

“Works in Progress” Recommendations – Not including Foundation

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
R	F-3 Ensures consistency in taxation of all rural municipalities and specifically, the application of punitive mill rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local tax tools have been provided to municipalities to promote local autonomy and to give municipalities the ability to manage tax shifts within their jurisdictions to address local circumstances. • Government Relations (GR) completed and publicly released a report examining the use of local tax tools in 2001 and 2002. The report is posted on GR’s website. • With the implementation of the 2005 revaluation, the use of mill rate factors will be reexamined by the government to determine their impacts on property tax distribution. In the context of school division restructuring, which comes into effect in 2006, mill rate factors for the purpose of education property tax will be reexamined. Changes, if warranted, will be considered after the reviews are completed. 	<p>Government is following the Clearing the Path initiative of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM).</p> <p>ACRE will continue to monitor progress.</p>
RS	F-9 Implements a dedicated consumer tax to provide funding for tourism product development and marketing; specifically for rural-based opportunities in Aboriginal, agricultural, cultural and ecological tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Saskatchewan has researched, and is working with key industry representatives to discuss whether or not there is support from industry for such a dedicated tax program. • Tourism Saskatchewan currently provides \$1.15 million annually to rural travel regions for cost-shared marketing and management support. 	<p>ACRE will continue to monitor progress.</p>
R	F-11 Applies a consistent set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan is working with Area Transportation 	<p>A key component of SARM’s</p>

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	<p>of regulations on the use of roads in all rural municipalities (business, farm and private) particularly in the application of road haul agreements.</p>	<p>Planning Committees in order to address regional planning needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority for rural municipalities to issue permits for overweight vehicles was incorporated in legislation in the 2003 revision of <i>The Rural Municipality Act, 1989</i>. • The Vehicle Weight and Dimension Regulations have been amended to allow more flexibility while retaining a core winter weight period. • Saskatchewan continues to enter into heavy weight diversion agreements with municipalities. • As a result of a review by GR of municipal road issues in the heavy oil producing area of Saskatchewan, in 2003 amendments were made to <i>The Rural Municipality Act, 1989</i>, to provide authority for all rural municipalities to designate primary weights and truck routes for municipal roads. The new authorities provide for harmonization among rural municipalities and with provincial standards, as well as a dispute resolution process when a municipality or municipalities and road users cannot agree to the method of harmonizing weight limits or designated truck routes. The dispute resolution will help to ensure continuity of transportation routes across jurisdictions. • Under the new <i>Municipalities Act</i>, effective January 2006, urban municipalities will have the same authorities. The new Act will also allow urban municipalities to enter into road maintenance agreements, similar to rural municipalities. 	<p>Clearing the Path initiative. Government has put in place the legal framework to allow municipalities to put this recommendation in place. They have been given the tools.</p> <p>The issue is currently being worked on but not complete. Inconsistencies are still there. Work in progress.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GR will be undertaking a review of the road haul maintenance fee structure to determine if any adjustments are needed. Affected municipal and industry stakeholders will be consulted. • GR, Regional Economic and Co-operative Development (RECD) and the Department of Highways and Transportation (DHT) are assisting SARM in its review of rural economic impediments under its “Clearing the Path” initiative. As part of this initiative, SARM is working to establish a primary weight road network. 	
AV	<p>F-12 Provides the support necessary to have agricultural industry-wide policies and practices that enhance competitiveness through food safety and environmental practices (consistent with other jurisdictions).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) continues to collaborate with federal/provincial partners in the development of national traceability initiatives. • SAF supports two programs within the department which enhance industry competitiveness: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Value Chain Program (Market and Food Development Branch) is designed to encourage diversification and growth in Saskatchewan’s agri-food economy by providing funding to value chain participants who commit to work together, sharing the risks and benefits to attain common goals and meet market requirements; and 2. Surveillance (Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch), focuses efforts on early disease detection and control in the interests of food safety and industry competitiveness. SAF is in discussion with federal counterparts to join the federal Food Safety Initiative, along with five other provinces. Programs developed 	<p>The province should continue its efforts to work towards streamlining regulations with the federal government and other provinces.</p> <p>Costs of compliance need to be monitored so as not to be excessive in comparison to those in other provinces and other international jurisdictions.</p>

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		<p>under this initiative will replace the previously announced Food Safety Training Program, ensuring a more consistent approach with national food safety training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF responded to the impact of the Natural Health Products (NHP) Regulations on the Saskatchewan industry by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. offering a one day Natural Ingredients, Packaging and Processing Seminar in September 2005; and 2. developing generic Good Manufacturing Practices models for NHP's at the Food Centre which will be available for industry implementation in time to meet the December 2005 deadline • Training initiatives: SAF continues to offer Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point training and Good Manufacturing Practices through the Food Centre and through a partnership with Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) the distance based food safety training program (Processing Food Safely) was successfully launched in September 2004. SAF, through staff at the Food Centre, provides ongoing technical review of all food safety training programs • Food Safety and Environment chapters of Agriculture Policy Framework (APF). • SAF restructuring in April 2004, has led to the creation of the Agri-Business Development Branch where the Manager, Environmental Programs now deals exclusively with the delivery of environmental programming in 	

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		<p>Saskatchewan. Program areas include: Green Cover, Beneficial Management Practices, Environmental Farm Plans, Evaluation, Communication and other items such as certification and standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan Environment is working with other departments to improve conservation land strategies with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Agricultural Producers Association Saskatchewan, SARM and environmental non government organizations to ensure that the activities of conservation groups work in harmony with the rural economy. 	
AV	<p>F-13 Collaborates with organized labour and industry to review and/or establish the measures necessary to create a positive, competitive and progressive labour environment including a fair, equitable and effective worker's compensation program in Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan Labour continues to work with business, labour, and other stakeholders towards ensuring a safe, fair, productive, equitable, harmonious and family-friendly work environment, and workers' compensation system. Moreover, in undertaking any new legislative, program, service or review-related initiative, the department embarks on broad-based consultations to responsibly capture and weigh its constituents' positions at the developmental stage. 	<p>ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>
CIE	<p>F-17 Works co-operatively at all levels with Aboriginal people (First Nations, Métis, and Non-status) to foster a shared understanding of our vision for the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nations and Metis Relations works with Aboriginal people and communities to develop and implement policies and programs that advance shared interests and increase the participation of Aboriginal people in the social and economic life of Saskatchewan. The province has developed a shared vision for Métis and Off-Reserve First Nations People by integrating action by 12 provincial departments to address education, skills training, work 	<p>This is an ongoing activity and ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>

