

The weekly **Policy Bulletin**



March 7, 2023

Note: certain email platforms distort the Weekly Policy Bulletin formatting. It is viewed best as a webpage through your internet browser.

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Reminders

2023 Annual Convention Resolutions

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

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

Resolution Committee Members

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

You will notice two resolution documents linked below. One document consists of only the resolutions and the other includes the resolutions submitted with background.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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

**Resolutions w/
Background**

**Resolutions w/o
Background**

SARM Elections 2023

As the nomination period for President, Vice President and Division Directors for Division 2,4, and 6 ended **February 16, 2023 at 5:00 PM**, SARM would like to announce the following:

The following individuals have been acclaimed to the SARM Board of Directors:

- President- Ray Orb- R.M. of Cupar- No. 218
- Vice President - Bill Huber- R.M. of Lipton No. 217
- Division 4 - Myron Kopec- R.M. of Buchanan No. 304
- Division 6 - Darwin Whitfield- R.M. of Oakdale No. 320

There will be an election at the SARM Annual Convention on **Thursday, March 16, 2023** in **Division Two**. The elections will take place at the Division 2 Division Meeting.

The candidates include:

- Norm Nordgulen - R.M. of Lake of the Rivers No. 72
- Tim Brodt - R.M. of Edenwold No. 158
- Cody Jordison - R.M. of Lumsden No. 189
- Susan Oakley-Paul - R.M. of Sherwood No. 159

Pest Monitoring Program

In order for the Ministry of Agriculture to collect the data they need to produce pest forecasts, direct research and detect emerging problems. The Ministry of Agriculture needs to access fields. Your consent will allow them to monitor pests on your property and will contribute greatly to the health of the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan.

The Ministry of Agriculture is asking that rural property owners sign up to be part of upcoming pest monitoring 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 

[Sign Up](#)

Consultations on Proposed Amendments to The Building Code Regulations, The Energy Code Regulations and The Plumbing

Code Regulations

The Ministry of Government Relations is proposing amendments to the three regulations made pursuant to *The Construction Codes*, specifically *The Building Code Regulations*, *The Energy Code Regulations* and *The Plumbing Code Regulations*. Please find below a summary provided by Mr. Kevin Kehler, Director of Technical Safety Policy, explaining the proposed changes:

(NBC), the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB) and the National Plumbing Code of Canada (NPC) on January 1, 2024. This date was chosen to limit disruptions during the busy summer construction season and to ensure compliance with Saskatchewan's commitment under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement to adopt the 2020 editions of the construction codes within 24 months of their publication.

A detailed technical explanation of the changes between the 2015 and the 2020 editions for all three codes can be found at the following website: ccbfcccbpi.ca/en/significant-technical-changes-to-2020-codes.

In addition to the adoption of the 2020 editions of the construction codes, amendments have been proposed to address Saskatchewan-specific concerns. This includes:

- adding several new definitions and revising a number of existing definitions to provide clarity and a more common understanding;
- identifying the energy efficiency tiers and climate zone ratings listed in the NBC and NECB that will apply in Saskatchewan;
- requiring inspections by engineers or architects of certain types of large buildings;
- allowing child care centers to be classified as Group A, Division 2 assembly occupancies to harmonize the application of codes;
- clarifying the requirements for carbon monoxide and smoke detectors in existing buildings constructed between 1988 and 2009; and
- allowing homeowners to obtain a permit from their relevant local authority for plumbing work on their own primary residences.

With respect to energy efficiency standards, stakeholders are also being asked to provide comments on the readiness of industry, local authorities and the supply chain to comply with the new requirements detailed in the NECB and Section 9.36. of the NBC. Specifically, this includes impact the proposed tiers of energy efficiency will have on new construction and the ability of industry to satisfy these requirements.

SARM asks that the RMs review the side-by-sides which outline the proposed wording of the amendments and provide any comment, concerns or questions to Mrs. Alicia Bay or Ms. Deanna Nichols **no later than March 24, 2023**.

Alicia Bay, Policy Analyst

P: (306) 761-3742

E: abay@sarm.ca

Building Code Regulations

Deanna Nichols, Policy Administrator

P: (306) 761-3947

E: dnichols@sarm.ca

Energy Code Regulations

Plumbing Code Regulations

Information

Province Proclaims March as Agriculture Literacy Month

The month of March has once again been proclaimed as Agriculture Literacy Month in Saskatchewan. Agriculture Literacy Month connects students of all

ages to agriculture through presentations led by industry volunteers.

Throughout the month of March, industry volunteers, from all levels of food production will join classrooms to share presentations and personal experiences to help students learn more about agriculture.

Agriculture in the Classroom has been an important organization in Saskatchewan for many years. This year's theme is agricultural stewardship, which will teach students about the important relationship between producers and the environment.

[Read Full News Release](#)



Amended Surface Rights Regulations

The Ministry of Energy and Resources (ER) has just launched stakeholder consultations on proposed amendments to *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Regulations*. Changes to these regulations are necessary to support amendments to *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act* and *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act* currently before the Saskatchewan Legislature.

The proposals will have particular interest to helium, lithium and other subsurface mineral rights holders as the regulation changes will look to include these as commodities for which the Board may adjudicate surface access.

Further details on the proposed amendments may be found at [***The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Regulations***](#) page in the public engagement section of Saskatchewan.ca.

Provinces Urge Federal Agency to Reconsider Pesticide Decision

The governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan are urging the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to reconsider its decision on a crucial insecticide for farmers.

