



The Weekly Policy Bulletin

12-01-2020

Question of the Week

In this year's municipal election did your RM hold an election for one or more of its council positions?

Yes

Select

No

Select

Reminders

SHA/SARM Town Hall

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) would like to invite Municipal Leaders from across the province to a Virtual Town Hall Meeting on **December 4, 2020 at 2:00 pm**. This will be an opportunity for the SHA to provide an update on the pandemic response, and answer any questions that you have.

Meeting and Registration details:

To join this online event

-
1. Go to <https://skhealth.webex.com/skhealth/j.php?MTID=e2bc4949ca81eb108fbedf875d75e98a7>
 2. Enter the event password: kpXMHEyg523
 3. Click "Join Now".
 4. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen to join the teleconference.

SARM's Weekly Webinars

Don't forget to register for SARM's upcoming webinars!

Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities

Date: December 1, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Business Continuity

Date: December 8, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Rural Integrated Roads for Growth Q&A Session

Date: December 15, 2020

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SARM's Trading Programs

Date: December 17, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

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Information

Improvements to the Property Assessment Appeal System

The Ministry of Government Relations continues to work in collaboration with the municipal sector to improve the first level of the property assessment appeal system.

The components of a new structure for the first level of appeal include:

1. establishing a provincial registrar;
2. mandatory board member and secretary certification and training;
3. oversight/maintenance of standards; and
4. a provincial board of revision.

The ministry is requesting feedback from municipal governments on the provincial registrar's governance and funding models. The feedback will be gathered in two ways – first, an **online survey**. The survey description contains links to more background information about the registrar, as well as some statistics on assessment appeals in Saskatchewan. The survey will remain open until **Tuesday, December 22, 2020**, and comments are welcome until that time.

Second, municipalities are invited to discuss these questions in more detail through focus groups to be facilitated by a third-party consultant.

If you are interested in participating in the focus groups, please send an email to **property.tax@gov.sk.ca** by Tuesday, December 1, 2020. The focus groups will take place mid-December 2020.

[Complete Survey](#)

Canada's Ministers of Agriculture focus on important support measures for farmers and processors at their annual conference

On November 27, 2020, Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture wrapped up their two-day virtual conference with important discussions on the future of Business Risk Management programs, a discussion on balance in the retail supplier relationship, and a look ahead to the design and development of key priorities for the next agricultural policy framework.

Ministers discussed options for short-term improvements to AgriStability. The federal government tabled a proposal that will be considered in more detail by provinces and territories. While no consensus was reached, efforts will continue on a common path forward.

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

12-08-2020

Question of the Week Results

In this year's municipal election did your RM hold an election for one or more of its council positions?

Yes - 56%

No - 44%

Reminders

Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant - Declaration of Eligibility

The unique link and password for the online Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant Declaration of Eligibility has been emailed to each municipality. If you did not receive the email, please check your SPAM/JUNK folder. If the email is not in your SPAM/JUNK folder, please email grcompliance@gov.sk.ca requesting the email be re-sent.

To avoid your municipality's Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant for the 2021-22 year being withheld, ensure your municipality submits its Declaration of Eligibility and that your municipality meets all eligibility requirements. A completed declaration requires a resolution from council confirming the eligibility requirements the municipality meets.

- Administrators will want to include the Declaration of Eligibility on the November, December or January council meeting agenda.
- The eligibility requirements are the following legislated responsibilities:
 - Submission of Annual Audited Financial Statement;
 - Submission of Waterworks Reporting, if applicable;
 - In good standing with Education Property Tax;
 - Council Procedure Bylaw has been adopted by council;
 - Employee Code of Conduct has been adopted by council; and
 - Public Disclosure Statements have been filed and annually updated by council members.

The deadline for submission of the online Declaration of Eligibility is **Jan. 31, 2021**.

[View Declaration of Eligibility Guide](#)

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Business Continuity

Date: December 8, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Rural Integrated Roads for Growth Q&A Session

Date: December 15, 2020

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SARM's Trading Programs

Date: December 17, 2020

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SARM's New Online Forms

Recognition Submission Form

SARM has created a new online form for all In Memoriam, Retirement and Award submissions that RMs would like included in the Rural Councillor and/or the SARM Annual Convention Guide. This form can be found in the events section of the SARM website under the ***Awards & Recognition*** page.

Please note the submission deadline for the Annual Convention Guide is end of day **Tuesday, January 5, 2021**.

