



The Weekly Policy Bulletin

2-2-2021

Question of the Week Results

Does your local landfill have a composting program?

Yes - 22%

No - 78%

Reminders

Canada Summer Jobs Application for Funding

Reminder that the employer application period for the 2021 Canada Summer Jobs program is still open! You're encouraged to apply for funding to hire a young person. The application period has been extended, and applications can be submitted until **12:00pm PST on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.**

To submit an application, please visit Canada.ca/Canada-summer-jobs. Employer applicants who are approved for funding will be able to hire youth as early as April 2021.

For more information:

Call: 1-800-935-5555 (ATS: 1-800-926-9105)

Visit: [a Service Canada Centre](#)

Information

Have Wild Boar Been Spotted in Your RM?

Has someone in your RM spotted wild boar? SARM, in response to numerous resolutions has partnered with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to help determine the scope of the wild boar/feral pig issue in Saskatchewan and is working with our partners to develop control and eradication options.

If someone has spotted a wild boar in your RM please fill out the survey below and send it back to Richard Wilkins at the Ministry of Saskatchewan

[Complete Survey](#)

Federal Government Seeking Farm Debt Mediation Appeal Board Members

Our government remains committed to open, transparent, and merit-based selection processes for Governor in Council and Ministerial appointments that are focused on identifying high-quality candidates who demonstrate Canada's diversity.

This process will be used to select members for the ***Farm Debt Mediation Service Appeal Boards***. I am writing to you to seek your assistance in promoting this selection process to your network.

To ensure that the Farm Debt Mediation Service continues to effectively deliver on its mandate, we are looking for diverse candidates from across the country to fill up to 10 positions of Member of the Appeal Boards (2 chairpersons and 8 board members). The ideal candidates will have experience as owners and/or operators of a farming enterprise or experience providing financial advisory services to farming operations.

I encourage you to inform your members of this opportunity and invite interested candidates to apply for one of these at the link below by **February 26, 2021**.

[Apply Now](#)

Thank you for your assistance in this matter that supports our farmers.

Resources

A Webinar Opportunity for RM Weed Inspectors

On Thursday, February 18th, the ***iMapInvasives Network*** along with staff from ***NatureServe*** will be hosting a special virtual Q&A panel discussion at 12:00pm CST, and you're invited to attend!

During this special webinar event, administrators from each of the current iMapInvasives jurisdictions (AZ, ME, NY, OR, PA, and SK) as well as iMapInvasives representatives from NatureServe will serve as panelists and answer questions about iMapInvasives in an effort to provide a better understanding of the history of iMapInvasives, its many capabilities, and how others in your state or province are utilizing the iMapInvasives platform to abate the threat of invasive species.

An opportunity to submit one or more questions for discussion as part of this webinar is open to anyone who pre-registers. All questions must be submitted by February 8th

Registration for this event will be open until **February 17th, 2021.**

[Submit a Question Here](#)

[Register Here](#)

Training for Board of Revision Chairs, Members and Secretaries

As part of the Board of Revision Renewal Project an immediate priority was identified to provide current boards of revision with training to assist them in preparation for the 2021 assessment appeal hearings.

In December 2020, the ministry hosted a series of pre-recorded and live webinars that discussed administrative law and administrative tribunals. If you were unable to attend, you can watch the recorded webinars at:

[Part One](#)

[Part Two](#)

[Part Three](#)

Municipal administrators are encouraged to share the link with their boards of revision and encourage them to use the material to prepare for upcoming appeals. The Ministry of Government Relations and the project steering committee are continuing to work on a comprehensive training program that will be available by fall of 2021.

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

2-9-2021

Question of the Week

We have a “closed herd law” in Saskatchewan. However, a municipality may, by bylaw, allow animals to run at large in all or part of the municipality. The bylaw will also state the maximum number of each kind of animal that may run at large.

Does your RM have an “Open Herd” bylaw in effect?

Yes

Select

No

Select

Information

Online Application for Subdivision and Bylaws – You’re Invited

The Ministry of Government Relations is currently implementing an online application program.

The solution is intended to improve business practices through online service, payment and coordination of subdivision and bylaw referrals through a single source. It will streamline the ministry's subdivision and planning bylaw review process and provide clients on-line access to their applications.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and its members are valued clients of the ministry. You and your members are invited to attend a meeting on **Thursday, February 25, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** through Microsoft Teams. This meeting will focus on the submission of planning bylaw applications to the ministry and the referral of subdivision applications from the ministry.

Anyone interested in attending this meeting should **RSVP** to Jenna Schroeder at 306-787-2649 or jenna.schroeder@gov.sk.ca by **February 23, 2021**, to receive

the Microsoft Teams meeting link.

For more information please see the attached invitation letter and agenda for the meeting.

