

# Policy Bulletin

September 2019

**September 3, 2019**

**INFORMATION: Federal Election – Highlighting the Issues: Rural Crime**

Election 2019 is an opportunity to highlight rural municipal issues on the federal stage. As rural crime in Saskatchewan is rising, there is a need for increased police presence and enforcement options in rural Saskatchewan. Rural areas require a visible police presence to deter and prevent crime.

SARM's primary asks for the 2020 federal budget for rural crime are:

- To increase funding to the RCMP Depot to recruit, hire and train more cadets.
- To provide adequate incentives to encourage reservists to fill temporary vacancies in rural Saskatchewan

**INFORMATION: Western Canadian Municipal Associations (WCMA) Meeting**

Last week, the WCMA met in Edmonton. Delegates from municipal associations from Manitoba (Association of Manitoba Municipalities – AMA), Saskatchewan (SARM, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association – SUMA) and Alberta (Rural Municipalities of Alberta – RMA, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association – AUMA) met to discuss issues that effect all western municipalities both rural and urban.

**INFORMATION: The *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA) and *Major Works Order***

The *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA) and *Major Works Order* came into force on August 29, 2019.

In turn, the CNWA Common Project Search registry will come into force on August 29, 2019, and the Order adding 25 navigable waters to the schedule of the Act will come into force on October 4, 2019.

The new legislation ensures stronger protections for navigation on all navigable waters in Canada so that Canadians can continue to enjoy the right to navigate their boats (whether they are motorized, canoes or kayaks) through the extensive network of waterways across the country.

Through the new Act, we continue to approve works that may interfere with navigation on scheduled navigable waters, and have created:

- a process to notify the public, which also provides an opportunity for Canadians to engage early before construction begins on any navigable water;
- a new requirement for approvals of major works that significantly impact navigation on all navigable waters;
- a resolution process to address Canadians' navigation concerns before a work is built on a non-scheduled water, and to review these works when concerns remain unresolved;
- a new tool, called the **Common Project Search**, a registry where Canadians can search for past, current and proposed works on all navigable waterways;

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- a new [external submission site](#) where Canadians can determine their obligations before constructing, placing, altering, rebuilding, removing or decommissioning a work and where Canadians can submit an application for approval or notification; and
- processes for including Indigenous knowledge in decisions.
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More information about the Act can be found [here](#) and information about the Works Order [here](#)

## INFORMATION: Community Safety Seminar

The Community Safety Seminar will be held Thursday, October 3, 2019 at Conexus Arts Centre, Regina, Saskatchewan. It will gather together presenters, businesses, non-profit organizations, and like-minded individuals to learn about, discuss, and strategize ways in which participants can Work Together to Achieve a Safe Saskatchewan.

Agenda topics include: Telephone Reassurance Program: Companionship is the Key – Red Cross, Fraud Prevention – Canadian Western Bank, Aging with Confidence – Forever in Motion, Improving Community Health & Well-Being – Community Safety and Well-Being, Government of Saskatchewan and more.

Cost to attend is \$25 with special consideration given to non-profit groups. Community Safety Seminar is open to the media. Information on registration and sponsorship can be found at [www.sasksafety.org/events/community-safety-seminar](http://www.sasksafety.org/events/community-safety-seminar)

## INFORMATION: Applications for Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grants – Reminder

The Photo Speed Enforcement (PSE) Committee is now accepting applications for Provincial Traffic Safety Fund grants and new PSE locations. The second application intake opened July 1 and closes Sept. 30, 2019. The guidelines and application forms for both programs have been updated since the first intake, so please make sure you request new documents if you plan to apply.

The Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant program is open to individuals representing municipalities and Indigenous lands/territories to undertake traffic safety initiatives. Visit SGI's website at [www.sgi.sk.ca/pse-grant](http://www.sgi.sk.ca/pse-grant) to learn more about the types of projects that are eligible for funding, and consider applying as it's a great way to improve traffic safety in your community.

For communities where speeding is an issue, individuals representing municipalities, Indigenous lands/territories and the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure can apply to bring PSE technology to their community. Locations that may be eligible include high-risk, high-collision and high-volume pedestrian areas. Visit SGI's website at [www.sgi.sk.ca/pse](http://www.sgi.sk.ca/pse) to learn more.

