## Neekly Policy Bulletin

04-10-2022

#### {View as Webpage}

## Information

#### Animal Health Week

[On October 3, 2022], Agriculture Minister David Marit proclaimed October 2-8, 2022, as Animal Health Week in Saskatchewan in recognition of the high level of care ranchers provide to their livestock, the veterinarian-client relationships that inform animal care decisions and the links between human and animal health and the environment.

Animal Health Week has been an annual event for more than 30 years, proclaimed nationally by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and supported by the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA).

This year's national theme is "Habitat Protection and Pandemic Prevention" which showcases the responsibilities of Canada's veterinary professionals within the national One Health community, which safeguards the health and safety of animals and, consequently, people and the environment.

#### Read Full News Release

#### Learn More

## October is Agriculture Month in Saskatchewan

The Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed October as Agriculture Month. During Agriculture Month, we take time to celebrate the agriculture industry and encourage consumers to learn more about the world-class, environmentally sustainable products produced right here in our own province. Throughout the month, we encourage the



There are many ways to celebrate Agriculture Month participate in a community harvest supper, share a meal with your family in the field, or support your local foodbank. public to share their connection to food through the theme, "#MealsFromtheFarm."

This year, Agriculture Month will also focus on farmers giving back to the communities they belong to, as well as highlight the great food they grow in the province. Throughout the month of October, Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan, in collaboration with industry partners, will share food stories, hold an online photo contest and use social media to encourage the public to learn about modern agriculture and to get involved by supporting meals in their local communities. For a full list of Agriculture Month events, or to learn how you can take part, visit *farmfoodcaresk.org*. Follow Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan on Twitter @ FarmFoodCareSK, or on Facebook at Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan and share your stories on social media using #CelebrateAg and #MealsF romtheFarm.

> Read Full News Release

Visit farmfoodcaresk.org

## Province to Add More Seats for Veterinary Students

The Government of Saskatchewan is taking decisive action to help address the growing need for veterinarians across the province, particularly for large animal and mixed animal veterinarians in rural Saskatchewan. In 2023-24, the province will increase the number of subsidized student seats from 20 to 25 at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

In 2022-23, the Government of Saskatchewan will provide \$11.9 million to the WCVM. The new commitment to add seats will mean an investment of \$539,000 in 2023-24, increasing annually to \$2.2 million by 2026-27 when fully implemented over the four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.



The WCVM is an internationally-recognized centre for veterinary education, research and clinical expertise that's located on the University of Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan

## Employment Standards Webinar and Training Opportunities

The Employment Standards Branch's (ESB) series of free webinars cover various employment standards topics such as: Employment Standards overview, protections for foreign workers, tips for taking the Young Worker Readiness Certificate course, employment leaves, what you need to know about employing youth, understanding when overtime is payable, understanding, layoffs and ending employment, and many others.

The ESB's first webinar will be happening next week and below you will find the registration links for the first three webinars of the season. The rest will be posted on their training page shortly.



Please visit their Training Page on *Saskatchewan.ca* to review the webinar schedule, register, and/or view recordings of previous webinars.

The Employment Standards Branch also provides customized webinars for interested employers and groups. A minimum of 10 attendees is required.

If you have any questions, please give our Employment Standards line a call at 1-800-667-1783 or email *sarah.morelandpetrie@gov.sk.ca* or *terry.gove@gov.sk.ca*.





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## **Veekly** Policy Bulletin

11-10-2022

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## Feedback

#### Red Tape Review Survey: Provincial Highway Sign Control Regulations

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The Provincial Highway Sign Control Regulations are in place to support advertising opportunities along provincial highways while ensuring public safety at the same time. However, regulations can go beyond their intended purpose and create red tape, which may create burdensome requirements or impact economic competitiveness. They are seeking your help in assisting their efforts to reduce red tape in Saskatchewan.

Please click on the link below and complete the survey which should take roughly 10 - 12 minutes. The survey will be available until **October 25, 2022**.

