



**Appendices to the ACRE Monitoring Report
October 2006**

Introduction

The appendices to the Monitoring Report provide detailed information on each of the 220 recommendations that ACRE has put forward to the provincial government since its inception in 2000. They provide the basis for the observations, conclusions and recommendations contained in the Monitoring Report.

The ACRE recommendations and related government responses and ACRE comments are organized into two categories: “accepted” and “works in progress”. The “works in progress” recommendations are further disaggregated into two sub categories that break out the “foundation” recommendations from the rest of the “works in progress” recommendations.

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Appendix A1: “Works in Progress” Recommendations -- Foundation

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Appendix B: Accepted Recommendations

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
CIE	<p>F-6 Reduces the reliance of educational funding on the property tax base by completing the major review of the Foundation Operating Grant and increasing the funding for education out of provincial revenues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Boughen Commission released its report in January 2004, with 12 recommendations. The recommendations include a reduction in education property tax by \$300 million over six years, as well as a recommendation to revise the Foundation Operating Grant program. • Government has moved forward with a three-phase program designed to renew and restructure our K-12 education system. • The key elements of this plan are: moving to larger school divisions and a system that will be better able to provide a full range of programs and services to our children; developing a fairer system of funding from the provincial treasury with a focus on equity, simplicity, and transparency of government funding; and a commitment to long-term education property tax relief in Saskatchewan. • Renewing and restructuring school divisions will ensure that greater fairness and equity is brought into the education system, in the best interests of the students and taxpayers of the province. • Students will benefit from attending schools in larger school divisions that are better able to provide a full range of programs and services. Careful restructuring of school divisions, along with the implementation of a new governance structure, will allow for the regional pooling of property tax resources that will improve the equity for all students and property taxpayers in Saskatchewan. 	<p>On March 3, 2006, the government announced long term education tax relief for farmers as outlined in the last bullet under Government Response. ACRE welcomes this relief. However, depending in part on the school mill rates, which are set by the school divisions, some areas continue to have concerns with the levels of education property taxes. Further, ACRE looks forward to the availability of ongoing relief from property taxes for other classes of property in rural areas. ACRE will want to continue to monitor closely the progress that government is making in carrying out the actions.</p>

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		<p>Any savings that may occur by reducing school division governance and administration will be channeled into programs and services for students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxpayers will benefit from government’s commitment to address property tax relief by a two-year education property tax relief package that will total an estimated \$55 million per year for the 2005 and 2006 property tax years. This will equate to an approximate eight per cent education tax credit on all properties that pay education tax, with a cap on tax relief benefits to commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential properties of \$2,500 annually. • This education property tax relief program is a short-term solution. The Government of Saskatchewan is working with stakeholders to determine a long-term solution to education property tax relief based on the solid foundation laid by the Education Equity Initiative of equity for students and taxpayers. To be most effective, long-term relief must be based on the information coming out of revaluation, restructured school divisions, and the new school operating grants system. • On March 3, 2006, the province announced education property tax relief that fulfils the province's commitment to farmers and farm families. The province will provide an additional \$52.8 million in education property tax relief on agricultural land, which established on average a 60/40 province/local education tax split. This is 	

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		<p>ongoing, sustainable funding. The province still needs to work with the federal government on equalization to provide long-term, sustainable funding for education that will provide relief to all ratepayers.</p>	
FIFS	<p>F-10 Implements a taxation incentive/assistance program to help older farmers pass on the land to a succeeding generation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agricultural Policy Framework, Renewal Program was launched in Saskatchewan on October 1, 2004. This program pays a portion of the costs for private professionals needed to create effective succession and intergeneration farm transfer plans. Farm families can obtain 50 per cent support to prepare plans up to a maximum of \$ 8,000. • Bridging Generations Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bridging Generations Program when and if implemented is targeted at young people who wish to enter the farming industry or expand their operation. • The program offers a loan guarantee to participating lenders of 10 per cent for loans that the lender makes to young farmers that are highly leveraged. • At this time, there has been no approval granted for a Bridging Generations program. • There are no provincial plans to introduce tax measures to help facilitate the intergenerational transfer of land. • The following table shows current Saskatchewan participation statistics for the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Service. 	<p>While the Agricultural Policy Framework Renewal Program provisions for succession plans is a step in the right direction, ACRE continues to recommend more substantial support for intergenerational transfers of farms such as the Bridging Generations Program and will continue to examine progress on this issue.</p>

