

# SASKATOON STARPHOENIX

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ROBIN AND ARLENE KARPAN

A photo captured by Robin and Arlene Karpan in the wilderness of Saskatchewan's Athabasca Sand Dunes has been selected to be included on a Canada Post stamp as part of a series of nine must-see Canadian destinations. **A3**



Robin and Arlene Karpan at the site of the photo selected for a Canada Post stamps paying tribute to nine must-see Canadian sites. The dunes are in a remote wilderness areas with no roads or buildings. *ROBIN AND ARLENE KARPAN*

## Sask. sand dune photo now adorns stamp

ANGELA HILL

A photo from Saskatchewan's Athabasca Sand Dunes Provincial Park now appears on a Canada Post stamp.

Saskatchewan travel writers and photographers Robin and Arlene Karpan captured the image during one of their trips to the northern Saskatchewan park on the shores of Lake Athabasca.

"Getting a shot like this, everything has to work out right," Robin said.

He can't remember exactly when the photo was taken, but recalls canoeing upstream from Lake Athabasca, then hiking for a few hours into an area with about 40 giant sand dunes. The pair had to wait for sunset to get one side of the dune in shadow — which, during summer months, happens around 10:30 p.m. — before Robin could snap the photo of Arlene.

It was well after midnight before they returned to their campsite.

The provincial park is strictly a wilderness park, with no roads, transportation, buildings or people, he said.

"It's part of what makes it special," Robin said.

"It's a fairly pristine area."

While it's the Karpans' favourite place in the province, Robin said he doesn't think the dunes are the first thing most people picture when they think of Saskatchewan.

"Saskatchewan is so diverse, from grasslands to boreal forest. I think most people will think of Saskatchewan as southern prairies or northern forest and lakes, but probably few people will think about sand dunes," he said, adding that it is representative of the province because Saskatchewan has more sand dunes than anywhere in Canada.

The Canada Post From Far and Wide series 2020 edition features images from nine places across the country.

"It's kind of neat that they chose one of our photos as what they consider as one of the top sites in Canada and it was also nice that this is our favourite place as well," Robin said.

This is the second year the Karpans have worked with Canada Post.

The 2019 From Far and Wide series featured their image of Castle Butte in the Big Muddy Badlands. *Postmedia News*

## Arctic cold mass gripping much of Western Canada forecast to loiter for days

Those waking up to frigid temperatures across Saskatchewan can take some cold comfort knowing they aren't alone.

Environment Canada had extreme cold warnings in effect Tuesday for most of southern and central Saskatchewan, as well as portions of the north, with wind chills in Saskatoon and Regina dipping below -40C in the morning.

The frigid conditions are the result of Arctic air lingering throughout the Prairies as well as large sections of Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

The weather office says wind chills in some Prairie and territorial regions could tumble below -50C.

The cold is also reaching into British Columbia, where northern and central parts of the province

were expected to experience wind chills of -40 to -45C.

Below-zero temperatures and snow were even expected on B.C.'s south coast, where daffodils had begun blooming just last week.

In Saskatchewan, Environment Canada advised that extreme wind chill values on Tuesday were expected to relent through the day, but return overnight. This trend was expected to continue until later this week, with cold air expected to linger over the Prairies for a few more days.

This is the second week of bone-chilling temperatures since the jet stream shifted south earlier this month, paving the way for high pressure systems from the Arctic to move in.

*Postmedia News*

*With files from The Canadian Press*



## Pivotal insurance industry appeal to begin

Bankruptcies could hinge on court's ruling

ALEX MACPHERSON

Saskatchewan's highest court is set to spend the next three days hearing a case that could have lasting implications for Canada's insurance industry, hundreds of policyholders and the provincial government.

The case, which will be heard at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal in Regina on Wednesday, will test whether investors can put any amount of money into certain life insurance policies with a guaranteed rate of return, as well as the effects of the province's decision to intervene in a live court case.

The plaintiffs — investors who own the 20-plus-year-old policies — want the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan to overturn a lower court's ruling that says they cannot use the policies for "unlimited stand-alone investment opportunities."

While the investors have argued the policies do not have a cap on premiums and can be used for exactly that, three of the country's largest insurers contend the policies were never intended to be used that way and, if they are, it could bankrupt them.

The insurance companies, meanwhile, are asking the court to reverse the same justice's finding that new provincial regulations, introduced during the original trial to close the loophole used by the investors, cannot be applied retroactively.

The provincial government's decision to make the changes by way of a three-page order that mentions neither the trial nor the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co.'s (Manulife) lobbying efforts has been criticized as not transparent and potentially unfair.

Saskatchewan Attorney General Don Morgan later acknowledged the province could have been more transparent, but emphasized the decision to protect the companies and, by extension, the people they insure was the correct one.

The case is set to be heard