

# Policy Bulletin

June 2019

**June 7, 2019**

## **INFORMATION: FCM Conference 2019**

The SARM Executive attended the Annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference and Trade Show last week in Quebec. More than 2,000 municipal leaders from across the country congregated in Quebec City to discuss municipal issues, share best practices, participate in workshops on climate resilient communities, broadband issues, parity on municipal councils and community safety and well-being among many other topics. The Executive also had the opportunity to meet with Canadian political leaders to talk about rural issues and how to build successful federal-municipal relationships.

Conference highlights included:

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivered the political keynote address on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Andrew Scheer addressed the delegates on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Vice-President Carmen Sterling took part in the Farm Hub speaker series: Connecting communities through agriculture: Municipal leaders discuss the importance of farming to the people they represent.
- Directors of Policy from the Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta municipal associations met to discuss issues of importance to their respective memberships.

Over the course of the convention, President Orb met with:

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
- Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Andrew Scheer
- Leader of the New Democratic Party, Jagmeet Singh
- Leader of the Green Party, Elizabeth May
- Minister of Rural Economic Development, Bernadette Jordan

## **INFORMATION: Support Canadian Energy Campaign Launched at FCM Conference**

The Support Canadian Energy campaign is the inaugural action of the Resource Communities of Canada Coalition (RCCC). The campaign was launched at the 2019 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference in Quebec City.

The goal of the campaign is to encourage respectful dialogue and collaboration to help municipalities understand how the Canadian energy industry is intertwined with communities and emphasize the importance of responsible resource development. Activities at the FCM conference will be aimed at promoting respectful dialogue regarding the energy industry through peer-to-peer meetings, a social media campaign, and news media engagement.

The campaign had several avenues to garner support at the conference including a kick-off on May 30<sup>th</sup>, a trade show booth, a rural town hall and a workshop "Powering Canada through Energy Development".

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The RCCC is a coordinated advocacy effort with the support of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM). Through the RCCC this group of provincial municipal associations is liaising with industry experts, trade groups, and the Canadian Chambers of Commerce to share information to strengthen understanding and support clear advocacy.

## **INFORMATION: Mandatory Training for Drivers of Semis Used in Agriculture Operation**

New training requirements for those wishing to drive a semi in agriculture operations will be phased in starting next year. The changes follow the implementation of 121.5 mandatory training hours for Class 1 commercial semi drivers that came into effect March 15, 2019.

Training impacts for the ag sector are as follows:

- Effective March 1, 2020, anyone wishing to obtain an “F” endorsement on their existing driver’s licence will be required to take 40 hours of commercial driver training. The “F” endorsement will include a restriction that the holder can drive a farm vehicle normally requiring a Class 1 driver’s licence only within a 100-km radius of the address on the vehicle registration and is restricted to operating within Saskatchewan’s borders.
- Effective March 1, 2021, the “F” endorsement will be eliminated and anyone wanting to operate a semi will require a Class 1 driver’s licence, which will include taking the full 121.5-hour mandatory training program. This includes all “F” endorsement holders, who will need to complete the training program. \* Drivers who have previously taken 40 hours of training toward the “F” endorsement will be given credit for those hours.

The changes mean that in 2021, mandatory training programs across the prairies will be completely aligned.

\*Anyone who obtained a Class 1 licence before mandatory training was implemented is allowed to continue to drive a semi.

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

## **INFORMATION: Aquatic Habitat Protection Permits**

The Aquatic Habitat Protection Program (AHPP) protects aquatic habitat from impacts that may arise from development projects or activities, large or small, that are conducted in or near water in Saskatchewan. The Water Security Agency (WSA) requires that every person desiring approval to commence work in or near water must file a completed permit application form with the WSA. At times the process can be lengthy, as such SARM is asking RMs to let us know if your application for an AHPP permit takes longer than the posted 45 days. If your experience in obtaining an AHPP permit does not follow the WSA posted timelines please contact:

Karen Morris  
Policy Coordinator, SARM  
[kmorris@sarm.ca](mailto:kmorris@sarm.ca)

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More information on applying for an AHPP permit can be found [here](#).

