

# RURAL COUNCILLOR

**SARM**

**2024  
SUMMER**

VOLUME 57 / #2

**EXPLORE**

**SASKATCHEWAN  
REGIONAL  
PARKS**

**STRATEGY**

**SASKATCHEWAN'S  
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# RURAL COUNCILLOR

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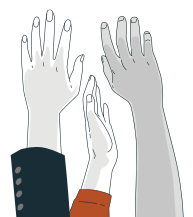


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**Our Vision:** Strong, autonomous municipalities powered by vibrant, diverse economies that build a sustainable future for rural Saskatchewan.

**Our Mission:** To foster rural development in Saskatchewan and build strong, sustainable communities.



**BY RAY ORB, SARM PRESIDENT**

Greetings from SARM. Spring is here and with it a renewed feeling of hope.

It's been my honour to serve as SARM president since 2015.

When I began, not many people knew who I was. But now, after nine years, almost everywhere I go people say, "Hey I know you, I've seen you on TV". Often, I say to people in jest, "You're lucky, you can just turn the TV off". But most of the time, people will say, "No, I liked what you said!". Then the conversation begins.

It's not me, but rather the message that people like to hear. They like to talk about the things that are important to them. Things like agriculture, roads and bridges, and rural connectivity, to name a few. They want to understand what is being done about rural health care, education, and crime and how SARM can and is trying to help alleviate some of the shortcomings in rural life.

There is a profound pride in rural communities that is often overlooked. This pride is built on family history, on how people came to be where they are. This pride is what keeps people in these communities and shapes how they feel about the future.

There's also an economic aspect to this pride that is very important. The economy is the number one issue on the minds of rural folks, both provincially and federally. They have questions about where our senior governments are headed on issues such as deficits and long-term debt, how we will compete as



*Strong rural communities require increased participation in rural municipal elections. We need fewer acclamations and fewer vacancies in order to keep our rural municipalities vibrant.*

rural businesses, farms and ranches with our competitors around the world, and how our rural infrastructure will be maintained and upgraded.

All the issues mentioned above are issues that SARM is working to improve. We are continually lobbying on your behalf, voicing your concerns. But are senior governments listening?

I can tell you SARM thrives on consultation, something that isn't always offered to us when decisions are made. While SARM is pleased that the province has agreed, in principle, to allow at least 60 days' notice before legislative changes or regulations are brought in, it is not so with the federal government. There have been several times over the last nine years that the federal government has reversed legislation or brought in legislation that SARM has openly opposed. A few that come to mind are *The Navigable Water Act*, Department of Fisheries and Oceans changes, and *The Environmental Impact Assessment Act*.

No matter which political party we have in power in our country or province, they must listen and pay attention to rural communities. These are the communities that feed the province, country, and world. Rural communities provide food and energy security to our nation. SARM will continue to remind senior governments of this and educate fellow citizens outside of rural communities on the value of providing abundant and safe food and energy to everyone. Farms and ranches, oil, potash, and power (whether natural gas, solar, wind, or coal) are all in rural Saskatchewan.

If the rural population continues to decrease, will our rural voice be diminished? How can our voice be diminished if we provide so much to the economy? These are the questions I've been hearing throughout rural communities. I want to remind you that our rural voices are important, and we must continue to have a strong voice even when it seems like the progress is small.

One of the key factors in maintaining strong rural communities is attracting and retaining councillors and reeves to sit on municipal councils. We need to focus on enhanced education and training for rural officials to handle the challenges of the future. SARM is working to achieve this goal through webinars, videos, seminars, and special training sessions at SARM conventions. And we will continue to do so into the future.

Strong rural communities require increased participation in rural municipal elections. We need fewer acclamations and fewer vacancies in order to keep our rural municipalities vibrant. (SARM's Local Government Recruitment Video: <https://youtu.be/TA7PZQEmDaQ>)

I believe transparency is key to achieving these goals. SARM has also been working, with the Ministry of Government Relations and SUMA, to provide an online portal where municipalities can post all of their relevant information such as financial statements,

meeting minutes, meeting times, and agendas that can be viewed by the general public. More information will be coming in the next few months on this project, please watch the SARM publications to stay up to date.

Generations of pride in rural communities has built a strong foundation, it is up to us to keep building and improving. Throughout my nine years as SARM president, I have witnessed this growth and am proud of what we have accomplished. However, it is time to pass the torch on. I will not be seeking re-election this fall as reeve in the RM of Cupar where I have served as either councillor or reeve (except for two years) since 1986. So, later this year I will be stepping down as president of SARM, a position I have held in high regard. I believe it is the right time to make this decision in order to make way for an election at the March 2025 annual convention.

**In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.**

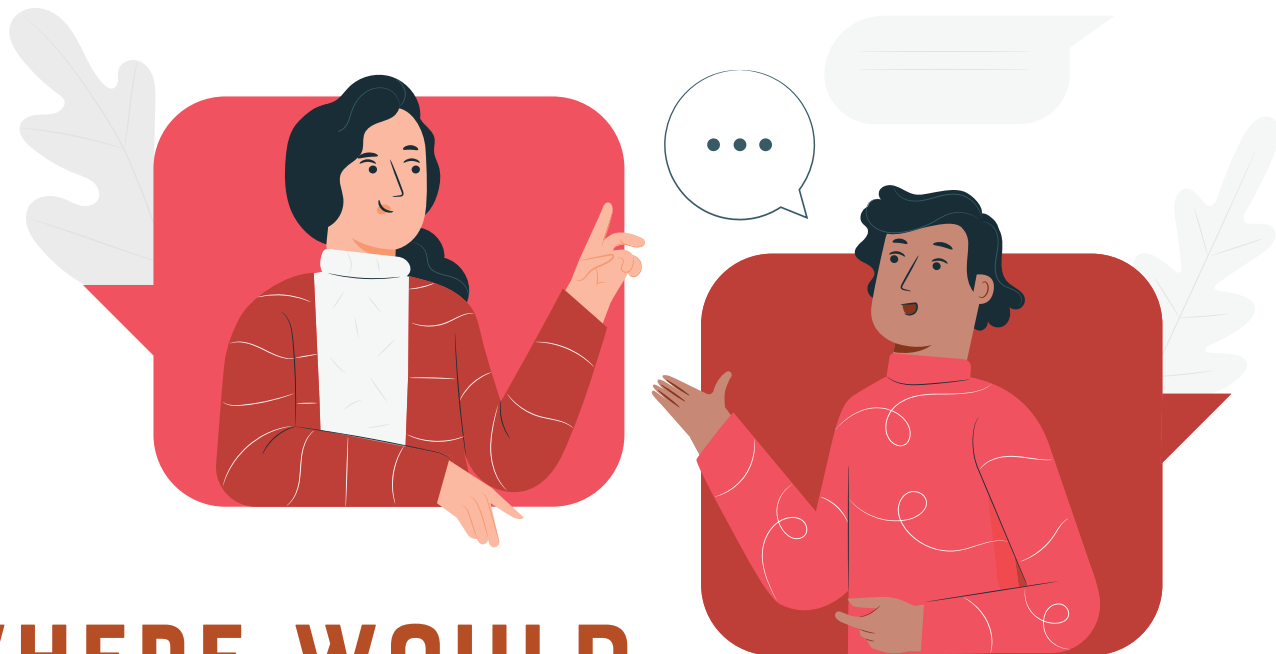
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# WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT MENTORS



**BY JAY MEYER, SARM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As we grow older, we find ourselves reminiscing and thinking about how we have gotten to where we are now. How we made it through the battles that have been tossed at us from all directions. In life, we encounter many challenges that test our resilience, determination, and spirit. Navigating these obstacles alone can feel overwhelming. Thankfully, many have had a mentor by their side, which makes all the difference. Mentors are individuals who guide us as we grow

and act as a trusted and experienced advisor. A mentor could be a parent, sibling, grandparent, or extended family; or a mentor could be a coach, teacher, peer, friend, or even a current or past co-worker. Mentorship helps people learn and grow from the guidance provided by a mentor, especially an experienced person.

Beyond skill acquisition, mentorship fosters personal growth and self-awareness. Mentors serve as sounding boards and offer constructive feedback. They can also provide emotional support and career guidance. There are times when you may not even know you are getting mentored, and the mentor may not even know they are providing mentorship. This is because mentorship does not have to happen in a formal way, and in most cases, it is not formal. The relationship is usually open and trusted between the individuals.

Mentorship is not just a relationship, it is a catalyst for growth, empowerment, and success. Sharing our experiences and providing insight from those experiences and resources developed

over the years is one of the best ways to learn and grow. We must recognize the importance of mentorship, without it, individuals may face challenges and missed opportunities in their personal and professional lives. In the journey of personal and professional development, few resources are as valuable as the guidance and support of a mentor. Mentoring is about having someone in your corner, someone that provides encouragement and support. The success of the relationship and the mentoring is based on both individuals. The individual seeking mentorship needs to be open about their challenges and needs.

SARM believes in mentorship and supports both the Saskatchewan Municipal Administrator Internship Program as well as the Saskatchewan Municipal Peer Network, both of which are excellent examples. Both provide a great way to learn from and take guidance from an experienced person on a council and administrative level.

Becoming a mentor is a powerful way to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

## MUNICIPAL PEER NETWORK

Municipal officials can contact a mentor to guide them one-on-one and help resolve issues at a local level. Peer mentors, who are senior municipal administrators and elected officials, can provide coaching and advice on:

- **INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT**
- **GOVERNANCE PRACTICES**
- **SERVICE PROVISIONS**
- **PUBLIC ISSUES**
- **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Any conversation between a mentor and peer is confidential, and there is no cost to the service.

## SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Saskatchewan Municipal Administrator Internship Program provides funding for rural municipalities to train and mentor selected interns in the field of Municipal Administration. This program not only provides an opportunity for interns to experience working in a rural municipal office, but also meets the certification requirements of the Rural Board of Examiners, the body that certifies rural municipal administrators.

