



The Weekly Policy Bulletin

1-05-2021

Question of the Week Results

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

Yes - 86%

No - 13%

Reminders

Rural Broadband

Access to adequate, reliable, affordable broadband in rural Saskatchewan has been a longstanding lobby of SARM's since 2013. Reliable access to broadband is important for the health, safety, and well-being of those living and travelling in rural and remote areas.

This is an issue that impacts the very livelihood of each and every one of us. We need your help to push the lobby effort to the next level. We are asking all RMs to read the attached letter and if your RM is in support please submit a digital copy of an approved signature from your RM through our online submission form by **February 12th, 2021** and it will be included in the letter we send to the Federal and Provincial Ministers.

[View Letter to Ministers](#)

[Submit Signature](#)

In Memoriam Submissions

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

[Submit In Memoriam](#)

Information

Biosecurity - Saskatchewan Pork Development Board

Preventing disease from entering or leaving farms protects human and animal health, and supports sustainable livestock production in rural Saskatchewan.

Over the next few bulletins, we will highlight various livestock biosecurity guides for your information. This week we start with SaskPork.

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

1-12-2021

Question of the Week

Have you visited the *Guides, Tools, and Templates* page on the SARM website?

Yes

Select

No

Select

If so, did you find the information helpful?

Yes

Select

No

Select

Reminders

Deadline Approaching: Canada's Food Waste Reduction Challenge

Food Waste refers to all food that is grown, harvested, processed, manufactured or prepared for human consumption, but never eaten by people. It occurs at all stages of the food supply chain, from farm to plate.

In Canada and around the world, food waste continues to increase, resulting in an overuse of our natural resources such as water, soil and land, while contributing excess greenhouse gas emissions to our atmosphere. Meanwhile, a growing number of Canadians are facing food insecurity.

In response, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), under the Food Policy for Canada, is launching the \$20M Food Waste Reduction Challenge.

Food Waste Reduction Challenge

Information

Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Basic Principles of Biosecurity

Putting preventive measures in place to keep animals healthy has been a long-standing and successful practice on Canadian farms. These measures form a biosecurity plan. A biosecurity plan should address how you manage animal, vehicle and human access on the farm; animal health; and operations.

[Learn More](#)

Resources

Targeted Sector Support Initiative: Cost-Shared Grants – Application Intake Coming Soon

Targeted Sector Support (TSS) is a portion of Municipal Revenue Sharing (\$1.5 million per fiscal year) used to encourage inter-community collaboration and good governance in all Saskatchewan municipalities. The funds are used to support projects that help advance the priorities set by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North) and the Ministry of Government Relations.

The Steering Committee will soon be accepting applications for funding under this program. The application period is expected to run from January 25, 2021 to March 5, 2021.

To apply, please check the [Government of Saskatchewan TSS webpage](#), once the anticipated application window opens.

Saskatchewan Approves New Battery Recycling Program

Launched on January 1, 2021, the program is operated by Call2Recycle Canada Inc., a non-profit environmental stewardship organization that has been voluntarily collecting batteries in Saskatchewan for recycling since 1997. Call2Recycle met all the regulatory requirements of a government-

approved program under *The Household Hazardous Waste Products Stewardship Regulations, 2019*.

As part of the new program, an environmental handling fee will be paid at the point of purchase effective January 1, 2021. The fee rates range, depending on the size of battery and the chemistry type. For example, fees for AAA and AA batteries are \$0.02 and \$0.04, respectively.

The fees will be paid to Call2Recycle for the collection, transportation and recycling of the batteries at their end-of-life. For the full fee structure and a map of drop-off locations, please visit <https://www.call2recycle.ca/saskatchewan/>

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

1-19-2021

Question of the Week

Have you visited the *Guides, Tools, and Templates* page on the SARM website?

Yes - 95%

No - 5%

If so, did you find the information helpful?

Yes - 50%

No - 50%

Reminders

Resolution Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting resolutions for the upcoming 2021 Annual Convention is **Friday, January 22, 2021** end of day. Resolutions must be received in the SARM office by this date in order to be addressed at the convention and included in the resolution booklet. Please email resolutions to sarm@sarm.ca.

Below for your convenience are the Guide for Writing Resolutions and the Resolution Submission Form.

Please note the new requirement that submissions must include a brief (no more than 500 word) background that answers the questions provided

[Guide to Writing Resolutions](#)

[Resolution Submission Form](#)

Deadline Fast Approaching: Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant - Declaration of Eligibility

The deadline for submission of the online Declaration of Eligibility is January 31,

2021.

To avoid your municipality's Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant for the 2021-22 year from being withheld, ensure your municipality submits its online Declaration of Eligibility and that your municipality meets all eligibility requirements. Please refer to the [Declaration of Eligibility Guide](#) and [Infographic](#) for additional information on the declaration process and eligibility requirements.

The unique link and password for the online Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant Declaration of Eligibility was emailed to each municipality on November 13, 2020. If you did not receive the email, please email grcompliance@gov.sk.ca requesting the email be re-sent.

[Declaration of Eligibility Guide](#)

[MRS Infographic](#)

Information

Property Assessment & Taxation Legislation Amendments Effective January 1, 2021

2021 is a reassessment year for property valuation in Saskatchewan. This is the first year of a 4-year assessment cycle. Please be aware of amendments to legislation that came into force January 1, 2021. Some of these changes are specific only to the first year in a revaluation cycle.

