



February 7, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Saskatchewan Pension Plan Celebrates 20 Years**

With a newly announced estimated return rate of 10 per cent for 2005, the Saskatchewan Pension Plan continues to prove its stability and performance into its 20th anniversary year.

Since inception in 1986, the Saskatchewan Pension Plan has provided an easy, flexible means of retirement savings for anyone between the ages of 18 and 69. Today the Plan exceeds \$259 million in assets and has grown to 30,000 members.

“The Saskatchewan Pension Plan is one of this province’s best kept secrets,” Minister of Finance Harry Van Mulligen said. “The Plan has never experienced a negative return, and has been a strong performer every year—the average annual return rate since inception is 9.5 per cent.”

Based in Kindersley, the Saskatchewan Pension Plan was created by the provincial government as a savings vehicle intended for individuals with little or no access to workplace pensions or other retirement savings arrangements. The Plan consists of a balanced fund for investment and an annuity fund for retirees. It is professionally managed by Greystone Managed Investments Inc. and Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd. and ranks among Canada’s top 50 defined contribution pension plans.

The Plan is designed to accommodate virtually anyone’s financial position—students, farmers, self-employed persons, stay-at-home parents and the like. There is also an employer plan suited for small businesses. Contributions can be made at any time, in any amount up to \$600 per year. Just like an RRSP, contributions can be claimed as a deduction on a tax return, providing the investor has RRSP room. There are no membership fees, nor are there any sales commissions when contributing or upon retirement.

“The Saskatchewan Pension Plan is a long-term, winning investment option,” Van Mulligen said. “It’s a reliable and easy way to invest your money for a competitive return.”

Making regular contributions is the best way to use the Saskatchewan Pension Plan. Based on a conservative return rate of eight per cent, contributions of just \$25 per month over 40 years (\$12,000 total investment) could grow to more than \$80,825 in time for retirement.

Contributions to the Saskatchewan Pension Plan made by March 1, 2006 can be used as a deduction for the 2005 tax year. For more information about the Saskatchewan Pension Plan check out the website at [www.saskpension.com](http://www.saskpension.com).

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