Being a mentor can be a rewarding opportunity and is an excellent way to give back to your community. New councillors and administrators look up to the more experienced for guidance and inspiration. You can become a positive role model for those coming up from the ranks. You can help them develop skills and navigate the challenges they may encounter.

Identifying the importance of mentorship will inspire others to pay it forward. Reflect on where you are and how you got there as, I suspect, a mentor has helped you get there. Reach out and

thank the mentors that have assisted you and express appreciation and gratitude for the invaluable impact they have had on your lives and career. Mentors play a critical role in shaping the next generation of leaders and leave a lasting impact on society.

---

For me, I would like to say thank you, Andy, Chuck, Dean, Dennis, Doug, Ken, the Mikes, Norm, Ray, Sharon, and my father Brian. Your assistance in helping me stick-handle my way through life, and always being in my corner, is so greatly appreciated!

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**Doug**







**BY GUY LAGRANDEUR, FORMER SARM EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR**

It is my honour to write this article to celebrate and commend two extraordinary associations that have made, and will continue to make, a significant contribution to our communities: Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association (RMAA).

To SARM, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations for their unwavering dedication to being the voice of rural Saskatchewan. That commitment has left a lasting impression on our communities and inspired individuals to strive for excellence and make a difference in the world.

Similarly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to RMAA for their outstanding commitment to serving the people who live and work in rural Saskatchewan. Their dedication to making a positive impact has undoubtedly left a profound mark on the lives of many, demonstrating the power of collective action.

As we celebrate the achievements of SARM and RMAA, I also want to acknowledge the individuals behind these organizations: the board of directors, the executive directors, and the entire staff at SARM. Their unwavering commitment to serving the people of Saskatchewan and their communities

is truly commendable and a reminder of the profound impact that each of us can have when we work together.

To all the reeves and councillors, I want to share a story of triumph in the face of adversity: the story of The Administrators vs The COVID Pandemic.

At the outset, the pandemic was a daunting obstacle that threatened to derail our way of life. Throughout the journey, administrators encountered numerous setbacks, obstacles, and moments of doubt and uncertainty—times when it seemed easier to give up than to continue fighting.

Yet, through sheer grit and perseverance, administrators and RMs devised innovative solutions, adapted to changing circumstances, and forged ahead. And finally, after countless trials and tribulations, emerged triumphant.

As we look to the future, I urge every one of you to draw inspiration from the actions performed by rural administrators.

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Let's embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, and face adversity with courage and unwavering resolve.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address a fundamental aspect of any successful municipality: Trust amongst councils and administrators.

Trust forms the bedrock of any productive team, and its significance cannot be overstated. As leaders, managers, and staff members, it is incumbent upon us to foster an environment built on trust, respect, and mutual understanding. But how?

First and foremost, we lead by example. As leaders and managers, our actions speak louder than words. When administrators and staff see that their leaders are reliable and trustworthy, they are more likely to emulate these behaviours in their own interactions with colleagues.

Secondly, we must prioritize open communication. We must create opportunities for staff to voice their concerns, share feedback, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

Thirdly, we must foster a culture of collaboration. We are all on the same team, working for the people who live, work,

and raise families in the RM. Let's be the strong leaders they expect us to be.

I will be leaving the position of RMAA President in May, and as I leave, I am filled with hope for the future—one shaped not by the actions of individuals, but by the collective efforts of us all.

As we all look ahead, let's embrace the challenges that lie before us with courage and a shared sense of purpose. Let's recognize that our collective actions today will shape the RM of tomorrow, and let's commit ourselves to working together.

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it is all too easy to overlook the contributions of those around us. Yet, it is through our collective efforts that we are able to achieve success, overcome challenges, and make a positive impact in our respective fields.

Gratitude is a powerful force—it has the ability to strengthen relationships, foster positive work culture, and inspire greatness. I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for the incredible individuals who make up the RMAA. To every administrator, please know that your tireless dedication and commitment to excellence have not gone unnoticed.

I am also grateful for the perspectives and ideas that each administrator brings to the table. The RMAA is comprised of individuals from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and skill sets, and it is through this diversity that we are able to innovate, problem-solve, and achieve success.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude for the guidance and wisdom of our mentors. Your leadership inspires us to reach new heights, and your mentorship empowers us to grow both personally and professionally.

**In closing, I want to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to every council member serving their community. Your hard work, dedication, and camaraderie are what make the RMAA and SARM truly exceptional. As we continue to work together towards our shared goals, let's not forget to express gratitude to one another and to celebrate the incredible individuals who make up these associations.**



# LET'S CHAT ABOUT AMALGAMATION IT'S TIME WE HAD A TALK

BY CODY JORDISON, SARM  
DIVISION 2 DIRECTOR

It may be time to have an open conversation about amalgamation. Starting with, what does/could it really mean, and are there ways to make it work in our favour? To me, amalgamation doesn't necessarily mean changing RM borders (I have zero desire for that), but it could mean something that's yet to be defined—possibilities that can only be discovered if we're not afraid to discuss them. I, for one, think it's important to start those conversations. And there's no better time than the present...

For as long as I've been on RM council, the word *amalgamation* has been met with negative reactions. When mentioned in meetings, it's common to hear responses like, "We're not going there" or "We're not going to talk about that". I've even heard someone say that just mentioning the word can lead to the end of an elected official's time on council.

For many rural municipalities, amalgamation (as it's currently thought of) probably doesn't make sense. But how can you know for sure unless you've had the conversation? Have you looked at how efficiently your office is running? Are you familiar with how your neighbouring municipalities are operating? Might there be a benefit to working together? Perhaps starting that conversation could lead to looking at ways to redefine amalgamation. Maybe it doesn't have to mean the dismantling or restructuring of municipalities but rather a way to identify efficiencies and work together to strengthen rural Saskatchewan.

At the SARM annual convention in March, the Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Government Relations, made

a brief statement about how rural Saskatchewan has changed and evolved, for the better and for the worse. He then said, "...can our governance keep up with those changes? ...if there are divisions that aren't represented, how do we solve that problem? The solution is not with me or any of our MLAs, the solution is...with councillors, reeves, and administrators." (Check out the full recording on SARM's YouTube channel)

It's up to us as municipal leaders to have those difficult conversations about the future. Often, the hardest part of starting this conversation is getting people to acknowledge and accept that amalgamation might be the only feasible option for their municipality. I've had some tough conversations with friends and fellow council members about their RM's current challenges. I've said, "Hey, I'm not looking to force your hand here, but let's just talk about things." As municipal council members, we must be open to all options and ask hard questions.

What if, instead of *amalgamation*, we just called it *cooperation*?

What does cooperation mean? It means sharing. What can we share? You need a building, I need a building, let's share. I have a part-time administrator, and you do too? What if we hired one full-time administrator and one assistant?

Many municipalities are already doing this. There are many towns and RMs working together. It definitely has its challenges, but the opportunities are worth the risk. If towns and RMs are already doing this successfully, why does it seem foreign to assume this could work between two RMs?

Starting the conversation about a staffing model change can be difficult and awkward but it's really just about being a leader. You'd be surprised how many people are thinking the same thing you are, but because of the narrative "saying amalgamation is the fastest way to get unelected," people are afraid to speak up.

The provincial government has stayed away from this topic for many years, allowing each municipality to govern itself. However, governments change. Manitoba is a prime example of this, we only need to go back 10 years in their history to see how the government can get involved. The *Municipal Amalgamations Act* in 2013 saw the Manitoba government decide that every RM with a population under 1000 must merge with another jurisdiction until a minimum population of 1000 was met.

Saskatchewan currently has 767 urban, rural, and northern municipalities, combining to create a population of 1.2 million people. There are 296 rural municipalities totalling approximately 420,000 people. With only 37 RMs able to claim a population of 1000 or over, you can see what it would do to our borders if our provincial government took the same approach.

These numbers are not sustainable. You know it, I know it, and the government knows it. I hear a lot of people say that the government is going to be forced to amalgamate borders, but if we start the conversation and continue to explore new partnerships and ideas, we might have a chance to control our destiny.





# SUMMER IN SASKATCHEWAN

BY RAYLENE CHECKLEY,  
RMAA DIVISION 3 DIRECTOR

The campsites have been booked, the kids are almost out of school, let the summer begin! Saskatchewan has 94,000 lakes, 50,000 of which contain fish and of those fish there are 69 different species, I thought that was an interesting fact. Recreation and tourism are a large contributor to the province's economy whether it is the summer or winter seasons. We truly are blessed with many options from: forest to prairies, open skies to vast rivers, sandhills to highest peaks and untouched wilderness to the natural wonders. Google it, there is so much to see and do!

Throughout our 767 municipalities there are 80 regional parks, 40 provincial parks, and two national parks. Campsite reservations opened the second week in April on the provinces booking portal, for myself it was a seamless process. Beyond lakes and camping there are many activities and sites to see within our own communities and throughout this great province. Please, do take the time to support your local enterprises and businesses they are what keep our world turning.

When I think about recreation with my family it reminds me to slow down, take time and be present in the moment to enjoy what I have, to let go of the to-do lists, the demands at work, and the personal pressure of having everything done just right.

**DON'T FORGET HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO GIVE YOURSELF AND EVERYONE YOU ENCOUNTER A LITTLE GRACE. ON ANY GIVEN DAY WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PEOPLE'S LIVES. ARE THEY STRUGGLING WITH FAMILY ISSUES, JOB ISSUES, PERSONAL ISSUES?**

I have been a part of the RMAA Board now for a few years and unfortunately, we hear about more incidences of harassment in many of our municipal offices, and it saddens me.

I am sad that people aren't mindful of the fact that all those we encounter deserve to be treated with respect and given a little grace when they need it.

I ask all those reading this article to reflect on your actions and your words and be more mindful of how they impact all those around you. With summer on the horizon please take time to reflect on this. What can you do to make a more positive impact on all those around you and your community?

Summer is a great time to inspire yourself and others to be the leaders they want to be. Just like the crops and livestock we grow; summer is a time of renewal and growth. The perfect time to ask yourself what kind of leader do you want to be and how will you lead by example?

