



Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities



SARM Policy Update

2017 Annual Convention



SARM Policy Department

- Shelley Kilbride, Director of Policy & Research
- Ben Chursinoff, Senior Policy Analyst
- Libbey Morin, Policy Analyst



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Agenda

- Infrastructure and Development
- Environment
- Agriculture
- Municipal Governance
- Resolutions
- Policy Communications
- Advocacy Efforts
- SARM WINS Report





Infrastructure & Development Committee

- Carmen Sterling, Vice President
- Bill Huber, Director Division 1
- Harvey Malanowich, Director Division 4
- Rod Wiens, Director Division 6
- Wendy Gowda, Ex-Officio
- Shelley Kilbride, Director of Policy and Research
- Ben Chursinoff, Senior Policy Analyst
- Libbey Morin, Policy Analyst
- Terry Hoeving, Infrastructure Programs Manager



Broadband Enhancements

- Community Participation model turns a negative business case into a positive business case
- Local champion is key to success
- Cost sharing for improved services
 - Internet
 - Cellular
 - MaxTV
 - Fusion
- RMs are encouraged to contact SaskTel



Connect to Innovate

- \$500 million available until 2021
- Municipalities are eligible to apply by April 20, 2017
- Please consult the application toolkit and eligibility map
- Eligible projects include:
 - New backbone
 - Backbone upgrades
 - Network resiliency
 - New last-mile
 - Partially served last-mile



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Municipal Asset Management Program

- Program announced February 2, 2017
- FCM received \$50 million
- Four components to the program:
 1. Broadening adoption & reliance on asset management
 2. Training and workshops
 3. Funding to assist with planning and management
 4. Knowledge sharing





Road Maintenance Agreements

- Viterra Vs. RM of Wolseley court case
- Costs must be substantiated and defensible
- RMA's are at risk of being appealed
- Redesign needs to reflect the implications of the Viterra decision



RMA Rate Option 1 – Road Damage

- For actual verified road damage – replaces incremental damage
- Mandatory inspections pre and post
- No maximum or minimum RMA rate set by government
- Uses RM transportation services amortization costs
- Truck vehicle KMs from annual traffic counts
- Revenue = Per tonne km rate x distance x tonnes x frequency
- Per tonne rate to be set in regulations

RMA Rate Option 1 – Loss of Road Life

- RMA loss of life compensation rate per tonne-KM is based on:
 - RMs' actual Transportation Services amortization costs
 - MHI's RMs' truck vehicle-KMs from annual traffic counts
- It will have regional rates based on the Area Transportation Planning Committee regions
- Loss of Road Life Revenue = regional per tonne-KM rate x distance hauled x tonnes per haul x frequency of hauls
- Regional rates per tonne-KM will be set in regulation
- Winter rates will continue to be 50% of summer rates



RMA Rate Option 1 – Pros & Cons

Pros

- Full cost of repairs covered
- Addresses issues in court case
- Defensible

Cons

- More complex
- Administrative burden
- May only receive loss of road life if no damage

RMA Rate Option 2 – Single Combined Rate

- Single rate set by government
- Results in a tonne-KM rate for road maintenance, restoration and loss of road life.
- Based on RMs total transportation services costs and truck vehicle KM based on traffic counts
- Winter rates 50 percent of summer rates
- No requirement for inspections
- No reimbursement of actual road repair costs



RMA Rate Option 2 – Pros & Cons

PROS

- Simpler administration
- Addresses issues of Viterro case
- Greater revenue than option 1 if no road repairs are required
- Empirical process

CONS

- Not the full cost of road repair
- Rate may not cover the costs on an individual haul basis



PIPP

- Public-Industry Partnership Program
- Seeking shovel ready projects > \$5 million
- Next Steps
 - Potential pilot projects
 - Pursuing funding through MHI and PTIC



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Got Gravel

- Got Gravel Sub-Committee
- SARM Community Planning Department
- Exploration partnerships



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Rail Safety Improvement Program

- RSIP provides funding for:
 - Safety improvements to existing rail lines
 - Closure of grade crossings
 - Initiatives to raise awareness about rail safety issues
- RSIP has two components:
 - Infrastructure, Technology & Research Component
 - Public Education and Awareness Component
- More info on Transport Canada's website





Environment Committee

- Ray Orb, President
- Norm Nordgulen, Director Division 2
- Larry Grant, Director Division 3
- Judy Harwood, Director Division 5
- Ben Chursinoff, Senior Policy Analyst
- Libbey Morin, Policy Analyst



