

WPB March 2-6

This week's information from the Policy Department

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Weekly Policy Bulletin

Crown Lands Spring Auction

Check out the Sask. Ag Crown Lands that are for sale through public auction. Please find attached the [Spring Auction Catalogue and sale fact sheet](#) for the Spring 2020 offering. You can access the auction through the "Purchase Agricultural Crown Land" link on [Saskatchewan.ca/Agricultural Crown Land](https://Saskatchewan.ca/Agricultural-Crown-Land) or directly through the Ritchie Bros. auction site at ironplanet.com/realestate-skgov.

The auction will have staggered closing dates of March 10 and 12.

The Ministry of Agriculture is not responsible for any errors, omissions or amendments that may occur on the list.

Western Economic Diversification - Business Scale-up and Productivity Program

If you're a western Canadian company looking to grow, the [Business Scale-up and Productivity \(BSP\)](#) program could be for you. BSP supports high-growth businesses that are scaling up and producing innovative goods, services or technologies. It offers interest-free repayable funding to incorporated western Canadian companies.

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) is taking steps to streamline and improve the BSP program for western Canada's businesses and entrepreneurs. You will have multiple opportunities to apply for BSP funds should your expression of interest not be ready for submission. WD will be accepting expressions of interest throughout the year during the following dates:

- February 24 – March 23, 2020
- September 15 – October 14, 2020
- January 15 – February 16, 2021

For more information about the program and how to apply, please visit WD's [BSP website](#) or [contact a regional office](#).

2020 Crop Insurance Program

On February 25, Agriculture Minister David Marit announced details of the 2020 Crop Insurance Program, some changes and highlights include:

- The insurable region for soybeans is expanding to the entire province. Coverage is now based on personal yield history, instead of regional averages. Producer's experience discount or surcharge is applied to their soybean premium. Irrigation coverage is also available to soybean producers.
- Customers now have up to seven years after their coverage has lapsed to rejoin the Crop Insurance Program and continue with their previous premium discount or surcharge and yields.
- The coverage and premiums for organic crops have been updated using information from organic producers. Previously, the organic coverage was based on a combination of conventional and organic crop experience. The insured prices for organic crops are also updated reflecting more current market information. With this change, organic insured prices are higher and premium rates are lower. Average coverage is also lower; realigning to current organic risk. The impact of this change will depend upon each producer's production experience. Organic customers are encouraged to contact their local SCIC office to review their individual coverage.
- The Vegetable Acreage Loss Insurance Program is changing the insured value of vegetable crops to better reflect production costs. To allow for a longer growing season before harvest begins, SCIC is extending the fall cut-off dates. For 2020, asparagus has been added as an eligible crop.

More information about the changes and enhancements for 2019 can be found at

www.saskcropinsurance.com

[View letter from SCIC President and CEO, Shawn Jaques](#)

Reminder: 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. This application intake began January 1, 2020. Request a project number and application form from the PSE Program Administrator by emailing PSEprogram@sgi.sk.ca or calling 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744), extension 6042.

Spring Asset Management Training Opportunities

Asset Management Saskatchewan (AM-SK) is pleased to announce it has been successful with the Municipal Asset Management Program's Request for Proposals - Round 3. AM-SK will be offering a range of training opportunities including in-person workshops on asset management planning.

The first Asset Management Training opportunity will be coming up in April 2020. AM-SK will be hosting NAMS Canada training workshop in both Regina and Saskatoon. NAMS is a proven training program designed specifically for municipal government employees to integrate the efforts of the disciplines of public works, finance, administration and political leaders. The training will take place in the following cities and dates. Use the links below to register:

[Saskatoon - April 21- 23 2020](#)

[Regina - April 28- 30 2020](#)

For more information about Asset Management Saskatchewan, visit www.assetmanagementsk.ca

Resolution Responses

SARM has received a response from the Water Security Agency on the following resolution:

[23-19M WSA Complaints](#)

Reminder: Quick Internet Speed Test

The Government of Canada is currently developing the new Universal Broadband Fund (UBF), which is meant to support broadband projects across the country, and are inviting Canadians to visit this [website](#) to complete a quick Internet speed test to support the identification of program improvement opportunities.

Question of the Week Results

Has your RM been denied payment for a fire claim made to SaskPower?

41% Yes

40% No

19% Don't know

WPB March 16-20

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Question of the Week

Does your RM have an animal control officer to manage strays or instances of animal neglect?

[Yes](#)

[No](#)

Strychnine Update

You may wish to refer to [Appendix I](#) for details on the PMRA's Strychnine decision. To comply with [PMRA's decision](#), products that are cancelled will be phased out following the implementation timeline outlined below.

