



Saskatchewan Association  
of Rural Municipalities



# Policy Department Update

**JUNE DIVISION MEETINGS**  
**JUNE 2016**

# AGENDA



- **Conflict of Interest**
- **Industry Financial Contributions**
- **PFRA Pastures**
- **Growing Forward**
- **Asset Management**
- **Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant**
- **Grade Crossings**
- **Got Gravel**
- **PIPP**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species**
- **Incinerators**
- **Fire Suppression and Vehicle Extrication Rates**
- **Community Safety Officer Program**
- **Policy Department Communications**

# Conflict of Interest



## Amendments to *The Municipalities Act*

- **Sect. 81.1 – Council Meeting Procedures Bylaw**
- **Section 93.1 – Adopt Code of Ethics**
- **Section 94 – Oath or Affirmation**
- **Section 111.1 – Employee Code of Conduct**
- **Section 141.1 – Conflict Beyond Financial Benefit**

# Conflict of Interest



## Amendments to *The Municipalities Act* cont'd...

- Section 142 – Public Disclosure Statement
- Section 144 – Declaring Conflict of Interest
- Provincial Ombudsman Jurisdiction over Municipalities

# Conflict of Interest



## *Next Steps:*

- Continue to consult on amendments to *The Municipalities Regulations*
- Continue to lobby for authorities of Council needed to effectively implement changes
- Clearer processes and resources for Council
- Whistleblower protection

# Industry Financial Contributions



- **Purpose:** provide the Government of Saskatchewan with options for legislative, regulatory and/or program changes
- **Focus:** issues facing industry and rural municipalities (RMs) with respect to development and growth
- **Timeline:** April 2015 – Present (Expected completion over 1 year)

# Industry Financial Contributions



## To-date:

- **Property Taxation Review, with Comparative Analysis for 2013-2014**
- **Analysis of Rural Municipality Assessment and Taxation of Oil and Gas Wells 2014**
- **Additional Fees and Charges**
- **Analysis of Property Taxation and Transportation Services Expenses for Petroleum and Non-petroleum RMs for 2014**
- **Road Maintenance Agreements**
- **RM Case Studies – RMs of Cambria, Kindersley, Manitou Lake, Meota, Paynton, and Wilton**
- **Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act and Regulation Review**

# Industry Financial Contributions



## Next Steps:

- Board response to Potash Tax Sharing Review
- Further assess information provided in analyses provided by Province
- Monitor information being provided to Province by volunteer RMs
- Review 2015 mill rate information against 2014 information being used in review
- Continue to press for meeting with all stakeholders involved in each piece of the review
- Continue lobby for defensible minimum RMA rates to be established by Province as well as a fair increase to RMA rates and adequate plan for future increases
- Consultations w/ RMs



# PFRA Pastures



## History of SARM Involvement:

- SARM got in front of this issue at its onset in 2011
- Between 2011 – present over 1000 staff and Board hours have been spent on this file
- SARM staff and Board reviewed all of the related documentation as it became available and consulted w/ RMs throughout process
- SARM originally offered to administer pastures on behalf of Province; offer was turned down
- SARM offered to facilitate the transfers for RMs once the Province was clear that it would not be transfer the lands to RMs or continue to manage the PFRA pastures; however, Community Pasture Patron Groups were established

# PFRA Pastures



- SARM monitored transfers as they occurred and provided various types of assistance to numerous RMs throughout the process
- Numerous resolutions on the PFRA pastures have come to the floor at SARM conventions; some have passed and others have been defeated

**2012M - BE IT RESOLVED** that SARM lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to support proposals provided by the retention committees on behalf of their rural municipalities in consideration prior to any dispersal of the PFRA lands.

**2012M - BE IT RESOLVED** that SARM lobby the Province of Saskatchewan to retain ownership of the federally transitioned pastures and assist with the development of a pasture lands management structure to ensure the pastures continue to serve local producers and communities, and operate on a cost recovery basis.

# PFRA Pastures



**2012A - BE IT RESOLVED** that if the Federal and Provincial governments are eliminating the community pastures that we lobby the Federal and Provincial Agriculture Ministries that the patrons who use the pastures have first right of refusal to either lease or purchase the land as to not affect their operations due to lack of pasture; or create a body separate from the governments to manage the pastures thereby continuing to provide pasture to those cattle producers who depend on them to maintain their herds, or deem the land as environmental reserve for the use of all Canadians.

