

# Policy Bulletin

December 2019

**December 3, 2019**

## **INFORMATION: FCM Meeting in Ottawa**

Last week the SARM Executive traveled to Ottawa for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) meeting. SARM had several meetings with ministers, including:

- Minister for Rural Economic Development Maryam Monsef;
- Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna;
- Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland;
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST) also had the opportunity to meet last week.

Finally, on November 28, FCM released [\*\*Recommendations for the Federal Government's First 100 days\*\*](#). The recommendations include championing rural communities, strengthening local infrastructure, modernizing public transit, making housing more affordable and supporting local climate action

## **INFORMATION: 2019-2020 Gravel Extrication Rates**

The maximum gravel extraction licence fee rates for 2020 and 2021, effective January 1, 2020, will be as follows:

- \$0.171 per cubic metre
- \$0.131 per cubic yard
- \$0.092 per tonne
- \$0.086 per ton

The maximum fee is increased based on the annual percentage change for the "all-items" Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Saskatchewan for the year, two years before the first year the rate comes into effect. The rate increase for 2018 represents a CPI inflation rate of 1.66 per cent in 2017 and 2.31 per cent in 2018.

Questions or concerns about gravel extraction maximum fees can be directed to a municipal advisor at 306-787-2680.

## **INFORMATION: Administrator Training Webinars**

The Government of Saskatchewan offers free webinars on topics that may help administrators and members of council committees, boards and other bodies to better understand roles and responsibilities under legislation. You can view the pre-recorded webinars [here](#)

## **INFORMATION: Active Resolutions and Responses**

A reminder to members that all active resolutions and responses that SARM has received can be found on the SARM website <https://sarm.ca/advocacy/resolutions>

Resolutions can be searched by year/convention or by resolution number. You may also use a

THE VOICE OF RURAL SASKATCHEWAN

# Policy Bulletin

keyword in the site's search function. Please note that 2014 and prior resolutions have expired and are no longer housed on the SARM website.

**December 10, 2019**

## **INFORMATION: 2020 Community Safety Officer Salary Schedule**

A Community Safety Officer (CSO) is employed by a municipality (or First Nation) for the purpose of providing an additional option to enhance community safety and support local policing agencies by addressing high priority/low risk to harm concerns, such as enforcing the Traffic Safety Act and engaging in crime prevention initiatives at the community level. Through their Special Constable appointments, CSOs may enforce other selected provincial statutes and assist in the investigation of minor criminal offences.

The 2020 Suggested CSOP Salary Schedule can be found on [SARM's website](#).

More information about the program can be found [here](#).

## **INFORMATION: SGI Fire Suppression and Vehicle Extraction Policy**

SGI is the first payer for fire department charges for all vehicle losses, including insured and uninsured vehicles in the province. In order to be compensated by SGI for responding to vehicle fires, municipalities, excluding cities, require a bylaw to charge for fire services within their boundaries.

SGI's Fire Suppression and Vehicle Extrication Services policy, which came into effect on January 1, 2019, states that towns, villages, and rural municipalities operating under the authority of The Municipalities Act, can charge for fire suppression service only if a bylaw has been passed authorizing them to do so.

The service rates are increased annually according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for both productive and non-productive calls. Based on the CPI for Saskatchewan, an increase of 1.7% resulting in a rate of \$953.59 per hour effective January 1, 2020. The rate is pro-rated after the first hour (hourly rate x minutes / 60).

The online fillable form will be updated by year end to reflect the 2020 rates.

## **INFORMATION: Legislation to Modernize Jury Selection**

The Jury Amendment Act, 2019 allows officials responsible for generating lists of jurors to better determine specific geographical areas from which to summon jurors through a targeted draw. The current exclusion of spouses of reeves, mayors, city councillors and other officials will be also removed to allow for increased juror eligibility and participation.

To ensure consistency with the exclusion of mayors, city councillors, and other elected municipal officials from jury duty, the legislation contains amendments that exclude Chiefs and council

# Policy Bulletin

members from Indian bands from serving as jurors.

More information [here](#).

## **INFORMATION: 2020 Saskatchewan Agriculture Scholarship**

The 2020 Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship Program is now accepting applications from students entering an agriculture-related post-secondary program. The scholarship encourages constructive conversations about where our food comes from and how everyone along the value-chain, from the field to table, shares a role in shaping food production.

More information and eligibility information can be found [here](#).

## **INFORMATION: Saskatchewan Crimestoppers**

As you already know, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers relies on your support to continue to provide support in solving crimes in our communities. In 2018, there was over 1900 tips received which lead to 117 charges laid, \$13,340.00 in property recovered and \$17,830.00 in drugs seized.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers has continually received financial support from urban and rural municipalities through the voluntary sponsorship program. Your financial contribution of any amount up to and including \$200 ensures Crime Stoppers can continue an effective program to fight crime. Your support helps Crime Stoppers contribute to getting criminals off our streets, recovering stolen property, and seizing illegal drugs.

### **Please send your generous contribution by mail to:**

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers  
6100 Dewdney Avenue  
Bag Service 2500  
Regina, SK S4P 3K7

Thank you for continuing to support this worthwhile cause.

