

## The Saskatchewan Throne Speech 2025 “Strong, Safe, Secure”

### Introduction

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The second session of the 30th Legislature opened on October 22, 2025, with Lt.-Gov. Bernadette McIntyre delivering the government’s plan under the banner “**Strong. Safe. Secure.**” Premier Scott Moe’s government emphasized three priorities for the year ahead: keep Saskatchewan working, keep life affordable, and keep communities safe...through multi-year personal income-tax relief, tougher measures on drug trafficking plus a new “compassionate intervention” path for those at extreme risk, continued work on primary-care access and surgical throughput, faster school builds, and a reliability-first energy strategy.

### What is a Throne Speech?

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A Throne Speech is the kick-off to the year in the Legislature. The government lays out what it wants to do before debates and votes begin. Think of it as the roadmap; if something isn’t in here, it’s less likely to be a priority.

### Details

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Below is a plain-English, easy to understand rundown of the Throne Speech, organized by the big areas people feel everyday...affordability and taxes, safety and addictions, health care, education and childcare, trade and jobs, energy and power bills, and a few quality-of-life items. For each one, we spell out what the government says it will do (in simple terms) and why it matters to you.

### Overview

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The 2025 Throne Speech come across as the Saskatchewan government preparing to “Weathering a Storm”, it was designed to endure a period of turbulence with steadiness and resolve. That means holding course through economic and political headwinds, protecting what matters most, and emerging intact once the skies clear. It was calm in tone, cautious in outlook, and meant to assure people that the province is prepared for whatever clouds may gather. Under the banner “Strong. Safe. Secure”, the Saskatchewan government is charting a steady course through uncertain conditions: reinforcing health care, expanding education, tightening community safety, and keeping life affordable. It’s a message of resilience...less about chasing new horizons than about holding the line when the winds pick up.

Premier Scott Moe's approach looks to be leaning into predictability, discipline, and control the things you can control, qualities that serve well in turbulent weather. Yet this very steadiness highlights the government's anchoring in continuity over creativity, offering more reassurance than renewal.

## Highlights

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### **Affordability & taxes**

**What it is:** Income-tax cuts keep rolling as part of a four-year plan, and the usual supports stay in place...the Home Renovation Tax Credit, Graduate Retention, family and seniors benefits, and the 1% small-business corporate tax.

**Why it matters to you:** This is steady, ongoing relief rather than a one-time cheque. It won't make mortgages or groceries cheap, but it helps keep Saskatchewan more affordable than many places, which matters for families and local businesses.

### **Safety, addictions & community well-being**

**What it is:** The plan takes a tougher line on drug traffickers while introducing a Compassionate Intervention law so, in the most extreme cases, people at serious risk can be required to get treatment. It's backed by more supportive housing and outreach, and there are new rules aimed at cyberstalking and coercive control so abuse online is treated seriously.

**Why it matters to you:** The goal is to feel safer downtown and, in your neighbourhood, while giving families a real path to recovery for loved ones...treatment that sticks, with housing and follow-up. There will be debate about rights and capacity, but the intent is clear: hit traffickers hard and help people in crisis get care.

### **Health care (your day-to-day access)**

**What it is:** The government is promising that by 2028 every person in Saskatchewan will have a regular primary-care provider. This means a family doctor or nurse practitioner you can see for checkups, prescriptions, and day-to-day health issues. They're adding more urgent-care options, so you don't have to use the ER for non-life-threatening problems. This includes the Regina's urgent-care centre which is now open and Saskatoon's is being set up now. They also want to do more surgeries, faster, to clear the

backlog and shorten wait lists, and they plan to hire more front-line clinicians...including nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs)...so it's easier to get an appointment.

**Why it matters to you:** You'll have "your own" provider for ongoing care instead of between walk-ins or ERs. Waits for surgeries should come down, and there will be a faster place to go for urgent but not emergency issues. More clinicians in the system means more available appointments and less time driving or waiting.

### **Education & childcare**

**What it is:** There's extra attention on early reading in K–3, continuing funding for more than 500 additional teachers, and a plan to build schools faster to keep up with enrolment. Post-secondary funding is meant to keep tuition in check. The province says it has passed 90% of its goal for 28,000 new child-care spaces.

**Why it matters to you:** Smaller classes and quicker school builds make school better for kids and teachers right away. Reliable childcare lets parents work or train and is a big reason families stay in Saskatchewan.

### **Trade, jobs & the economy**

**What it is:** With tariffs and shifting global rules in the background, the plan is to sell into more markets and lower barriers inside Canada through a Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act.

