



10-06-2020

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## 2020 Provincial Election: Don't Forget to Ask Your Candidates

### MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

Continuing to provide municipal services through these years following COVID-19 is going to be challenging as many ratepayers and businesses struggle to pay their property taxes due to the economic implications of the virus. SARM asks that candidates consider the value of continued, predictable municipal support as we endure through COVID-19 by providing municipalities with the same revenue sharing grant in 2020 and ensure the portion of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) allocated to municipalities does not decrease. Our RMs also request the ability to utilize the same tax tools as urban municipalities and ask the province to study and develop viable alternative revenue streams and tax tools for all municipalities to access and benefit from in these uncertain times.

**What are your provincial election candidates going to do to ensure continued, predictable municipal support as we endure through COVID-19?**

[Learn More](#)

## Reminders

### 2020 Municipal Election Nomination Deadline

Municipal elections will be held for the offices of Reeve, Division 1, 3 & 5 Councillors. **The deadline for nominations is October 7, 2020** with elections (if required) to be held on Monday, November 9, 2020.

[Learn More](#)

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Fall 2020 Collection: Unwanted Pesticides & Old

# Livestock/Animal Medications

In Saskatchewan, collection events take place October 26 to 30, 2020 in 20 locations. [Find out](#) what you can bring in for safe disposal.

View [map](#) of collection events.

View [printable poster](#) listing collection locations & dates.

[Learn More](#)

## Information

### Listen Up! The First Sixteen - A Podcast from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The First Sixteen is Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's new podcast series that explores the freshest ideas in agriculture and food. Each bite-sized episode explores a single topic in depth-digging deep into new practices, innovative ideas, and their impacts on the industry and more broadly on Canadians.

[Learn More](#)

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### Canada Infrastructure Bank Announcement

The federal government has announced \$10 billion in new major infrastructure initiatives. The Canada Infrastructure Bank's Growth Plan will invest in five major initiatives:

- \$2.5 billion for clean power to support renewable generation and storage and to transmit clean electricity between provinces, territories, and regions, including to northern and Indigenous communities.
- \$2 billion to connect approximately 750,000 homes and small businesses to broadband in underserved communities, so Canadians can better participate in the digital economy.
- \$2 billion to invest in large-scale building retrofits to increase energy efficiency and help make communities more sustainable.
- \$1.5 billion for agriculture irrigation projects to help the agriculture sector enhance production, strengthen Canada's food security, and expand export opportunities.
- \$1.5 billion to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure so Canadians can have cleaner commutes.

According to a backgrounder issued with the federal government's news release, the \$1.5 billion slated for agriculture infrastructure includes "transformative irrigation infrastructure" in Western Canada. To accelerate the delivery of projects in which the CIB intends to invest, it will also allocate \$500 million for project development and early construction works.

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## Amendments to the Municipal Acts

In July 2020, Bill 194, reached Royal Assent, implementing multiple amendments to acts governing Saskatchewan's municipalities.

Sections of the bill came into force upon Royal Assent, others sections come into force January 1, 2021, and others come into force by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Click on the links below to view the summaries of the major changes:

[\*The Municipalities Act amendment bulletin\*](#)

[\*The Northern Municipalities Act amendment bulletin\*](#)

[\*The Cities Act amendment bulletin\*](#)

## Resources

### PSPNET Online Mental Health Portal for Public Safety Personnel

When called upon, local government fire and rescue personnel are on the frontline when attending fires and motor vehicle collisions. Emergency personnel are continually exposed to traumatic scenes when assisting others in life and death situations. This can take a toll on mental health and place emergency responders at a high risk for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The Online Therapy Unit at the University of Regina provides free online support throughout Saskatchewan to public safety personnel. Participants complete online modules independently to address anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress and substance misuse. Modules are supplemented with therapist support by phone or email.

[Learn More & Access Online Therapy Unit](#)

## Question of the Week

As the provincial election campaign is now underway, are the candidates in your riding engaging with your RM?

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Yes

Select

No

Select

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## 2020 Provincial Election: Don't Forget to Ask Your Candidates

### FOCUS ON POLICING

We need to ask candidates to continue to focus efforts on reducing rural crime and continue to build upon the good work the provincial government has undertaken, in partnerships with organizations like SARM, including initiatives such as Rural Crime Watch and increasing the availability of patrol units in to cover rural areas. This includes reviewing the way the municipalities pay for policing service and how fine revenues collected by the RCMP are shared back with municipalities. We need to remind our candidates that unless rural communities see an increase in the level of service provided by the RCMP we are opposed to a formula change that would increase the portion of policing costs borne by RMs.

**What are your provincial election candidates going to do to balance level of service provided by the RCMP and the costs RMs pay?**

[Learn More](#)

## Information

### October is Agriculture Month in Saskatchewan

Agriculture Month is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of the agriculture industry to our province and to increase consumer understanding of and trust in modern food production. Everyone is encouraged to celebrate by exploring their connection to food and food production through the theme, **"#CelebrateAg"**

For a full list of Agriculture Month events or to learn how you can take part, visit [www.farmfoodcaresk.org](http://www.farmfoodcaresk.org). Follow Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan on Twitter @FarmFoodCareSK, or on Facebook at Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan. Share your stories on social media using **#CelebrateAg**.