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		<p>preparation, employment and economic development, and individual and community well-being for Aboriginal people in the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province proclaimed <i>The Métis Act</i> in January 2002, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan to implement practical initiatives. 	
RM C	<p>F-18 Engaging the Aboriginal people in the work force that includes expansion of Aboriginal ownership of businesses either from a First Nations’ owned business view or in partnership with the private sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan links the Aboriginal labour force with employers and training institutions through the Aboriginal Employment Development Program. In October 2005, the provincial government announced a program that makes grants available to Aboriginal business entrepreneurs who want to get involved in growth sectors of Saskatchewan’s economy, helping to create more Aboriginal businesses and creating jobs for Aboriginal people. The Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program is a four-year \$5 million package beginning with \$500,000 this fiscal year and \$1,500,000 in the next three fiscal years. Applicants will be required to inject some of their own funding into their project. This new program supports the province’s Action Plan for the Economy which includes working with First Nations and Métis people to equip and engage them in broadening the economy. Through government support of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, Métis entrepreneurs acquire the management, administrative and marketing skills necessary for business development. 	<p>The government has announced some important initiatives. This continues to be a work in progress and an area of continuing priority for ACRE in the future.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan worked in partnership with the Saskatchewan Council on Community Development (SCCD) to establish a Rural Leadership Development Program that places an increased emphasis on Aboriginal people, with a goal of involving Aboriginal women and youth. • Saskatchewan Industry and Resources (SIR) is looking for opportunities for Aboriginal partnerships and involvement in its sector strategies and an Aboriginal Procurement Committee established in June 2004, is intended to help Aboriginal-owned businesses. • The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation's Corporate Circle provides focus, planning, training and partnerships to create economic development for First Nations, business and government. 	
ED	<p>F-19 Implementing policies that encourage the private and public sector to forge partnerships with Aboriginal organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan has many partnerships with Aboriginal people involving the education, justice, social service, economic, environment, and health sectors. For example, the school in Meadow Lake is a partnership effort between a First Nation, the school division and federal government for the benefit of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. • The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation's Corporate Circle provides focus, planning, training and partnerships to create economic development for First Nations, business, and government. 	<p>This is an ongoing activity. The province has already undertaken a number of initiatives. ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other partnership examples include the Agreement on Economic Development between the province and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, MOUs with First Nations regarding management of natural resources including co-management agreements, partnerships with individual Bands to co-manage schools, and individual partnerships with Indian family and child service agencies to deliver social services. • Tourism Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) have signed a protocol agreement that outlines a process of cooperation with regard to the development of First Nations tourism opportunities. • Industry Canada has provided funding to Keewaten Careen Development Corporation (KCDC) from La Ronge as the Regional Management Organization to deliver the First Nations SchoolNet Program in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. This project is positioned within a multi-year strategic plan to provide First Nation schools with computers, high speed internet access, technical support and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) training in order to allow First Nation students to pursue new opportunities for learning and skills development within their own communities. 	
ED	<p>F-21 Begins the process of removing barriers to provincial programs and initiatives that prevent First Nations participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With input from sector partners, Saskatchewan has implemented a Post-Secondary Sector Aboriginal Education and Training Action Plan. This Action Plan is designed to improve Aboriginal people’s access to, and success in, post-secondary education, training, and 	<p>This continues to be an area of priority for ACRE. ACRE will continue to monitor progress on significant actions already taken by government.</p>

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		<p>employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Health is working to improve the access to provincial health programs/services for Aboriginal people, as well as increase Aboriginal representation in health system governance and administration. Some examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increasing resources to address health concerns in Aboriginal communities, including hiring an Aboriginal Diabetes Consultant. ○ Regional Health authorities will work with First Nations communities as they develop their regional plans for the delivery of on-going coordinated education, care and treatment services for the control of diabetes. ○ SIAST will be provided with one-time funding to develop a multi-leveled diabetes education program. ○ Increasing Aboriginal representation on health governance structures through the board appointment process. ○ Established two regional health authorities in the North. ○ Train more health providers, offer more return service bursaries, support professional development and a representative workforce. ○ Build opportunities for full participation by Aboriginal peoples, and strive to recruit Aboriginal candidates into a wide range of health-related occupations. ○ Enhance educational programs available in the North. ○ Invest in cultural awareness training to encourage a supportive welcoming workplace environment. • Through the Aboriginal Employment Development 	

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		<p>Program, First Nations and Métis Relations has entered into over 60 partnerships with private and public sector employers, universities, training institutions, governments and First Nations and Metis organizations to address barriers to employment and communicate employment and education opportunities to Aboriginal people.</p>	
RM C 	<p>F-23 Promotes careers in the trades in order to provide a greater number of skilled professionals to the various sectors of the economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SaskNetWork.ca</u> is a comprehensive provincial web site that helps Saskatchewan residents find information about career, education, training, labour market opportunities, and links to other national and international sites. • The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (ATCC) Board’s Mandate is to ensure that apprenticeship training meets industry’s labour market needs. This includes promotion and awareness of careers in the trades. • ATCC field consultants and staff participate in approximately 135 high school career fairs, industry trade shows, and public information sessions across Saskatchewan to promote the trades. • Tourism Saskatchewan works closely with ATCC to promote the trades we have; specifically, the Food and Beverage Person and Guest Services Representative. • Skills Canada Saskatchewan promotes trades and technology to Saskatchewan youth. • SaskEnergy emphasizes trades and technical positions as career options at high school career fairs around the province and uses a CDROM created by the Saskatchewan 	<p>Government has put in place a number of initiatives. ACRE will continue to monitor progress on implementation of these initiatives.</p>

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		<p>Apprenticeship Branch to promote the trades. The CD was provided to all Guidance Counselors in Saskatchewan in spring 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskEnergy is working with its diversity partners to achieve greater diversity within our trades and to better draw youth into these roles. We are working towards building a pool of prequalified people from various backgrounds and locations who are ready to assume positions as they become available. • Through Crown Investment Corporation (CIC), all the crowns are collaborating to develop and prioritize initiatives related to our common demographics - trades are one specific area of interest. 	
RM C	<p>F-24 Identifies and provides opportunities for businesses to assess and build their entrepreneurial, leadership, and management skills in areas of confidence building, entrepreneurial spirit, global vision, and knowledge in financing and marketing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan worked in partnership with Saskatchewan Council for Community Development to establish a Rural Leadership Development Program that places an increased emphasis on women, Aboriginal people, and youth. • SIR has promoted world class manufacturing best practices to both rural and urban manufacturers and processors. Efforts by the department have led to the development of three consortiums of manufacturing excellence which strive to adopt best practices and improve the competitiveness of their operations. • The Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Entrepreneurial Fund have been established to assist with the development and growth of small businesses in the province. 	<p>Government has introduced the Entrepreneurial program. Mentorship program soon to be announced.</p> <p>A number of substantive things have been done but will never be complete.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation will provide business advice, mentoring, and support services to aspiring entrepreneurs with the goal of developing investment ready business plans. These business plans will then be eligible for investments from the Fund, which will provide financing of up to \$1 million for each approved proposal. • CIC will provide \$1.8 million in operating capital for the Foundation, and up to \$25 million for the Fund over the next five years. • Research shows that there is a financing gap for projects that require up to \$1 million in equity, so the Fund will fill that need. • The Foundation's head office is located at Innovation Place in Saskatoon. 	
ED	<p>F-27 Engages the Department of Education, Department of Economic and Co-operative Development, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, the Saskatchewan Teacher’s Federation, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan among others, in the development and implementation of a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship 30 is included under the Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) renewal process. Entrepreneurship 30 is an elective course that may be used as one of the required PAA components. It is typically offered as an elective for Grade 12 students. Entrepreneurship 30 has a strong enrolment with an excess of 1200 students. The renewal of this curriculum was enhanced by cooperation with the University of Regina, Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, as well as through the use of resources from many other provincial and federal agencies. • The PAA curricula include a focus on 10 Transition to 	<p>The government is acting on a number of important initiatives, but more needs to be done. The program should be expanded to earlier grades in the school system. ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>