Take the Survey

## Information

October Oil and Gas Rights Public Offering Generates \$5.4 Million for Province

Saskatchewan's public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, raised \$5,426,564.36 for the province, The highest bonus bid received in this offering is \$608,172.96 for a 161.287 hectare lease south of Oxbow, which was awarded to Adonai Resources II Corporation. A parcel north of Lampman received highest dollar per hectare bid of \$6,433.42 per hectare with Scout Energy Ltd. bidding \$419,414.00 for the 65.193 hectare lease. The single exploration license received a bonus bid of \$352,333.55 for a which more than doubled the October 2021 offering. This brings the current total for the 2022-23 fiscal year to \$34,188,370.54 in revenue for the province.

The single exploration license and 72 of the 78 parcels posted received acceptable bids. The Estevan area saw the most interest, bringing in \$4,346,574.09 for 49 leases totalling 4,125.495 hectares. 4,345.505 hectare block of land west of Kindersley. The successful bidder was Millenium Land (333) Ltd.

The October sale is the fourth of six oil and gas public offerings scheduled for this fiscal year. The next sale will be held on December 6, 2022, and will feature 133 leases covering 18,541 hectares and three exploration licenses covering 5,349 hectares.

Read Full News Release



Saskatchewan Declares Fire Prevention Week

[On October 7, 2022], Saskatchewan Fire Commissioner Marlo Pritchard, along with Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) Minister Christine Tell, officially proclaimed Fire Prevention Week, which runs from October 9 to 15.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week which makes it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

The SPSA is recognizing this important milestone with some new activities aimed at preventing fires in Saskatchewan.

- A poster contest for students in Grades four through eight runs until October 28, 2022. Information about how to enter is available at *saskpublicsafety.ca*. The winning entries will be showcased on the SPSA's website and Facebook page.
- A public event will be held in front of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building at 2 p.m. on October 12, 2022.

The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2022 is "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape."

Escape plans should include everyone in the household. Consider individuals who may need help to escape, small children and even pets, and identify multiple escape routes when possible. *Download the Home Escape Plan Fact Sheet* for more information.

To learn more about the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency and to find fire prevention information, fact sheets, posters and more, visit *saskpublicsafety.ca*.

Learn More



Municipalities Today Special Edition: Welcoming Displaced Ukrainians to Your Communities

The following information is being sent on behalf of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Immigration and Career Training (Saskatchewan-Ukraine Response Team):

Saskatchewan has welcomed approximately 1,900 displaced Ukrainians to the province since the start of the conflict with Russia.

The Government of Saskatchewan has committed to supporting three more chartered flights from Poland to the province for displaced Ukrainians by March 2023.

Saskatchewan will organize a similar suite of services and events to support their settlement as has been done for the other charters. This will include a 'One Stop Shop' that brings together all of the key services and resources, such as Social Insurance Numbers (SINs), health cards, banking, public housing and employment. Also organized will be a community and career fair to connect these arrivals with communities, employers and job opportunities.

Saskatchewan has welcoming communities and employment opportunities around the province. To help connect newcomers with these communities and opportunities, the province will be inviting broader participation at the upcoming events. There are **15** *Newcomer Gateways* in the Please note that the ministry will not be facilitating matching between newcomers and offers of private shared accommodations (e.g. a spare bedroom in someone's home) at this event.

For municipalities that would like to support these efforts and have community-specific information that will help to answer newcomers' key questions, please connect with your nearest Newcomer Gateway.

For employers with job opportunities, they are encouraged to post their vacancies on *SaskJobs.ca* and use #sksupportsukraine in their ad to communicate their interest in hiring displaced Ukrainians. An email will then be sent to those employers with details about the community and career fair. Employers will be able to express their interest in participating by contacting Rodney Antonichuk at the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training via email at:

rodney.antonichuk@gov.sk.ca.

While the ministry is organizing these events around the arrival of a charter for displaced Ukrainians, the events will be open to all newcomers.

Further details on the One Stop Shop and Community/Career Fair:

- One-Stop-Shop, Oct. 26 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- One-Stop-Shop, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- One-Stop-Shop, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Community and Career Fair, Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

province. They have all been invited to participate at the One Stop Shops and Community/Career Fair, to represent their respective regions and its opportunities.

