

Policy Bulletin

January 2019

January 8, 2019

INFORMATION: Canadian Water Resources Association Workshop February 1

A one-day workshop on drainage and drought in the prairies. The workshop will discuss the new agricultural water management strategy and also focus on drought strategies, policies and impacts.

[More information and to register](#)

INFORMATION: Nation Trade Corridors Fund – call for proposals

The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, announced that the Government of Canada will begin accepting expressions of interest under the **[National Trade Corridors Fund](#)** on January 15, 2019.

The \$2-billion National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) helps fund infrastructure projects in Canada. Infrastructure projects could include work to airports, ports, rail yards, transportation facilities and access roads.

We fund projects that:

- improve the flow of goods and people in Canada
- increase the flow of trade in and out of Canada
- help the transportation system to:
 - withstand the effects of climate change
 - better adapt to new technologies and innovation
 -

Funding will be spread out over 11 years, ending March 31, 2028. For more information regarding the funding opportunity please visit: **<http://www.tc.gc.ca/en/programs-policies/programs/national-trade-corridors-fund.html>**

INFORMATION: Low Carbon Economy Challenge Funding Opportunity

On December 20, the federal government announced the Low Carbon Economy Challenge fund's \$50 million Partnerships stream. The Partnerships stream will focus on projects that will generate clean growth and reduce emissions for small municipalities, Indigenous communities and organizations, small and medium-sized businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

Applicants to the Partnerships stream will have until **March 8, 2019** to apply. Information can be found on the **[Low Carbon Economy Challenge](#)**. Funding decisions will be made Spring 2019.

INFORMATION: Division 3: SAMA Rural Advisory Committee Expression of Interest

SARM is currently gathering expressions of interest from those elected officials that would like to be considered for an appointment to the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency's (SAMA) Rural Advisory Committee. One person from Division three will be nominated by SARM to fill a recent vacancy.

Policy Bulletin

If you are interested in running for a member of the SAMA Board please send your expression of interest to Shelley Kilbride at Skilbride@sarm.ca before the end of day on Monday, February 4th.

For more information about the Rural Advisory Committee please contact Steve Suchan, SAMA, at 306-924-8024 or steve.suchan@sama.sk.ca.

INFORMATION: Cleanup Planned for Abandoned Tires on Assiniboia

The Ministry of Environment and the Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan (TSS), are moving forward with a plan to address the long-standing issue of abandoned scrap tires in Assiniboia. TSS issued a Request for Proposals earlier this year to dispose of scrap tires at the site, as well as determine the cost of cleaning it up.

The project will be funded by the Government of Saskatchewan and overseen by TSS. Without financial assistance from the provincial government, TSS would not be able to complete the project and the site would continue to pose health and safety concerns to the Town of Assiniboia.

Cleanup of the site is expected to be completed in 2019. An announcement regarding the successful proponent will be made at a later date.

INFORMATION: Natural Hazards Risk Assessment Report Released

The Ministry of Government Relations has released a Saskatchewan Flood and Natural Hazard Risk Assessment that provincial and local officials can use as an initial planning tool for potential long-term disaster mitigation measures.

SARM members took part in workshop to gather information to compile this report and it has now been completed.

[View report](#)

INFORMATION: Celebrating Agricultural Leaders

Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame salutes individuals who have made significant and distinguished contributions to the welfare and improvement of Saskatchewan agriculture and the family farm. Each year an induction dinner and portrait unveiling ceremony is held. The 2019 ceremony is Saturday April 27, 2019 at the Western Development Museum, Saskatoon. Tickets available at <http://www.sahf.ca>. Come celebrate!

INFORMATION: Innovation Saskatchewan Launches Innovation Challenge Program

The Innovation Challenge program harnesses the ideas and expertise of Saskatchewan's innovative entrepreneurs, together with government to rapidly solve sector challenges.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Innovation Saskatchewan is seeking technology solutions to the following challenge:

Policy Bulletin

- “How can technology be used to monitor the amount of solid waste generated and disposed of in the province?”

Innovators are invited to submit their proposed solutions to Innovation Saskatchewan for consideration by Wednesday, February 13, 2019. A winner will be selected through a competitive process and announced in Spring 2019. Prior to the proposal deadline, information sessions will be made available in Regina, Saskatoon and online.

