphalt multi-use trail running along Wascana Creek from east to west. Designed for cycling, walking or jogging in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter, it features rest spots and rain shelters.

The Conexus Arts Centre is home to the Regina Symphony Orchestra, Canada's oldest continuously operating symphony orchestra. Besides hosting major travelling shows, the centre also showcases local talent.

The RCMP Training Academy and its Centennial Museum are among Regina's most popular tourist destinations. The museum offers the history of the world's most recognized and most admired police force, from its founding in 1873 to the present. Visitors can also

see how recruits are trained. A national heritage centre will open at the training academy in 2007.

Regina has many art galleries, both public and private. The MacKenzie Art Gallery in the T.C. Douglas Building is the largest. Each June, it hosts Bazaart, Saskatchewan's largest outdoor art and craft show, on its grounds.

Regina is home to hundreds of recreation facilities, from the 8,300 sq. m Sportplex with its competitive-sized pool to Canada's best lawn-bowling green. There are five municipally owned golf courses, over 200 athletic fields, an indoor and outdoor skateboarding facility, a BMX track, biking trails, an Olympic-sized track, indoor soccer facilities, swimming pools, speed skating oval, rugby and soccer fields and a cricket pitch. Whatever sport you're involved in, chances are you'll find the facilities in Regina.

IPSCO Place, formerly Exhibition Park, is Canada's second-largest trade show and exhibition facility. Each summer, it hosts the Buffalo Days Exhibition, Saskatchewan's provincial fair. It is also home to the Canadian Western Agribition, the second largest cattle show in North America, held in late November/early December. Each June, the park also hosts the Western Canada Farm Progress Show, a world-calibre showcase of dryland farming equipment and technology.

The Saskatchewan Science Centre provides a hands-on experience of science and the world around us. Films shown on the five-storey screen at the IMAX Theatre make you feel you're part of the action – from aboard the shuttle to thousands of feet below the sea.

The Royal Saskatchewan Museum showcases the natural history of Saskatchewan and other parts of the world, from pre-history to the present. The First Nations Gallery gives glimpses into the life of the people who lived in this area before European settlers arrived.

Casino Regina is housed in the historic Union Station. Its show lounge offers food, music and entertainment and is one of Regina's most popular destinations.

Jinan: Our Sister City

Regina has been twinned with Jinan, in the Shandong province of China, since 1987. The purpose is to develop exchanges that will lead to more co-operation in trade, science and technology, culture, education and civic administration.



Population

187,772 (2005 estimate by Sask Health)
16th largest city in Canada

Regina's population is ethnically and culturally diverse, with immigrants from the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, Africa and the United States.

Location

Latitude: 50° 26' North. Longitude: 104° 37' West.
Elevation: 577.4 metres above sea level
Area: The city covers 118.4 sq. km (45.7 sq. miles)

Regina is situated in South Central Saskatchewan on the Trans-Canada Highway. It is approximately midway between Calgary, Alberta and Winnipeg, Manitoba. Saskatchewan sits above the American states of North Dakota and Montana.

Climate

Regina's climate is continental with warm summers and cold, dry winters. It is the sunniest capital city in Canada with an average of 2,365 sunshine hours each year. Precipitation averages 364 mm (14 inches) each year, with most of it falling as summer rains.

Resources

Natural resources are a very important part of Regina's economy. Oil and gas, potash, sodium sulphate, bentonite, kaolin and other natural resources are found in southeastern and south central Saskatchewan.

Industry

Regina has been named one of the most affordable places to do business in western North America several times over the past few years. The Regina Regional Economic Development Authority has been established to attract new business to the area and to foster growth of existing businesses.

Here are a few of Regina's thriving industries:

- Insurance, financial and data management services
- Telecommunications
- Oil and natural gas exploration and production
- Agricultural chemicals and equipment
- Electrical and electronic equipment
- Film and video production
- Call centres
- Potash and nitrogen fertilizer production

Housing

Regina has some of the most affordable housing in Canada. The average selling price of a home in the first part of 2007 was \$117,468 (according to the Association of Regina Realtors).

