

# Policy Bulletin

April 2019

**April 2, 2019**

## **ADVOCACY UPDATE: Road Signage**

In 2013, SARM members carried resolution **18-13A** "Road Identification Signage." The resolution called for the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (MHI) to review its signage policy to allow for placement of Township/Range Road Signs on existing posts that are in the highway right-of-way for 911 and other road identification processes. Since 2013, SARM has had many conversations with MHI regarding this resolution. In 2018, MHI informed SARM of its intention to establish a working group to address this matter. The working group consists of representatives of the MHI, Ministry of Government Relations, and SARM. Over the next couple of months, the working group is reviewing options. SARM recommends that RMs looking to purchase Township and Range Road signs in the near future consider waiting for the working group to complete its review, as we are looking for the option that is most effective in terms of road identification, safety, and cost.

If you have any questions, please contact Libbey Morin, Senior Policy Analyst, at [lmorin@sarm.ca](mailto:lmorin@sarm.ca) or 306-761-3742.

## **INFORMATION: SARM in Ottawa**

The SARM Executive Team along with SARM staff are in Ottawa this week juggling multiple meetings with policy advisors, senior government officials and ministers to push the rural agenda. Follow along on Twitter to see which meetings they are attending and what they are discussing.

## **INFORMATION: AgriStability Deadline**

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister, Marie-Claude Bibeau, and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister, David Marit, are reminding Saskatchewan producers that the deadline to enroll in the AgriStability Program is **April 30, 2019**.

AgriStability accounts for a producer's whole farming operation; not just one commodity. As a margin-based program, AgriStability provides personalized coverage for each farm by using historical information, based on income tax and supplementary information. If a producer's program year margin falls more than 30 per cent below their reference margin, AgriStability could provide a benefit payment. The payment provides 70 cents for every dollar of benefit triggered.

To enrol in the program, simply call the AgriStability call centre at 1-866-270-8450 and request a new participant package. This request must be made by **April 30, 2019**. Producers will be asked a few simple questions over the phone, with no initial requirement of supplying historical farm information. New participants will then have the option of submitting either their previous three years or five years of historical information in order to process their final application.

**[More info](#)**

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## **INFORMATION: Harmonization of Personal Protection Equipment Requirements Across Canada**

The Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety is looking for input on possible regulatory changes to *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996* to align specific personal protective equipment requirements with those being adopted across Canada.

The proposed changes are part of an effort by provincial, territorial, and federal governments to harmonize regulatory standards in a number of areas. This includes occupational health and safety standards for the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including:

- Eye and face protection;
- Head protection;
- Foot protection;
- Hearing protection;
- Personal flotation devices; and
- First aid kits.

### **How to participate:**

To provide feedback, [please refer to the discussion paper](#).

Please provide written comments by May 15, 2019, to:

Public Engagement: OHS Harmonization  
Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety  
300 – 1870 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4P 4W1

Or by email to: [labourlegislationLRWS@gov.sk.ca](mailto:labourlegislationLRWS@gov.sk.ca).

## **INFORMATION: Important Plant Areas Program**

The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre, on behalf of the Botanical Assessment Working Group, are pleased to announce the **Vern Harms Important Plant Areas of Saskatchewan program**. The IPA program is an international effort to identify and conserve a region's most important places for wild plant and fungal diversity. Eight sites in Saskatchewan have already been designated, and information on these will be available in the spring. Anyone can nominate a site, provided it meets certain criteria. More information on the program, site criteria, and how to nominate a site can be found on the NPSS website at <https://www.npss.sk.ca/news-and-events/projects/292>. Nominations will be adjudicated twice a year in April and October (next intake is for October 2019).

Although an IPA designation is not legally binding, partners hope that such a designation will afford the sites extra avoidance/mitigation consideration should they ever be subject to a development, and will spur land managers to make decisions with outcomes that will benefit plant species of concern, plant diversity and sensitive habitats. Although locations of privately owned IPAs will not necessarily be available to the public, they will be made available on the Ministry of Environment's **HABISask** application to users with data sharing agreements (e.g. only visible to those who login).

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Questions about the IPA program can be directed to the [NPSS](#) or [SKCDC](#).