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	<p>curriculum component for the primary and secondary system that is dedicated to business/entrepreneurship education.</p>	<p>Work Dimensions, one of which is entrepreneurship. These dimensions are expected to be addressed in the entire PAA courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Métis and Off-reserve Strategy, efforts are being taken to ensure business/entrepreneurship training in cooperation with the FSIN and Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. • Government recognizes the importance of entrepreneurs as a driving force in our economy and that First Nation and Métis people are an integral part of that force. • Government is discussing the importance of business entrepreneurship, education and training with all stakeholders and partners in the educational system and will continue to implement strategies that will enhance partnerships in these areas. 	
AV	<p>F-30 Utilizes existing resources to establish a “Venture Management initiative” that would match experienced managers with new or expanding agri-businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIR and RECD continue to move forward and work with several partners in developing a "Business Mentorship" initiative. 	<p>ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>
RM C	<p>F-33 Develops and implements a strategy that integrates the road, rail and air services in the province to support business development and includes working with municipal governments to improve the co-ordination and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most recent DHT Strategic Plan incorporated an intermodal component. • Saskatchewan is committed to working collaboratively with Area Transportation Planning Committees in order to address regional planning needs. • As a result of a review by GR of municipal road issues in 	<p>ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>

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	<p>integration of planning for permanent municipal road and provincial highway systems.</p>	<p>the heavy oil producing area of Saskatchewan, in 2003 amendments were made to <i>The Rural Municipality Act, 1989</i>, to provide authority for all rural municipalities to designate primary weights and truck routes for municipal roads. The new authorities provide for harmonization among rural municipalities and with provincial standards, as well as a dispute resolution process when a municipality or municipalities and road users cannot agree to the method of harmonizing weight limits or designated truck routes. The dispute resolution will help to ensure continuity of transportation routes across jurisdictions. Under the new <i>Municipalities Act</i>, effective January 2006, urban municipalities will have the same authorities. The new <i>Act</i> will also allow urban municipalities to enter into road maintenance agreements, similar to rural municipalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GR, RECD, and DHT are assisting SARM/Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) in its review of rural economic impediments under its “Clearing the Path” initiative. As part of this initiative, SARM is working to establish a primary weight road network. 	
A	<p>F-36 Adopts an aggressive policy towards irrigation development that expands utilization of the current irrigation system and further development in order to open new areas for diversified agricultural growth. Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to <i>The Irrigation Act</i> are being completed, which will allow irrigation districts to use alternative means to expand infrastructure. • See F – 31 for further examples. 	<p>ACRE is waiting for government actions in this area.</p>

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	Response/Example(s):		
R	F-38 Establishes the legislative, regulatory and policy framework that is consistent and fair and that encourages the sustainable non-traditional and, where possible, multi-use of Crown lands for the benefit of rural residents and that leases issued contain clauses allowing for integrated multiple uses by the lease owner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF has consulted with the Crown Lands Stakeholders' Forum, a group of individuals representing clients and Saskatchewan residents having an interest in agricultural Crown land use. 	ACRE looks forward to the completion of the Crown Land Strategy review.
R	F-39 In conjunction with local governments, develops a land use planning process that takes a balanced approach to land management in the province and establishes fair and consistent rules with respect to land use for the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of phase two of the renewal of the planning legislation, GR is reviewing <i>The Planning and Development Act, 1983</i>, to enhance local capacity, achieve consistency in land use planning and balance local, regional and provincial interests. Greater opportunities for inter-municipal and regional approaches to planning will be established in the legislation to achieve greater consistency in land use and local planning and to support provincial interests. GR is providing advisory support to SARM on matters supporting consistent zoning rules for intensive livestock operations and is a participant in advising the Great Sand Hills Planning District, which is a model for inter-municipal planning. GR, RECD, and DHT are assisting SARM in its review of 	Some important initiatives are being taken by government to address this issue. ACRE will be closely following developments in this area.

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		<p>rural economic impediments under its “Clearing the Path” initiative. SARM is working to establish sector specific planning commissions.</p>	
R	<p>F-47 Utilizes agricultural Crown land as a tool to enhance the livestock industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging the conversion of marginal cultivated agricultural Crown land to perennial forage; • Examining the development of an infrastructure program that would provide Crown land tenants the means to construct required facilities on lands being converted to perennial forage; and • Change current Crown land use policy to maximize potential whether through sales or lease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF allows individual lessees the ability to make their own enterprise decisions unless those decisions result in improper agricultural practice. Where lessees choose to seed their marginal land to perennial forage, SAF facilitates these requests and adjust rentals accordingly. • Since the latest ACRE recommendation, SAF is developing an enhanced sale policy for consideration by government. 	<p>Sale policy is a work in progress. It is important that lessees continue to have the ability to make their own enterprise decisions.</p> <p>Could more marginal Crown land be used in a process to encourage intensive livestock ventures?</p> <p>Government is looking at disposition policy so the issue is still ongoing.</p> <p>There is no government program relating to land conversion although there are things that government is doing to facilitate the process.</p>
W	<p>I-7 That the ACRE committee urges the provincial government to take substantive action, including initiating the fuel tax rebate and other positive financial measures, to support the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan has taken a leading role in developing the ethanol industry in Canada. In 2002, the province released the GreenPrint for Ethanol Production Strategy. Legislation and regulations have been passed for mandating the blending of ethanol into gasoline. Regulations state that 30 per cent of the ethanol market will be reserved for small producers. Based on these 	<p>ACRE encourages a coordinated approach by all stakeholders in developing the bio-fuel value chain to ensure that Saskatchewan’s natural advantages are optimized leading to enhanced profitability</p>