[Invitation Letter](#)

[Meeting Agenda](#)

Survey: Reducing Red Tape – Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment is asking stakeholders and the public to take a short survey about *The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations*, to help eliminate as much red tape as possible while continuing to protect public and environmental health. Attached is a letter from the ministry outlining some information on the survey as well as a link for members of SARM to complete the survey online. The closing date for the survey is March 26, 2021.

[Complete Survey](#)

Resources

Farm Transition Planning Webinar

Virtus Group will be hosting a free one hour webinar where they will discuss different options for exiting your farming operation and transitioning into retirement. Their ag accounting experts will explore transition planning, diving into the different rules around transition options. They will discuss the capital gains exemption rules, qualified farm property rules, intergenerational transfer rules as well as farm sale planning. What happens next? They will also be discussing the aftermath of a transition and there will be time for questions.

Date: February 25, 2021

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

[Register Here](#)

Applications Now Open – Community Airport Partnership

Applications are now open for the Community Airport Partnership program. This program provides funding for regional, community-owned airports.

Eligible applicants include:

- Rural and urban municipalities.
- Airport authorities that manage community owned airports.

Deadline to apply is **February 24, 2021**.

Visit the [Community Airport Partnership](#) webpage for more information.

PEMAC's Asset Management Professional Program - Information Session

PEMAC Asset Management Association of Canada is offering a complimentary live online information session to learn more about PEMAC's **Asset Management Professional (AMP) program** and a special opportunity for municipal practitioners to participate in the introductory course.

Did you know that you can further your Asset Management knowledge in a partially funded training program? Could others in your municipality benefit from learning more about Asset Management?

Hosted by PEMAC and Northern Lakes College, learn more about this specially funded delivery of **Course One: Asset Management Principles and Strategic Development**, and how it will immediately benefit municipal practitioners from across all departments and asset classes.

Complimentary Information Session:

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Eastern Time Zone

Register now for the information session, and share this invitation with others in your municipality. For more information about this session or the training programs email pd@pemac.org or call (905) 823-7255, extension 3.

[Register Here](#)

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

2-16-2021

Question of the Week Results

We have a “closed herd law” in Saskatchewan. However, a municipality may, by bylaw, allow animals to run at large in all or part of the municipality. The bylaw will also state the maximum number of each kind of animal that may run at large.

Does your RM have an “Open Herd” bylaw in effect?

Yes - 4%

No - 96%

Information

COVID-19 Guidelines for RMs

We would like to remind all RMs that SARM is following all provincial and federal COVID-19 guidelines and will continue to do so going forward. We advise RMs to follow provincial and federal direction as well during this unprecedented time. If your RM is looking for more information regarding these guidelines and/or restrictions, we have provided links to useful resources below.

[COVID Signage](#)

[Workplace Guidelines](#)

[Worksafe Sask](#)

Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) Landowner Nomination Process

- Under the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP), the Government of Saskatchewan is now providing landowners with oil and gas sites on their land an opportunity to nominate those sites for consideration for abandonment and/or reclamation work.
- Oil and gas licensees will be able to review nomination information

provided by landowners for consideration of inclusion in their plans related to the ASCP. Nomination of a site does not guarantee that it will be abandoned and/or reclaimed under the program.

- ASCP program funds cannot be used by licensees to abandon and/or reclaim sites where the licensee is in arrears to the landowner on surface lease payments, unless there is express consent from the landowner to do so.
- The landowner nomination process is meant to facilitate information sharing between licensees and landowners to identify abandonment and reclamation opportunities of mutual interest.

More information, including how to nominate sites on your land, can be found on the Accelerated Site Closure Program below.

[Learn More](#)

Resources

COVID Relief Expanded for Small/Medium Sized Businesses

On February 5, the Government of Canada **announced the expansion** of the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF), delivered by WD Canada in western Canada.

The RRRF has been expanded by over \$250 million for western small and medium-sized businesses and business networks who continue to suffer from the economic effects of COVID-19. Here's what is new:

- Interest-free repayable contributions of up to \$60,000 – an increase of \$20,000 – for businesses who do not qualify for the **Canada Emergency Business Account** (CEBA).
 - WD provides this liquidity support to businesses located in urban areas
 - Community Futures organizations that are part of **Community Futures Saskatchewan** deliver these loans to businesses in rural and northern areas
 - **Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan** continues to deliver these loans for women-led businesses.
- WD provides interest-free liquidity support from \$60,000 to up to \$1 million to high-value firms, who have also sought support from other Government of Canada programs, including the new **Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program** (HASCAP).
- All liquidity support loans are now available for 12 months of eligible COVID-related losses, from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021 --an increase of six months.

- Twenty-five percent of all RRRF support is now earmarked for the hard-hit tourism and hospitality sector. If your membership includes businesses in this sector, (restaurants, hotels, experience providers, etc.), please encourage them to consider applying for HASCAP, rent and wage subsidies and then RRRF to maximize their supports.
- The deadline to apply is **March 31, 2021**.

