



The Weekly Policy Bulletin

2-8-2022

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Information

Government Accepts Rate Review Panel Recommendations on SaskPower Rates

The Government of Saskatchewan has accepted the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel's recommendation to increase SaskPower's rates for the first time since 2018. The Crown electrical utility's rates will increase 4 per cent this fall, and another 4 per cent in 2023.

The new rates will result in an average increase of approximately \$5 on residential customers' bills starting on September 1, 2022, and an additional \$5 on April 1, 2023.

Natural gas is the largest generation source in SaskPower's fleet. As federal regulations require the elimination of conventional coal generation in Canada by 2030, SaskPower's reliance on natural gas generation is expected to grow.

Fuel and Purchased Power expense increases are largely driven by increased natural gas prices and SaskPower's fuel and purchased power expense is expected to increase from \$715 million in 2020-21 to \$1.069 billion in 2023-24. This represents a 50 per cent increase in fuel and purchased power expense over three years.



[View Full News Release](#)

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Ministry of Environment Update to Solid Waste Management Facilities Webpage

The Ministry of Environment has updated the webpage for solid waste management facilities in Saskatchewan. The webpage features a more convenient layout for those looking for information on landfills, transfer stations, composting facilities, industrial waste works facilities. Did you know that Saskatchewan produces the second highest amount of solid waste per capita in Canada? You can also find useful information about recycling programs in Saskatchewan which play a key role as we all work

towards reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill. All information can be found here: [***Solid Waste Management Facilities | Saskatchewan Environment, Public Health and Safety | Government of Saskatchewan***](#)

In addition, a new Inert (Construction & Demolition) Landfill Design and Operational Guidance Document has been developed for municipalities looking to dispose of a significant amount of inert waste; including some construction and demolition material. To access this document go to the [***Solid Waste Management Facilities page***](#), click on the “landfills” section, scroll to the bottom, and click on “[***guidance document***](#)” under inert landfills.

If you have any questions or feedback for either the updated webpage or the new inert landfill guidance document please send your comments Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment Tel: 1-800-567-4224 (toll-free in North America) Email: [***Centre.Inquiry@gov.sk.ca***](mailto:Centre.Inquiry@gov.sk.ca)

Government Increases Seniors Income Plan Benefits

For the second year in a row, the maximum monthly benefit provided through the Seniors Income Plan (SIP) will increase by \$30 per month.

The maximum SIP benefit will increase from \$300 per month to \$330 per month for singles and from \$265 per month to \$295 per month for each pensioner in a married, two-pensioner household, for a total of \$590 per month.

SIP provides financial assistance to seniors who receive little or no income, other than the federal Old Age Security pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. SIP is a monthly benefit paid to seniors, who receive different levels of support depending on the amount of their pension, taxable income or living arrangement. The benefit is higher for seniors with lower incomes.

[**Learn More**](#)

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Resources



Upcoming TSS Application Intake

The [***Targeted Sector Support \(TSS\) Initiative***](#) supports municipalities partnering to strengthen their core municipal responsibilities through projects focused on good governance, capacity building and regional co-operation. Funding is

provided through cost-shared grants, covering up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs.

The next intake for funding under this program is expected to run from **September 1 to November 15, 2022**. More information on the application process will be available to municipalities, once the application window is open.

Each year, the TSS Initiative receives \$1.5 million from the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. Since 2020, \$4.5 million of provincial funds has been made available to Saskatchewan municipalities through the TSS Initiative. Funding is administered by the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) on behalf of the TSS Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee consists of representatives from SUMA, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities and the Ministry of Government Relations.

[Learn More](#)

4 Seasons of Reconciliation Course

The 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course was created and is administered by the First Nations University of Canada. This 3 hour online course allows students to work at their own pace. The purpose of this resource is to provide further understanding and education on the historical background of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

RBC has partnered with the First Nations University of Canada and Reconciliation Education to offer this program, at a cost of \$231, for free to all Canadians until the end of August. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more! Please click the link below to submit your online registration form through RBC.