Innovation Challenge winners will receive funding of up to \$10,000 and a 16-week residency to develop their solution in collaboration with government.

More information

INFORMATION: SUMA Webinar: How to Make Tax Collecting Less Taxing

Struggling with a complex tax enforcement issue? Want to avoid taking a property? In the SUMA webinar *How to Make Tax Collection Less Taxing*, lawyers Kim Anderson, QC, and James Steele will talk about how to collect on those hard cases and options beyond *The Tax Enforcement Act*.

Non-members can access this webinar for just \$75. We encourage you to invite other elected officials and staff members to watch this session together. One registration fee for multiple viewers is a great way to stretch those dollars!

Register Now!

If you can't make it to the live webinar, don't worry! A recording of the webinar will be available to all registrants. We will send the recording directly to your inbox, so you can watch it whenever you want.

January 15, 2019

INFORMATION: Active Resolutions and Responses

A reminder to members that all active resolutions and responses that SARM has received can be found on the SARM website <https://sarm.ca/advocacy/resolutions>

Resolutions can be searched by year/convention or by resolution number. You may also use a keyword in the site's search function. Please note resolutions are only active for five years, so all 2013 and prior resolutions have expired.

Recent posted resolution responses:

Response from Ministry of Agriculture for the following resolutions:

3-18M Funding for Clubroot Initiatives

4-18M Support for PREP

5-18M Need for increased Pest Control Funding

6-18M Crop Damage Consultation - Wildlife

7-18M Coyote Control

Policy Bulletin

[Response from Ministry of Government Relations](#) for the following resolutions:

17-18M Amounts Owing for Work or Services by a Municipality
19-18M Written Background Information to Accompany Request to Sign a Petition
20-18M Lakeshore Development and Management Strategies
POP 5-18M Public Notice

[Response from SGI on 30-18M Two-Plate Licensing System](#)

[Response from Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission on 26-18A](#)

[Response from SaskEnergy on POP 4-18M](#)

INFORMATION: Whistleblower Webinar

The Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety will be delivering webinars this winter explaining how *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* protects municipal employees.

Next webinar:

February 19 - 1:30-2:30 p.m.

[Register now](#) for this free webinar!

And don't forget about the **[Whistleblower Protection Guide](#)**.

INFORMATION: Public Comment Period: Amendments to Schedule 1 of SARA Migratory Birds

On Saturday, December 29, 2018, a proposal to amend Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) for nine migratory bird species was published in part I of the *Canada Gazette*. The proposal can be found **[here](#)**. The species found in Saskatchewan are the Lark Bunting, Red-necked Phalarope, and McCown's Longspur.

December 29, 2018 marks the beginning of the final 45-day public comment period during which you can share your additional comments on the proposal by either writing to **ec.LEPreglementations-SARAreulations.ec@canada.ca** or calling 1 800 668-6767.

The public comment period will end on Wednesday, February 12, 2019.

INFORMATION: Final Recovery Strategy for Three Bat Species

The final Recovery Strategy for the Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, and Tri-colored Bat was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry on December 21, 2018. The final Recovery Strategy is now available on the Species at Risk Public Registry **[here](#)**.

Find a copy of the **[Summary Report](#)** that outlines the changes made to the recovery strategy in response to comments received on its content during the 60-day public comment period.

While responsibility for recovering wildlife in Canada lies with federal and provincial/territorial governments, all Canadians have a role to play in wildlife conservation. Success in the recovery of this species depends upon the commitment, collaboration and cooperation of many different groups that will be involved in implementing the management actions set out in this recovery document.

Policy Bulletin

INFORMATION: Report of Saskatchewan Public Libraries Engagement Survey

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Education is conducting a survey to gather public feedback on the [Report of Saskatchewan Public Libraries Engagement](#)

In the fall of 2018, the Government of Saskatchewan completed a series of engagement sessions with representatives from the public library systems and stakeholders.

The purpose of the survey is to gather information about the themes expressed in the report. The survey will focus on whether survey respondents feel the themes expressed in the report accurately reflect public opinion on public libraries in Saskatchewan.

This study will be conducted online between January 10 and January 25, 2019.

[Complete survey](#)

INFORMATION: Thinking about future improvements to your municipal operations? There may be funding available!

