



The Weekly Policy Bulletin

3-1-2023

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Reminders

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.

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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](#)

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).
- 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

Information

Date: February 7-9, 2023

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

Seminar Registration

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.

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10-1-2023

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Feedback

Proposed Amendments Regarding Organized Hamlets

The Ministry of Government Relations is considering amendments to the organized hamlet (OH) provisions within *The Municipalities Regulations*. The ministry is seeking feedback on the proposal outlined below. NOTE: these are proposed and not yet approved by government.

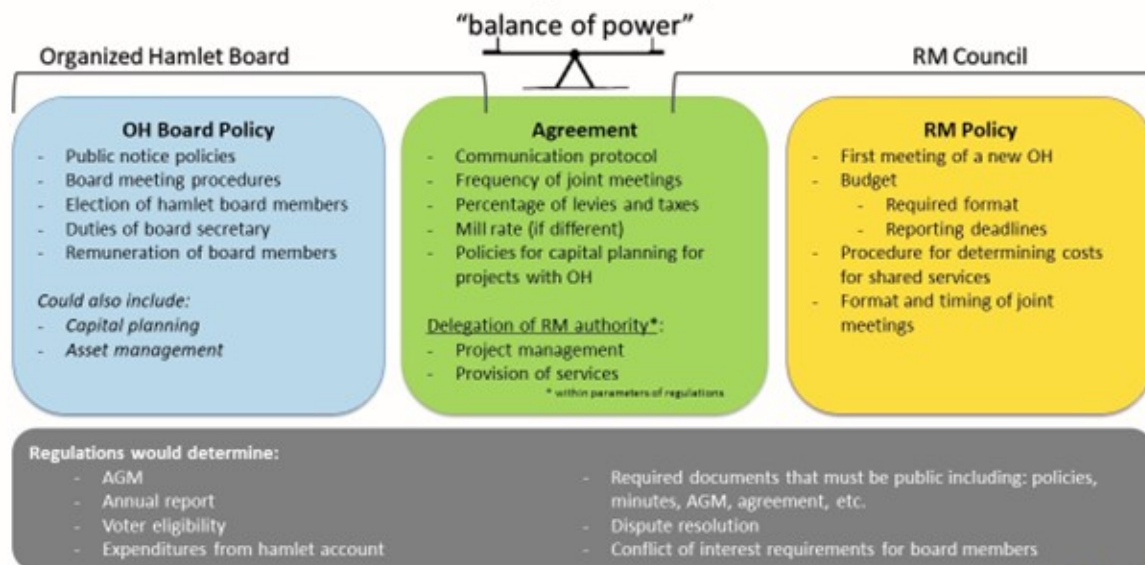
In spring 2020, there were limited amendments to *The Municipalities Act* regarding OHs that allowed for future regulation amendments to help clarify various matters. In summer 2021, the ministry conducted three focus groups with OH board members, rural municipality (RM) councillors, and administrators. Feedback from these focus groups showed the diversity of how OHs currently

operate, where consistency is needed, and their most common challenges. The proposed new model aims to clarify who is responsible and accountable for which items in the relationship between RMs and OHs. Currently, the roles and responsibilities for RMs and their respective OHs are not clearly defined in regulations, which can lead to conflict and misunderstandings of the purpose of organized hamlets.

The proposed solution clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of OH boards and RM councils using:

1. A board-like structure, requiring the OH board to operate according to board policies.
2. Required RM policies regarding processes for OHs.
3. A written agreement between the OH board and the RM council.
4. An improved dispute resolution process, including mediation.
5. Conflict of interest requirements for OH board members.

Overview of Regulatory Framework



The focus group identified that a one size fits all approach would not meet the needs of most OH-RM relationships, as they have diverse characteristics. The proposed model allows flexibility in meeting requirements while ensuring transparency and accountability for both the OH and RM.

The blue box on the left of Figure 1 outlines the policies of the hamlet board. While the content of these policies can vary, each hamlet board needs to have, and follow, transparent policies and procedures in the identified areas, for the benefit of both OH residents and the RM.