[Learn More / Register Here](#)



[Starting Out](#)

[Pig Basics](#)

[Pig Health](#)

[Marketing Your Pigs](#)

[Blog](#)

[Publications](#)



New Web Resource for Small Scale Pig Farming

Recently the Prairie Swine Centre launched a new website specifically for small scale pig farmers.

The website is dedicated to providing small-scale pig producers with the information and resources needed to be successful. Topics include animal health, biosecurity, and production practices, among others.

The resources include factsheets, how-to videos, handbooks and more. The information provided was developed through collaboration between Canadian small-scale pig farmers and veterinarians, and the Prairie Swine Centre.

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Reminders

Municipal Well-Being Study Survey

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As part of the project, Iryna and her team are interested in learning about how municipalities—the government level closest to the people—are conceptualizing community well-being and the challenges associated with adopting a well-being approach to municipal decision-making.

They know that municipalities are at the heart of all communities and are seeking your input and ideas matter as part of the province-wide survey that will be taking place in July. The link to the survey will be sent to you directly.

Please consider participating in this important survey. The survey is anonymous and taking part in it is completely voluntary. All survey responses will come directly to the research team and will provide the basis for the analysis.

Please let Iryna (iryna.khovrenkov@uregina.ca) or her research assistant, Stephanie (stephanie.ortynsky@usask.ca), know if you have any questions or concerns.

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[Learn More](#)

2022 IED Awareness Training Series

Registration is now open for the final virtual session of the 2022 IED Awareness Training Series. **Please be advised that this course is a repeat of the training that was held in 2021.** This training is offered in English only.

Please note that this is a DHS led

Important Details:

When: September 7, 2022,
13:00-17:30 EDT

Where: Virtual Classroom

Cost: Free

Registration: [Click here](#)

Courses covered in this training:

Module 1: *IED Explosive Effects and Mitigation (AWR-337)*

This course details the difference between blast, thermal/incendiary, and

training session, offered to the Canadian CI through Public Safety Canada. As such, you will first have to register (if you do not have one already) to obtain a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) user ID and password that you will then use to register for the course. The step-by-step instructions on how to register for the training session are contained in the attached document.

Please follow the instructions to register yourself as soon as possible to secure your spot for this training as space is limited. Once registered on the FEMA system, you are also encouraged to explore other training material that is available to registrants.

Should you find yourself unable to attend the training, please inform the facilitators and also withdraw your registration through the FEMA site prior to the training date so that your seat can be reallocated to a person on the wait list.

fragmentation effects, and describes the consequences on various targets.

Module 2: *Homemade Explosives (HME) and Precursor Awareness (AWR-335)*

In this course, participants will learn foundational knowledge on homemade explosives and common precursor materials. Participants will also learn to identify common chemicals and materials used in HME attacks.

Module 3: *Protective Measures Awareness (AWR-340)*

In this course, participants will learn how to identify and mitigate facility security gaps. This course will provide knowledge about risk management and the three rings of security; physical, technical, and intelligence protective measures.

**Registration
Instructions**

Information

Strong Job Growth in Saskatchewan Continues in July 2022

[As of August 5, 2022], job numbers released by Statistics Canada for July 2022 show Saskatchewan added 24,400 jobs, an increase of 4.4 per cent compared to July 2021, the third highest increase among the provinces. All of the growth was in full-time jobs.

In July 2022, Saskatchewan's unemployment rate of 4.0 per cent remained the second lowest among provinces, a decrease from 7.1 per cent in July 2021 and well below the national average of 4.9 per cent (seasonally adjusted).

In July 2022, full-time employment increased by 32,600 jobs (+7.1 per cent) and part-time decreased by 8,100 (-8.1 per cent) compared to July 2021.

Growth Continues in Saskatchewan with Increased Merchandise Exports and Building Permits

Numbers released today [August 4, 2022] by Statistics Canada show that Saskatchewan's merchandise exports increased by 57.3 per cent in June 2022 compared to June 2021, the second highest increase among the provinces on a seasonally adjusted basis.



In the first six months of 2022, Saskatchewan's merchandise exports grew by 38.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2021, the second highest increase in the country. In the first six months of this year, the value of merchandise exports reached \$24.4 billion, with metal ores and non-metallic minerals, energy products and aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts leading this growth.