Housing is another important consideration. Newcomers will already have information on public housing options around the province from the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation but will benefit from learning what other options are available. The One-Stop-Shop will be held at the Wa Wa Shriners-2065 Hamilton Street and the Community & Career Fair will be held at the Viterra International Trade Centre at 1700 Elphinstone Street in Regina. Thank you for your on-going support and commitment to welcoming newcomers to Saskatchewan.

#### **Contact List for Newcomer Gateways**

#### Resources

#### Mature Driver Refresher Course

The Saskatchewan Safety Council is promoting their FREE 6-hour Mature Driver Refresher Course. Participants' driver's licenses are not affected and there are no required examinations.



This training increases confidence when navigating Saskatchewan's increasing city and highway traffic. It provides insight into how to adapt your driving habits based on the physical changes the body goes through as it matures.

#### Upcoming dates and locations are set out below:

October 12, 2022 – 9:00AM-3:00PM

- Regina Beach
- Balcarres
- October 13, 2022 9:00AM-3:00PM
  - Assiniboia
- October 22, 2022 9:00AM-3:00PM
  - Estevan
- October 28, 2022 9:00AM-3:00PM
  - Montmartre

October 29, 2022 - 9:00AM-3:00PM

• Fillmore

#### **Topics Covered:**

- Normal driving situations such as intersections, following distance, maintaining an open "gate" around your vehicle.
- Hazardous driving environments such as skids, head on collisions, hydroplaning and how to protect yourself while driving.



- Review of safety devices such as seat belts and air bags.
- Medication awareness, vision and effective use of your eyes.

For more information or to register, visit: *Mature Driver Refresher Course - Saskatchewan Safety Council (sasksafety.org)* 



### WorkSafe Saskatchewan - Asbestos Awareness

Asbestos remains the number one cause of work-related deaths in Saskatchewan.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan is asking municipalities to include information on asbestos as part of the renovation/construction permit process. A package has been developed including information that you can easily add to your permit information and process, including:

- Copy for web pages, emails or permit forms
- Promotional image that can be placed on a web page
- One-page tip sheet that can be included as a PDF attachment or link in a permit package
- Posters and postcards for permit offices

Protection from asbestos exposure is especially important for those working on or in buildings constructed before 1990, as asbestos was commonly used in many materials up until that time.

The permit process is an opportune time to connect people with asbestos resources. It provides them with information before the project is underway, so they can contract testing and abatement services to keep everyone on site safe.

Asbestos kills. It's best to test.

To receive free asbestos awareness materials for your municipality, contact **worksafeinquiry@wcbsask.com**.

For more information about asbestos, click the link below.



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# Neekly Policy Bulletin

18-10-2022

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## Reminders

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The Provincial Highway Sign Control Regulations are in place to support advertising opportunities along provincial highways while ensuring public safety at the same time. However, regulations can go beyond their intended purpose and create red tape, which may create burdensome requirements or impact economic competitiveness. They are seeking your help in assisting their efforts to reduce red tape in Saskatchewan.

Please click on the link below and complete the survey which should take roughly 10 - 12 minutes. The survey will be available until **October 25, 2022**.

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#### **Topics Covered:**

- Normal driving situations such as intersections, following distance, maintaining an open "gate" around your vehicle.
- Hazardous driving environments such as skids, head on collisions, hydroplaning and how to protect yourself while driving.
- Traffic guidance such as sign recognition and pavement markings.
- Review of safety devices such as seat belts and air bags.
- Medication awareness, vision and effective use of your eyes.

For more information or to register, visit: *Mature Driver Refresher Course - Saskatchewan Safety Council (sasksafety.org)* 

## Feedback

Red Tape Review: The Highway Worker and Flag Person Identification Regulations

Saskatchewan's business community consistently identifies red tape as a major barrier to business operation and growth. Finding ways to reduce red tape is one of the most important measures a government can take to help promote a healthy economy. A good regulatory environment helps Saskatchewan businesses innovate, grow and remain competitive.