## **INFORMATION: Government of Saskatchewan Files Notice of Carbon Tax Appeal**

On May 31, Justice Minister and Attorney General Don Morgan announced that the Government of Saskatchewan has officially filed notice of appeal with the Supreme Court of Canada.

The questions being asked of the Supreme Court of Canada are:

1. Is the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* unconstitutional in whole or in part?
2. In particular, does Parliament have jurisdiction to establish minimum national standards for price stringency for greenhouse gas emissions under the national concern branch of the peace, order and good government power set out in the opening words of section 91 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*?

The Government of Saskatchewan now has a two-month window to file the province's factum to the Supreme Court of Canada

## **INFORMATION: Resolution Responses**

SARM received responses from the Ministry of Environment for the following 2019 annual resolutions:

- [\*\*7-19A Environmental Reviews on Construction Projects\*\*](#)
- [\*\*POP 3-19A Carbon Tax Farm Fuels Exemption\*\*](#)

## **INFORMATION: Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Green Job Grants**

[\*\*CPRA Green Jobs grants\*\*](#) are now available to subsidize students working in new green jobs in the parks and recreation sector this Fall. For more information about the program and eligibility, visit the [\*\*Canadian Parks and Recreation \(CPRA\) website\*\*](#).

Deadline for submissions is June 12, 2019.

Please contact the [\*\*Green Jobs Western Regional Manager\*\*](#) with any questions about the Green Jobs program.

**June 11, 2019**

## **INFORMATION: Advanced Payments Program Update**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau announced that the Government of Canada has implemented the new regulations necessary to strengthen the Advance Payments Program, as announced on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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The amendments made to the Agricultural Marketing Programs Regulations increase loan limits from \$400,000 to \$1 million for all producers on a permanent basis, and increase the interest-free portion of loans on canola advances from \$100,000 to \$500,000 in the 2019 program year under the APP. Producers of all other commodities can continue to receive up to \$100,000 interest-free.

With the regulations now in place, government officials are working with the 36 program administrators to implement the changes. Producers will be able to apply for the new amounts as early as June 10 and new advances above \$400,000 will be issued as of June 26.

Producers are encouraged to contact their APP administrator regarding application details and processing timelines. In the meantime, the Government continues to provide producers access to the current advance limit of \$400,000, which effective immediately, is interest-free for all canola advances.

## **INFORMATION: FCM Elections**

On Sunday, June 2 delegates acclaimed the next Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) President: Bill Karsten. A councillor for the Regional Municipality of Halifax since 2004, Bill has served as an FCM vice-president since 2016.

After a year as FCM President, **Vicki-May Hamm** now moves into the role of Past President. Delegates also elected the following additional table officers:

- **First Vice-President Garth Frizzell**, a councillor from Prince George, B.C.
- **Second Vice-President Joanne Vanderheyden**, Mayor of Strathroy-Caradoc, ON
- **Third Vice-President Darren Hill**, a councillor from Saskatoon, SK

## **INFORMATION: Rural Economic Development – FCM**

As rural priorities led the agenda on the second day of the 2019 FCM annual conference, SARM President Ray Orb, Chair of FCM's Rural Forum stressed the importance of unlocking the potential of rural communities. The June 1<sup>st</sup> Rural Plenary session kicked off by federal Minister of Rural Economic Development Bernadette Jordan focused on challenges of attracting and retaining businesses and workers and improving infrastructure with limited tools and stressed the potential that improved broadband access would provide. More information can be found [here](#).

## **INFORMATION: SARM Committee Meetings**

SARM's Agriculture and Environment Standing Committee was on the road this week travelling to the RM of Blucher (No. 343). The committee toured the Livestock and Forage Center of Excellence and had the opportunity to meet with members of the RM and the RM Council and staff. Thanks very much to the Village of Bradwell and the RM of Blucher for your hospitality!

## **INFORMATION: Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Increase**

The minimum wage in Saskatchewan will increase from \$11.06 an hour to \$11.32 an hour on October 1, 2019. The increase was calculated based on an indexation formula the province has used since 2011.

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Saskatchewan's legislation provides for an annual review based on changes to the Consumer Price Index and the average hourly wage for the previous year. Any changes to the minimum wage are to be announced by June 30. Changes take effect October 1.

