



**BILL
C-235**

An Act respecting the building of a
green economy in the Prairies

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

RURAL SASKATCHEWAN has made and continues to make excellent headway on solutions that address the goals of the Canadian Federal Government.

Western Canada is flush with opportunities when it comes to energy and resources. Industry continually finds ways to reduce the emissions created by the extraction process. The prairie provinces, their municipalities, and industries are already doing the hard work to reduce emissions, through the creation of new technology, and implementing processes with the overall goal of reducing emissions. All the while being cognizant of the federal government's goals to be a leader in food security, global energy production, and emissions reductions.

Bill C-235 (the “Bill”) received royal assent on December 15, 2022. The Building a Green Prairie Economy Act (the “Act”) consultation period has ended and PrairiesCan is preparing the report to the federal government.

This Bill is meant to foster job creation and support the continued development of clean energy in fields such as agriculture, forestry, transportation, manufacturing, and tourism. Establish programs and projects that stimulate a green economy. Prepare for infrastructure projects that adapt to climate change and mitigate its adverse effects. Prioritizing projects that generate natural infrastructure and a clean environment, such as tree-planting initiatives, solar energy projects, and environmental management of the boreal forest, and that also make use of all sources of energy, including nuclear energy.

The Voice of Rural Saskatchewan



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WHAT SASKATCHEWAN and the other prairie provinces need to succeed is a partner, not more legislation and regulation. Government needs to be working with the provinces and municipalities on solutions, rather than being prescriptive. Using a top-down approach can stifle innovation which is exactly the opposite of what is meant to be achieved by this bill. Municipalities need to have autonomy and flexibility to work through the challenges they face.



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Here are some of the tools that would aid the prairie provinces to be successful in meeting the challenges that lay before them:

- Federal programs and legislation need to be practical and apply a ‘rural lens’ when determining objectives and outcomes. This lens should recognize the fiscal limitations and sparse populations of rural communities, with the aim of enhancing rural economic development.
- Saskatchewan is home to the largest quantity of rare earth metals in Canada. The program should take into consideration the development of Canadian mined and refined resources to develop a greener sustainable economy.
- On the wake of the pandemic the labour shortage has become more evident and is a major issue in the agriculture sector. SARM believes that there needs to be more opportunities for proper training and funding to support growth and retention of immigrants/refugees and Canadian residents.
- The Province of Saskatchewan has been a leader in developing sustainable agriculture practices that reduce carbon emissions while maintaining production. The Government of Canada should develop a framework that considers the actions and initiatives of all provinces.
- To develop partnerships, the Government needs to listen to all of the provinces equally and speak with the farmers to understand the best approaches to the development of the Act. It is imperative that the Government of Canada develop a program through a collaborative approach with all Canadian provinces and territories.
- Connectivity and broadband are a primary issue for economic growth in rural Saskatchewan. For the Government of Canada to have Canada-wide economic growth, all areas of Canada need to be provided with reliable connectivity.
- Further, the Government needs to listen to all areas of Canada, regardless of the population size when determining the steps to take for a greener economy. Rural Saskatchewan is a key player in developing a sustainable and greener Canadian economy.
- The government should look to Saskatchewan for actions that are already proven to reduce emissions and implement the Saskatchewan initiatives across Canada.