The yellow box on the right of Figure 1 outlines the policies the RM would be required to adopt. As with the hamlet board policies, the RM policies ensure that the hamlet board has clear expectations, and the processes are consistent and predictable. Even when the RM has the authority to make decisions and alter processes, doing so unilaterally and without notice can lead to strained relationships between council and the hamlet board. Therefore, RM policy would clearly establish the processes it will follow to introduce fairness, and council could then be held accountable for following them.

The green box in the middle of Figure 1 outlines where the responsibilities and authority overlap. These are the most reported sources of disagreement. The RM and the OH would work together to create, maintain, and review a written agreement. This agreement is intended to prevent future disagreements. The grey box at the bottom of Figure 1 outlines what rules and procedures would be prescribed by the regulations. The regulations will include items where consistency is important and the public interest must be protected, such as rules for dispute resolution and conflicts of interest.

The desired outcomes of this proposed model include:

- improving the relationships between OHs and RMs by clarifying responsibilities;
- clarifying the roles of both the OH and the RM in governance and decision-making; and
- high-functioning boards that are valued partners in responding to the unique needs of OH residents.

The Ministry of Government Relations is seeking feedback from stakeholders on this proposed model. All feedback is to be collected by **February 15, 2023**. If you are interested in reviewing detailed wording of the amendments, have questions, or feedback please contact Chelsea Lehner, Senior Legislative Analyst at the Ministry of Government. She can be reached at: regs@gov.sk.ca or contact sarm@sarm.ca and your feedback can be submitted.

Information

2023 SARM Elections- President, Vice President, Division 2,4,6

The 2023 SARM Annual Convention will have elections for President, Vice President, and Division Director positions in Division 2, 4, 6.

All elected positions are two-year terms. The two-year terms of office for the six Directors are staggered, with the two-year term for the Directors of Divisions 1, 3 and 5 from the election at the annual convention in an even year and continuing until the completion of the election for those positions at the annual convention two years henceforth. The two-year terms for the Directors of Divisions 2, 4 and 6 are from the election at the annual convention in an odd year and continuing until the completion of the election for those positions at the annual convention two years henceforth.

Pursuant to the SARM bylaws, the deadline for nominations for the 2023 elections is 5:00 PM, Thursday, February 16th, 2023. The 2023 SARM Annual Convention will have elections on Thursday, March 16th, 2023.

Nominations can be submitted by email to jmeyer@sarm.ca. The candidate's acceptance form must be filed by the same deadlines in the same manner.

Provincial Indexation, Tax Credits Help with Affordability



The Saskatchewan Affordability Tax Credit (SATC) payment and indexation are among the government initiatives helping make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people.

Indexation of the provincial Personal Income Tax (PIT) system preserves the real value of personal tax credits, the income tax brackets, as well as benefits such as the Saskatchewan Low-Income Tax Credit.

Indexation will result in Saskatchewan residents seeing \$94.5 million in annual income tax savings. The level of indexation in 2023 will be 6.3 per cent, which matches the annual average national inflation rate from October 2021 to September 2022. The combined effect of the indexation of the tax system from 2007 through the 2023 taxation year is saving Saskatchewan taxpayers a total of approximately \$284.5 million in 2023.

In 2023 through indexation, on average, an individual with an income of \$25,000 will see \$125 in savings, a family of four with a combined annual income of \$75,000 will save \$371 and a family of four with a combined annual income of \$100,000 will save \$362.

In late August, the Government of Saskatchewan introduced the Four Point Affordability Plan and in addition to the one-time \$500 SATC payments, the small business tax rate reduction was extended by a year to further support small businesses as they continue to recover from the pandemic and face inflationary pressures.

Also helping with affordability, families in Saskatchewan with children enrolled in sports, arts and cultural activities will continue to be able to claim the Active Families Benefit on their 2022 taxes.

[View Full News Release](#)

Regulatory Changes – Boards of Revision and Assessment Appeals

The Ministry of Government Relations would like to inform you about recent regulatory changes regarding boards of revision. Government has amended *The Municipalities Regulations*, *The Cities Regulations*, and *The Northern Municipalities Regulations* to make improvements to the assessment appeals process in three areas:

- 1.) The centralized board of revision is provided with the duties of a local

board of revision when chosen or required. These regulations only mandate the use of the centralized board of revision as a last resort, for municipalities unable or unwilling to appoint their own **certified** board when the assessment roll is open. In this instance, the centralized board of revision would become the default board so property owners are able to have their appeals heard and decided.

