

Policy Bulletin

February 2020

February 4, 2020

INFORMATION: Waste ReForum 2020 – Registration Open

Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Annual Conference
April 1 - 3, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Regina

The conference theme is Brave New World: A Daring Look Into the Future, which will consider how waste reduction will change going forward—from robotics to circular processes.

For more [information and to register](#)

INFORMATION: Saskatchewan Modernizes Pipeline Regulations

The Government of Saskatchewan is modernizing its regulatory oversight of oil and gas pipeline infrastructure in the province, with the proclamation of the *Pipelines Amendment Act, 2019* (the Act).

The new Act and regulations will expand regulatory oversight to include retroactive licensing of approximately 80,000 flowlines across the province over the next four years and more stringent scrutiny of applications at higher-risk locations, such as waterways. With these changes, the Ministry of Energy and Resources is addressing the outstanding issues raised by the Provincial Auditor regarding the integrity and safety of pipelines in Saskatchewan.

More information [here](#)

INFORMATION: South District Housing Project – Living Quarters

The RCMP is piloting a project to help address the housing challenges experienced by some of RCMP members in South District. The project which is taking place over the next 2-3 years will allow communities or businesses the opportunity to supply housing for RCMP members in a lease arrangement. Within this pilot, the RCMP will enter into long term leases with the home-owner, and then will sub-lease these houses to interested members. Following the pilot there will be an evaluation to determine the success of the project.

More information and links to the lease process:

Punnichy - <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-20-00904131>

Estevan - <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-20-00904145>

Esterhazy/Langenburg - <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-20-00904156>

Carnduff - <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-20-00904159>

Broadview - <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-20-00904163>

INFORMATION: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Applications – Reminder

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:

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- 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

INFORMATION: Webinar Series: Best Practices in Municipal Sustainability

An FCM series of webinars to share information on innovations and opportunities in energy, waste, water, transportation and land use.

The series will begin February 20, featuring a webinar every Thursday from 1:30–2:30 p.m. ET. More information [here](#)

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INFORMATION: Municipal Revenue Sharing

On February 4th, it was announced that Saskatchewan municipalities will see an overall funding increase of more than \$10 million for 2019-20, bringing the total amount to \$251 million next fiscal year for the municipal revenue sharing program.

The additional \$10 million in 2019-20 represents a four per cent increase from the current fiscal year, following a review of the program and consultation with municipal stakeholders that began in 2018 asking for a more predictable, sustainable and transparent formula. The program will see \$1.5 million from the total Municipal Revenue Sharing amount co-managed with municipal partners to invest in initiatives that support good governance, capacity building and regional planning.

During previous consultations, SARM has advocated strongly for rural municipalities in that we did not believe the municipal revenue sharing formula should drop below 1 point of a 5% PST.

More details will be made available when the provincial budget is released March 18, 2020. We will share more information as we receive it.

INFORMATION: Voluntary Regional Cooperation Workshops

The Ministry of Government Relations announced a series of voluntary regional co-operation workshops to be held throughout the province in early 2020. Municipalities asked the ministry to provide more localized workshops on voluntary approaches to regional and inter-municipal co-operation.

There is no registration fee to attend these workshops. Registration starts at 9 a.m., followed by the workshop which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **February 25, 2020:**
Kelvington Legion Community Centre (208 1st Avenue West, Kelvington)
- **February 27, 2020:**
Humboldt Uniplex Convention Centre (619 17th Street, Humboldt)

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- **March 17, 2020:**
Melville Horizon Credit Union Centre (575 2nd Avenue West, Melville)
- **March 19, 2020:**
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133 (401 Main Street, Stoughton)

Additional workshops will be scheduled in spring 2020 in the central and western areas of the province. More information [here](#)

INFORMATION: Western Economic Task Force

On Monday February 11, municipal leaders from western Canada and federal politicians will gather to explore solutions to the economic uncertainty facing many western communities. The summit convened by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST) will be the opportunity to advance the priorities of western communities in the next federal budget. It will feature dialogue with federal ministers and opposition Members of Parliament.

WEST is exploring a full range of economic solutions—both to fuel recommendations to the federal government and to share among municipalities from coast to coast. The taskforce unites rural and urban municipal leaders from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

INFORMATION: Consultation on Proposed Amendments to Schedule 1 – Species at Risk Act

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) are consulting on proposed amendments to the at risk status for four Schedule I (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) species found in Saskatchewan. The proposed amendments are to add the bird Hudsonian Godwit/*Limosa haemastica* found across Canada to Schedule I as Threatened and to downgrade the Greater Short Horned Lizard/*Phrynosoma hernandesi* found in AB and SK from Endangered to Special Concern.

More information on the proposed amendments can be found [here](#)

February 18, 2020

INFORMATION: Grade Crossing Compliance and Safety Update

SARM has been working with other municipal associations and Transport Canada to provide more resources for municipalities regarding grade crossing compliance and safety. Transport Canada has provided a [summary of information](#) and contact information.

