



# The Weekly Policy Bulletin

11-02-2020

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## Question of the Week

SARM is looking to partner with SaskPower to discuss the future power supply in Saskatchewan; including nuclear power from small modular reactors and the potential to increase the amount of electricity that can be exchanged between Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba.

Would you be interested in participating in this discussion?

Yes

Select

No

Select

If yes, would you be willing to participate in a virtual format?

Yes

Select

No

Select

## Reminders

### Submitting Municipal Election Results

With the Municipal Election right around the corner a helpful reminder that an administrator or their designate can submit municipal elections results electronically using the Municipal Elections Results Form (MERT) located here: <http://applications.saskatchewan.ca/mamert>.

Municipalities are encouraged to submit municipal election results as soon as possible after a municipal election or byelection.

## SARM Executive Meets with Parliamentary Secretary for Western Economic Diversification

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the SARM Executive met with MP Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages (Western Economic Diversification Canada) and to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (Canada Water Agency) to discuss the recovery from COVID-19 in Saskatchewan, including the importance of access to high-speed internet, pipelines, the future of irrigation in the province and the challenges the Saskatchewan agriculture sector is facing when it comes to carbon taxes and fuel standards.

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## WCB – Board Level Hold on 2021 Average Employer Premium Rate

On Oct. 28, 2020 the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) announced there will be a board level hold on the 2021 average employer premium rate. Because of the economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the WCB is proposing to hold its 2021 preliminary average premium rate at \$1.17 per hundred dollars of payroll – the same rate as 2020. The announcement was made Oct. 28 at the WCB's annual preliminary rate information meeting teleconference with Saskatchewan employers, workers and stakeholders.

[Learn More](#)

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## Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program – Extended

Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau announced that the Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program will be extended until November 30, 2020.

The decision follows the Government of Canada's announcement to extend the Quarantine Act to the same date. The Act requires anyone arriving from outside Canada, including temporary foreign workers, to undergo a mandatory 14-day isolation period upon arriving in Canada.

The \$50-million Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program is helping employers in the farming, fish harvesting, and food production and processing sectors with some of the incremental costs incurred to support the safety and health of foreign workers during that 14-day period.

Under the Program, the federal government will provide a maximum support of

\$1,500 for each temporary foreign worker, to employers who are required to isolate workers under the Quarantine Act. The funding is conditional on employers not being found in violation of the mandatory 14-day isolation protocols or any other public health order.

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11-10-2020

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## Question of the Week Results

SARM is looking to partner with SaskPower to discuss the future power supply in Saskatchewan; including nuclear power from small modular reactors and the potential to increase the amount of electricity that can be exchanged between Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba.

Would you be interested in participating in this discussion?

**Yes - 61%**

**No - 39%**

If yes, would you be willing to participate in a virtual format?

**Yes - 72%**

**No - 28%**

## Reminders

### Webinar - MMSW's Updated Payment Model for Collectors

Collectors are invited to participate in the Multi-Material Stewardship Western's (MMSW) webinar to introduce the new payment model/rates to be implemented January 1, 2021.

**Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2020

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

[Register](#)

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# Getting to Know Saskatchewan's Local Governments Forum

November 9-15 is Local Government Week. As you know, local governments in Saskatchewan are the order of government closest to the people, representing the local voice of Saskatchewan residents. Your work impacts the lives of residents every day.

To help educate the public on the importance of local government and the role they play, Saskatchewan's Local Government Week Committee has created *Getting to Know Saskatchewan's Local Governments*. In this one hour virtual session, residents can learn about local government in Saskatchewan and ask a panel of experts their local government questions. What exactly are local governments? How does my local government make decisions?

**Date:** November 12, 2020

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

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## SARM's Election Reporting Website

As the 2020 general elections have come to a close, do not forget to update SARM's real-time election reporting website with your municipality's election results.

Please note the login credentials for this website are separate from the ones provided for "Members Only" access. Your RM would've received an email on September 15th, 2020 with your unique username and password. Make sure to check your junk mail if you have not received this email in your inbox.

If you are experiencing any technical difficulties with the website, please contact [coordinator@sarm.ca](mailto:coordinator@sarm.ca) for assistance.

[Visit Website](#)

## Information

### Snow Removal Exemption

Please view the current exemption for RM residents who do snow removal for the RM. This exemption form is to take the place of the exemption that expired November 30, 2019. This exemption is in effect

until November 30, 2022.

The checklist will ensure that specific conditions of the exemption are being met. This checklist is not mandatory, but is simply meant to help you ensure that you are not in violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

[Snow Removal Checklist](#)

[Snow Removal Exemption Letter](#)

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## Equal Voice - Daughters of the Vote 2021

Equal Voice is a multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing and supporting more women at all levels of political office.