This summer let's book time in our busy schedules to explore at least one new adventurous location, smell some flowers and find something to be grateful for. But just as important; please take time to reflect on how to be more respectful and how to give others grace so we can all continue to enjoy this beautiful province we call home together.





# INTRODUCING SASKATCHEWAN'S LABOUR MARKET STRATEGY

BY MINISTRY OF IMMIGRATION AND CAREER TRAINING

The province is growing, and with that growth comes more jobs, more opportunities, and a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people. To ensure Saskatchewan people have the first chance to benefit from the opportunities created by our growing economy, the province recently released Building the Workforce for a Growing Economy: The Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy.

The Labour Market Strategy outlines provincial investments in programs, services, and partnerships that align Saskatchewan's workforce with the evolving needs of industry. It also details how the government will help to equip Saskatchewan people with the tools they need to succeed in a growing economy while helping employers close the skills gap.

This strategy supports Saskatchewan's efforts to attract investment into the province, which are outlined in another recently released strategy, Securing the Next Decade of Growth: Saskatchewan's Investment Attraction Strategy.

With one of the most competitive business environments in the world, Saskatchewan is leading the country in private sector investment growth, with \$14.2 billion planned for 2024. These investments are leading to more opportunities, and more jobs, which is why it's critical the province has the labour force we need to support the evolving needs of our growing economy.

**The Labour Market Strategy is a blueprint to grow and develop the workforce by focusing on the following three pillars.**

## PREPARING SASKATCHEWAN PEOPLE FOR JOBS

The Government of Saskatchewan is working to ensure Saskatchewan residents have the first opportunity to take advantage of the high-quality jobs being created in the province through training, upskilling and prioritizing engagement with underrepresented groups in the labour market.

Saskatchewan is home to world-class post-secondary institutions – including two universities, one polytechnic, six regional colleges and three Indigenous institutes. In the past months, the regional colleges have announced new courses and expanded seat availability in programs, including healthcare programs at Suncrest College and



the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. The province is investing in multi-year partnerships with institutions to provide them the support and flexibility to be agile and align their programming to emerging labour market needs.

Through partnerships between industry and education, Saskatchewan is also creating more training opportunities, offering new programs and increasing training capacity for in-demand skills and occupations. For example, the province partnered with Ochapowace First Nation to deliver a pre-employment welding program to students to Ochapowace. By bringing the training opportunity directly to the community, the program reduced one of the barriers facing Indigenous people and opened the door for learners to pursue a rewarding and in-demand career.

The strategy also emphasizes the importance of pre-employment training opportunities, which prepare people to enter the workforce, resulting in workers available to meet Saskatchewan’s labour market needs. These programs support underrepresented groups such as Indigenous people, young people, older workers and workers with disabilities.



## RECOGNIZING SKILLS IN SASKATCHEWAN

The Government of Saskatchewan is streamlining the credential recognition process for people trained elsewhere in Canada and abroad to reduce barriers that can prevent them from working in jobs aligned with their education and experience.

The province is leading the nation with the fastest and most aggressive credential recognition processing times in Canada, along with one-on-one navigation support available to guide and assist workers through their journey to licensure.

## INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

The overall population of the province grew by 30,624 people in 2023, marking the largest increase in one year since 1914. In 2024, the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) will receive 7,250 nominations, which will result in more than 18,000 newcomers to the province this year.

Employer-led recruitment missions are an innovative way to support employers finding the talent they need and provide

important pre-arrival support to people looking to move to Saskatchewan.

In December, a recruitment mission to the Philippines resulted in more than 1,000 new Canadians bound for Saskatchewan.

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to advocate for more autonomy over immigration to better support newcomers. When newcomers are connected to their jobs and their communities, they are more likely to permanently stay in Saskatchewan.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The strategy concludes by looking ahead to Saskatchewan’s future labour needs. Several emerging and evolving industries in the province will require a labour force with a new set of skills and knowledge. The strategy outlines how the province is working closely with industry, training institutions and regulators to ensure Saskatchewan’s workforce matches our future economy’s needs.

**Saskatchewan’s growth is powered by its people. The jobs are here. The opportunity is now.**



# GROWING FUTURES: THE URGENT NEED TO SUPPORT SASKATCHEWAN'S COMMUNITIES

Saskatchewan's rural communities are the lifeblood of our province, enriching our economy and culture.

However, new findings from our research, which is found in the *Growing Futures Vital Signs Report*, emphasize the necessity for increased support to sustain and grow these vital areas.

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges facing our communities, focusing on critical areas such as supporting safe and affordable housing, increasing food security, improving mental health services, and the need to sustain community infrastructure.

The essential role of a community foundation is to nurture and guide giving decisions to enhance the quality of life across Saskatchewan. Community foundations, like the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, serve as bridges between local donors and community needs, facilitating investments in the restoration and maintenance of aging assets. By supporting local organizations, these foundations contribute to the effective operation and longevity of community resources. Your giving stays right at home and is legally honoured for generations guided by you or your family's direction.

One shining example of community philanthropy in action is the legacy of George Butt. George created a legacy

fund at the Community Foundation that benefits his hometown of Arcola, providing annual support to important community spaces such as Prairie Place Hall, Arcola Curling Club, St. Andrew's United Church, and the Arcola Cemetery. Because George's donation is endowed, his gift is protected forever and will continue to grow over time, offering consistent and stable funding to his community for generations.

The impact of George's donation is evident in the words of Arcola's Mayor, Scott Tessier: "It's really important to be able to have stable funding in order to operate and keep things going. If there were more funds like [George's] that brought in more stable funding for us, it would help a lot." This stability allows communities to plan and execute projects that foster growth and sustainability.

Endowed funding, or "forever" funding, empowers donors to leave a lasting impact on the places they hold dear. "People who want to give back right where they live, where their business is, or where they grew up can work with the community foundation to ensure their community benefits, forever, from their gifts," said Donna Ziegler, Executive Director at the Foundation. "Thank you, George, for making a difference in Arcola."

Our community foundation also helps strengthen local communities through our Managed Funds Service. Municipalities can invest a portion of their reserve funds in our larger asset pool (over \$100 million in management), which offers access to potentially higher returns

in markets that might not be available otherwise. This streamlined process allows for easy transfer of funds into our pooled assets, which are not subject to any locking period. Municipalities retain full control and can request a transfer of their funds back at any time.

In summary, the *Growing Futures Vital Signs Report* underlines the importance of investing in Saskatchewan's rural communities. Community foundations like ours play a crucial role in guiding and facilitating philanthropy to enrich community life and ensure diverse and thriving communities for the future. By supporting local donors and organizations, these foundations help to create a brighter, more sustainable future for all regions in Saskatchewan. To learn more about our Community Foundation, please visit [sscf.ca](http://sscf.ca). For a detailed review of our research findings in the *Growing Futures Vital Signs Report*, you can explore our Growing Futures website at [growingfuturesreport.ca](http://growingfuturesreport.ca).

Our Community Foundation would be pleased to schedule a meeting with your council, either in-person or virtually, to discuss your current community needs and explore ways we might be able to help. **For more information or to schedule a meeting, please reach out to Adam at 306-751-4756 ext. 1002 or [finance@sscf.ca](mailto:finance@sscf.ca).**



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Saskatchewan  
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# SARM'S CONTINUING WORK ON RURAL HEALTHCARE



**BY BRIAN RAKOCHY,  
MANAGER, ADVOCACY, SARM**

As we navigate the complexities of modern health care, it is imperative to recognize and address the unique challenges faced by rural residents in accessing quality medical services.

Our population distribution in rural Saskatchewan often results in healthcare facilities being located far from where people live, leading to longer travel times and increased logistical challenges for individuals seeking medical attention.

Furthermore, the shortage of healthcare professionals in rural areas compounds these challenges. Rural healthcare providers often face immense pressure due to high patient volumes, limited resources, and isolation from specialized medical expertise. This situation not only affects the quality of care but also contributes to burnout among healthcare professionals, leading to workforce shortages and further straining an already fragile healthcare system.

The impact of inadequate health care in rural Saskatchewan extends beyond physical health concerns. Mental health issues, often exacerbated by limited access to mental health services and stigma, are significant challenges faced by rural

residents. Addressing mental health needs is crucial for promoting overall well-being and resilience in these communities.

Investing in robust healthcare infrastructure and services in rural Saskatchewan is not just a matter of convenience; it is a fundamental step towards achieving health equity and social justice. Every individual, regardless of their geographical location, deserves timely access to quality healthcare services.





Here at SARM, we continue to promote several strategies that can be employed to improve health care in rural Saskatchewan:

## VIRTUAL HEALTH CARE

Telemedicine and Telehealth Services: Expanding these initiatives can bridge the gap between rural communities and healthcare providers. Virtual health services enable remote consultations, diagnostics, and monitoring, reducing the need for frequent long-distance travel. Virtual health services are only as available as the broadband that brings them to rural areas. This is why we continue to advocate for improved connectivity across the province, but that's another article for another issue.

## RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCENTIVES

Offering incentives such as student loan forgiveness, competitive salaries, and professional development opportunities can attract and retain healthcare professionals in rural areas. Collaboration with academic institutions to establish rural training programs can also bolster the rural healthcare workforce.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY CARE TEAMS

Implementing interdisciplinary care models involving physicians, nurse practitioners, mental health professionals, and other medical professionals can enhance comprehensive health care delivery in rural communities. This approach addresses the diverse needs of patients while optimizing resource utilization.

## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Upgrading healthcare facilities, enhancing medical equipment availability, and improving transportation networks can

streamline health care delivery and emergency response capabilities in rural areas.

Our advocacy on the healthcare file has progressed with the provincial government and has seen some steps in the right direction. SARM has established regular meetings with both the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health to directly discuss the issues we are hearing about in rural Saskatchewan.

Recently we have seen the Government of Canada sign two bilateral agreements with Saskatchewan to support initiatives to improve health care, specifically carving out dollars for rural initiatives. The provincial budget, delivered last week, included a record amount for health care, with a budget of \$7.59 billion. This is a 10 percent increase from the previous year.