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		<p>Farm Business Assessment: provides the farmer with a comprehensive financial profile, a statement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses, a farm business ratio analysis and an action plan that will assess options for increasing profitability. Farmer's cost is \$100. Service is valued at \$2,000</p>	464	
		<p>Specialized Business Planning Services provides the farmer or groups of farmers with comprehensive business planning support for diversification, marketing, human resources, expansion, risk management or succession. Farmer's cost is 50 per cent of the consulting fees. Maximum grant - \$8,000</p>	99	
		<p>Planning and Assessment for Value-Added Enterprises provides the farmer or groups of farmers with feasibility assessments and business planning for business ventures that add value to a primary agricultural product Farmer's cost is 50 per cent of the consulting fees. Maximum grant - \$10,000</p> <p>NOTE - These figures are as of January 2006 and have been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.</p>	11	
R	<p>F-31 Develops a plan for infrastructure built around key irrigation sites such as, but not limited to, Lake Diefenbaker, the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provincial government recognizes the importance of developing a plan around infrastructure and departments have been engaged in discussions on this issue. 	<p>This recommendation is not about irrigation but rather around infrastructure, e.g. roads.</p>	

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	<p>Rafferty and Alameda Reservoirs and the South Saskatchewan River that includes synchronized public and private investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province is working with the federal government through the Canada-Saskatchewan Water Supply Expansion Program to identify the feasibility of irrigation infill and expansion opportunities. • The federal and provincial governments are working together to initiate the development of a federal/provincial water-based economic development agreement that aligns emerging federal and provincial strategies. • SaskWater expects to work with Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) in 2006 to provide input into the development of a comprehensive, provincial irrigation strategy. 	<p>The government response does not address the recommendation. We have tended to look at Lake Diefenbaker as only an irrigation resource when it should be much broader. Government has misunderstood the intent of the recommendation. Be more aggressive about the placement of infrastructure around the asset.</p> <p>Not started.</p>
BD	<p>P-1 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan work with the Government of Canada, and with municipal governments in Saskatchewan, to create a Task Force that will:</p> <p>a. examine the programs and services offered for rural economic development from the three levels of government with the aim of reducing the number and improving the effectiveness of those programs and services; and</p> <p>b. examine the rural economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Rural Development has struck a committee to develop a strategy on how best to proceed with this issue. 	<p>Approach being developed</p>

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	<p>development delivery system with the aim of eliminating the overlapping mandates and jurisdictions, and of improving the effectiveness of that delivery system.</p>		
CL	<p>P-10 ACRE recommends that, through consultation with stakeholders, the Government of Saskatchewan develop an overarching goal for Crown land management. The goal needs to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the purpose for the Crown holding Crown land; b. the criteria for balancing economic, environmental, and social considerations; and, c. the criteria for retaining or disposing of Crown land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Crown land recommendations have been discussed with the Crown Land Stakeholders’ Forum to solicit feedback. Initial discussions focused on this recommendation and, in particular, which lands could be disposed of. Agreement was reached that, in principle, as long as lands had the same protection as it does when held by the Crown, it could be sold. The department is working on a strategy that, among other things, will address this recommendation. • The department is continuing to review the options respecting the Crown land strategy and will communicate the decision when finalized. • Saskatchewan Environment (SE) is being consulted on the policy issues around the Crown land strategies. As well, consideration needs to be given to the impact any policy changes will have on the management of Crown land administered by other government agencies. • Department of Highways and Transportation (DHT) has one of the largest Crown holdings in the province and therefore, must be included in consultations to establish policies related to Crown Land Management. Of the 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, the Crown Land Recommendations P-10, P-11, P-12, P-13, P-14, P-17 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the completion of the Crown Land Strategy review.</p>