One of their flagship initiatives is their Daughters of the Vote program (DOV). The objective of the program is to expose participants to Canada's political institutions and those women and men serving in them – so that they are equipped and inspired to participate in the formal political sphere and take action in their local communities in the years and decades to come.

If there are any youth in your community interested in participating in DOV 2021, please contact [dov-hds@equalvoice.ca](mailto:dov-hds@equalvoice.ca)

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## Connecting the Prairies and Territories to high-speed Internet - Universal Broadband Fund

Over the past months, many Canadians have worked from home, taken classes, shopped online, and accessed government services remotely. The global COVID-19 pandemic has made it more important than ever for all Canadians to access fast and reliable Internet, no matter where they live.

The Minister of Northern Affairs, the Honourable Daniel Vandal, together with the Prime Minister's special representative for the Prairies, the Honourable Jim Carr, highlighted an investment of \$1.75 billion to help connect Canadians to high-speed Internet across the country. Originally announced in Budget 2019 as a \$1 billion program, the Government is now providing additional funding to advance large, high-impact projects, which will leverage partnerships including with the Canada Infrastructure Bank broadband initiative.

[View Full News Release](#)

## Resources

FCM - Asset management insights: policy and

## governance

This report is the first in a series of updates on the progress being achieved by Canadian municipalities through FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP). Each report will focus on one of the five competencies from the **Asset Management Readiness Scale**. Each report incorporates real examples of what communities are doing to improve their decision-making on infrastructure as well as information on tools communities can use to better manage their assets.

[Learn More](#)

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## Call2Recycle's Battery Recycling Product Stewardship Program

In July 2019, the Government of Saskatchewan included household consumer batteries to the list of regulated products under **The Household Hazardous Waste Products Regulation**. Call2Recycle Canada Inc.'s Product Stewardship Program plan was approved by the Saskatchewan government in April 2020 with a January 1, 2021 effective date.

To register to become a collection site with Call2Recycle, please visit [call2recycle.ca/become-a-collection-partner](https://call2recycle.ca/become-a-collection-partner) or by calling the Call2Recycle team at 1-888-224-9764. Or for more information, please contact Chad Moussa, Account Manager, Western Canada at [cmoussa@call2recycle.ca](mailto:cmoussa@call2recycle.ca) or 604-449-3172.

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# The Weekly Policy Bulletin

11-17-2020

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## Question of the Week

Is your council planning to register for one of *SARM's upcoming webinars*?

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Yes

Select

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No

Select

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## Reminders

### Declaration of Eligibility (Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant)

The Ministry of Government Relations was directed to complete a review of the Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) Grant program in 2018-2019. One of the main objectives of the MRS Grant review was to provide recommendations on how MRS Grants can encourage effective local governance. To support this objective, the ministry has implemented annual eligibility requirements for municipalities to receive their unconditional Municipal Revenue Sharing Grants. There are six eligibility requirements and they are as follows:

1. Submission of the Audited Annual Financial Statement to the ministry;
2. Submission of the Public Reporting on Municipal Waterworks to the ministry (if applicable);
3. In Good Standing with respect to the reporting and remittance of Education Property Taxes (EPT);
4. Adoption of a Council Procedures Bylaw;
5. Adoption of an Employee Code of Conduct; and
6. All members of council have filed and annually updated their Public Disclosure Statements, as required.

Municipalities must submit their Declarations of Eligibility by **January 31, 2021**.



## Information

### Minister of Transport issues revised Order to improve rail safety in the winter

On November 6, 2020 the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau, issued a new Ministerial Order under the *Rail Safety Act*. The new Ministerial Order restricts train speeds based on cold temperature conditions, instead of restricting train speed based on a winter date range as required in the previous Ministerial Order. Railway companies will be required to develop and submit a Winter Operations Plan specific to each subdivision where higher risk key trains operate.

A copy of the new Ministerial Order can be found below:

[View Full News Release](#)

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### Cabinet Shuffle Announcement

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Premier Scott Moe announced a number of changes to the provincial cabinet after receiving a renewed majority mandate in Saskatchewan's 29th general election. The new cabinet was sworn-in by Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Russ Mirasty.

Don McMorris becomes Minister of Government Relations, Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs, and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission.

For more details on other cabinet minister postings, please see full announcement below:

[View Announcement](#)

## Canadian Agricultural Loans Act Program

### Program Offerings

The Canadian Agricultural Loans Act (CALA) Program is a loan guarantee program designed to increase the availability of loans to farmers and agricultural co-operatives. Farmers can use these loans to establish, improve, and develop farms, while agricultural co-operatives may also access loans to process, distribute, or market the products of farming.

