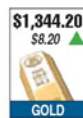


# BUSINESS



## City third in entrepreneurship

### Property tax policies create good conditions for business: CFIB

REGINA (SNN) — Saskatoon has fallen out of first place in the latest ranking of Canada's top entrepreneurial cities, compiled by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

The city placed third this year, a credit to Saskatoon's business tax policies, says a CFIB official.

"Saskatoon has taken a very focused approach" to deal with certain issues such as the level of property taxes levied on business, said

Marilyn Braun-Pollon, the vice-president for Saskatchewan with the CFIB.

While business properties continue to be taxed at a higher rate in Saskatoon than residential properties, Braun-Pollon said city council has gradually reduced the difference.

Other cities, including Regina, need to review the burden of taxes faced by businesses compared to residential properties, Braun-Pollon said.

Regina city council also has to review the levels of services it provides and consider how those services can be delivered more economically, Braun-Pollon said.

Regina and Moose Jaw fell out of the top 10 in the latest CFIB ranking, which was released Thursday. Regina ranked 14th out of 100 metropolitan areas in the country, down

from last year's eighth place standing.

Moose Jaw has also dropped down to 27th place this year from fourth place last year.

"We're disappointed that Moose Jaw and Regina fell out of the top 10," said Braun-Pollon.

Property tax increases in Moose Jaw and Regina were likely a factor in pushing down their rankings, Braun-Pollon said.

Both cities should try to hold the line on tax increases next year to get back into the top 10, Braun-Pollon said.

"There's no excuse for property tax increases in 2011; we've told municipal leaders that," Braun-Pollon said.

The CFIB ranking is based on 12 criteria, including statistical information as well as perspectives provided by CFIB members in surveys.

While Regina and Saskatoon's standing has fallen this year, Braun-Pollon conceded they still are in the top half of the class in the nationwide comparison with 100 communities.

It is also significant that three Saskatchewan communities — including second-place Lloydminster, Saskatoon and fourth-place Prince Albert — finished in the top 10 nationally, Braun-Pollon said.

"It's not all bad news," she said, adding much of the information arising out of the survey is positive for Saskatchewan.

Nine of the top 10 rated entrepreneurial communities come from Western Canada.

Grand Prairie, Alta., finished in first place, while Cornwall, Ont., was in 100th place.

(REGINA LEADER-POST)

### HANDS-ON EDUCATION



Lauren Holfeuer (left) and Cassidy Thomson prepare to give a puppet show at Howard Coad School Wednesday. The show, using characters from the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan and Wide Open Theatrical Escapades, is designed to teach that kids food comes from the farm, not the fridge. (SP Photo by Greg Pender)

### New tenants announced for University Heights Square

A number of new tenants have been announced for University Heights Square in the city's northeast.

Eleven new businesses will now join the five previously announced tenants for the site, which include Shoppers Drug Mart and Shell Canada.

The new tenants are: Darq Tan; Image Orthodontics; Kenderline Medical Clinic; Little Caesars Pizza; One Tooth; Pet Planet; Quiznos; The Wireless Age; Wendy's; Wok Box and Investors Group, which is taking up tenancy in the project's second-phase office complex.

"We are excited to welcome these tenants to the project," said Ken Suchan, vice-president of Colliers McClocklin Real Estate Corp., which is the leasing agent for the 23-acre site.

"There is strong demand for retail services in University Heights with over 30,000 people in the area and a projected population of over 45,000 — larger than Prince Albert."

Some of the new Phase 1 tenants could open their doors as early as Dec. 1, Colliers McClocklin said.

Of the tenants announced earlier this year, Tim Hortons is set to open Oct. 29. CIBC and KFC are also opening in University Heights Square.

## Smaller businesses a big part of city's growth