

The Weekly Policy Bulletin

29-11-2022

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Reminders



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Medicine
UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
MEDICINE.USASK.CA



University of Saskatchewan Looking for Your Help Selecting Province's Future Medical Students

Volunteer to be an Assessor at our virtual Multiple Mini Interview on *January 21st or 22nd* AND/OR Interviewer at our Panel Interviews on *March 25th*

Who are they looking for:

- Health professionals and members from the community that will offer a balanced, fair and diverse perspective to help inform our selection decisions.
- Assessors who are comfortable with virtual technology as we will be hosting our multiple mini interviews synchronously using an online platform.
 - ***Google Chrome: Version 77 or newer (our recommended browser), Firefox: Version 69 or newer, Microsoft Edge (on Chromium): Version 76 or newer, Opera: Version 62 or newer. Please note that Safari and Internet Explorer (IE) are not supported at this time.***

What they need from you:

- One-full day (approximately eight hours) commitment for assessing and interviewing candidates for personal qualities important for the medical profession.
- Participation in a two-hour training session for the Multiple Mini Interview assessors.
- Participation in a two-hour training session for the Panel Interview interviewers. Interviewers will also be required to review the applicant statements prior to the panel interview day.
- Interviewers for the Panel Interview will be required to be present in-person at the USask campus in Saskatoon on the interview day.

What you can expect from them:

- Multiple Mini Interview assessor training including orientation to the interview platform and pre-interview system check.
- Pre-Multiple Mini Interview and interview day technical support.
- Panel Interview training for in-person interviewing.
- Travel expenses reimbursed (mileage/accommodation/per diem - as per USask Travel policies) for those interviewers that reside outside of the Saskatoon area.

If you would like to volunteer for the Multiple Mini Interview and/or Panel Interview, please complete the **online volunteer form 2023 Assessor and Interviewer Registration Form** by **December 1, 2022**.

They will contact you with further details regarding assessor and interviewer selection, scheduling, training and orientation sessions. If you have questions, please contact the College of Medicine Admissions Office at med.admissions@usask.ca.

College of Medicine Admissions Office

[Register Here](#)

Feedback

Feedback on Proposed Amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act, 2013

The Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety invites you to provide your feedback on the legislative recommendations of the Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review.

The committee's report which was released on November 22, 2022, contains 34 recommendations for improvements to the workers' compensation system, Twelve of these recommendations would require amendments to The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013 to implement. The ministry is asking that you focus on the following 12 recommendations at this time:

- Amending the definition of a worker to include students while in their work-based learning program and excluding executive officers. Instead, executive officers would be eligible for voluntary coverage (recommendations one and eight).
- Increasing the minimum and maximum awards payable for permanent functional impairment (recommendation two).
- Arranging for and covering the costs associated with transporting a deceased worker's body back to the home location (recommendation three).
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- Amending the privacy provisions to mirror *The Health Information Protection Act* and to provide for administrative penalties if breach of privacy occurs (recommendations 10, 11 and 12).
- Improving the medical review panel process by simplifying requirements in the Act (recommendation 27).
- Clarifying the psychological injury provision to provide quicker supports (recommendation 16).
- Create a requirement for all decisions to include reasons similar to other tribunals (recommendation 33).

To access the full report, please [click here](#).

Please submit all written responses **no later than January 31, 2023** to:

Workers' Compensation Review Corporate Services Division
Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
300 - 1870 Albert Street
REGINA SK S4P 4W1

Or by email to: legislation.labour@gov.sk.ca

Information

[View
Presentations](#)

2022 SARM Midterm Convention Presentations

If you would like to view/download any of the midterm convention presentations, please find copies on our Past Presentations webpage.

50th Saskatchewan Safety Seminar

The 2023 Saskatchewan Safety Seminar is **now OPEN for registration**! The Saskatchewan Safety Council is excited to return to Saskatoon for an in-person event.

This seminar will be an excellent opportunity for new or experienced safety practitioners (or those who wish to learn from them) to attend professional development sessions with experts on a variety of current safety related topics.

Date: February 7-9, 2023

Location: World Trade Center at Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK



[Seminar Registration](#)

Saskatchewan Hosts Geological Open House

The Saskatchewan Geological Open House is celebrating its 51st year as it begins today in Saskatoon. The annual event runs from November 28 to 30, 2022 and is being held in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The open house is co-hosted by the Ministry of Energy and Resource's Saskatchewan Geological Survey and the Saskatchewan Geological Society. The Saskatchewan Geological Survey performs high-quality geoscientific investigations that inform and support responsible exploration and development of the province's mineral and energy sectors.

This open house provides industry an opportunity to hear about new geoscience results and to use these in planning future exploration programs.

The event also provides a venue for the Ministry of Energy and Resources to profile current and upcoming minerals-related initiatives, and for industry representatives to give presentations on their exploration and development activities in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's mining sector employs and contributes to the livelihood of over 25,000 Saskatchewan people, and in 2021 generated \$8.6 billion in sales accounting for 12 per cent of the provincial GDP.

More information on the Saskatchewan Geological Open House can be found at <https://openhouse.sgshome.ca/index>.

[Read Full News Release](#)

[Learn More](#)



SCIC Introduces New Crop Insurance Premium Adjustment Method

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) continually works to improve and enhance our business risk management programs to provide responsive, relevant options to Saskatchewan producers. On November 22, 2022, they introduced a new method of adjusting Crop Insurance premiums.

