

SARM Midterm Convention 2024

Potential amendments to *The Municipalities Act*

Ministry of Government Relations

saskatchewan.ca

Saskatchewan 

Amending the three Municipal Acts

Aiming to introduce amendments
in Fall 2025

The Cities Act

The Municipalities Act

*The Northern
Municipalities Act, 2010*

2024
spring

summer

prov/muni
elections

fall

2025

winter

spring

fall

- Invite proposals for amendments from stakeholders
- Meetings with officials



Stakeholder consultation

multiple consultation opportunities

Saskatchewan.ca

- Issue papers
- Surveys
- Report with results

Public Engagement



- potential wording shared with stakeholders
- request letters of support

Approvals

INTRODUCTION IN FALL SESSION

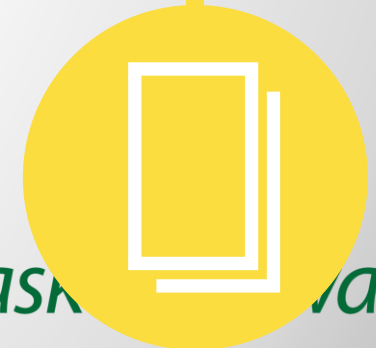
Ministry analysis

- Review stakeholder submissions
- Further research
- Internal consultation



Proposals

- Proposals for government consideration
- Draft amendments
- Discuss draft proposals with stakeholders



Today's Topics for Discussion

Mandatory Council Training

Inspection of Municipal Documents

Vacant & Derelict Properties

Mandatory Council Training

Mandatory Council Training

SARM Calls for More Education and Supports for Municipal Leaders

March 06, 2024

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), alongside their member RMs, share concern over the lack of resources and education available for elected officials in municipal government. The councillors and Reeves who oversee rural municipalities (RMs) are the hands-on, ground-level people who serve rural Saskatchewan. They support and build economic sustainability in small communities throughout the province.

“Our municipal leaders are in a vulnerable position: they work, live, and raise families in the RMs they represent, and sometimes the backlash of a decision affects their personal lives. It can sometimes be considered a thankless job, as they often face negative criticism and field ongoing complaints. Without training and ongoing mentoring, municipal government positions become challenging,” says Ray Orb, president of SARM.

SARM supports the Targeted Sector Support program funding which assists in inter-community collaboration, helps build capacity, and promotes good governance, but at the same time, encourages the province to provide specific training targeted at individual councils. SARM advocates for more training for elected officials in municipalities in the fields of human resource management, budget planning, and leadership. If investments are made in municipal leaders, they will positively shape rural communities for the next decade or more. The roles and responsibilities of municipal leaders look different depending on size, therefore, specific training geared towards leaders in rural areas is crucial.

- Many council members take office with no previous governance experience or training
- Council training needs to be:
 - Accessible
 - Accessed
 - Accurate

What do you think?

Go to [Menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

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Which topics are important to include in council training

0

Administrative processes

0

Budget and financial management

0

Code of ethics, har

Council members should take training:

When nominated, before the election

After being elected the first time

After each election (every four years)

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Should training for council members be mandatory?

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Questions or comments?

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting to let participants vote for their favorites



Inspection of Municipal Documents

Municipal Documents

- Principle of transparency
- Allow public to access important documents
- Current standards are pre-internet
 - Direct requests to office to view records
 - “Reasonable fees” for making copies



Municipal Documents

The right kinds of documents?

What are we reviewing?

- Types of documents
- Method of access
- Ease of access

Should we raise minimum standards?

Is access in reach for everyone?



What do you think?

Go to [Menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

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Does your municipality have a website?

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How do most people access municipal documents in v

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Which documents should be posted online?

0

Contracts

0

Payments

0

Bylaws

0

Council public disclosure statements

0

Oaths of office

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Vacant & Derelict Properties

Vacant & Derelict Properties

	Vacant properties	Derelict buildings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be developed for other uses • Unsightly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not maintained • Safety hazards • Possible infestations of rodents, weeds
Existing tools	Maintenance standards bylaw Tax incentives to develop	Nuisance bylaw - order to remedy Building official orders
Potential tools	Taxes/fees to discourage vacancy	

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What concerns have you heard?