Municipalities that choose or are required to use the centralized board will cover the actual costs of the appeals, as they do now with their own appointed boards of revision.

ADR Institute of Saskatchewan Inc. will serve as the centralized board of revision. ADR is a non-profit independent organization. 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. The contact information for the centralized board of revision is as follows:

Email **cbor@adrsaskatchewan.ca**

Phone (306) 528-2131

2.) The second improvement that these amendments make is to allow documents related to assessment appeals to be sent by email. This is intended to improve service for property owners by making the process faster and more convenient. Allowing electronic services of documents is a complementary service and not a substitute for the existing process.

3.) The thresholds for simplified appeals for non-residential properties have been increased to \$750,000 to better reflect property revaluations over recent years and are the same in all three municipal regulations. This means more appellants will be eligible to choose the simplified appeal process, which is less formal. An appeal under a simplified process can be decided by a single-person panel. This may help reduce appeal hearing costs for municipalities and be more convenient for property owners. The simplified appeal process remains an option for the appellant who may still decide to have a three-member board hearing of the appeal. Single-family residential property owners may continue to choose the simplified process regardless of their property's assessed value.

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. The information about certification, the current list of certified boards of the revision, and the process of appointing the centralized board of revision can be **[reviewed here](#)**.

The Ministry of Government Relations thanks you for your involvement in the consultations and leadership on these changes directly and through your municipal associations, to help ensure Saskatchewan taxpayers receive qualified appeal services.

[View Regulation Amendments](#)

Resources

Harassment Prevention Policy Template for Municipalities

Back in 2019 SARM and SUMA shared a template for all municipalities to use when dealing with harassment issues in their municipalities. Whether the harasser is a municipal employee, council member, ratepayer, contractor, etc., this template policy sets out a process to ensure harassment is dealt with appropriately and promptly.

To encourage individuals concerned about harassment to come forward, the template refers to “written reports” and “individual who alleges harassment” instead of “filing a complaint” or “complainant.” The template also provides clear examples on what is and is not acceptable in the workplace.

As there is no one size fits all approach for dealing with harassment in the workplace, the harassment prevention policy template was designed to be flexible for use in municipalities of all sizes. Municipalities are encouraged to revise the policy to fit their specific needs, and if necessary, consult a legal professional for specific advice.

Please see below for a copy of the policy template.

[Harassment Prevention Policy Template](#)

Respect in the Workplace Training

Since 2019, SARM has been fortunate to offer the Respect in the Workplace Training at half the cost due to SARM’s partnership with the Respect Group. This program is designed to empower your team with the skills to prevent bullying, abuse, harassment, and discrimination. Our goal is to have our members, both council and staff, certify themselves through the training. The program takes approximately 90 minutes and is



Linked below, in both English and French, are the registration and access instructions for *Respect in the Workplace*. You will also see the “*Respect in the Workplace One pager*”. Providing these instructions to your users simplifies the registration process for end-users and reduces possible confusion or challenges.

done online in one sitting, but we recommend you break it up. You can come and go from the modules. The focus of the training is on culture change but of equal importance is the legal risk and liability avoidance it affords.

The certification costs \$20.00 per person. Councils and staff simply register for the training. SARM will invoice the members on a quarterly basis based on your activity. It's as simple as that.

For helpdesk support, please go to <https://support.respectgroupinc.com>.

Let's have a goal of all our members to become Respect Certified.

[View One Pager](#)

[Registration \(ENG\)](#)

[Registration \(FR\)](#)



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](#)

For an Overview of the Healthy Canadians and Communities Fund, Applicant guide, to Apply and more, visit:

[Learn More / Apply](#)

NEW EXTENSION – Deadline for the Healthy Canadians and Communities Fund

The Public Health Agency of Canada, HCCF Team, would like to inform you that the deadline for submission of the Advanced Screening Forms (ASF) to the Implement phase Solicitation for the Healthy Canadians and Communities Fund has been further extended to **January 18, 2023 at 3pm EST**.

