

# WPB June 1-5

## 2020-2021 Provincial Budget

The 2020-21 provincial budget is scheduled to be tabled on June 15 with the final vote on the budget taking place on July 2.

The Legislative Assembly will meet for 14 days from June 15 to July 3. To ensure safe physical distancing, only ten government members and five opposition members will be in the Assembly at any one time.

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## Emergency Community Support Fund – Applications Open

The Government of Canada allotted \$350 million for **Emergency Community Support Fund** (ECSF) in collaboration with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross.

United Way is partnering with the Federal Government to provide financial support to qualified donees including registered charities, registered Canadian municipalities, and registered municipal or public bodies performing a function of government in Canada for adapting their frontline services to support vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic

**United Way Regina** is accepting applications from donees located in Regina, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Weyburn, Yorkton, and Melville, and communities located south of Highway 15 excluding Estevan.

**United Way Estevan** is accepting applications for eligible agencies and organizations in Estevan.

**United Way Saskatoon and Area** is accepting applications from eligible agencies and organizations located central and north of Highway 15.

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## Minister Meeting

On May 26th, the SARM Executive had the opportunity to meet virtually with Mr. Jeremy Patzer, Conservative Member of Parliament for Cypress Hills – Grasslands. Mr. Patzer is a member of the Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology. The discussion was largely centred around rural broadband and agricultural challenges including carbon tax.

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## Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Youth Employment and Skills Program

The Youth Employment and Skills Program provides a wage subsidy to employers who hire youth for agricultural jobs. The program offers support for 50% of wages to a maximum of \$14,000. Additionally, the program offers 100% of costs for relocation to a maximum of \$5,000 if the employee must relocate for the position.

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funds are available. More information on the program can be found [here](#)

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## Reminder – Equal Voice Webinar

SARM has partnered with Equal Voice for a one hour webinar on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. Join SARM's Vice President Sterling and Director Harwood for presentations and panel discussions on rural municipal government.

RSVP to [Saskatchewan@equalvoice.ca](mailto:Saskatchewan@equalvoice.ca) by Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> to attend.

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## RMAA Elections and the SARM Board

The Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA) conducted a virtual board election on May 27<sup>th</sup> as they had to cancel their convention. All positions were acclaimed except for Division One. Cheryl Barrett was the successful candidate in Division One. Sheila Keisig is undertaking the RMAA Vice President role. Guy Lagrandeur will be replacing Wendy Gowda as the RMAA President and will be filling the ex-officio seat on the SARM Board of Directors. Wendy has plans to retire and did not run for the President position. The SARM Board wishes all successful candidates a congratulations, we wish Wendy the very best as she retires and look forward to having Guy participate on our SARM Board.

For more information please visit the RMAA's website [here](#)

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## FCM Response to Acceleration of the 2020-2021 Federal Gas Tax Fund Transfer Announcement

In the June 1<sup>st</sup> briefing from the Prime Minister, he announced the government of Canada will **accelerate the November installment of the Gas Tax Fund transfer to municipalities**—as a step to help with municipal liquidity issues due to COVID-19. This is a modest preliminary measure that may help some municipalities with immediate liquidity issues but this is not new money. It has already been accounted for in municipal budgets and does not address non-recoverable losses. FCM's response can be seen [here](#)

# Provincial Investment in Water Management Infrastructure and Programming

The Water Security Agency announced a series of water management infrastructure initiatives and programming across Saskatchewan. These projects are part of the Government of Saskatchewan's two-year capital plan to build a strong Saskatchewan.

In total \$8.3 million will be invested into six water management projects. They include the following:

- \$2.5 million for upgrades to the conveyance canal and pumping infrastructure at Pike Lake, located outside of Saskatoon;
- \$2.5 million for the installation of travelling screens to capture and remove aquatic weeds from the M1 Canal;
- 1.5 million to advance agricultural water management projects that deal with issues such as erosion control;
- \$600,000 for Rural Municipalities, Conservation and Development Area Authorities and Watershed Associations to clear natural channels of debris, sedimentation and general overgrowth;
- \$500,000 for municipalities to conduct flood mapping to support long-term mitigation; and
- \$750,000 for upgrades to improved stoplog handling systems for control structures at six locations across the province.

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

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## Question of the Week Results

In the last two years, has your RM experienced long wait times or delays with ISC processing RM roadway plans?

Yes	34%
No	66%

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# WPB June 8-12

## Virtual Roundtable on the Impacts of COVID-19 on the Canadian Economy

On June 5, 2020 SARM President Orb had the opportunity to present at a roundtable hosted by Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau. Municipal associations, elected officials, financial institutions, the government of Canada and the United Nations were all represented at the event. President Orb lent a voice to the inter-dependencies of the rural and urban economies and the impacts of COVID-19.