For more information, visit the [WD RRRF webpage](#). Questions can be directed to us by email at wd.sk-sk.deo@canada.ca or call 1-888-338-WEST (9378). Information about all the programs and initiatives put in place by the Government of Canada to support businesses and individuals can be found in [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#).

Full News Release

LA FOIP Webinar: Municipal Sector – Your Questions Answered

Due to the overwhelming response of our LA FOIP Foundations webinar series, the IPC is hosting an encore event entitled ***Municipal Sector: Your Questions Answered*** on **Monday, February 22, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm**. The cost is free.

This webinar is a supplementary session to the *Municipal Sector: Practical Tips and Tricks* webinar that was held on February 2, 2021. That session generated many questions from attendees that we were unable to answer due to time constraints. In this webinar, we will attempt to answer those questions.

Event Details

Register Here

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

2-23-2021

Question of the Week

Is your RM planning to attend the Bear Pit session at the 2021 SARM Annual Convention?

Yes

Select

No

Select

Reminders

Traffic Safety Improvement Grant Application

A reminder that rural municipalities and Indigenous lands/territories can apply for the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant. Grants of up to \$100,000 per location are available for traffic safety initiatives in their respective communities. For more information about the grant program visit SGI's website at <https://www.sgi.sk.ca/community-grants-programs> and consider applying for this grant to help improve traffic safety in your community. Deadline to apply for the current application intake is **March 31, 2021**.

Municipal Revenue Sharing -Targeted Sector Support Initiative

Municipal Revenue Sharing is an integral part of strengthening municipalities across rural Saskatchewan. Funding such as the **Targeted Sector Support Initiative** helps to support inter-municipal cooperation resulting in more effective community governance.

The Steering Committee is now accepting applications for funding through the Targeted Sector Support Initiative. Please note that the deadline for submissions is **Friday, March 5, 2021 at 5 p.m.**

The Ministry of Government Relations has provided a TSS application guide to assist RMs with the submission process. Please see both the TSS guide and online application form below:

[TSS Application Guide](#)

[TSS Application Form](#)

Information

Xplornet Seeking Support from Rural Municipalities

SARM directors and staff recently met with Xplornet's Graham Fleet, Senior Manager of Government & Public Affairs. Xplornet is seeking funding from the Universal Broadband Fund. As part of their application, they invite rural municipalities to sign a letter of support to help with this endeavor. If successful in their funding application, Xplornet intends to invest \$200 million in broadband infrastructure in rural Saskatchewan. This will allow for 28,000 fibre to the home connections and improved wireless service to almost 60,000 households.

The SARM Board of Directors supports Xplornet's application and encourages the membership to sign the letter of support. The letter of support can be signed and sent to graham.fleet@corp.xplornet.com.

For more information or questions please contact:

Graham Fleet
Xplornet Communications Inc.
Senior Manager, Government & Public Affairs
Mobile : (403) 771 4713
Email: graham.fleet@corp.xplornet.com

[Letter of Support Template](#)

SARM Annual Convention Resolutions

The SARM Resolutions Committee met virtually over the last number of weeks to review the resolutions submitted to this Annual Convention and to provide guidance to make improvements to the resolution process.

The committee consists of the following individuals that represent each Division in the SARM membership:

Resolution Committee Members

Chair	VP Bill Huber	RM of Lipton No. 217
Division 1	Robert Moulding	RM of Abernathy No. 186
Division 2	Cody Jordison	RM of Lumsden No. 189
Division 3	Darren Steinley	RM of Excelsior No. 166
Division 4	Norm Hall	RM of Elfros No. 307
Division 5	Wendy Trask	RM of Corman Park No. 344
Division 6	Rod Wiens	RM of Mountain View No. 318

This is the first year we have required resolution sponsors to provide background when submitting resolutions.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. **The submitted background is what each sponsor has provided.**
2. **Please share with your council prior to the convention.**

The resolutions for convention will also be available to delegates as part of our virtual convention platform.

[Resolutions Submitted](#)

[Resolutions & Background](#)

Resources

New Gas Tax Fund 'How-To' Videos Debut

A pair of new and animated instructional videos about the federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) program in Saskatchewan have premiered online:

- ***Gas Tax Fund: Getting Started***
- The first video is to help municipalities get started with their projects funded under this program.
- ***Gas Tax Fund: Reporting***
- The second video outlines how to report on GTF projects.

The videos are also available to view on the ***About the Federal Gas Tax Fund Program*** page and on the ***Ministry of Government Relations YouTube Channel***. The federal GTF program in Saskatchewan is administered by the provincial government to help support municipalities.

Municipal Sector Governance Program

The Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) is offering spring courses in the Municipal Sector Governance Program targeted specifically for municipal officials in Saskatchewan.

The online program is certified by the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan.

Visit the ***JSGS website*** for a list of upcoming courses and costs.

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