

Saskatchewan Politics - Week in Review

Week ending January 24, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This week's GSD Insider is all about **who really holds the power right now...the province, courts, Ottawa, or global markets...and what that means for Saskatchewan**.

On the international front, China's decision to lift its ban on Canadian beef is great news for Saskatchewan ranchers...as long as it actually happens...reopening an important export market and improving long-term price stability. That optimism, however, was quickly tempered by U.S. President Donald Trump's public threat to impose a 100% tariff on all Canadian goods if Canada deepens trade ties with China. Combined with Prime Minister Carney's recent China trip and his Davos speech, Western Canada is once again caught between global powers...where tone, timing, and follow-through matter as much as the deal itself.

At the same time, a series of court decisions signalled a growing pushback against overreach...something Prairie readers will recognize immediately. Courts tossed the coal injunction, clearly reaffirming that elected governments, not judges, make environmental and energy policy. Coming just one week after the Federal Court of Appeal ruled Ottawa's use of the Emergencies Act during the Freedom Convoy was unreasonable, a clear pattern is emerging: limits are being re-drawn around who gets to govern. For Saskatchewan, that matters. It restores policy space on energy reliability and affordability, reinforces democratic accountability, and pushes back against decision-making that bypasses legislatures and regional realities.

Against that backdrop, Saskatchewan's provincial file remained relatively steady and pragmatic. Government announcements focused on housing supply, hospital safety, long-term care capacity, research funding, crop insurance modernization, and reducing red tape in key industries like energy and agriculture. The Saskatchewan NDP leaned hard into affordability, power rates, rent increases, education staffing, and health-care safety...sharpening the contrast between provincial growth statistics and local pressures felt in communities. Taken together, this week reinforced a familiar Prairie takeaway: Saskatchewan continues to perform economically, but remains highly exposed to global politics and federal decisions...which is exactly why stability, infrastructure, and regional autonomy continue to matter so much west of Winnipeg.