If you have questions about either program, or would like to read over the program guidelines, contact the PSE Program Administrator at [PSEprogram@sgi.sk.ca](mailto:PSEprogram@sgi.sk.ca) or call 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744) extension 6042.

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**INFORMATION: Federal Election – Highlighting the Issues: Carbon Tax**

Election 2019 is an opportunity to highlight rural municipal issues on the federal stage. The agriculture industry is the backbone of the Saskatchewan economy and the current carbon tax does not promote a thriving economy. SARM believes there are made in Saskatchewan solutions to support Canada's commitment to the Paris Accord such as the science of carbon sequestration. SARM's primary ask for the 2020 federal budget for carbon tax is:

- That agricultural producers should receive carbon credits retroactive to 2002 for their role in carbon sequestration

**INFORMATION: AgriRisk Initiatives Program**

Funding is available under two components: research and development and administrative capacity building. In response to feedback received from the business risk management (BRM) Review Expert Panel, priority will be given to proposals for industry-led projects to develop new and innovative business risk management tools to provide farms with flexibility in addressing losses not currently covered in the BRM suite.

[Learn more](#)

**Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements**

Federal and provincial funding will support a variety of water, wastewater, waste management and road infrastructure projects in Langenburg, Kerrobert, Francis, Waldheim, and the Rural Municipality of Foam Lake, Duck Lake, Battleford, Shaunavon, Rural Municipality of Browning, Drake and Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation. The funding will also support two water and wastewater projects serving nine communities in Northern Saskatchewan. More information can be found [here](#).

**INFORMATION: SARM Meetings**

SARM's Municipal Governance Committee was in the RM of Kindersley last week. The committee had a chance to sit down with administrators and councillors from the RMs of Newcombe, Winslow, Oakdale, Prairiedale, Kindersley and Milton to discuss the Kindersley Bylaw Court and how it has changed bylaw enforcement in the area. Thank you to all the RMs for sharing your experiences and to Monica, Audrey and Melissa for the great information.

**September 17, 2019**

**INFORMATION: Federal Election Hub**

The official call for the 2019 federal election came on September 11, 2019. As campaign activities for Saskatchewan's federal candidates intensify, SARM continues to champion the interests of members and highlight rural issues. We are reaching out to all parties to emphasize the importance of agricultural and rural municipal considerations and to encourage candidates to get in touch with RMs in each constituency to discuss what matters most to voters.

You can visit the [Federal Election Hub](#) on SARM's website for information on SARM's priorities and Saskatchewan's federal candidates plans to address our asks.

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**INFORMATION: Federal Election – Highlighting the Issues: Infrastructure**

Individuals and industries in RMs depend on access to reliable and well-designed infrastructure. Infrastructure, including roads and bridges, is essential to the sustainability of our communities. The responsibility for local infrastructure that supports larger investments in the provincial and federal economy is falling primarily on municipalities and their ratepayers. The growing road and bridge infrastructure deficit is a concern and translates into a heightened need for continued infrastructure investments from senior levels of governments. SARM's primary asks are:

- Establish a dedicated funding program for communities with populations under 5000, including a stream for road and bridge infrastructure.
- Retain the 60 per cent federal cost-share for projects by communities with populations under 5000.
- Improve smaller communities' access to a wider range of funding opportunities under the *Investing in Canada Plan* through improvements like streamlined project applications and reporting requirements.

**INFORMATION: Energy Manager Program**

Natural Resources Canada launched a new Energy Manager Program that will help industrial, commercial and institutional facilities identify and adopt energy efficiency solutions, with the aim to reduce energy use, operating costs, and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Energy Manager Program is offering funding for the following three components:

- Energy Manager
- Energy Assessment
- Fleet Energy Assessment

The deadline for applications is **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. More information on the program and eligibility requirement [here](#).

**INFORMATION: FCM Green Municipal Fund Annual Report**

The annual report showcases successful local green initiatives fueled by GMF training, resources and funding that deliver cleaner air and water, less waste, more energy efficiency and improved infrastructure. These initiatives demonstrate how action at the municipal level contributes to achieving national sustainability goals and builds better lives for Canadians. More information and the report can be found [here](#).

**INFORMATION: SaskTel Adds Twelve Towers**

On September 9, 2019 SaskTel announced plans to improve LTE cellular services in 12 additional communities throughout rural Saskatchewan by deploying a small cell site solution.