Year-over-year, Saskatchewan's building permits increased by 27.4 per cent, the third highest increase in the country. Non-residential building permits increased by 33.5 per cent in June 2022, compared to May 2022, and residential permits increased by 2.1 per cent in this period.

[View Full News Release](#)

More than \$50 Million Worth of Passing Lanes on Highway 16

There will be 28 passing lanes and multiple intersection upgrades on Highway 16, which will improve safety along the major transportation corridor. The passing lanes extend on the

The Ministry will improve more than 1,100 kilometres (km) of provincial highways, putting us on track to exceed the Growth Plan goal to build and upgrade 10,000 km of highways over 10

Yellowhead east of Saskatoon from Clavet to Dafoe and in the Yorkton area from Springside to Saltcoats.

The passing lanes are part of a key investment through a two-year \$2 billion stimulus program, which continues to benefit drivers. The investment was targeted to help drive economic recovery from the global pandemic.

years.

The Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$11.5 billion in highways since 2008, improving more than 18,400 km of Saskatchewan roads.

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[Learn More](#)

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August Oil and Gas Public Offering Raises \$6.5 Million

Saskatchewan's public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, raised \$6,520,191.82, which is more than double the August 2021 offering. This brings the current total for the 2022-23 fiscal year to \$28,761,806.18 in revenue for the province.

The August sale is the third public offering scheduled for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Of the 93 parcels posted, 84 received acceptable bids covering 7,839.537 hectares.

The next sale will be held on October 4, 2022.

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SPSA Reminds Residents and Visitors to Stay Cautious to Prevent Wildfires



While Saskatchewan is experiencing fewer wildfires than normal, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is reminding residents that we are not out of the woods yet. Warmer temperatures and dry conditions can quickly

change the wildfire risk across the province.

Saskatchewan has seen 320 wildfires to date, compared to a five-year average of 316. There are currently seven active wildfires in the province. Two are contained, while five are under ongoing assessment and one is receiving action to protect values in the area, such as cabins and infrastructure.

Residents are encouraged to take extra care to prevent wildfires by following these tips:

- Check for fire bans in your area before lighting any fire.
- Float and stir campfire coals.
- Avoid driving through or parking on dry grass. A vehicle's exhaust can reach a temperature of more than 538 degrees Celsius (1,000 degrees Fahrenheit). It only takes about 260 degrees Celsius (500 degrees Fahrenheit) to start a fire.
- Don't use machines or tools that may cause sparks during dry conditions. If you must use a tool such as a grinder, wet down your working area and have a fire extinguisher handy.
- Teach your children not to play with fire or matches. Fire can spread quickly.
- Dispose of cigarettes and matches correctly. Don't throw them out of a vehicle.

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[Visit SPSA Website](#)

If you need to burn grass, bush piles or stubble on your property, plan ahead for a safe outcome:

- Do not plan a controlled burn if there is a fire ban in your municipality.
- Call 1-866-404-4911 before you start your controlled burn.
- Have fire guards in place around the area where you wish to burn.
- Pay attention to the weather. Most grass fires and wildfires start during hot, dry and windy conditions. Don't burn in these weather conditions.
- Reduce ignition sources. It's possible to unintentionally start a fire in dry conditions.
- Have access to hoses, fire extinguishers and a water source before you begin your controlled burn.
- By reporting controlled burns in advance, you'll avoid dispatching firefighters unnecessarily.
- If you plan to burn in a provincial forest, in park land, or any quarter section wholly or partly within 4.5 km of a provincial forest during the wildfire season, from April 1 to October 31, you must get a Burn Notification Number.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY & THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
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RURAL RESILIENCY SPEAKERS SERIES



SEPT 7

HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT
IN RURAL
COMMUNITIES



SEPT 14

RURAL
WELLBEING
AND HEALTH



SEPT 21

ENCOURAGING
RURAL
IMMIGRATION
& BUILDING
WELCOMING
COMMUNITIES



SEPT 28

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Rural Resiliency Sessions 2022

There are numerous complex and urgent problems facing rural Canada that require interdisciplinary, intersectoral and diverse solutions to address them. You're invited to be part of conversations about four key issues: rural housing, rural health and well-being, attracting immigrants to and building inclusive rural communities, and rural digital equity.