Starting in 2023, SCIC will calculate an **Individual Premium** for each crop a producer insures through the Crop Insurance Program. They understand there are risk differences between crops, areas of the province, and farm operations - and Individual Premium helps account for these differences.

With **Individual Premium**, Crop Insurance premiums are individualized based on a producer's personal claim history compared to the claim history of other producers within the area risk zone. This means, Individual Premiums are unique to each Crop Insurance customer. It is an adjustment (increase or decrease) from the base premium rate, calculated individually for each insured crop.

[Learn More](#)

Provinces Oppose Proposed Expanded Firearms Ban

Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are united in opposing a proposed ban that would affect hundreds of thousands of firearms owners in Western Canada:

On November 22, through last-minute amendments to Bill C-21, the federal government moved to ban hundreds of new models of legally owned firearms and shotguns.

The amendments will criminalize hunters, farmers and target shooters who collectively own hundreds of thousands of firearms that could soon be prohibited.

[Read Full News Release](#)

More Spaces Added to the Early Learning Intensive Support (ELIS) Program in Saskatchewan Schools

The Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada are pleased to announce that more children who require intensive support to attend Prekindergarten will be supported thanks to the expansion of the province's Early Learning Intensive Support (ELIS) program. The ELIS program will now support an additional 150 preschool-aged



This funding is made available through the **Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement 2021-26** signed on August 13, 2021.

The ELIS program, which was first piloted in 2018 with 120 spaces in Regina and Saskatoon, was expanded in 2019 and 2020 to include additional communities across the province. With today's

children for the 2022-23 school year.

The ELIS program is for three and four-year-old children with significant, enduring disabilities and developmental delays requiring intensive support to meet their potential. Almost 400 children will benefit from the ELIS program in 26 school divisions this year.

The total cost for the program in 2022-23 is \$4.9 million. An increase of almost \$2 million is being provided to support the expansion of services.

announcement, there are now 392 spaces in the province, more than tripling the number of spaces since it was piloted.

The ELIS program supports the **Saskatchewan Disability Strategy** by expanding early learning programming that helps preschool-aged children experiencing disabilities to receive a good start on their learning and development. More than 750 students have accessed the program in Saskatchewan since it began in 2018.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Legislation Requires Federal Employees to Comply with Trespass Laws

In further response to concerns about unauthorized access to private land by federal employees, the Government of Saskatchewan is introducing The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022.

The Trespass to Property Act prohibits a person from entering premises except with the consent of the occupier or while acting under legal authority. Failure to comply with the rules of the Act will constitute an offence that could incur fines of up to \$200,000.

Members of the public can report suspected incidents of trespassing to their local RCMP or police services.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Federal Government Approves Saskatchewan's Output-Based Performance Standards Program

On November 22, 2022, the provincial government received confirmation that a provincial plan has been approved to replace the federally imposed carbon tax on industrial emitters in the province, effective January 1, 2023. The Saskatchewan Output-Based Performance Standards (OBPS) Program meets the requirements for the 2023-2030 federal carbon pricing benchmark, including the addition of the electricity generation and natural gas transmission pipeline sectors.

All industrial carbon taxes will now stay in Saskatchewan, saving Saskatchewan industry (and the jobs and families these industries support) an estimated \$3.7 billion in federal carbon taxes between now and 2030 compared to federal carbon pricing.



With industrial carbon pricing under provincial control, the number of facilities in Saskatchewan's OBPS Program is expected to double by 2030. Regulated emitters will receive credit for every tonne of carbon emissions under their permitted amount, creating incentives to reduce emissions.

The Saskatchewan OBPS Program will also include credit for carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), which supports Saskatchewan's CCUS strategy. Regulated emitters will have the option to pay into the Saskatchewan Technology Fund, which will create incentives for industry to develop and implement technologies that contribute to meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions intensity.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Resources

Pest Monitoring Program Sign-Up

Insects, diseases and weeds can hurt yields and quality. To understand the risks and potential damage associated with these pests, the Ministry of Agriculture and its partners monitor the presence, abundance and impact of important crop pests in Saskatchewan. The ministry also employs the assistance of contractors and volunteers to conduct this work.

[Sign-Up For The Pest Monitoring Program](#)

We need your help as we plan for 2023 surveys in the coming months. Please scan the QR code or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



saskatchewan.ca/crops

Saskatchewan 

The Ministry of Agriculture is adopting a permission-based survey system. This

means that they need the help of growers to get this important work done. The ministry is requesting that you sign up to allow them access to your land so that they can conduct this monitoring.

Please fill in your name, email, the best phone number to reach you during the day, and your rural municipality through the survey linked below.

[Sign Up](#)

Investing in Canada Program (ICIP) Green Infrastructure Stream

Get your applications in for the Investing in Canada Program (ICIP) -Green Infrastructure Stream.

Applications are being accepted for proposed water, wastewater, and other projects, such as infrastructure that can adapt, resist, or mitigate natural disasters and climate change.

Applications will be accepted until **noon (12 p.m.) Central Standard Time on Tuesday, November 29, 2022.**

The full eligibility requirements and the online application process are available at www.saskatchewan.ca/ICIP.