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		Crown land held by DHT 204,334 acres are non right-of-way holdings.	
CL	P-11 Includes all lands that are no longer required to meet legal obligations (e.g. Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE)) or for environmental (i.e. wildlife, fragile, representative areas, etc.); economic (i.e. forestry, sand & gravel, minerals, etc.); or, social (i.e. public use, heritage, etc.) reasons. The process to identify the specific lands should be developed through further stakeholder consultation.¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See P –10. Part of the strategy being developed will determine what type of organizational changes should be made and which lands should be disposed of. • The department is continuing to review the options respecting the Crown land strategy and will communicate the decision when finalized. • SE is being consulted on the policy issues around the Crown land strategies. As well, consideration needs to be given to the impact any policy changes will have on the management of Crown land administered by other government agencies. • DHT has one of the largest Crown holdings in the province and, therefore, must be included in consultations to establish policies related to Crown Land Management. 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, the Crown Land Recommendations P-10, P-11, P-12, P-13, P-14, P-17 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the completion of the Crown Land Strategy review.</p>
CL	P-12 ACRE recommends that the economic opportunities associated with non-traditional land uses, and in particular, where these uses can co-exist with others, be promoted, ensuring existing rights are not altered without appropriate compensation. A model to determine appropriate compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is preparing an option paper on a compensation model for the oil and gas industry. Once established, it in turn can be used for other land uses. No additional work on promotion of alternative uses is contemplated until such time as a decision is made on which lands will remain Crown owned in the long-term. • The government is continuing to review the options respecting the Crown land strategy and will 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, the Crown Land Recommendations P-10, P-11, P-12, P-13, P-14, P-17 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the</p>

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	<p>needs to be developed that accounts for the actual impact of the new/existing activity on the existing user’s operation, including loss of use, nuisance and overall impact to the existing management and an appeal mechanism put in place where the model does not adequately compensate the existing user.</p>	<p>communicate the decision when finalized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE is being consulted on the policy issues around the Crown land strategies. As well, consideration needs to be given to the impact any policy changes will have on the management of Crown land administered by other government agencies. • DHT has one of the largest Crown holdings in the province and, therefore, must be included in consultations to establish policies related to Crown Land Management. 	<p>completion of the Crown Land Strategy review.</p>
CL	<p>P-13 ACRE recommends that clear processes be included in regulation to allow the land administering agencies to deal effectively with actions that result in, or have the potential to result in, ecological damage to the land. The processes need to be progressive and, where appropriate, provide opportunities for corrective action. However, they must also allow the agencies to deal with abuse effectively where the abuser fails to correct his/her approach and the land is at risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work will not begin on this recommendation until a long term strategy is developed. • The Department is continuing to review the options respecting the Crown land strategy and will communicate the decision when finalized. • SE is being consulted on the policy issues around the Crown land strategies. As well, consideration needs to be given to the impact any policy changes will have on the management of Crown land administered by other government agencies. • DHT has one of the largest Crown holdings in the province and, therefore, must be included in consultations to establish policies related to Crown Land Management. 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, the Crown Land Recommendations P-10, P-11, P-12, P-13, P-14, P-17 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the completion of the Crown Land Strategy review.</p>

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CL	<p>P-14 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan develop and adopt provincial integrated resource management planning standards that ensure the provincial interests are accounted for in regional and local planning exercises. Government also needs to ensure that the planning process is made as “proponent friendly” as possible in order to encourage economic development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department is continuing to review the options respecting the Crown land strategy and will communicate the decision when finalized. • SE is being consulted on the policy issues around the Crown land strategies. As well, consideration needs to be given to the impact any policy changes will have on the management of Crown land administered by other government agencies. • DHT has one of the largest Crown holdings in the province and, therefore, must be included in consultations to establish policies related to Crown Land Management. 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, the Crown Land Recommendations P-10, P-11, P-12, P-13, P-14, P-17 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the completion of the Crown Land Strategy review.</p>
CL	<p>P-17 ACRE recommends that the outdated Provincial Lands Act and regulations under the Act be re-written. The authorities contained in the Act need to be updated and modernized and the legislation needs to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Account for all provincially owned Crown land; 2) Respect the existing rights; 3) Define, assess, and regulate multi-use opportunities; 4) Define, assess, and regulate non- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department is continuing to review the options respecting the Crown land strategy and will communicate the decision when finalized. • SE is being consulted on the policy issues around the Crown land strategies. As well, consideration needs to be given to the impact any policy changes will have on the management of Crown land administered by other government agencies. • DHT has one of the largest Crown holdings in the province and, therefore, must be included in consultations to establish policies related to Crown Land 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, the Crown Land Recommendations P-10, P-11, P-12, P-13, P-14, P-17 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the completion of the Crown Land Strategy review.</p>