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	<p>development of the ethanol and biofuel industry that would closely align Saskatchewan with other provinces in Canada. In addition, the Saskatchewan government should work with other provincial jurisdictions in western Canada to develop a coordinated marketing approach to encourage gas wholesalers and retailers to make ethanol and bio-blended fuels readily available to all residents. Further, that the provincial government mandate increasing levels of ethanol and biofuels content within defined timelines coordinated with the production capacity of Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>policies, investors have committed over \$100 million to building ethanol plants in Saskatchewan, and many other communities and agricultural organizations have expressed interest in building plants. Saskatchewan is working with the federal government and other provinces to ensure a national market for ethanol.</p>	<p>for all links in the chain.</p>
BD	<p>P-2 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan work with the Government of Canada to develop a substantial source of equity funding by implementing a Saskatchewan Equity Investment Tax Deferral Program, which will make any Saskatchewan</p>		<p>Not started. Discussion should be initiated with Finance.</p>

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	<p>resident or corporation who wishes to defer taxes eligible to invest in our province's rural economic development</p>		
BD	<p>P-4 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan build on existing business groups, programs, and resources (i.e. Chambers of Commerce, Women Entrepreneurs, Saskatchewan Council for Community Development, etc.) to create an effective network of leaders and mentors. As well, resources need to be provided that will ensure that community boards and entrepreneurs have access to the information necessary to implement effective governance systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIR and RECD continue to move forward and work with several partners in developing a "Business Mentorship" initiative. 	<p>P-04 replaces S-35. Continues to be a work in progress. ACRE will continue to monitor government actions in this area.</p>
BD	<p>P-5 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan facilitate the initiatives necessary to improve the liquidity of investments in community projects and businesses in rural Saskatchewan.</p>		<p>ACRE will continue to monitor government progress in implementing this recommendation.</p>

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BD	<p>P-6 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan:</p> <p>a) replace the current tax credit program on capital purchases used for manufacturing and processing with a PST exemption program; and</p> <p>b) develop and make public a plan for:</p> <p>i) the systematic elimination of the Corporate Capital Tax, and</p> <p>ii) the staged reduction of the Corporate Income Tax to ensure Saskatchewan's businesses can stay competitive with those in other provinces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vicq Commission examined all aspects of business taxation in the province. The Commission has now presented its report and the government will assess its recommendations within the context of the 2006-07 budget development process. • Highlights of the 2006-07 Saskatchewan Budget pertaining to tax changes include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corporate Capital Tax (CCT) changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Eliminate the general CCT by July 1, 2008; ❖ Eliminate the general CCT on new capital investments in Saskatchewan on July 1, 2006; and ❖ Reduce CCT Resource Surcharge rates beginning July 1, 2008. ○ Reduce the corporate Income Tax rate from 17 to 12 per cent by July 2008. ○ Increase the small business threshold from \$300,000 to \$500,000 by July 1, 2008. ○ Immediately convert the non-refundable Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for Manufacturing and Processing into a refundable tax credit and extend the carry-forward for unused ITCs previously earned to 10 years. ○ There were no changes to the provincial sales tax in the 2006-07 budget. The government is deferring any considerations on sales tax reform pending further review. 	<p>P-6 replaces F-2.</p> <p>The government has taken substantial action on the Vicq Commission's recommendations.</p> <p>The government has announced a number of related initiatives in its 2006-07 budget. ACRE will monitor closely to ensure that government follows through on these initiatives.</p>
BD	<p>P-7 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan simplify and develop an integrated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new one-stop website for Business Permits and Licenses (BizPaL), to be developed in partnership with federal and municipal governments, will help streamline the business approval process by providing developers with a list of 	<p>BizPal is an online service that simplifies the business permit and licence process for entrepreneurs, governments, and</p>

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	<p>approach (preferably a one-window contact) for the business development approval process from project conception through the start-up of the enterprise.</p>	<p>required permits and licenses required by three levels of government and providing links to online forms.</p>	<p>third party business service providers by providing one stop access to permit and licence information for all levels of government.</p> <p>Development of the process is being lead by Industry Canada in partnership with participating communities and provincial governments. Pilot funding is being provided by the federal government and is part of a larger federal initiative on regulatory renewal. The project is currently in the pilot stage with pilots launched or planned for Whitehorse, Yukon, Kamloops, British Columbia and the Regional Municipality of Halton, Ontario. Expansion is planned to other parts of Canada.</p> <p>BizPal will allow 233 different types of businesses to access all municipal, provincial and federal permit and licensing requirements through one Internet site, saving time and money for clients. For an entrepreneur the program helps to generate a personalized list of the business documents at all</p>

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			<p>levels of government that he may have to deal with in order to start or expand a business.</p> <p>Saskatchewan is on board with coordination being provided through SIR. That department has hired a project coordinator to manage the project and he is working with Saskatoon as the first municipal cooperator. Plans are to have a functional website up and running in Saskatchewan in 2006, possibly as early as May or June.</p> <p>ACRE will continue to monitor progress.</p>
BD	<p>P-8 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan mandate Saskatchewan Government Insurance to aggressively develop the partnerships and the policies that will allow affordable insurance packages to meet the needs of Saskatchewan’s rural businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solution is for industry proponents to connect with insurance carriers that have the necessary experience to properly assess the risk and provide coverage. • Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) not prepared to subsidize classes of insurance or jeopardize their relationship with brokers (by developing a group insurance package). • There is a general public misconception that SGI, as an auto insurance monopoly, can do likewise, in other insurance areas. 	<p>The Monitoring Committee did not accept the government’s rejection of its recommendation that SGI take more aggressive action to make insurance available to rural specialized and small businesses. After meeting with SGI and discussing the situation, the Monitoring Committee has classified this recommendation as a “work in progress”. SGI has agreed to discuss possibilities to address these issues with both the</p>

