

# WPB July 6-10

## Rural Bridge Improvements

SARM is partnering with the provincial and federal government to replace 100 RM bridges over the next four years. This will help toward addressing the current infrastructure challenges in RMs. Many RM roads connect to the provincial or national highway system and weight-restricted bridges can create gaps and inefficiencies in the transportation network. Projects will be cost-shared up to \$500,000, with about 17 per cent of this amount coming from the federal government, while 33 per cent will come from the provincial government with the remaining share coming from the RMs.

For more information on the [announcement](#)

## Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Project

The Province of Saskatchewan announced a \$4 billion irrigation project at Lake Diefenbaker on July 2, 2020. The project will take place in three phases and is designed to irrigate up to 500,000 acres of land from Lake Diefenbaker, more than doubling the irrigable land in Saskatchewan. The project is beginning with an immediate \$22.5 million investment in preliminary engineering and initial construction. Project construction is expected to occur approximately over the next 10 years in three main phases at a cost estimated at \$4 billion.

Saskatchewan is seeking federal funding now to support planning work and will be

seeking significant longer-term funding to support this multi-year, multi-phase construction project.

The province expects to complete further consultations and discussions with stakeholders and First Nations as the project progresses.

For more information on the [announcement](#)

## **CUSMA – July 1, 2020**

On July 1, 2020, the new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) entered into force.

Signed on the margins of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires in November 2018, CUSMA reinforces economic ties between Canada, the United States and Mexico. In December 2019 certain elements of CUSMA were updated to clear the path toward ratification. CUSMA includes a requirement for a formal review of the agreement at least every six years after entry into force. The agreement will terminate 16 years after entry into force, the Parties can agree to extend the agreement for a further 16 years after each regular review.

## **Guide to Getting Started on Asset Management**

Asset management is not just about infrastructure, but about building an understanding of the services your assets provide to your community and best practices for caring for them. The Building Blocks of Asset Management guide was

created to support communities in the early stages of establishing asset management practices. This step-by-step guide is geared toward those who are just getting started.

**Read the guide** today to learn more about how to get started with asset management.

## Question of the Week Results

Does your RM have an Animal Control Officer?

Yes	13%
No	85%
Don't Know	2%

# WPB July 13-17

## Question of the Week

Does your RM have a website?

**Yes**

Select

**No**

Select

If no, which option below is the most applicable?

**Rate-payers have not shown interest**

Select

**Lack of time/capacity to design and keep updated**

Select

**Not sure where to start**

Select

## Reminders

### Survey on 2020 Municipal Elections

With the potential implications of COVID-19 on municipal elections, SARM is working with Government Relations to identify any necessary accommodations for municipalities to conduct a safe election. We know this is a short turn around time but please complete the survey by July 31st.

Please submit your survey responses using the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/99YHF5Y>

## Operator Representative for Operator Certification Board

There is an opportunity to add rural representation on the Saskatchewan Operator Certification Board (OCB). As such SARM is reaching out to RMs looking for a water and wastewater operator in good standing interested in applying for a position on the OCB.

As a representative of water and wastewater operators in the province, the operator who fills the position will support the importance of clean, safe drinking water, effective sewage treatment and protection of the environment. The representative will possess a high level of integrity and follow all rules and regulations as laid out by the Water Security Agency (WSA) and the OCB.

About the position:

- This is a volunteer position.
- Applicant names are submitted to the Water Security Agency.
- OCB members are appointed by the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency.
- The OCB Board meets 6 times per year for 2-day meetings in Regina.
- Mileage, hotel and meals are reimbursed.

Requirements:

- A criminal record check is required for all government board members.
- Ability to attend all OCB board Meetings as laid out in the schedule each year.

Please submit a letter of intent along with 3 work and 1 personal reference by July 24<sup>th</sup> to [kmorris@sarm.ca](mailto:kmorris@sarm.ca). The information will then be forwarded to WSA and the chosen candidate will be notified in August.

Just a reminder to members about the new Rural Sheaf that comes out the last Friday of each month. If you missed this or it went to your junk mail, click the link below to read the June edition.

[The Rural Sheaf June 2020](#)

## Information

### Federal Fiscal Snapshot

On July 9, 2020 the federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau delivered a fiscal snapshot. The fiscal update provided a detailed overview of programs that have been announced this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic response plan. For more information on the federal economic and [fiscal update](#) .