One of the key concerns voiced by many in recent months has been surrounding staffing for rural communities. This was brought up during the recent SARM annual convention in Regina and was mentioned numerous times in the Legislature in the days leading up to the budget. There is a total of \$33.8 million designated for rural and remote staffing included in the budget, which isn't part of the rural and remote recruitment incentive program. This funding is to help support adding 250 new full-time permanent positions across nine classifications in 54 communities. The Saskatchewan Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive is \$8.7 million, which will have an intake of recipients for 2024-25. The fund, up from \$2 million in last year's budget, has some participants who are completing their first and second-year service agreements. Another \$1 million was set aside in the budget specifically to help support rural family physician recruitment and retention.

Prior to the budget, SARM called for the provincial government to utilize a program that had been previously suggested - the Grow Your Own Nurse



Practitioner program. The program was first introduced by the provincial government in 2014, but never got off the ground.

Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with advanced training allowing them to perform exams, diagnose and treat health issues, and order lab work.

There was some progress on this as a renewed program announced a week ahead of the budget; it will see 25 new nurse practitioner positions created over the course of the next year. Saskatchewan is testing out a new model for health clinics. The new clinics will be independently operated, publicly funded, and staffed by nurse practitioners.

The importance of health care in rural Saskatchewan cannot be overstated. It is a moral imperative and a strategic investment in the well-being and resilience of our rural communities. As we navigate the complexities of healthcare delivery, let's prioritize equity, accessibility, and inclusivity to build a healthier, more prosperous future for all Saskatchewan residents, regardless of where they call home.

**SARM WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE TO ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT RURAL COMMUNITIES HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE.**



**SASKATCHEWAN  
OPEN FARM DAYS  
WELCOMING  
VISITORS TO RURAL  
AGRICULTURE  
EXPERIENCES**  
**AUGUST 10 & 11, 2024**



Across Saskatchewan, a unique opportunity awaits for you to reconnect with the land and learn the stories behind your food. The inaugural Saskatchewan Open Farm Days, happening on August 10 and 11, 2024, invites you to experience a journey that promises to enrich the understanding of agriculture in ways urban and rural residents have never experienced before.

Saskatchewan, known for its boundless fields and rich agricultural heritage, is opening its gates to welcome people from all walks of life. Whether you're a family eager to show your children the roots of their meals, newcomers aiming to deepen your connection with your new home, or anyone looking to rekindle their bond with the rural lifestyle, this event is tailored for all.

**A WEEKEND OF  
AGRICULTURAL DISCOVERY**

Saskatchewan Open Farm Days is more than just a weekend outing; it's a celebration of the province's agricultural sector. This annual event is designed to





bring people together through a series of educational and hands-on experiences that highlight the journey of food from farm to plate. Here is your opportunity as a rural resident to promote a directory of farms that will share their stories surrounding dryland farming, dairies, apiaries, orchards, ranches, mixed farms, historical spaces, culinary experiences and agriculturally themed accommodation.

### EXPERIENCES FOR EVERYONE

Across the province, farms will open their doors to offer a glimpse into the daily lives of Saskatchewan’s rural and agricultural community. Each location is preparing a free experience for visitors to engage with various aspects of farming and food production. Imagine your children’s delight as they collect eggs, your own wonder as you walk through vast fields of canola in bloom, or the sense of connection you feel as you learn about sustainable farming practices that protect our future.

### CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

Saskatchewan Open Farm Days is a testament to the spirit of collaboration and community that defines the province. It’s an initiative supported by the dedicated hosts who are opening their farms for this event, and the combined efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Tourism Saskatchewan. Their commitment ensures that every participant leaves with a deeper appreciation for the land, the food it produces, and the people who make it all possible.



### JOIN THE CELEBRATION

As we approach the inaugural Saskatchewan Open Farm Days, we invite you to mark your calendars for August 10 and 11. This event is more than an opportunity to explore the rural beauty of Saskatchewan; it’s a chance to embrace our province’s food heritage, honor the diversity of our agricultural practices, and celebrate the vibrant communities that make Saskatchewan truly unique.

So, whether you have a longstanding connection to the farm or are simply curious about the origins of your food, Saskatchewan Open Farm Days offers an enriching experience for everyone. Come, be part of this extraordinary event, and take the first step towards discovering the heart and soul of Saskatchewan agriculture. Together, let’s cultivate unforgettable experiences and foster a deeper bond with the land that sustains us.



**Farmers will be opening their doors for a Saskatchewan-wide event connecting you with local farms and food.**

Spend your weekend exploring unforgettable farm experiences and connect with local farmers to learn about how your food is produced. Find local food products, discover the diversity of farms across the province, and experience the vitality of our rural communities.

August 10 & 11, 2024

[www.skopenfarmdays.ca](http://www.skopenfarmdays.ca)

# MINISTER'S MESSAGE



**BY THE HONOURABLE EVERETT HINDLEY, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND THE HONOURABLE TIM MCLEOD, MINISTER OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS, SENIORS AND RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH**

The 2024-25 Saskatchewan budget delivers record investments of \$7.59 billion in health care for communities across the province, including rural and northern locations.

“It is essential for Saskatchewan residents to have a path forward to achieve better health no matter where they live in our province,” Health Minister Everett Hindley said. “The record health budget this year will expand access across the health system to meet the primary care needs of our rapidly growing province, strengthen healthcare teams, and fund key infrastructure projects across Saskatchewan.”

Continued investment into the province’s ambitious Health Human Resources (HHR) Action Plan, which is now entering its third year since it was launched, ensures Saskatchewan remains an attractive place for healthcare professionals to live and work.

Many key successes have resulted from the HHR Action Plan, including nearly 1,100 nursing graduates hired since December 2022, and almost 280 physicians recruited to Saskatchewan since September 2021.

“Our government has made it a priority to stabilize and strengthen health care in rural, regional and northern communities, and ensure residents in these areas have access to important health services as close to home as possible,” said Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Tim McLeod.

To stabilize rural and remote staffing, more than 230 new and enhanced full-time positions have been filled in rural and northern areas toward a target of 250 positions. Also, dozens of Nurse Practitioner (NPs) positions will be created to enhance and expand use of NPs and enable health care teams to see more patients.

Competitive packages are offered to attract health care professionals choosing a rural, regional or northern community. This includes the Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive which has seen great success, with 305 incentives provided so far through this program to fill hard-to-recruit positions.

There are generous incentives for physicians as well. An enhanced Rural Physician Incentive of up to \$200,000 over five years has been offered since April 2023 to support physicians practicing in rural and remote

## Investing in Rural Health Care

**Adding hundreds of new staff in rural communities to strengthen health services**



**Competitive packages for rural physicians and hard-to-recruit positions**



**Record investment in health care facilities for rural & northern communities**



**Supporting seniors to live safely and comfortably in their communities**



**Expanded capacity for mental health and addictions services across Saskatchewan**



saskatchewan.ca/hhr




communities. The incentive has seen significant interest, with nearly 118 applications approved for payment.

This year, eight more seats will be added to the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) program in addition to the current 45 seats to help bring more physicians to regional, rural and northern communities. More than 300 physicians are currently practicing in the province thanks to SIPPA.

To provide more training opportunities here at home, 550 new training seats were added in critical health care training programs in 2022-23, following a 150-nursing seat expansion. This year, the province has further expanded opportunities for nursing students with an additional 24 seats in registered nursing and 24 registered psychiatric nursing programs.

The provincial government is making record investments in health care infrastructure, including several major construction projects for rural and northern communities:

- Prince Albert Victoria Hospital redevelopment;
- Weyburn Hospital replacement; and
- La Ronge long-term care facility.

Other capital investments for rural areas include planning work for the Estevan and Watson long-term care projects, and replacement projects for Yorkton Regional Health Centre, Esterhazy St. Anthony's Hospital, Rosthern Hospital, and the Battlefords District Care Centre.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the unique needs of seniors in the province, and is working to ensure improved health services and programs that support them to live safely and comfortably in their communities.

Mental health and addictions also remains a key priority. New investments will expand mental health services and will help more people overcome addictions and live healthy lives in recovery.



*"In a rural site, you are part of a team all working together. You can see you are making a real difference."*

**Ariana**  
Medical Laboratory Technologist I  
Meadow Lake, SK

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"We have accomplished a lot, but we recognize more work remains to be done as we continue tackling the challenges facing health care in our province," Minister McLeod said.

"I want to thank our all of our partners, including the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities for working together with the provincial government to improve the health and well-being of our residents."

"There is a lot to look forward to, with many health care improvements planned and underway," Minister Hindley said. "The future of our province and our health care system is one of ongoing progress and improvement and a clear vision for a better tomorrow. With each step forward, we continue building it together."

# INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SASKATCHEWAN: SOME WINS, MORE TO DO

**BY SCOTT PEARCE, PRESIDENT,  
FEDERATION OF CANADIAN  
MUNICIPALITIES (FCM)**

As President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), I'm lucky enough to get to travel across this country and meet some pretty exceptional people.

In March, I had the privilege of attending SARM's Annual Convention and Trade Show in Regina. The warmth of the SARM membership, and the dedication I saw in facing down problems and getting things done in Saskatchewan communities was a real inspiration. Being a rural mayor myself, it was a reminder of how it's the people that make our small communities special.

As municipalities, we're the level of government closest to the people, closest to the challenges, and often the one having the best visibility of what needs to be done.



In particular, we know there is a pressing need for new and renewed infrastructure, particularly rural roads and bridges, in so many of our provinces—including in Saskatchewan. These kinds of big infrastructure needs can act as a major anchor that drags down municipal budgets.

As the national voice of the country's municipalities, FCM has been advocating hard for more assistance in funding the upkeep and replacement of our municipal infrastructure. This includes our roads, bridges, public buildings, water and wastewater facilities, parks and recreation facilities, that are all so vital to our communities' well-being.

