

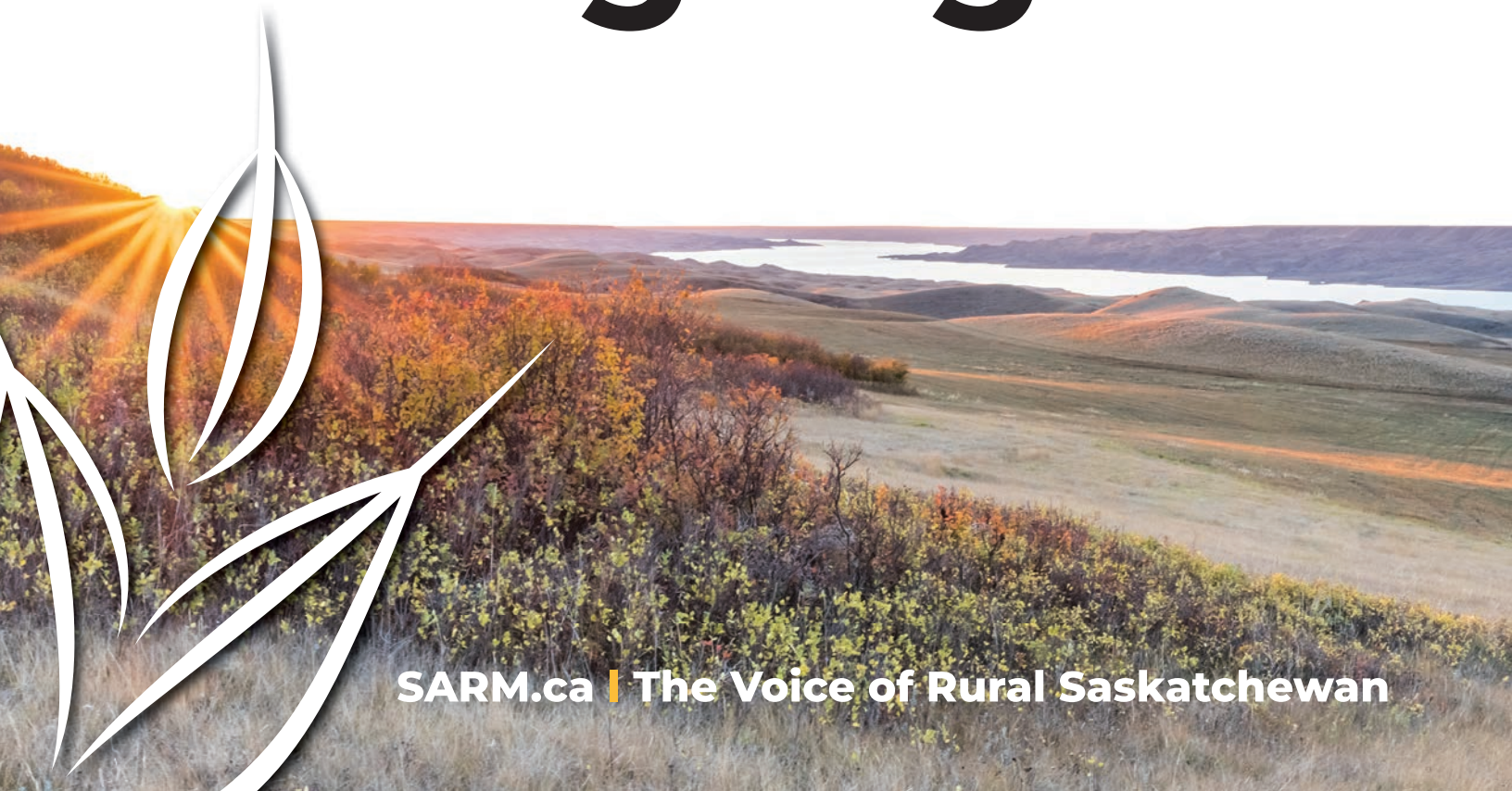


Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities

117th Annual Convention & Trade Show

March 15-17, 2022 | Regina

Highlights



SARM.ca | The Voice of Rural Saskatchewan

President's Address

President Orb began SARM's 117th Annual Convention by welcoming delegates and guests back, in-person, after two years of the pandemic. He spoke on the importance of networking, while also taking time to say hi to friends and colleagues, and recalled that convention presents a unique opportunity for us to gather and learn from our municipal, provincial, and federal leaders so we can work together to keep our communities strong.

