

WPB August 3-7



The **Weekly** Policy Bulletin

Question of the Week Results

The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) provides a property assessment system and services for clients and stakeholders in Saskatchewan.

In 2019-2020 has your level of satisfaction with SAMA's service?

Increased - 17%

Decreased - 15%

Remained the same - 68%

Reminders

Traffic Safety Fund Grant

The call for applications to the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant Program is open. The program allocates funds to traffic safety initiatives (including projects, equipment, programs and public awareness). Projects can include digital speed display signs and other speed management projects, pedestrian crossing signals, school zone beacons and additional street lights

[Learn More](#)

[Apply](#)

Information

New Provincial Chief Firearms Officer

Robert Freberg has been selected as Saskatchewan's next Chief Firearms Officer (CFO). While Saskatchewan's CFOs have previously been chosen by the federal government, As announced at the 2020 SARM Annual Convention, the province made the decision to select its own. CFOs are responsible for administering the federal *Firearms Act* in the provinces, and have jurisdiction over the licensing, transporting and carrying of firearms. The CFO also licenses instructors to deliver firearms safety courses in the province. The

province of Saskatchewan is working with the federal government to ensure a seamless transition from the federally-selected CFO to one that is provincially selected. During this transition phase, the new CFO will work on getting the provincial office established, while the current CFO will continue their duties in the interim, ensuring that services for law-abiding firearms owners are not interrupted.

[Learn More](#)



Saskatchewan Selects Next Chief Firearms Officer

- Responsible for administering the federal Firearms Act in the provinces
- Have jurisdiction over the licensing, transporting and carrying of firearms
- Licenses instructors to deliver firearms safety courses in the province

Premier Scott Moe

Resources

Agtech Growth Fund – Intake Period 2

The Agtech Growth Fund (AGF) is a research and development (R&D) funding program designed to accelerate the commercialization of game-changing technological innovations in the province's agricultural sector. Through AGF, Innovation Saskatchewan (IS) provides non-repayable grants to projects that address a specific industry challenge.



[Apply](#)

Saskatchewan Chemical Fertilizer Incentive Launched

The Government of Saskatchewan launched the Saskatchewan Chemical Fertilizer Incentive (SCFI) program. A SaskFirst new growth tax incentive, the SCFI program is designed to help attract new capital investments in large-scale chemical fertilizer production

facilities in Saskatchewan, while creating new construction and operational jobs in the province. The SCFI is a non-refundable, non-transferable 15 per cent tax credit on capital expenditures valued at \$10 million or more for newly constructed or expanded eligible chemical fertilizer production facilities in Saskatchewan.

[Learn More](#)

Saskatchewan Chemical Fertilizer Incentive (SCFI) Program

New SaskFirst growth incentive to attract investment, create jobs and strengthen economic competitiveness.



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WPB August 10-14



The **Weekly** Policy Bulletin

Question of the Week

The 2nd round of Canada's Core Public Infrastructure (CCPI) survey was launched on November 4, 2019. The survey was sent to municipal, regional, Indigenous, provincial and territorial governments that own or lease public infrastructure, in order to collect data on the stock, condition, and performance of Canada's core public infrastructure assets for reference year 2018.

Did your RM receive the CCPI survey in 2019-2020?

Yes

Select

No

Select

Don't know

Select

Information

Advocacy Update - 2021 Federal Pre-Budget Submission

Each year SARM makes submissions to the federal governments regarding the upcoming year's budget. When drafting the submissions SARM focuses on financial and policy-driven requests and recommendations.

The federal submission focused on four recommendations addressing funding for municipalities in light of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, broadband and infrastructure improvements, carbon tax on agriculture and carbon credits. You can find SARM's written submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2021 Budget below.

[View Pre-Budget Submission](#)

Gas and Electrical Licensing Services to Transfer

to TSASK



Gas and electrical licensing services in Saskatchewan have been transferred to the Technical Safety Authority of

Saskatchewan (TSASK). This transfer is just one part of a larger initiative to centralize numerous technical safety services in the province to TSASK, and was formally announced on December 13, 2018. The next step, which is scheduled for 2021, will consist of transferring gas and electrical inspections and permitting from SaskPower, and plumbing inspections and permitting from the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

[Learn More](#)

Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program (EFDRP) – Funding Increase

The EFDRP was established in 2011 to provide financial, technical and engineering assistance to help individuals, communities and rural municipalities prevent or reduce flood damage to property. The 2020-21 EFDRP budget will be increased from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million and the \$100,000 funding cap per applicant has been removed for this year.