## **INFORMATION: SARM Meets with Federal Ministers**

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, members of SARM's Executive met with Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Marie-Claude Bibeau and Minister of International Trade Diversification Jim Carr. The Ministers were in Saskatoon to speak with agricultural industry leaders and their provincial counterparts to discuss priorities for Saskatchewan's agricultural sector, including canola exports. The Ministers met with key stakeholders from the grains, pulses and special crops sector and discussed topics of importance including export opportunities, research and trade diversification in global markets. The Ministers also held roundtable discussions with representatives from the canola sector, where they reaffirmed the Government of Canada's commitment to work through available channels to resolve the disruption of Canada's canola seed exports to China. Regaining full market access is a priority for the agricultural sector in Saskatchewan and SARM will continue to support finding a resolution to this ongoing issue.

## **INFORMATION: TransCanada Scholarship Program**

Could you or someone you know use some help with post-secondary education expenses? The TransCanada Scholarship program is offering more than 250 scholarships across Canada in values of \$2,500, \$5,000 and up to \$10,000!

Applications are now open and students have until **May 17, 2019 at 11:59:59 p.m. EST** to submit their applications.

Students can visit [Our Website](#) now and answer five quick questions to see if they pre-qualify!

A few important things to remember:

1. If selected, students will need to provide **proof of home address** and **proof of enrolment** in a registered educational institution to receive a scholarship.
2. Students must make sure to provide a working **phone number** and **email address** in their application, or we won't be able to contact them if they are selected.
3. Applications cannot be saved to work on later, but it only takes **20 minutes** to complete it.
4. Our pre-qualification forms are available in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Please make sure you're on the **correct country page** when applying by clicking the flag toggles on the top, right-hand-side of [TCScholarships.com](http://TCScholarships.com).

If you have any questions, contact us at [tcscholarships@transcanada.com](mailto:tcscholarships@transcanada.com).

## **INFORMATION: Become a member of the brownfield renewal network**

Are you looking for information on how to identify, navigate and reduce barriers to brownfield redevelopment? If you've ever faced challenges due to a lack of funding, had questions around liability, or are looking for new opportunities to redevelop brownfield sites in your

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community, the Leadership in Brownfield Renewal (LiBRE) network is for you. Join the network so you can:

- Get started on your brownfield project
- Connect with your peers in municipalities across the country
- Participate in learning activities and workshops
- Access free tools and resources
- And more

## **LEARN MORE AND APPLY TODAY**

### **INFORMATION: Webinars on plastic waste management**

Is your municipality working to adapt and improve its plastic waste programs? Get inspired by watching the webinar recordings from FCMs five-part webinar series on plastic waste management solutions. You'll learn how your community can benefit by:

- Applying better solutions to common challenges
- Finding new opportunities and solutions
- Implementing circular economy approaches

From exploring ways countries and organizations around the world are revolutionizing traditional waste management, to raising recycling awareness through education programs and initiatives, you'll also hear about best practices and lessons learned from subject matter experts.

## **WATCH WEBINARS**

**April 9, 2019**

### **INFORMATION: April Advocacy Days in Ottawa**

SARM spent four days in Ottawa last week meeting with the federal government to bring attention to issues and concerns in rural Saskatchewan and to move forward on finding solutions. Members of the SARM executive and staff met with Ministers, MPs, Senators and policy staff. Many important topics were discussed and some of the highlights included:

Meeting with The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada about canola trade, humane transport of livestock and carbon tax and sequestration.

A meeting with The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to discuss Bill C-68 and its potential impacts on rural Saskatchewan.

Meeting with The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction and to discuss Bill C-71.

SARM representatives met with Senator Grant Mitchell to discuss Bill C-69.

An informal meeting with The Honourable Jim Carr, Minister of International Trade Diversification to discuss canola trade and new markets.

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## **INFORMATION: Senate Committee on Energy, The Environment and Natural Resources – Notice of Meeting**

As part of their review of Bill C-69, starting on April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Committee on Energy, The Environment and Natural Resources will visit Vancouver, Calgary, Fort McMurray, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. SARM President Ray Orb will appear before the committee in Saskatoon on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The committee's eastern tour will start two weeks later visiting St. John's, Halifax, Saint John and Quebec City.