The PMRA recently changed approved uses for lambda-cyhalothrin, an effective pesticide that many farmers rely on to control grasshoppers and flea beetles.

Among other changes, it can no longer be used for any crop that may end up as livestock feed and as a result, its manufacturers have pulled their products from Western Canada.

It could also mean the inability for canola producers to sell their products as livestock feed which could impact availability for cattle and lamb producers. It could also impact total food production in a time of world food insecurity.

In 2019, the United States' Environmental Protection Agency removed restrictions on lambda-cyhalothrin's use. The PMRA made the opposite decision, which has led to confusion about what will be done about livestock feed coming in from our largest trading partner.

Minister Horner and Minister Marit have written to the ministers of Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, outlining producers' concerns and urging them to encourage the PMRA to reconsider its decision.

Due to a continued drought in some parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, grasshoppers are again likely to be a significant concern in the 2023 growing season, and the PMRA's decision leaves farmers with one fewer tool to address potentially destructive pests.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Resources

2023 Crop Insurance Program

On February 27, 2023, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced details of the 2023 Crop Insurance Program. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) would like to provide more

information about the Program and coverage available to Saskatchewan producers.



In 2023, Crop Insurance coverage will reach a new record-high level due to increased commodity prices and yield coverage. The average Crop Insurance coverage is \$446 per acre in 2023, up from \$405 per acre. With this increase in coverage, the average total premium is also higher at \$14.79 per acre, compared to \$12.05 in 2022. While these are averages, it is important to note each producer's coverage is personalized and premiums differ based on individual production history and insurance selections.

SCIC continually works to improve and enhance its business risk management programs to provide responsive, relevant options to Saskatchewan producers.

Highlights from the announcement include:

- **Introducing Individual Premium** - Starting in 2023, Crop Insurance customers will see an Individual Premium calculated for each crop they insure, based on individual claim history compared to the area risk zone. Individual Premium is calculated independently for each crop; therefore, a claim on one crop does not impact premium for a different crop. Using personal experience allows Crop Insurance to be more responsive to each individual farm. With this change, Premium Discounts and Surcharges are discontinued.
- **Increasing Maximum Coverage for Unseeded Acreage** - When land is too wet to seed due to excessive spring moisture, Unseeded Acreage (USA) coverage helps offset costs associated with getting those acres in condition to seed for the following year. New for 2023, SCIC is increasing the Unseeded Acreage maximum dollar coverage levels. While the minimum coverage remains the same at \$50 per acre, additional Unseeded Acreage coverage levels are increasing to \$75, \$100 and \$125 per acre.
- **Increasing AgriStability Compensation** - Effective for the 2023 program year, the AgriStability compensation rate is increasing from 70 per cent to 80 per cent. This allows AgriStability coverage to be more responsive when a farm experiences a large margin decline.

Rest assured, the Crop Insurance Fund is strong and will continue to support Saskatchewan producers by paying all eligible claims.

After some tough years due to drought, harsh winters and other uncontrollable events, SCIC wants to acknowledge the drive and resilience Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers continue to show year after year. As producers look forward to the 2023 growing season, now is the time for producers to evaluate business risk options and ensure they have the right coverage for their operation.

March 31, 2023, is the deadline to apply, reinstate, cancel or make changes to

Crop Insurance contracts. Producers must select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes by this date. If no changes are made, a producer's coverage will remain the same as last year.

Please reach out to any of the 21 local SCIC offices to discuss options and create a custom-fit risk management plan.

[Learn More](#)

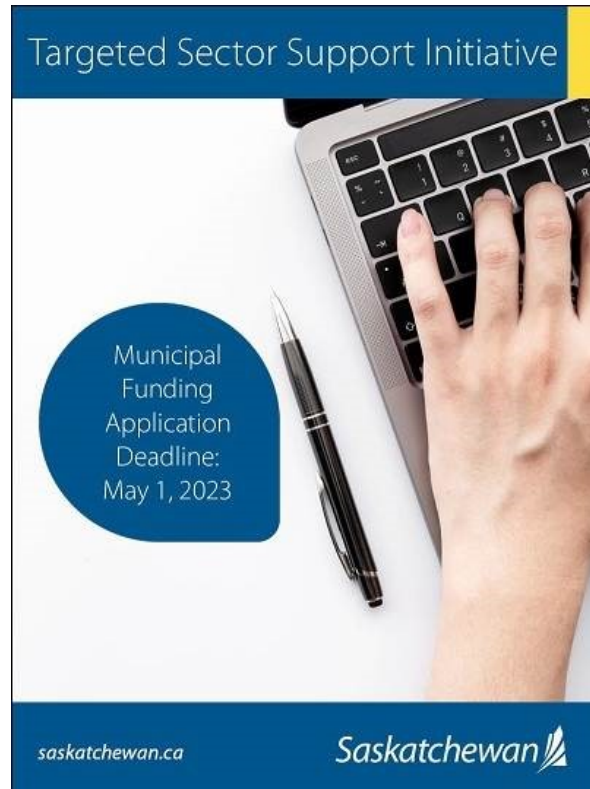
Municipalities: Apply by May 1 for Targeted Sector Support Initiative Funding

[On March 3, 2023], Government Relations Minister Don McMorris encouraged Saskatchewan municipalities to apply for project funding under the newest intake for the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative to help build even better communities across the province.

The TSS Initiative provides cost-shared grants of up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs and are funded under one of the following streams; dispute resolution and relationship building, capacity building, regional co-operation, and municipal transition.