Please note that organizations that have already started or submitted their applications will be able to continue editing their responses until this new deadline.

Organizations that have already submitted their applications, and do not wish to continue editing prior to this extended deadline, will not be required to take any further action.

Please contact the HCCF Team at hccf-fscc@phac-aspc.gc.ca if you have any questions.

Determining Compensation when Payable to the Crown: Street and Road Closures

The Ministry of Highways has prepared a guide to assist municipalities in determining compensation as per the Road Closure Guide as per the Road Closure Guide Page 10: Checklist Item #4 ([PDF accessible here](#)). Compensation is payable to the Crown (Ministry of Highways) if the land was previously purchased for a provincial highway.

For further information, please review the Ministry of Government Relations [website](#).

[Determining Compensation](#)

[Street and Road Closures Guide](#)

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[Nomination and Acceptance Form](#)

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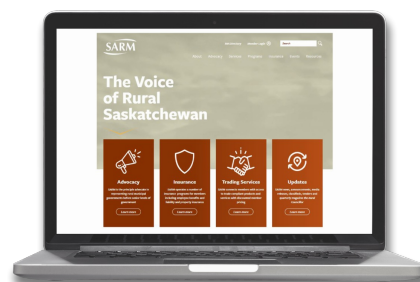
[Harassment Prevention Policy Template](#)

Information

SARM RM Directory

Don't forget to update the RM Directory on the SARM website. This will ensure that SARM and the public are kept up to date with current RM council details.

To access your RM Directory profile on the



SARM website, please [log in here](#) and click on the “Manage your RM Directory Listing” link that is located under the Administrator’s Access for Updates heading on the Members Only homepage.

If you require any assistance, please contact coordinator@sarm.ca.

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50th Saskatchewan Safety Seminar

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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.

Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan Invest \$17.6 Million in Crop Research

Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced total funding of \$17.6 million today for crop-related research in 2023.

Invested through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), the announcement includes \$10.3 million for 49 research projects, as well as \$7.2 million in operational support over the next five years for the Crop Development Centre (CDC) in Saskatoon. Since being established in 1971, the CDC - a research organization with the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan - has released over 500 commercial crop varieties in over 40 different crop types.

Examples of the individual research projects being funded include exploring the diversity of *Fusarium* root to species infecting pulse crops, insect response to climate change and ag inputs across the prairies, economic salinity remediation strategies for agriculture water using innovative desalinization minerals and a nutritionally balanced pulse-oilseed protein-based beverage.

An additional \$4.6 million was contributed in support of this year's research projects by the following industry partners:

- Alberta Wheat Commission
- Alberta Barley Commission
- Alberta Canola Producers Commission
- Manitoba Crop Alliance
- Manitoba Canola Growers
- Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission

- Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
- Prairie Oat Growers Association
- Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association
- Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission
- Western Grains Research Foundation

For more information, including a full list of funded projects, [click here](#).

[View Full News Release](#)

Resources

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 \(PDF\)](#)

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.

For more information on the municipal tax policy, please visit www.saskatchewan.ca.

[Agreement Cancellation Request Form](#)

[Learn More](#)

2022 Clubroot Distribution in Saskatchewan

[On January 9, 2023], the Government of Saskatchewan released the **2022 Saskatchewan Clubroot Distribution Map**, which outlines the rural municipalities (RMs) where clubroot has been identified.

In 2022, visible clubroot symptoms were recorded in two more commercial canola fields and the clubroot pathogen was detected in four new fields. To date, visible clubroot symptoms have been confirmed in 82 commercial fields while the clubroot pathogen has been detected through DNA-based testing in 42 fields where there were no visible symptoms. These results show the importance of continuing to monitor and manage clubroot, which is a declared pest under *The Pest Control Act*.