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## Resolution Responses

Resolution Responses from the 2020 Annual Convention can be found on the SARM website.

Go to [www.sarm/advocacy/resolutions](http://www.sarm/advocacy/resolutions) to see the resolutions and responses received to date

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## Trans Canada Trail New National Trail Guidelines

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered life for all Canadians. More than ever, Canadians are turning to their trails as a venue for daily physical activity, family time, and mental respite. Trans Canada Trail developed new guidelines to be clear and easy-to-implement; leveraging international best practices that are also reflective of Canadian public health advice. At 27,000 kms across 15,000 urban, rural, and Indigenous communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast, The Great Trail of Canada is the largest network of recreational trails in the world.

[Trans Canada Trail Guidelines](#)

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# Waste ReForum 2020 is Going Virtual

Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council Annual Conference  
July 14-16, 2020

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](#)

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## Reminder: Strychnine Notice of Objection

The deadline to file a Notice of Objection is July 2, 2020.

Your RM may wish to file a notice of objection to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's decision to end the approved use of strychnine to control Richardson's Ground Squirrel by 2023 (*Re-evaluation Decision RVD2020-06, Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products - Richardson's Ground Squirrels*)

The online public engagement portal to file a notice of objection can be found [here](#)

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## Emergency Community Support Fund Applications Open - Update

As an update to the announcement last week, the Yorkton & District Community Foundation is also accepting applications for the Emergency Community Support Fund. The ECSF is a \$350 million dollar Government of Canada fund aiming to help charities and non-profit organizations being delivered in collaboration with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross.

[More information](#)

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# Question of the Week

Is your RM office currently closed to the public?

Yes

No

If yes, what is your proposed timeline for re-opening?

June-July 2020

September 2020

Following return of Ministry of Government relations employees

Undecided

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# WPB June 15-19

## Information about routine practices under the revised *Fisheries Act*

FCM is currently working with our association and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to ensure you have the information and support you need to undertake emergency and routine works under the revised *Fisheries Act*. FCM has called on the federal government to simplify the process for you to undertake certain routine works that pose a low risk to fish and fish habitat. As DFO works on developing a comprehensive Routine Practices Regulation, they have made two interim **Codes of Practice** available on their website (end-of-pipe fish screens and routine maintenance dredging) and are planning to release three more before mid-July (temporary watercourse crossing, culvert maintenance and beaver dam removal). While these are only interim measures, DFO has stated that proponents who meet the interim guidance will not need to apply for a review. If your community is looking for assistance navigating the revised *Fisheries Act*, please **contact DFO**. If you have feedback on the interim Codes of Practice or suggestions for other types of projects that should be included, please contact Sara Jane O'Neill at **[sjoneill@fcm.ca](mailto:sjoneill@fcm.ca)**.

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# Transport Canada – Navigation Protection Program

The Navigation Protection Program (NPP) helps keep Canada's navigable waters open for transport and recreation. The program administers the Canadian Navigable Waters Act, the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 and the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act.

The new Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA) provides protection for navigation on all navigable waters in Canada. For more information regarding the Navigation Protection Program and Canadian Navigable Waters Act, please click [here](#)

A guide to the Navigation Protection Program's Notification, Application and Review Requirements can be found [here](#)

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## Minister Meeting

The SARM Executive met with Minister of Justice and Attorney General, responsible for SaskTel, the Honourable Don Morgan. Q.C. on June 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss increasing rural broadband accessibility and reliability in Saskatchewan. The minister and SARM also discussed the federal regulation changes affecting firearms and the role of a provincially appointed Chief Firearms Officer.

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## Meeting with Saskatchewan CPC Caucus

On June 10, the SARM Board met with members of the Conservative Party of Canada Saskatchewan caucus. The discussion was centred around rural broadband, carbon tax costs for agriculture and firearms regulations.

# Crime Stoppers Address Amendment

Please note the correct address for Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is:

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers  
6101 Dewdney Avenue  
Bag Service 2500  
Regina, SK S4P 3K7

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## Saskatchewan Provincial Budget 2020-2021

After Provincial Estimates were released on March 19, 2020, Saskatchewan's 2020-2021 Budget was announced on June 15, 2020. In addition to the estimates provided in March, the budget detailed funds allocated to address the challenges of the pandemic and the \$2 Billion in stimulus funding announced in May. More information on the budget can be found [here](#)

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## Virtual Information Session on Navigable Waters

On **June 22 at 10:00am**, join [Transport Canada - Navigation Protection Program](#) for a virtual information session on the Canadian Navigable Waters Act for municipalities.