Canadian Grain Commission Extends Harvest Sample Program Deadline

Due to delayed seeding and the late harvest across much of the Prairies this year, the Canadian Grain Commission has received significantly fewer samples for its Harvest Sample Program than normal. As this program is an important source of quality information for both producers and Canada's international customers, they have extended the deadline to provide producers more time to sign up and send in their samples.

There are several reasons to participate in the Harvest Sample Program. It provides producers with grade and quality information for



This quality information confirms Canada's ability to deliver consistent, high-quality grain from year to year.

Producers' harvest samples also help us advance grain science by conducting end-use functionality research and establishing science-based grading standards.

Producers who are not currently registered for the Harvest Sample Program but who would like to take part for the 2022 harvest have **until December 12, 2022** to register online at

www.grainscanada.gc.ca/hsp.

There is no charge to participate. All

their crop and can help inform marketing decisions. Harvest samples are also used to generate crop quality data that marketers use to promote the sale of Canadian grain across the world.

registered participants have **until December 30, 2022** to send in samples taken from their crops. Producers should disregard the November 30 deadline that's currently printed on the Harvest Sample Program envelopes and on our brochure.

[Register Now](#)

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Programs](#)

[View Our
Resources](#)



(306) 757-3577 | sarm@sarm.ca | www.sarm.ca



Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities | 2301 Windsor Park Road, Regina,
Regina, S4V 3A4 Canada

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Women in Agriculture: The Data and Beyond

Who does what in agriculture is not always easy to understand based on official statistics. On November 23rd, [Statistics Canada released a report](#) exploring what the Census of Agriculture says about the role females play in agriculture and

food, but the statistics only tell part of the story.

Join CAPI for a webinar where they look at the data and beyond to consider what those changing demographics mean and their policy implications. The webinar will include a presentation on Statistics Canada's *recent report* followed by a lively panel discussion.

Date: December 7th

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET

[Register Now](#)



Looking Ahead: Reflecting on 2022 and What Will Drive Ag Policy in 2023

2022 saw agriculture and food dominate the headlines in ways not seen in recent history. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, food inflation, rising interest rates, supply chain disruptions and the federal fertilizer emission reduction target have all impacted agriculture and food policy in Canada.

While it was a year full of disruption, it is unclear what that disruption means for the future of agriculture and food policy. The webinar will explore what changed in 2022, what may change in 2023 and what won't.

Date: December 13th

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET

Register Now

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[Sign Up](#)

Information

Legislation Introduced to Modernize Saskatchewan's Liquor Laws

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced legislation to amend the *Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997* in order to continue to modernize liquor regulations.

Among the changes:

- Providing municipalities and park authorities with the discretion to designate outdoor public places such as parks for consumption of beverage alcohol by individuals of legal drinking age;
- Simplifying the recorking provisions for permittees;
- Allowing homemade beer, wine and cider to be served at family events that are permitted with a special occasion permit including products manufactured at a U-Brew/U-Vin facility; and,
- Removing the requirement that applicants publish their intentions to obtain a liquor permit in local newspapers.

The changes are being made following discussions with stakeholders. The Bill amending the legislation is expected to pass in spring 2023.



Province Introduces the Saskatchewan Firearms Act to Protect Law-Abiding Firearms Owners

[On December 1, 2022], the government introduced *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act* to protect the rights of lawful firearms owners.

The Act will:

- With respect to recent changes by the federal government that impact lawful firearms owners:
 - establish licensing requirements for businesses or individuals involved in firearms expropriation;
 - require and oversee fair compensation for any firearms being seized; and
 - require forensic and ballistic testing of seized firearms.
- Establish a provincial firearms regulatory system that will promote the safe and responsible use of firearms.

This legislation will be primarily administered by the Saskatchewan Firearms Office (SFO). The Office will also take on an expanded role in prosecuting non-violent regulatory firearms offenses.

The government has dedicated approximately \$3.2 million this fiscal year to begin development of several firearms initiatives, including:

- establishing a Saskatchewan Firearms Ballistics Lab to support police services and provide timely access to Saskatchewan-based ballistics and firearms expertise;
- establishing a Firearms Compensation Committee to determine the fair market value of any firearms, ammunition and related accessories being expropriated by the federal government;
- enhancing training and education regarding safe storage and firearms licensing; and,
- launching a made-in-Saskatchewan marketing campaign to promote firearm safety and best practices.

Additional firearms officers are being employed with the SFO in a continued effort to support the law-abiding firearms community, while also investigating incidents associated with mental health, domestic violence and illegal activities involving firearms.



Invitation to the 27th Annual Fields on Wheels

The Transport Institute, Asper School of Business, and the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba are inviting you to attend the **27th Annual Fields on Wheels Conference**. The event will be held virtually and attendance is free.

The conference will bring together industry leaders from the agricultural and supply chain industry to discuss the risk of supply chain disruptions that have been accentuated by the pandemic, including congestion in the ports and surface transportation.

Date: December 15, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST

[Learn More / Register](#)

Proposed Regulatory Amendments to the Pest Control Products Regulations Information Session

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) will be publishing a stakeholder consultation document for the regulatory initiative: **Regulations Amending the Pest Control Products Regulations (Research)** in the coming weeks.

Additionally, PMRA will be holding a webinar that will provide an overview of proposed amendments. The session will provide simultaneous interpretation in English and French.