All producers with visible clubroot symptoms or fields with the presence of the pathogen have been notified. The specific land locations are kept

confidential and not shared publicly to protect the producer's privacy. Land locations are only shared with the appropriate RM if they have clubroot-specific bylaws enacted and visible symptoms have been confirmed

The Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with SaskCanola, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation and plant health officers, implemented the clubroot monitoring program to understand the distribution and severity of the disease in the province and where it has been already detected. The program includes in-field surveillance, free on-farm soil DNA testing for producers and agrologists and encouraging clubroot reporting from producers and industry.

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

24-1-2023

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Reminders

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 convention guide. Please email resolutions to [**resolutions@sarm.ca**](mailto: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

2023 SARM Elections- President, Vice President, Division 2,4,6

The 2023 SARM Annual Convention will have elections for President, Vice President, and Division Director positions in Division 2, 4, 6.

All elected positions are two-year terms. The two-year terms of office for the six Directors are staggered, with the two-year term for the Directors of Divisions 1, 3 and 5 from the election at the annual convention in an even year and continuing until the completion of the election for those positions at the annual convention two years henceforth. The two-year terms for the Directors of Divisions 2, 4 and 6 are from the election at the annual

convention in an odd year and continuing until the completion of the election for those positions at the annual convention two years henceforth.

Pursuant to the SARM bylaws, the deadline for nominations for the 2023 elections is 5:00 PM, Thursday, February 16th, 2023. The 2023 SARM Annual Convention will have elections on Thursday, March 16th, 2023.

Nominations can be submitted by email to jmeyer@sarm.ca. The candidate's acceptance form must be filed by the same deadlines in the same manner.

[Nomination and Acceptance Form](#)

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 \(PDF\)](#)

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

Seminar
Registration

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.

Information

Celebrating Rural Ranching Women 2023

Celebrate the strength of rural and ranching women at this event filled with topics ranging from technical presentations to producer panels!

This event will be filled with presentations from industry partners, extension specialists and researchers.

Keynote speaker Lee McLean will reflect on the challenges, opportunities, and lifelong learning faced by farming and ranching women. Other topics include:

- Updates on ministry led research projects and new technologies.
- Importance of semen testing and interpreting semen quality reports.
- Cattle market update, pasture rejuvenation, mineral programs and water quality.
- Financial management discussions.
- A feature producer panel focused on how to approach challenges and adversity.

Date & Time: Thu, 2 Feb 2023, 3:30 PM – Fri, 3 Feb 2023, 4:00 PM CST

Location: Maple Creek Armories, 502 Marsh Street, Maple Creek, SK S0N 1N0

Fee: \$75

Please contact Jordan Johnson at jordan.johnson10@gov.sk.ca or 306-741-6800 with any dietary restrictions.

Register Here



TOP NOTCH FARMING

SaskCanola is hosting Top Notch Farming meetings during winter 2023 in partnership with SaskBarley, Saskatchewan Agriculture and other organizations. There is no fee to attend and lunch will be provided.

Meeting topics will include market outlook, agronomy, new research, health, and policy updates. Please see details below:

Location: North Battleford
Date: January 31, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

Location: Saskatoon
Date: February 1, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

Location: Regina
Date: February 7, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

Location: Swift Current
Date: February 8, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

Location: Melfort
Date: February 15, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

RSM's Regina Urban Wildlife Research Program Enters Second Year

The Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) in conjunction with the University of Regina just concluded their first year of monitoring urban wildlife in and around Regina. The Regina Urban Wildlife Research Program began in fall 2021 and aims to provide a better understanding of what kind of wildlife is found within the city and which parts of the city provide important habitat for wildlife.

The RSM set up 17 biodiversity monitoring stations that consist of trail cameras to monitor large mammals and microphones that record bird songs and bat calls. These stations are active for one-month periods in the spring, summer, fall and winter.



The songs of 41 species of birds were recorded in the fall and winter periods and researchers are currently listening to the recordings from the summer when there are a lot more bird species in the city.

The stations are evenly distributed at locations in the middle of the city, on the edges and in more natural areas well outside the city boundaries. This will be an ongoing research project in Regina and the RSM plans to expand into new areas of the city in 2023.