This is the fifth project intake under the TSS Initiative, which is funded through the provincial government's Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. The Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) administers this funding on behalf of the TSS Steering Committee.

The TSS Steering Committee consists of representatives from SUMA, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North) and the Ministry of Government Relations.



Previously approved projects include: training to enhance the governance skills of municipal officials; developing regional emergency plans; undertaking a municipal district feasibility study; and enhancing co-operation.

Interested municipalities can learn more and [apply here](#) or email info@targetedsector.ca for more information.

Applications for this intake will be accepted until Monday, May 1, 2023.

[Learn More / Apply](#)



S.M.A.R.T. Professional Development Day

This 1-day workshop will dive into the world of workplace systems as seen through the lens of senior management. Participants will examine the relationship between systems (in this case safety), management, accountability, recognition, and training in the quest for overall continuous improvement.

Aimed at management (senior supervisors, senior management, and executives) who are responsible for safety within their team and how they can use management, accountability, recognition, and training to improve their teams performance to the next level.

The day will consist of a presentation reinforced with discussion and exercises.

When looking to expand your senior leadership safety development, who better to learn from than somebody with more than two decades of senior leadership experience and the highest safety accolades?

Location: Shumiatcher Room - Conexus Arts Centre
200A Lakeshore Drive
Regina, SK, S4S 3V7

Workshop starts at 8:30am and will wrap up by 4:30pm. A working lunch is included in registration price.

Price: \$300.00

[Register Now](#)

Building and Technical Standards Branch - Legislative Framework Training

The Building and Technical Standards Branch is pleased to deliver the workshop 'Legislative Framework Training' in person for Saskatoon on the following dates:

In Person – Legislative Framework Training Workshop & Examination - Saskatoon

Date: April 24 & 25, 2023

Training Time: April 24 - 8-11:30 a.m., 12:45-4:30 p.m.

April 25 - 8-11:30 a.m.

Examination Time: April 25 - 12:45-4:30 p.m.

Location: Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre, 2002 Airport Drive,

Saskatoon, SK

Registration: Please complete the registration form that is found at this link under the **Spring 2023 Legislative Workshop** section

Cost: This workshop is being offered free of charge

The intent of this training is to provide stakeholders with a better understanding of the legislation and regulations for successful application of the National Building Code of Canada within Saskatchewan. Following the in-class training, an examination sitting will be administered for interested attendees on the second half of day two. Please note that the exam associated with this training is a requirement for all new and existing building officials dependent on the conditions of their building official license.

This workshop will provide 16 credit hours towards mandatory training hour requirements for building officials, upon successful completion of the LFT exam for building official license renewal, or 16 credit hours towards discretionary training upon failure of the LFT exam. Other participants can claim 16 hours of professional development upon completion not reliant on exam writing.

Legislative Framework Training Webinar (Online)

Date: At your convenience

Training Time: At your convenience

Location: Online

Cost: Free of Charge

Stakeholders wishing to take the training without attending the Saskatoon in person training session may do so by completing the **online training webinar**.

Building officials wishing to challenge the examination without attending the in person training session must complete the online training webinar prior to the examination on **April 25 at 12:45 p.m.**

The link allows users to register and gain access to the Legislative Framework Training online webinar from the Building and Technical Standards Branch. It is recommended to use a browser such as Google Chrome and Safari for the best experience with viewing in the Thinkific platform.

Course Options Now Posted for New Provincial Online School

Course options for students are now available at the new Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation (Sask DLC) website as students and career counsellors begin planning class schedules for the 2023-24 school year. The course catalogue can be found at **www.saskDLC.ca**.

Sask DLC will offer more than 180 online courses for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students, including more than 120 high school courses with unique electives such as Animation, Astronomy, Paleontology, IT Fundamentals, Equine Studies, and

In addition to the Sask DLC, separate school divisions, the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises and independent schools may offer online learning to Kindergarten to Grade 12 students through an application process. The Ministry of Education will work with applicants to ensure they meet a **quality assurance framework** to provide a consistent and high-quality learning experience for students. Successful applicants will be notified in April by the Ministry of Education.

Further information about online learning in Saskatchewan will be updated at **www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/prek-12-education-early-learning-and-schools/online-learning** as it

Interior Design and Decorating, among others. Sask DLC will use the Moodle platform and has ready to use educational resources for students and teachers including instructional videos and lesson plans.

becomes available.

[Read Full News Release](#)



PROMPT PAYMENT UPDATE

Year-one Recap of the Builders' Lien Act Prompt Payment changes

Builders' Lien Act - Prompt Payment Update



The Saskatchewan Construction Association & the SCDRO will be hosting two free virtual sessions recapping the First Year of Prompt Payment Legislation in Saskatchewan.

Learn more about

The First Year; What we've learned
Prompt Payment; What it means for you
Adjudication; How it works & when to use it
Ask Questions; get clarity on your responsibilities

Event Links (same session – two options)

March 16 – [Register Now](#)

March 17 – [Register Now](#)

Who Should Attend

Project Owners and Consultants
Commercial & Residential Contractors
Trade Contractors & Suppliers
Lawyers and Contract Administrators

[Reach Out To
Us](#)

[View Our
Programs](#)

[View Our
Resources](#)