I'm happy to see very positive signs from the latest federal budget released on April 16, which responded directly to many of FCM's recommendations.

This included \$6 billion for municipal infrastructure, including \$1 billion set aside for urgent repairs. What's more, the budget stipulated this funding will benefit communities of all sizes, and that provinces must dedicate at least 20 per cent of their agreement-based funding for northern, rural, and Indigenous communities.

This means more money available for the needs of rural communities in Saskatchewan.

At the same time, I think it's important to remain clear-sighted. We should note this doesn't change the long-term situation for municipalities. Now is the time to be more ambitious, and to convene orders of government to negotiate a new Municipal Growth Framework that provides all our communities with predictable, diverse sources of income, so we can plan more effectively into the future.

Facing the issues in our rural communities, from servicing crucial infrastructure to ensuring public safety, we need to be bold about pushing for more long-term support. Outdated fiscal models cannot fund the needs of communities today or in the future.

This new framework could take many forms. We've reached out to provincial partners for input on the potential design of a Municipal Growth Framework, and the insight of our Saskatchewan members and their experiences of Municipal Revenue Sharing have been an important contribution.

As a mayor of a small rural community, I know the struggle of maintaining roads, our municipal infrastructure and our buildings, as well as keeping our much-needed public services and events going.



# Slips, trips and falls can have a lifetime impact.

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**Diagnosis:** Traumatic brain injury  
**Recovery time:** 3 months – lifetime  
**Lifetime impact:** Debilitating headaches

## A MUNICIPAL GROWTH FRAMEWORK OFFERS OUR COMMUNITIES AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE. ONE WHERE WE COULD SEE OUR NEEDS MET IN A MORE COMPLETE WAY.

However, we can only get there with the support of our members, including those based in Saskatchewan. I strongly suggest you visit the 'Municipal Growth Framework' page on our website at [fcm.ca/growth](http://fcm.ca/growth) to learn more about this ambitious step forward. We plan to focus closely on this important topic at FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show which is coming up soon, from June 6-9 in Calgary, AB.

Finally, I'd like to shout out a true friend and municipal leader in Saskatchewan: Ray Orb. Beyond leading SARM for many years, Ray also served as FCM Rural Forum chair from 2015-2021, and as Vice-Chair before that. He played a leading role in our advocacy on broadband, which led to the creation of the Universal Broadband Fund, as well as being a key member of our Western Economic Solutions Taskforce.

FCM was saddened to hear he won't be seeking re-election next year, and I would like to salute him for his many years of service. Thank you, Ray!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SCOTT PEARCE



Scott Pearce is President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Mayor of the town of Gore. FCM is the national voice for Canada's local governments, with more than 2,100 members representing more than 92 percent of all Canadians.



# TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM CLAIM



Photo credit: Colleen Fennig, Baby's breath in hayfield and ditch.

**BY COLLEEN FENNIG, PAG PLANT HEALTH  
TECHNICAL ADVISOR, DIVISION 6**

Spring is the time to start thinking about weed control. The following is a list of tips to help Rural Municipalities (RMs) and First Nation communities (FNs) submit successful claims to the Invasive Plant Control Program (IPCP).

## 1 CONSULT YOUR PHTA

Your Plant Health Technical Advisor (PHTA) is a great resource for all things related to the Invasive Plant Control Program (IPCP). Make us your first call when you have a question. We are here to help.

## 2 START EARLY

In April the revised IPCP guidelines are posted on the SARM website. Be sure to check them every year as there may be changes that could have an impact on your weed control and rebate plans. Be sure to send the updated guidelines to your licensed applicator and Weed Inspector (WI) so they know what is required from them. Also update your council on changes so they can make informed decisions.

## 3 BE SURE TO RE-APPOINT YOUR WEED INSPECTOR ANNUALLY

For RMs, send your appointment letter to the Ministry of Agriculture. WI appointments expire every year on December 31st. For your WI to have the authority to do their job and to make use of IPCP, RMs need to have appointed a WI that has been acknowledged by the Ministry. If after four weeks you have not received acknowledgment of your appointment, follow up with the Ministry.



#### 4 CONFIRM YOUR APPLICATOR'S LICENSE IS CURRENT AND APPLICABLE

Spring is also a good time to confirm that your applicator's license will be valid for the whole season. Claims that are submitted to IPCP will be denied for expenses or chemical applied after the date a license has expired. Although it is the applicator's responsibility to make sure their license is current and valid, if it is slated to expire midway through the season, it would not hurt to follow up with your applicator to confirm it has been renewed.

#### 5 REVIEW ALL DATA REQUIREMENTS EVERY YEAR

When the new guidelines are released, it is prudent to review the program paperwork and determine what spraying application record details are required. You are encouraged to ask that your applicator provide you with these details in an easy-to-use format. This will make filling out claim forms simpler with less potential for errors and frustration. Feel free to include your PHTA in this conversation to answer any questions that might arise. It is also good to note that applicators are required to have complete herbicide application records regardless of your RM's intention to use IPCP or not. Sample herbicide application record templates can be found on the SARM IPCP webpage.

#### 6 UPDATE YOUR WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP) WITH YOUR PHTA

Invite your PHTA to help with revising or updating your yearly WMP, including your spray plan and/or new weeds in the area, especially if you intend to make use of IPCP. If you need to stray from your spray plan (different weeds or herbicides), contact your PHTA to see if that impacts your eligibility for the program. Current year WMPs are required as part of your IPCP claim to access funding.

#### 7 ENCOURAGE COMMUNICATION

Encourage your WI and licensed applicator to contact your PHTA whenever they have a question. We are here to support them year-round. If your WI and applicator are two different people, encourage them to communicate and collaborate on weed issues in your RM.

## Firearms safety is my responsibility.

– David Yorke, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation President

Protect your loved ones.  
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Scan to learn more about responsible firearms ownership in Saskatchewan.



**Secure Firearms. Safe Communities.**

[saskatchewan.ca/firearms](https://saskatchewan.ca/firearms)

Saskatchewan

#### 8 HERBICIDE LABELS ARE THE LAW

The use of herbicides is highly regulated. Weed Inspectors, herbicide applicators, and herbicide sales reps do not have the authority to change what the labels require and straying from the label can result in liability issues. IPCP rebates public funds back to RMs, FNs, and ratepayers and, as such, all legislation and regulations must be followed. Any claims that do not follow the label will be denied including incorrect rates and adjuvants (if applicable). For a list of eligible weeds and herbicides, please refer to Appendix A of the guidelines found on the SARM IPCP webpage.

Following these tips and including your PHTA in your weed control efforts can result in successful rebates from the Invasive Plant Control Program. Your PHTA contact information can be found on the SARM website. We are here as a resource to help you with all the programs available through the Pest Biosecurity Program. Information on all these programs can be found at <https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/>.

# TARPIING LOADS TO BE MANDATORY



EFFECTIVE JUNE 1  
TO IMPROVE SAFETY

## BY THE SASKATCHEWAN MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways would like to update its critical transportation stakeholders in the trucking sector about their roles related to an important change coming this spring to improve safety.

The Security of Loads Regulations in Saskatchewan have been updated to better align with the National Safety Code Standard 10 for cargo securement and to enhance clarity for police and industry. The update is also intended to help reduce potential hazards for motorists, such as broken windshields due to bulk cargo not being properly secured.

Effective June 1, 2024, bulk loads not fully contained will require covering by a tarp or other appropriate material (such as canvas, wire mesh, netting) to prevent materials becoming dislodged from the vehicle or load container during transport.

This update doesn't apply to collecting refuse while the vehicle is being loaded

or being moved during loading; for construction work within the limits of a project on a public road; and for snow removal or winter maintenance on a public road by designated authorities. To see the specific regulations with more details, visit: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/122594>

Truckers are also reminded to visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/trucking](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/trucking) for information about Saskatchewan trucking programs, weight classifications and restrictions.

With the bulk of the highway construction on the way, all drivers are reminded to watch out for work zones as provincial crews and contractors work to improve Saskatchewan's transportation system to support its export-based economy.

Some of that work that will continue during the 2024 construction season (which will benefit truckers and shippers when completed) are: the \$25 million

Highway 6 and Ring Road overpass project in Regina, which began in 2023 and is expected to be completed this year; and an estimated \$125 million multi-year Highway 5 corridor improvement project from Saskatoon to the junction of Highway 2, which began in 2018 and is targeted to be completed in 2026.

For the latest available road conditions and how construction will affect your trip, visit the Saskatchewan Highway Hotline at <https://hotline.gov.sk.ca/>.

**The Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$12 billion in highways infrastructure since 2008, improving more than 19,400 kilometres of Saskatchewan highways.**



## The Finance & Accounting team:

- Provides the budgeting, accounting, and reporting functions for SARM, the Insurance and Benefits Funds, all externally funded programs and the Tax Loss Compensation Trust Funds administered by SARM.
- Recommends, develops, and implements short and long-term financial goals and objectives to support the long-term financial health of SARM.

## Getting to know SARM

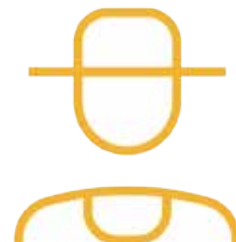
# Finance & Accounting Team



**Breanna Janzen**  
Senior Accountant



**Candace Jennings**  
Accounting Assistant  
(Term)



**Karen Takach**  
Administrative  
Assistant

### The Finance & Accounting Team:

- Processes all accounts payable, receivable, and staff and board payroll as well as human resources administrative services.
- Supports member purchasing through invoicing and vendor payments as well as member support on all invoice and payment questions.
- Coordinates the annual audits and annual financial reports for SARM, the benefits and insurance programs, the Tax Loss Compensation Funds, and externally funded programs.
- Administers high interest savings accounts for members by setting up new accounts with CIBC, processing all transactions, and providing monthly reporting for members.
- Administers the Fish and Wildlife Grant-in-Lieu payments.

- Participates as a member of the Investment Committee and processes all investment pool accounting and administration.
- Supports the Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Administration Board, including calculation of distributions and coordination of the audit.