He then touched on SARM's relationship with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and shared SARM's concern over the rift created through the Saskatchewan Growth Coalition coming at a time when we should be standing together to demonstrate the critical importance of the oil and gas industry. That led to comments on the agriculture sector, and how critical government support is when input costs are skyrocketing, and carbon tax is adding to the cost of Canadian farmers doing business and competing globally. He reminded delegates that not only is the agriculture sector a

significant economic driver for the province and country, but it also employs friends and neighbors and feeds both the nation and the globe. He also touched on the impending Canadian Pacific Rail strike and how it could not come at a worse time as supply chain issues continue to get worse amidst the war, the pandemic, and other factors.

He also took the time to promote convention speakers, including SARM's Rural Broadband Panel, SaskLander, VIDO, and Rural Crime Watch. These are all groups that SARM built partnerships with to further efforts on rural broadband access, connecting landowners and recreational users, keeping humans and livestock healthy, and the need for more crime watch groups to curb crime in rural areas. He ended by highlighting other key SARM partners. He spoke about mending fences with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and highlighted the cherished working relationship SARM has with the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA).

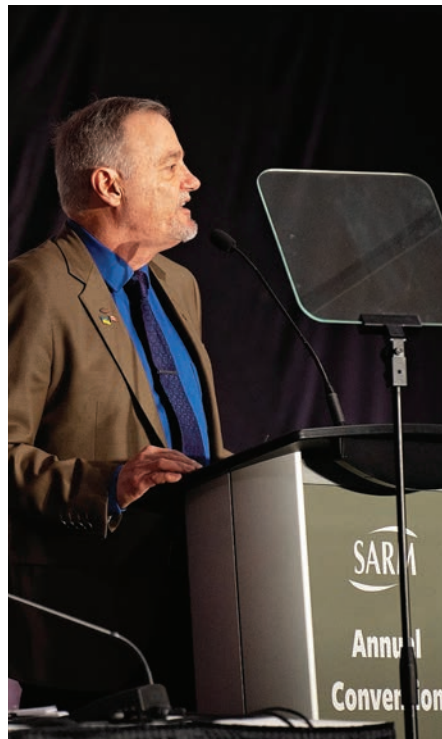


Opening Ceremonies & Address

Following tradition, SARM's 2022 Annual Convention kicked off with the piping in of Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor, His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty. The processional was followed by the national anthem of Canada, performed by Terri-Anne Strongarm, and a moment of silence to honour RM council members and employees who have passed away over the last year.

Addresses were given by:

- The Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Government Relations
- Guy Lagrandeur, RMAA President
- Ray Orb, SARM President



The Lieutenant Governor's Award

The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan was established in 1995 to honour a retired reeve, councillor, or administrator for their contribution to rural Saskatchewan.

This year it was presented posthumously to Kevin Ritchie, an individual who exemplified service throughout his life. Sadly, Kevin passed away on February 18, 2022, at the age of 65.

Kevin served as the Administrator of the Rural Municipality of Bratt's Lake for 38 years, and was also Administrator for the Village of Wilcox for over 32 of those years. He was the Secretary-Treasurer of Bratt's Lake Conservation and Development Area Authority for 42 years and a board member of the Wilcox Fire District for ten years.

Kevin was a fire fighter with the Wilcox Volunteer Fire Department, a board member of the Wilcox and District Parks and Recreation Authority, and Trustee, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Wilcox School Division. He was a member and club president of the Optimist Club of Wilcox.

He served in many roles on the boards of both the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan, and SARM.

Kevin's nominating RM council wrote that "the role of administrator wasn't a 9 to 5 job for Kevin, it was his life's work." They said that Kevin "guided the people and council of the RM of Bratt's Lake with outstanding professionalism, knowledge, good humour and patience, in addition to spending countless hours serving on the SARM board and the local school board."

Please acknowledge, and remember, the extraordinary contributions of Kevin Ritchie to rural Saskatchewan.



