

Saskatchewan Politics - Week in Review Week ending February 7, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This week's update reflects a familiar theme: Saskatchewan is doing well economically, but Western alienation and frustration with federal decision-making is beginning to move from fringe into mainstream...something we have said would happen if Ottawa continues to ignore Western Canadian concerns.

New labour force data showing Saskatchewan added roughly 15,000 jobs to start 2026 gave the province a strong economic headline and reinforced its reputation for steady, broad-based growth. At the same time, that strength is unfolding against rising frustration across the West about federal institutions, national decision-making, and who actually holds power in Confederation.

Interprovincial politics dominated much of the broader conversation. Alberta Premier Danielle Smith escalated tensions by challenging Ottawa's control over judicial appointments...a move that happened during Alberta's increasingly serious separation debate and growing public engagement. B.C. Premier David Eby's decision to label Alberta separatists "treasonous" only poured fuel on the fire, triggering backlash across the Prairies and reinforcing perceptions of double standards between Western and Quebec nationalism. At home, the Saskatchewan NDP leaned hard into healthcare access, crime, affordability, and Crown finances...painting a picture of everyday strain beneath the province's strong top-line numbers and sharpening the contrast between economic growth and benefiting from it.

Against all of that, Saskatchewan continued to quietly position itself for the future. Government announcements focused on jobs, housing, community safety, and early literacy, while longer-term economic strategy came into sharper focus through growing momentum on critical minerals. That includes the potential for Canada's first major alumina resource following the Canadian Energy Metals announcement, alongside the REAlloys-SRC partnership, Hoidas Lake, and a broader push toward processing and value-added manufacturing. Taken together, the takeaway for Prairie readers is clear: Saskatchewan is entering 2026 from a position of relative strength, but the political environment around it is becoming more volatile, more polarized, and harder for Ottawa to ignore.