The Red Tape Reduction Committee (RTRC) has been tasked with reviewing all business-related regulations at least once every 10 years to ensure they remain relevant and removing red tape The Ministry of Highways is currently reviewing the Highway Worker and Flag Person Identification regulation and its associated policies, procedures, forms, permits, standards and licenses. Any ideas you may have for reducing red tape and regulatory barriers in your business and industry as a whole are welcomed.

Please review the questions below and provide your response by October 31, 2022 to *AutoFundPartnershipSupport@sgi.s k.ca*. The Highway Worker and Flag Person Identification Regulations are also below for your reference.

> View Regulations Document

when necessary. Input received from stakeholders, such as yourself, is very important to this process.

Download Survey Questions

## Information

#### **Municipal Election Supplies**

With the upcoming election, please remember that ballot and envelope orders are placed through Adventure Printing directly, using the *online ordering portal*.



All other election supplies can be obtained through SUMA at *suma@suma.org*.

#### Additional Funding for the Recruitment and Retention of Early Childhood Educators

Today, the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$2.59 million to fund one-time grants in support of the recruitment and retention of certified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and group family child care assistants to regulated child care centres and group family child care homes in the province.

Saskatchewan regulated child care centres and group family child care homes will receive a one-time grant of \$145 per regulated child care space for children up to the age of six to assist with each facility's unique workforce needs, such as one-time investments into benefit or pension funds, signing bonuses or to attend career fairs. This investment will be made through the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for the Early Learning and Child Care Workforce Enhancement Grant.

Provincial group family child care homes and child care centres will receive more information and application forms for the Early Learning and Childcare Workforce Enhancement Grants from the Ministry of Education starting from today.

The Early Learning and Child Care Workforce Enhancement Grant is just one part of a larger initiative by the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada to implement a Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System.

Last month, the province announced an *investment of \$5.4 million for increased wages for ECEs* and in August 2022, the government announced *free postsecondary training for ECEs*. These are only some of the steps taken to ensure high-quality early childhood education programs and services are available to all Saskatchewan children.

#### **Read Full News Release**

Federal Policies Could Cost Saskatchewan \$111 Billion by 2035

Premier Scott Moe [October 11, 2022] said his government will take steps to protect Saskatchewan's families, businesses and jobs from destructive federal policies that could cost our province's economy \$111 billion by 2035.

The Government of Saskatchewan today released a paper entitled "Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan's Economic Autonomy" which considers policy options in light of the current federal government intrusions into Saskatchewan's exclusive areas of jurisdiction under the Constitution.

Analysis by the Ministry of Finance indicates that nine different federal climate change policies are estimated to cost Saskatchewan's economy \$111 billion between 2023 and 2035.

In a ruling earlier this year striking down one of those federal policies, *The Impact Assessment Act*, Alberta Chief Justice Catherine Fraser wrote: "Through this legislative scheme, Parliament has taken a wrecking ball to the constitutional rights of the citizens of Alberta and Saskatchewan and other provinces to have their natural resources developed for the benefit." The paper outlines a number of steps the province could take including:

- Provincial legislation to clarify and protect constitutional rights belonging to the province;
- Pursue greater autonomy over immigration policy to ensure Saskatchewan has the people it needs;
- Better recognize Saskatchewan industry contributions to sustainable growth - for example, develop a carbon credit market to support our natural resource industries;
- Prepare to take legal actions, legislative or otherwise, to maintain control of electricity, fertilizer emission/use targets and oil and gas emissions/production; and
- Explore greater autonomy in tax collection.

Moe said the government will further elaborate and outline next steps in the Speech from the Throne on October 26, 2022. View "Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan's Economic Autonomy".

> Read Full News Release

View Direct Compliance Costs Analysis



More Than 175 Full-Time Health Care Job Opportunities Posted to Address Rural and Remote Staffing Challenges

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is advancing the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to create more fulltime positions in rural and northern communities across the province. Creating more full-time positions and enhancing existing positions that are difficult to recruit to in rural and northern communities is a key pillar of Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources Action Plan.

