

Policy Bulletin

August 2019

August 6, 2019

INFORMATION: Resolution Responses

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General provided the following resolution responses:

- [19-19A Review and Amendment of LAFOIP](#)
- [20-19A Review and Amendment of LAFOIP Regulations](#)

INFORMATION: *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*

With the passage of C-69, the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA) replaces the Navigation Protection Act. SARM's advocacy efforts on Bill C-69 principally focused on the navigable waters portion of the bill.

Three amendments put forward by FCM, and supported by SARM, were accepted by the Government of Canada. These are:

- Exemption of drainage ditches;
- Exemption of emergency works; and
- Clarifying that project proponents do not require approval for works that do not impede navigation on both "scheduled" and "non-scheduled" water bodies.

The exemptions and clarifications are a win for municipalities. Currently, the federal government is reviewing the Minor Works Order under the CNWA to assess whether additional types of infrastructure should be exempted from federal approval requirements. SARM has submitted comments on the Minor Works Order including recommendations that the act not be applied to all navigable waters and that Transport Canada would have to significantly improve approval timelines.

INFORMATION: Tweet or Email your support for the #GasTaxFund

There is one tool that transfers funds directly to municipalities of all sizes, empowering them to meet local needs: the Gas Tax Fund. It's direct, effective and predictable. In the 2019 federal budget, the government doubled the gas tax transfer to municipalities for one year. This is direct support for local projects—and what makes sense this year, makes sense going forward. As municipalities look for new fiscal tools to build better lives, the Gas Tax Fund is an example of what could be possible with direct, reliable infrastructure funding.

[Find out how to tweet or email your support here](#)

INFORMATION: Flood Damage Reduction Program for Municipalities

On August 1, 2019 the Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA) Dustin Duncan announced that WSA is again transitioning the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program (EFDRP) to the Flood Damage Reduction Program (FDRP) for the remainder of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

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Beginning August 1, 2019, the transition moves from the emergency focus toward long-term flood mitigation projects. Applications from municipalities will be accepted until September 15, 2019. The FDRP is anticipated to have \$700,000 available in grants this year and will accept proposals in four categories from communities both urban (cities, towns and villages) and in rural municipalities (hamlets) as follows:

- Hydrologic and/or hydraulic investigations to develop risk assessments;
- Flood mapping projects;
- Mitigation planning, where municipalities undertake emergency planning or potential flood damage prevention construction design; and
- Structural projects, where the municipality acts as the proponent for construction of permanent flood works.

The FDRP will cover eligible costs incurred up to March 31, 2020.

Once a municipality applies to the program, the proponent must have prior WSA approval and must secure any applicable regulatory requirements to undertake work. Eligible projects will be cost-shared on a 50/50 basis between the WSA and the proponent.

For more information on the program, please contact the nearest WSA regional office or visit www.wsask.ca.

INFORMATION: Update: Carbon Tax

The Attorneys General (AG) for the provinces fighting the federally imposed carbon tax met in Saskatoon on July 30th. AGs from Ontario, New Brunswick, Alberta and legal counsel from Manitoba met to collaborate on legal arguments and additional legal strategies regarding an appeal on the imposition of the carbon tax. The Supreme Court of Canada hearing is set for December 5, 2019.

INFORMATION: SGI Be a Good Wingman Campaign

From SGI:

SGI wants to further expand their community outreach for the Be a Good Wingman – Don't Let Impaired Friends Drive campaign. If any town bars, restaurants, hockey rinks, event halls, etc. would like to help reinforce this impaired driving safety message, SGI will provide signage to display, completely free of charge.

Included with this newsletter are signage options available along with an order form if you are interested. SGI will cover the printing costs for the signage and ship to you directly.

Signage Order Form

Please order by August 27, 2019

Must provide a physical shipping address for delivery

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INFORMATION: Federal Election 2019

As the 2019 federal election draws closer, SARM is working to get rural municipal priorities in front of the national party leaders and candidates in Saskatchewan's fourteen federal ridings.

SARM has sent packages to all RMs that will be arriving in the next few days. The packages include a brief on 2020 federal budget asks and a note on how you can help to share the information locally.

We will continue to share information with you as Election 2019 approaches.

INFORMATION: FCM: Rural Strategy – Election 2019

As a federal election approaches, FCM is calling on the national parties to commit to building a "rural lens" into the federal government strategies by more widely adapting federal policies and programs to reflect rural realities and better recognizing rural expertise in decision-making. More information on FCM's media release can be found [here](#).