Funding may be accessed through the Farm Stewardship Program and the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program. Cost share funding is available for improvements such as:

- Water development
- Fencing (native or riparian)
- Seeding grass (tame or native)
- Decommissioning old water wells
- Variable rate mapping
- Invasive plant biocontrol and targeted grazing
- Livestock stewardship
- Drainage stewardship

Projects must be pre-approved. Please contact your local Watershed Group for more information.

[Program Flyer](#)

[Agri-Environmental Technical Services Area Boundaries Map and Watershed contact information](#)

INFORMATION: Province Enhancing Public Safety Services in Saskatchewan

On January 9, 2019 the government announced the Wildfire Management Branch from the Ministry of Environment, and the emergency management and fire safety responsibilities from the Ministry of Government Relations will become a part of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA)

Transition to the SPSA, will begin in 2019 and will not impact provincial emergency services for the upcoming spring flood or wildfire seasons.

[Read more](#)

Policy Bulletin

January 22, 2019

INFORMATION: Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant

There is a new grant program you may be interested in, called the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant. Starting January 16, 2019, individuals representing law enforcement, municipalities and Indigenous lands/territories can apply for this grant to undertake traffic safety initiatives in their communities. Grants of up to \$100,000 per initiative are available. I encourage you to read more about the grant program on SGI's [website](#) and consider applying for this grant to help improve traffic safety in your community.

Second, if speeding is an issue in your community, individuals representing municipalities, Indigenous lands/territories and the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure can now apply to bring photo speed enforcement (PSE) technology to their location. New PSE technology locations will be selected 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/pse.

If you have questions about either program, or to request an application form, contact the Traffic Safety Program Administrator at trafficsafety@sgi.sk.ca or call 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744) extension 6042.

The application deadline for both programs is **March 30, 2019**. All applications will be assessed by the PSE Committee, with decisions reached by June 30, 2019.

INFORMATION: Resolution Response 4-17M

SARM has reached out to CP and CN to discuss this conversation. The Infrastructure & Development Committee was able to secure a meeting with CP to discuss this resolution. SARM has also consulted with Transport Canada to confirm who is responsible for which portions of a rail crossing.

The railway is responsible for the crossing surface, other than its design. The crossing surface refers to the part of the road that lies between the ends of a railway tie and that has width of 0.5 m (18 inches), as shown in Figures 5-1 and 3-1 of the [Grade Crossing Standards](#). The railway is responsible for the maintenance of the crossing surface between the set of rails (for each track) from between the length of the ties to 0.5m or more beyond the shoulder (if there is one), or 0.5m or more beyond the edge of the Travelled Way if there is no shoulder.

The road authority is responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the road approach and the design of the crossing surface. The road approach refers to the part of the road, other than the crossing surface, that lies between the point that marks the start of the stopping sight distance and the point that marks the front of a design vehicle when it is past the clearance point. This can be seen in Figure 10-1 of the [Grade Crossing Standards](#).

For multi-track crossings the road authority is responsible for the area between the sets of tracks from the end of the ties to 0.5m or more beyond the shoulder (if there is one), or 0.5m or more

Policy Bulletin

beyond the edge of the Travelled Way if there is no shoulder. This area is treated as part of the road approach.

Therefore, the surface 30 feet on either side of railroad tracks is not the responsibility of the railway.

INFORMATION: Cannabis Excise Tax – Meeting with Ministers

On January 7, 2019 members of SARM and SUMA's executives met with the Minister of Finance Donna Harpauer and Minister of Government Relations Warren Kaeding to discuss the cannabis excise tax. SARM has been advocating for municipalities to receive up to 33 per cent of cannabis excise tax revenue. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has done extensive research on the administrative and policing costs for municipalities associated with cannabis legalization. At this time, the Government of Saskatchewan is not willing to commit to sharing any portion of cannabis excise tax revenue with municipalities, as they remain unsure what those dollars will look like. SARM, SUMA, and the Ministers of Finance and Government Relations have committed to discussing this matter again in four months, at which point the provincial government may have seen revenues flow in from the excise tax.

INFORMATION: Community Safety Officer Program – Spring 2019 Induction Training

Community Safety Officers (CSOs) provide an additional option to enhance community safety, and support local policing agencies by addressing high priority, but low risk to harm concerns.