### Members go to to Finance & Accounting for:

- Answers to their questions related to invoices and payments.
- Information about the tax loss compensation process and reporting of the status of their Trust Fund account.
- Obtaining a high interest savings account for their cash balances.

## 2024 Lieutenant Governor Award Recipient

# DALE LEFLAR



On March 13, 2024, The Lieutenant Governor’s Award for outstanding service to rural Saskatchewan was presented to Dale Leflar.

Dale was born and raised with his siblings on a farm in the RM of Bengough No. 40. Growing up Dale participated in various sports, but he especially loved hockey and baseball. Dale attended school in Bengough and upon his graduation in 1952, he worked at the Imperial Bank of Commerce, on a seismic crew, and on the family farm before attending the University of British Columbia in 1956. On August 16, 1957, Dale married Johanna “Jo” Swensson-Rosenquist.

After they wed, Jo got a teaching position in Edmonton, and Dale worked as an apprentice in a Chartered Accounting Firm. However, the call back to Saskatchewan was too hard to ignore, so they returned, and Dale’s municipal career began in February of 1958 at the RM of Waverly No. 44. In January of 1960, they moved to Neudorf where Dale took a job with the RM of McLeod No. 185.

On October 1, 1962, Dale took the administrator position in his home RM, of Bengough No. 40, where he would remain until his retirement on September 30, 1996.

Dale received both his “C” and “A” certificates while working at the RM of McLeod No. 185. He received his “Superior A” certificate on August 19, 1974, while working at the RM of Bengough No. 40.

During his time as an administrator for the RM of Bengough No. 40, Dale also worked part-time for the Bengough Rural Telephone Company, as manager of the Bengough Housing Authority, and

as the part-time administrator for both the RM of Happy Valley No. 10 and RM of Excel No. 71. Dale also spent time in various offices that were in between administrators.

Dale accomplished many things during his time with the RM of Bengough No. 40. One of the more memorable accomplishments was the transition to a computerized system. He had friends and colleagues that were apprehensive about this change and in true “Dale” fashion he faced the challenge head on and looked at it as an opportunity rather than just another task to complete.

As you can tell, municipal politics has always been near and dear to Dale’s heart. He further showed this by serving as an alderman for the Town of Bengough from 1982 to 1988 and the Division 2 Director for the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA) from 1982 to 1993. Dale also volunteered his free time to his community and received the Citizen of the Year award in 1995.

In 2000, when the Rural Board of Examiners took over the duty of office inspections for administrators wishing to advance their certificates, Dale was hired as the first inspector along with his colleague and friend Dale Malmgren.





Dale continued performing office inspections until 2009.

Two years after Dale retired, in 1996, he received the prestigious Lou Jacobs award, and in 2023 Dale was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Even after his retirement in 1996 Dale continued to serve his community. He spent countless hours documenting and upgrading cemetery records and doing groundskeeping at both the Bengough Cemetery as well as the Zion Lutheran Cemetery. He was also always willing to lend his bookkeeping and accounting expertise whenever asked to do so to various community groups, friends, and colleagues.

Dale and Jo now reside in Regina. They enjoy spending time with their three children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren spread throughout Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.



*“Dale was a positive voice for Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and Dale was an outstanding Ambassador for our Association and worked tirelessly for the rural Saskatchewan people that he served as Administrator of the Rural Municipality of Bengough.”*

~ Audrey Trombley

*“During his tenure with the Rural Municipality of Bengough No. 40 Dale was not “just an Administrator”. Dale held many other positions in the Community such as working part-time for the Bengough Rural Telephone Company, Bengough Housing Authority Manager and also acting as part-time Administrator for the Rural Municipalities of Happy Valley No. 10 and Excel No. 71. On top of all of these duties Dale never shied away from lending a hand to the Community by way of volunteering, spearheading or simply offering advice. Dale also served as an Elk, a Manson & a Shriner. Everyone always looked forward to seeing Dale in the little cars in community parades!”*

~ David Warren Deputy Reeve RM of Bengough No. 40

*“One of his big contributions was the reorganization and revitalization of the Bengough Cemetery and local area cemeteries. This proved to be a 10 year project in which 80 or more unmarked graves were discovered. He proceeded to work diligently to put names and markers to identify the deceased. As a*

*result the cemetery is now organized systematically with recorded names and plots.”*

~ Lois Giraudier

*“I had the good fortune to work with Mr. Leflar for close to 40 years. Dale and I were both elected to the Rural Municipal Administrators of Saskatchewan board of directors at the 1982 annual convention. Dale served as Director for Division 2 (South Central Saskatchewan) until 1993. During his tenure on the board, Dale served in many capacities. He chaired most of the high-profile committees including Disciplinary Committee and was our appointee to the Rural Board of Examiners. He always represented our association with professionalism and was always the ‘voice of reason’ in any important discussion or debate.”*

~James Angus

*“Dale has an impressive history with the RMAA . He was a long term Administrator in rural Saskatchewan and served on the RMAA executive board as director for division two. In addition, Dale served as an Inspector for the Board of Examiners. In this capacity he played a key role in assessing candidates for advanced certification in the Association. Dale was well respected and his knowledge and leadership in this area was noticed by our members. In 1998 Dale was bestowed the highest honour of our Association, the Lou Jacobs Award and lifetime honorary association membership.”*

~ Rose Zimmer

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# PARTNER NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024



Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization operating since 1987 with the goal of safe crime free communities in our province. Anonymous tips received from concerned citizens are sent to law enforcement agencies to investigate and solve crimes and Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers protects the safety of those reporting the tip information by ensuring all contact remains anonymous; and anyone providing information that results in an arrest or charge may be eligible for cash rewards of up to **\$2000**.

The success of the program is a testament to the trust and support received from the public, the media, and our partners and these efforts are making a difference in Saskatchewan being a safe place to live, work, and raise a family. As we continue our mission to combat crime, we want to share some messaging with our partners to highlight program activities and statistics from the past year.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers continued to be busy in 2023 promoting the program through community outreach initiatives and the work of our coordinators managing the day-to-day operations of the program. Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers attended 3 major conventions in the province including SARM and SUMA, was present and active at 13 tradeshow and community events many of them multi-day events, and met with representatives and officials at Rural, Urban, First Nations locations on 9 occasions to present and discuss the benefits of Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers in their communities.

The program continues to have a successful social media presence with unsolved crimes posted to our website and a following of 44,000 to the program’s Facebook page with a success rate of 54% for all crimes that are posted to the page.

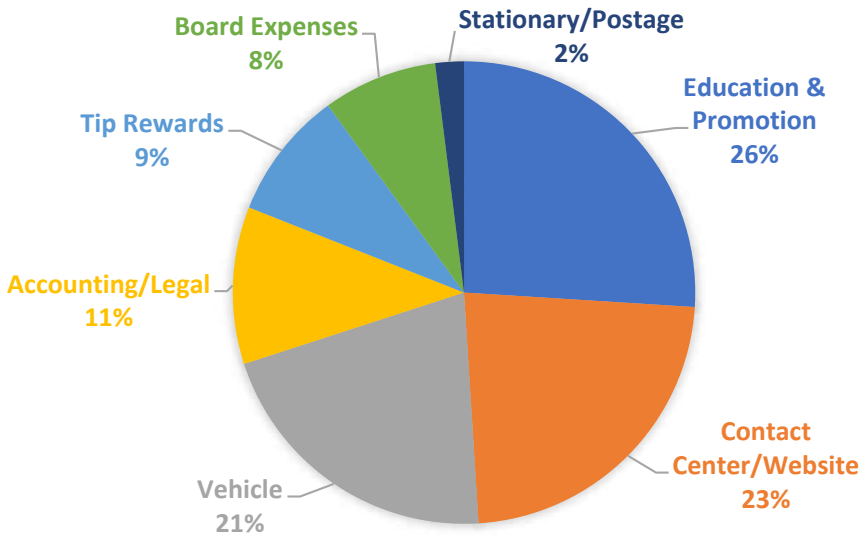
## PROGRAM RESULTS

STATISTIC	2023	SINCE INCEPTION
Tips	2,025	41,276
Calls	9,269	159,600
Arrests	75	3,614
Charges	113	2,703
Rewards Approved	44	1,810
Rewards Approved (\$)	\$ 14,575	\$ 463,516
Total Recovered (\$)	\$ 91,742	\$ 19,504,378

**Reducing crime in our communities is everyone’s responsibility.**



**2023 PROGRAM EXPENSES = \$56,375**



**THANK YOU**

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers acknowledges the tremendous financial support from all sponsors and encourages Rural and Urban municipalities to consider a \$200 donation to the program in their annual budget. We look forward to continuing to work together with all our partners to ensure the security and safety of our communities.



**For more information contact Kevin Brice at 639-398-8287 or admin@saskcrimestoppers.com.**

**Or visit our website**

**www.saskcrimestoppers.com**



## SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PARKS ONE OF OUR BEST KEPT SECRETS



**BY THE HONOURABLE  
LAURA ROSS  
MINISTER OF PARKS,  
CULTURE AND SPORT**

Whether regional, provincial or national, our province is full of many beautiful parks that offer opportunities for our citizens to connect with nature, enjoy outdoor recreation and make lasting memories with family and friends.

One of Saskatchewan's best kept secrets is our extensive and impressive regional parks system - 100 parks that extend throughout the province offering a wide array of park experiences.

Many don't realize that our regional park system is unique to Saskatchewan - it is made possible by volunteers who commit their free time to make these parks the outstanding spaces that they are.

Regional parks are self-directed organizations established by participating municipalities and operated by appointed

local authorities. They are self-governing decision makers and largely fund their operations through fees, fundraising and local donations.

I applaud and celebrate the many Saskatchewan volunteers who, year in and year out, make sure that these parks are available for all of us to enjoy. This volunteerism is greatly appreciated by the thousands of regional park visitors.

Some regional parks are located in, or adjacent to, towns, villages and cities. Others are located off the beaten path, in rural areas that largely go unexplored if it weren't for the park.