Sessions will highlight research and best practices that can be adapted to rural communities through western Canada. The conversations will occur **Wednesday mornings from 10 – 11:30 a.m. throughout September.**

Sessions will be hosted by Athabasca University's **Communities in Transition** Project and the **Rural Development Network**.

Register for one, or all of the September sessions .

[Learn More / Register Here](#)

Day of Action for
Ukraine Independence



Day - August 24th

August 24th is Ukrainian Independence Day, a day when the Ukrainian community across Canada traditionally gathers to celebrate.

This year, FCM and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress are encouraging local leaders to participate in a special Day of Action to show support and solidarity for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people by:

- Raising the Ukrainian flag at your city hall on Thursday, August 24th
- Lighting public monuments, buildings, and signs in blue and yellow on Wednesday, August 23rd and Thursday, August 24th

To learn more and access resources, please click the link below:

[Learn More](#)

Resources

Civic Address Registry Training

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency offers live webinar training for communities who want to learn more about the Provincial Civic Address Registry (CAR) program at no cost. Please see below for further training details:

Civic Address Registry Webinar Level 1 – Overview and Address Validation

This training provides detailed information on the Civic Address Registry program, specific workflow steps when participating in Civic Addressing and its benefits to public safety. The session provides practical examples on how to validate civic addresses; types of addresses; information regarding signage; frequently asked questions; roles of the



Civic Address Registry Webinar Level 2 – Road Name Update Process

This training explains how Saskatchewan road data is maintained and how its upkeep is important to the effectiveness of call-taking and emergency response at the Provincial Emergency Communications 911 Centre. It is recommended to take this training shortly after completing Level 1 and before validating civic addresses. The session will be customized to your community. It will help you identify any road discrepancies, identify key agencies involved in the update process, and provide the information and tools needed for you to ensure that your community roads are up-to-date for the benefit of public safety.

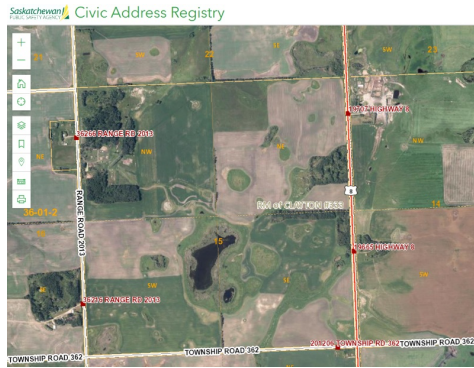
community; bylaw examples;
and address maintenance.

Duration: 2 hours

Capacity: Three communities
can participate at a time.

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For additional information,
please download the Civic
Address Registry (CAR)
Progression checklist PDF
below, send an email
to support@saskaddress.ca, or
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[Download CAR
Checklist](#)

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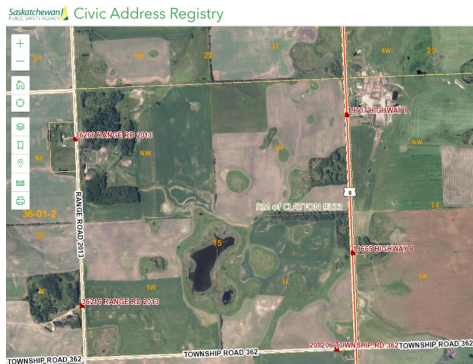
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[Download CAR Checklist](#)

CANADA'S CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE: WHERE DOES INCLUSIVITY FIT?

August 24 2022 · 4-6 PM ET - VIRTUAL TOWN HALL



Canadian Women's
Chamber of Commerce



Canadian Black Chamber
of Commerce



Canadian Gay Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce



Shauna Rae - HOST
Clearing a New Path™

AUG

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Wednesday

Chambers of Commerce Rural Town Hall

Event Information

The aim of these virtual town halls is to create safer and braver spaces to ask difficult questions and foster healthy — and sometimes provocative — dialogue that you won't find elsewhere in traditional rural media.