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			Insurance Brokers of Canada and the Insurance Brokers of Saskatchewan.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
BD	<p>P-9 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan provide seed money and facilitate the implementation of the “Saskatchewan Works Fund,” as proposed by Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation (SAC) and the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, because this proposal recognizes the needs of rural businesses and will provide a source of capital investment for rural economic development that is not being met by other funding mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIR’s involvement in the Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporation program is limited to the issuance of tax credits under the program. Additional funding would require a separate budget allocation that would be determined through the annual budget process. • A recent related development is Saskatchewan Angel Investor Network (SAINT), a unique new Saskatchewan organization that will connect entrepreneurs with angel investors. As Saskatchewan’s first formalized angel-entrepreneur organization, it will utilize an interactive web-based environment to become an important market and meeting-place for entrepreneurs and angel investors to explore new business opportunities. 	<p>ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>
CL	<p>P-15 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan incorporate into land use policies recognition of the existing rights associated with a disposition, and communicate with lease holders, in order to avoid confusion if additional rights are extended to other land users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province has developed Fact Sheets that will be used to communicate with lease holders. • The fact sheet entitled: <i>Oil and Gas Exploration and Development on Saskatchewan Agricultural Crown Lands</i> is available on the SAF web site. • All Lands Branch Leasing, Sales, Petroleum and Gas, Sand and Gravel policies are available on the SAF web site. • 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>The province needs to communicate information to leaseholders as the need arises.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
RE	<p>P-23 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan establish an apprenticeship training tax credit that would encourage employers to hire and train apprentices in certain skilled trades.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2006-07, employed tradespeople will see tax relief on their required tool purchases, as outlined in the spring budget. The Employees' Tool Tax Credit will consist of two components. The first is a One-Time Trade Entry Tax Credit, resulting in \$1 million in savings annually for qualifying tradespeople. This Credit recognizes the high cost of initial purchases of work-related tools that are required as a condition of employment. As well, the Employees' Tool Tax Credit provides an Annual Maintenance Tax Credit that recognizes the ongoing cost of maintaining tools, worth an estimated \$1.9 million in annual tax savings for qualifying employed tradespeople. 	<p>A more general apprenticeship training tax credit would still be appropriate.</p>
RE	<p>P-24 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan provide further funding and that the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission expand its efforts to recruit and train Aboriginal apprentices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (ATCC) will be implementing the youth apprenticeship initiative on a province-wide basis in 2006-07. In 2005-06, the Commission appointed a Youth Apprenticeship Liaison who worked with the seven pilot programs at high schools in Assiniboia, La Loche, La Ronge, Big River First Nations Reserve, Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon. With the assistance of the Skilled Trades Consortium, the Commission accessed promotional materials for distribution to students, teachers, parents, and employers. The Commission also invested resources in upgrading curriculum resources for Grade 9 and developing new resources for Grades 10 - 12. 	<p>ACRE recognizes that the government has begun the process but because of the importance of this issue the government should broaden initiatives in this area. ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>
RE	<p>P-25 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan create a trade job bank that matches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Saskatchewan through Saskatchewan Learning, Saskatchewan Community Resources and Employment, and the Federal Department of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada have partnered 	<p>As indicated a number of actions have already been taken by government.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>potential employers and/or sponsors with interested employees/students.</p>	<p>to develop the SaskNetWork web site (www.sasknetwork.ca) to help the people of Saskatchewan connect to the resources they need in the areas of jobs, work, education and training, career planning, self-employment, labour market information, financial help and the workplace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SaskJobs section of the SaskNetWork web site provides job seekers and employers with assistance to find and post employment opportunities in Saskatchewan. In the first quarter of 2005/06 there were 6856 jobs posted. This is an increase of 1821 from the number of jobs posted in the last quarter. • The ATCC has considered the idea of a trade job bank. However, they feel that other organizations are in a better position to provide such a service. The Canada-Saskatchewan Career and Employment Centres, with 20 offices, currently do some matching of employees with employers. • The Commission had concerns with the “poaching” of existing employees from firms if it set up such a service that applied to existing trades workers. There would also be logistical problems in maintaining and keeping such a system current across the province. 	<p>ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>
RE	<p>P-26 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan increase flexibility in compulsory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On November 18, 2005, the final report of the Training System Review Panel was received by Saskatchewan Learning. Chaired by Doug McArthur, the panel, appointed in May 2005, undertook a comprehensive 	<p>The ATCC is reviewing whether to change the compulsory training ratios.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>training ratios related to apprenticeship certification for rural and small businesses.</p>	<p>review of Saskatchewan’s training and apprenticeship system and developed 121 recommendations for change. The recommendations deal with the SIAST, regional colleges and the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission. As well, the panel considered the roles of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Campus Saskatchewan, vocational schools and the Saskatchewan Labour Force Development Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training System Review Panel members directly cited ACRE as is shown by recommendation #93: “The ACRE findings related to rural and agricultural training be supported by the training system”. The Panel’s recommendations mirror many of those of ACRE and in particular recommends that the maximum number of apprentices per journey person be increased for all trades. • A new Advanced Education and Employment Department should assist in focusing on these training and employment requirements. 	<p>The Training System Review is a milestone and ACRE should keep it in a higher profile and continue to monitor it.</p>
RE	<p>P-28 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan increase the in-community rural delivery of various types of training through the Regional Colleges, SIAST, universities, and other means. New delivery options for rural Saskatchewan need to be explored that provide for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the need to ensure training opportunities are accessible throughout the province. In 2005-06, Saskatchewan Learning provided additional funding to regional colleges and the Dumont Technical Institute. Training institutions’ needs for additional funding will continue to be reviewed as part of the budget planning process. The ATCC has been asked to lead a process, in collaboration with SIAST and regional colleges, to investigate opportunities for enhanced apprenticeship technical training in rural and northern 	<p>An important ongoing process. ACRE will continue to monitor progress.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>both theory and practical training. Additional funding would be required to fund additional training in rural Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>Saskatchewan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In May 2005, the Minister of Learning established a Training System Review Panel to make recommendations concerning how best to position Saskatchewan’s training system to meet the needs of Saskatchewan’s labour force in the future. The review will cover programs and services currently offered by SIAST, regional colleges and ATCC. 	
R	<p>S-24 Saskatchewan must establish and maintain a complete, accurate and current ecological and geological information database (including water) and increase its availability to industry. This would assist Saskatchewan business to compete with other jurisdictions for limited exploration and development dollars.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2001-02, additional funding has been provided to SIR for enhanced geological research and mapping to aid petroleum and mineral exploration in the province. The amount of Saskatchewan geoscience data that can be accessed electronically by industry continues to increase. SIR continues to implement improvements in electronic service delivery. • Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), working with other provincial departments, is developing a national data base on soil and water. • Additional work needs to be done as resources become available. • Advances in technology are helping to accelerate this process whereby many databases can be updated using aerial survey techniques. Geological information is updated regularly and available through industry sector specialists in SIR. • A “Water Quality Database” will soon be available for public access on the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority 	<p>ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		website.	