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	<p>traditional use opportunities;</p> <p>5) Provide alternative disposition options (i.e. licenses) that result in fewer rights being disposed of in some circumstances;</p> <p>6) Provide authority to deal with mismanagement of land where the land is being harmed;</p> <p>7) Require use of integrated resource management tools when making land use decisions;</p> <p>8) Provide authority to dispose of lands that are deemed surplus to the province's needs;</p> <p>9) Provide authority to acquire lands that are deemed to be in the public interest;</p> <p>10) Balance the disposition of private benefits with the overall public good;</p> <p>11) Respect the rights allocated through a disposition and fairly compensate the holder of these rights when impacted by other dispositions;</p> <p>12) Re-affirm the commitment of the province to settle TLE and Specific Land Claims; and</p> <p>13) Provide the flexibility to address future changes to land use needs</p>	<p>Management.</p>	

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INF	<p>P-18 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan promote and support a regional approach to infrastructure development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT is organized into three operational regions, within each region; infrastructure is developed/maintained according to regional priority and within the available budget. The factors determining regional priority include the Principal Highway Network, Regional Transportation System, paved highways, traffic volume, and road conditions. • DHT also works closely with the Area Transportation Planning Committees (ATPC) to have a regional approach to highway infrastructure development, for issues such as grain transportation and weight management. • A DHT review of highways through urban areas is in progress. The review will form the basis for policy development relating to urban jurisdictional issues. DHT expects to have this review completed in 2005-06. • DHT is working with Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) to develop a truck freight route corridor and a cost recovery fee structure that would compensate municipalities for the additional maintenance costs and loss of road life resulting from primary weight and concentrated truck hauls. SARM has instructed the committee to explore options for a Designated Truck Freight Route System (DTFRS). A study has been approved to assist in measuring the road consumption by heavy weight vehicles on gravel roads and preparation has begun for the development of options to implement a DTFRS in Saskatchewan. 	<p>A regional approach includes more than just highways and includes issues such as the New Deal for cities with incentives for regional projects, school division and health region amalgamations and regional pipeline projects.</p> <p>Many people do not recognize the many activities happening in their province focused on regional actions. Many still associate “regional” with amalgamation.</p> <p>Rural Saskatchewan is becoming more accepting of the regional concept and this should be a major item for ACRE to pursue in the future.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT provides technical engineering advice to municipalities applying for funding through federal programs such as the Prairie Grain Roads Program. • The Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program (C-SMRIF) supports regional infrastructure development. When rating applications, extra rating points are given for projects that have financial support from neighboring municipalities. The more municipalities that are providing a financial contribution to the project, the more points given to the project. Extra points increase the likelihood that a project will get funding approval. Examples where this has been applied include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional waste management projects, both regional landfills and/or recycling. ○ For local transportation projects, the regional context and support for the project by the ATPC are taken into consideration. ○ Many water supply and wastewater projects are situated within one municipality and not regional in nature. Funding has been provided to a few regional water pipeline projects or connections to existing pipelines, but pipelines are usually very expensive and beyond the ability of C-SMRIF to fund. • The Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund will likely be funding three regional water pipeline projects. The projects are funded by the federal government, with technical support from Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and SaskWater. Government 	

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		<p>Relations has been involved in the selection of the projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Deal for Cities and Communities requires that 20 per cent of each municipality's total gas tax funding allocation, over the first five years (2005-06 to 2009-10), be used for regional projects. Regional projects include a municipal project that benefits residents of other municipalities or participation of a number of municipalities in a project that benefits residents from a number of municipalities. 	
INF	<p>P-19 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan, in conjunction with the private sector, develop a provincial economic development strategy, and a supportive rural infrastructure strategy, while ensuring a high level of coordination and cooperation among and within provincial government departments and Crown corporations for the implementation of these strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A provincial economic action plan is expected to be released autumn 2005, reflecting input from Centennial Economic Summit. 	<p>While the Saskatchewan Action Plan on the Economy was released, the government needs to do more.</p> <p>The government response indicates recognition that there is a problem and that some actions are contemplated to address the issue. This could be an area that ACRE may wish to pursue with government in the future.</p>
RE	<p>P-20 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan establish a Labour-Business Council,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government believes establishing such a forum to cooperatively address issues of common concern could grow Saskatchewan's economy by promoting 	<p>Not completed, just started. First steps have been taken by government which is</p>

