Sask Innovation Week invites province to celebrate

Sask Innovation Week: Pathways to Innovation arrives October 21-26 with events showcasing the latest ideas from the worlds of business, science, and art – from gallery and synchrotron tours and creating moving sculpture, to harnessing creativity for business and communicating about agriculture from field to plate.

“We are fortunate to have a strong innovation landscape in Saskatchewan – and that is thanks to the world-class group of groundbreaking businesses and individuals who call this province home,” said Bill Boyd, Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan. “Innovation is a key component of our government’s growth agenda. After all, our ability to develop and transform in all sectors of our economy will be vital in meeting the needs and challenges of a growing Saskatchewan.”

Pre-week events include Lego robot building and a family innovation challenge at the Saskatchewan Science Centre in Regina, as well as an Ideas2Grow creative thinking workshop for business and a public tour and curator talk at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon.

“The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) is pleased to actively participate in and sponsor Sask Innovation Week this year,” said Dr. Laurier Schramm, SRC President and CEO. “Since being formed 66 years ago, SRC has played a leading role in Saskatchewan’s innovation system as we help Saskatchewan industry convert new ideas and knowledge into commercially successful products and services that increase competitiveness and boost the economy.”

Innovation Week itself kicks off in Saskatoon with a networking and media event on October 21 at the Galleria Building at Innovation Place. The event will feature speakers from the Government of Saskatchewan, Innovation Saskatchewan, City of Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan Research Council, the University of Saskatchewan and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGS).

“Saskatchewan’s history is steeped with the ingenuity and collaboration of pioneers, who applied their energy and ideas to every new challenge from the field and forest to the lab, studio, or manufacturing plant,” said Lesley McGilp, chair of the Sask Innovation Week committee. “This week encourages people to celebrate and embrace the different paths people take to innovation, and get them thinking about how they can chart their own paths and make their own contributions.”

Some highlights of Innovation Week include professional development events such as BioBasics, a two-day course on biotech for the non-scientist starting on October 21, “The Future of Productivity” talk by Bill Currie, Deloitte Managing Director for the Americas, on October 23, a half-day session on “Communicating the Science of Agriculture” hosted by Genome Prairie on October 24th and the “Build Saskatchewan Green Conference” on October 25th.

Featured events also include Pathways to Innovation seminars in Saskatoon on October 22nd and Regina on October 23rd, with speakers including entrepreneurs, business experts, innovation support
organizations, and government agencies. “A Taste of Innovation” on October 24 will celebrate new food products developed by Saskatchewan’s companies, prepared by three of Saskatoon’s top chefs at Boffins Club at Innovation Place.

"As engineers and geoscientists, we see more,” said APEGs Past President Leon Botham, P.Eng., FEC. “We see the details of the safe development of our province’s natural resources. We identify the requirements for the provision of safe and efficient infrastructure. And we see opportunities to contribute to the economic and social growth of our communities. Through their innovation our members are proud to be helping to shape the future of our province."

One of the final highlights of Innovation Week will be the grand opening and open house of the Saskatchewan Research Council’s Mineral Processing Pilot Plant, where visitors can learn about advances in technologies such as rare earth separation and other techniques to tap the province’s mineral wealth. SRC’s Pipe Flow Technology Centre™ and Diamond Lab will also be open for tours.

Conceived in 2012, Innovation Week is a showcase and celebration of made-in-Saskatchewan ideas and the people behind them. Check out www.saskinnovationweek.ca for the full lineup of Innovation Week speakers, contests, seminars and showcases targeted at children, students, entrepreneurs, scientists and the public. Sask Innovation Week is being held in conjunction with with National Science and Technology Week and also coincides with Small Business Week, and Design Week, all three of which also contain elements of innovation.

Innovation Week is supported by Innovation Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Research Council, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGs), Innovation Place, and 2Web Design.

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