



Services *for* **You**



Guide to Government of Canada Services in
Saskatchewan



Government
of Canada Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada 

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Introduction

This guide focuses on the programs and services of the Government of Canada that can help improve your quality of life and your bottom line. In *Services for You*, you will find practical information about federal initiatives for children and families, as well as programs to protect our environment and support entrepreneurs and communities.

- Toll-free telephone numbers and Web sites are provided at the end of each description.
- A detachable list of toll-free telephone numbers and Web sites for other frequently used services is provided at the end of the guide.



We encourage you to keep *Services for You*. If your needs change, it will help you find the right service.

About other services

To find out about other Government of Canada services:

- Call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232), the Government of Canada information service;
- Visit the Government of Canada main Web site: canada.gc.ca

This guide is also available in large print, on audio cassette, in Braille and on computer diskette by calling 1 800 O-Canada.

Agriculture

Building a better rural economy

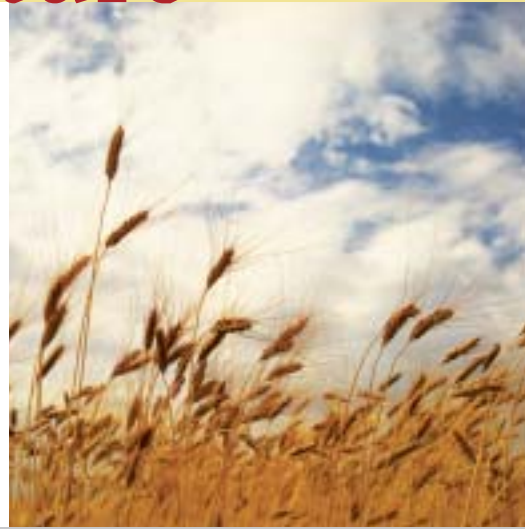
With such painful problems as a long-term structural decline in world commodity prices and the ravages of bad weather, nobody knows better than farmers how the world around us is always changing and getting tougher.

To help meet some of those challenges, the Government of Canada and the provinces have been working on a stronger **Agricultural Policy Framework**—

one that includes adequate financial risk management tools (safety nets), but also effective measures to promote new investment in the sector, diversification, value-added growth, agricultural science and technology, better land and water use, and high standards of environmental stewardship and food safety.

The broad outlines are in place, including a comprehensive federal financial commitment of more than \$9.3 billion over six years. (The provinces will provide additional amounts.)

While most of the funding goes to safety nets, there is also better support for marketing and trade advocacy, equity capital tools, research and innovation, access to farm chemicals, environmental planning, food quality and safety, and rural renewal.



For more information about the Agricultural Policy Framework:



1 800 O-Canada



www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst

For example, to foster better land use practices, the federal package includes \$110 million for a **Greencover Program**—to assist farmers to convert marginal land from annual crops to perennial cover and to improve the management of forages, rangeland, shelterbelts, riparian zones and sensitive habitats.

To improve water sources and ease the impact of drought, federal funding of \$60 million over four years is available for the **National Water Supply Expansion Program**—to assist producers, rural communities and others to advance practical solutions to rural water supply problems.

These measures complement other rural water and transportation projects funded through two other federal initiatives—the **Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program** and the **Prairie Grain Roads Program**.

Children and families

Community groups support families

The **Community Action Program for Children** is for community groups that want to start projects to give kids-at-risk a better start in life.

There are more than 30 such projects in Saskatchewan—supported by the federal Health department.

One of them is the Al Ritchie Family Wellness Centre in Regina. The centre provides a safe, supportive environment for families. It offers programs



such as community gardens, community kitchens, a young-and-teen parent support program, and a story-time program for parents and preschoolers.

The centre has become a hub of community activity. It is filled with the sounds of children having fun and adults enjoying each other's support. "We have people coming for very different reasons. Some want to interact with other parents. Others come to have their basic needs met. And sometimes the parents just need a break," says Angela Mann, the centre's co-ordinator.

To find the Community Action Program for Children project near you or to get additional information, contact Health Canada:

- ☎ **1 866 225-0709 (toll-free)**
- 🌐 **www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth** and click on "Community Based Programs" in the left menu



Preschool program helps Aboriginal kids

Aboriginal children in Saskatchewan are getting a head start on school and learning healthy lifestyles thanks to the **Aboriginal Head Start**

program. The program is funded by the Government of Canada and run by communities on and off reserves.

To find out how you or your child can participate, contact the Aboriginal Head Start program, through Health Canada:

- ☎ **1 866 225-0709 (toll-free)**
- 🌐 **www.hc-sc.gc.ca/childhood-youth** and click on "Aboriginal Childhood and Youth"

“The program has helped my child in all areas of growth and development. It supports the whole family, too,” says one mom who participates in the program. “When my daughter comes home, she talks about her Aboriginal culture. She really understands the significance of what she’s learning. She’s teaching me things about our culture that I never really learned while growing up.”