A large area of the province encompassing the Churchill River Basin, including the Beaver River Watershed, and parts of the Saskatchewan River Basin have received excessive precipitation in spring and summer 2020, resulting in high water levels and flooding in some locations. To gain a better understanding of the effect of elevated water levels in these areas, where there is limited historical data and few hydrometric stations, WSA will also use EFDRP funds to undertake a study and analysis of the situation when this year's flooding event is over.

[Read President Orb's Message to Outgoing RCMP Assistant Commissioner](#)

Message from the President - Ray Orb

Monday, August 10, 2020

Farewell to RCMP F-Division Commanding Officer Assistant Commissioner Mark Fisher



SARM has built a solid and valued working relationship with the RCMP over the last several years. Although rural crime is still prevalent in many of our rural communities, we have seen progress in building partnerships and working collectively in the areas of crime prevention. We have been fortunate to have gained the opportunity of working with RCMP Assistant Commissioner Mark Fisher for the last two years.

In his role, he demonstrated commitment in listening to the concerns of rural Saskatchewan through his involvement in our June Division Meeting roundtables and participation in our conventions. During his tenure Mark was always accessible and very open to collaboration with SARM and with our RMs. We have appreciated working with him and wish him all the best in his new role. We look forward to meeting his replacement and to continue on the path of ensuring rural Saskatchewan is a safe place to call home.

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SARM

WPB August 17-21



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Did your RM receive the CCPI survey in 2019-2020?

Yes - 7%

No - 30%

Don't know - 63%

Information

Mail-in Ballots

The Ministry of Government Relations has provided a **sample bylaw** as a guide for municipalities wanting to establish a mail-in ballot voting system.

The ministry has also prepared a **question and answer document** to help municipalities gain a stronger understanding of the sample mail-in ballot bylaw.

[View Documents](#)

Minor Works Phase 2 Consultation

Transport Canada is launching the second phase of consultation on the Minor Works Order of the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA). The CNWA

regulates the construction, placement, alteration, rebuilding, removal, or decommissioning of works that are in, on, over, under, through, or across any navigable water in Canada. As part of the act, the Minister of Transport can designate a work that is likely to slightly interfere with navigation as a “minor work”. The Minor Works Order is used to identify such works.

For example, works that only slightly interfere with navigation do not:

- cause navigators to unreasonably alter their habits related to navigation in the area, such as speed and course
- reduce the safety of navigation or ability to enjoy the use of the body of water for navigation

An owner of a minor work may construct, place, alter, rebuild, remove, or decommission the minor work in, on, over, under, through, or across any navigable water in accordance with the requirements found in the Minor Works Order. The order protects navigation by requiring minor works to meet certain criteria and requirements.

Owners of works that comply with the requirements of the Minor Works Order do not need to seek an approval from Transport Canada or follow the process for works on waterways not listed on the schedule.

Transport Canada is seeking feedback on a recently released Minor Works Order Discussion Paper. Feedback should be sent to *NPP-Secretariat-PPN@tc.gc.ca* by **October 5, 2020**.

[Learn More](#)

[Minor Works Order](#)

[Discussion Paper](#)

Statements of Provincial Interest

The Ministry of Government Relations (ministry) has completed a regulatory review of The Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI). Amendments to the regulations were approved and will come into effect on January 1, 2021.

The SPI is a regulation of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* (PDA) and has been in effect since 2012.

Statements of Provincial Interest link provincial and municipal objectives for land use planning and, as a result, directly affect the use of land and impact community development, economic growth and environmental stewardship. The purpose of the Statements of Provincial Interest are to: identify provincial interests to guide provincial and municipal planning decisions in the development of safe and secure communities; align provincial and municipal planning objectives to facilitate orderly development that is beneficial to communities; and guide the development of economically, environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable communities.

The ministry has identified the amendments will:

- Improve predictability for agricultural activities in Saskatchewan;
- Strengthen relationships between municipalities, and First Nations and Metis communities;

- Encourage regional planning; and
- Incorporate the following new topics:
 - Climate resilience, including mitigation and adaptation;
 - Economic growth; and
 - Community health and well-being.

Municipal decisions, land use planning documents, and subdivisions must be consistent with the SPIs.

The Changes Guide provides further information. Over the coming months, the Ministry of Government Relations will also update the Planning Handbook, which is the companion document to the regulations.

[Changes Guide](#)

[Planning Handbook](#)

My Mutual Insurance Gift to Volunteer First Responder Groups

In a world that seems to be out for themselves, there exists the selfless nature of the First Responder.