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Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (FCM)

March 2017

Plans and studies grants

Climate and Asset Management Network

Spring 2017

Regional and national-scale climate initiatives

Demonstration project grants

Fall 2017

Staff support grants

Transition 2050

➡ More info at www.fcm.ca



Agriculture Committee

- Ray Orb, President
- Bill Huber, Direction Division 1
- Norm Nordgulen, Director Division 2
- Larry Grant, Director Division 3
- Ben Chursinoff, Senior Policy Analyst
- Libbey Morin, Policy Analyst



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Next Agriculture Policy Framework

- Growing Forward II ends March 31, 2018

- **SARM comments on:**

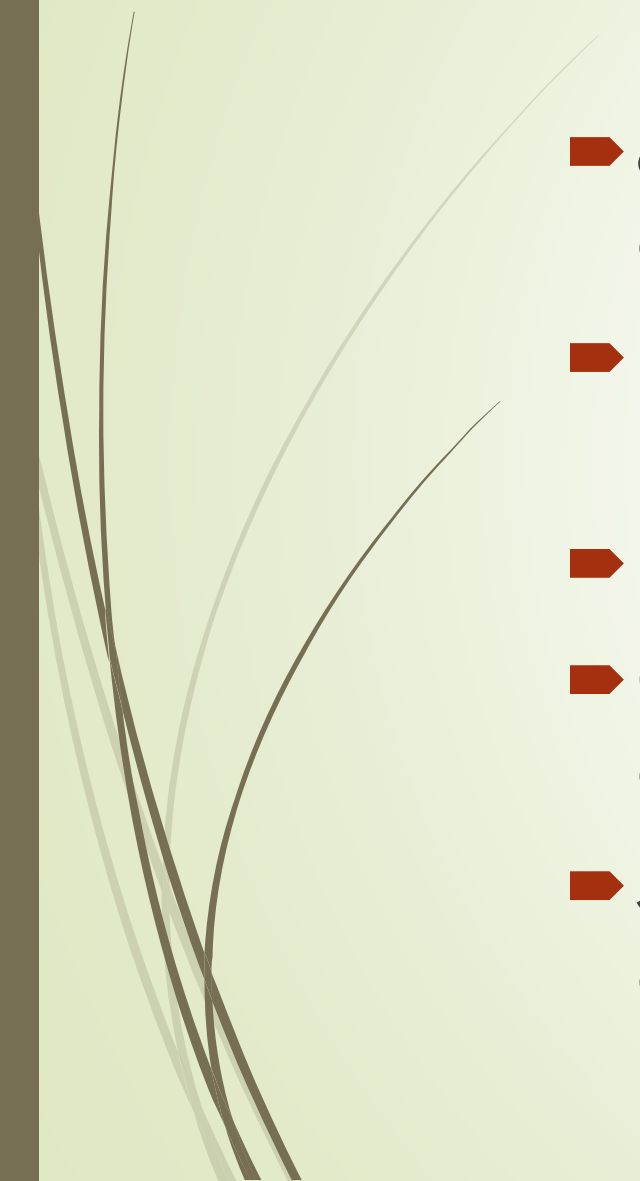
- Farm Ranch Water Infrastructure Program
- Agri-Stability
- Agri-Invest
- Drainage

Priority Areas will be:

- Markets and trade
- Science, research and innovation
- Risk management
- Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Value added ag and processing
- Public trust



Crown Land Auctions

- 80 parcels of land for sale on the auction block on Ritchie Bros. Auctioneer's website
 - Ritchie Bros. was selected through a formal RFP process
 - Bidding started March 1, 2017
 - Closing dates are staggered between March 13 and 17, 2017
 - SARM raised concerns over the lack of advertising and consultation
- 



Carbon Tax

- SARM action to date:
 - Support Government of Saskatchewan
 - Media releases
 - Input to Members of Parliament
 - Joint letter to Prime Minister & Minister of Environment
- Negative economic outcomes to agriculture sector & Saskatchewan economy





Municipal Governance Committee

- Carmen Sterling, Vice President
- Harvey Malanowich, Director Division 4
- Judy Harwood, Director Division 5
- Rod Wiens, Director Division 6
- Wendy Gowda, Ex-Officio
- Shelley Kilbride, Director of Policy & Research
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K-12 Education Governance Review