Date: December 16, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST

Registration: Email bradley.tink@hc-sc.gc.ca before **December 15, 2022** providing your name, organization and email address.

The agenda, link for the meeting, and other information will be sent to you in advance of the session.

Register Now

Planning for Nuclear Power Virtual Open House



Register today for SaskPower's first-ever virtual open house on Planning for Nuclear Power! There will be door prizes, breakout rooms and opportunities to speak to experts! It's just like an in-person open house, but you can take part from your couch.

Nuclear power is one of SaskPower's future supply options. That's why SaskPower tailored the sessions and speakers to match what they know you want to hear about most. Along with SaskPower's project team, they've invited their partners, other jurisdictions and experts in the nuclear field. They'll delve into the safety, waste management and technology behind small modular reactors.

Attend for a chance to win 1 of 2 \$500 Visa cards and a selection of beautiful handmade items by Saskatchewan makers.

There are 2 open house time slots available:

Date: December 7, 2022
Time: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Register

Date: December 7, 2022
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Register

Attention Hunters: Get Your Animals Tested for Chronic Wasting Disease

As your hunting season begins to wind down, please remember to drop off your animal heads for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing.

Testing is easy and free of charge. It is available for deer, elk, moose and caribou from any zone in the province, but the priority is for heads collected along the boreal fringe and the eastern border. This includes wildlife management

CWD is a fatal and infectious central nervous system disease in cervid species that has no known cure. Last year, 644 submitted heads tested positive - two moose, 16 elk, 167 white-tailed deer and 459 mule deer. The Government of Saskatchewan is providing funding towards research and development of a vaccine for chronic wasting disease (CWD) over the next five years in partnership with the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Conservation Association.

Heads will be accepted for testing until Jan. 21, 2023. For more information, a complete list of drop-off sites and how to submit a sample for testing,

zones 2W, 9, 10, 35, 37, 50 and 55, which are specifically targeted due to a risk of the disease spreading in these areas.



visit: saskatchewan.ca/cwd.

Although no human case of CWD has been documented, it is recommended that you avoid eating or distributing the meat from animals that are known to be CWD positive. If your animal tests positive, the meat should be disposed of in an approved landfill and meat may be double-bagged and disposed of with household garbage in limited quantities.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Eligibility Expanded for Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive

Eligibility has been expanded for Saskatchewan's Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive of up to \$50,000 to provide more opportunities for health care professionals. This incentive is available to new employees in nine high priority positions in rural and remote areas.

The Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive has been expanded to include:

- Individuals who have completed an education program in one of nine high priority classifications while working for the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) or an affiliate.
- Former employees of the SHA/Affiliate who left their employment prior to September 7, 2022 and are now returning into one of the nine high priority classifications and eligible locations.
- Employees of the SHA/Affiliate who are awaiting their required license to practice in one of the high priority classifications. Awards will be dispersed upon proof of licensure.
- Health care workers who received and signed letters of offer prior to September 7, 2022 and began employment on or after September 7, 2022.
- Health care workers who have a work permit and are legally entitled to work in Canada for the term of the return in service.

Applications are now open and will close on **March 1, 2023** or while funds last.

First launched in October 2022, the Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive provides between \$30,000 to \$50,000 over three years for a three year return-of-service agreement.

Find out more about [eligibility criteria and the application process](#).

To see available employment opportunities and apply for health care positions in Saskatchewan visit ***HealthCareersInSask - Opportunities***.

Details on other health care opportunities, how to access them and more information on province's Health Human Resources Action Plan are available at ***saskatchewan.ca/HHR***.

[Read Full News Release](#)

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(306) 757-3577 | sarm@sarm.ca | www.sarm.ca



Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities | 2301 Windsor Park Road, Regina,
Regina, S4V 3A4 Canada

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27TH ANNUAL FIELDS ON WHEELS CONFERENCE



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Municipal Tax Policy for Agricultural Crown Lands

With municipal taxes coming due December 31, now is a good time to become familiar with the Ministry of Agriculture's Municipal Tax Policy for agricultural Crown lands. This policy outlines how the ministry and the Rural Municipality (RM) can work together to ensure that any outstanding taxes levied on leased agricultural Crown land are paid in a timely fashion.

RM's can request payment for taxes owing on leased agricultural Crown land if there are any unpaid amounts five business days after December 31st of the year in which the taxes were levied. The first step is for the RM to complete and submit the **Agreement Cancellation Request Form** to Corporate Services. Corporate Services will not be sending out this form, it has been attached for your convenience. This form needs to be submitted no later than **February 5, 2023**. If you have questions please contact Corporate Services at billinginquiryag@gov.sk.ca or 306-787-7191.

Once this form is received by the ministry, a Notice of Cancellation will be sent to

the lessee. If taxes are not paid by the lessee within 21 business days after the issuance of the Notice of Cancellation, the lease will be cancelled. The ministry will only pay up to one year of tax arrears (the oldest tax year owing) to the RM directly and the ministry will take the necessary actions to recover the debt from the former lessee. If the RM receives payment for taxes, after the ministry provides a grant in lieu, from the former lessee on a cancelled lease, the RM will refund all taxes paid by the ministry.