The Community Safety Officer Program Induction Training must be completed before a CSO may be granted a Special Constable Appointment, which permits the enforcement of some provincial statutes.

For Program and Registration
Information, Contact:
Gavin Nash, Director, Policing Innovation
Ministry of Corrections and Policing
306-787-0402

INFORMATION: New Member of the Policy Team

Beginning January 21st, Karen Morris will be joining our team in the position of Policy Coordinator. Karen will assist with advocacy efforts at the provincial and federal levels on a wide range of policy issues. Some of her main responsibilities will be to undertake research on municipal and agriculture issues, maintain the resolution and policy tracking software, and coordinate content for SARM's policy communications.

Karen has been experiencing northern Canada for the past two years as a program analyst at Nunavut Housing Corporation in Arviat Nunavut. She is an M.P.A graduate from Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy (University of Regina). Karen loves spending time at the lake with family and friends and activities like boating, skiing, hiking and yoga.

Policy Bulletin

Feel free to wish Karen a warm welcome at kmorris@sarm.ca or 306-761-3735.

INFORMATION: Asset Management Training

Are you looking to improve your understanding of asset management practices in 2019? Enrol in a training program or register for an event to increase your asset management knowledge and skills today.

The workshops, webinars and hands-on asset management training programs, offered by our partner organizations, can help you make better infrastructure decisions for your municipality. Enhance your professional skills by participating in a program or event that sparks your interest and focuses on your municipality's needs.

The Building Blocks of the Asset Management Process Webinars: Level of Service Webinar

Cost: Free

Offered by Asset Management Saskatchewan

February 4, 2019

Available in English only

[Register today](#)

The Building Blocks of the Asset Management Process Webinars: Risk Management Webinar

Cost: Free

Offered by Asset Management Saskatchewan

February 6, 2019

Available in English only

[Register today](#)

The Building Blocks of the Asset Management Process Webinars: Asset Register/Long Term Financial Plan Development Webinar

Cost: Free

Offered by Asset Management Saskatchewan

February 8, 2019

Available in English only

[Register today](#)

January 29, 2019

Advocacy Update: Impacted Sites Fund

Last December, SARM submitted **[comments](#)** to the Government of Saskatchewan's public consultation on the Impacted Sites Fund. The Ministry of Environment has since provided us with an update regarding the development of the fund. The ministry is still on track for implementation of the fund at the start of the 2019/20 Fiscal Year. While previous messaging had

Policy Bulletin

stated that the ministry planned to have the application form made available for download on their website by the end of January, the ministry has realized they will not be able to meet this deadline. Instead, the application form and the implementation of the intake process through the ministry's online portal will occur together at the start of the next Fiscal year. Furthermore, the ministry anticipates that combining the release of the application form with the implementation of the online intake process will also make communications of the updates to the funding process easier to manage.

ACTION REQUIRED: SGI Survey

The SARM Board is looking for your feedback on proposed commercial driver training requirements for farm operations. We would appreciate your RM's feedback on the topic by the end of day on **February 15, 2019**. Information will be consolidated and provided to Saskatchewan Government Insurance to inform its decision-making. **Please provide only one response to the survey per RM.**

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7YNCRKT>

INFORMATION: Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP)

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Canadian Citizenship, Ahmed Hussen launched a new pilot program aimed at attracting and retaining skilled immigrants in Canada's rural and northern communities. It is called the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP), giving interested communities until **March 1st** to submit applications.

Applicants under the RNIP must have fewer than 50,000 residents and be located at least 75 kilometres from the centre of a city that has a minimum population of 100,000, with at least 50,000 people living in the core. Applicants must also have job opportunities, an economic development plan, a local economic-development organization capable of managing the pilot, "relationships" with local or regional organizations that serve immigrants, and mentoring and networking programs to connect newcomers with established community members, according to IRCC.

Link to application and information on applying: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/rural-northern-immigration-pilot-about.html>.

INFORMATION: Rural Crime Watch Signage – ATS Traffic

SARM has partnered with the RCMP and ATS Traffic to provide Rural Crime Watch signage to our members. To order please contact ATS Traffic at 306-522-0511.