The majority of these towers (10) will be in-service by March 31, 2020 with the remaining two towers launching in June 2020. This will bring the total number of small cell sites constructed under the Government of Saskatchewan's Wireless Saskatchewan initiative to 103 in rural

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locations across the province.

The upgrades on the first 50 towers were completed by March 31, 2019 and SaskTel is now working on turning up the 41 towers (30 remaining) that will be in-service by March 31, 2020 and the additional 12 towers announced on September 9th.

## **INFORMATION: LAFOIP Workshops**

The Urban Municipal Administrators' Association and the Rural Municipal Administrators Association are hosting a series of workshops on regulations and administration practices relating to The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (LA FOIP) and Information Services Corporation.

These workshops are being conducted in two parts are intended for both urban and rural CAOs, Administrators, and municipal staff.

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

## **INFORMATION: 2019 Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council (SWRC) Fall Workshops**

Get updated on the latest developments in waste and recycling for Saskatchewan at the SWRC's fall workshops.

October 17 — Horizon Credit Union Centre, Melville

October 29 — Coast Swift Current Hotel, Swift Current

November 14 — Kerry Vickar Centre, Melfort

November 21 — Days Hotel & Suites, Lloydminster (joint with Recycling Council of Alberta)

More information and registration information found [here](#).

## **September 24, 2019**

### **INFORMATION: Federal Election – Highlighting the Issues: Broadband**

Broadband has become part of the basket of public goods and services that municipalities need for their residents and businesses to conduct day to day activities and participate in the economy and is essential to the success and sustainability of rural communities. Reliable broadband is necessary to maintain the health, safety and well-being of those living, working and travelling in Saskatchewan's rural communities.

SARM's primary asks of the federal government in terms of broadband are:

- Collaborate with each province and territory to maximize investments in rural broadband
- Invest at least \$400 million into dedicated rural broadband per year over 10 years
- Use both service reliability and service availability as a performance measurement

### **Universal Broadband Fund Development - Quick Internet Speed Test**

The Government of Canada is currently developing the new Universal Broadband Fund (UBF), which is meant to support broadband projects across the country, and are inviting Canadians to

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visit this [website](#) to complete a quick Internet speed test to support the identification of program improvement opportunities.

## **INFORMATION: Ministry of Agriculture 2019 Fall Crown Land Auction**

We wanted to ensure you are aware of Sask. Ag Crown Lands that are for sale through public auction in advance of the 'go live' date. Please find the [sale sheet](#) for the Fall 2019 offering. You can access the auction through the "Purchase Agricultural Crown Land" link on [Saskatchewan.ca/Agricultural Crown Land](http://Saskatchewan.ca/Agricultural Crown Land) or directly through the Ritchie Bros. auction site at [ironplanet.com/realestate-skgov](http://ironplanet.com/realestate-skgov).

The auction should open on October 1, 2019, and will have staggered closing dates of November 4, 7 and 12, 2019.

The Ministry of Agriculture is not responsible for any errors, omissions or amendments that may occur on the list.

## **INFORMATION: WCB's Employer Resource Centre**

The Saskatchewan Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) has launched a new Employer Resource Centre to provide support for navigating the workers' compensation system as an employer.

For general inquiries:

Email: [ERC@wcbsask.com](mailto:ERC@wcbsask.com)

Phone: 1.833.961.0042

Online: [www.wcbsask.com/employers](http://www.wcbsask.com/employers)

## **INFORMATION: Ministry of Environment Facebook Page**

The Ministry of Environment recently launched a new ministry-specific Facebook page, Saskatchewan Environment ([www.facebook.ca/SKENviro](https://www.facebook.ca/SKENviro))! They invite you to follow, like and share the page, as the ministry and SARM share mutual interests.

## **SARM Meetings**

Members of SARM's Executive attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board of Directors meeting in Waterloo, ON from September 10 -13th.

SARM's Agriculture and Environment Committee met on September 17th and covered topics such as Species at Risk, Chronic Wasting Disease, the Canadian Navigable Waters Act and Livestock Tax Deferral among many others.

The SARM Board of Directors met September 18th and 19th in Regina.

On September 19, the SARM Executive met with the Minister responsible for the Water Security Agency Greg Ottenbreit and MLA Lyle Stewart. The focus of the meeting was to discuss



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agricultural water management in Saskatchewan and provided SARM the opportunity to learn more about the status of the water management strategy from the Minister directly.