# Resources

## FCM New Asset Management Activities

In an effort to accommodate the evolving needs of municipalities across Canada, **FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) partner organizations** are offering a number of online training activities to help your community strengthen its asset management approach.

Sign up for a course, webinar or workshop today to find best practices and tailored advice on how to meet your region's needs.

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## Run, Win, Lead Webinar Series Registration

You are invited to register for the RUN, WIN, LEAD; Toward Parity in municipal politics Zoom webinar series. The series will profile a few of the communities from across Canada who implemented demonstration projects to promote women of all identities, diversity and backgrounds to Run, Win and Lead in Municipal leadership.

[Sign up for one or for all three](#)

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## Provincial Election - Leftover PPE

- Municipalities that are interested in obtaining leftover PPE used by Elections Saskatchewan can contact the local returning office closest to them, **after 10:00 a.m. October 28<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Names, locations and contact information of provincial returning officers** are posted on the ES website.
- Elections Saskatchewan will ask provincial returning officers to make left over PPE available on a first come first serve basis.

A reminder for municipalities to **not** to contact Elections Saskatchewan for leftover PPE or for any other municipal election information.

Technical information on municipal elections is available by calling the municipal inquiry line (306) 787-2680 or emailing [muninfo@gov.sk.ca](mailto:muninfo@gov.sk.ca).

Government Relations has also made a Best Practices Guide available for Municipalities. Click on the link to learn more.

[Election Procedures for Municipalities](#)

## Question of the Week Results

As the provincial election campaign is now underway, are the candidates in your riding engaging with your RM?

**Yes - 32%**

**No - 68%**

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## 2020 Provincial Election: Don't Forget to Ask Your Candidates

### CHANGING PROVINCIAL POLICIES

When you get a chance to talk with your provincial election candidates this fall, don't forget to ask them how they plan to provide broadband access across Saskatchewan, provide municipal support through COVID-19 and ensure the policing level of service received corresponds to levies paid. In addition to these asks, we will also be reminding candidates that policy development that will allow the use of raw water and water treatment systems and expanding the grants in lieu of taxes policies that crown facilities pay to municipalities would reap great benefit to communities, residents, and businesses across the province. Those of us living in rural Saskatchewan need to make sure we highlight these issues, so we have the supports from our provincial government into the future to truly thrive and prosper.

**What are your provincial election candidates going to do to develop fair policies for raw water and water treatment systems and to expand grants in lieu of taxes for all crown facilities?**

Don't forget to vote/information on voting: [www.elections.sk.ca](http://www.elections.sk.ca)

[Learn More](#)

## Reminders

### SARM's Election Reporting Website

Do not forget to update SARM's real-time election reporting website with your municipality's candidate information.

Please note that the login credentials for this website are different from the ones provided for "Members Only" access. Your RM would've received an email on September 15, 2020 with your unique username and password. Make sure to



check your junk mail if you have not yet received this email in your inbox.

If you are experiencing any technical difficulties with the website, please contact [coordinator@sarm.ca](mailto:coordinator@sarm.ca) for assistance.

[Visit Website](#)

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## Left Over Protective Equipment – Provincial Election

Municipalities are able to access left over personal protective equipment (PPE) from the provincial election. Between **October 28 at 10:00 a.m.** and **October 30<sup>th</sup>** municipalities can contact their local provincial returning office for the PPE.

***Names, locations and contact information of provincial returning officers*** are posted on the Elections Saskatchewan website.

Municipalities are asked not to contact Elections Saskatchewan directly, as the PPE will only be distributed through the local returning office. The left over materials will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

After the November 9 elections, municipalities with leftover PPE are encouraged to donate it to a local school, charity, or other organization. Elections Saskatchewan does not wish to have it returned.

## Information

### MCIP Year in Review

Our Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP) Year in Review is here!

In 2019-2020, MCIP supported local climate action projects, staffing and training delivered by expert partners, providing Canadian municipalities with the climate solutions necessary to transition into low-carbon, climate-resilient communities.

Read MCIP's Year in Review to discover:

- The breakdown of how \$57 million in funding was awarded to 322 projects from coast-to-coast.
- Case studies demonstrating how municipalities developed and implemented green initiatives to strengthen their climate-resilience.
- How we finalized over 50 tools, factsheets and reports offering lessons learned and best practices.

Read the report to learn more about how we're helping municipalities across Canada respond to climate change.