[See Rural Crime Watch Signage Poster.](#)

INFORMATION: Fire Suppression and Vehicle Extrication Services

Last year, SGI announced it was dropping non-productive call rates to compensate fire departments as of March 1, 2018. Now, Saskatchewan's fire departments are compensated at a rate of \$913 for every hour spent at a collision, rather than having their time potentially classified

Policy Bulletin

at the lower, non-productive rate. Since then, SGI has been working with SARM, SUMA, the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association to update the policy around fire suppression and vehicle extrication services. The new policy is now available, and can be viewed [here](#).

INFORMATION: SWRC 2019 Waste ReForum – “Home Grown”

The 2019 Waste ReForum, the annual conference of the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council, will be held at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel in Saskatoon April 10-12, 2019. **The conference theme is *Home Grown: Local problems. Local solutions.*** We will explore ways that Saskatchewan businesses and communities can create a more self-sufficient environment for waste diversion. We will share experiences and ideas that could take root in our home towns.

For more information and to register click [here](#).

INFORMATION: FCM Webinar Series: Learn how you can better manage plastic waste in your community

Sign up for one or all sessions in our new five-part webinar series on plastic waste management solutions to learn how your community can benefit by applying better plastic waste management solutions, as well as implementing circular economy approaches.

Sessions include:

- A circular economy approach to plastics: A review of global case studies - February 14, 2019
- Toward a circular economy for plastics: Canadian perspectives and approaches - February 21, 2019
- Raising recycling awareness through education initiatives - February 28, 2019
- Partnering with your sorting centre: How to optimize plastic waste management - March 7, 2019
- Closing the loop: From plastics to products - March 14, 2019

[Learn more and register today.](#)

INFORMATION: Help Cut Red Tape: Government of Saskatchewan: Public Engagement

Saskatchewan’s efforts to reduce red tape and modernize regulations in the province received the highest ‘A’ grade ranking by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) in their 2019 national Red Tape Report Card. The new grade was announced today at an event where the Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed January 21 to 25 as Red Tape Awareness Week, the 10th anniversary of this event.

Also announced at today’s event was the launch of a new ‘Help Cut Red Tape’ web page, available to all Saskatchewan residents and businesses who want to report red tape concerns they have encountered. This information will make it easier to report red tape to government, while providing valuable perspective from the public on how the province may offer services more effectively.

“Red tape costs businesses, residents and the government \$300 million and thousands of hours in

Policy Bulletin

lost time every year, and for the past decade, Red Tape Awareness Week has helped draw needed attention to this issue," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "The launch of the new web page, and other efforts to modernize regulations and reduce red tape, are reasons why Saskatchewan has received the CFIB's highest 'A' grade this year and strengthens our resolve to continue to support the residents and businesses we serve."

The new 'Help Cut Red Tape' web page offers an "always-on", client-centred platform for citizens and businesses to report red tape irritants they have encountered in the province. Each submission received from the public will be referred to the appropriate Government of Saskatchewan ministry, agency or Crown corporation for effective follow up.

To report Red Tape click [here](#).

INFORMATION: Community Safety Officer Program – Spring 2019 Induction Program

Community Safety Officers provide an additional option to enhance community safety, and support local policing agencies by addressing high priority, but low risk concerns.

The CSOP Induction Training Program must be completed before a CSO may be granted a Special Constable Appointment, which permits the enforcement of some provincial statutes.

Location: Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Prince Albert

Training Dates: April 29 to June 7, 2019

Cost: \$6,220 per eligible candidate

For more information contact 306.787.0402.

To view CSOP poster click [here](#).

INFORMATION: Resolution Response 31-18M Weed Control on Organic Land

Be it resolved that SARM lobby Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to ensure that organic certification bodies do not allow farmers certified as organic to have prohibited, noxious and nuisance weeds growing on their land.

[View response from Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.](#)

INFORMATION: Canada Summer Jobs 2019 deadline extended

The Canada Summer Jobs 2019 deadline has been extended to February 3, 2019.

Upcoming teleconference sessions:

Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Time: 1pm (MST)

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Time: 1pm (MST)

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019

Time: 1pm (MST)



Policy Bulletin

If you are interested in attending an information session, please reply to W-T-CSPD-SCEP-CSJ-EEC-AB-GD@servicecanada.gc.ca providing the following so they can provide you with the teleconference number:

Date of session

Your name

Your organization

Your telephone number

Your email

Number of participants