INFORMATION: Building Standards – Legislative Framework Workshop

The Building Standards and Licensing Branch will be hosting a Legislative Framework workshop on September 23 & 24, 2019, in Regina. Registration is required for the workshop to ensure adequate materials are available for participants. This workshop is available to all interested parties, but is a requirement for all new building officials and for current building officials who wish to renew their Building Official Licence.

[Training Poster](#)

[Registration Form](#)

INFORMATION: Energy Manager Program

The Energy Manager Program is now accepting project proposals.

The Energy Manager Program will help identify and adopt energy efficiency solutions by offering funding to hire energy managers and undergo energy assessments for industrial, commercial and institutional facilities, and fleets. This aims to reduce energy use, operating costs, and greenhouse gas emissions.

More information can be found [here](#).

INFORMATION: Clubroot Survey

SaskCanola is investing \$170K in 2019 provincial clubroot survey to test soil samples collected throughout the province. This is the second year SaskCanola is funding the survey, a partnership with Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the SARM Plant Health Officers.

Samples for the 2019 Clubroot Survey will be collected in August through September by Plant Health Officers, with support from Ministry of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation staff.

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Farmers may also submit a free, voluntary sample from their field. Farmers can call (306) 975-0262 & SaskCanola will mail you a soil sample survey kit or visit your local Ministry of Agriculture regional office to pick one up.

More information can be found [here](#).

INFORMATION: FCM Green Municipal Fund

FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF) offers signature initiative funding to support early adopters in Canadian cities and communities of all sizes and reduce the risks that come with testing new approaches and models.

This funding is available to municipalities and their project partners as they implement transformative, best-in-class solutions that reduce GHG emissions and protect the air, water and land. Feasibility studies, pilot projects and capital projects for highly innovative and impactful municipal initiatives may all be eligible for funding through the GMF.

[Learn more about eligibility and how to apply](#)**INFORMATION: SARM Infrastructure and Development Committee**

SARM's Infrastructure and Development Standing Committee traveled to the RM of Lajord (No. 128) last week. The committee had the opportunity to tour a potash mine pilot project in the area and meet with the Reeve, Council members and Administrator to talk about issues of importance in their RM. Thank you to all in the RM and in Kronau.

August 20, 2019**INFORMATION: Minister Meetings**

On August 13th, the SARM Executive met with Minister of Government Relations, the Honourable Lori Carr and the Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds, the Honourable Gordon Wyant to discuss the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and the involvement of municipalities in future bilateral negotiations.

On August 13th, the SARM Executive met with the Minister Responsible for SGI, the Honourable Joe Hargrave regarding changes to 1A licensing in Saskatchewan. New training requirements, licensing requirements for farm workers, costs and minimum training standards were discussed.

INFORMATION: Cabinet Changes

On August 13th, Premier Scott Moe announced changes to his cabinet including new Ministers of Government Relations, Highways and Infrastructure and Rural and Remote Health. Premier Moe also announced a new cabinet responsibility for Seniors held by the Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health, and shifted cabinet responsibilities for the Water Security Agency and the Provincial Capital Commission. Three cabinet ministers change portfolios:

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Lori Carr becomes Minister of Government Relations, Minister Responsible for First Nations, Metis and Northern Affairs, and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission. Minister Carr previously served as Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Greg Ottenbreit becomes Minister of highways and Infrastructure, and Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency. Minister Ottenbreit previously served as Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health.

Warren Kaeding becomes Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health. Minister Kaeding also becomes Minister Responsible for Seniors, a new cabinet responsibility. Minister Kaeding previously served as Minister of Government Relations.

INFORMATION: New Resources for Municipalities

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Government Relations has recently developed some new resources that can be found here.

The resources include the [Whistleblower Guide](#) which was developed to inform municipalities on Saskatchewan legislation that provides protection to employees from reporting wrongdoing.

For municipalities choosing to pass a bylaw, the [Whistleblower Sample Bylaw](#) is available for download from the Publications Saskatchewan website.

The updated version of the Administrator's Orientation Guide, named [Municipal Administration Reference Guide](#) is now available online.

INFORMATION: Rural and Remote Reaching Home

The YMCA of Regina (Community Entity) and the Rural and Remote Advisory Board (RRAB) through the Government of Canada's Reaching Home strategy will be accepting funding applications for projects, which aim to alleviate or avoid the ill effects of homelessness in rural and remote Saskatchewan.