Over 125 new, full-time, frontline health care positions have been posted on *HealthCareersInSask.ca*. Over 50 existing part-time positions have also been enhanced to full-time. The new and enhanced positions span 49 communities across the province, and include Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Continuing Care Aides, Medical Radiation Technologists, Medical Laboratory Assistants, and Combined Lab and X-Ray Technicians.

Available jobs are posted at *HealthCareersInSask.ca*. The SHA is actively recruiting nationally and internationally through multiple channels. Many positions qualify for new incentives provided by the Government of Saskatchewan as part of the recently launched Health Human Resources Action Plan. The goal of the plan is to recruit, train, incentivize and retain more healthcare workers to strengthen the provincial health care system.

A new one-time incentive of up to \$50,000 is available to attract new employees to targeted positions in rural and remote areas. The incentive packages will range from \$30,000 to \$50,000 depending on the position.

The list of communities benefiting from this initiative is available *here*.

Read Full News Release

Learn More

### Provinces Oppose Federal Use of Police Resources

Provinces joined together at the 2022 Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety to discuss the federal government's plan to use police resources to confiscate legally acquired firearms.

Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick called on the federal government to halt plans to use scarce RCMP and municipal police resources to confiscate over 100,000 legally acquired firearms from

Canadians. The Prairie Provinces had already written to their RCMP divisions indicating that provincial funding should not be used for that purpose.

The four provinces also called on the federal government to ensure that no funding for the Guns and Gang Violence Action Fund or other public safety initiatives be diverted to the federal firearms confiscation program. Instead, funding should be used to fight the criminal misuse of firearms by tackling border integrity, smuggling and trafficking.

The four provinces also called on the federal government to direct all communications related to the federal firearms confiscation program through appropriate channels - PT Ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety.

View Full News Release

### Recognizing Waste Reduction Week 2022

Waste Reduction Week (October 17-23, 2022) is a great time to think about the amount and type of waste you produce. On average, only half of the material in garbage bins belongs there. The rest can be diverted into other programs, such as recycling and composting. Residents of Saskatchewan have access to many recycling services, including:

beverage containers recycled through



SARCAN in 2021 Approximately 375,000 litres of paint collected

tires were collected

More than 2,400 tonnes

of grain bags were collected in 2021

in 2021

More than 495 million



of waste electronics collected and recycled in 2021

More than 2.000 tonnes

More than 16.7 million litres of used oil and almost 1.6 million oil filters recycled in 2021



Approximately 40,100 tonnes of printed paper and packaging materials recycled in 2021

- Beverage containers (SARCAN)
- Agricultural plastics (*CleanFarms*)
- Household batteries (Call2Recycle, drop-off also available at SARCAN depots)
- Electronics (*Electronic Product Recycling Association (EPRA)*)
- Household hazardous waste (*Product Care Association of Canada*)
- Household paint and empty paint containers (*Product Care*, drop-off also available at SARCAN depots)
- Printed paper and packaging (Multi-Material Stewardship Western Inc.)
- Scrap tires (*Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan*)
- Used oil and antifreeze (Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery **Corporation**)

In addition to recycling, there are small steps you can take to make a big difference, including starting a garden compost to keep food waste out of landfills, donating items that you no longer need or reducing the amount of single-use items you purchase.

**Read Full News Release** 

#### Learn More

## Resources

### Nitrogen Management Workshops



SAW is excited to announce four Nitrogen Management Workshop events happening this November! These events are designed to help foster networking and knowledge-sharing between agricultural producers and specialists. Learn more about funding opportunities for producers through the Prairie Watersheds Climate Program. Space is limited, so please register early!

#### Workshop Topics:

- Nitrogen Management 101
- Urease and nitrification inhibitors
- Intercropping
- Incorporating legumes into crop rotation
- Soil testing & soil mapping
- Funding opportunities for producers through the Prairie Watersheds Climate Program (PWCP)

Learn more and register below.

**Register Now** 

Employment Standards and Foreign Worker Protection Training

Employment Standards offers free

Each webinar includes an audiovisual presentation and a question and answer session. Each session will take approximately 45 minutes to an hour, including time at the end for questions.