Education

Regina has two school boards and systems, each supported by property taxes. The Regina Public School Board administers all public elementary and high schools, while the Regina Catholic School Board runs elementary and high schools with a Roman Catholic affiliation. There are 75 elementary schools and 14 high schools in the two systems. A third school board, the Division Scolaire Francophone, administers the kindergarten through Grade 12 school, French-language Monseigneur de Laval.

The Wascana Campus of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) offers full-time or part-time training in agriculture, industrial and technical trades, health sciences, dental, adult basic education, business and general studies.

The University of Regina and its federated colleges – Campion and Luther – provide academic training and research in a variety of fields, from engineering to journalism. The Language Institute offers training in many languages to students from around the world. The campus is also home to a large research and development park. Important research into greenhouse gases, petroleum technology and sustainable communities is taking place there.

The First Nations University of Canada (formerly the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College) is the only university-level institution in North America developed and run by First Nations peoples.

Libraries

The Regina Public Library system is one of the top ten in Canada, offering a wealth of resources to local residents. There are nine locations serving the community, as well as online searching capabilities. The library also has a top-notch art gallery and a repertory film theatre.

Transportation

Regina is located on the Trans-Canada Highway, about 160 kilometres north of the American border. It is also on the CP mainline. The Regina International Airport is the oldest in Canada and is served by six regular carriers, as well as charter service. Over 100 trucking and courier companies provide transportation of goods.



Dates of Importance to Regina

- 1882** First settlers arrive in Regina area. Construction of the headquarters of the North West Mounted Police. First issue of the Leader newspaper. Canadian Pacific Railroad arrives.
- 1883** Regina incorporated as a town; named capital of Northwest Territories. Territorial Buildings completed.
- 1884** First election for mayor and councillors took place. First mayor was D.L. Scott. Regina Fire Department begins as a bucket brigade.
- 1885** Riel/Northwest Rebellion.
- 1886** Regina's first town hall was built on the NE corner of 11th Avenue and Scarth Street. Regina Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) founded.
- 1889** Construction begins on Government House – “Palace on the Prairies.” First building on prairies with indoor plumbing, central heating, electricity and a telephone. Construction of Regina's first school.
- 1892** Regina's first police constable hired.
- 1894-95** St. Paul's Cathedral built – oldest building in downtown and oldest church.
- 1895** First Territorial Fair held in Regina.
- 1901** Queen Victoria dies.
- 1903** Regina was incorporated as a city on June 19. The first mayor was J.W. Smith.
- 1905** Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta created.
- 1906** Regina named provincial capital. Construction of Old Post Office begins.
- 1908** Second Regina City Hall was completed. The ornate brick building stood on 11th Avenue between Rose and Hamilton streets until the mid-1960s.
- 1909** Regina General Hospital built.
- 1910** Regina Rugby Club formed; it would later become the Saskatchewan Roughriders.
- 1911** Inaugural streetcar run. Regina College established by Methodist Church. Union Station built (now Casino Regina).
- 1912** Legislative Building officially opened. Tornado hits city, killing 68 and causing millions of dollars in damage. McCallum Hill Building – first 10-storey skyscraper – completed. It was imploded in 1982 to make way for the new “twin tower” McCallum Hill Buildings.
- 1914 -18** World War I, more than 600 Regina men were killed and over 2,000 wounded.
- 1918** Spanish influenza epidemic kills more than 300 in Regina.
- 1920** First Canadian licensed aerodrome/airport opened. Central Fire Hall (11th Ave.) built. RCMP headquarters move to Ottawa. Training facility stays in Regina.
- 1922** CKCK Radio begins broadcasting; world's first hockey broadcast the following year.
- 1924** Saskatchewan Wheat Pool formed.
- 1925** Regina College affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan.
- 1926** Hotel Saskatchewan built.
- 1928** General Motors Assembly Plant opens. Darke Hall construction begins.
- 1930** Albert Street Memorial Bridge built as a relief project. Wascana Lake deepened.
- 1932** Civic Relief Board helps families – one in five need assistance.
- 1933** World's Grain Exhibition and Conference held in Regina.
- 1935** Regina Riot ends On-to-Ottawa Trek. Consumer's Co-operative Refinery begins production.
- 1939** King George and Queen Elizabeth visit.
- 1954** CKCK, first television station in western Canada opened.
- 1955** Museum of Natural History (now Royal Saskatchewan Museum) opened.
- 1957** Natural gas service arrived in Regina. Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery opened.
- 1959** Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited.
- 1962** New Central Public Library opened.
- 1963** Saskatchewan Power Corporation building opened. City of Regina offices moved from City Hall to the Old Post Office building on the corner of 11th Avenue and Scarth Street, while awaiting construction of a new City Hall building.
- 1965** Regina's first enclosed shopping mall, the Northgate Mall, opened.
- 1966** Globe Theatre founded as children's touring company.
- 1967** Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts (now Conexus Arts Centre) opened.
- 1973** Regina hosted the Silver Broom curling tournament. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited for the Centennial of the RCMP.
- 1974** University of Regina established as an independent university.
- 1975** Scarth Street Mall was created.
- 1976** The present City Hall is opened.
- 1978** Regina celebrated its 75th anniversary. Cable television arrived in Regina.