More information for Aboriginals

The Aboriginal Canada Portal is a comprehensive federal Internet site with on-line resources, contacts, information, and government programs and services for Aboriginal people.



www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca

Communities

Building strong Saskatchewan communities

Our quality of life in Saskatchewan depends, at least in part, upon the strength of our public infrastructure—our streets, roads and highways, water and sewer systems, our supply of affordable housing, public buildings, parks and other facilities.

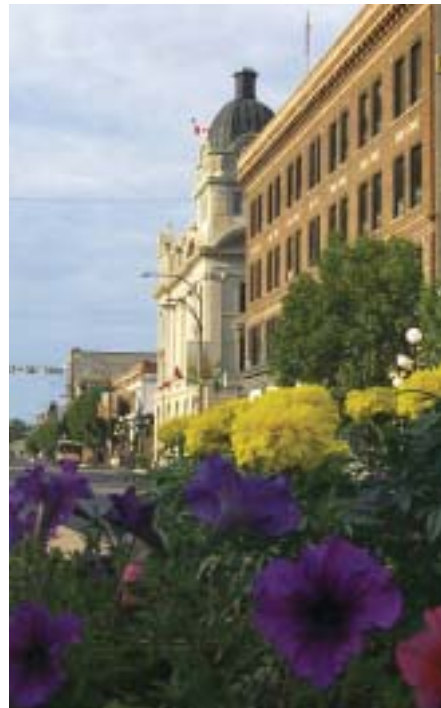
The Government of Canada is heavily involved in helping both the provincial government and local municipalities pay for vital infrastructure upgrades of all kinds. Over the past decade, thousands of individual construction projects have been undertaken, representing a combined public investment in Saskatchewan of more than a billion dollars—a truly successful working partnership among all three orders of government.

Ongoing federal financial support for infrastructure activities across Canada has been confirmed for at least another 10 years.

In Saskatchewan so far, our infrastructure partnerships have been responsible for such developments as:

- the long-awaited bridge at Cumberland House
- safe water systems in dozens of communities including Riverhurst, Kenosee Lake and many more
- the construction of the water pipeline in the Wakaw-Humboldt region
- energy efficiency upgrades in Moose Jaw and Weyburn
- a Prince Albert cultural centre
- improvements to hundreds of kilometers of rural roads and highways
- major transportation projects such as key arteries in Regina and Saskatoon
- the accelerated twinning of the TransCanada and the Yellowhead highways
- and much more.

Both the investment and the teamwork that result from our infrastructure initiatives help to build stronger Saskatchewan communities.



For more information about how the Government is involved, contact Western Economic Diversification Canada:

☎ **1 888 338-9378 (toll-free)**

🌐 www.wd.gc.ca

Environment

Taking action to fight climate change

Canadians want both a strong economy and a clean environment. To achieve these twin goals, we all need to be actively involved. Both individually and together, we can make a difference!

For example, to help avoid the risks of climate change, we can all **contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions** by being more careful in the way we use energy in our homes and vehicles. And we'll save money at the same time.

- Make sure your furnace is cleaned and checked regularly. You can save up to 15% annually on your fuel bill.
- Seal all leaks around your doors and windows, to save as much as 20%.
- Turn off not-in-use lights, appliances, televisions and computers.
- Try compact fluorescent lighting—it lasts longer and uses 75% less energy.
- Look for the “EnerGuide” label when buying major appliances and automobiles, to make the most energy-efficient choices.
- Don't leave your car idling; just 10 seconds of idling consumes more fuel than restarting your engine.
- Try to avoid single-passenger travel. One busload of passengers takes 40 private cars off the road, saves 70,000 litres of fuel, and stops the emission of 175 tonnes of CO₂ and nine tonnes of other pollutants per year.



For more information on climate change:

☎ **1 800 O-Canada**

🌐 www.climatechange.gc.ca

Searching for solutions through science

With federal financial support, Saskatchewan is home to some of the world's most valuable scientific **research** and technological **innovation** on climate change.

Regina's Petroleum Technology Research Centre, the Greenhouse Gas Technology Centre, the International Test Centre for CO₂ Capture, the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, the Saskatchewan Research Council, and many private sector companies... these are among the **partners working with the Government of Canada to find the most cost-effective answers to climate change.**

Near Weyburn, for example, we are investing in a major international science project that will extend the productive life

of an older EnCana oilfield by as much as 25 years, while also removing from the atmosphere and storing permanently underground the equivalent of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide. Good for the economy! Good for the environment!



For more information about climate change:



1 800 O-Canada



www.climatechange.gc.ca

Funding for entrepreneurs

Rural businesses get support

Many new or small businesses find it difficult to make the leap to full-scale commercial ventures. To help them, Saskatchewan has 13 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs). These are non-profit organizations run by volunteer boards of directors and funded in part by the Government of Canada. They **provide loans and advice to small- and medium-sized businesses.**


For example, when the owners of Daycon Wood Products in Aberdeen wanted to expand, they turned to their local CFDC. Daycon employs eight people who manufacture high-quality wood flooring from under-used local species, such as white birch and tamarack. The support Daycon received from their CFDC positioned the company to produce high volumes of flooring, which is now shipped across Canada.