RS	<p>S-27 Develop a fully integrated, comprehensive, multi-discipline single source database of information available to municipalities, economic development organizations, businesses, professionals and others including detailed information on soil, water supply, transportation infrastructure, incentives, local government structure, land ownership and taxation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SaskBiz website offers some of this right now (http://www.saskbiz.ca), whereby community developers, investors and site selectors are able to review a variety of information needs of use to developers and business planning professionals. The site does not provide comparisons of local tax rates, soil types, land use restrictions, land ownership details or available incentives (financial resources would need to be made available to add these). The SaskBiz website can be supplemented by other directories, publications, and government sources of data/expertise when and as required. At a federal level, discussion on information data base is ongoing. • The Business Permits and Licenses (BizPaL) website is being advanced to provide one-stop Internet access for required permits and licenses required by three levels of government for new developments in various sectors. 	<p>Work in progress.</p> <p>Note: This recommendation is quite similar to P-07.</p>
RS	<p>S-28 That the provincial government approval processes for zoning, planning and development, water and sewage, and other approvals be reviewed and streamlined to be more efficient and to meet the needs of proponents. It is recognized that that this could ultimately require further resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements will be made to the planning legislation and regulations to add improved tools and mechanisms for the subdivision review process to meet emerging provincial and municipal needs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishing statements of provincial interests that will provide a clearer framework for community planning throughout the province; ○ amending <i>The Subdivision Regulations</i> to provide for electronic application and electronic plan submissions and simplify technical requirements; ○ amending <i>The Planning and Development Act, 1983</i>, to remove provincial approvals for bylaws and reduce 	<p>Ongoing/work in progress</p> <p>Significant actions including the creation of a new <i>Planning and Development Act</i> have been initiated by government. Concerns of development proponents must be addressed in this process. ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>provincial requirements for planning approvals, where possible, that will reduce review time lines and expedite development; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The New Cities Act</i> has provisions for streamlined planning and approval processes. The new consolidated <i>Municipal Act</i> will have similar provisions. 	
RS	<p>S-29 Better integration of agriculture, economics, and rural development programs and services should be pursued with municipalities, REDAs, Community Futures projects, and provincial departments to eliminate duplications, create efficiencies, linkages, and synergies and create one-stop shopping.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agencies and organizations identified in the recommendation have been working with their respective regional partners to accomplish this objective. These organizations see merit in voluntarily collaborating on issues of mutual interest. • The Agri-Business Development Branch of SAF is committed to working collaboratively with the other parties. • SARM’s “Clearing the Path” initiative. • The Business Development Subcommittee of ACRE made recommendations concerning these issues, see P-1 and P-2. 	<p>Some pieces in place (Community Future Development Corporation, Regional Economic Development Authority, etc.), but not complete.</p> <p>Ongoing process. While some progress has been made in this area, ACRE looks forward to more progress and will continue to monitor.</p>
CIE	<p>S-33 That the Saskatchewan Government will provide funding to: Match municipal contributions for emergency and fire protection equipment, telecommunications systems and Global Positioning Services (GPS); Ensure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants already exist for some of the equipment identified as essential. There are also programs to assist in the reduction of costs for fire department equipment, such as the municipal fire truck (education and health tax) exemption Regulations. • The telecommunications equipment grant that provides some cost sharing support. This program has not been fully used by communities at this time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Financial assistance for comprehensive linkages of 911 	<p>Has been addressed in part except for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training funding assistance.</p> <p>The response does not address the recommendations with respect to funding for training—training is available but rural</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>comprehensive 911 linkage to good, co-ordinated, dispatch services with GPS for fire protection and emergency response; and, Provide funding for adequate training for firemen, first responders, and other rescue personnel for rural communities.</p>	<p>with dispatch and GPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At the present time Sask 911 is specifically mandated to ensure that the 911 service is available in rural Saskatchewan. The provincial role in this service focuses on call taking and transfer to a police, fire or EMS dispatch agency; and ○ A 911 geographic information systems map has been developed by the province to assist the Public Safety Answering Points in locating callers and to log specific information relating to EMS and fire response areas. This service and role of the provincial government is on-going. <p>b) Financial support for training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training for fire services is a local responsibility. The province does not provide financial assistance beyond the services in kind as described above under training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Municipal Revenue Sharing grants provide municipalities with revenue they can use for emergency medical services. There is not specific funding from the province for the training of firemen, first responders, and other rescue personnel for rural communities. ● There has been implementation of a three year training initiative to bring emergency medical services providers up to the emergency medical technician basic level. This training is targeted to emergency medical providers in rural and northern areas. 	<p>people pay for it through voluntary firefighting organizations, for example.</p> <p>Something still needs to be done by government on EMS.</p>
AV	<p>S-34 The provincial government develop a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are programs available in the business programs and faculties of SIAST, the universities, and regional colleges. 	<p>ACRE is waiting for the government actions coming out</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>recognized program that provides people with the opportunity to build their entrepreneurial, leadership and management skills in the agri-value sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agri-Business Development branch of SAF is working with entrepreneurs. • SAF provided funding to the SCCD to provide an opportunity for communities to participate in the Leadership Saskatchewan program. • The Training System Review Panel recently submitted its report to the Department of Learning. The department will take the panel’s recommendations into consideration in light of its new mandate. • SAF is delivering a skills and learning support program called the Canadian Agriculture Skills Service (CASS) as part of its commitment to support programming under the APF. CASS has been implemented by SAF to assist qualified farmers, beginning farmers and their spouses to undertake skills development and training by providing support for education planning and financial assistance to defray some of the costs associated with participating in training courses. Funding for the program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the program is delivered in partnership with the provinces' public and private training and educations institutions and organizations. 	<p>of the Training System Review Panel.</p>
R	<p>S-37 The Province of Saskatchewan develop a labour strategy to meet the resource sector’s ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education and Labour Market Planning and Information Strategy supports a system-wide approach to planning for the needs of Saskatchewan learners, employers and communities. It will help ensure that the 	<p>An ongoing part of labour strategy. ACRE will continue to monitor progress in the development of the labour</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>labour needs. This strategy needs to recruit youth and aboriginal people and provide them with the necessary skills so that they can live and work in rural Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>post-secondary system is responsive to the changing knowledge and skill requirements of the Saskatchewan labour market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through co-operating with First Nations and Métis partners, as well as other sector partners, a Post-Secondary Sector Aboriginal Education and Training Action Plan was designed to improve access and success of Aboriginal people in post-secondary education, training and employment. • The government is working on a strategy to address the needs of youth and Aboriginal people within the labour force. • Canada Saskatchewan Career and Employment Services in 2003-04, provided an array of employment programs and supports to 24,000 persons to assist their transition to employment. These include resource centres, job posting information, liaising with employers and programs to improve the education and job readiness skills of potential employees. • The Department of Labour works independently and with government and non-government stakeholders to help ensure that youth and resource sector employees and employers become more aware of their rights and responsibilities under <i>The Labour Standards Act</i> and <i>The Occupational Health and Safety Act</i>. 	<p>strategy.</p>