This conversation is about diversity, equity and inclusion in the business world, how that plays out in business organizations. Discussions will include experiences from specific entrepreneurs in rural communities and the beginnings, purpose and mission of chambers of commerce that serve specific groups and communities.

Event Details

Wednesday August 24, 2022

2 - 4 PM CST

Free to attend

Speakers

Nancy Wilson: Canadian Women's Chamber of Commerce

A.J. Stewart: Canadian Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Michelle Meghie: Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce

Stella Sehn: Sweet Pure Honey - Medicine Hat Alberta/Porcupine Plain,
Saskatchewan

Student working group: Report Card on the DEI Practices of Canada's Chambers
of Commerce

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

30-8-2022

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Reminders

Important Details:

When: September 7, 2022, 13:00-17:30 EDT

Where: Virtual Classroom

Cost: Free

Registration: [Click here](#)

Courses covered in this training:

Module 1: *IED Explosive Effects and Mitigation (AWR-337)*

Module 2: *Homemade Explosives (HME) and Precursor Awareness (AWR-335)*

Module 3: *Protective Measures Awareness (AWR-340)*

2022 IED Awareness Training Series

Registration is now open for the final virtual session of the 2022 IED Awareness Training Series. **Please be advised that this course is a repeat of the training that was held in 2021.** This training is offered in English only.

Please note that this is a DHS led training session, offered to the Canadian CI through Public Safety Canada. As such, you will first have to register (if you do not have one already) to obtain a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) user ID and password that you will then use to register for the course. The step-by-step instructions on how to register for the training session are contained in the attached document.

Please follow the instructions to register yourself as soon as possible to secure your spot for this training as space is limited.

Courses covered in this training :

Module 1: *IED Explosive Effects and Mitigation (AWR-337)*

This course details the difference between blast, thermal/incendiary, and fragmentation effects, and describes the consequences on various targets.

Module 2: *Homemade Explosives (HME) and Precursor Awareness (AWR-335)*

In this course, participants will learn foundational knowledge on homemade explosives and common precursor materials. Participants will also learn to identify common chemicals and materials used in HME attacks.

Module 3: *Protective Measures Awareness (AWR-340)*

In this course, participants will learn how to identify and mitigate facility security gaps. This course will provide knowledge about risk management and the three rings of security; physical, technical, and intelligence protective measures.

Information



Saskatchewan Announces Affordability Plan

[On August 23, 2022], the Government of Saskatchewan announced a four-point affordability plan to help people address the rising cost of living.

Point one of the plan is the Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit payment. All Saskatchewan residents who are 18 years of age or older as of December 31, 2022, and who have filed a 2021 tax return as a resident of Saskatchewan will receive a \$500 Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit cheque this fall.

Point two of the plan is the removal of fitness and gym memberships and some recreational activities from the planned October PST expansion on admissions, entertainment and recreation.

Point three of the plan extends the small business tax rate reduction, at 0 per cent retroactive to July 1, 2022 and delaying the restoration of the rate to 2.0 per cent to July 1, 2024. This will help small businesses as they continue to recover from the pandemic, while facing new challenges like inflationary pressures, interest rate hikes and supply chain issues.

Point four is the retirement of up to \$1 billion in operating debt.

Information about the Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit (SATC) and PST changes is available online at www.saskatchewan.ca/affordability and at [Tax Information Updates](#). The Ministry of Finance tax information line is 1-800-667-6102 for information on the SATC and PST changes. Individuals can also email satc@gov.sk.ca for information about the SATC.

Read Full News Release

Strong Revenue Results in Budget Surplus, Debt Reduction and Affordability Relief

A strong economy and higher resource prices have meant a significant improvement in the province's finances.

At first quarter, Saskatchewan is forecasting a surplus of \$1.04 billion for 2022-23, a \$1.51 billion improvement from budget, largely due to higher revenue from non-renewable resources.

Harpauer announced a four-point affordability plan, using higher revenue from the resources owned by the people of Saskatchewan to help people address rising costs due to inflation and to reduce the province's debt.