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



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Regina, S4V 3A4 Canada

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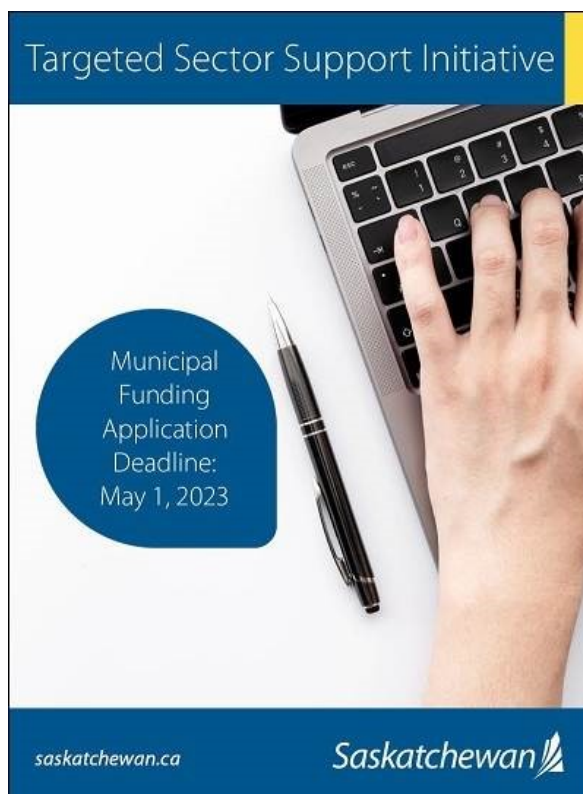
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Alicia Bay, Policy Analyst

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Building Code Regulations

Deanna Nichols, Policy Administrator

P: (306) 761-3947

E: dnichols@sarm.ca

Energy Code Regulations

Plumbing Code Regulations

Feedback

CRTC Launches Review

[On March 8, 2023], the CRTC launch[ed] a consultation on the Internet services market to increase competition, create more choice and lower prices. The CRTC recognizes its current approach is not meeting its objective of encouraging more

competition in the Internet services market.

The CRTC will re-examine the rates competitors pay large telephone and cable companies for access to their networks. While it carries out this review, the CRTC is imposing an immediate 10% reduction on some wholesale rates.

The CRTC will also examine on an expedited basis whether large telephone and cable companies should provide competitors with access to their fibre-to-the-home networks, thus enabling faster Internet speeds to their customers.

The CRTC is welcoming comments until April 24, 2023 on the question of mandating access to fibre-to-the-home networks.

For all other issues within the scope of the review, comments are accepted until June 22, 2023.

Canadians can participate by:

- filling out the **online form**;
- writing to the Secretary General, CRTC, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2; or
- sending a fax to (819) 994-0218.

All comments received will form part of the public record and will inform the CRTC's decision.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Information

SARM Division 2 Director

On Thursday, March 16, 2023 there was an election held for the Division 2 Director. The candidates included:

- Norm Nordgulen- RM of Lake of the Rivers No. 72
- Tim Brodt- RM of Edenwold No. 158
- Cody Jordison- RM of Lumsden No. 189
- Susan Oakley-Paul- RM of Sherwood No. 159

The successful candidate was Cody Jordison - RM of Lumsden No. 189.

Winter Weights Removed Later This Month

Truckers are advised to closely monitor their loads when using secondary highways in Saskatchewan.

This is the time of year when truckers must reduce the weight of their loads, since all secondary highways revert back to regulation weights. This prevents damaging important roads in the spring.



Winter weights [were] removed effective **Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at midnight (12:01 a.m.)**. Any existing winter weights will be removed and revert back to regulation weight.

To check which highways are impacted by weight restrictions, please visit truck weight classifications and restrictions at [saskatchewan.ca/truckingweights](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/truckingweights). Commercial truckers and shippers are encouraged to check the status regularly.

Information is also available by contacting the Highway Hotline at www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline or dialing 511.

Technical and regulatory information is available by calling 1-866-933-5290, while truckers outside of Saskatchewan call: 306-933-5290. The line operates weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except statutory holidays.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Government of Canada invests up to \$37 million to bring high-speed Internet and mobile connectivity to economic regions across Saskatchewan

All Canadians need reliable, affordable high-speed Internet and cellular service, no matter where they live. That is why the Government of Canada is taking action to bring high-speed Internet access and mobile connectivity to unserved and underserved regions across the province.

[On March 17, 2023], the Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development, announced up to \$37 million in funding for projects that will bring high-speed Internet access and mobile connectivity to communities across Saskatchewan. Thanks to this funding, over 5,000 homes in Northern Saskatchewan, Prince Albert, Saskatoon–Biggar, Regina–Moose Mountain and Yorkton–Melville, including over 2,700 homes in Indigenous communities, will benefit from improved high-speed Internet access, and mobile connectivity will be improved along up to 500 kilometres of highway.

[March 17th's] announcement builds on the Government of Canada's progress toward ensuring that 98% of Canadians have access to high-speed Internet by 2026, and 100% by 2030.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Keep an Eye on HPAI

With spring migration fast approaching, the risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) will return and continue to impact poultry producers and small flock owners across the province.

One tool to help limit HPAI is an animal health order that temporarily prohibits the participation of birds in events like shows, auctions and fairs. This type of order was used in the spring of 2022 and again in the fall, and may be put in place again this spring if outbreaks occur as anticipated.



Producers should contact their veterinarian immediately if they have concerns about the health status of their flock or suspicion of HPAI. As a federally reportable disease, all confirmed cases of avian influenza must be reported to the Canadian

Biosecurity remains the best tool for poultry producers and small flock owners to protect their birds from avian influenza. Protocols include keeping wild birds away from poultry flocks and food and water supplies, limiting visitors and monitoring bird health. Small flock owners are encouraged to confine their birds indoors, if possible, during wild bird migration.

Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) upon discovery.

If you have questions related to avian influenza, contact your local CFIA **district office**. CFIA-confirmed findings of HPAI in domestic poultry are posted on the **CFIA website**.

Producers can also access information about the disease on the Government of Saskatchewan avian influenza in poultry **webpage**.

 Canadian Security Intelligence Service Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité



CSIS Need to Know Newsletter

Need to Know is an unclassified open-source, multi-platform media collation, produced by CSIS Academic Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement, on issues considered relevant to Canada's broad national security interests. The objective is to highlight and share a diverse array of perspectives on Canadian and global security matters, with a focus on emerging developments and sources of expertise across disciplines. Inclusion of a document, source, expert or event does not constitute endorsement by, or affiliation with, CSIS.

Check out the March 2023 newsletter below.

[Read CSIS Newsletter](#)

Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada Provide an Additional \$405,000 for Rural Early Learning Mobile Programs

Families in rural Saskatchewan with young children will have access to further mobile early learning opportunities, thanks to an additional \$405,000 investment from the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada. Funding for KidsFirst Regional programming was \$823,500 in 2022-23. This additional investment, recently provided to KidsFirst Regional areas increases the total program funding to \$1.2 million.

KidsFirst Regional travels to communities across the province bringing unique learning opportunities to children up to age five with programs such as take-home literacy kits, story walks and pop-up preschool events. This increase in funding will allow KidsFirst Regional to reach more children in their own communities with learning initiatives that focus on child development, literacy, nutrition and health and well-being.

There are 10 KidsFirst Regional areas across the province that received funding; Moose Jaw-Assiniboia area, Kindersley area, Tisdale area, Prince Albert area, Saskatoon area, Southwest area, Regina area, Yorkton area and the Southeast area all received \$40,000. Lloydminster-Meadow Lake-the Battlefords received \$45,000 as they service a larger area.

To find a KidsFirst Regional mobile early learning opportunity near you visit saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/community-programs-for-new-families-in-canada#kidsfirst-regional.

This increase of \$405,000 in funding is being provided through the **Canada-Saskatchewan Bi-Lateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement**.

[Read Full News Release](#)

\$297 Million Investment to Set New Record for Municipal Revenue Sharing Program



[On March 15, 2023], Premier Scott Moe announced the overall Municipal Revenue Sharing Program in 2023-24 will set a new record with a more than \$297 million provincial investment, benefiting municipalities and supporting their local priorities across Saskatchewan.

Total 2023-24 provincial funding for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program represents a 13 per cent increase from the current fiscal year, and a 134 per cent increase from the 2007-08 fiscal year.

With this announcement, nearly \$4 billion in provincial funding will have been allocated to support municipalities across Saskatchewan through the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program from 2007-08 to 2023-24.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Physician Incentive Program Increased to \$200,000 To Attract More Family Physicians to Rural and Northern Saskatchewan

Starting April 1, 2023, the Government of Saskatchewan is offering an enhanced Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP) to help attract and retain more family physicians to rural and northern communities across Saskatchewan. The total incentive is now up to \$200,000 over five years, more than four times the amount that was previously offered.

The \$47,000 total incentive that was previously offered is increasing to \$200,000 to help attract more family physicians to rural and northern communities across Saskatchewan. To incentivize retention, the length of the program is increasing from four years to five years. Eligibility for the incentive is also expanding beyond new graduates and will now include physicians practicing in rural and northern communities

[Read Full News Release](#)

[Learn More](#)

More Physicians Begin Practicing in Saskatchewan

Fifteen new doctors are practicing in rural Saskatchewan, thanks to the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) program. These newest physicians are among the 278 internationally-trained family physicians currently working in the province as a result of the SIPPA program. The vast majority - 77 per cent - practice in rural communities.

Started in 2011, SIPPA is a made-in-Saskatchewan program that opens doors for family doctors trained in countries around the world. The program assesses internationally educated physicians on their medical education and clinical ability as part of the licensure process to practice medicine in Saskatchewan. Through a return-of-service contract, they agree to work in the province for a minimum of three years upon completion of the SIPPA assessment.

The SIPPA program is one of many important initiatives designed to increase the number of physicians working in Saskatchewan. Other initiatives include:

- quadrupling the Rural Physician Incentive Program up to \$200,000 and expanding eligibility to include physicians practicing through the SIPPA program;
- establishing a rural physician locum pool to provide relief to rural doctors and stabilize coverage in rural and remote communities that experience physician vacancies;
- training more doctors in Saskatchewan by expanding medical residency seats from 120 to 128 at the University of Saskatchewan; and
- expanding post-graduate medical residency training sites outside Regina and Saskatoon to Prince Albert, Swift Current, La Ronge, North Battleford, Moose Jaw and southeast areas of the province.

Physicians interested in working in Saskatchewan are encouraged to contact saskdocs directly at info@saskdocs.ca, toll-free 1-888-415-3627 or 306-933-5000.

[View Full News Release](#)

Province Passes Saskatchewan First Act

[On March 16, 2023], the Government of Saskatchewan passed *The Saskatchewan First Act*, which defends the province's economic autonomy and potential from federal overreach.

The Saskatchewan First Act amends the Constitution of Saskatchewan to clearly confirm Saskatchewan's autonomy and assert Saskatchewan's exclusive legislative jurisdiction under Section 92 (A) of the Constitution of Canada over a number of areas, including:

- the exploration for non-renewable natural resources;
- the development, conservation and management of non-renewable natural and forestry resources; and
- the operation of sites and facilities for the generation and production of electrical energy.