ED	<p>S - 47 The Government of Saskatchewan promote</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) is opening up to bring immigrants family members to the 	<p>ACRE will continue to monitor results of the actions taken by</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>immigration of families and extended families and that the obstacles for professions such as teachers and nurses be eliminated, and that farmers and agriculture workers be considered as a priority and that potential partnerships be developed with First Nations for the utilizations of labour and Treaty Lands as well as provincial farm lands.</p>	<p>province. A Family Members category under SINP now allows Saskatchewan residents to support family members from foreign countries who want to come to the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the new category, Saskatchewan citizens can support family members from abroad who want to come to live here and can work in this province. Supporting family members must provide settlement assistance to the applicant and their family which could include financial support. • Saskatchewan continues to work on meeting labour market shortfalls through education and employment for the province's young people and the growing number of Métis and First Nations youth. • Through enhancements to the Saskatchewan immigration program, approximately 5,000 new immigrants a year will be approved to immigrate to the province by 2008-09. 	<p>government.</p>
T	<p>S-51 The province, in consultation with stakeholders, establish an integrated transportation corridor system. The corridor system should be developed using various information available such as grain, tourist, and trucking routes and using the Rural Road Classification System. The main corridors, road linkages, and feeder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT agrees in principle with the concept of developing an integrated transportation corridor system and has a process in place to identify the corridors. Grain corridors have been identified in conjunction with the Prairie Grain Roads Program. The corridors that were identified were reviewed with the Area Transportation Planning Committees (ATPC) to ensure the appropriate roads were targeted as grain corridors. • SARM, under the “Clearing the Path” initiative, has established a committee to examine this issue. • As the corridor system is identified and evolves, the 	<p>Ongoing/work in progress</p> <p>ACRE encourages the continuation of the coordinated approach by stakeholders to develop efficient trade routes.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>roads should all be identified. It should also be recognized that construction and maintenance funding should be allocated proportionately.</p>	<p>process in place will ensure that adequate consultations with stakeholders occur. The process will include pertinent stakeholder groups including the ATPCs and use of the transportation plans that have been developed by the ATPCs.</p>	
T	<p>S-53 Policies, practices and procedures be developed that require provincial government departments to work together in a more integrated, collaborative and complementary manner to ensure integrated development of the transportation system. When appropriate, this must be done inter-jurisdictionally to ensure the integrated development of the transportation system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT concurs with the goal of this recommendation and will continue to work towards an integrated system by focusing on many fronts. • On a local basis, the department regularly consults with a number of other departments and works with SARM and SUMA and the ATPCs to promote the transportation system so it can best support the economic and social needs of the province. 	<p>This recommendation is somewhat similar to P-19 in asking for an integrated government approach, but deals specifically with transportation.</p> <p>SARM’s “Clearing the Path” initiative is addressing this recommendation.</p> <p>ACRE will continue to monitor progress.</p>
T	<p>S-56 All levels of government and industry establish a process for providing information to the road authorities on impending and future economic development projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT agrees that it is important to be included at a very early stage in impending and future economic development projects. The department established the ATPCs in order to work toward improving communications between road authorities and economic development initiatives around the province. DHT will continue to provide resources in support of the ATPC initiative. 	<p>ACRE recognizes that the ATPCs play a useful and important role in improving communications, but with numerous types of developments occurring in the province, the government should continue to focus on this area.</p>
T	<p>S-59 The Department of Highways and Transportation and Area Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An information and training package will be developed in conjunction with the expansion of the primary weight system and the required evaluations and selection criteria. 	<p>ACRE is waiting for results from these initiatives.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>Planning Committees educate the public regarding our highway system, its construction and what it is capable of handling for weights. This should include things like damage costs caused by overweight vehicles and by the speed of vehicles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT has proposed a new primary weight policy framework as part of the 2006-07 budget process which includes a recommendation for a Weight Advisory Committee (WAC). The WAC will have representation from road owners/operators and industry, to provide advice on weight management matters. This committee will be tasked with establishing communication/education and research priorities around primary weight issues. 	
T	<p>S-62 The province commit to work collaboratively and co-operatively with appropriate stakeholders to plan, develop and implement a sustainable integrated rural air access strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT recognizes the importance of air access to rural Saskatchewan. Through ongoing dialogue with the Saskatchewan Aviation Council, programs have been developed to assist with airport operating costs. There has been some interest expressed for a capital assistance program and discussions will continue on that front. • DHT currently has a modest program of \$107,000 per year that provides assistance for Operations and Maintenance. This program is administered by the regions. • DHT does not have a capital assistance program for small community airports. DHT continues to be concerned with the issue of airport viability and is participating on a national task force looking at the issue. We continue to work with the Saskatchewan Aviation Council in exploring ways to help address the airport viability issue. 	<p>ACRE encourages efforts to continue to reach the implementation stage.</p>
T	<p>S-68 A special trailer could be designed that would allow a heavier container to be transported on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT works closely with industry on an ongoing basis to develop technologies that are capable of providing a better distribution of weights over the roads in a safe, economic and efficient manner. Generally, bridge infrastructure has 	<p>ACRE would like to see on-going exploration of new technologies.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>Saskatchewan’s secondary weight roads, therefore, the province and industry should work together to develop a trucking method and axle system to accommodate the use of containers to their maximum capacity.</p>	<p>been the limiting factor to implementation of heavier container vehicles on secondary routes.</p>	
T	<p>S-74 The province, in conjunction with the municipalities, conduct a detailed review to determine the potential current and future uses for railway rights-of-way and develop a plan to preserve them where necessary. The province should also develop legislation to fairly deal with the removal of a rail line.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SARM has formed a committee under their “Clearing the Path” initiative to examine transportation issues which could include future uses for railway right-of-ways. • The government is working with the two national railways to develop guidelines for the management of abandoned railway right-of-ways. 	<p>ACRE is waiting for the outcome of the discussions between the province and the two national railways.</p>
RS	<p>S-76 In an effort to be more proactive, all jurisdictions responsible for roads and transportation must do a better job of educating the public on the load capacity of roads and highways, the importance of weight compliance and safety issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of DHT’s overall strategy is to consult with and educate stakeholders. An information package is currently being developed regarding highway designs and the impacts of weights and speeds on the roads. The information package will be used to educate the ATPCs and other stakeholders. The ATPCs will, in turn, be able to educate their members on issues regarding designs, weights and speeds. • With the budget approval of the Primary Weight Policy 	<p>ACRE is waiting for results from these initiatives.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>Framework, DHT can move forward with the creation of the WAC, which can be tasked with the development and implementation of an information package on highway designs and impact of weights and speeds on roads. The WAC when convened can determine the appropriate timelines for the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WAC is currently in the concept phase and will evolve once the policy has been approved and the Committee established and roles firmly defined. The WAC education component is envisioned to be for both the general public and stakeholders; with an emphasis on stakeholders. Stakeholder education would be to enhance understanding of the potential damage of higher weights to highways. For the general public, education would be to let the public know the benefit of higher weight limits for the trucking industry and provincial economy. The objective would be to try to achieve a best balance. Safety and other related topics would be included. • Publications such as the Saskatchewan Truckers' Guide also provide information concerning transport regulations including weight and safety. 	