- Consultations closed January 26, 2017
- SARM appeared before Advisory Panel and submitted letter to Minister Morgan
- Consensus support for elected school boards
- Announcement will be made March 22, 2017



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Regional Health Authorities Amalgamation

- 12 RHAs will be consolidated to single Provincial Health Authority
- Expected to occur in Fall 2017
- SARM advocating to ensure rural health care is not compromised in the amalgamation



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Fire Suppression & Vehicle Extrication Rates

- ▶ Hourly rates, effective January 1, 2017:
 - ▶ Productive Call - \$897
 - ▶ Non-productive Call - \$539





Enforcement Officers Training

- Community Safety Officer Induction Training
 - May 1 – June 9
 - SaskPolytech, Regina Campus
 - \$3,900 - \$4,700
- Level 1 Investigator Training Course
 - May 29 – June 2
 - SaskPolytech, Prince Albert Campus
 - \$1,281.99





Legalization of Marijuana

- Task Force Recommendations
- Zoning bylaws
- Building code
- Enforcement
- Impairment

Resolutions



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MEMBERS LOGIN

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- [SARM Update](#)
- [Resolutions](#)
- [Member Engagement in Advocacy](#)
- [SARM Councillor Handbook](#)

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All



[ABOUT](#)

[ADVOCACY](#)

[SERVICES](#)

[PROGRAMS](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[Home](#) > [Advocacy](#) > [Resolutions](#)

Resolutions

[COMMITTEES](#)

[MEDIA RELEASES](#)

[MEMBER ENGAGEMENT IN
ADVOCACY](#)

[POLICY BULLETIN](#)

[RESOLUTIONS](#)

[SUBMISSIONS](#)

[WHAT'S TRENDING](#)

SARM takes its direct
our Annual and Midterm

in resolutions voted on and carried by our members at

You can view active (five years prior to this year or less) resolutions by department, by the year and convention they were passed, or by the resolution number.

[Guide for Writing Resolutions \(PDF\)](#)

[SARM Resolution Submission Form \(PDF\)](#)

[2017 Annual Convention Resolutions](#)

SEARCH

By Year:

Select Year

Midterm:

No

SEARCH

Resolutions

Resolution Responses

More responses have come in from Ministers regarding resolutions passed at the 2016 Midterm Convention.

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure Dave Marit:

- [23-16M Bridge Funding](#)
- [24-16M Destruction of Grass along Roadsides](#)
- [25-16M Short Line Rail Crossings](#)
- [26-16M Widening Crossbucks](#)
- [27-16M Weed Concerns](#)
- [28-16M Road Closure by Department of National Defence](#)

Minister of Justice Gord Wyant:

- [29-16M Property Rights and Trespassing](#)

Federal Minister of Transport Marc Garneau:

- [26-16M Widening Crossbucks](#)



Policy Communications

- Weekly and Monthly Policy Bulletin
 - Contact Ashley Leugner, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, at aleugner@sarm.ca
- Surveys – we value your feedback!