The RSM is also excited to announce that they have partnered with the Saskatchewan Science Centre to develop a citizen science urban wildlife project in Regina that will launch in spring/summer 2023.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Government of
Saskatchewan and
Sask Pork Invest \$1
Million in Swine Disease

Preparedness

[On January 18, 2023], Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced \$700,000 in funding to support swine disease mitigation efforts. Sask Pork will also be providing \$300,000 toward a swine market disruption plan, which will help industry respond to potential market closures due to an animal health emergency event such as African swine fever.



The funding will support the creation of a cull line at the sow processing facility Donald's Fine Foods is constructing in Moose Jaw. This would allow for humane slaughter of domestic hogs if a serious swine disease outbreak ever temporarily stopped trade.

African swine fever (ASF) is a viral disease that only impacts pigs. To date, ASF has never been detected in Canada.

The public can reduce the risk of ASF infection in Saskatchewan pigs by declaring all animal and food products, as well as out-of-country farm visits at the border, when entering Canada, to prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases.

[Read Full News Release](#)

SGI Policy Update - Fire Suppression & Vehicle Extrication Services

Please find some of the details listed below regarding SGI's 2023 Fire Suppression & Vehicle Extrication Services policy update, commencing January 1, 2023:

- SGI will be the first payer in all situations where fire suppression and rescue/extrication service providers attend to an accident scene within the province.
- Fire departments can submit their invoice for services provided as a result of an accident involving a motor vehicle or for a loss to a motor vehicle (i.e. fire) within the province along with the SGI VEHICLE FIRE AND ACCIDENT CLAIM FORM to NorthFireInvoices@sgi.sk.ca or SouthFireInvoices@sgi.sk.ca.
- A motor vehicle is defined as a vehicle that is required to be licensed to be operated on a public highway within the province.
- Effective January 1, 2023, SGI will pay for services at the rate of \$1,036.34 per hour pro rated, by the minute, after the first hour when fire suppression or vehicle extrication services were provided as a result of a motor vehicle accident or loss to the motor vehicle within the province. (This rate includes all services performed, all personnel dispatched and all vehicles/equipment required at the scene.)
- The rate will also be paid in the following situations even though no fire

suppression or vehicle extrication services were performed:

- (1) fire department responds to a motor vehicle accident where hazardous materials were being transported and the fire department has been requested to remain at the scene until the hazardous materials have been recovered
- (2) fire department responds to a serious motor vehicle accident which resulted in a fatality or fatalities
- The rate for service will be adjusted effective January 1st of each year by the Consumer Price Index for the province for the previous year.

For the full policy update, please click the link below.

[SGI Policy Update](#)

Resources

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) Now Accepting Applications!

On January 16th 2023, Infrastructure Canada launched a call for applications to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF).

The DMAF is a national, competitive, and merit-based contribution program intended to support infrastructure projects designed to mitigate current and future climate-related risks and disasters triggered by natural hazards, such as floods, wildland fires, droughts and seismic events.

Eligible projects include new construction of public infrastructure and/or modification or reinforcement of existing public infrastructure, including natural infrastructure, that prevent, mitigate or protect against the impacts of climate change, disasters triggered by natural hazards, and extreme weather.



This additional funding, combined with the remaining program funding, makes more than \$1 billion available for this application intake.

Information on the DMAF, including the applicant's guide, eligibility criteria, and how to apply, is available on their website.

Webinars will be offered this winter to support potential applicants in preparing their applications. The schedule and registration information for these webinars will be published on the program website in the coming weeks.

Applications **must be submitted to Infrastructure Canada through the application portal accessible via the DMAF website.** Applications will be accepted at any time before the portal closes on **July 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. (EDT).**

You can contact Infrastructure Canada at dmaf-faac@infcc.gc.ca if you have questions about the program or if you would like to

As part of the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan, released alongside Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy, the DMAF received an additional \$489.1 million in funding in November 2022.

organize a call with them to discuss.

[Learn More](#)

If you are interested in additional information regarding the grant, please [click here](#) and you will see a PDF outlining the grant guidelines and additional information on how to apply for the grant.

[Learn More](#)



REVISED: SGI's Provincial Traffic Safety Grant Program

SARM has been in contact with SGI regarding the availability of grants that are available to improve traffic safety within RMs. SGI offers a Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant program. Its goal is to stimulate and support local, collaborative action that will increase traffic safety awareness. The deadline for submissions for the spring intake is **March 31st**.