ED	<p>S-80 That the Government of Saskatchewan develop an Internet based central cataloguing system of available SaskHousing units for rent or purchase in rural Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Housing Corporation views the recommendation on the development of an internet based central cataloguing system as a positive initiative, and will investigate a staged development of a site. • The use of the Internet as a marketing tool would provide wider exposure to the supply of units available for rent or sale. An internet site would have to be continually updated and maintained. In order to be effective, the information 	<p>A number of initiatives have been announced by government that move towards meeting the intent of the recommendation but fall short of guaranteeing Internet availability. ACRE will continue to monitor.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>for the site should be linked to a property management system capable of accommodating this feature. The current system can not easily accommodate this requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new housing information system is currently being implemented. This system has the potential to accommodate a link with an internet site, however, this will require some additional systems development costs. • As part of HomesFirst initiative, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation is ensuring that it makes the best possible use of its limited resources. A number of unique opportunities will come to individuals and communities throughout Saskatchewan, as Saskatchewan Housing Corporation will make available surplus units from its assisted-rental portfolio. Many of the selected units will be made available for sale on the private market, thereby allowing the broader community unfettered access to these units while turning yesterday's chronic vacancies into tomorrow's opportunities for homeownership. This will strengthen local housing markets and stabilize communities. It will bring new investment into certain communities and help to satisfy the demand for affordable homeownership units and private market rentals. This will occur through phases. Throughout the first phase, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation will find better uses for surplus assets in as many as 60 communities throughout the province. • SaskBiz was developed so that other agencies could access the data layers (and add others) using the system with their 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		own uniform resource locators and different facades.	
RS	<p>S-81 A program should be established to assist small communities with the energy costs of operating cultural and recreational facilities and to encourage energy efficiency in operating local facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskPower, through demonstration project(s), is investigating the options for financing and implementing energy efficiency projects in community facilities. • In 2004, Watrous, Saskatchewan, proceeded as the only community participating in the pilot for the Community Energy Management Service (CEMS) feasibility phase. In this project, SaskPower, along with the Saskatchewan Research Council, assisted the town with an energy audit, recommended energy conservation measures and is continuing to provide logistical support for the installation of energy efficient lighting, motors and system controls in town facilities. • Implementation of the measures, which will be managed by the Town of Watrous, is expected in 2005. • SaskPower will study the results of the Watrous project to determine whether it is necessary to conduct additional demonstration projects and whether it is feasible to establish a broader CEMS program. • SaskPower currently offers energy performance contracting to commercial and institutional customers with total energy costs greater than \$250,000. Customer satisfaction research with small to medium customers and shareholder expectations, demonstrates interest in a similar service that meets the unique needs of institutional and commercial customers with total energy costs of less than \$250,000 per year. The concept of a Community Facilities 	<p>The Monitoring Committee expressed concerns over SaskPower’s demand charge policy. The committee subsequently met with SaskPower representatives to discuss this issue.</p> <p>The demand charge aspect of the recommendation is also being pursued by groups such as SARM.</p> <p>Work in progress.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>Energy Management Service was further developed as a measure within the Saskatchewan GreenPrint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan, SaskEnergy formed the Commercial Network of natural gas commercial contractors in June 2005, to provide expanded services to commercial customers. The Commercial Network is a voluntary alliance of mechanical contractors that install and service natural gas equipment for commercial customers. Together we are offering financing and leasing services, providing education on energy efficiency, and accessing the Government of Canada Commercial Buildings Energy Efficiency programs to help commercial customers save money through energy efficiency. 	
	<p>S-90 The processing of meat from specialized livestock, particularly bison and elk is stumbling because of a lack of aggressive marketing and adequate local processing. Such a Saskatchewan plant would be desirable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province has been working with specialized livestock producers to increase the marketing of meat products (example Canadian Prairie Lamb). The government has been supportive of the development and implementation of national programs such as animal identification and on-farm quality assurance. These industry initiatives are part of the foundation of meat marketing. As well, the government continues to support producer efforts to develop value-chains and a federally inspected facility to accommodate specialized livestock. 	<p>ACRE encourages the continued coordination with stakeholders in this area and will continue to monitor.</p>
R	<p>S-95 It is recommended that the Saskatchewan Government examine mechanisms to form or expand existing community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF has neither the resources, nor the mandate, to acquire additional lands to develop new community pastures. SAF has a long-term goal to improve the grazing capacity 	<p>This deals with reallocation of existing government resources.</p> <p>Government should reconsider</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	pastures or co-operatives through public, private, and corporate partnerships.	of existing pastures to be able to increase the number of livestock that can be grazed.	the issue. Do not accept the government rejection of this recommendation.
T	T-1 The province, in consultation with stakeholders, actively monitors and develops, if warranted, a north/south international trade corridor system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT works with neighboring jurisdictions to improve north-south and east-west road links by upgrading infrastructure, improving border crossings and enhancing trade corridor opportunities. The focus of the discussions has been expediting border crossings in light of increased security measures. • DHT concluded a corridor study in 2002, which identified six corridors of potential interest to our province: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The CANAMEX Corridor; ○ Camino Real Corridor; ○ Interstate Route 35 Corridor; ○ Falls-to-Falls Corridor; ○ Ports to Plains Corridor; and ○ The Heartland Expressway. • These corridors presently do not terminate at Saskatchewan border crossings, but would have potential for Saskatchewan/United States (US) trade. Air connections and air access are also of interest as they allow Saskatchewan residents to access US destination points. This is important to Saskatchewan in so far as it may be a deciding factor in whether to locate in the province. • Two primary current initiatives are the Northern Great Plains Transportation, Trade and Economic Development Initiative and an agreement by Western Premiers and Governors to facilitate further development of cross-border 	ACRE encourages the continuation of the coordinated approach by stakeholders to develop efficient trade routes and will continue to monitor.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		transportation initiatives.	
T	T-3 The province updates design requirements and inspection of municipal constructed roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT will provide road construction standards for low traffic volume roads (generally classes 4 & 5). This applies to both provincial highways and municipal roads. • A review of low volume road standards is in progress. 	ACRE is waiting for the results of the review.
T	T-12 The province review whether 1000 (or less) people in a community is the appropriate level, or whether it should be higher, for its policy of maintaining highways through these communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The Urban Highway and Assistance Policy review continues. The current work plan is to substantially complete the policy review by June 2006. The completed policy will define the next steps. 	ACRE is waiting for the results of the review.

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