## **INFORMATION: Federal Government Establishing a Working Group for Navigating the Canola Trade Issue**

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minister Bibeau announced a working group with members of the Canola Council of Canada, the Canadian Canola Growers Association, Richardson International, Viterra and representatives from the federal government and the Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan governments. This group will be meeting right away to continue to try and resolve the trade issue with China and to help the sector navigate the uncertainty it is causing.

## **INFORMATION: Saskatchewan Municipalities can apply for funding through the Impacted Sites Fund**

On April 4<sup>th</sup> the Government of Saskatchewan announced that Saskatchewan municipalities can now apply for funding to clean up abandoned, environmentally impacted sites through the Impacted Sites Fund. The fund is administered by the Ministry of Environment and can provide financial support to municipal governments to clean up impacted sites so they can be used for future economic or social development opportunities. An abandoned, impacted site is an area such as a former gas station or laundromat that has been contaminated.

The program will be funded on an ongoing basis through fines issued and collected under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010. Applications will be prioritized by ministry officials, taking into consideration the technical information derived from the National Classification System for Contaminated Sites score that assesses the severity of contamination.

To date, there is approximately \$178,000 available in the fund. More information on applying for the fund can be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2019/april/04/impact-site-fund>

## **INFORMATION: Share Your Ideas on Rural Economic Development**

The Government of Canada is making investments through the Investing in Canada plan to renew public infrastructure in rural Canada. The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Rural Economic Development is engaging with families, workers, and community and business leaders across Canada to discuss the concerns and priorities of rural communities, while celebrating their success to help develop a strategy that supports economic development. More information on this initiative can be found [here](#).

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Canadians are invited to share ideas for creating opportunity and improving the quality of life for rural communities, by contacting the Rural Economic Development Secretariat by email at [infc.rural.infccanada.ca](mailto:infc.rural.infccanada.ca) or by mail:

Infrastructure Canada, Rural Economic Development Secretariat  
180, Kent Street, 12<sup>th</sup> floor  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 0B6

## **INFORMATION: Updated Well Abandonment Directive**

The Ministry of Energy and Resources is looking for feedback on the proposed amended Directive is intended to replace *The Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations, 2012* with respect to technical requirements for well abandonments. The amended Directive aims to create efficiencies for industry and the Ministry in the well abandonment process. Highlights of the proposed amended Directive are available at:

- [\*\*Notice of Proposed Directive Amendments – Directive PNG015: Well Abandonment Requirements\*\*](#)

The Ministry welcomes any feedback that you may have on the proposed amended Directive and asks that you submit your comments no later than April 16, 2019. Comments should be sent to: [ERservicedesk@gov.sk.ca](mailto:ERservicedesk@gov.sk.ca)

## **INFORMATION: WCB 2019 Annual General Meeting**

Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board invites you to register for the 2019 Annual General meeting. Each year they hold their Annual General meeting, one in Regina and one in Saskatoon. The 2019 Annual General meetings will be:

- Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in Regina at Queensbury Centre (Salon 3)
- Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Saskatoon at Prairieland Park (Terrace room)
- A webinar option is available during the Regina meeting for your convenience.
- 

Registration and breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m., the meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. in both locations.

To register, click on this link: <http://www.wcbsask.com/agm2019>

If you have any questions contact the event coordinator at [askwcb@wcbsask.com](mailto:askwcb@wcbsask.com)

## **INFORMATION: Building the Best Workplaces**

Saskatchewan's municipalities employ more than 15,500 people to do the jobs that touch the lives of residents daily. But with increasing pressures to reduce costs and limited pools of qualified candidates, it can be difficult to find and retain the best people for the job to provide the services your community needs.

Join the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) on May 8 in Prince Albert for the workshop *Building the Best Workplaces* and learn how to make your municipality the most

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attractive place to work so you can find, and keep, the employees that enhance your community. Hear from workplace policy experts, talk workplace harassment, and learn how to deal with difficult residents.

When: May 8, 2019 from 1pm to 4pm CST

Where: Art Hauser Centre - Ches Leach Lounge, 690B 32nd Street East, Prince Albert, SK

Registration is open until May 1 and the cost to attend is \$100 per person.