Kevin Ritchie

Administrator, 1978-2016
RM of Bratt's Lake No. 129

Administrator, 1979-2011
Village of Wilcox

Director Division 2, 1993-2001

Vice President, 2001-2003

President, 2003-2007

Executive Director, 2008-2016
RMAA

Director Ex-Officio, 2003-2007
SARM



Their Honours, Russ and Donna Mirasty presenting the The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan posthumously to Kevin Ritchie (accepted by Tammy Ritchie).

Fireside Chat with the Lieutenant Governor



After lunch on the first day of convention, His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty sat down with Rustie Dean, SARM convention host, for a candid and personal chat. Their discussion touched on His Honour's unique experience of growing up in rural northern Saskatchewan, and of his plans to return there in retirement, where the outdoors provides space for so many activities in all its seasons!

They spoke of the history of Saskatchewan's people and how together, the mixture of First Nations, Metis, and early settlers have evolved into today's Saskatchewan. How people are the threads that weave and hold our province together, making it a home to so many. Saskatchewan is diverse, not only in people but in resources. The rural Saskatchewan he loves would not be what it is without those who farm the land, or those working and supporting agriculture and other rural industries.

Speaking of people, His Honour touched on the importance of being yourself, something he does so very well through his lead-by-example style and by bringing part of who he is to this role. Being the first indigenous Lieutenant Governor, he shares messages in both English and Cree, has added a teepee to Government House, and wore moccasins to his official swearing in ceremony. Simply by being himself, he is bringing awareness to and increasing engagement with indigenous culture. Bringing in certain aspects at opportune times is his way of increasing knowledge, understanding, and hopefully acceptance that we are all unique and bring important differences to the things we do.

His Honour talked about how Saskatchewan is on a better path forward. Creating space to share indigenous culture and working towards being a different landscape than it has been in the past. Understanding that the world changes constantly, communities change and our country has changed. There is more dialogue, more acceptance, more opportunities for healing and we are starting to see progress from the days when His Honour was the only First Nations student to graduate his high school and only one of two indigenous cadets at RCMP Basic Training. The lopsided representation is shifting through a lead and change narrative.

There was also a strong message for youth, believe in yourself, nobody else will do that better. His Honour encouraged staying open minded and making sure to remain curious, and when positive changes happen to be part of them. He spoke to putting in the work, leading with your heart, and believing in your own abilities. In doing that, goals can be set and dreams achieved. With genuine advice such as this, the province's youth will be on a solid path to leading the future Saskatchewan.

Coming full circle with the theme that it will be good people who affect positive change for Saskatchewan, the discussion ended with this sentiment by His Honour, "leadership is being able to listen, and knowing what other people have to offer, it's understanding that leaders don't have all the answers themselves, but that the best results and answers come from the entire team or group, everyone has a voice and contributes in some way." That's this Lieutenant Governor's style of thinking, and it's working for Saskatchewan.

Dialogue w/ Provincial Ministers

Dialogue sessions were held with the following provincial cabinet ministers:



Hon. David Marit
Minister of
Agriculture



Hon. Fred Bradshaw
Minister of Highways
& Infrastructure



Hon. Warren Kaeding
Minister of the
Environment



Hon. Everett Hindley
Minister of Mental Health
and Addictions,
Seniors, and Rural and
Remote Health

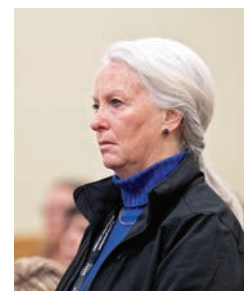
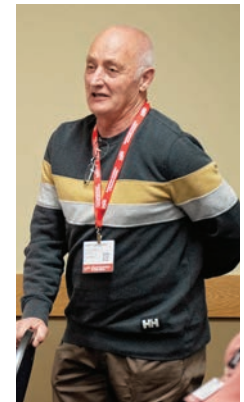


Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Health



Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of
Government Relations

The dialogue sessions provided members with the opportunity to voice their concerns and ask questions of each minister in a smaller group setting.