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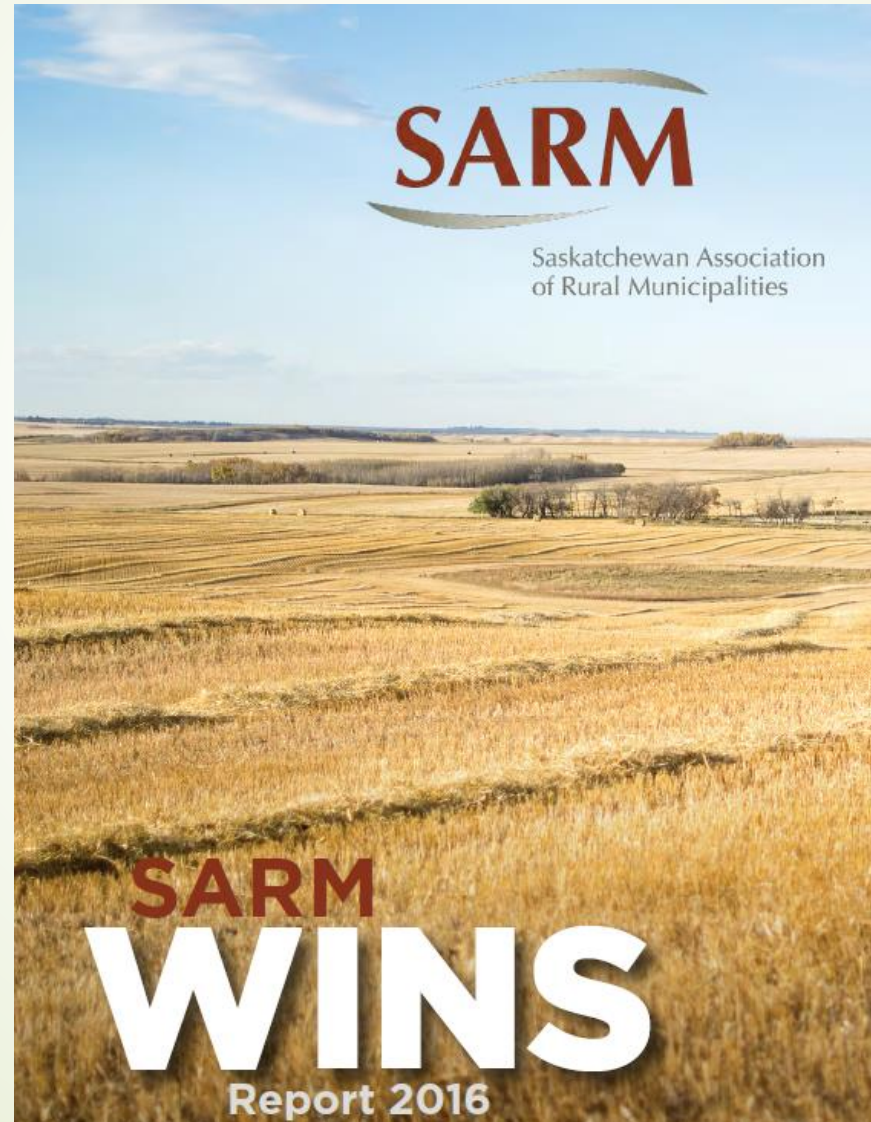
Advocacy Efforts

- 2016 Provincial Advocacy Efforts
- 2016 Federal Advocacy Efforts
 - Advocacy Days in Ottawa
 - Committee Appearances



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SARM WINS Report



SARM WINS Report



ADVOCACY AGRICULTURE

Photo credit: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP)

ISSUE 1: Rats eradication is the objective of PREP, and sustained funding is needed to meet that goal.

RESULT: PREP has secured funding of \$1.4 million in the 2016-17 provincial budget.

ISSUE 2: Communicating the value of PREP to encourage all RMs in the province to participate.

RESULT: PREP Board has been working with RM councils, and 2015-16 saw the highest participation rate yet.

ISSUE 3: Reducing the rat infestation rate across the province.

RESULT: Communication and consistency in shared knowledge has proven a key component in the effectiveness of this program. Rates of infestation are recorded at an all-time low.

Beaver Control Program (BCP)

ISSUE: Problem beavers cause infrastructure damage and flooding issues to agricultural land and other infrastructure.

RESULT: The BCP has secured funding of \$500,000 in the 2016-17 provincial budget for RMs to remove problem beavers.

Beaver Control – Resolution 13-12M

ISSUE: The resolution requested that SARM work with the province to find a way to control the beaver population and that young trappers be given the opportunity to participate.

RESULT: The Beaver Control Program is administered by SARM and allows RMs and First Nations Bands to designate individuals authorized to remove beavers.

Beaver Management in Provincial Parks (BMPP)

ISSUE: Problem beavers cause many issues on watersheds within provincial parks and agricultural lands adjacent to park land.

RESULT: Funding for the BMPP is jointly provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport up to a combined maximum of \$66,000 to be distributed to participating RMs for problem beaver removal in five designated provincial parks.

Invasive Plant Control Program (IPCP)

ISSUE 1: Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) is the first line of defense to identify, assess and respond to invasive plant species. The cost of herbicides to control prohibited and certain noxious weeds is exuberant, and funding is needed to meet that goal.

RESULT: The IPCP has secured funding of \$800,000 in the 2016-17 provincial budget to provide financial assistance to RMs, First Nations Bands, producers and other stakeholders with costs incurred to undertake and coordinate the control of specific weeds that are persistent and problematic invasive plants.

ISSUE 2: All weeds designated as Prohibited Weeds under *The Weed Control Act*, as well as the four noxious weeds identified by the Ministry of Agriculture in the first years of the program, did not represent the scope of the problem throughout the province.

RESULT: In 2015-16, an additional eight noxious weed species were added to the previous eligible noxious weeds.