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	<p>which would focus on private sector labour issues including those in rural Saskatchewan. A mechanism is required for labour and business to foster dialogue, develop mutual respect and develop areas of agreement.</p> <p>a) The council would be made up of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Six representatives recommended by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, who would then appoint a co-chair; 2. Six representatives recommended by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, who would then appoint a co-chair; and 3. Secretariat: Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization, Labour, and Industry and Resources. The committee would report to these ministers. <p>b) Functions would include an evaluation of the manner in which the legislation is functioning, the identification of problems and recommendations for legislative amendments.</p>	<p>harmonious workplaces and building a healthy, highly-skilled workforce. Nevertheless, when government explored this concept in 2002, it was deemed unworkable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The departments of Labour, Industry and Resources, and Rural Development met in Summer 2005, to discuss this issue. The province is always willing to collaborate with labour and business to resolve specific employment issues. With respect to ACRE’s recommendation, however, the aforementioned three departments believe that, given the ACRE Employment Subcommittee’s: (1) familiarity with regional stakeholders; and (2) expertise in rural economic development and employment issues, that group may be best positioned to lead on the creation of a Labour-Business Council, rather than government. 	<p>working with the Chamber of Commerce, labour and the Aboriginal community to create this Council.</p>

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	<p>c) It is important that each organization be allowed to assign the representatives without obtaining consensus from government or from the other party.</p> <p>d) The committee would start with “big picture” discussions to develop a relationship and build trust. They would then move to discuss more controversial issues.</p>		
RE	<p>P-32 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan substantially expand the existing programs (Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program and Migrant Workers’ Program) in response to identified skill and worker shortages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) continues to be expanded. For example, the entrepreneur, skilled worker and health profession categories have all been expanded to meet the needs of Saskatchewan’s growing economy. In 2005-06, nominations under SINP nearly doubled from the previous fiscal year, from 242 to 454 individuals plus their family members. 	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>Note: P-32 to P-35 replace I-5</p>
RE	<p>P-33 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan continue ongoing identification of employment skill needs and labour shortages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan Learning, working in conjunction with Service Canada (Saskatchewan Region), and the provincial departments of Industry and Resources (SIR), Labour and Finance, produces the Saskatchewan Employment Demand (SED) Forecast which provides an estimate of the relative magnitude and probable direction of future labour needs. In the preparation of the SED Forecast, Saskatchewan Trends Monitor and Service Canada take the lead in the forecasting. The projections represent one possible path for occupational 	<p>Work in progress</p> <p>In light of ongoing labour shortages in areas such as the trades and changing training requirements in rural Saskatchewan, ACRE continues to feel that an even higher priority needs to be put on the ongoing</p>

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		<p>requirements and do not consider aspects of labour supply. Industry employment projections and occupational requirements are determined using econometric models and the Canadian Occupational Projection System Demand Model respectively. Skill levels for occupations are described in terms of the education and training required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, the regional colleges and other educational institutions continue to analyze and determine specific technical occupational skill requirements and labour shortages through consultation with business and industry. 	<p>identification of employment skill needs and labour requirements.</p>
RE	<p>P-34 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan enhance cultural and other support mechanisms for immigrants, such as language, settlement funding and recognition of bona fide foreign credentials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province is investing \$6.3 million in 2006/07, up from \$1.7 million in 2005/06, for a comprehensive immigration strategy that attracts more immigrants to Saskatchewan and helps them settle in communities and secure employment. 	<p>Work in progress.</p> <p>Funding for a comprehensive immigration strategy is appropriate at this stage but even more needs to be done in the area of support mechanisms for immigrants.</p>
RE	<p>P-35 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan aggressively examine the barriers faced by immigrants, and promote immigration programs to employers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province’s comprehensive immigration strategy will in part address these matters. 	<p>Work in progress.</p> <p>It is hoped that the immigration strategy will assist in identifying</p>