All Saskatchewan residents who are 18 years of age or older as of December 31, 2022, and who have filed a tax return will receive a one-time \$500 Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit cheque this fall.

The affordability plan is fully incorporated into the first quarter forecast.

At first quarter, revenue is forecast to be \$19.17 billion, up \$2.02 billion (11.7 per cent) from budget. This increase is largely due to a \$1.86 billion increase in non-renewable resource revenue, reflecting higher potash and oil prices.

At first quarter, total expense is forecast to be \$18.13 billion, up \$508.2 million (2.9 per cent) from budget. The increase is largely due to \$450 million for the one-time Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit payments to Saskatchewan residents.

Saskatchewan will continue to have one of the lowest net-debt to GDP ratios among the provinces. At first quarter, net debt as a percentage of GDP is forecast to be 15.6 per cent, compared to 18.8 per cent at budget.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Second Stage of Procurement Begins for Prince Albert Victoria Hospital



A modified Request for Proposals (RFP) has begun for the expansion and redevelopment of the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital.

In a modified RFP, a single team who has demonstrated they meet the requirements set out in the earlier Request for Qualifications (RFQ), which was released on December 17, 2021, is shortlisted to move to the next stage of procurement. The shortlisted team qualified to participate in the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital Modified RFP is PCL Construction Management Inc. (Saskatoon, SK).

The Government of Saskatchewan is making a significant multi-year financial investment in this project and is providing 100 per cent of the capital funding, rather than requiring local communities to contribute 20 per cent. Instead, the community will focus on fundraising for furniture and equipment needs for the hospital.

When completed, the hospital will provide people with improved, expanded acute care and mental health and addiction services closer to home, benefiting the growing population in Prince Albert and Northern Saskatchewan for many

The Prince Albert Victoria Hospital project involves constructing a new multi-level acute care tower, replacing the adult mental health space, and renovating the existing building.

years to come.

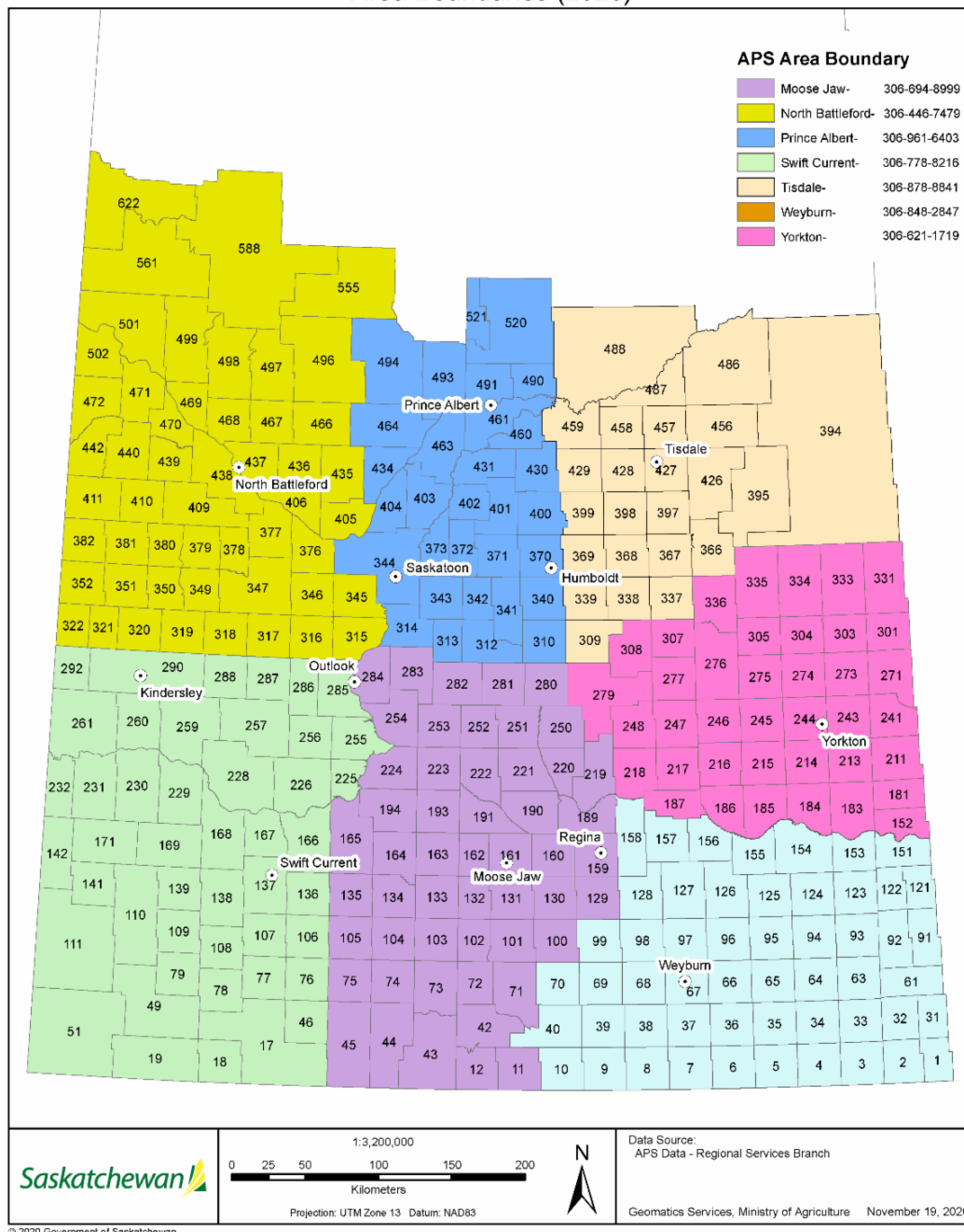
The Prince Albert Victoria Hospital Modified RFP will close in Spring 2023. The results will be announced following the evaluation of PCL's bid submissions.