### Asset Management Workshops

[FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program \(MAMP\) partner organizations](#) are offering a number of online workshops and courses to help your community strengthen its asset management approach with practical advice for municipalities of all sizes.



### Saskatchewan Crown Sector 2019-2020 Results

In 2019-20, the Crowns recorded net earnings of \$435.4 million. Crown investment in capital renewal and expansion totaled \$1.3 billion with a further \$1.6 billion forecast annually over the next five years. Continued capital investments will contribute to re-opening Saskatchewan and help stimulate the province's economic recovery. The 2019-2020 Crown Sector Highlight can be found [here](#)

### IRCC Online – Consultation

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has opened a voluntary online consultation to gather views on Canada's immigration level plan and the Municipal Nominee Program (MNP) – a new economic immigration program included in the Minister of Immigration and Refugees Citizenship Canada Mandate.

To participate by July 20, 2020, click on the following link or copy and paste the web address:

<https://ca1se.voxco.com/SE/?st=6pczpAaWFjMfkBqZalAhCfTNmFHNB4GNVQE7l4bINC8%3D&lang=en>

[Click here](#) for more information.

---

## **Building Standards and Licensing – Workshop 'Understanding the Objective Based Code' – Webinar**

Building Standards and Licensing is offering a virtual workshop that will be available for viewing from July 9th, 2020 till October 9th, 2020.

The following topics will be covered, which include working examples for application of:

- Provincial legislation,
- Objective Statements,
- Functional Statements,
- Intent Statements, and
- Alternative Solutions

The webinar will provide 4 credit hours towards mandatory training hour requirements for building official license renewal and 4 credit hours towards professional development for others. Upon completion of all eight chapters including the short survey, a certificate will be emailed to the address provided with the registration.

To register as required to gain access to this presentation from the Building Standards and Licensing branch please use the links below:

Chapter 1 (20 min.)

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1994035113859420174>

Chapter 2 (20 min.)

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3976707466414020622>

Chapter 3 (30 min.)

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6565262402919657231>

Chapter 4 & 5 (11 min.)

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4528500675348345359>

Chapter 6 (20 min.)

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/273820584901700879>

Chapter 7 (17 min.)

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7331137122851729679>

Chapter 8 (10 min. + Survey)

- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2630800780411661327>

## Resources

### Government Programming for Producers Faced with Flooding

The following resources are available for producers who are experiencing challenges due to inclement weather, heavy rain and hail:

- [\*The Provincial Disaster Assistance Program \(PDAP\)\*](#)
- [\*Forage Insurance\*](#)
- [\*Unseeded Acreage\*](#)
- [\*Western Livestock Price Insurance Program \(WLPIP\)\*](#)
- [\*Wildlife Damage Compensation Program\*](#)
- [\*Farm Ranch Water Infrastructure Program \(FRWIP\)\*](#)
- [\*Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program \(EFDRP\)\*](#)
- [\*Crown Leased Land\*](#)
- [\*Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Feed Extension Specialists\*](#)
- The Farm Stress Line – 1-800-667-4442



# WPB July 20-24

## Question of the Week Results

Does your RM have a website?

**Yes - 50%**

**No - 50%**

---

If no, which option below is most applicable?

**Rate-payers have not shown interest - 0%**

**Lack of time/capacity to design and keep updated - 50%**

**Not sure where to start - 50%**

## Reminders

### 2020 Municipal Elections Survey

With the potential implications of COVID-19 on municipal elections, SARM is working with Government Relations to identify any necessary

accommodations for municipalities to conduct a safe election. We know this is a short turn around time but please complete the survey by July 31st.

Please submit your responses below.

[Complete Survey](#)

## Information

### Saskatchewan Agricultural Water Management Demonstrations

On July 20, 2020 Minister responsible for the Water Security Agency, Greg Ottenbreit made an announcement that Saskatchewan is investing \$1 million to partner with 10 stakeholder organizations on 11 agricultural water management demonstration projects. The projects will test innovative solutions, and help inform local science based best practices regarding water management on land in Saskatchewan. One of the projects featured in the announcement today is at the Discover Farm and will be multi-year study that will involve design, regulatory approval, and construction of a drainage system on approximately 40 acres of land. After construction, a field study will evaluate several management practices meant to reduce nutrient runoff. An extension event will be planned during construction for interested farmers and ranchers to observe the process.