Safety hazard

Unightly

Impeding development

Not an issue

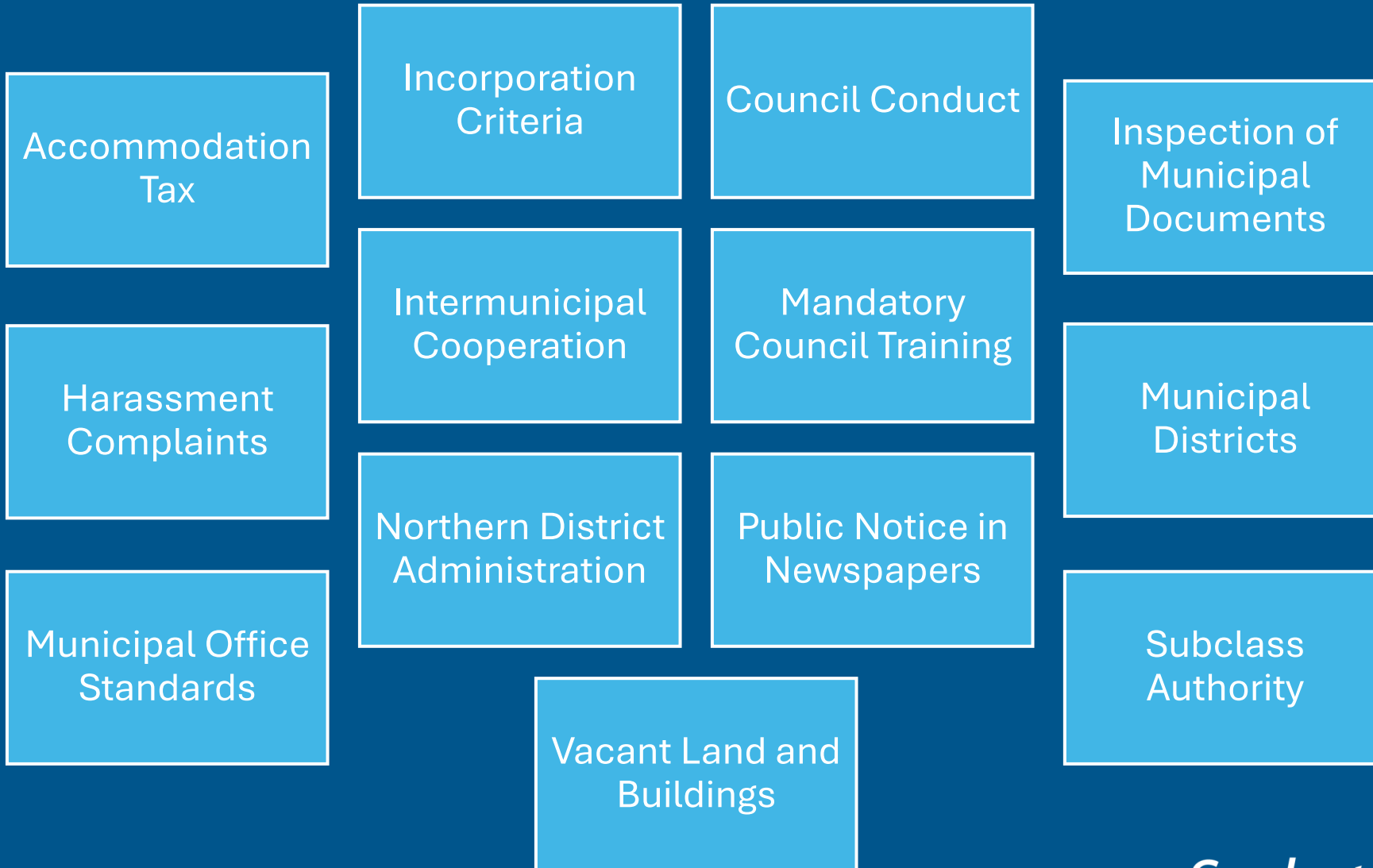
A big problem







Public surveys on *Saskatchewan.ca*



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