We at SARM encourage our members to look at the program and, even if the March deadline is too soon, consider participating, if not this spring, later this year during the fall intake as this program is a great initiative by SGI to try and reduce traffic accidents and make our roadways safer.

If you have any questions, please contact Colin Warnecke, Manager of Risk Management, at cwarnecke@sarm.ca.

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The weekly **Policy Bulletin**



January 31, 2023

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[Learn More / Apply](#)

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For the full policy update, please click the link below.

SGI Policy Update

Fire / Accident Claims Forms

If you are interested in additional information regarding the grant, please **[click here](#)** and you will see a PDF outlining the grant guidelines and additional information on how to apply for the grant.



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[Learn More](#)

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If you have any questions, please contact Colin Warnecke, Manager of Risk Management, at cwarnecke@sarm.ca.

Information

Crown Land Grazing Rates Adjusted for 2023

The Government of Saskatchewan is freezing the 2023 rate charged to producers who lease Crown grazing land. Additionally, for 2023, lessees who must reduce their stocking rates on Crown land due to ongoing dry conditions will be eligible for a rent reduction to a maximum of 50 per cent.

Saskatchewan's Crown grazing rates are established annually using a formula based on fall cattle prices and the long-term stocking rate of each parcel of land. This year's rate freeze will apply to all grazing leases across the province.

A 2023 rent reduction will apply in situations where an individual lessee or pasture association must reduce the number of animals grazing Crown leases by 20 per cent or more, compared to the approved long-term carrying capacity of that land. The 2023 rate reduction will match the reduction in carrying capacity, ranging from a 20 per cent rate reduction up to a maximum of 50 per cent.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Recruit • Train • Incentivize • Retain



Eligibility Expanded for Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive

Since its introduction last fall, progress has been made in approving a total of 31 Saskatchewan Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive packages to a

Saskatchewan continues to make progress in attracting and recruiting health care workers from home and abroad as part of the province's Health Human Resources (HHR) Action Plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health care professionals.

Registered Nurses (RNs) from the Philippines who received conditional offers have begun working their way through the RN Pathway which includes language, bridging education and licensing. A full staff complement of health recruitment and retention navigators are now in place and have sent a survey to over 1,000 participants who attended in-person sessions in Manila to learn more about their experience. These navigators will assist all potential international recruits with the steps and processes needed to gain employment in Saskatchewan's health care system.

Progress also continues in creating more permanent full-time positions and attracting health professionals to high priority positions in rural and remote areas across Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has hired more than half of the new full-time and enhanced part-time to full-time permanent positions posted, with over 90 of those positions now filled.

variety of professionals including Registered Nurses, Medical Lab Technologists, and Combined Lab and X-Ray Technologists. These one-time incentive packages are available in 52 Saskatchewan communities for up to \$50,000 for a three-year return-of-service agreement for nine eligible health professions.

More opportunities are available to connect nursing graduates with job offers. Of the 78 graduates from the December cohort, 68 students have submitted their expression of interest to the SHA for the **Grad Nurse Expression of Interest initiative** that matches graduates with an area based on skills and preferences. As of January 18, 2023, 29 students have accepted conditional job offers.

The HHR Action Plan is also advancing First Nations and Métis recruitment and retention initiatives. The Indigenous Birth Support Worker program, a partnership between the Saskatchewan Health Authority and The Gabriel Dumont Institute, is offering 12 seats for an eight-week program commencing March 2023. Recruitment and retention engagement sessions with a number of First Nations, Tribal Councils and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan were held in November, December and January. Progress continues under each of the four pillars of Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources Action Plan.

[Read Full News Release](#)

[Learn More](#)

Governments Of Canada and Saskatchewan Invest \$6 Million in Livestock and Forage Research

A total of \$6 million in funding was announced today by Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit for livestock and forage research activities.



Provided through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), funded under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, this will support a total of 34 new scientific projects for 2023.

This year's projects, which are submitted annually and awarded funding on a competitive basis, focus on topics such as developing water quality test kits for agricultural ponds in Saskatchewan, developing economic thresholds and sampling plans for lesser clover leaf weevil in red clover, and development of an effective, multivalent vaccine to control foot rot in cattle.