**Why it matters to you:** Farms, mines, manufacturers, and service firms need steady orders and open routes. More places to sell and fewer Canadian roadblocks usually mean more stable jobs and paycheques at home.

### **Energy & power bills**

**What it is:** A Saskatchewan-First Energy Security Strategy focuses on reliable, affordable power. That means moving ahead on nuclear, keeping coal where it's still allowed, and avoiding policies the province believes could risk reliability.

**Why it matters to you:** Families and small businesses feel power-bill changes immediately, and big employers invest where power is steady, and costs are predictable. The details to watch are timelines, costs, and who makes which decisions.

### **Everyday Saskatchewan (parks, culture, sport)**

**What it is:** The plan allows regulated tailgating at Mosaic Stadium and introduces a From Many Peoples, Strength law to formally recognize community observances.

**Why it matters to you:** These are small, visible changes that build pride, make events easier, and add a bit of fun while the larger system work continues.

### **Reactions and Response – The Day After**

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#### **NDP**

- They've escalated on EV tariffs/canola: announcing an emergency motion pressing the government to clearly oppose the federal EV tariff because of China's retaliatory hits on canola, pork, peas, etc.
- They're keeping the privatization line alive: pointing to the energy plan's "governance & ownership review" as a risk to SaskPower; framing it as privatization "code."
- Regional push: NDP MLAs are also saying the speech missed northern hardships (costs, services, safety). Expect those stories to show up in debate.

#### **Government response**

- On tariffs: government comms say the speech did acknowledge U.S./China tariff pressure and pledged to keep working to remove tariffs while diversifying export markets; they're countering the NDP's "silent" narrative.
- On safety/compassion: they're fleshing out bills—Compassionate Intervention Act (involuntary treatment in extreme cases) and a Cyberstalking & Coercive Control law; Moe is doing radio hits to explain scope/intent.

#### **Media & community framing (same focus, more specificity)**

- Coverage centers on the "safety + compassion" pairing...mandatory treatment + tougher enforcement...now with clearer bullets on what the bills would do and who they'd target.
- Internal trade remains a watch item; outlets note a coming Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act, but details are still TBD...business groups will be scanning the fine print once tabled.
- Agriculture lenses are tying the throne speech back to the tariff fight; prairie ag media are actively debating the EV-tariff linkage and what "removal" would take.

## GSD perspective

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- **For households:** You should feel this in the basics: a bit of tax relief every year, shorter waits and an easier time getting a regular provider, and safer streets with more visible supports for people in crisis. The compassionate-intervention piece will only work if there are beds, housing, and follow-up...so we'll be watching to see if this happens.
- **For businesses and workers:** The message is stability...predictable taxes, easier selling across provinces, and a drive for reliable, affordable power. What you'll want next are the energy timelines and costs, because those drive investment planning.
- **For schools, clinics, and community services:** Dollars are important, but the scoreboard is outcomes: early literacy, class size/complexity, primary-care attachment, surgical throughput, urgent-care use, and supportive-housing placements. We'll track these as updates come out.

## Summary – After the Storm

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In the end, Strong. Safe. Secure. isn't about chasing clear skies; it's about standing firm when the winds and storms rise. The 2025 Throne Speech reflects a government comfortable steering through turbulence...not untouched by it but tested by it. The true measure will come not during the storm itself, but in how the province rebuilds afterward: with clearer policy, stronger partnerships, and visible results.

If the government can move from reassurance to delivery...from battening down the hatches to setting full sail again...it will have proven that steady leadership can indeed weather the storm. But if the winds shift faster than the response, even the sturdiest ship can drift off course. Saskatchewan's challenge now is to hold its bearings...not just to survive the storm, but to emerge stronger in its wake.

## Conclusion

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The speech sets a direction; what counts is what people actually feel. If monthly costs ease a bit, if streets feel safer and more people get treatment and housing, if waits for care come down and classrooms are less crowded, then "Strong. Safe. Secure." will mean something in daily life. If not, they will just be words.



The Growth Plan themes remain...put the people of Saskatchewan first, open more markets, build value here, and keep power reliable. Next comes delivery. This means pass the bills, fund the programs, and publish clear numbers so everyone can see what's improving.

For businesses, municipalities, and community groups: speak up now with specific input on internal trade rules, addictions and housing supports, school construction, and the energy plan. Concrete feedback and practical ideas at this stage can shape how the programs roll out in your community.