[Announcement](#)

[Learn More](#)

### Federal Funding for Municipalities - Announcement

The Federal Government announced it will provide \$19 billion to the provinces and territories to help fund a “safe restart” of the Canadian

economy. The money will focus on seven priority areas, including funding for municipalities as well as the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for front line workers and businesses, a national sick leave plan and child care, improving the state of long-term care, and funding for mental health services.

## Resources

### COVID-19 Precaution Signage

The Municipal Rural Sustainability Working Group suggested signage for municipal offices regarding precautions for COVID-19 might be useful. SARM created a number of signs for the reopening of the SARM office and are making the signs available for RM use if required.

[View Signage](#)

### COVID-19 Information Portal for Farmers and Food Processors

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has created a COVID-19 information portal that has information on new and existing programs, financial resources and initiatives

[View Portal](#)

### Green Municipal Fund Tool

The Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities are proud to launch the Municipal Energy Roadmap. This decision-support tool provides specific guidance to identify the most impactful solutions for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The Municipal Energy Roadmap will help municipalities discover solutions for energy efficiency in municipal, commercial, and residential buildings; learn about solutions for community sustainable energy generation; and implement strategies to drive these solutions forward.

[View News Release](#)

# WPB July 27-31

## Question of the Week Results

The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) provides a property assessment system and services for clients and stakeholders in Saskatchewan.

In 2019-2020 has your level of satisfaction with SAMA's service?

**Increased**

[Select](#)

**Decreased**

[Select](#)

**Remained the same**

[Select](#)

## Reminders

**MEEP Applications Due July 31**

The original deadline for applications was July 17, as indicated in email application packages sent in May by the Ministry of Government Relations.

The deadline extension is recognition that some municipalities may need more time to complete their MEEP applications during summer months and to ensure communities have ample opportunity to take advantage of this program.



[Learn More](#)

## Information

### Advocacy Update – Strychnine

Advocating for the safe and continued use of strychnine to control the Richardson Ground Squirrel (RGS) population has been a longstanding issue for SARM. The RGS can be very damaging to crop, forage, and livestock production and has historically been one of Western Canada's worst agricultural pests. Over the years, there have been gains and setbacks when it comes to Strychnine as a registered pest control product. In 2018, the PMRA published Re-evaluation Decision PRVD2018-13 which proposed the cancellation of strychnine used to control ground squirrels due to environmental risks of concern for non-target organisms, including species at risk. SARM provided comments on the effectiveness of strychnine where applied properly and the danger of removing the ability for producers to use this product without offering a comparable substitute potentially harming the economic viability of agriculture production across the province. In 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture completed a study evaluating Strychnine baiting on RGS control and effects on non-target organisms which demonstrated the safety and effectiveness of strychnine

use when applied properly and submitted the findings to Health Canada and the PMRA.

In March 2020, Health Canada and the PMRA published Re-evaluation Decision RVD2020-06 which banned the sale of strychnine for use on RGS after March 2022 and the use of strychnine to control RGS after March 2023. After the announcement, SARM worked with various producer groups to advocate for the continued safe use of strychnine to Health Canada and the PMRA and registered a notice of objection. Many RMs also registered their own notices of objection to the decision before July 2, 2020. When the results of the consultation on RVD2020-06 are published, an update will be shared with members.

## Resources

### **The Saskatchewan Municipal Peer Network**

Municipal leaders are faced with diverse challenges that require resolution. The Saskatchewan Municipal Peer Network connects municipal administrators and elected officials with highly-experienced peers, who can provide guidance, coaching, and advice to help resolve issues locally, use best governance practices, better understand their roles and responsibilities, and other related matters.

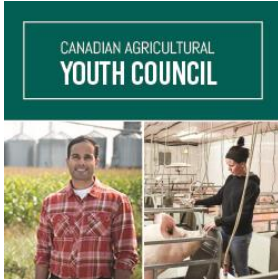
The volunteer mentors range from administrators, mayors, reeves and councillors. They are trained in coaching, communication, facilitation, and dispute resolution.

Mentors can be reached by phone or met with in person, and all conversations are confidential and free of charge.

[Find a Mentor](#)

---

## Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Youth Council



As a consultative body to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Agricultural Youth Council (CAYC) is a group of young Canadians providing advice, enabling on-going dialogue on food-related challenges and opportunities, sharing information and best practices, and advising on the strengths and weaknesses of policies and programs affecting the agriculture and agri-food sectors. The CAYC will meet multiple times annually, with a virtual inaugural meeting planned for August 2020. Representatives on the council from Saskatchewan are Andrea DeRoo and Brent Kobes.

[Learn More](#)