If you are a First Responder, My Mutual Insurance wants to thank you and celebrate you for what you do for your community. My Mutual holds our First Responders very near to our hearts and are thankful for these brave individuals who put people first. We are excited to offer not just our hand out in thanks, but a hand up.

My Mutual is offering two prizes of \$24,000 to two local groups of Volunteer First Responders in Saskatchewan!

Submissions must be received for review no later than August 28, 2020. Voting will open August 31, 2020. Winners will be drawn on two separate dates of September 21, 2020 & October 5, 2020.

If you would like to learn more about this give away, please visit our website or Facebook page.

[Visit Our Website](#)





People First : On Purpose

Ministry of Environment – Temporary Enforcement Policy during the COVID-19 Pandemic

On March 27, 2020 the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ministry) implemented the **Temporary Enforcement Policy during the COVID-19 Pandemic** policy to assist proponents in meeting legislative requirements during the pandemic. With Saskatchewan now in Phase Four of Re-Open Saskatchewan, the need for this policy has been reduced. As a result, the ministry has found it appropriate to terminate this policy.

The ministry will terminate the policy effective August 31, 2020. A notice to this effect is posted on Government of Saskatchewan's website.

Effective September 1, 2020, industrial and municipal operations regulated by the ministry will be required to comply with all applicable legislation and regulatory requirements.

Should you have any questions regarding the termination of the policy, please contact the ministry's client support services at 1-800-567-4224.

[View Notice](#)

[Re-Open Sask Plan](#)

Resources

Free Webinar – Accelerating the Implementation of Renewable Energy

QUEST

QUEST has partnered with the University of Guelph and the Community Energy Knowledge-Action Partnership (CEKAP) to present the development and application of a 'Renewable Energy Mapping Toolkit' designed to help accelerate the implementation of renewable energy.

The toolkit combines two workflows:

- A methodology to standardize technical assessments of local renewable

energy production potential.

- A participatory mapping framework that facilitates dialogue about opportunities and potential impacts across key influencers (utilities, land-owners, developers, municipal staff) as well as the general community.

These workflows combined provide key supports to integrate land-use planning and renewable energy supply planning at the local scale. The presentation will summarize our experiences implementing the workflow with community partners in the Town of Canmore, Alberta.

Date: August 26th, 2020

Time: 11:00am

[Learn More & Register](#)

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WPB August 24-28



The Weekly Policy Bulletin

Question of the Week

Saskatchewan Association of Resource Recovery Corp. (SARRC) recycles used oil, used oil filters, used antifreeze and used oil, antifreeze and Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) containers. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered some operations. To date, collectors are still picking up large quantities of product, however, the situation with public drop-off locations has been less predictable.

Are you experiencing any challenges in regard to recycling used oil, used oil filters, used antifreeze and used oil, antifreeze and Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) containers?

Yes

Select

No

Select

If you would like to share more information please contact kmorris@sarm.ca

Reminder

Canada Emergency Business Account Application Deadline – August 31st

Originally launched on April 9, 2020, CEBA is intended to support businesses by providing financing for their expenses that cannot be avoided or deferred as they take steps to safely navigate a period of shutdown, thereby helping to position businesses for successful relaunch as the economy reopens.

CEBA applications should be completed at your primary financial institution by latest August 31st, 2020.

Information

Keystone XL Project Update

The Keystone XL project team provided an update on the progression of construction of the Keystone XL Project in Saskatchewan throughout 2021. In Saskatchewan, three pump stations and approximately 261 kilometers of pipeline will traverse the Rural Municipalities of Deer Forks, Fox Valley, Enterprise, Piapot, Big Stick, Carmichael, Arlington, Grassy Creek and Val Marie.

The Keystone XL project also has a new Keystone-XL.com website. The new site contains important information on our COVID-19 response, sustainability practices, construction schedules and employment opportunities, as well as a new section on local support and details on how-to provide a letter of support for the project.

[Learn More](#)

[COVID Response](#)

[Local Support](#)

Resources

Accelerated Site Closure Program – Nominated Infrastructure List

The Government of Saskatchewan launched the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) to utilize \$400 million in federal funding for the abandonment and reclamation of inactive oil and gas wells and facilities. The program is scheduled to run until December 31, 2022.

To find the current list of infrastructure nominated for work under the Accelerated Site Closure Program, click the link below. This list indicates sites that have been nominated but may not end up formally included in an issued work package. Note: the Ministry of Energy and Resources states that the file will be updated frequently.

[ASCP Nominated Infrastructure List](#)

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