Country of Origin Labelling (COOL)

ISSUE: COOL was a US requirement that required retailers to provide country of origin labelling for fresh meat products. SARM, along with other stakeholders including the Government of Canada, have long lobbied against this requirement. COOL was estimated to cost Canadian producers and the Canadian economy about \$3 billion annually. The World Trade Organization ruled against the law as it was discriminatory and provided no benefits.

RESULT: COOL was repealed in December 2015.

Grain Bag Recycling – Resolution POP 7-09A, 22-11A, 19-12A, 8-15A, 37-16A

ISSUE: Grain bags are a massive plastic storage device available for producers to store their grain products. They are a more affordable option and are increasing in use. The downside is that landfills do not accept them and there is currently no recycling options or incentives in place. The result is that many producers leave the grain bags out in fields and ditches or burn them. SARM members have passed resolutions requesting a recycling program, and SARM has lobbied for this over the years.

RESULT: *The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations* came into effect on July 28, 2016. The regulations require stewards to create a stewardship plan for grain bag recycling. Currently, there is no deposit system.

WIN: SARM has lobbied for years on behalf of its members for a grain bag recycling program.

On July 28, 2016 *The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations* came into effect, requiring stewards to create a stewardship plan for grain bag recycling in the province.

Saskatchewan Farm Security Act

ISSUE: Questions and concerns over pension funds and other large institutions purchasing Saskatchewan farmland came into question recently. The Government of Saskatchewan held an online consultation over the summer of 2015 to gather information from stakeholders and the public on large institutions



SARM WINS Report

➡ What is a WIN for your association?

Any amendment that is legislative or regulatory, program changes and /or milestones that advance the objectives of SARM and the interests of RMs.



SARM WINS Report

- **Advocacy**
 - Agriculture
 - Municipal Governance
- Infrastructure & Development
- Environment
- Insurance Department
- Bridge Services

SARM WINS Report 2016	TABLE OF CONTENTS <small>Front/back cover photo credits: Chris Hartman; left photo credit: Heather Kindermann; page 13/16 image credits: www.vectorstock.com</small>
OUR VISION <small>By being the rural voice, SARM will effectively lead autonomous municipalities in creating a vibrant, diverse economy resulting in a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan.</small>	Executive Director's Message 4
OUR MISSION <small>SARM delivers timely, dependable programs and services to meet the needs of its members while influencing government policy and facilitating municipalities to work together to foster rural development and build strong, sustainable communities.</small>	Introduction 5
<small>Official publication of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.</small>	Advocacy 6
<small>Published annually by: Benchmark Public Relations 2260 McIntyre Street Regina, SK S4P 2R9 T (306) 522-9326 F (306) 522-0923 E info@benchmarkpr.ca W www.benchmarkpr.ca</small>	Agriculture 6 <i>PREP, Beaver Control, Invasive Plant Control, COOL, Grain Bag Recycling, Farm Security Act, Pest Control, Wildlife Damage, Clubroot Tests, Ag Health and Safety, Noxious Weeds, Raven Control</i>
<small>SARM Board President, Ray Orb, Cupar Vice President, Carmen Sterling, Weyburn</small>	Municipal Governance 10 <i>Community Safety Officers, Revenue Sharing, Municipal Elections, SAMA, Nurse Practitioners, Health Care Capital Levy, First Responders, Provincial Ombudsman, Boundary Alterations, MCDP, Civic Addressing Registry, Physician Recruitment, Rural MAIP</i>
<small>Directors Bill Huber, Lipton Norm Nordgulen, Assiniboia Larry Grant, Val Marie Harvey Malenowich, Canora Judy Harwood, Saskatoon Rodney Wiens, Harschal Wendy Gowds, Leroy (ex-Officio)</small>	Infrastructure and Development 14 <i>Rural Broadband, Asset Management, MREP, Got Gravel?, Public-Industry Partnership Program, Ditch Mowing, Gross Vehicle Weight, CTP Primary Weight Corridor, Road Right-of-Ways Widening, Road Maintenance Agreements, Rural Municipal Road Map, Rural Municipal Traffic Signing Manual</i>
<small>SARM 200 - 2221 Cornwall Street Regina, SK S4P 2L1 www.sarm.ca @SARM_Voice</small>	Environment 18 <i>One Stop Approval Agency, Drainage Legislation, Non-Potable Water Resources, Point of Entry and Point of Use Pilots, Incinerators, MMRP, Wild Boars, Aquatic Invasive Species, Provincial Water Management, Winter Spreading of Septic Effluent, PDAP, Emergency Flood Damage Reduction, Wood Bison, Environmental Code Development Committee</i>
	Insurance Department 22 <i>Employee Benefit Plans, Insurance Plan</i>
	Municipal Bridge Services 23 <i>Municipal Bridge Inspection Program</i>