For more information on the municipal tax policy, please visit

www.saskatchewan.ca

[Agreement Cancellation Request Form](#)

[Learn More](#)

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Government continues to work with the municipal and assessment sector on the multi-year Board of Revision Renewal initiative to improve the property assessment appeal system.

One of the key components to improving the system is the establishment of a centralized board of revision (CBOR). The CBOR is an additional option for municipalities that are unwilling or unable to appoint or contract their own local board of revision.

ADR Institute of Saskatchewan Inc. will serve as the centralized board of revision. ADR is a non-profit organization that builds Saskatchewan's capacity for alternative and appropriate dispute resolution (hence the "ADR" acronym) by providing leadership, education, and advocacy. More information about ADR and its members can be found on the organization's website [ADR Institute of Saskatchewan](#). ADR's board of revision members are professional arbitrators who will contribute their experience and knowledge to ensure a high-quality and fair appeal service is available across the province. Municipalities continue to be responsible for the costs of handling and hearing appeals.

The centralized board of revision has been certified by the Registrar, Assessment Appeals as required by the legislation and regulations. Municipalities that want to use the CBOR would need to pass a resolution and enter into an agreement with the CBOR. The annual retainer fee is **\$250** per municipality.

The contact information for the centralized board of revision is as follows:

Michele Cruise-Pratchler, Program Manager
Centralized Board of Revision
Email cbor@adrsaskatchewan.ca
Phone (306) 528-2131

Municipalities continue to have the autonomy to appoint their own local board, join or form a district board with their municipal neighbours, use a private service provider, or use the centralized board. All boards of revision must be **certified** to hear property assessment appeals starting with the 2023 taxation year.

Thank you for your work and dedication in helping to ensure Saskatchewan ratepayers receive qualified property appeal services.

If you have any immediate questions, please contact property.tax@gov.sk.ca.

[Learn More](#)



Waste ReForum 2023

From increasing emphasis on the circular economy, to plastic pollution prevention, to volatile recycling prices, our world is changing rapidly. Join the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council (SWRC) to explore the opportunities in technology, partnerships, and policy that will move Saskatchewan toward becoming waste-free.

Join the SWRC for A Spectrum of Opportunities, featuring:

- Tours of local facilities and businesses
- Workshop by Carousel Media: The Building Blocks To A Thriving Social Presence - What We Know Now & Wish We Knew Then
- Keynote Speakers Georgia Lavender from the Synergy Foundation and Sandy Bonny from the University of Saskatchewan
- Our popular Lightning Talks
- Sessions on: New Tech for Improving Operations, First Nation, Northern & Remote Communities, Wood Waste, the future of EPR and more

Date: May 24-26, 2023

Location: Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon

[Program & Registration](#)

12 Days of Holiday Safety with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

To help keep you and your family safe this winter season, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is sharing safety tips in their 12 Days of Holiday Safety campaign.

From December 12 to 24, 2022, the SPSA will post a daily holiday safety tip on their **Facebook page** with actions you can take in and around your home. The tips will cover a range of everyday household items such as lights, extension cords, winter travel and candles.

Most actions take just a few seconds and have little to no cost but will significantly reduce your safety risk throughout the winter season.

A fact sheet listing all 12 topics and their safety tips is also available online at:

www.saskpublicsafety.ca/holidays

[View Full NR](#)

[Learn More](#)

12 Days of Holiday Safety



Is your home properly equipped to celebrate the holidays **safely**?

Every household should have a:

- fire extinguisher
- first-aid kit
- smoke alarm
- carbon monoxide detector



saskpublicsafety.ca/holidays

Saskatchewan!
PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY

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(306) 757-3577 | sarm@sarm.ca | www.sarm.ca



Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities | 2301 Windsor Park Road, Regina,
Regina, S4V 3A4 Canada

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

20-12-2022

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Reminders

Feedback on Proposed Amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act, 2013

The Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety invites you to provide your feedback on the legislative recommendations of the Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review.

The committee's report which was released on November 22, 2022, contains 34 recommendations for improvements to the workers' compensation system, Twelve of these recommendations would require amendments to The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013 to implement. The ministry is asking that you focus on the following 12 recommendations at this time:

- Amending the definition of a worker to include students while in their work-based learning program and excluding executive officers. Instead, executive officers would be eligible for voluntary coverage (recommendations one and eight).
- Increasing the minimum and maximum awards payable for permanent functional impairment (recommendation two).
- Arranging for and covering the costs associated with transporting a deceased worker's body back to the home location (recommendation three).
- Creating a new death benefit to the estate of a deceased worker who has no dependents (recommendation four).
- Providing equitable compensation to a worker's dependent children or other dependents regardless of if the injured worker had received benefits for less or more than 24 months before the worker passed away from a non-work-related injury (recommendation five).
- Amending the privacy provisions to mirror *The Health Information Protection Act* and to provide for administrative penalties if breach of privacy occurs (recommendations 10, 11 and 12).

- Improving the medical review panel process by simplifying requirements in the Act (recommendation 27).
- Clarifying the psychological injury provision to provide quicker supports (recommendation 16).
- Create a requirement for all decisions to include reasons similar to other tribunals (recommendation 33).

To access the full report, please [click here](#).