- 1982** Regina celebrated the 100th anniversary of its settlement. Princess Anne visited the city.
- 1983** Silver Broom curling tournament again hosted by Regina.
- 1984** Lewvan Expressway (now Lewvan Drive) completed. Canadian Figure Skating Championships held in Regina.
- 1985** \$15-million Carbon Filtration plant added to Buffalo Pound water treatment facility to address taste and odour problems with Regina's drinking water. Introduction of the 9-1-1 emergency number. The Queen Mother visited Regina.
- 1986** Renovated and expanded airport officially opened.
- 1987** Western Canada Summer Games held in Regina. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited. Regina twinned with the City of Jinan.
- 1988** The Co-op Heavy Oil Upgrader officially began operation. Restoration of Albert Street Memorial Bridge completed.
- 1989** Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant expansion. Saskatchewan Science Centre opened. The Saskatchewan Roughriders bring home the Grey Cup.
- 1991** Kramer IMAX Theatre opened at the Saskatchewan Science Centre.
- 1992** Regina hosted the Labatt Brier curling tournament, Canadian Masters Summer Sports Festival, and the Canadian National Precision Skating Championships. Crown Life and Farm Credit Corporation relocate their

- headquarters to Regina. Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn presented Regina with its new flag and coat of arms.
- 1994** Casino Regina opened in old Union Station.
- 1995** Regina hosted the Grey Cup.
- 1997** 10th Anniversary of Twinning with Jinan. Scott Tournament of Hearts (women's curling championships) hosted in Regina.
- 1998** CANAM Police & Fire Games held in Regina.
- 2000** SIAST consolidated Regina operations in old Plains Hospital.
- 2001** Prince Charles visited. The city hosted the Memorial Cup junior hockey championships and the Roar of the Rings Olympic curling trials.
- 2002** Regina celebrated Queen's Jubilee. RCMP and Government House announced expansion plans.
- 2003** City held Centennial celebrations. Regina hosted Grey Cup. Prince Edward visited. First Nations University of Canada opened.
- 2004** Regina recognized as one of the Cultural Capitals of Canada. Wascana Lake is drained and deepened during "The Big Dig." Princess Anne visited to commemorate 60th anniversary of D-Day.
- 2005** Saskatchewan celebrated Centennial. Jeux du Canada Summer Games held in Regina. Queen Elizabeth II visited.
- 2006** Tim Hortons Brier Curling Championship held in Regina. Governor General Michaëlle Jean visited. Rolling Stones performed for 90,000 fans in two shows at Mosaic Stadium.