SARM WINS Report

**60+ Wins in
2016!**



01 

WIN
On behalf of members, SARM lobbied the Government of Saskatchewan to remove the Health Care Capital Levy, requiring the province to fund 100 per cent of all costs associated with capital health projects. In 2011, the provincial government's contribution to cost shared health capital projects **increased from 65 to 80 per cent**. Local contributions remain at 20 per cent.

02 

WIN
Municipal enforcement officers require training and education to effectively carry out their duties. The Saskatchewan Association of Municipal Enforcement Officers (SAMEO) and Saskatchewan Polytechnic partnered to create a Level 1 investigator course that took place in May 2016. SARM provided funding assistance to assist with the creation of the course's curriculum.

03 

WIN
Uptake of SARM's Rural Municipal Administrator Internship Program (MAIP) spiked in 2015-16, resulting in the completion of **12 Internships** in a single year; whereas, a total of 13 had been completed in the three previous years combined. SARM recognized the need to allocate more funding to MAIP in 2016-17 to allow more internships to take place. SARM also agreed to revisit the issue of additional funding in future years if the program remains in high demand.

04 

WIN
Fine revenue from Community Safety Officers (CSOs) should go to the municipality they are working for. It was unclear whether the Government of Saskatchewan would allow that. Thanks to SARM's efforts, municipalities will **retain 75 per cent** of revenues from tickets written by CSOs.

DID YOU KNOW?
SARM had more than 60 WINS in 2016, benefitting rural municipalities and communities across Saskatchewan.

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SARM WINS Report

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SARM WINS Report

Community Safety Officers (CSO)

- **Issue:** Fine revenue from CSOs should go to the municipality they are working for. It was unclear that the Government would allow that.
- **Result:** Municipalities retain 75% of revenues from tickets written by CSOs.

Physician Recruitment

- **Issue:** Attracting, recruiting and keeping doctors in rural Saskatchewan is a longstanding and complex issue.
- **Result:** Rural Saskatchewan will benefit from Budget 2016-17's increased funding commitment for rural physician recruitment.

SARM WINS Report

Municipal Revenue Sharing

- **Issue:** Municipal revenue sharing is a consistent, predictable and valuable funding mechanism for municipalities.
- **Result:** Municipal revenue sharing was maintained and did not see any cuts in 2016.

Provincial/Municipal Ombudsman

- **Issue:** After the conflict of interest issues in the RM of Sherwood, Justice Ronald Barclay recommended that the Provincial Ombudsman have jurisdiction of municipalities to oversee conflict of interest and ethics cases.
- **Result:** SARM and SUMA successfully reduced the cost services of the Provincial Ombudsman to take on municipal files. Funding will be allocated from municipal revenue sharing but it is not a significant portion to cause concern.

SARM WINS Report

Annexation/Boundary Alterations

- **Issue:** Annexation disputes presented before the Saskatchewan Municipal Board did not have consistent guidelines to help guide their decisions during disputes.
- **Result:** Boundary alterations guidelines developed by SARM, SUMA, and the Ministry of Government Relations are being used by the Saskatchewan Municipal Board in annexation disputes.

Rural Municipal Administrator Internship Program (MAIP)

- **Issue:** Uptake of the Rural MAIP program has increased dramatically.
- **Result:** SARM recognized a need to allocate more funding to the Rural MAIP program in 2016-17 to allow more internships to take place and agreed to revisit more funding in future years if the program continues to be in high demand.

SARM WINS Report

Asset Management

- **Issue:** The Gas Tax Fund agreement between SK and Can. requires municipalities demonstrate progress towards asset management planning and implementation by March 31, 2018.
- **Result:** The Federal Budget 2016 allocated \$50 million to the FCM to assist municipalities with asset management. The program reflects SARMs Asset Management Program proposal to the Federal Government and FCM.

Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program (EFDRP)

- **Issue:** Flooding damages agricultural land and municipal infrastructure and is cost intensive.
- **Result:** The EFDRP was granted for 2016. The program provides cost-sharing assistance for flood protection measures.



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Questions?