Please submit all written responses **no later than January 31, 2023** to:

Workers' Compensation Review Corporate Services Division
Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
300 - 1870 Albert Street
REGINA SK S4P 4W1

Or by email to: legislation.labour@gov.sk.ca



Municipal Tax Policy for Agricultural Crown Lands

With municipal taxes coming due December 31, now is a good time to become familiar with the Ministry of Agriculture's Municipal Tax Policy for agricultural Crown lands. This policy outlines how the ministry and the Rural Municipality (RM) can work together to ensure that any outstanding taxes levied on leased agricultural Crown land are paid in a timely fashion.

RM's can request payment for taxes owing on leased agricultural Crown land if there are any unpaid amounts five business days after December 31st of the year in which the taxes were levied. The first step is for the RM to complete and submit the **Agreement Cancellation Request Form** to Corporate Services. Corporate Services will not be sending out this form, it has been attached for your convenience. This form needs to be submitted no later than **February 5, 2023**. If you have questions please contact Corporate Services at billinginquiry@gov.sk.ca or 306-787-7191.

Once this form is received by the ministry, a Notice of Cancellation will be sent to the lessee. If taxes are not paid by the lessee within 21 business days after the issuance of the Notice of Cancellation, the lease will be cancelled. The ministry will only pay up to one year of tax arrears (the oldest tax year owing) to the RM directly and the ministry will take the necessary actions to recover the debt from the former lessee. If the RM receives payment for taxes, after the ministry provides a grant in lieu, from the former lessee on a cancelled lease, the RM will refund all taxes paid by the ministry.

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[Agreement Cancellation Request Form](#)

[Learn More](#)

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Centralized Board of Revision
Email [**cbor@adrsaskatchewan.ca**](mailto:cbor@adrsaskatchewan.ca)
Phone (306) 528-2131

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Thank you for your work and dedication in helping to ensure Saskatchewan ratepayers receive qualified property appeal services.

If you have any immediate questions, please contact [**property.tax@gov.sk.ca**](mailto:property.tax@gov.sk.ca).

[**Learn More**](#)

Date: February 7-9, 2023

Location: World Trade
Center at Prairieland

**50th Saskatchewan Safety
Seminar**

Seminar
Registration

The 2023 Saskatchewan Safety Seminar is **now OPEN for registration!** The Saskatchewan Safety Council is excited to return to Saskatoon for an in-person event.



This seminar will be an excellent opportunity for new or experienced safety practitioners (or those who wish to learn from them) to attend professional development sessions with experts on a variety of current safety related topics.

Information

Health Human Resources Action Plan Seeing Steady Progress

Saskatchewan continues to see steady, progressive results on its ambitious Health Human Resources (HHR) Action Plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health care professionals.

A total of 161 job offers have been made to Filipino health care workers to join Saskatchewan's health care system: 138 Registered Nurses, 21 Continuing Care Assistants (CCAs) and two Medical Lab Assistants. One CCA from the Philippines has already started working in Moose Jaw.

Progress also continues in implementing new full-time positions and enhancing vacant part-time positions to full-time in nine high-priority classifications in rural and remote locations experiencing service disruptions. Through this initiative, the SHA has hired 84 positions. As of December 9, 24 more positions are in the hiring process and 55 are posted. Approximately 75 per cent of these positions have been filled by casual, temporary or part-time staff.

To provide more opportunities for health care professionals, eligibility has recently been expanded for the Saskatchewan Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive of up to \$50,000 for a three-year return-in-service agreement. This incentive is available to new employees in nine high priority positions in rural and remote areas, including SHA employees who have completed an education program in one of these priority classifications.

To improve job offers and connections for Saskatchewan nursing graduates, the SHA recently launched a new **Grad Nurse Expression of Interest initiative** that matches graduates with an area based on skills and preferences. All Saskatchewan nursing students received this communication from the SHA through their respective colleges and/or through in-person recruitment events. So far, 52 students have submitted their expression of interest and 22 accepted conditional offers. The SHA is currently following up with the remaining applicants to extend further conditional offers.

[View December Progress Report](#)

Resources



Keep Up to Date with Winter Road Conditions Using the Hotline App

There were nearly 13 million visits to the Highway Hotline last year, so be sure to keep it in your travel plans.

Snowplows use blue and amber lights when plowing, salting or sanding to increase visibility, heighten awareness as well as increase safety for all operators and the public.

The Highway Hotline is looking out for you and your family this holiday season, so when conditions change, road conditions are updated.

Be sure to download the new Highway Hotline App, which is available for free in the Google and Apple online stores. A recently updated hotline provides the same functionality people are used to, with a new look and some new features.

The latest available road condition information can also be found by connecting online at: saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline or by calling 5-1-1. You can also follow the Highway Hotline on Twitter @SKGovHwyHotline for alerts, while general information can be found on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/SaskatchewanHighwayHotline.

The Ministry of Highways operates more than 300 snowplows serving a provincial highway network of more than 26,000 kilometres.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Farm Stress Line

Calls to the Farm Stress Line are answered by Mobile Crisis Services, a non-profit, community based agency providing crisis intervention services in Saskatchewan since 1974.

Whether it is information, conflict or crisis, the first step is communication. Call before the problem becomes a crisis. The Farm Stress Line can help if you are managing farm difficulties by providing support for farmers and ranchers.

The Farm Stress Line respects confidentiality. There is no call display.

The Farm Stress Line can help by:

- Clarifying the problem or concern and work with you toward a

solution;

- Connecting you with the appropriate organization, professional or program that best suits your needs; and/or
- Listening and supporting in a safe, neutral and non-judgmental environment.