In addition to the federal-provincial ADF funding, a total of \$288,530 for 12 livestock and forage projects was contributed by seven industry co-funders:

- Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association
- Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
- Sask Milk
- Alberta Milk
- Results Driven Agriculture Research

The ADF is supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes a \$2 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories, including a \$388 million investment in strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture. The CAP ends on **March 31, 2023**.

[Read Full News Release](#)

[Learn More](#)



More Than \$500,000 Invested Toward 15 New Municipal Projects to Strengthen Communities

[On January 27, 2023], Government Relations Minister Don McMorris announced 15 new municipal projects that will receive a combined provincial investment of more than \$500,000 under the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative.

Projects include developing a land use plan in the RM of Paddockwood north of Prince Albert, producing a shared policy manual for municipal officials in various west-central communities, and creating a regional emergency plan in the Lanigan area in central Saskatchewan.

This is the fourth round of projects approved under the TSS Initiative, which is funded through the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. SUMA administers this funding on behalf of the TSS Steering Committee.

TSS projects are funded under one of the following streams: dispute resolution and relationship building, capacity building, regional co-operation, and municipal transition.

All Saskatchewan

The TSS Initiative provides cost-shared grants to support municipalities partnering to enhance their core responsibilities through projects focused on good governance, capacity building and regional co-operation. Funding covers up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs. More details about funding recipients and their approved projects are in the attached backgrounder.

Projects are reviewed and approved by the TSS Steering Committee, which consists of representatives from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North) and the Ministry of Government Relations.

municipalities are encouraged to apply for TSS funding in the next intake for applications, which is expected to open in early March.

[Read Full
News
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Resources

Ministry of Agriculture 2023 Winter Lease Auction

The Ministry of Agriculture's Crown lands that are available for lease through public auction in advance of the 'go live' date. Please find attached the catalogue for the Winter 2023 offering. You can access the auction once it opens on **January 31, 2023**, at the McDougall Auctioneers Ltd. website: www.mcdougallbay.com.

The auction is scheduled to open on **January 31, 2023**, and will have staggered close dates of **February 14, 16 and March 3**.

[Visit Website](#)

[View Catalogue](#)



Call for Applications - Infrastructure Canada's Rural Transit Solutions Fund: Capital Projects Stream

The Rural Transit Solutions Fund is pleased to announce that Infrastructure Canada is now accepting applications for the Capital Projects stream of Infrastructure Canada's Rural Transit Solutions Fund, which is part of the Permanent Public Transit Program.

Applications for the Capital Project stream will be accepted on a rolling intake basis through the Applicant Portal, which can be accessed on Infrastructure Canada's [website](#), along with other useful information to assist with the application process. The *Applicant Guide for the Capital Stream of the Rural Transit Solutions Fund* can be found on the website, which provides detailed information on the Rural Transit Solutions Fund, including applicant and project eligibility requirements. Also, the *Step-by-Step Guide for Applications to the*

The Rural Transit Solutions Fund is the first federal fund to target the development of transit solutions in rural and remote communities. It is making \$250 million in federal funding available over five years to support the development of locally-driven transit solutions that will help people living in these communities get to work, school and appointments, and visit loved ones. A minimum of 10% of the total fund amount will be allocated to projects that benefit Indigenous populations and communities.

Through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund, eligible applicants can seek a contribution of up to \$3 million to help cover capital costs (e.g. purchase of a vehicle or digital platforms); and up to \$5 million to support zero-emission transit solutions (e.g. for the purchase of a zero-emission vehicles).

Capital Stream of the Rural Transit Solutions Fund provides guidance on completing applications. Applicants may also register via the website for one of the webinars for potential applicants, which will provide information on the process of developing and submitting an application.

Any inquiries related to the Rural Transit Solutions Fund may be submitted to: rtsf-fstcr@info.gc.ca via email, or 1-833-699-2280 for the toll-free number.

[How to Apply](#)

[Webinar for Applicants](#)

[Applicant Guide](#)

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[View Our Resources](#)



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