There will be two information sessions in February to share information with road authorities and some of the key points to consider when applying for funding under the Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP). While the key focus of these sessions will be the RSIP, TC will also touch on points of interest on the requirements of the Rail Safety Grade Crossings Regulations (GCR) that will be required by November 28, 2021.

French session on February 25th from 11:30 to 13:00 (EST)

English session on February 25th from 14:30 to 16:00 (EST)

Please register or express interest to one of the sessions by emailing the following address

Parvina.Ramsahok@tc.gc.ca

Further sessions will be scheduled for April and June.

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INFORMATION: Municipal Career Spotlight

A Municipal Career Spotlight Guide was developed to assist administrators and elected officials in hosting their own Municipal Career Spotlight. The purpose of hosting this type of event is to engage, educate and promote interest of high school students in municipal careers.

Often communities/schools will host career days for students where youth get to learn about different jobs and what they need to study to get those jobs. The guide has tips to help plan your own career day to showcase municipal careers, such as an administrator, public works staff, recreation staff, planning and development staff, etc.

The guide contains activities that will appeal to students such as a classroom learning session, hosting a mock council meeting and touring municipal facilities. You can customize the poster template, student handouts and other materials to suit your own circumstances. More information and presentation available [here](#).

INFORMATION: Landfill Operations Courses

Looking for education opportunities regarding landfill operations? There are two landfill operator courses being offered in Saskatchewan in spring 2020. More information can be found [here](#).

Resolutions submitted for Annual Convention 2020

Thank you to everyone who submitted resolutions to be debated and voted on this March. See the full list of submitted resolutions [here](#).

Question of the Week Results

Is your RM applying for a Targeted Sector Support (TSS) grant?

16% Yes
54% No
30% Maybe

Targeted Sector Support (TSS) is a portion of Municipal Revenue Sharing (\$1.5M for 2019-20) that will be used to encourage inter-community collaboration and good governance in all Saskatchewan municipalities. The funds will be used to support projects that help advance the priorities set by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee is now accepting applications for funding under this program until March 6, 2020.

February 25, 2020

INFORMATION: Aquatic Invasive Species Update

SARM continues its advocacy efforts on preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Saskatchewan. AIS and in particular invasive mussels pose a threat to Saskatchewan's waterways, as such SARM is active on the AIS Task Force and is in regular contact with Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment on the file. The Saskatchewan monitoring program detected no invasive mussels in 123 waterbodies sampled throughout the province last year. Further to the AIS Taskforce, Saskatchewan also partners with Canada Border Services Agency and other provincial and territorial governments to co-ordinate prevention efforts across western Canada.

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INFORMATION: SARM Executive in Ottawa

SARM's Executive made a pre-budget trip to Ottawa on February 18th to discuss priorities that directly affect Saskatchewan's agriculture industry and way of life in rural Saskatchewan. The Executive met with officials in the Ministries of Finance, Environment and Agriculture.

News release

INFORMATION: Resolution Responses

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

14-19M Funding for Municipal Bridges and Large Diameter Culverts

15-19M Ministry of Highways Municipal Service Fees

16-19M Silt Barriers

17-19M Municipal Roads – Weight Enforcement

18-19M Request for Funding – Overweight/Over Dimensional Routes

19-19M Municipal Roads for the Economy Program Funding

SARM has received a response from the Ministry of Energy and Resources on the following resolution:

5-19 M Oilfield Setback Consents for Adjacent Landowners

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

25-19M How SaskPower Could Help Encourage RMs to Create Emergency Plans

POP 3-19M SaskPower Responsibility for All Fire Calls

INFORMATION: 2020 SARM Annual Convention Resolutions

Thank you to everyone who submitted resolutions to be debated and voted on this March. See the full list of submitted resolutions [here](#)

INFORMATION: Preliminary Spring Runoff Outlook for 2020

The Water Security Agency (WSA) released the preliminary spring runoff outlook for 2020 predicting average spring runoff for most of Saskatchewan. More info [here](#)

INFORMATION: Government of Saskatchewan- Seeking Input

SARM provided feedback to the Ministry of Government Relations on the proposed amendments to *The Municipalities Act*, and will provide feedback on the regulations. The Ministry of Government Relations is also seeking public engagement on municipal regulations. This consultation work follows amendments to the three municipal Acts that are currently before the Legislature (Bill 194) and are expected to receive assent in the spring 2020 session.

Input is being sought on:

- Tackling Red Tape
- Taxation and Assessment of Travel Trailers
- Public Accounts for Municipalities

The deadline for input on the municipal regulations shown below before March 30, 2020.



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The ministry will review the responses and report back on what we heard. A summary of the submissions and next steps will be posted on the website in May 2020.

click here for more [information](#) and to participate.