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	<p>and potential immigrants.</p>		<p>barriers faced by immigrants. More needs to be done to communicate to employers about the immigration programs. ACRE will continue to monitor the progress made by the government in carrying out appropriate actions</p>
<p>GO</p>	<p>S-6 The provincial government develops and implements a strategy that identifies high value crop opportunities, effective and competitive production technologies for new and existing crops and the appropriate skills and knowledge required for success.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF developed the Agri-Food Manufacturing Framework which would see a contribution from primary agriculture of \$15 billion with an additional \$16 billion generated through manufactured products by 2025. Key components of the strategy include: Meat, Pulses, Organic, Flax, Bio-Products, Bio-Energy, and Vegetables. Within each of these sectors, SAF has considered the following tactical areas: Business Competitiveness, Regulations/Policy, Governance, Innovation/Productivity, Human Capacity, Financial Tools and Create a Presence (Investment Attraction). • Implementation of the sector specific strategies outlined in the Manufacturing Framework requires input and actions/deliverables from a number of government agencies. On an on-going basis, SAF works with SIR, Investment Saskatchewan, Regional Economic and Co-operative Development (RECD), SE, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, DHT, and Government Relations. Coordination occurs on a sector specific, issue specific basis. SAF also consults on a regular basis with industry 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, S-006, S-018, S-048 and S-093 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the development of strategies that will include specific targets for the different areas.</p>

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		<p>associations and individual producers.</p> <p>Pulses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pulse strategy targets major increases in the value of primary production and primary processing over the next 15 years and the development of secondary processing of the Saskatchewan pulse crop. SAF has focused development of this industry on the utilization opportunities for pulses. <p>Flax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal of the flax strategy is to increase primary production in and to develop fibre industries for both long line flax and salvage of oilseed flax fibre. A research project is underway regarding the production and processing of long line flax fibre and SAF is a partner in Flax 2015, a national industry-government strategic planning process. <p>Organics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organic strategy sets a goal of increased processing and marketing services, supporting an increase in primary production along with increased processing. SAF is supporting the development of a national regulated system for certification and accreditation that will ensure access to foreign export markets. <p>Bio-Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF, in conjunction with other government stakeholders is working to create a bio-products strategy through which the human, natural and crop resources in the province can be marshalled to produce value-added crop bio-products. 	

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		<p>Bio-energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF, RECD, SIR, and SE are developing a biofuel development strategy. Direct work on evaluating crop availability and research work on co-products of ethanol is being carried out and funded by Agricultural Development Fund. Staff is working with ethanol and bio-diesel project proponents. <p>Vegetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF is developing a strategy to promote the development of this industry. A strategic planning process has been initiated with the Saskatchewan vegetable industry to capture this opportunity. <p>Irrigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF has supported the Agri-Vision Corporation development of a Fifty Year Water Plan and the Drought Proofing the Economy Conference. The department is assisting the development of feasibility studies for the West Side Irrigation Project and for infill and planning for the Riverhurst and South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Districts. 	
AV	<p>S-18 Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization develop and lead an Agri-business Investment Strategy. This strategy would identify an investment team that actively co-ordinates and pursues attracting entrepreneurs, agri-business, partners and capital into targeted sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF developed the Agri-Food Manufacturing Framework which would see a contribution from primary agriculture of \$15 billion with an additional \$16 billion generated through manufactured products by 2025. Key components of the strategy include: Meat, Pulses, Organic, Flax, Bio-Products, Bio-Energy, and Vegetables. Within each of these sectors, SAF has considered the following tactical areas: Business Competitiveness, Regulations/Policy, Governance, Innovation/Productivity, Human Capacity, Financial 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, S-006, S-018, S-048 and S-093 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the development of strategies that will include</p>