The Canadian Navigable Waters Act pertains to all works - bridges, culverts, intakes, outfalls, pipelines, aerial cables, etc. - in, on, over, under, through, or across navigable waters in Canada.

Interested in attending the virtual session? Email [Gordon.Chamberlain@tc.gc.ca](mailto:Gordon.Chamberlain@tc.gc.ca) with the e-mail addresses of the participants and an invitation and instructions for the session will be sent to you.

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# Question of the Week Results

Thank you to those who participated last week. It appears that there was glitch in the second part of the question so please answer below if you weren't able to last week.

Is your RM office currently closed to the public?

Yes	26%
No	73%

If yes, what is your proposed timeline for re-opening?

**June-July 2020**

**September 2020**

**Following return of Ministry of Government relations employees**

**Undecided**

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# WPB June 22-26

## **Amendments to Bill 194 - *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act***

This week while Bill 194 was before committee, amendments were made to *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2019*, which was originally introduced in the fall of 2019.

The first amendment limits the ability to ban firearm and handgun ownership within the province through new local municipal bylaws to avoid possible inconsistencies among municipalities in the province. Other amendments include clarifying municipal responsibilities when posting public notices. Municipalities will continue to be required to publish the following items within their local or regional newspaper: restructuring notices, local status and boundary changes, completion of assessment rolls as well as assessment notices and the last day for assessment appeals.

More [information](#)

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## **New course: Climate leadership for elected officials**

Are you a municipal elected official looking to advance your climate change knowledge and skills? We want to help you continue to develop as a climate leader. Apply to participate in our new, free *Climate leadership course for elected officials*. This course starts in September 2020 and combines online learning (three hours per month) and an in-person summit.

The course was specifically designed for elected officials. You'll hear from experts and discover lessons learned, best practices, and tools to help you achieve your community's sustainability objectives.

[Learn more and apply by July 3, 2020.](#)

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# BoxofDocs Webinar – Reminder

Webinar Description:

Municipal governments are at the leading edge of the broader government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From being the provider of essential community services, to acting as a coordinating body to support the vulnerable populations within their communities, to facilitating local and regional economic recovery initiatives, municipal governments have played and will continue to play, a critical role in the post-COVID-19 world. BoxOfDocs will share insights into various municipalities COVID-19 “lessons learned” and how collaborative technology will play a vital role in the evolution of local government.

*Date:* **June 25, 2020**

*Time :* **10:00 am MDT**

*Duration :* **45 mins**

*URL :* **<https://boxofdocs.info/webinars/>**

**[Click Here](#)** to Signup

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## Canadian Navigable Waters Act - Update

The new *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA) provides protection for navigation on all navigable waters in Canada. For more information on the requirements for the CNWA and the Navigation Protection Program (NPP) please reference the following fact sheets:

- **[Your Work in Canada’s Navigable Waters](#)**
- **[Navigation Protection Program Prairie and Northern Region](#)**
- **[The Common Project Search Registry](#)**
- **[The Navigation Protection Program External Submission](#)**
- **[Interference or No Interference with Navigation](#)**

A guide to the Navigation Protection Program’s Notification, Application and Review Requirements can be found here

**<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs-673.html>**

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# Question of the Week Results

Is your RM office currently closed to the public?

Yes	26%
No	73%

If yes, what is your proposed timeline for re-opening?

June-July 2020	62.5%
September 2020	8.3%
Following return of Ministry of Government Relations Employees	8.3%
Undecided	20.8%

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# WPB June 29-July 3

## 55 Municipal Economic Enhancements Program (MEEP) Projects Approved

MEEP is a grant-based program and will be distributed to individual municipalities on a per capita basis, based on 2016 Canadian Census population numbers. There are 14 infrastructure project categories that are eligible for the program. More information on [how to apply](#) and the projects that have [been approved](#).

- 1) Culvert Maintenance
  - 2) Temporary Stream Crossings
  - 3) Routine Maintenance Dredging
  - 4) End-of-Pipe Screens
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## AgriStability Deadline – July 3

The AgriStability enrollment deadline for the 2020 program year was extended without penalty to July 3, 2020. For more [information](#)

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## Traffic Safety Fund Grants

The call for applications to the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant Program will open again on July 1, 2020. The program allocates funds to traffic safety.

In the latest round of approvals, a total of 52 projects have been approved, with grants ranging from \$2,320 to \$57,750. Projects include digital speed display signs and other speed management projects, pedestrian crossing signals, school zone beacons and additional street lights.

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## Question of the Week

Does your RM have an Animal Control Officer?

**Yes**

**No**

**Don't Know**

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