Drake Meat Processors of Drake is another example of a family business that wanted to expand. Drake now manufactures as many as 300 different meat products. With support from their local CFDC, Drake has created 60 full-time and 20 part-time jobs in a town of 250.



Community Futures Development Corporations also offer self-employment programs, and services for youth and entrepreneurs with disabilities.

If you have a business idea that needs support, your CFDC may be the place to find it:

 **1 888 338-9378 (toll-free)**

 **www.wd.gc.ca**

and click on “Community Futures Development Corporations”

More opportunities for businesses

The Government of Canada also teams up with financial institutions to create new funding tools for businesses. In Saskatoon, the Government joined with the Saskatoon Credit Union to form a \$1-million targeted fund to provide loans to small businesses in the area. Steven Miller received such a loan. He used it to expand his enterprise. He is now the first

Canadian owner of a new generation of printing technology.

If you have a small business and would like to find out about growth possibilities, contact Western Economic Diversification Canada:

☎ **1 888 338-9378 (toll-free)**

🌐 www.wd.gc.ca

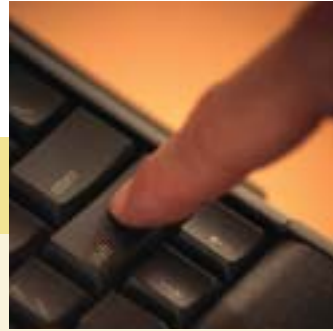
Innovation

World-class clusters in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan knows the value of “economic clusters” as a way to foster growth and development. For more than 20 years, **Innovation Place** in Saskatoon has attracted national and international attention as a model of clustering expertise.

The Government of Canada was the first science/business partner to locate in Innovation Place. Many others (both public sector and private sector) have followed, and huge benefits have been gained—especially in the field of biotechnology and life sciences.

Canada's Innovation Strategy for the coming decade is intended to stimulate more jobs, stronger growth, greater investment and superior brainpower for the 21st century. It includes promoting many more economic and technology clusters.



Two of them are already gathering size and momentum in Regina—one highlights smart linkages between **energy and the environment** and the other is focused upon new careers and technology in **film, video and new media**. The Government of Canada has also invested in the “Connecting the Community” initiative of the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority, to encourage business, science, education and government partners to pull together in further cluster opportunities.

The basic goal of Canada’s Innovation Strategy is to lift our country into the ranks of the Top Five nations in the world for Research and Development excellence.

As we go about this task, we must make sure that Canadian innovation is inclusive—inclusive of Saskatchewan’s type of economy (founded upon agriculture and resources) and Saskatchewan’s demographics (with a far-flung rural population and a big, young Aboriginal component).

In addition, innovation activity must demonstrate its human dimension. In practical terms, what does it do for the average citizen?

Take the **Canadian Light Source Synchrotron** in Saskatoon, for example. It will provide a major boost to the research capacity and the knowledge base of Saskatchewan, and that will translate into high-quality employment and business growth. But it will also mean such things as cleaner and better environmental protection, more sophisticated treatments of disease, advanced and value-added farm production, and much more—in short, a better quality of Saskatchewan life!

For more information about the Government of Canada’s Innovation Strategy:

 **1 888 338-9378 (toll-free)**

 www.wd.gc.ca

Did you know?

According to a study by the KPMG consulting firm, Regina and Saskatoon are among the most competitive cities in which to do business in mid-western North America.

Canada's New Health Care Accord

Recently, the Prime Minister and the provincial Premiers reached an agreement about sustaining and reforming Canada's treasured health care system. To make that agreement a reality, the Government of Canada is **increasing federal funding for health care by \$34.8 billion over the next five years.**

The Accord reinforces the five key principles of the *Canada Health Act* and it provides increased support for existing health care services across the country.

Equally important, it seeks and finances change – for the better:

- better access to appropriate primary health care providers on a 24-7 basis, reducing pressures on emergency departments;
- improved home-care services and coverage against catastrophic drug costs;
- a compassionate care benefit, through employment insurance, for those who need to take time off work temporarily to support a gravely ill family member;

- new diagnostic and medical equipment, to shorten waiting lists and speed up treatments;
- secure electronic patient records, to avoid repetitive and time-consuming paperwork;
- more science and innovation at research hospitals;
- special attention will be paid by federal, provincial and territorial governments to the health needs of Aboriginal peoples.

The Accord also provides for the creation of a Health Council to report regularly to all Canadians on the quality of their health care system. Citizens and taxpayers have a right to know how health dollars are being spent and how health reforms are being implemented.

For more Health Care Accord information:

■ 1 800 O-Canada
(1 800 622-6232)
TTY 1 800 465-7735

■ canada.gc.ca