



# SASKATCHEWAN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTATION & REVIEW PROCESS OVERVIEW

**Led by the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee**

# OUTLINE

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5. Path Forward & Closing Comments

# CONTEXT

- The Ministry of Environment, in its 2018/19 Operational Plan, made a commitment to implementing a solid waste management strategy in collaboration with the solid waste advisory committee, partners and stakeholders.
- A draft of the **Saskatchewan Solid Waste Management Strategy** was completed by the Ministry in March 2018 based on public engagement completed in 2017.
- The Ministry is also slated to undertake a **red tape review of *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations (MRMR)*** and present options to the Red Tape Committee in 2019 on how to reduce red tape barriers for clients, and implement measures to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulations.

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE MANDATE

- In early summer 2018, the Minister of Environment established the **Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee** tasked with leading the development and implementation of a public consultation plan with a representative sample of relevant stakeholders to inform the direction of the strategy and identify potential changes to MRMR, taking into consideration the work that has already been done to date by the Ministry.
- The work of the Advisory Committee will culminate in the submission of reports with recommendations to the Minister to inform – (1) the finalization of the strategy; and (2) the reduction of red tape related to the MRMR.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Richard (Porky) Porter – Chair  
Former RM Reeve, Councillor, SARM Director
- Gordon Barnhart  
SUMA President, Councillor, Former Lieutenant Governor
- Dan Cugnet  
Saskatchewan based businessman and entrepreneur, RM Councillor
- Rennie Harper  
Mayor, Regional Waste Authority Board Member
- Randall Johnson  
Waste Disposal and Recycling Company Owner/Operator
- Ray Orb  
SARM President, RM Reeve

# PROCESS OVERVIEW



# ENGAGEMENT COMPLETED

- Completed 6 Public Consultation Sessions:
  1. Yorkton – September 7<sup>th</sup>
  2. Assiniboia – September 12<sup>th</sup>
  3. Swift Current – September 12<sup>th</sup>
  4. Nipawin – September 19<sup>th</sup>
  5. Davidson – September 27<sup>th</sup>
  6. North Battleford – October 4<sup>th</sup>
- 65 attendees total, representing 42 municipalities / organizations

# ENGAGEMENT COMPLETED

- Received written submissions as well from municipalities and stakeholder organizations.
- Online red tape survey related to *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations*.
- Completed additional interviews with other stakeholders including innovation projects, consulting engineers, oil company, First Nations, Department of Indigenous Services Canada and Ministry of Environment staff.



# WHAT WE HEARD

## SK STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

- There is a lot of inconsistency in terms of what people are told and is enforced because we do not have clear SK standards and guidelines.
- We need SK standards and guidelines for designing, constructing, operating and decommissioning a landfill rather than using Alberta's or Manitoba's.
- We need standards and guidelines that are clear, reasonable, easy to understand and easily accessible.
- We all need to be on the same page in terms of what the expectations are.

# WHAT WE HEARD

## REGULATIONS

- We do not have a fair and predictable regulatory environment, and it is not effective or efficient.
- MRMR is very out of date and does not provide much guidance for municipalities.
- Municipalities want clearer direction on what to do and what is expected, while maintaining some flexibility.
- Regulations need to be updated to include important issues and opportunities like handling hazardous waste, composting, etc.

# WHAT WE HEARD

## MINISTRY ADVISORY & ENFORCEMENT

- Environment Protection Officers (EPOs) do not enforce consistently across province as current regulations allow for too much interpretation.
- EPOs change regularly which makes it challenging for relationship building and understanding between the municipality and the EPO.
- There are not enough EPOs to service the province and this is resulting in poor turnaround times for inquiries and processing applications.
- We want more advice, education and support from EPOs, not just enforcement.
- Transparency and communication is important.

# WHAT WE HEARD

## REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- General agreement that the status quo is not sustainable and unaffordable – we need to work together for a more viable and sustainable approach.
- However, regional should not just be defined as an equity partner in an authority – there needs to be affordable options for municipalities through collaborative partnerships (i.e. customer).
- It cannot be a “one size fits all” solution.
- This can also include partnerships with First Nations and the private sector.
- There needs to be more guidance and support to help advance these collaborations to a successful outcome.
- There are concerns about financial costs, increased hauling costs, impacts to roads, decommissioning requirements, etc.
- SARM and SUMA need to work together more closely to help their members collaborate better.

# WHAT WE HEARD

## DIVERSION & RECYCLING

- Strong acknowledgement that diversion is a critical component of solid waste management.
- More needs to be done to keep waste out of the landfills – reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Composting is an important part of this picture, since ~50% of materials in waste bin are organics.
- Need a Household Hazardous Waste program in SK asap!
- Extended Producer Responsibility is an important model to continue to grow in SK.
- Hauling costs, low volumes and small markets make having recycling programs in SK a challenge to be accessible and affordable.
- Need to develop more local markets and solutions which also creates economic development opportunities.

# WHAT WE HEARD

## EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Education and awareness is essential for improved solid waste management in SK.
- Education needs to be done at many levels – public/ratepayers (all ages), councils and administration, industry, etc.
- Campaigns should be done provincially for consistent messaging and then provide municipalities the tools and resources to educate in their communities.
- Everyone needs to understand the long-term impacts of their current decisions so they can make better choices to support improved outcomes.

# THE PATH FORWARD

- **The Advisory Committee is currently working on its summary and recommendations based on the consultations.**
- **The Advisory Committee will be meeting with and presenting recommendations to the Minister of Environment later this spring.**

# THANK YOU

**Thank you to all those municipalities that participated in this process – we appreciated your candid perspective and valuable feedback!!**

**Thank you to SARM for the opportunity to present to your members today on this important provincial issue.**

**This slide presentation will be posted on SARM's website following the convention at [sarm.ca](http://sarm.ca).**