**2014A - BE IT RESOLVED** that SARM lobby the Province to deal with the original PFRA Transfer Agreements to the satisfaction of the affected municipalities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the issues with the original PFRA Transfer Agreements are not addressed to the satisfaction of the affected municipalities by August 31, 2014, SARM assist with bringing a class action lawsuit against the Province for breach of agreement(s).

# PFRA Pastures



- Extension to comment given until June 8, 2016
- 65 / 296 RMs responded to the survey – 3 surveys contained no information
- No clear direction for SARM to take could be ascertained by the responses

## 2016 Member Survey Results:

- **6%** of RMs wish to acquire PFRA pastures, with 3 respondents indicating that they want to subdivide land for development.
- **Remaining respondents** wanted pastures to stay with Province or be leased or sold to patrons.
- **5%** of RMs indicated that they've met with at least one local pasture patron group to discuss their plans with pastures.

# Growing Forward



- Phase 1 Federal online consultation until July 31, 2016 at [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)
- Provincial consultation June 14, 2016
- SARM seeking changes to:
  - AgriStability
  - Agri-Invest
  - Crop & Forage Insurance
  - Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program

# Asset Management



- **Municipalities must show progress towards asset management plans by March 31, 2018**
- **Surveys out as of June 20, check your inbox!**
- **Survey deadline July 31, 2016**
- **FCM received \$50M for Asset Management Fund**
- **Support municipal asset management**
- **Program delivery early 2017**

# Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant



- **Cost sharing program: employer + federal + provincial**
- **Municipalities currently not eligible**
- **Administrator retirement**
  - 120-150 over next five years
- **Survey Results**
  - 107 respondents
  - 60 administrators
  - 242 grade operators

# *Grade Crossing Regulations*



- Information sharing: **November 27, 2016**
- SARM resource hub includes:
  - Information Sharing Form and Job Aid
  - Transport Canada Grade Crossing Inventory
  - Instructional Videos
  - Field Measurements Spreadsheet and Form
  - Contact Information



# Got Gravel



- **Project initiated in August 2015**
- **Study on current state of aggregate resources in SK**
- **Final Report was shared with Board in June**
- **Email notice to RMs in July**
- **10 recommendations to be considered by Board for implementation**

# PIPP



- Program development initiated in July 2015
- Program objectives are to:
  - facilitate the identification, scoping and application of rural resource road projects by joint RM and industry participant partnership; and
  - through the application of well-designed eligibility and rated criteria, result in successfully accessing dedicated funding from the Province of Saskatchewan and New Building Canada Fund (NBCF) for applicable rural resource road projects.
- Numerous program benefits identified

# PIPP



- SARM driven w/ member and Provincial input
- Proposal informally advanced to Federal Government for consideration
- Proposal being considered by other funders to potentially reduce RM contribution
- Business Case completed
- Application package completed
- 3 RM/Industry pilot projects being drafted

# Aquatic Invasive Species



- **Two resolutions passed at 2016 SARM Annual Convention**
- **Prevention critical in stopping invasive mussels**
- **Annual cost estimation of an infestation is \$75M**
- **Saskatchewan TIP line 1-800-667-7561**
- **Clean, drain, dry your boat after each use**

# Incinerators



- Resolutions passed requesting use of incinerators
- They are allowable if data meets criteria
- 22 RMs pilot project
- Need to find qualified person
  - Ministry assisting
- Need to complete testing
  - Work with manufacturer

# Fire Suppression and Vehicle Extrication Rates



- **Compensation inadequate for Fire Depts. at motor vehicle collisions**
- **Business case in 2015 was not accepted**
- **Consultants being considered to gather data**
- **Targeting Fall 2016 completion**

# Community Safety Officer Program



- **Fine Revenue**
- **2016 Suggested Salary Schedule**
- **Training**
- **Communications Plan**
- **CSOP FAQs**

# Policy Department Communications



- **Weekly Policy Bulletin**
- **Monthly Policy Bulletin**
- **What's Trending**

This week's information from the Policy Department [View this email in your browser](#)

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Home > Advocacy > What's Trending

## What's Trending

This page provides up to date coverage of current municipal issues and resources. This section will be updated regularly to reflect the current municipal environment and to meet the needs of our members.

### Community Safety Officer Program

- CSOP Frequently Asked Questions

### Conflict of Interest

- Information Bulletin
- Bill 186 Q & A
- Conflict of Interest and Freedom of Information Videos
- Webinar: What to Expect When the Ombudsman Calls
- SK Government Resources
- Sample Council Procedures Bylaw
- Sample Employee Code of Conduct
- Sample Public Disclosure Statement