The Act will also create an independent Economic Impact Assessment Tribunal that will define, quantify, and report on the economic effects of federal initiatives on provincial

investments and Saskatchewan projects, businesses and people.

Following discussions with First Nations and Métis people and organizations, amendments were introduced by Athabasca MLA Jim Lemaigre to specifically state that nothing in the Act abrogates or derogate from Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Cutting Red Tape: Transfer Station Code Chapter Brings Flexibility for Municipalities

The Government of Saskatchewan has approved the addition of a Transfer Station Chapter to the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, achieving another commitment in the Solid Waste Management Strategy. This change will streamline the permitting and reporting processes for transfer stations and provide flexibility to help.

A transfer station is a facility used to temporarily store solid waste before it is transported to a treatment, recycling, recovery or disposal facility. They are a cost-effective solution for municipalities that do not or cannot operate a full landfill, but still want to offer convenient waste disposal for their community members. There are currently 225 transfer stations in Saskatchewan that operate at a small fraction of the cost of municipal landfills.

The chapter comes into effect today, March 17, 2023. New transfer stations will be required to follow the updated requirements immediately. There is a six-month grace period for existing transfer stations to meet the new requirements. Additional information is available on the [Transfer Station web page](#).

[Read Full News Release](#)

Resources

Governing Sustainable Municipalities

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

Stakeholder Roundtables

Join JSGS for a discussion about the importance of sustainability and what it means to you and your community.

This is an opportunity to work together to better understand the challenges and opportunities that exist when municipalities develop sustainability goals and work towards achieving those goals.

Municipal administrators, government, and business will join a roundtable closest to them. **Not open to the public.**

Space is limited. Please register through the link below.



Invitation-only Stakeholder Roundtables

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MARCH 31, 2023	WEYBURN • Credit Union Sparks Centre - Mini Gym
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Date TBD	SASKATOON • Skills for Sustainability (Location TBD)
Date TBD	REGINA • Saskatchewan Municipal Sustainable Summit

Public Talks

FREE! Learn from the experts. JSGS faculty and executives-in-residence will talk about sustainability from environmental, economic, and governance perspectives, as well as the social side of sustainability.



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RESILIENCE: INNOVATION IN A CHANGING MUNICIPAL LANDSCAPE	MARCH 27, 2023 • SWIFT CURRENT InnovationPlex Auditorium 7:00pm-8:00pm	Margot Hurlbert , Canada Research Chair in Climate Change, Energy and Sustainability Policy; Professor, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina
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[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

Applications for Federal Programs Under Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Applications are now being accepted for federal programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership that will go into effect on **April 1, 2023**. For a complete breakdown on the programs and amounts in question, as well as how to apply – please see below:

AgriAssurance Program (\$64.05 million over 5 years)

The objective of the AgriAssurance Program is to foster this trust by helping the

industry develop and adopt systems, standards and tools to make credible, meaningful and verifiable claims about the health, safety and quality of Canadian agricultural and agri-food products and how they are produced or manufactured.

For program details and applications, go to: ***AgriAssurance: National Industry Associations; Agri-Industry: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises***

AgriCompetitiveness Program (\$25.72 million over 5 years)

The AgriCompetitiveness Program supports industry activities to identify best practices and build sector capacity, to improve farm business management and farm safety tools and information, and to promote awareness of agriculture.

For program details and applications, go to: ***AgriCompetitiveness***

AgriDiversity (\$5 million over 5 years)

The AgriDiversity program supports under-represented and marginalized groups, including Indigenous Peoples, to increase their capacity to take on a greater leadership role in the sector and build entrepreneurial capacity and business skills.

For program details and applications, go to: ***AgriDiversity***

AgriMarketing (\$129.97 million over 5 years)

With trade playing such a vital role, the objective of the AgriMarketing Program is to help the agriculture and agri-food industry promote and market its products to consumers in Canada and around the world.

For program details and applications, go to: ***AgriMarketing***

AgriScience (\$324.77 million over 5 years)

The objective of the AgriScience Program is to accelerate the pace of innovation by funding and supporting pre-commercialization science and research for the benefit of the agriculture and agri-food sector and Canadians.

For program details and applications, go to: ***AgriScience Clusters; AgriScience Projects***

AgriInnovate (\$95.4 million over 5 years)

The AgriInnovate Program supports projects that accelerate the commercialization, demonstration and adoption of innovative technologies and processes that improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the sector.

For program details and applications, go to: ***AgriInnovate***

2023 Spring Runoff Forecast for Saskatchewan

[On March 9, 2023], the Water Security Agency (WSA) released the Spring Runoff Report for 2023. The information gathered in this report is based on conditions as they were on March 1, 2023.

Moisture conditions across southern

In the south, above normal snowmelt runoff is expected in a band extending from Lloydminster east to the border, due to well above normal snowpack. Below to well below normal snowmelt runoff is expected over much of southwest and southcentral Saskatchewan. The exception is south of the Cypress Hills where, with a heavy snowpack, above normal snowmelt runoff is expected.

Saskatchewan were generally dry at freeze-up in 2022, particularly on the west side of the province where drought conditions were prevalent. Winter snowfall has ranged from below normal over much of southwestern Saskatchewan (other than a small pocket in the extreme southwest south of the Cypress Hills where the snowpack is well above normal), to well above normal through much of central Saskatchewan. The agency does not anticipate flood-related issues even in areas where above normal runoff expected, assuming near normal conditions going forward.