Premier's Address

The Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, began his address by speaking about the importance of SARM's bear pit sessions with the cabinet as they allow the provincial government to truly understand issues that are important to rural Saskatchewan. He spoke about the last two years plagued by COVID-19 and how we rallied together as a province to find our way through it. He spoke about the war in Ukraine, the close ties people in Saskatchewan have with Ukrainians, and how we stand with them.

He then talked about Saskatchewan's economic successes, including \$13 billion in investment dollars and thousands of jobs, along with growth in the value added sector, including increased processing capacity, canola crushing, expansion of agriculture terminals and businesses, diesel plants, and potash mines. He talked about the ability for Saskatchewan to step up when commodities may come up short due to the war; Saskatchewan can be the supplier of choice.

For the 2022 budget, he foreshadowed not only getting back on track for a balanced budget, but also investments in agriculture, healthcare, public infrastructure (including highways), investment in crime prevention and continued investment in municipal infrastructure. An announcement was also made to improve efforts to control and eradicate wild boar, including a moratorium on all new wild boar farms, regulating them under *The Pest Control Act* and doubling funding to support surveillance and eradication efforts.

He concluded his address by asking SARM convention delegates to join him in signing a petition asking the federal government to act amidst the impending Canadian Pacific Railway strike. The petition calling on the Government of Canada to immediately mandate back to work legislation should a stoppage of work occur and to introduce legislation to make rail service an essential service to prevent future rail disruption due to labour disputes.



Bear Pit Question Period



SARM hosted members of the Government of Saskatchewan cabinet in a question period which included The Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, and the following Provincial Cabinet Ministers:

- Honourable Fred Bradshaw
- Honourable Lori Carr
- Honourable Dustin Duncan
- Honourable Bronwyn Eyre
- Honourable Donna Harpauer
- Honourable Jeremy Harrison
- Honourable Everett Hindley
- Honourable Warren Kaeding
- Honourable Gene Makowsky
- Honourable David Marit
- Honourable Don McMorris
- Honourable Paul Merriman
- Honourable Don Morgan
- Honourable Jim Reiter
- Honourable Laura Ross
- Honourable Christine Tell
- Honourable Gordon Wyant

The ministers addressed questions on several topics, including:

- Rural crime watch and prevention
- RCMP bargaining agreement
- Energy sector
- Highway improvements
- Rural airports
- Saskatchewan's digital identification project
- SGI rebates
- New large-scale economic developments

Plenary Panels

Broadband Action Committee Panel

Moderator Scott Langen facilitated a panel to highlight the importance of all stakeholders working together to deliver reliable, affordable rural broadband. One entity will not solve this challenge alone as it will take the willingness of stakeholders and providers

working together to achieve this goal. The SARM Broadband Action Committee is leading this cooperative effort and welcomed panelists that included Jay Meyer from SARM, Daryl Godfrey from Sasktel, Jean-Marc Nadeau from SUMA, Ken Coates from the UofS, Wade Peterson from Access Communications, and Milton Tootoosis (who joined remotely) from SREDA. Each Panelist highlighted what they can bring to the table individually regarding broadband and talked about how they might work with other technology providers or funders to fill in any service gaps they can't fill alone due to technology and/or funding limitations



Governance Townhall Session

Moderator Keith Comstock facilitated a panel to help delegates see governance in action through the eyes of other RMs using it. Panelists included Sherry Jimmy, Reeve of the RM of Meota, Mitch Huber, Reeve of the RM of Edenwold, and Raylene Packet,

