



*Media Release - Monday April 11, 2023*

## **Parliamentary Exchange with Indian State of Haryana Underway**

Members of the Legislative Assembly are in India to kick-off an official parliamentary exchange with the State of Haryana, located in northern India.

The Saskatchewan Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation, led by the Honourable Randy Weekes, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and MLA for Biggar-Sask Valley, includes the MLA for Melville-Saltcoats Warren Kaeding and MLA for Saskatoon Meewasin Nathaniel Teed, who will take part in the exchange to enhance ties with India and facilitate the sharing of ideas, knowledge, and experience.

“This is a rare opportunity to find new and innovative ways to better serve constituents in both of our jurisdictions, while exploring opportunities to enhance our important relationship” Weekes said. “Saskatchewan has an important and longstanding relationship with India and it’s critical we keep building our relationship. Partnering on this exchange allows us to continue to strengthen ties and ensure future success together.”

Last April, the Government of Saskatchewan and the State of Haryana in the Republic of India established a strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Intent to advance opportunities in skills development, academic study and research, trade and investment and other areas of joint interest such as a parliamentary exchange.

Saskatchewan has a vibrant and growing Indo-Canadian community. Since 2018, our province has welcomed more than 20,000 new permanent residents from India, while more than 41 per cent of international post-secondary students in Saskatchewan are from India.

India has a population of over 1.4 billion people and is a significant global market for Saskatchewan. In 2022, total exports to that country were valued at \$1.4 billion. More than 50 per cent of lentils imported into India originate in Saskatchewan.

Premier Scott Moe recently returned from a successful mission to India with notable outcomes for Saskatchewan in the areas of sustainability, natural resources, agriculture, and education.

The delegation will return from India on April 15.

As part of this parliamentary exchange, the Saskatchewan branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will host officials from Haryana later this year.