## **Register Now!**

### **INFORMATION: SUMA Webinar: What To Do When You're Sued**

Being taken to court can be stressful and confusing - it's hard trying to properly respond to allegations while navigating the litigation process. Join SUMA and Jennifer Pereira, QC, at 10 a.m. on April 16 to learn the best responses to lawsuits, and what you can do to protect your municipality, prepare your case, and avoid unnecessary costs.

See [event listing](#) for more information about this professional development event.

Non SUMA members can access this webinar for just \$75. You are encouraged to invite other elected officials and staff members to watch this session together. One registration fee for multiple viewers is a great way to stretch those dollars!

When: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 from 10am to 11am CST

Where: This is an online event

## **Register Now!**

**April 16, 2019**

### **INFORMATION: FCM Adopts SARM Sponsored Resolution for Federal Support of Energy Infrastructure**

SARM continues to advocate for energy infrastructure projects that will offer economic benefits for our members. At the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) March 2019 board meeting, FCM adopted the SARM sponsored resolution to advance advocacy efforts for federal support of energy infrastructure projects. The resolution reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Canada, with its large landmass and diversified geography, has substantial and diverse renewable and non-renewable energy sources including oil, natural gas, hydroelectricity, nuclear, solar, wind, tidal and biomass;

**WHEREAS**, Canada is the sixth largest producer, the fifth largest net exporter, and the eighth largest consumer of energy;

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**WHEREAS**, Sustainable energy production and its local and worldwide distribution requires a diverse and well-planned network of energy infrastructure across the country;

**WHEREAS**, A lack of energy infrastructure has created challenges for Canada in meeting our national energy requirements and the growing energy requirements of international customers, resulting in an economic downturn in energy producing regions with negative financial impacts for municipalities in those regions;

**WHEREAS**, The creation, operation and refurbishment of all energy infrastructure stimulates economic growth that benefits all Canadians;

**WHEREAS**, Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change, and in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions Canada will need to transition towards renewable sources of energy; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on the Government of Canada to support the further development of nation-building energy infrastructure projects; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities recognize the economic crisis facing certain energy producing regions in Canada as a result of low commodity prices and restricted market access and call on the Government of Canada to support those regions, including by supporting projects which enable the transition to renewable energy production; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on the Government of Canada to require energy companies to provide adequate financial compensation to municipalities through linear taxation and other mechanisms; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the FCM request the Government of Canada to mandate the energy sector to invest in research and development in renewable energy to reduce GHG emissions and the protection of Canada's fresh water, and publish an annual report on their environmental activities and investments; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the development of energy infrastructure must meet high environmental standards and respect the jurisdiction of provinces, territories and municipalities.

## **INFORMATION: 1A Licensing Survey Results**

Thank you to those RMs that completed the 1A Licensing Survey that was sent to members earlier this year. We received 219/296 possible responses. The results can be found on the [What's Trending](#) page on the SARM website.

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## **INFORMATION: Agristability Deadline April 30<sup>th</sup>**

President and CEO of Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC), Shawn Jacques is reminding Saskatchewan producers that the deadline to enrol in the AgriStability Program this year is approaching.

AgriStability accounts for a producer's whole farming operation; not just one commodity. As a margin-based program, AgriStability provides personalized coverage for each farm by using historical information, based on income tax and supplementary information. If a producer's program year margin falls more than 30 per cent below their reference margin, AgriStability could provide a benefit payment. The payment provides 70 cents for every dollar of benefit triggered.

To enrol in the program, simply call the AgriStability call centre at 1-866-270-8450 and request a new participant package. This request must be made by **April 30, 2019**. Producers will be asked a few simple questions over the phone, with no initial requirement of supplying historical farm information. New participants will then have the option of submitting either their previous three years or five years of historical information in order to process their final application.

Mr. Jacques would also like to remind producers of the federal loan guarantee, Advance Payments Program; a cash advance program that can help farmers and ranchers meet their immediate financial needs, such as farm input costs and product marketing. More information can be found on the [SCIC](http://SCIC) website.