## More information

### **INFORMATION: Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence Field Day – June 18**

Last week, SARM's Agriculture and Environment Committee tour of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence was an opportunity to see a unique complex of field laboratories and science labs where researchers bring together translational and applied research to improve livestock production.

The centre is holding a Field Day on Tuesday, June 18th. The event is free of charge and a great opportunity to learn more about livestock production in Saskatchewan and beyond.

More information and registration for the event can be found here: <https://lfce.usask.ca/#FieldDay>

### **INFORMATION: Municipal Symposium presented by SUMA**

What will municipal development look like in 20 to 30 years? Consider that future at the municipal symposium. Join municipal leaders in Moose Jaw July 28-30 to explore the topics of governance, infrastructure, and public safety as they relate to municipal economic development. This two and a half day event will include a keynote address, presentations, panel discussions, and break out group discussions.

**When:** Sunday, July 28, 2019 4pm to Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 4pm

**Where:** Mosaic Place - Room 204  
110 1 Avenue NW  
Moose Jaw, SK

**Cost:** \$150 per person (space is limited)

## More information and agenda

## Register

### **SUMA Webinar: How to Prosecute Bylaws**

Learn best practices when prosecuting bylaws, from service to court to collecting fines, in the SUMA webinar How To Prosecute Bylaws. Join SUMA and presenters Troy Baril and Jacey Safnuk of Miller Thomson LLP on June 18 at 10 a.m.

See [event listing](#) for more information about this professional development event.

Non SUMA members can access this webinar for just \$75. We encourage you to invite other

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elected officials and staff members to watch this session together. One registration fee for multiple viewers is a great way to stretch those dollars!

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.

## [Register](#)

**June 18, 2019**

### **INFORMATION: June Division Meetings**

SARM members had the opportunity to discuss important issues in their divisions at the June Division meetings that took place June 10-13<sup>th</sup>. Speakers from the RCMP, Canadian Taxpayers Federation, CP Rail, Water Security Agency, and the Ministry of Environment gave presentations and participated in round tables to discuss issues and answer questions. Each meeting had a bear pit session with members of SARM's Executive who fielded questions on topics ranging from carbon tax to aquatic invasive species.

Presentations are available on the [SARM Website](#) and videos will be uploaded to SARM's YouTube page.

### **INFORMATION: AIS Advocacy Update**

SARM continues its advocacy efforts on preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Saskatchewan. AIS and in particular invasive mussels pose a threat to Saskatchewan's waterways, as such SARM is active on the AIS Task Force and is in regular contact with Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment on the file. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, SARM made a submission to the Standing Committee on Department of Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) on the study of the national AIS program. The submission can be viewed [here](#). In May, SARM President Ray Orb appeared as a witness for the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Ocean's hearing on AIS to share the Saskatchewan perspective.

Learn more about the Saskatchewan Adult Invasive Mussel Monitoring (AIMM) program via the province's [AIMM guide](#). The guide includes instructions for building and deploying very easy substrate samples for aquatic invasive species, as well as instructions for reporting findings.

### **INFORMATION: Prairie Appreciation Week: June 16-22**

The Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture have jointly proclaimed June 16 to 22, 2019, as Native Prairie Appreciation Week in Saskatchewan. The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed Native Prairie Appreciation Week for the past 21 years, at the request of the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP).

The province's native prairie is a unique ecosystem that is home to a wide variety of plants and animals and Native Prairie Appreciation Week is a great way to engage and educate about Saskatchewan's native prairie. SK PCAP is holding events across the province to recognize.



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Native Prairie Appreciation Week.

For a complete list, visit [www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org) or contact their office at 306-352-0472 or [pcap@sasktel.net](mailto:pcap@sasktel.net).

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For a complete list, visit [www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org) or contact their office at 306-352-0472 or [pcap@sasktel.net](mailto:pcap@sasktel.net).

## **INFORMATION: Resolution Responses**

SARM received a response from the Ministry of Health on the following resolution:

- [Resolution 17-19A – Health Care](#)

**June 25, 2019**

## **INFORMATION: Additional Support to Expand Canola Export Markets**

Minister Carr and Minister Bibeau were joined by the EDC Executive VP and Chief Business Officer Carl Burlock to announce further support for the canola industry.