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		<p>Tools, and Create a Presence (Investment Attraction).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF has presented the Manufacturing Framework (\$15B, \$16B) to a number of industry stakeholders. Development of the key actions/deliverables within the strategic areas: meat, flax, pulses, vegetables and organics have been developed with input from industry stakeholders. • So far, the meat strategy is the only strategy that has specific targets attached to it. As SAF further develops these strategies, more specific targets will be attached to the strategies. <p>Meat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Meat Strategy and Operational Plan has been developed and implemented. This inter-branch long-term strategy identifies the short, medium, and long-term objectives and initiatives that will be pursued to achieve the goals outlined in the Manufacturing Strategy. Specific initiatives were introduced in early 2005, including a six point food and meat processing plan introduced by the Premier in March 2005 to lessen our dependence on other jurisdictions to finish and process our meat products, develop our food processing sector and ensure food safety. • The targets established for the Meat Strategy that contribute to the department's vision are as follows: <p>Pork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty million market hogs - \$4 billion 	<p>specific targets for the different areas.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five slaughter plants to kill 100 per cent of the hogs produced - \$4.60 billion • Facilities to process 50 per cent of the product available from slaughter - \$5.75 billion <p>Beef</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.625 million slaughter cattle (71 feedlots) - \$3.15 billion • Two slaughter plants kill 100% of the cattle produced - \$3.63 billion • Facilities to process 50% of the product available from slaughter - \$3.17 billion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 9, 2005, the Government of Saskatchewan released details of a \$37.3 million meat processing package to help drive development of the meat processing sector. This package consists of three components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Rebate - \$32.8 million in base funding available over the next three years to provide a 15 per cent rebate to qualifying federally inspected meat processing facilities that expand by more than 25 per cent or expand to federally inspected status. • Increased funding for the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre - \$400,000 per year for three years. • Development of Toll Processing Capacity in Saskatchewan - \$1.1 million per year for three years to support federally-inspected toll processing initiatives. <p>Pulses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pulse strategy targets major increases in the value of primary production and primary processing over the next 15 years and the development of secondary processing of 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>the Saskatchewan pulse crop. SAF has focused development of this industry on the utilization opportunities for pulses.</p> <p>Flax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal of the flax strategy is to increase primary production in and to develop fibre industries for both long line flax and salvage of oilseed flax fibre. A research project is underway regarding the production and processing of long line flax fibre and SAF is a partner in Flax 2015, a national industry-government strategic planning process. <p>Organics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organic strategy sets a goal of increased processing and marketing services, supporting an increase in primary production along with increased processing. SAF is supporting the development of a national regulated system for certification and accreditation that will ensure access to foreign export markets. <p>Bio-Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF, in conjunction with other government stakeholders is working to create a bio-products strategy through which the human, natural and crop resources in the province can be marshaled to produce value-added crop bio-products. <p>Bio-energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF, RECD, SIR, and SE are developing a biofuel development strategy. Direct work on evaluating crop availability and research work on co-products of ethanol is being carried out and funded by ADF. Staff is working with ethanol and bio-diesel project proponents. <p>Vegetables</p>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF is developing a strategy to promote the development of this industry. A strategic planning process has been initiated with the Saskatchewan vegetable industry to capture this opportunity. <p>Irrigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF has supported the Agri-Vision Corporation development of a Fifty Year Water Plan and the Drought Proofing the Economy Conference. The department is assisting the development of feasibility studies for the West Side Irrigation Project and for infill and planning for the Riverhurst and South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Districts. • Responsibility for Irrigation infrastructure and development in Saskatchewan currently lies with SAF, SaskWater and the Sask Watershed Authority. These government agencies, along with the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation, Sask Irrigation Projects Associations, work together to ensure irrigation development, research and technology transfer, regulatory oversight and the operation and maintenance or the irrigation infrastructure contributes to the long-term development of the irrigated sector in Saskatchewan. • Investment Attraction is coordinated through the Marketing Unit of the Market Development and Food Branch of SAF. They work with the branch responsible for the strategic priority area (meat, flax, etc.) and develop an investment attraction strategy where required. 	