**Employment Standards also offers** 

online training webinars that provides basic information about the employment standards in Saskatchewan. These webinars address commonly asked questions that affect most employers and employees, including employers based outside of Saskatchewan with employees in the province.

The sessions will cover a variety of topics, including weekly schedules, hours of work, overtime, vacations, public holidays, leaves and more. free, customizable online or inperson training. If your organization is interested in working with us to develop customized webinars or inperson training on specific subjects for employer or groups of employees, please contact Employment Standards at 1-800-667-1783.

Learn More / Register



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# Weekly Policy Bulletin

#### 25-10-2022

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**Take the Survey** 

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- Intercropping
- Incorporating legumes into crop rotation
- Soil testing & soil mapping
- Funding opportunities for producers through the Prairie Watersheds Climate Program (PWCP)

Learn more and register below.

**Register Now** 

## Information

## 2022 SARM Midterm Convention Resolutions

The SARM Resolutions Committee met over the last number of weeks to review the resolutions submitted to this midterm convention and to provide guidance to make improvements to the resolution process.

The committee consists of the following individuals that represent each Division in the SARM membership:

Chair	VP Bill Huber	RM of Lipton No. 217
Division 1	Aaron Keisig	RM of Tullymet No. 216
Division 2	Cody Jordison	RM of Lumsden No. 189
Division 3	Darren Steinley	RM of Excelsior No. 166
Division 4	Norm Hall	RM of Elfros No. 307
Division 5	Wendy Trask	RM of Corman Park No. 344
Division 6	Leslie Clark	RM of Parkdale No. 498

#### **Resolution Committee Members**

#### Important Notes:

- 1. The submitted background is what each sponsor has provided.
- 2. Please share with your council prior to the convention.

The resolutions for convention will also be available to delegates as part of our SARM Convention App and printed in the SARM Convention Guide.

**Resolutions Submitted** 



Violence Prevention Week Proclaimed in Saskatchewan

October 24 to 28 is Violence Prevention Week in Saskatchewan. This year's theme, 'It Starts With You', invites everyone to help promote change in their homes, families and communities.

This year's proclamation was initiated by Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) to Violence.

Over the past year, the Government of Saskatchewan has taken numerous steps to support survivors of interpersonal violence, including the following:

- Partnering with community service providers to expand the Family Intervention Rapid Support Team (FIRST) program, made up of violence outreach teams that provide collaborative, timely services to families experiencing and using violence or display risk factors associated with violence in the Moose Jaw, Estevan, Weyburn, Carlyle and Nipawin areas.
- Expanding the Victim Advocate Case Review project, which provides civilian sexual assault experts access to police sexual assault files to determine challenges and identify opportunities to improve investigation outcomes.
- Extending mandatory, early family dispute resolution across the province to increase access to justice services and provide additional supports to families.
- Introducing two new Family Law Screening Officers with the Court of King's Bench in Regina and Saskatoon who will help identify and address interpersonal violence affecting families going through separation and divorce proceedings.
- Continuing the Seeking Safety from Interpersonal Violence stream of the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit (SHB), available to people leaving interpersonal violence situations to help them find a new place to live independently and safely. More information is available at: *www.saskatchewan.ca*.

More information on events being held this week is available at **SVPW | Stops** (stopstoviolence.com).

**Read Full News Release** 

Animal Health Control Area Order Extended Due to Avian Influenza Risk

The Animal Health Control Area Order that was set to expire on October 21, 2022 has been extended until November 17, 2022. This is due to continued outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in

domestic poultry. The order from Saskatchewan's Chief Veterinary Officer prohibits the movement to and participation of birds in shows, auctions and agricultural fairs, as well as any other events where birds would be brought together from multiple locations.

Poultry producers and small flock owners are reminded to follow all necessary biosecurity protocols to protect their flocks from the disease. Small flock owners are encouraged to confine their birds indoors, if possible, during wild bird migration. Producers should contact their veterinarian immediately if they have concerns about the health status of their flocks.