Saskatchewan Grid Road Map Order Form

RMs can now submit orders for Saskatchewan Grid Road Maps using the new online order form. All submissions will be sent directly to

SARM's trading department for fulfillment and invoicing. This form can be found under Trading Services' **Forms and Inventory** page.

[Recognition Submission Form](#)

[Order Grid Road Maps](#)

Information

Property Tax Percentages of Value Updated for 2021

On December 4, 2020 the government announced that for the 2021 revaluation, the percentages of value (POVs) for all commercial/industrial property will be lowered from 100 per cent to 85 per cent. All other POV will remain unchanged.

The POV applicable for the 2021 revaluation are as follows:

- Non-arable (Range) Land and Improvements - 45%
- Other Agricultural Land and Improvements - 55%
- Residential - 80%
- Multi-unit Residential - 80%
- Seasonal Residential - 80%
- Commercial and Industrial - 85%
- Grain Elevators - 85%
- Railway Rights of Way and Pipeline - 85%

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WCB holds 2021 average premium rate at 2020 rate

The Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board (WCB) announced, on December 7, 2020, that it will hold the average 2021 employer premium rate at the 2020 rate.

The minister responsible for WCB Don Morgan stated, "Given the level of uncertainty surrounding Saskatchewan's economy as a result of the pandemic, the WCB board proposed a hold for 2021. By holding the rate at \$1.17, the WCB will save employers approximately \$13.4 million in 2021 premiums. This is in addition to approximately \$1 million employers saved on interest and penalties in 2020."

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

12-15-2020

Question of the Week Results

Has your RM updated its council information on SARM's new *RM Directory*?

Yes

Select

No

Select

Reminders

Post-Election Survey for Municipalities

The general local elections have concluded and municipal staff and councils are preparing for the year ahead. In order to learn from the election experiences of municipalities across Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Government Relations is undertaking its typical practice of surveying municipalities and municipal associations following municipal elections.

The survey aims to collect election data as well any issues that may have arisen, including those related to COVID-19, safe election practices and the effect of a winter storm during an election. The results of the survey will provide a starting point for future discussions with municipal stakeholders regarding potential legislative, regulatory and other improvements.

The survey is open to municipal staff, election officials, council members and municipal sector associations. The Ministry of Government Relations is requesting that you please forward the following link to survey your respective members: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations>

If you have any questions about the survey, please call 306-787-1604 or email Regs@gov.sk.ca.

Deadline for responses is **December 31, 2020**.

Take the Survey

Information

SARM's Weekly Policy Bulletin

Due to the slow output of information regarding policy items this month, we have decided to temporarily pause the Weekly Policy Bulletin until January 4, 2021. We want to ensure that we are only sending quality information pertaining to municipal policy through this publication.

Stay safe and we will see you in 2021!

Resources

SHA Town Hall Survey

On December 4, 2020, the Saskatchewan Health Authority conducted a virtual Town Hall meeting regarding the COVID-19 pandemic response as well as answering any questions presented by Municipal Leaders in attendance. All attendees are invited to respond to the feedback survey that the SHA has provided. Any feedback is appreciated as they look to ensure their future Town Hall sessions meet the needs of stakeholders.

Take the Survey

SHA Town Hall Presentation

Traffic Safety Improvement Grant Application

Beginning on January 1, 2021 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.

New PSE Locations

Is speeding an issue in your municipality? Apply to bring photo speed enforcement (PSE) technology to your community. New PSE technology locations will be recommended by the PSE Committee. Locations that may be eligible include high-risk, high-collision, and high-volume pedestrian areas. More information is available on SGI's website at www.sgi.sk.ca/photo-speed-enforcement. If you have questions about either program, or to request an application form, contact the PSE Program Administrator at PSEProgram@sgi.sk.ca or call 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744) extension 6042.

The application deadline for both programs is **March 31**. All applications will be assessed by the PSE Committee, with decisions for the Traffic Safety Fund reached by June 30. The camera grant is reviewed and forwarded to the Government of Saskatchewan for final decision.

CleanFarms Launches Baler Twine Recycling Project

Baler twine is an essential agricultural tool to wrap and store hay, straw and silage, but at the end of its useful life, plastic twine is challenging to manage. Disposal in landfill can result in the twine twisting around the wheels of landfill equipment and disposal by burning or burying is detrimental to the environment. In Saskatchewan alone, an estimated 1,100 to 1,300 tonnes of twine are used in farm operations.

Cleanfarms has launched a pilot program in Saskatchewan to collect baler twine for recycling. Click the link below for more information on the pilot and the location of its over 30 collection sites.

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