



Rural Saskatchewan is facing rising crime, slow emergency response times, and significant gaps in firefighting and paramedic services, endangering public safety. SARM calls on the federal government to collaborate with provincial and local authorities to address these issues through increased funding, legislative reforms, and coordinated solutions.

Challenges

RISING CRIME

CRIME SEVERITY: Saskatchewan leads the Crime Severity Index, with rural crime rates higher than urban areas; intimate partner violence constitutes 50% of violent crime.

POLICING SHORTAGES: A shortfall of 130-150 RCMP officers strains law enforcement. Federal support is crucial despite the \$21 million already committed for recruitment.

BAIL REFORM: Over 40% of serious crimes involve individuals on bail or parole. Immediate bail reform is needed to protect communities from repeat offenders.

UNEXPECTED COSTS: Rural municipalities are often excluded from key decisions about RCMP contracts, leading to unanticipated financial burdens.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE GAPS

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Rural fire departments, mainly volunteer-run, struggle with outdated equipment and rising costs, impacting response times and recruitment.

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT: Increased wildfire threats necessitate greater federal investment in preventative measures like firebreaks and prescribed burns.

AMBULANCE & PARAMEDIC SHORTAGES: Resource limitations cause delays in medical emergencies. Federal support is needed to expand ambulance services and recruit paramedics.

FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS: First responders face significant mental and physical stress; federal investment is needed to address burnout and improve their wellbeing.

RURAL CIVIC ADDRESSING: Incomplete civic addressing delays emergency responses. Funding is required for signage and to implement NextGen 911 for better dispatching.

Advocacy Asks

1. Increase federal funding to enhance RCMP recruitment and retention in rural areas.
 2. Implement immediate bail reforms to protect communities from repeat offenders.
 3. Provide financial support for volunteer fire departments to modernize equipment.
 4. Invest in wildfire management strategies to mitigate fire risks in rural Saskatchewan.
 5. Expand ambulance services and paramedic recruitment through dedicated federal funding.
 6. Support mental health programs for first responders to combat burnout.
 7. Allocate flexible funding for rural municipalities to implement civic addressing and transition to NextGen 911.
- Without increased financial support, these essential services will continue to struggle. Federal collaboration is vital to safeguard rural communities.

**Thank you
for your time!**

SARM looks forward to working with the federal government on projects and initiatives positively impacting Saskatchewan's rural municipalities.