## **INFORMATION: Resolution 18-14A**

In 2014, SARM members carried resolution [18-14A](#), "Fund for Assisting STARS," at the annual convention. The resolution calls up the provincial government to work with the Fire Commissioners Office and STARS to establish a fund that would provide some compensation to volunteer fire departments when they are called to assist the STARS air ambulance. SARM has been working on this file, including lobbying for the establishment of an Emergency Response Fund, for several years. The Ministry of Government Relations has been working alongside SARM to find a solution, but to date there has been limited uptake from other Ministries and Crown corporations to develop a new centralized fund to compensate volunteer fire departments in situations such as assisting STARS. However, it has been recognized that efforts could be focused on streamlining, where possible, or clarifying how best to access existing pools among various Ministries, Crown corporations and Agencies who currently offer some compensation.

The Emergency Management and Fire Services functions of the Ministry of Government Relations will be transferred to the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) this year, along with the wildfire management functions from the Ministry of Environment. The new structure offers an opportunity to re-examine this issue. As the SPSA becomes operationalized, they will plan to revisit this issue in close partnership with SARM and other stakeholders. Our advocacy efforts on this initiative continue.

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## **INFORMATION: Three New Tax Credits for Volunteer First Responders**

Three new non-refundable tax credits are being created in recognition of the invaluable contributions to community safety made by Saskatchewan's volunteer firefighters, search and rescue volunteers, and volunteer emergency medical first responders.

The new tax credits will come into effect beginning with the 2020 taxation year. Individuals who perform at least 200 hours of eligible volunteer services in a year, as certified by the organization managing the volunteer services, will be able to claim a \$3,000 tax credit amount. Eligible volunteer services include responding to and being on call for search and rescue and other emergency calls, attending required meetings, and participating in required training. More information on this new initiative can be found [here](#).

**April 23, 2019**

## **INFORMATION: Resolution Responses**

SARM has received a response from the Ministry of Agriculture on the following resolutions:

- [\*\*POP 3-19A Carbon Tax Farm Fuels Exemption\*\*](#)
- [\*\*6-19A Stray Animals\*\*](#)

SARM has received a response from the Ministry of Finance on the following resolution:

- [\*\*8-19A Use of Marked Diesel Fuel in Municipal Equipment\*\*](#)

## **INFORMATION: Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network Expands Across Province**

The network that enables residents to receive reliable information about crime happening in their area directly from the RCMP is expanding.

The Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network was initially launched in March in southern Saskatchewan. It is now expanding to include central and northern Saskatchewan.

Through the network, the RCMP and its partner agencies have the ability to communicate directly with the public on matters of crime prevention and community safety. Residents can sign up to receive crime watch advisories from their local detachments by text message, email, or phone.

Sign up at [\*\*www.saskcrimewatch.ca\*\*](http://www.saskcrimewatch.ca)

## **INFORMATION: Grade Crossing Regulations**

In 2014, Transport Canada released the new [\*\*Grade Crossing Regulations\*\*](#) (GCR) to improve rail safety in Canada. The regulations emphasize the importance of drivers being able to see a train when approaching a crossing. To comply with the new GCR, road authorities were required to share safety-related information about their federally-regulated grade crossings with railway companies. The railway companies were also required to share safety-related information with the road authorities. The deadline to share this information was November 27, 2016.

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We have learned from one railway that over 85 per cent of RMs have shared complete crossing information. Congratulations to those RMs that have completed the information sharing requirements! If your municipality has federally-regulated crossings within its jurisdiction but has not yet complied with the information sharing requirements of the GCR, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. By sharing information with each other, road authorities and railway companies will be able to determine what they need to do to make their grade crossings safer. Transport Canada has started to enforce the regulations. SARM has developed a [GCR resources hub](#) to help municipalities meet their requirements, including how-to videos. Please note: the GCR do not apply to short line railways, which are provincially regulated.

The requirements prescribed in the GCR were immediately applicable when constructing new grade crossings or making changes to an existing crossing. **By November 28, 2021, the prescribed requirements will apply to surfaces, signs, sightlines, and warning systems for existing grade crossings.** Railway companies and road authorities are required to collaborate in finding the best option for making their crossings safe. Safety standards for crossing surface, road geometry, sightlines, signs and warning systems are detailed in the [Grade Crossings Standards](#) and include a variety of safety options available for road authorities and railway companies.