The countries of Pakistan and Bangladesh have been targeted as growth markets for canola exporters. Export Development Canada (EDC) will be providing an additional \$150 million in insurance support to Canadian canola exporters to manage risks into these new markets and have the EDC credit backing for exporters getting loans from financial institutions. The increase in funding is for canola exporters only. This level of support is already available for farmers of other products like soybeans.

## **INFORMATION: Options for Producers Dealing with Dry Conditions**

On June 19, 2019 Federal Agriculture Minister, Marie Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced additional program measures and flexibility to help address the dry conditions across the province. The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the challenges many Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers are facing due to dry conditions and is closely monitoring moisture, crop and forage conditions across the province.

Through the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Program, the deadline for seeding crops for greenfeed has been extended from June 30 to July 15. Producers who have Crop Insurance will

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now be able to seed and insure any cereal greenfeed crop. This includes customers who have not previously endorsed greenfeed on their contract of insurance. Crop Insurance customers have until July 15 to select this endorsement and seed their greenfeed crop.

If a Crop Insurance customer wants to use their annual crop acres for livestock grazing or for feed, they can contact their local Crop Insurance office. Crop Insurance customers also have coverage should their annual crops suffer from the dry conditions.

The producer can register a pre-harvest claim if they do not want to carry the crop through to harvest. If the producer takes their crop to harvest, but it has a reduced yield, they can file a post-harvest claim. Producers concerned about the dry conditions should contact their local Crop Insurance office to review the options available for claims, compensation and the requirements for the options they choose.

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

## **INFORMATION: Livestock Tax Deferral**

The Livestock Tax Deferral provision allows producers to defer a portion of their breeding livestock sales based on the amount of livestock they sell.

Earlier this year, SARM sent a letter to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to bring attention to concerns with the current livestock tax deferral provision including the process to develop the list of eligible municipalities, specifically addressing issues with the way moisture levels are monitored and the inability of some producers to source feed. SARM also reiterated concerns over the inadequacy of the percentage of income that can be deferred through the provision.

AAFC's response provided information on the designation process for eligible municipalities and a commitment to ensuring that producers have the tools they need to manage risk in their operations. Also of note, in January 2019, the federal government announced additions to the list of eligible municipalities for the Livestock Tax Deferral provision in Saskatchewan. The regions were added as a result of data collected through the AAFC designation process, as well as from input from the Province of Saskatchewan and industry.

SARM will continue to work with industry groups including the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association and the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association to jointly lobby the AAFC for fundamental changes to the provision.

[View the most recent map of designated eligible areas.](#)

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



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## **INFORMATION: Legislation Update**

### **Bill C-69**

Last week, Bill C-69 passed by a Senate vote of 57-37 with a record number of amendments accepted after months of study and debate. The bill imposes more requirements for consultation, widens public participation in the review process and requires climate change to be considered when major national resource-exploitation and transportation projects are being evaluated. It applies to a wide range of projects including interprovincial pipelines, highways, mines and power links.

### **Bill C-48**

With a vote of 49-46, the Senate passed Bill C-48 after much debate in recent months. The bill which bans oil tankers from a northern portion of the British Columbia Coast was passed with only modest amendments. As part of the bill, the government accepted a Senate amendment requiring a mandatory review of the tanker ban in five years.

The concerns that SARM has raised with this legislation remain and as this is an important issue for our members, more information and analysis on the passage of bills C-69 and C-48 will be available in next week's bulletin.

## **SUMA Webinar: Building Positive Relationships with Residents**

It's not easy to turn every interaction with a resident into a positive encounter. But a negative experience in the municipal office can not only impact a resident's view of the municipality, it can also affect community morale. SUMA, in partnership with UMAAS, is pleased to offer the webinar *Building Positive Relationships with Residents*. Join Gloria Obrigewitsch, owner and operator of GCO Consulting, on **June 27 at 10 a.m.** to learn key skills required to foster positive relationships between municipal government and its residents.

When: Thursday, June 27 10am to 11am

Where: This is an online event

Cost: \$75 to non-SUMA members.

**[Register](#)**