- Last date of manufacture March 2021.
- Last date of sale March 2022.
- Last date of use March 2023.

For information on purchasing Strychnine you may contact AgroMax sales@agromax.ca

We will work to keep you updated on any changes to the current decision.

Crescent Point Energy Property Tax Invoices

Crescent Point has asked SARM to share the following information with members:

In light of the recent spread of the COVID-19 virus, Crescent Point employees have been asked to work from home until further notice. The mailroom is currently open but it is unclear as to how long this will be. Since property tax invoices are sent via mail, they may or may not arrive in a timely manner. Crescent Point has requested to have all invoices sent to vendormaintenance@crescentpointenergy.com so that they can continue to manage payments appropriately.

Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council Workshop Postponed

The Invasive Species Workshop that was scheduled to take place on March 24 has been postponed until fall of 2020. Anyone that has already registered, has the option to carry their registration fee over to the fall event. Otherwise, refunds will be issued.

[Poster](#)

FCM Asset Management Resource

FCM has put together a [learning journey](#) through four resources designed specifically to help community's learn and evolve their approach to infrastructure.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

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

Spring Runoff Potential for most of the Province Moves to Below Average

On March 5, the Water Security Agency released the March spring runoff outlook. Most of the province is facing a below normal spring runoff for 2020 as low winter snowfall levels are impacting conditions across Saskatchewan. For more [information](#)

WPB March 23-28

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Weekly Policy Bulletin

Update on Voluntary Regional Cooperation Workshops

All free workshops on regional and inter-municipal co-operation scheduled in March, April and May have been postponed.

The Ministry of Government Relations will reschedule the workshops for a later date.

Community Planning Branch staff are available by phone or email to answer questions municipalities may have about working regionally with neighbours. Please call our Regina office at 306-787-2725 or our Saskatoon office at 306-933-6937 to be directed to a staff member.

Minister Meetings

On March 16, members of the SARM Executive met with Minister responsible for the Water Security Agency, the Honourable Greg Ottenbreit and representatives from the Water Security Agency to discuss to floodplain mapping in Saskatchewan.

On March 16th, members of the SARM Executive met with Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable David Marit to discuss Business Risk Management programs and the recent PMRA decision on strychnine.

Federal Support for Farmers and Agri-Food Business under Canada's response to Covid-19

Farm Credit Canada will receive support from the Government of Canada that will allow for an additional \$5 billion in lending capacity to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors. This will offer increased flexibility to farmers who face cashflow issues and to processors who are impacted by lost sales, helping them remain financially strong during this difficult time.

All eligible farmers who have an outstanding Advance Payments Program (APP) loan due on or before April 30 will receive a Stay of Default, allowing them an additional six months to repay the loan. This important measure, which represents \$173 million in deferred loans, will help keep more money in farmers' pockets during these critical months.

The new deadlines for outstanding Advance Payments Program loans are as follows:

- o September 30, 2020: 2018 cash advances for grains, oilseeds, and pulses.
- o September 30, 2020: 2018 cash advances for cattle and bison.
- o October 31, 2020: 2019 cash advances on flowers and potted plants.

More [information](#)

LAFOIP Information

The Access and Privacy Branch is pleased to announce that a new resource has been added to our suite of online training tools. **In the Door, Out the Door: A User's Guide to Processing Access to Information Requests under FOIP and LAFOIP**, will help those who process Access to Information requests under either *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

More information **In the Door, Out the Door** is available [here](#)

Comments or questions regarding In the Door, Out the Door can be sent to the Access and Privacy Branch at accessprivacyjustice@gov.sk.ca.

Reminder: Open Forum Covid-19

SUMA has arranged a COVID-19 Panel for Wednesday, March 25 at 11AM. This is an opportunity to have questions answered by an expert. The panel will consist of experts in crisis management, emergency preparedness, employment law and municipal law.

The forum is free for all municipalities, to register please go to the link below:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pZIt2x_hTMSGyWgxl3SfDA

Business Development Canada

BDC announced that it will be hosting a free webinar next Wednesday, March 25, to discuss how businesses can cope with the impacts of COVID-19.

For more information and to register to the webinar, please visit: <https://www.bdc.ca/en/articles-tools/entrepreneur-toolkit/webinars/pages/how-cope-impacts-covid-19-on-your-business.aspx>

Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance

SEDA has [resources](#) available for business's in Saskatchewan communities as they deal with Covid-19. SEDA has also opened an impact [survey](#) for business/organizations to help gauge the impact that Covid-19 is having on local business.

Question of the Week Results

Does your RM have an animal control officer to manage strays or instances of animal neglect?

Yes 11%

No 89%