SARM continues to have ongoing discussions with railways and Transport Canada to discuss rail safety and the maintenance and upgrades required at crossings. To assist RMs in understanding their obligations under the GCR, SARM has developed a [resource package](#). This resource package includes a spreadsheet to help calculate if your crossings are compliant.

## **INFORMATION: Funding to Help Manage ClimateChange for Agricultural Producers**

Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA) announced \$1.3 million in funding and in-kind support to help Saskatchewan producers and communities successfully manage the impacts of climate change. Natural Resources Canada pledged more than \$587,000 through the Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise (BRACE) Program, the Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$320,000 while the WSA along with partner organizations will contribute an additional \$326,000 of in-kind support.

Projects like the BRACE Program are intended to help producers and communities increase their resilience to a changing climate. The first project will be delivered as workshops for agricultural producers over the next two years to familiarize them with the Saskatchewan Agricultural Water Management Strategy and help to incorporate climate change resilience into drainage project designs. As the effects of climate change have the potential to affect agricultural production in Saskatchewan, SARM is supporting the project through participating on the stakeholder committee and in-kind support. More information on the BRACE Program can be found [here](#)

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## **INFORMATION: Building Standards and Licensing Branch's Legislative Workshop and Barrier-Free Workshops**

### **Barrier-Free Workshop April 30, 2019 (Saskatoon) & May 7, 2019 (Regina)**

Building Standards and Licensing Branch has developed a Barrier-Free Guide. This guide will assist all stakeholders with understanding the minimum requirements for barrier-free access to buildings in Saskatchewan. This workshop will provide information on the minimum barrier-free requirements included in the National Building Code of Canada and the amendments made to this through *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Regulations*.

### **Register**

### **Legislative Framework Workshop - May 13 & 14, 2019 in Saskatoon**

This workshop is available to all interested parties, but is a requirement for all new building officials and for current building officials who wish to renew their Building Official License after July 1, 2019.

This workshop will examine the provisions and application of the following documents:

- NBC 2015, Division A, Part 2
- NBC 2015, Division A, Part 3
- NBC 2015, Division C
- The Administrative Requirements for use with the National Building Code of Canada, 1985
- *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*
- *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Regulations*
- *The Building and Accessibility Standards Administration Regulations*
- Building Bylaw Handbook
- Draft Building Bylaw
- Functions and Objectives
- Alternative Solutions

### **Register**

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**INFORMATION: Resolution Responses**

SARM has received a response from the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure on the following resolution:

- [18-19A Municipal Roads for the Economy Program](#)

SARM has received a response from SaskPower on the following resolution:

- [23-19A SaskPower](#)

**ACTION REQUIRED: Canola Crisis Letter Writing Campaign**

Yesterday SARM initiated a letter campaign to strengthen our voice on this issue and ensure that our federal leaders understand the urgency of this situation. This campaign is open to all RMs, councillors, communities, businesses, individuals- anyone and everyone, so please help spread the word. Please note the letter template is a guideline and can be modified or personalized to best demonstrate your support. Instructions and the letter template can be found online at [www.sarm.ca](http://www.sarm.ca).

**INFORMATION: Application of Energy Efficiency Requirements for Existing Buildings**

In a recent [letter](#) to SARM, the Building Standards and Licensing Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations clarified the application of energy efficiency requirements for existing buildings in light of recent amendments to *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Regulations*. The recent amendments are intended to ensure a more uniform application of energy efficiency standards across different local authorities.

Effective immediately, Sections 9.36 of the National Building Code (NBC 9.36.) and the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB) do not apply to the renovation, repair, alteration, or relocation of any building to which building standards apply and for which constructions began prior to January 1, 2019. Buildings that began construction after January 1, 2019 which are renovated, repaired, altered, or relocated are expected to maintain the energy efficiency standard that existed when they were initially constructed.

Questions or requests for more information can be directed to the Building Standards and Licensing Branch at [building\\_standards@gov.sk.ca](mailto:building_standards@gov.sk.ca) or (306) 787-4113.

**INFORMATION: MMSW Collector Promotion & Education**

If your municipality participates in the MMSW recycling program there are now templates available to promote the program to your residents. You can download resources straight from the MMSW website for free and use them for your waste packing and paper recycling program promotion and educations.

[View templates](#)