

From the Big Chair



Welcome to 2024! As one year passes and another begins, people often take time to reflect on the year just passed or make far reaching predictions about the year to come. I thought I would take a different approach. I thought I would spill the beans, share the secret, let the cat out of the bag; I am going to share what I told Santa I wanted for Christmas. Here is my wish list!

Just like the beauty pageant contestants of days gone by, I wished for world peace. However, when I made my wish I wasn't in a skimpy bathing suit, on high heels, with big hair. I truly wanted the Christmas wish of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All!" to really be a thing. I wanted world conflicts to end so people could feel safe and be safe wherever they call home and meaningless deaths to end. I wished that all the "bad things" in the world – like human trafficking, drug overdoses, depression, scams and frauds, racism – would come to an end and all people would see only the good in each other and look out for themselves and everyone they encounter.

I wished our country could come together again for the good of all our citizens and the divisiveness would end. I wished governments would make decisions in the best interests of all people to make our country stronger. I wished the country could be prosperous and governments would practice fiscal responsibility and not leave deficits to look after themselves. I wished that we could

say we are proud to be Canadians without having to provide qualifiers or feel guilty for saying it; that we could once again be the friendly, polite, welcoming country we were once known as.

I wished for a province that could truly celebrate our rich natural resources and use them to better the province, its people, the country and the world. I wished that the government would manage deficits, finding ways to address all the issues we struggle with. I wished all residents, especially rural residents, would continue to support Ronald McDonald House, Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and STARS as these services do so much good for all Saskatchewan people, but especially rural Saskatchewan. I wished the Riders would win more than 6 games a season and that bleeding green was about pride in our team and not the pain and sadness of being a fan. I wished we could all take time to enjoy the beauty and richness of our land of living skies. I first thought it was a sappy saying until I took the time to really observe and understand the truth behind the description.

For Unity I wished only the best for our community and area. I wished the rains would be timely and plentiful all year. I wished for a wonderful growing season so that crops and pasture lands would flourish. I wished for bountiful crops and stellar prices. I wished for lush hay lands with sleek cattle grazing. I wished for strong oil prices to provide steady employment and good wages. I wished that salt would continue to be pulled from the ground providing an economic boost to the area. I wished the business community would be supported by area residents since a strong business community makes for a strong community overall. I wished that professional service providers, tradespeople and all those who provide any type of service or support, stay in Unity and people continue to look at Unity as a good place to call home and raise a family.

Let's be honest, in my wish list I didn't forget the credit union. I mean after all, how could I? I wished that people in the area would continue to support their locally owned and managed financial institution or try us if they are not using our services. Why not use and support an organization

that supports and gives back to the community in various ways? I wished that we would enjoy growth, continued success, undying support and people would continue to make payments since all the rest of my wishes included prosperity for others. Hey, it is my wish list!

As I said at the beginning, I decided not to look back on the year that was or make wise or educated predictions about the future. I simply wanted to wish our membership and community all the best and much prosperity in 2024! Unity Credit Union is in your community. It is your financial institution. We are only as good as the people who support us. As you consider where you wish to deal remember that since we live in your community and also call it home, we understand what is going on and how it affects our members' lives. We like to celebrate your successes, but we will also do our best to support you when times are less than perfect, which we know also happens. Let us be your good neighbour – give us a try!

Happy New Year and all the best in 2024!

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