



The Weekly Policy Bulletin

4-13-2021

Question of the Week Results

Does your RM Office know where the nearest COVID-19 vaccine clinics are located in your area of the province?

Yes - 87%

No - 13%

If not, please refer to the documents below for more information on vaccine clinic locations and hours of operation as well as Saskatchewan's COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan.

[Vaccine Clinic Locations](#)

[Immunization Delivery Plan](#)

Reminders

SaskPower Small Modular Reactor Planning & Development Update

As a follow up to the Energy Synopsis seminar held at the 2019 SARM Midterm Convention, SaskPower is hoping to use this Thursday's webinar as an opportunity to provide an update to SARM members on the planning and development phase of nuclear power from small modular reactors. SaskPower will provide the context for this work – the need to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and some detail about how they will be conducting the evaluation of SMRs, including technology selection and siting.

SaskPower is eager to hear what questions SARM members might have and how RMs would like to be engaged as they start to share information with indigenous rights holders and stakeholders across the province!

Event Details:

Date: April 15, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Speakers: *Leanne Jarocki* – SaskPower Public Engagement,
Doug Opseth – SaskPower Director of Generation Asset Management and Planning,
Darcy Holderness – SaskPower Project Manager for Planning and Development,
Iain Harry – SaskPower Senior Business Advisor,
Dan Johnston – SaskPower Indigenous Engagement Consultant

[Register Here](#)

CIRA Grant Deadline

On March 2, 2021, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) launched **a call for applications** for projects to improve internet access in Canada. Over \$1 million in grants will be awarded to community groups and researchers working on infrastructure, cybersecurity, digital literacy, and community leadership projects across the country – with preference given to those that benefit students, as well as northern, rural, and Indigenous communities.

CIRA Grants

CIRA Grants focus on **internet-related projects** in Canada and awards grants of up to \$100,000, including one grant of up to \$250,000.

The program is looking to fund projects in these four areas:

1. Infrastructure research or projects that improve internet speed, access, and affordability.
2. Digital literacy tools, research, and training programs to develop digital skills.
3. Cybersecurity projects or research that promote users' safety online.
4. Community leadership initiatives including events or research that engage Canadians in domestic internet policy issues

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications in advance of the **April 14th deadline at 2pm ET**.

[Apply Now](#)

Information

Response from Minister Morgan Regarding Rural Broadband

On April 5, 2021, SARM received a response from the Honourable Don Morgan, Minister Responsible for SaskTel, regarding the letter that was sent to the federal and provincial government by SARM, on behalf of RMs, highlighting the

importance of reliable broadband in rural Saskatchewan. Please see below for Minister Morgan's full response.

[View Response](#)

Resolution Responses

SARM received responses from the Ministry of Agriculture on the following resolutions:

- ***Resolution 1-21A - Weed Control Expenses Incurred on Ministry of Highways Land***
- ***Resolution 2-21A - Beaver Control Issues***
- ***Resolution 3-21A - Compensation for Damage by Black Tailed Prairie Dogs***

CN & CP Contact Information

Does your RM need to contact CN or CP? Please use the contact info below for general and grade crossing regulations inquiries. Received emails are monitored and responded to on a regular basis. To help speed up a response it is good practice to provide background information, including any past correspondence related to your query. This will assist those monitoring inquiries, in assessing the request and identifying the appropriate individual to respond.

Canadian National Railway Contact Information:

- Grade Crossings Regulations Inquiries: ***rainfosharing@cn.ca***
- General inquiries: ***contact@cn.ca***
- Private Grade Crossings Inquiries: ***private.crossing@cn.ca*** or ***passage.prive@cn.ca***
- Western Canada Public Works email (NEW): ***WR-Public-Works@cn.ca***

Canadian Pacific Railway Contact Information:

- Grade Crossings Regulations Inquiries: ***crossing_compliance@cpr.ca***
- Other Inquiries: ***community_connect@cpr.ca***

Education Property Tax Mill Rates 2021

On April 6, 2021, the Government of Saskatchewan announced changes to the Education Property Tax mill rates for 2021. Since the last revaluation in 2017, the taxable assessment of agriculture properties in Saskatchewan has increased, while the taxable assessment of residential, commercial/industrial, and resource properties have declined.