Farm Stress Line

Toll Free: 1-800-667-4442

24 hours per day. Seven days per week.

[Learn More](#)



Cleanfarms Programs & Resources

Cleanfarms is a non-profit environmental stewardship organization. They work collaboratively with their members, partner agencies, and the government to ensure that Canadian farmers can actively contribute to a healthy environment and a sustainable future. Their programs create meaningful change, and offer a tangible way to address agricultural waste management and resource in the community.

Please see below for more program information and helpful resources.

Programs & Pilots

- ***Saskatchewan Grain Bag Stewardship Program***
- ***Prairie Seed Pesticide & Inoculant Pilot***
- ***Twine***

Resources & Regulations

Where you can recycle:

Find your nearest collection site using the Cleanfarms interactive map. Note: Actual materials accepted may vary on a location-by-location basis. Please contact the location to confirm acceptability of material before dropping anything off.

[Find a Collection Site](#)

What you can recycle:

- Bags & large tote bags
- Containers up to 23L
- Grain bags
- Totes & drums
- Unwanted pesticides & old livestock/equine medications

[Learn More](#)

- Cleanfarms' grain bag recycling program is an approved Product Stewardship

Program under ***The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship***

Regulation. This means that grain bag first sellers can meet their regulatory obligations through membership in Cleanfarms.

- Thanks to the leadership of the plant science and animal health medication industries, Cleanfarms' programs for empty containers and unwanted/outdated products are implemented on a voluntary basis in Saskatchewan.
- The Environmental Farm Plan program, a popular assessment tool, helps highlight a farm's environmental strengths. Find out how proper handling of farm waste fits into this in ***Saskatchewan***.
- ***Western Canada Large Volume Ag Plastics & Packaging Pickup***

Visit Cleanfarms Website

Take Steps to Reduce Waste this Holiday Season!

The Ministry of Environment is collaborating with the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council to encourage everyone in Saskatchewan to reduce the amount of garbage that ends up in the landfill this holiday season.

Residents can reduce their waste through recycling and composting. The Ministry of Environment has been sharing tips for low or no waste decorating, gift-giving and wrapping and post-holiday clean up on the ***Saskatchewan Environment Facebook page***.

More helpful information and tips about recycling and composting can be found on the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council website at: ***Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council***.

Want to learn more about how the province manages waste?

Saskatchewan's Solid Waste Management Strategy outlines practical and sustainable goals for the province's solid waste management system over the next 20 years.

The Ministry of Environment has released the Solid Waste Management Strategy annual report for 2021-22. It is available at: ***saskatchewan.ca/recycling***.

Examples of notable accomplishments for 2021-22 include:

Notable accomplishments

Created a communication strategy and public education campaign



Launched a waste disposal pilot program at 3211 Albert



Reduced landfills from 500 in 2015

↓
120 in 2022



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27-12-2022

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Information

2023 Annual Resolution Deadline

The deadline for submitting resolutions for the upcoming 2023 Annual Convention is **Saturday, January 28, 2023**, end of day. Resolutions must be received in the SARM office by this date in order to be addressed at the convention and included in the resolution booklet. Please email resolutions to resolutions@sarm.ca.

Linked below for your convenience are the Guide the Writing Resolutions and the Resolution Submission Form.

Please remember that each resolution submission must include a brief (no more than 500 word) background that answers the questions provided in the attached resolution submission form.

Guide to Writing
Resolutions

Resolution Submission
Form

Consultation - Interactions between RMs and Oil and Gas Industry

Holterman Waller Strategy Inc. (HW Strategy) was engaged recently by the Ministry of Energy & Resources (the Ministry) to act as an independent facilitator to lead an engagement process with municipal and oil and gas industry stakeholders regarding understanding the need for potentially creating a single-window application to support efficient business interactions for both parties and to directly respond to Growth Plan commitments.

Ultimately this engagement is about understanding the current state and

need for solutions for RMs and industry, and whether Government has a role to play to help support reducing barriers and improving transparency and efficiency.

This process is meant to be open-minded, with no preconceived end solution.

HW Strategy will be reaching out to RMs with oil and gas activity and associated industry players to coordinate engagement sessions focused on hearing perspectives on the following:

- Regarding transactions and interactions between RMs and industry, how much has changed over the past 5 to 10 years?
- Currently, what is working well for RMs? For industry?
- Currently, what are the pain points for RMs? For industry?
- What are the key processes and transactions and how does technology currently serve them? What are the current services and tools being used?
- Where are there gaps and potentially opportunities for technology to address those gaps in the future? Are there any barriers to do so?
- Are there interactions between other stakeholders that are inefficient that could be better supported by technology?
- Being future oriented, what is the level of comfort in dealing with emerging resource sectors and are their lessons learned from the oil and gas sector experience that can be applied to these emerging resources to be ready for growth?

Please see the letter to Minister Reiter expressing SARM's concerns linked below.