Some offer fishing, boating, golfing, camping and hiking, while some are open for winter activities.



Parks are maintained by donations, support from municipalities and from volunteers.

And, when you buy a pass to a regional park, the proceeds from that pass stay in the park where it is sold.

Additionally, the Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to support our regional parks through the Regional Parks Capital Grants Program.

**This year, the government will provide over \$1.2 million, a 100% increase over last year.**

This funding will continue to support capital projects and the administrative work of the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association. These are key components in running the parks and ensuring they remain enjoyable places for all visitors.

Another important support for regional parks is the provincial revenue sharing program. This is an opportunity for regional parks to collaborate with local municipalities to enhance tourism opportunities.

Regional parks also receive support from Saskatchewan Lotteries - our government is proud of all the support we can offer to maintain our regional parks



## SASKATCHEWAN REGIONAL PARKS LIBRARY LOANING SYSTEM

In 2022, we saw the launch of the Park Pass Lending Program that was piloted in partnership with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association and the Saskatchewan Library Association.

This project is a great display of innovation and collaboration, working towards improving access to park spaces, and allowing more people the chance to experience our beautiful regional parks.

This aligns with our government's core values to serve citizens by continuously improving and reducing barriers to access.

From May to September, if you have a valid library card, you can borrow a pass from any Saskatchewan library and enjoy a seven-day loan period with free access to almost all 100 regional parks. These passes are available in all regional and city libraries, and Regina and Saskatoon university libraries.

**I encourage Saskatchewan people to explore the many and varied experiences that regional parks offer. To find a park that is right for you visit [https://saskregionalparks.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-SRPA-Guide\\_Proof-3.pdf](https://saskregionalparks.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-SRPA-Guide_Proof-3.pdf)**



# SIX REASONS TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE ONLY YOU CAN MAKE

If you live in rural Saskatchewan, chances are you've met or chatted with a local member of council. That's probably because you also know them as the cattle rancher that lives down the road, or the teacher who taught you in high school, or as one of the hockey moms you see at the arena on Saturday mornings.

But have you ever thought of that councillor as yourself? We're hoping the answer is "Yes." But before you likely follow that "yes" with a "but," consider this: Most of the hesitations people have about running for council have to do with outdated stereotypes and flat-out myths. To help dispel those, here are the facts behind six common misbeliefs that prevent amazing people like you from running for council.

**SARM Will Be There to Help!**  
Once you're elected to council, SARM will always be there to help you with your duties. We have resources such as training programs, webinars, and mentor groups—to name just a few. So remember: **Your wins are our wins, and together we'll make rural Saskatchewan stronger.**

## 1

### "I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT."

You don't have to be. In fact, what's more important than any expertise is that you care about your community and are willing to learn. A municipality, after all, is the "frontline" level of government, which means it's as much about people and advocacy as it is about policies. Care can't be taught, but the ins and outs of municipal council certainly can.

## 2

### "I DON'T HAVE ANY POLITICAL EXPERIENCE."

That's okay. Chances are you already have a lot of skills and abilities that are transferable to the elected official's role. For example, think about your volunteer experience, community involvement, family life, and any other practical experiences that have taught you how to:

- work as part of a team,
- make decisions,
- look at both sides of an issue,
- prioritize,
- advocate, and
- lead.



3

## "I'M MORE OF A LISTENER THAN A TALKER."

Being a good listener is actually one of the most important traits that a councillor could have. Council members are entrusted with making decisions that directly affect the daily lives of residents, families, local business owners, and many others in the community. That trust begins with listening and learning. Other important personality traits are:

- honesty,
- patience,
- empathy,
- trustworthiness,
- curiosity,
- objectivity,
- respectfulness, and
- optimism.

4

## "IT SEEMS LIKE A BIG TIME COMMITMENT."

This one's not a myth—but mostly in that being a councillor is a four-year commitment. That said, it's important not to underestimate the amount of time and dedication required to be an effective member of council, especially if you're also managing a full-time job.

The good news is that you're probably already meeting with your community and spending a lot of time thinking about the issues and changes that affect you and your neighbours. When you're a councillor, that time and representation simply become more structured. For example, if elected, you should plan to attend:

- regular and special council meetings,
- committee meetings,
- conferences and conventions,
- seminars and workshops, and
- special events that promote your municipality.

5

## "I'M MORE COMMUNITY-MINDED THAN POLITICAL."

Guess what? That sounds like a councillor. Do you love that sense of community and the neighbours-help-neighbours philosophy that's entrenched in rural Saskatchewan? Do you want to see our farmers, ranchers, and entire agriculture sector prosper?

If the answer is "yes," we hope you can also see that Saskatchewan needs community-minded citizens like you to represent your municipality and provide insights that will lead to better services and quality of life for the communities you champion.

## Municipal Government 101

- Rural municipalities are governed by a council, consisting of a reeve and councillors who represent a numbered division within the rural municipality.
- That council derives its authority from *The Municipalities Act*, *The Cities Act*, and *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*.
- Your main role as a council is to make decisions and establish policies about the services that your municipality provides to its citizens, including how those services will be delivered.

6

## "IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I'D FIT IN."

We're pretty sure that's code for: *"I don't see myself represented when I look at local councillors."* Well, that's something we want to change. Representation absolutely matters. As a councillor, your lived experience and unique background are strengths, not weaknesses. So if you don't see councillors that are your age, or gender, or that have your disability or unique point of view, don't let that stop you from seeking election. Saskatchewan needs citizens like you to assume leadership roles and to shine light on the blind spots and opportunities that you see so sharply.

**There you have it. Six big myths busted and six great reasons to add your voice to municipal council. To answer more of your questions, including how and when to file your nomination, head to <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/> and search for "Running for Municipal Council."**

**Make the difference only you can make. Run for municipal government!**



The Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) program is a Ministry of Highways funded program, administered by SARM, and governed by a Program Management Board (PMB), which is made up of voting representatives of both organizations.

## GET TO KNOW TWO OF SARM'S PMB MEMBERS: DARWIN WHITFIELD AND MYRON KOPEC



Darwin is currently the Reeve of the RM of Oakdale No. 320; he has been with the RM for 25 years. Darwin served on the SARM Board of Directors since 2019 as the Division 6 Director and was appointed to the PMB the same year. Darwin recently decided to retire from his role on the SARM Board of Directors and PMB. Though we are sad to see him go, Darwin's leadership, knowledge, and passion for helping SARM's members had a big, lasting impact and we are very grateful for everything he has done as a leader, and for rural Saskatchewan.



Myron is currently a councillor and the Deputy Reeve with the RM of Buchanan No. 304. Myron, is the most recent addition to the PMB, having been appointed in 2023, the same year he was elected to the role of Division 4 Director on the SARM Board of Directors.

---

### What excites you about serving on the PMB?



As a reeve, I'm enthusiastic about being able to have open conversations with other councils about roads across the province. Getting to know the different classifications of roads within Saskatchewan, and finding out how the province deals with the road infrastructure.



As a councillor, I can utilize my experience to provide a voice and represent RMs to ensure that we have programs that work for rural Saskatchewan. I have experienced how challenging and costly infrastructure projects can be.



## What are the challenges you face on the PMB?



With so much road to maintain in rural Saskatchewan, funding levels can be a real challenge. As well, it can be a challenge to find the right balance between quality and cost for project standards.



With the impacts of massive inflation driving higher materials and labour costs, additional resources are required to meet the numerous requests for infrastructure funding. Without adequate funding, infrastructure in rural Saskatchewan will continue to deteriorate. To ensure that Saskatchewan can continue to support and attract industry investment and grow the economy we must invest in rural infrastructure.

## What are some accomplishments you have seen while being on the PMB?



I was pleased with the recent announcement by the provincial government to provide additional funding of \$1.4 million for the Clearing the Path Program. CTP is an excellent program that rural Saskatchewan can use for maintaining eligible roads at primary weights.

## What are your hopes for the RIRG Program?



We have a good working relationship with the Ministry of Highways and look forward to collaborating with them over the coming years to secure more funding to build stronger road infrastructure across our province. We all have the same goal: a good sustainable road system for the people of Saskatchewan.

## Why is feedback important to the RIRG Program?



Providing feedback helps improve the program so it can better assist RMs in maintaining their infrastructure. Working together as partners makes every system stronger.



It is critical to receive feedback from RMs on the RIRG program to ensure changes are implemented to improve the program to better meet the needs of rural Saskatchewan.

## SUMMARY:

It is important to let us know if an aspect of the program is a challenge for your municipality. This input will help identify areas of success within the program and identify areas needing improvement.

## FEEDBACK FROM RMs:

The PMB received feedback from RMs that the timing of intakes has been out of sync with the budgeting and planning cycles of municipalities. This has made it frustrating for RMs to plan their projects effectively. The PMB also received feedback that project announcements have sometimes been released too late in the spring or summer to complete the construction in that season.

To address these concerns, the RIRG program is moving to a standardized application intake and project announcement schedule that is intended to align with RM budgeting and planning cycles, as well as the cycles of the Provincial Government.

## UPDATES:

- The next RIRG program intake for road, bridge, and large diameter culvert projects will open in early September 2024 and remain open until mid-November 2024.
- It is intended that the project announcement for these applications will take place in January 2025.

These changes will allow RMs to plan their projects during their budget season and have the best opportunity to know well in advance when intakes will be happening.

If you would like to submit feedback regarding the RIRG Program, please send emails to [feedback@irg.ca](mailto:feedback@irg.ca). For more information about the RIRG Program, visit the SARM website (Rural Integrated Roads for Growth - SARM | Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities).



# WHY YOUR RM NEEDS A PROCUREMENT POLICY



**BY AMANDA KOZAK, MEMBER PURCHASING ADVISOR, SARM**

Maybe you have heard of the RM of Fantasyland No. 777. Things haven't been going well there. At a recent meeting of council, a Public Works employee asked council to consider the RM's grader. Everyone around the council table was initially quite excited about the prospect of having different machinery, but the meeting ended with no formal resolution having been made.