[Read Report](#)

# FCM Annual General Meeting 2020

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) members elected a new President and Board of Directors during its first-ever virtual annual general meeting. City of Prince George Councillor **Garth Frizzell** succeeded long-time Halifax Regional Municipality Councillor Bill Karsten as FCM President. Registered FCM voters also ratified members to FCM's 75-seat **Board of Directors**, and the following FCM Table Officers:

- First vice-president: Joanne Vanderheyden, Mayor of Strathroy-Caradoc and Councillor for Middlesex County, ON
- Second vice-president: Darren Hill, Councillor, Saskatoon, SK
- Third vice-president: Scott Pearce, Mayor, Canton of Gore, QC

**Water Treatment & Grants in Lieu Policies**

## Resources

### RSIP Information Session for Road Authorities

Transport Canada (TC) will be providing additional information sessions in order to share information with road authorities, on some of the key points to consider when applying for funding under the Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP). While the key focus of these sessions will be the RSIP, TC will also touch on points of interest on the requirements of the Rail Safety *Grade Crossings Regulations* (GCR) that will be required by November 28, 2021. Furthermore, some material regarding how the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) can help resolve crossings disputes will also be covered during the information sessions. You can find more information regarding the CTA at the following website:

<https://www.otc-cta.gc.ca/eng/railway-crossings>

You are invited to attend one of two teleconference/Web Ex information sessions from Transport Canada on the RSIP and the GCR. The two next sessions are scheduled for later in October:

- **English session on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (EST)**
- **French session on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (EST)**

Please register or express interest to one of the sessions by emailing the following address [Parvina.Ramsahok@tc.gc.ca](mailto:Parvina.Ramsahok@tc.gc.ca) and you will receive a WebEx confirmation with instructions for that session. Attendance is on a first come first served basis and with a maximum of 40 participants per session.

If you have any questions on the Rail Safety Improvement Program, please e-mail [tc.rsipitr-pasfitr.tc@tc.gc.ca](mailto:tc.rsipitr-pasfitr.tc@tc.gc.ca).

# Webinar on Circular Economy Policies

When: October 22, 2020 at 10:00am

The webinar will feature individuals driving policy change from BC, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and federally, with Environment and Climate Change Canada. ECCC will share updates on the recent federal announcement, BC is the first province to announce extended producer responsibility (EPR) requirements for single-use items and packaging-like products, while Ontario will discuss its transition to full producer-led EPR.

[Learn More & Register](#)

## Question of the Week

Over the past four weeks, SARM has shared provincial election priorities in "Don't Forget to Ask your Candidate".

Of these priorities, which do you consider the most critical to your RM?

**Broadband Access**

Select

**Municipal Support**

Select

**Focus on Policing**

Select

**Changing Provincial Policies**

Select

**Other**

Select

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# The Weekly Policy Bulletin

10-27-2020

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## Question of the Week Results

Over the past four weeks, SARM has shared provincial election priorities in "Don't Forget to Ask your Candidate".

Of these priorities, which do you consider the most critical to your RM?

**Broadband Access - 40%**

**Municipal Support - 29%**

**Focus on Policing - 29%**

**Changing Provincial Policies - 2%**

**Other - 0%**

## Reminders

### Webinar – Adaptation Actions in Northern Communities

October 29, 2020, 12:00 – 1:00 PM CDT | 11:00 – 12:00 MDT

This webinar highlights the unique set of challenges communities in the northern portion of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are facing, and showcases what some of these communities are doing to address their climate change risks.

Speakers:

- Debra Davidson, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science, Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta
- Justin Bourque, CEO, Willow Lake Métis Nation
- Trevor Donald, Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator, The Town of Churchill

[Register](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

## Information

### Advocacy Update – Broadband & Connectivity in Rural Saskatchewan

Reliable access to broadband is important for the health, safety, and well-being of those living and travelling in rural and remote areas. There are also numerous economic and environmental benefits of reliable fixed and mobile internet connections. SARM has been advocating for improved access to high-speed internet connections in Saskatchewan for many years. While some progress has been made both federally and provincially in terms of funding and new infrastructure, there remains a real need for improved access to adequate high-speed internet service in rural areas to expand education and training opportunities, facilitate efficient emergency service delivery, and to foster economic development.

[SARM's Advocacy Update](#)

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### Canada Emergency Business Account – Changes to Eligibility

The federal government announced that as early as October 26, 2020, the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) will be available to businesses that have been operating out of a non-business banking account.

To be eligible, businesses must have been operating as a business as of March 1, 2020, must successfully open a business account at a Canadian financial institution that is participating in CEBA, and meet the other existing CEBA eligibility criteria. The deadline to apply for CEBA is December 31, 2020.

[News Release](#)

## Resources

### Hydrologic Visualization Tool

The International Souris River Study Board (ISRSB) has announced that a new updated Hydrologic Visualization tool has been developed and available for use. The updated Hydrologic Visualization tool has a “landing page” with four

short tutorials on how to use various features in the tool.

[Hydrologic Visualization Tool](#)

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## Step up to the Plate – Help Feed Canadians

Many Canadians have seen their jobs affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Now is the time to take advantage of the many employment opportunities available in the agriculture and agri-food sector.

[Learn More](#)

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