Warmer than seasonal temperatures resulted in near complete melt of the snowpack over a large area of southern Saskatchewan, including areas north of the Cypress Hills and much of the Old Wives Lake Watershed. With variable moisture conditions at freeze-up, mid-winter melts and a variable snowpack, the runoff potential for the province also differs significantly.

In the north, near normal snowmelt runoff is generally expected, other than an area from Stoney Rapids down toward Buffalo Narrows where below normal snowmelt runoff is predicted.

It is important to note that this forecast is based on conditions as of March 1. Above normal snowfall over the next month could still produce near normal runoff over areas where below or well below normal snowmelt runoff is expected, particularly if it melts quickly.

In areas where below or well below normal snowmelt runoff is expected, some water supply concerns may emerge or intensify. For instance, irrigation water supply in the Bigstick Lake Basin near Maple Creek is expected to experience a third consecutive year of shortages.

The differences between the preliminary runoff map issued in early February and the current map is the inclusion of data from late-February snow surveys, measuring snowpack water content. With the benefit of the snow survey information, there is much higher confidence in the current runoff potential outlook.

[Read Full News Release](#)

[View Spring Runoff Map](#)

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



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The weekly **Policy Bulletin**



March 28, 2023

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[{View as Webpage}](#)

Reminders

2023 Crop Insurance Program

On February 27, 2023, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced details of the 2023 Crop Insurance Program. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) would like to provide more information about the Program and coverage available to Saskatchewan producers.



In 2023, Crop Insurance coverage will reach a new record-high level due to increased commodity prices and yield coverage. The average Crop Insurance coverage is \$446 per acre in 2023, up from \$405 per acre. With this increase in coverage, the average total premium is also higher at \$14.79 per acre, compared to \$12.05 in 2022. While these are averages, it is important to note each producer's coverage is personalized and premiums differ based on individual production history and insurance selections.

SCIC continually works to improve and enhance its business risk management programs to provide responsive, relevant options to Saskatchewan producers.

Highlights from the announcement include:

- **Introducing Individual Premium** - Starting in 2023, Crop Insurance customers will see an Individual Premium calculated for each crop they insure, based on individual claim history compared to the area risk zone. Individual Premium is calculated independently for each crop; therefore, a claim on one crop does not impact premium for a different crop. Using personal experience allows Crop Insurance to be more responsive to each individual farm. With this change, Premium Discounts and Surcharges are discontinued.
- **Increasing Maximum Coverage for Unseeded Acreage** - When land is too wet to seed due to excessive spring moisture, Unseeded Acreage (USA) coverage helps offset costs associated with getting those acres in condition to seed for the following year. New for 2023, SCIC is increasing the Unseeded Acreage maximum dollar coverage levels. While the minimum coverage remains the same at \$50 per acre, additional Unseeded Acreage coverage levels are increasing to \$75, \$100 and \$125 per acre.
- **Increasing AgriStability Compensation** - Effective for the 2023 program year, the AgriStability compensation rate is increasing from 70 per cent to 80 per cent. This allows AgriStability coverage to be more responsive when a farm experiences a large margin decline.

Rest assured, the Crop Insurance Fund is strong and will continue to support

Saskatchewan producers by paying all eligible claims.

After some tough years due to drought, harsh winters and other uncontrollable events, SCIC wants to acknowledge the drive and resilience Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers continue to show year after year. As producers look forward to the 2023 growing season, now is the time for producers to evaluate business risk options and ensure they have the right coverage for their operation.

March 31, 2023, is the deadline to apply, reinstate, cancel or make changes to Crop Insurance contracts. Producers must select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes by this date. If no changes are made, a producer's coverage will remain the same as last year.

Please reach out to any of the 21 local SCIC offices to discuss options and create a custom-fit risk management plan.

[Learn More](#)

Municipalities: Apply by May 1 for Targeted Sector Support Initiative Funding

[On March 3, 2023], Government Relations Minister Don McMorris encouraged Saskatchewan municipalities to apply for project funding under the newest intake for the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative to help build even better communities across the province.

The TSS Initiative provides cost-shared grants of up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs and are funded under one of the following streams; dispute resolution and relationship building, capacity building, regional co-operation, and municipal transition.

This is the fifth project intake under the TSS Initiative, which is funded through the provincial government's Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. The Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) administers this funding on behalf of the TSS Steering Committee.

The TSS Steering Committee consists of representatives from SUMA, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North) and the Ministry of Government Relations.



Previously approved projects include: training to enhance the governance skills of municipal officials; developing regional emergency plans; undertaking a municipal district feasibility study; and enhancing co-operation.

Interested municipalities can learn more and **[apply here](#)** or email **info@targetedsector.ca** for more information.

Applications for this intake will be accepted until Monday, May 1, 2023.

CRTC Launches Review

[On March 8, 2023], the CRTC launch[ed] a consultation on the Internet services market to increase competition, create more choice and lower prices. The CRTC recognizes its current approach is not meeting its objective of encouraging more competition in the Internet services market.

The CRTC will re-examine the rates competitors pay large telephone and cable companies for access to their networks. While it carries out this review, the CRTC is imposing an immediate 10% reduction on some wholesale rates.

The CRTC will also examine on an expedited basis whether large telephone and cable companies should provide competitors with access to their fibre-to-the-home networks, thus enabling faster Internet speeds to their customers.

The CRTC is welcoming comments until April 24, 2023 on the question of mandating access to fibre-to-the-home networks.

For all other issues within the scope of the review, comments are accepted until June 22, 2023.