Changes to be aware of include:

- Clarifying that the 60-day appeal period in a revaluation year applies to the initial assessment notice, not an amended or supplementary notice where it has a 30-day period (Section 226 of *The Municipalities Act*).
- Clarifying that secretaries of appeal boards must explain deficiencies in a notice of appeal (Section 226, 247 of *The Municipalities Act*).
- Ensuring the property owner is informed of an agreement to adjust an assessment or a new valuation or classification due to an appeal, if not a party to the agreement or appeal (Section 228, 256 of *The Municipalities Act*).
- Allowing a board of revision decision to be mailed by ordinary mail to be consistent with how decisions of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board Assessment Appeals Committee may be sent (Section 240 of *The Municipalities Act*).
- Requiring the owner be notified of the decision, if the owner of the property is not a party to the appeal (Section 240 of *The Municipalities Act*).
- Changing the allotted time for decisions on all appeals from 90 days to 180 days (Section 240 of *The Municipalities Act*).
- Stating that municipalities shall submit to the minister a mill rate survey return, information respecting tax tools, tax rates and any other taxes and rates levied or proposed to be levied, by August 15th, in the prescribed form (Section 290.01 of *The Municipalities Act*).
- Removing farm dwelling exemption in unorganized hamlets (Section 293 of *The Municipalities Act*).
- Implementing changes to the number of trailers or mobile homes allowed

by permit from "two or more" to "one or more" (Section 306 of *The Municipalities Act*).

Canadian Beef Cattle On-Farm Biosecurity Standard

This week's biosecurity highlight comes from the Biosecurity-Canadian Beef Cattle On-Farm Biosecurity Standard. Reviewing and/or developing a biosecurity program may feel like an overwhelming task; however, the tools in this implementation manual will facilitate the process.

[Learn More](#)

Resources

"Delivering on the Promise of Medicare" Lecture

On Thursday, January 21, 2021, the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School will be hosting their 3rd annual Houston lecture, free of charge, entitled "Delivering on the Promise of Medicare" by Dr. Danielle Martin, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Executive at Women's College Hospital.

What is the Promise of Medicare? During this lecture, Dr. Danielle Martin will touch on the Promise of Medicare as well as required improvements that need to be made to our health care system that have been made more evident now than ever, given the demands and pressures on the health care system due to COVID-19.

Date: January 21, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

SHA/SARM Town Hall

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) would like to invite municipal leaders from across the province to a Town Hall Information Session on **Monday, January 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM** regarding the current state of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This will be an opportunity to hear updates from senior leaders within the SHA on a variety of topics and ask questions that you are hearing from your constituents.

Topics to include updates on the following:

- Epidemiological Trends and Projections.
- Pandemic Response – Offensive and Defensive Strategies
- Vaccination Strategy and Plan

- Opportunity for Questions and Discussion

Town Hall Information Sessions will continue on a weekly to bi-weekly basis in order to ensure municipal leaders are kept informed.

To join this online event

1. Go to <https://skhealth.webex.com/skhealth/j.php?MTID=eba458cb14cb46cf86f20436fb321def8>
 2. Enter the event password: This event requires registration. After your registration has been approved, you will receive instructions for joining the event.
 3. Click "Join Now".
 4. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen to join the teleconference.
-

FCM Accepting Grant Applications for the Municipal Asset Management Program

FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program is now accepting applications for grants of up to \$50,000 to fund an asset management initiative in your community. With a solid asset management approach, your municipality can respond to changing concerns in your community and help meet its service needs reliably and sustainably.

Apply for a grant for an initiative that, for example, collects data on your assets or develops asset management policies and strategies. FCM's funding is especially helpful for small and medium-sized communities.

This initiative is offered through the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP), which is delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and funded by the Government of Canada.

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

1-26-2021

Question of the Week

Does your local landfill have a composting program?

Yes

Select

No

Select

Reminders

Municipal Revenue Sharing -Targeted Sector Support

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

The Municipalities Act – Common Questions

RM administrators attended *The Municipalities Act Amendments Webinar* on Nov. 24. Advisory Services will be hosting a follow-up **Q&A Webinar** in the new year to answer questions received during the presentation and any other questions you may have. Please watch your email inbox in the coming weeks for more information about registration. The following topics some of the common questions related to *The Municipalities Act* amendments that were received:

Common Questions Received

Sec. 22 – Road Maintenance Agreements (RMA)

Municipalities may now enter into an RMA using an alternative schedule of charges or fees from those prescribed in the Regulations if the fees are applied consistently for all other agreements in the municipality and both parties agree. To ensure that an alternative fee schedule is applied consistently, a best practice would be for council to develop a written policy establishing how the schedule of fees would be applied within the municipality. If both parties do not agree to the alternative fee schedule, the municipality could still require a RMA as they could before, but the prescribed fees must be followed.

Sec. 81.1 – Special Meetings

Council must designate a person within the council procedures bylaw to call a special meeting in the event the administrator is unable to or the position is vacant. This person is solely responsible for calling the special meeting only and is not the same as appointing an acting administrator. They must follow the process set out in section 123 and any additional requirements set out in the council procedures bylaw. The person designated could potentially be the administrative assistant, the local bank manager, or possibly even the administrator from a neighbouring municipality. It cannot be a member of council.

Sec. 110 – Qualified Administrator

The councils of all non-city municipalities (no matter the population) are required to appoint a person to the position of administrator that is qualified as per *The Urban Municipal Administrators Act* and, in the case of a rural municipality, *The Rural Municipal Administrators Act* as of Jan. 1, 2021.

Sec. 273 – Tax Payments

Payment or collection of taxes is to be apportioned amongst all taxing authorities. However, this does not apply to payments made specifically towards rates pursuant to *The Municipal Hail Insurance Act*.

Please see the following Information Bulletin from Advisory Services summarizing the amendments made to *The Municipalities Act*.

[View Summary of Amendments](#)

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