Under the CALA, the federal government guarantees, to the lender, repayment of 95% of a net loss on an eligible loan issued.

The maximum aggregate loan limit for any one farm operation is \$500,000.

Loans are limited to a maximum of:

- \$500,000 for the purchase of land and the construction or improvement of buildings
- \$350,000 for all other loan purposes, including consolidation/refinancing

The maximum aggregate loan limit for agricultural co-operatives is \$3 million, with the Minister's approval.

For example: If a farmer gets a CALA loan for \$300,000 for a tractor, he can still access up to \$200,000 for land purchase or building repair, or \$50,000 for another implement and \$150,000 for land purchase or building repair.

### Eligibility

You can apply if you are one of the following:

- existing farmers
- beginning farmers (that is, less than 6 years of farming)
- start-up farmers
- farmers taking over the family farm
- part-time farmers
- agricultural co-operatives with a majority (50% + 1) farmer membership

[Learn More & Apply](#)

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## PEMAC's Asset Management Professional Program

Made possible by a grant through the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP), which is delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and funded by the Government of Canada\*, municipal practitioners from across Canada are invited to join a special delivery of Course One of **PEMAC's Asset**

**Management Professional (AMP) education and certification program.** This course is offered to municipal practitioners to participate in without having to commit to the entire program and will be held live online over five days.

Join the many other cross-functional municipal teams that have started their Asset Management learning journey, and gain skills to meaningfully improve the Asset Management practices at your municipalities.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

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# The Weekly Policy Bulletin

11-24-2020

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## Question of the Week Results

Is your council planning to register for one of *SARM's upcoming webinars*?

**Yes - 47%**

**No - 53%**

## Reminders

### Resolution Deadline 2021

The deadline for submitting resolutions for the upcoming 2021 Annual Convention is **Friday, January 22, 2021** end of day. Resolutions must be received in the SARM office by this date in order to be addressed at the convention and included in the resolution booklet. Please email resolutions to [sarm@sarm.ca](mailto:sarm@sarm.ca).

Below for your convenience are the Guide for Writing Resolutions and the Resolution Submission Form.

**\*Please note the new requirement that submissions must include a brief (no more than 500 word) background that answers the questions provided\***

[Guide for Writing Resolutions](#)

[Resolution Submission Form](#)

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## Feed Your Future Campaign

AgCareers.com & CareersInFood.com, is proud to announce the launch of the national Feed Your Future campaign.

This initiative was developed as a new way to connect agriculture and food employers and job seekers virtually, addressing the constraints that COVID-19 has placed on traditional in-person recruitment events.

If your staffing levels have been affected by COVID-19 or you are struggling to recruit due to the lack of in person hiring events, Feed Your Future will connect you with talent looking for opportunities in the Ag&Food industry from Farm to Fork. If you are a job seeker looking for work register for free and network with top employers in the industry at this exciting event!

[Learn More & Register](#)

## Information

### Municipal Tax Policy for Agricultural Crown lands

With municipal taxes coming due December 31, now is a good time to become familiar with the Ministry of Agriculture's Municipal Tax Policy for agricultural Crown lands. This policy outlines how the ministry and the Rural Municipality (RM) can work together to ensure that any outstanding taxes levied on leased agricultural Crown land are paid in a timely fashion.

RM's can request payment for taxes owing on leased agricultural Crown land if there are any unpaid amounts five business days after December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the taxes were levied. The first step is for the RM to complete and submit the *Agreement Cancellation Request Form* to Corporate Services. Corporate Services will not be sending out this form, it has been attached for your convenience. This form needs to be submitted no later than January 29, 2021. If you have questions please contact Corporate Services at [billinginquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:billinginquiry@gov.sk.ca) or 306-787-7191.

Once this form is received by the ministry, a Notice of Cancellation will be sent to the lessee. If taxes are not paid by the lessee within 21 business days after the issuance of the Notice of Cancellation, the lease will be cancelled. The ministry will only pay up to one year of tax arrears (the oldest tax year owing) to the RM directly and the ministry will take the necessary actions to recover the debt from the former lessee. If the RM receives payment for taxes, after the ministry provides a grant in lieu, from the former lessee on a cancelled lease, the RM will refund all taxes paid by the ministry.

[Learn More](#)

## Resources

### New Asset Management Training

In an effort to accommodate the evolving needs of municipalities across Canada, ***FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) partner organizations*** are offering a number of online training activities to help your community strengthen its asset management approach.

Sign up for an event today to find best practices and tailored advice on how to meet your region's needs.

[Learn More & Enrol](#)

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