Councillor Bob had recently retired from a local heavy equipment dealer; right after the meeting, Bob called a colleague at his former company to get things in motion to purchase the grader he was certain was best. Councillor Jane left the meeting but started to feel

uneasy about the idea of buying a grader that was new; she mentioned this to a ratepayer on her way home and they both grew anxious about spending so much of the RM's resources. Councillor Frank had heard about a new "buying group" that claimed to get great value on goods and services for municipalities, so he spent time after the meeting looking at their website to see what was available and reaching out to suppliers. Reeve Jerry's son-in-law works for an equipment dealership in a neighbouring province; Reeve Jerry called him that night to set up a deal where the commission on the sale would boost his son-in-law's income. The next day, the administrator, Phil, prepared the tendering documents, which he was sure his council would ask him to do at the next meeting.

As you might imagine, when the next council meeting arrived it was a disaster. Administrator Phil started the discussion by presenting the responses to the tender he'd received. Councillor Bob and Reeve Jerry were furious; they had both committed to different dealerships

that the RM would be buying a new grader from them. (They even wore the nice leather jackets branded with the logos of the companies they had committed to!) Councillor Jane became indignant; she and one of her ratepayers were convinced that a used grader would more than meet the RM's need. And Councillor Frank couldn't understand why no one went to the buying group to get the best value.

The RM of Fantasyland No. 777 had huge problems: confused roles, conflicts of interest, unauthorized commitments, sole sourcing, using incorrect procurement methods, lack of transparency, violating trade regulations, were among the many things that went off the rails. This is where a procurement policy for the RM could have been extremely helpful!

*The Municipalities Act* gives RMs the ability to create a procurement policy. Having a procurement policy can set the direction for your RM when purchasing goods and services, ensuring that your RM is getting the best value for the money spent. The procurement policy



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can also allow your RM to clearly articulate everyone's roles and responsibilities, as well as what is important to your RM. This will improve efficiency in determining methods of delivery and evaluation criteria when drafting public procurement documents.

Your procurement policy can be created in collaboration with stakeholders including council, administration, public works staff, and others who are impacted by the procurement process. This helps everyone to get and stay on the same page. Your procurement policy can even be customized to meet your RM's specific needs while also ensuring compliance with the relevant trade regulations.

Your procurement policy should provide guidelines for the entire life cycle of activities that employees will undertake when they acquire goods and services.

This can even include when and how to choose different methods of procurement, including an Invitation to Tender (ITT), Request for Proposal (RFP), a Request for Quotation (RFQ), or when it is okay to "sole source." Benefits of having a well-defined procurement process include:

- Increased efficiency - will save you time and money by ensuring that goods and services are obtained in a timely manner at a cost-effective price.
- More accurate decision making - will help your RM to make informed decisions about what products or services to purchase, as well as who has authority to make the purchases.
- Greater transparency - allows the public to understand how public funds are being spent.

Procurement policies, like any other policy, should be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure they remain effective. This includes monitoring procurement activities to identify areas for improvement and updating your policy in response to any changes in your RM's goals or regulations.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) has staff with expertise in trade regulations and procurement best practices. If your RM would like assistance with developing a procurement policy, please feel free to contact SARM.

**Don't live in the RM of Fantasyland - get a procurement policy!**



# MEMBER NEWS

## IN MEMORIAM



**BERNARD NEDELEC**  
**RM OF MEOTA**  
**NO. 468 /**  
**RM OF TURTLE RIVER**  
**NO. 469**  
**IN MEMORIAM**

With heavy hearts the RM of Meota No. 468 & the RM of Turtle River No. 469 regret to announce the sudden passing of Bernie Nedelec on December 12, 2023 at the age of 54 years. Bernie served as Division 6 Councillor and Deputy Reeve for the RM of Meota and as the Foreman for the RM of Turtle River.

Left to cherish and honor Bernard’s memory is his loving wife, Melodie; son, Zachary (Emma) and daughter, Brittany (Cody). The RM of Turtle River No. 469 and Meota No. 468 extend our deepest condolences to Bernie’s family.

We also wish to acknowledge the contributions that Bernie made in his years on Council, his role on multiple boards and committees, his fulfillment of the role of Deputy Reeve and as Foreman. Bernie’s extensive knowledge of the oil industry were invaluable as the RM of Meota navigated significant expansion and development of the oil sector during Bernie’s tenure on Council. Bernie had a unique ability to take a calm and measured approach in the face

of multiple competing interests. Bernie was a great supporter of intermunicipal collaboration and at the time of his passing was an integral part of the Meota and District Fire Department’s expansion to include an additional municipality, as well as his ongoing commitment to the Northwest Municipalities Association.

Bernie was the type of leader that you wanted to work hard for and his acknowledgement of a job well done meant a great deal to his team. He asked for so little, but gave so very much ... Gone but not forgotten. □



**GREG LOWE**  
**RM OF MOOSE JAW**  
**NO. 161**  
**IN MEMORIAM**

Being noted as a well-respected farmer in the community, Greg was known for his willingness to help and his ability to act as a sounding board for fellow farmers. In addition to farming, he was also a Rural Municipality Councillor from 1989 to 2006. □



**COLIN DAVIDSON  
RM OF MERVIN  
NO. 499  
IN MEMORIAM**

Colin Stuart Davidson of St Walburg, SK was born Sept 26th 1945 and passed away on January 15th, 2024 at the age of 78. The youngest of two he attended Moosehead School until grade seven when he found his first love, farming. A jack of all trades he worked many jobs, he especially loved hauling and crushing gravel. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and provider. He also loved logging, sawing lumber and running equipment. Colin served as Division 6 Councillor for the R.M. of Mervin No. 499 from 2005 to 2014. □



**DARREN TITEMORE  
RM OF RIVERSIDE  
NO. 168  
IN MEMORIAM**

Darren Titemore passed away on March 7, 2024 at the young age of 49 years old. Darren was currently serving as Division 4 Councillor for the Rural Municipality of Riverside No. 168 for 17 years from 2007 to 2024. Darren lived in Cabri and fulfilled his passion alongside his father farming the family farm at Pennant, SK. Darren will be fondly remembered for his genuine kindness and community involvement including the Pennant Lions, Cabri Fitness Centre, Cabri Rink Board, Cabri Curling Club Rep, Pennant Curling Club and an active Councillor with the Rm of Riverside No. 168. Darren loved his family with his greatest pride being his kids Verity, Vance and his step kids Ambrys, Paxton, Hayden, his wife Jennifer, his parents Gordon and Gerry and his sister Sheri (Corey) and his niece Hailey. Darren will be greatly missed and remembered by all who knew him. □



**VALENTINE KONONOFF  
RM OF EAGLE CREEK  
NO. 376 / SARM  
VICE PRESIDENT  
IN MEMORIAM**

Valentine Kononoff was serving on the council of the RM of Eagle Creek No. 376 while also serving as SARM's Vice President from 1989 to 1993. Valentine was born near Arelee, SK., on May 12, 1934, and died in Langham on January 18, 2024.

Valentine is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lucille (nee Shelton); daughter Gwendolyn Hrycak (Mark); son Timothy Kononoff (Shelley); grandson Dixon Hrycak (Meagan); sister Mavis Thiessen (Roland); brother Wallace Kononoff (Edith); brother Ben Kononoff (Jean); brother-in-law Joe Shelton (Elaine); and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his parents Victor and Kate Kononoff (nee Heichman); sister Marie Kononoff; brother-in-law Donald Shelton; and sister-in-law Judy Shelton. □

**JULIA FOSTER  
RM OF PENSE NO. 160  
IN MEMORIAM**

Julia grew up in Eastend. She attended business college in Regina and eventually moved to Pense with her husband in 1966, where they had three children and farmed in the coulee. Julia started working as the Secretary Treasurer for the R.M. in 1978 until her retirement in 1997. She passed away peacefully at the age of 92 in Imperial. Julia will be remembered for her passion and hard work in the rural community. □

RETIREMENT



**ALLAN MOORMAN**  
**RM OF LEROY**  
**NO. 339**  
**RETIREMENT**

The RM of LeRoy No. 339 recognized Councillor Allan Moorman for his 24 years of service as Councillor for Division No. 6 at a Retirement Party held on November 18, 2022. Allan served as Councillor from January 14, 1998 to October 12, 2022. Allan brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to meetings. We hope you are enjoying your retirement Allan, you deserve it!

The RM of LeRoy No. 339 recognized Councillor Allan Moorman for his 24 years of service as Councillor for Division No. 6 at a Retirement Party held on November 18, 2022. Allan served as Councillor from January 14, 1998 to October 12, 2022. Allan brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to meetings. We hope you are enjoying your retirement Allan, you deserve it! 🏠



Timely delivery of maintenance is a major priority for the Agency. As of May 1, SAMA has delivered maintenance to 294 out of 296 of our rural municipal clients. We delivered on time or within 3 weeks to 96% of our rural municipal clients.

In 2024, SAMA's goal is to complete 27,800 agricultural property reviews in 17 RM's. The Agency is also planning 24,700 residential/resort property reviews and 19,100 commercial, industrial, and industrial flowline/tank property reviews in both rural and urban municipalities.

2025 is a revaluation year. Values will be updated to reflect a new base date of January 1, 2023. SAMA plans on sending out preliminary value packages to our clients by June 30, 2024 for their review. Stay tuned.

For more information visit our website at [www.sama.sk.ca](http://www.sama.sk.ca).

Contact SAMA by phone at: 1-800-667-7262,  
 or by email: [info.request@sama.sk.ca](mailto:info.request@sama.sk.ca).

## Member News Submission Tips:

- Submit photos as separate JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files.
- Submit original photos not ones that have been scanned from printed documents or taken off of websites.
- Photos must be 300 dpi resolution. Tip: check the file size. If the file is less than 100 kb, it may not print properly.
- Check your phone's camera resolution before taking photos. Ensure that the camera's settings are for High, Highest Quality or Maximum resolution.
- Write-up length maximum: 250 words.

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