[Read Full News Release](#)

CAP Program Deadlines are Fast Approaching

The Ministry of Agriculture is dedicated to providing quality extension to farmers, ranchers and agribusiness across the province. Their team of agriculture program specialists are your one-stop shop for information, services and programs offered under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) which is a five-year, \$388-million investment by federal and provincial governments ending on March 31, 2023. All CAP programs are designed to help farmers, ranchers and agribusiness innovate, prosper and grow in this province.

Agriculture Programs Specialist (APS) Area Boundaries (2020)



There are programs for:

- Wells, dugouts, pipelines, including watering systems;
- Well decommissioning;
- Livestock handling equipment;
- Irrigation development;
- Seeding forages;
- Fencing;
- Variable rate mapping;
- Relocation of livestock confinement facilities;
- Farm business management courses or training activities; and
- Much more!

Application deadline for:

- Any producer who made application for the enhanced funding with the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program need to submit their

application by **September 30, 2022**,

- Many of our rebate programs is **March 15, 2023**, and
- Programs that require pre-approval need to be submitted by **December 31, 2022**.

[Learn More](#)

[Watch Online Program
Presentations](#)

Federal Health of Animals Regulations

On August 25, 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture advised of the Humane transport amendments to the federal Health of Animals Regulations that came into force in February 2022. These amendments focus on training for carriers and define what makes an animal fit for transport.

To learn more about the amendments, visit www.saskatchewan.ca.



[Learn More](#)

'Harvest For Kids' Health' Program

On Thursday, August 25, 2022, a Saskatchewan agricultural producer gave Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation (JPCHF) a monumental gift of support.



Gene Pidwerbesky, a proud provincial farmer, is humbled to join Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation's family with a contribution of \$1.98 million in cooperation with Saskatoon Community Foundation, in support of a new urgently needed equipment program called, '*Harvest For Kids' Health*,' inspired by Gene Pidwerbesky and family. This meaningful gift will greatly assist medical teams and provide the latest technology and cutting-edge equipment that is required for specialized health care at Saskatchewan's Jim Pattison Children's Hospital (JPCH).

Donations to the Harvest for Kids' Health program will help purchase urgently needed equipment for maternal and pediatric health care at Saskatchewan's Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.

Click the link below to learn more about how you can support the Harvest for Kids' Health program.

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