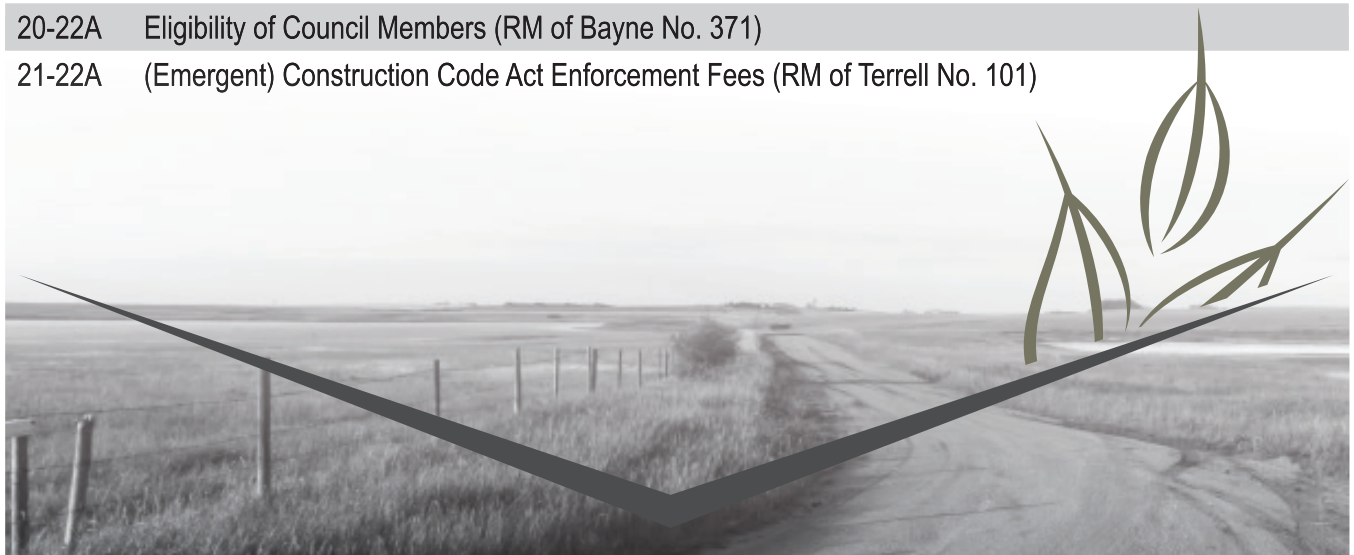
Administrator of the RM of Webb. Each panelist took the time to share what governance means to them and their council and why it's important. They shared some great examples demonstrating that although governance isn't always fun it is good governance that lays the foundation for RMs to ensure they have a clear vision, transparent policies, and consistency in the way decisions are made. Ensuring council is really making the best decisions for the municipality as a whole.



Resolutions

The resolutions session allows members to vote on resolutions brought forward by member municipalities. The following resolutions were passed by the membership:

1-22A	Oil Upgrader Investment (RM of Moose Range No. 486)
2-22A	IT Support for RMs to Reduce Cyber Security Risks (RM of Silverwood No. 123)
4-22A	ATV & Quad Licensing Objection (RM of Insinger No. 275)
5-22A	Affordable Access to SaskEnergy Services for Rural Residents (RM of Parkdale No. 498)
6-22A	Abandoned Derelict Houses/Buildings Program (RM of Langenburg No. 181, Spy Hill No. 152, Calder No. 241, Saltcoats No. 213, Churchbridge No. 211)
7-22A	Hamlet Residential Assessment Exemption (RM of Newcombe No. 260)
8-22A	Amendment of Section 293 of The Municipalities Act (RM of Lakeview No. 337 & Francis No. 127)
9-22A	Section 293 Exemption Review (RM of Nipawin No. 487)
10-22A	Railway Companies to Maintain All Railway Crossings Without Charging Land & Business Owners (RM of Excelsior No. 166)
11-22A	Provincial Funding for Farmland Access from Provincial Highways (RM of Elfros No. 307)
12-22A	Class 1A Subsidy (Rural Municipality of Aberdeen No. 373)
13-22A	Community Safety Officer Funding (RM of Meota No. 468)
14-22A	Mule Deer (RM of Churchbridge No. 211)
15-22A	Mule Deer Population Management (RMs of Frenchman Butte No. 501 and Paynton No. 470)
16-22A	Elk Population Management (RMs of Frenchman Butte No. 501 and Paynton No. 470)
17-22A	Reducing Elk Damage on Winter Bale Yards (RM of Pleasantsdale No. 398)
18-22A	Management of Overpopulation of Moose (RMs Cambria No. 6, Estevan No. 5, Souris Valley No. 7, Lake Alma No. 8, Laurier No. 38, The Gap No. 39)
19-22A	Continued Use of Strychnine for Control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RMs of Val Marie No. 17 and Lone Tree No. 18)
20-22A	Eligibility of Council Members (RM of Bayne No. 371)
21-22A	(Emergent) Construction Code Act Enforcement Fees (RM of Terrell No. 101)



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