Property Class	2020 Education Property Tax Mill Rates	2021 Education Property Tax Mill Rates
Agricultural	1.43	1.36
Residential	4.12	4.46
Commercial/Industrial	6.27	6.75
Resource	9.68	9.79

2021 is a revaluation year for property tax assessments in Saskatchewan; the next revaluation year will be in 2025. Provincial legislation requires all Saskatchewan properties be revalued every four years, since their values change over time.

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Information

Saskatchewan Provincial Budget 2021-2022

Saskatchewan's Provincial Budget was announced on April 6, 2021. Here are a few of the highlights:

Agriculture

- The Province is not fully funding AgriStability. SARM is disappointed that the province was not able to fully fund changes to the AgriStability program that would provide higher margin coverage to AgriStability participants. We remain hopeful that funding contribution will be re-evaluated as our provincial economy improves.
- \$3.0 million for investment into an agricultural technology venture capital fund. This initial investment is part of the \$15 million commitment announced last summer to further Saskatchewan's global leadership in the ag-tech sector
- There is also \$66 million for maintenance and upgrades to dams and canals and \$18.9 million for phase one of the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation – Westside Expansion Project – a transformational multi-year project expected to cost \$4 billion.
- An additional \$2.5 million for irrigation development projects in the areas outside the Lake Diefenbaker irrigation expansion project announced in 2020. Through the Ministry of Agriculture, this funding will help further develop land and water resources, a goal in the Growth Plan. Irrigation supports the growth of diverse, high-value crops which leads to value-added processing opportunities, business attraction and employment.
- Education tax mill rate for agriculture land is going down, but due to the revaluation in 2021 assessment on agriculture land is going up on average by 17%. Farmers are already facing increased financial pressures from carbon taxes, increasing expenses and another potential season of drought.

Environment

- \$200 million for the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) to support Saskatchewan-based oil and gas service companies and more than 2,000 jobs in the sector. The program is federally funded and cleans up abandoned oil and gas well sites.

Government Relations

- \$276 million in Municipal Revenue Sharing. (Slight decrease to the \$278 million last year)
- Includes more than \$465 million of total investment into municipalities, including revenue sharing, the province's portion of infrastructure funding and a number of grants and initiatives from multiple Government ministries.
- Reinstating the Community Rink affordability grant, a Government commitment providing \$2,500 per ice surface. The \$1.7 million program helps cover eligible operating costs, COVID-related costs and minor capital improvements for more than 600 ice surfaces in more than 350 communities.
- \$244.6 million for municipal infrastructure. This includes commitments under federal-provincial infrastructure agreements, and investments such as Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities
- The Saskatchewan Home Renovation Tax credit provides a 10.5 percent tax credit on up to \$20,000 of eligible home renovations completed between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2022.

Highways and Infrastructure

- \$830 million into operating, maintaining, building and improving Saskatchewan's roads and highways—up \$115 million, or 16 percent, compared to last year.
- 553 million for transportation capitals- multi passing lanes on highways
- 33 million in transfer for RIRG program and Urban connector and airport program
- \$530,000 for new short line rail infrastructure program
- \$33.1 million in transfers related to municipal infrastructure for the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth program, the Urban Highway Connector Program and the Community Airport Partnership Program, with \$530,000 in this Budget for a new Short-line Rail Infrastructure Program to support the industry
- Capital commitments:
 - \$52 million for a remand centre in Saskatoon.
 - \$18.9 million for Phase 1 of the Lake Diefenbaker irrigation project
- SaskTel will invest more than \$323 million this year to improve its networks, and will complete its \$107 million Wireless Saskatchewan program in 2021-22—with an investment of \$7.5 million to improve cellular services for rural customers.
- Road use fee for electric vehicles

More information on the 2021-22 Provincial Budget can be found below:

[2021-22 Budget Documents](#)

Crop Reporters Needed

Are you a weather-watcher who checks the rain gauge each morning? Do you

enjoy discussing farming and crop conditions with your neighbours? Would you like to contribute local information to Saskatchewan Agriculture's most popular publication?