HPAI is a federally reportable disease and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is currently leading the *HPAI response*, with support from the provincial government. Further information on how to protect flocks and recognize the disease is available at *www.saskatchewan.ca/avianinfluenza-poultry*.

**Read Full News Release** 

#### More Than \$20 Million Investment into Improving Highway 55 in Northeast Saskatchewan Complete

A highway project aimed to ensure the safe and reliable movement of people and goods is complete north of Carrot River on Highway 55.

This highway is an important connector for Indigenous communities like Red Earth and Shoal Lake Cree Nations, as well as regional businesses and the forest industry.



The 50/50 cost-shared highway improvement project includes surfacing of almost 38 kilometres (km) of Highway 55 as well as 30 new culverts. The new upgraded surface of Highway 55 runs approximately 1.2 km west of the junction with Highway 123 to about 37 km east of the same junction.

The area has been prone to flooding

and the mitigation measures taken will improve access. The highway is also being upgraded to primary weight to ensure the reliability of the movement of goods.

Venture Construction of Martensville is the general contractor of the project with Clunie Consulting of Prince Albert acting as the consulting engineer.

The Government of Saskatchewan is improving more than 1,100 km of provincial highways this year, for a total of 3,500 km over the past three years. The

government has set a 10-year Growth Plan target of improving 10,000 km of highways. With this year's improvements, the province is ahead of the pace needed to meet this target.

**Read Full News Release** 

## One Step Closer to Not-For-Profit Corporation

In May the Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA) announced a plan to transition to a not-forprofit corporation to better serve plan members and employers. Announcements to plan members went out in newsletters, plan websites, and social media.

"This will open the door to improvements in our organizational performance. It creates the potential for lower investment costs and for new services for our members," said Ashley Stradeski, MEPC Chair.

The not-for-profit structure offers many benefits including:

- clearer accountability to members through the Commission;
- more flexibility for recruiting and retaining talent in key areas such as investment and pension management to help ensure sound fund management;
- potential to lower investment management costs; and
- more flexibility to offer innovative products and services to members.

## Public Employees Benefits Agency



The Commission has been a steadfast guiding force for MEPP. It is dedicated to serving its members and very excited about this change to the operating structure.

Currently, PEBA is a provincial government agency operating under the Ministry of Finance. It serves more than 900 employers and 100,000 members and manages 12 public sector pension plans (including MEPP) and 13 benefits plans on behalf of public sector employers. PEBA will continue to be based in Regina.

If you have any questions, please visit our website or contact us via email at *mepp@peba.gov.sk.ca* or by phone at 1-877-506-6377 for more information.

#### Visit PEBA Website

#### Resources

#### Channel Clearing and

Drainage Project Maintenance Assistance Rebate Program Deadline

Water Security Agency

The Water Security Agency (WSA) would like to remind rural municipalities that there is still time to take advantage of the Channel Clearing and Drainage Project Maintenance Assistance Program.

\$1.0 million has been allocated in 2022-23 to assists local governments with the removal of obstructions in natural watercourses and eligible drainage projects. Financial assistance will be provided as a rebate of up to 50 per cent of the eligible costs for channel clearing and drainage project maintenance activities carried out during the 2022-23 program year.

Information about the channel clearing program, application steps, and applicable forms can be found at *www.wsask.ca/water-programs/channel-clearing/*. The 2022-23 Program Guide with Appendices is also enclosed for your refence.

To qualify, all rebate applications must be received by WSA on or before **January 31, 2023**. You must also submit the notification form (Appendix A) at least **14 days** before beginning any work. If activities involve beaver dam removal only, a notification form is not required if the Beaver Dam Removal Fact Sheet is followed.

If you have any questions, please contact:

For rebate inquiries, please email **WSAWatershedServices@wsask.ca** or phone 306-630-5971.

For Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit (AHPP) inquiries, please email **AHPP@wsask.ca**.

Learn More / Apply

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Wednesday November 16 & Thursday November 17, 2022

Addressing Harassment in SK Workplaces - Online Conference Nov 16 & with Enough Already and Guests

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