[Letter to Minister Reiter](#)

Resources

Transport Canada's Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement - Call for Proposals

The recently launched **Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement** is intended to support Indigenous and local communities to participate in rail safety initiatives in Canada. The program provides funding in the form of a contribution to a maximum of \$150,000 per recipient and per application. The call for proposals opened December 15th, 2022 and will remain open until February 16, 2023,



Links to key documents:

- ***Applicant Guide***
- ***Project Proposal Template***
- ***Budget Template***

In addition to the above PERSE program, Transport Canada also offers the **Community Participant Funding Program – Rail Safety Component**, which

with the intention to have contribution agreements in place for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Please note that expenses will only be eligible as of the project approval date which will be sent to you if your project is selected. Expenses incurred prior to the approval date will not be eligible. This program is intended to provide financial capacity support for resources to participate in eligible activities such as:

- Holding discussions to address gaps in Indigenous and local engagement on rail safety
- Engaging at the local and regional level on Indigenous and local communities' representation in rail safety
- Researching the impact rail lines have on communities or traditional territories.

Further information on this call for funding applications can be [*found here*](#). Information sessions will take place on **January 17th and 25th, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. (French) and 2:00 p.m. (English) EST**. To register for an information session, to ask questions, or to submit an application, please contact us at [*ProgramEnhanceREngagement-ProgrammeAmeliorerMobilisationSF@tc.gc.ca*](mailto:ProgramEnhanceREngagement-ProgrammeAmeliorerMobilisationSF@tc.gc.ca).

is focused on providing short-term grants of up to \$5k per activity, to support local and Indigenous community and organization rail safety engagement activities. The CPFP-RS has an open and ongoing call for grant proposals.

Transport Canada would like to learn more about how you wish to be involved in rail safety. If you have questions on the programs or are interested in the working group, please do not hesitate to contact Transport Canada.

Transport Canada

330 Sparks St

Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

Email: [*questions@tc.gc.ca*](mailto:questions@tc.gc.ca)

Toll-free: 1-866-995-9737

Telephone: 613-990-2309

PERSE Program

CPFP-RS Program

Applications Now Being Accepted for the Transportation Rescue Extrication Program

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is now accepting applications from Saskatchewan fire departments for the Transportation Rescue Extrication (TREX) Program, which provides auto extraction training and equipment. The TREX Program is supported by one-time funding of \$5.6 million from SGI and administered by the SPSA.

The first of its kind in Canada, the TREX Program was developed in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (SVFFA), the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs (SAFC) and the Provincial Training Standards Committee.

Transportation Rescue Extrication (TRES) Program Applications Open

The TRES program is supported by **\$5.6 million** in funding from SGI to provide **auto extrication training and equipment** to Saskatchewan fire departments.



saskpublicsafety.ca

Saskatchewan
PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY

The program's objectives are to:

- Enhance capacity for fire departments to respond to motor vehicle collisions through the provision of funded training and equipment.
- Ensure participating fire departments can maintain their response levels by having set program criteria.
- Provide the SPSA and SGI with the ability to measure program success for a minimum of five years once each participating community enters the maintenance phase of the program.

The SPSA will facilitate mass training events for fire departments who do not have the capacity to hold their own training as required by the TRES Program guidelines and vendors. The first mass training event will be held in Regina from March 31 to April 2, 2023. More information about how fire departments can participate in training events will be released in late January.

Fire departments can learn more and apply for the TRES Program by visiting saskpublicsafety.ca/first-responders/trex-program.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Take Time to Plan Your Travel this Holiday Season

Be sure to include the Highway Hotline in your travel plans this holiday season!

The Highway Hotline, Saskatchewan's provincial road information system, is open 24-hours a day, seven-days a week during the winter months to ensure updates are entered as quickly as possible into our online and voicemail system. Maps and information are updated at least three times per day or as conditions require.

An additional six new cameras were added earlier this month, which will be used by travelers as well as ministry staff, who monitor highways across the province and report road conditions through the hotline. There are 47 cameras located across the province.

You can also download the free Highway Hotline app to your smart phone or tablet by visiting the App Store or Google Play. When using the application, remember to touch and hold the segment of road for detailed information.

Hotline updates can also be found at: saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline. Information and recordings for road information can also be accessed by dialing 511.

The Ministry of Highways' Customer Service Centre can answer questions or concerns regarding signage, work zones, winter maintenance and more. Reach out by calling 1-844-SK-HIWAY, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or visit us online at: saskatchewan.ca/highways.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Award Program Funding

FireSmart Canada is a national organization whose goal is to help Canadians increase neighborhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative effects. FireSmart Canada designs science-based programs that empower residents to take small steps, around their homes and property, that have lasting impacts. FireSmart Canada works in collaboration with provincial and territorial chapters to implement and deliver its programs and services. No matter where you live, you can be FireSmart! To learn more about FireSmart Canada, visit www.firesmartcanada.ca.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a national campaign organized by FireSmart Canada. It is recognized annually on the first Saturday in May. In 2023, it will take place on Saturday, May 6.

FireSmart Canada, in collaboration with its partners, offers a \$500 award program to help communities fund their Preparedness Day events. Preparedness Day events encourage residents and communities to come together at any time between May and October 2023 to host events and work on projects that raise awareness of wildfire risk and increase resilience to it.

The SPSA encourages Saskatchewan communities and organizations to take advantage of this opportunity for free funding. More information on the program, as well as the application form, can be [found here](#).

Additionally, the above website also provides event ideas and resources, free for

download.

The application deadline is **January 31, 2023.**

[Learn More / Apply](#)

[WCPD Poster \(PDF\)](#)

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