Then consider becoming a volunteer Crop Reporter with the Ministry of Agriculture. Saskatchewan has a great reputation for the quality of its crop report and all those involved in the agriculture industry benefit from the information it provides. It also helps the general public to understand the challenges facing our producers.

For more information or to apply, please call the Agriculture Knowledge Center in Moose Jaw at 1-866-457-2377 or email cropreport@gov.sk.ca

[Learn More](#)

Resources

Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program

Infrastructure Canada is currently accepting applications for retrofits and new building projects for community buildings. Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis for projects under \$3 million and until **July 6, 2021 at 11:59 PDT** for projects from \$3 million to \$25 million.

The Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program aims to build more community buildings and improve existing ones – in particular in areas with populations experiencing higher needs – while also making the buildings more energy efficient, lower carbon, more resilient, and higher performing. This five-year \$1.5 billion program will support green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly-accessible community buildings that serve high-needs, underserved communities across Canada.

For more information on the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program and for instructions on how to apply, please click the link below:

[Learn More & Apply](#)

Fraud & Internal Controls Webinar

During times of change, companies and organizations are challenged to adapt quickly to ensure they continue to thrive. Whether your employees are working at the office or from home, oversight of financial processes continues to be a critical business function. Virtus Group will discuss key internal controls you should have in place and how to adapt your processes quickly while maintaining the integrity of your control framework. They will also explore the fraud triangle and current trends, as well as highlight some red flags to watch for.

Date: April 23, 2021

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

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Information

Resolution Responses

SARM received responses from the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency on the following resolutions:

- ***5-21A - Fire Ban***
- ***6-21A - Tire Recycling***
- ***8-21A - Elk Population Management***
- ***9-21A - Management of Overpopulation of Mule and White Tail Deer***

SARM received responses from the Ministry of Government Relations on the following resolutions:

- ***15-21A - Amendment to Section 141 of the Local Government Elections Act, 2015***
- ***17-21A - Request of Exemption for Ministerial Approval Regarding Changes to Zoning Bylaws***
- ***19-21A - Road Maintenance Agreement Rates***
- ***20-21A - Municipalities of Saskatchewan***

SARM received a response from the Ministry of Government Relations on the following resolution:

- ***21-21A - SaskPower Poles***

Resources

Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance
(SCGA) Update

City of Saskatoon – Please see the attached bulletin that was sent out to industry over the past week related to the City of Saskatoon owned utility locate process change.

City of Saskatoon Update

WorkSafe Saskatchewan – Please see attached news release regarding launch of online psychological resource centre for Saskatchewan employers and workers.

WorkSafe Sask Update

CAPULC – Information regarding a call out to their members to join the Education and Standards Committee & Call for Submissions: The Locator Magazine - Deadline: **August 30, 2021**

Call Out for Committee Members

CAPULC The Locator Magazine

Sask 1st Call - Sask 1st Call is offering training to SCGA members on how to submit locate requests online. Email Sask 1st Call Manager, Erin Rodger at erodger@sask1stcall.com to schedule a training session to answer all questions about clicking before digging. Sask 1st Call also has a pre-recorded training session posted on www.sask1stcall.com.

Sask 1st Brochure

SaskPower: Future Power System Planning Dialogue

SaskPower is facing big decisions when it comes to our power future – decisions they know will impact Saskatchewan’s economy and environment. They’re already on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by at least 40 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

But more needs to be done.

That’s why SaskPower wants your input and feedback as they plan the future power system. They want to know what’s important to you and what you hope to see in SaskPower’s long-term strategy to power our province as Canada aims for net zero GHG emissions by 2050.

What to Expect:

- This will be an interactive and participatory experience.
- This WILL NOT be a presentation of findings, plans or results. Rather, it will be a chance to work with others to brainstorm and explore opportunities as SaskPower plans for the future.

SaskPower will be holding two identical sessions on May 6th and registration for

these events closes at **midnight on May 4th**. Please register for your preferred session below:

Date: May 6, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Date: May 6, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

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