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A	S-48 Processing of horticultural crops could be encouraged to enhance the viability of irrigation production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAF manufacturing strategy includes horticulture and vegetables as a strategic area. 	For priority ranking purposes, S-006, S-018, S-048 and S-093 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.
T	S-57 The Department of Highways and Transportation should significantly increase the use of their authority to audit weigh bill tickets. Depending on the circumstance, an overweight charge should be laid on the basis of an audit or the audit could be used in conjunction with other enforcement measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2002, a new audit program was developed and implemented. The program involves shifting some existing human resources through the winter months to complete weight audits. DHT also conducted educational seminars with the ATPCs and industry. The purpose of the seminars is to educate the public regarding the legislative changes and the auditing. DHT will be implementing new technology involving weigh in motion and camera technology at three locations in September 2005. This system will provide information on non weight compliant carriers. It is recognized that ACRE still has concerns that there are trucks traveling on the highways and rural roads that are overweight and causing road damage. The DHT will consult with stakeholders and department staff, in conjunction with ACRE to find the most cost effective enhancement of monitoring and auditing overweight trucks in order to reduce adverse impacts of overweight trucks on the roads. 	<p>For priority ranking purposes S-057 and S-058 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE is waiting for the outcome of discussions between stakeholders and the department regarding the development of the most effective enhancement of monitoring and auditing overweight trucks.</p>
T	S-58 Regulations and policies need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2002, a new audit program was developed and 	For priority ranking

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	<p>to be put in place to ensure efficient and adequate random auditing can be done. To ensure fairness and equity, all industries and those involved in moving goods by truck would be subject to random weight audits.</p>	<p>implemented. The program includes the use of intelligence from present department databases and staff to determine which companies will be audited. The program includes three different approaches: 1) worst offenders based on tickets issued; 2) industry focus; and 3) random. Current legislation under Section 63 of <i>The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997</i>, provides the department with the authority to carry out this program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT has conducted educational seminars with the ATPCs and industry. The purpose of the seminars is to educate the public regarding the legislative changes and the auditing. • The program will be further enhanced with the installation of new technology involving weight in motion and camera technology in September 2005. The system will provide information on non weight compliant carriers to the investigative unit. • It is recognized that ACRE still has concerns that there are trucks traveling on the highways and rural roads that are overweight and causing road damage. The DHT will consult with stakeholders and department staff, in conjunction with ACRE to find the most cost effective enhancement of monitoring and auditing overweight trucks in order to reduce adverse impacts of overweight trucks on the roads. 	<p>purposes S-057 and S-058 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>The key message of recommendation is to ensure fairness and equity in all industries, not only agriculture.</p> <p>ACRE is waiting for the outcome of discussions between stakeholders and the department regarding the development of the most effective enhancement of monitoring and auditing overweight trucks.</p>
GO	<p>S-93 Specific opportunities that should be investigated are listed in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF, through its Agriculture Manufacturing strategy, has identified key tactics for the development of the grains 	<p>For priority ranking purposes, S-006, S-018, S-</p>

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	<p>the Grains and Oilseeds Subcommittee report.</p>	<p>and oilseed sectors. These include:</p> <p>Pulses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pulse strategy targets major increases in the value of primary production and primary processing over the next 15 years and the development of secondary processing of the Saskatchewan pulse crop. SAF has focused development of this industry on the utilization opportunities for pulses. <p>Flax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal of the flax strategy is to increase primary production in and to develop fibre industries for both long line flax and salvage of oilseed flax fibre. A research project is underway regarding the production and processing of long line flax fibre and SAF is a partner in Flax 2015, a national industry-government strategic planning process. <p>Organics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organic strategy sets a goal of increased processing and marketing services, supporting an increase in primary production along with increased processing. SAF is supporting the development of a national regulated system for certification and accreditation that will ensure access to foreign export markets. <p>Bio-Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF, in conjunction with other government stakeholders is working to create a bio-products strategy through which the human, natural and crop resources in the province can be marshalled to produce value-added crop bio-products. 	<p>048 and S-093 are combined as they are very similar recommendations and government responses.</p> <p>ACRE looks forward to the development of strategies that will include specific targets for the different areas.</p>

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		<p>Bio-energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF, RECD, SIR, and SE are developing a biofuel development strategy. Direct work on evaluating crop availability and research work on co-products of ethanol is being carried out and funded by ADF. Staff is working with ethanol and bio-diesel project proponents. 	

ACRE SUBCOMMITTEE INDEX

A	Agriculture
AV	Agri-Value
BD	Business Development
CIE	Community in Evolution
CL	Crown Land
ED	Tools for Economic Development
FIFS	Farm Structure/Farm Income
GO	Grains and Oilseeds Working Group
INF	Infrastructure
R	Resource Sector
RE	Rural Employment
RMC	Rural Manufacturing and Construction
RS	Rural Service Sector
T	Transportation
W	Whole ACRE committee