Canadians can participate by:

- filling out the **online form**;
- writing to the Secretary General, CRTC, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2; or
- sending a fax to (819) 994-0218.

All comments received will form part of the public record and will inform the CRTC's decision.

[Read Full News Release](#)

Governing Sustainable Municipalities

Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

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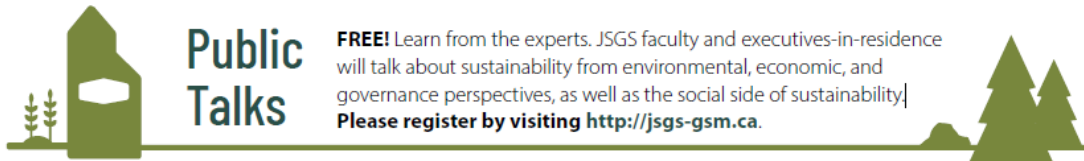
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[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

Feedback

FUTURE SUPPLY PLAN

2030 AND BEYOND



SaskPower Future Supply Plan - Public Input

SaskPower is looking for public input to help develop the Future Supply Plan for 2030 and beyond. In order to create a plan that reflects what's important to Saskatchewan residents, SaskPower engineers need to understand your values and priorities.

The goal is reliable and affordable power, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Provide your input and complete SaskPower's 5-minute survey [here](#).

Survey closes on April 5th.

Visit saskpower.com/engage to stay up-to-date on progress and participation opportunities for the Future Supply Plan - 2030 and Beyond.

[Take Survey](#)

Information

SARM Responds to the 2023-24 Provincial Budget

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), alongside their member RMs, is encouraged by the ongoing support for rural Saskatchewan in this provincial budget.

The budget increases total investment into the province's severely strained healthcare sector by 6.7%, which is desperately needed. Service disruptions, aging facilities, and the ongoing struggle to recruit and retain healthcare staff have been further highlighted and are more critical than ever. SARM will continue to work with our provincial government to ensure this new funding and programming reaches rural areas effectively.

The province is providing an additional 25 percent to further enhance programming offered via the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

SARM is also encouraged by new and continued funding for crime reduction initiatives as well as \$8.9 million for the Saskatchewan Firearms Program. SARM looks forward to meeting with the RCMP and provincial government to discuss how to effectively use this increased investment to fill the gaps in the current policing system; many of those in rural Saskatchewan. When so much of rural Saskatchewan is already underserved SARM is asking for a coordinated effort between all stakeholders targeting crime reduction, one that ensures we aren't duplicating efforts.

The total Municipal Revenue sharing pool was increased from just over \$262 million in 2022/23 to \$297.9 million in this budget. SARM is pleased with the increase, recognizing that RMs are a key component in driving our economy.

Funding for rural road and bridge infrastructure is imperative for RMs to continue to provide key economic sectors with a strategic transportation network that is effective and well maintained.

Increased funding for Saskatchewan farm support programs is also welcome news.

Rural broadband is an essential service; this is something SARM has been promoting for over a decade. We appreciate the \$412.7 million for the SaskTel 5G and rural fibre network but substantial investment is needed to reach our goal of broadband infrastructure parity for all Saskatchewan residents regardless of location. Neither people nor industry can thrive in rural Saskatchewan without reliable, affordable broadband. It's often the best option to access, markets, banking, social services, and recently healthcare. At our most recent convention our members highlighted the need for better access for rural schools to effectively deliver education programming.

[Read Full News Release](#)



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

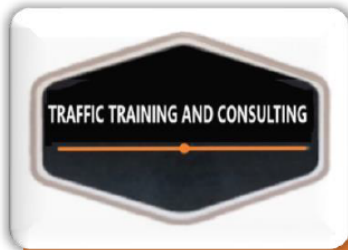
- Tours of local facilities and businesses
- Workshop by Carousel Media: The Building Blocks To A Thriving Social Presence - What We Know Now & Wish We Knew Then
- Keynote Speakers Georgia Lavender from the Synergy Foundation and Sandy Bonny from the University of Saskatchewan
- Lightning Talks
- Sessions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

Dates: May 24-26, 2023

Location: Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon

[Register Here](#)

Resources



Traffic Training and Consulting (TTAC)

Since 2018

TTAC has one of the most experienced instructors in the province - one with more than just field experience!

Traffic Training and Consulting

Wade Hoffman created formed Traffic Training and Consulting (TTAC) an answer to the demand from numerous road building contractors for him to return to teaching the course. Wade involved the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure right from the start to ensure that the course content was current and accurate. Wade is committed to delivering the highest caliber of Work Zone training.

A couple of highlights are:

- Fundamentals of Work Zones
- Introduction to the related Legislation
- Traffic Plan exercises
- High level perusal of the manual including discussion on traffic control devices
- Detailed list of the Traffic Accommodation Supervisor's duties

Wade sees this training as relevant to anyone involved in road construction, whether they work on a provincial highway, a municipal road or for a Crown corporation; anywhere "where employees are at risk from vehicular traffic" Reg 9-22.

Any heavy construction company working on a provincial highway must have a TAS (Traffic Accommodation Supervisor) on the work site and that person must have a current training certificate from a vendor approved by the Ministry of Highways. It is a condition of their contract with the ministry.

Those working on municipal roads don't have that same "TAS" requirement, but still need to meet the legal requirements for employee training. Hoffman offers a similar but shorter program developed for their needs.

To find out about registering for Hoffman's training either the flagging course or the work zone course he can be contacted by phone at (306) 537-9648 or by email at wadehoffman.ttac@gmail.com

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