The Rural and Remote Advisory Board has opted to list 5 funding priorities for the 2019-2020 Reaching Home Strategy Funding:

1. Housing Services
2. Prevention & Shelter Diversion
3. Client Support Services
4. Capital Investments
5. Coordination of Resources & Data Collection

Champion Community

Through the Government of Canada's Reaching Home strategy, we will also be accepting funding applications for Champion Communities in rural or remote Saskatchewan to take a united approach in combating homelessness. This would require collaboration and partnerships

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between community leaders and organizations. 'Champion Community' applications must exhibit the following:

- Broad community support
- A clearly defined homelessness issue to be addressed
- Measurable goals and outcomes
- The ability to leverage other resources to support the project

The total amount of funding available is approximately \$103,120.65 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Funding is available for projects operating between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

Please Note: Rural and remote communities are defined as off-reserve communities with a population of 25,000 or less.

The deadline for applications is **September 10, 2019**

For more information please contact Pamela Reimer, Director of Program Development & Housing First Initiatives, YMCA of Regina at pamela.reimer@regina.ymca.ca or by phone at (306) 757-9622 ext. 234.

Rural CFP Guide **Rural CFP Application**

ACTION REQUIRED: Toward Parity – Share Your Story

This October, to celebrate Women's History Month, SARM will be highlighting local women in politics on our Twitter account. Let us tell your story!

If you or someone you know is a female reeve or councillor in your municipality, we want to hear from you. Tell us a bit about what inspired you to get involved in local politics. Fill out this **short form** and send it to SARM as well as a photo!

If you have any questions please contact Ashley Leugner at communications@sarm.ca

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INFORMATION: She Should Run

Information night September 12th - 7:00pm at Wascana Place - 2900 Wascana Drive, Regina SK

The importance of awareness campaigns on the role of parliamentarians, the parliamentary system and the political process is key to increasing engagement, especially among youth. The **Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians** (CWP) works independently and in partnership with existing campaign schools and encourages other legislatures and advocacy groups to develop similar programs. CWP is hosting an information night for one of their outreach initiatives "She Should Run". To register email sheshouldrun@sasktel.net

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INFORMATION: Federal Election Hub

The 2019 federal election is a determining factor in the future success of all Canadians, our province and our municipalities. As Election 2019 approaches, SARM is championing the interests of our members. Please visit the [Federal Election Hub](#) on SARM's website for information on SARM's priorities and Saskatchewan's federal candidates.

INFORMATION: Worker's Compensation Board Clearances

We would like to share some information on the clearances that can be obtained through Saskatchewan's Worker's Compensation Board (WCB).

All employers ("principal") who hire contractors/subcontractors are subject to the same WCB rules.

Letters of Good Standing or Clearance give more information to the principal throughout the hiring and payment processes.

Letter of Good Standing

- A Letter of Good Standing indicates the WCB status of the contractor/subcontractor:
- "Deemed" if there is no coverage.
- "Denied" if there is an account in place there is an issue with the contractor's account.
- "Okay" if coverage is in place and account is in compliance.
- The Letter of Good Standing is only valid on the date it is written.
- It should be requested before the contractor begins work to ensure coverage is in place. Once work begins, if the contractor is not registered, coverage responsibility falls to the principle.
- The information in a Letter of Good Standing is also important as a principal cannot withhold payment due to a contractor not being registered.

Clearance Letter

- Before a principal releases payment to a contractor/subcontractor, a Clearance Letter should be obtained to determine the status of the contractor's WCB account.
- If the status of the account is "cleared" it means that the account is "okay" (status from Letter of Good Standing) meaning that the principal won't be held responsible for premiums as the account is in compliance.
- If the status is "deemed", the principal may choose to release payment, however the principal may/will be responsible to pay premiums at the end of the year.
- If the status of the account is "hold" there is an issue with the account. The principal should not release payment until further direction is received from WCB.
- Obtaining clearances helps to protect principals from penalties if payment is released without a clearance and the contractor is in arrears with WCB at year end.

More information can be found [here](#) and the WCB Policy Manual [here](#).

INFORMATION: SARM Meetings

The SARM Board of Directors met on August 21-22.

The SARM Agriculture and Environment Standing Committee met on August 20th to discuss a variety of issues including carbon offsets, soil conservation and Aquatic Invasive Species



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ACTION REQUIRED: Midterm Resolution Deadline

The deadline for submitting resolutions for the 2019 Midterm Convention is Sunday, September 29th, 2019. Resolutions must be received at the SARM office by this date in order to be addressed at the convention and included in the resolution booklet. For your reference:

- [Guide for Writing Resolutions](#)
- [Resolution Submission Form](#)

Please email resolutions to sarm@sarm.ca