**December 17, 2019**

## **INFORMATION: SaskLander**

SaskLander is a technological solution designed to simplify managing access to land by putting land owners and managers in contact with land users. The SaskLander team has been engaging with users in an effort to address questions and concerns as they progress towards a pilot project and eventual limited release beta of the platform in 2020. Should you wish to participate, SaskLander also has a survey open for feedback.

More information can be found in the SaskLander December [Newsletter](#)

SaskLander [Survey](#)

# Policy Bulletin

## **INFORMATION: Draft Woodland Caribou Range Plan**

The Government of Saskatchewan is asking the public for feedback on a draft range plan for woodland caribou in the western portion of the province's Boreal Plain (SK2 West). The plan identifies objectives, measures, tools and targets to manage woodland caribou habitat to support healthy populations, along with several management actions and approaches.

**The 60-day review period runs from December 10, 2019, to February 8, 2020.**

### [More information](#)

## **INFORMATION: Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant Program**

The program provides up to \$100,000 per traffic safety initiative to municipalities and Indigenous land or territories. The goal of this fund is to stimulate and support local, collaborative action that will increase traffic safety awareness and reduce the frequency and severity of traffic injuries and fatalities within Saskatchewan.

The next application intake begins January 1, 2020.

Request a project number and application form from the PSE Program Administrator by emailing [PSEprogram@sgi.sk.ca](mailto:PSEprogram@sgi.sk.ca) or calling 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744), extension 6042.

## **December 31, 2019**

### **INFORMATION: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Applications**

The Ministry of Government Relations [opened up](#) the next intake step for two funding streams under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The application intake process will run until **4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2020** for the:

- Green Infrastructure Stream; and the
- Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream.

Eligible recipients are encouraged to submit their detailed applications for priority infrastructure projects that will result in at least one of the following outcomes:

- Increased structural capacity and/or increased natural capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, natural disasters and/or extreme weather events;
- Increased capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater and storm water;
- Increased access to potable water;
- Increased capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil and/or air pollutants; and
- Improved access to and/or increased quality of cultural, recreational and/or community infrastructure for Canadians, including Indigenous peoples and vulnerable populations.

For more information, please visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/ICIP](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/ICIP).

# Policy Bulletin

## **INFORMATION: FCM's List of Asset Management Resources**

Looking for resources to help your municipality push its asset management practices forward? Check out some of [FCM's list of preferred asset management resources](#). This list of 25 suggested resources includes tools, videos and guides developed for municipalities in regions across the country. [Explore the resources](#) and be sure to bookmark [fcm.ca/assetmanagement](http://fcm.ca/assetmanagement) today.

## **INFORMATION: Board of Revision Renewal Project – Steering Committee Meeting**

The Board of Revision Renewal Project Steering Committee held its inaugural meeting Dec. 10, 2019. Committee membership is diverse with municipal sector representatives from all the elected and administrative member associations and representatives from larger, smaller and northern municipalities.

The role of the Steering Committee is to:

- Champion changes to the system of first level appeal within their organization, and represent the interests of their respective members or association to the best of their ability;
- Understand the goals, objectives and desired outcomes of the project and help to remove barriers to project success;
- Communicate positively about the project;
- Identify risks and issues; and
- Work together as partners and strive for mutual agreement on issues, participating in collective problem solving where necessary.

The design and development phase of the new model for first level appeals is expected to be substantively complete by summer 2020. The implementation phase is expected occur over summer 2020 to the end of December 2022.

The committee is expected to meet again in February 2020. The main focus of that agenda will be options for Board of Revision training. More information about the project in a [December 2019 \*Municipalities Today\*](#) article.

## **INFORMATION: Agriculture Extension Services Move to Humboldt**

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture will move agriculture extension services to the City of Humboldt in March 2020. The region is currently served by an office in Watrous.

The Ministry of Agriculture has 10 regional offices located across the province. The extension team provides information and technical assistance on a broad range of agriculture topics including production information, available funding programs and research findings.

More information <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2019/december/18/ag-extension-services>

# Policy Bulletin

## **INFORMATION : Subdivision Regulations**

The Subdivision Regulations (2014) have been amended to reflect the examination fee change of \$300 per lot, increased from \$200 per lot which will apply to new subdivision applications received on or after January 1, 2020.

## **REMINDER: Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant Declaration**

All municipalities were sent an email on November 15, 2019 that included the Declaration of Eligibility Guide (the Guide), the link to their online declaration and their password to access the declaration. If you have not received this email, please check your SPAM folder. If it is not in your SPAM folder, please contact the Ministry of Government Relations (GR) at (306) 787-2680 or email: [GRCompliance@gov.sk.ca](mailto:GRCompliance@gov.sk.ca) to have the email re-sent.

The deadline for completing the declaration is January 15, 2020.

Reminder: This year is a test period for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant Declaration of Eligibility. GR is encouraging all municipalities to participate in this test to:

- ensure it is easy to use and functional for all municipalities; and
- provide an opportunity for each municipality to confirm it meets each of the eligibility requirements.