

Media Backgrounder

ACRE, a group of 46 rural stakeholders tasked with identifying ways to strengthen the rural economy, was first announced in the December 1999 Throne Speech and held its first meeting in September of 2000. ACRE's mandate was to explore and generate innovative ideas and recommendations for Government and industry, and to act as a catalyst for positive change and economic development in rural Saskatchewan.

Since its inception, ACRE has conducted extensive analysis and research, consulted with rural residents and met with hundreds of people and organizations across the province. In total, the committee has presented 220 recommendations to all areas of the provincial government.

In November 2002, the Province of Saskatchewan expanded ACRE's mandate. The revised mandate directed ACRE to continue investigating the rural economy and making recommendations, as well as to monitor the province's implementation of the actions recommended by ACRE.

In the fall of 2005, ACRE created a Monitoring Committee. This committee was tasked with reviewing government progress on implementing each of the 220 recommendations ACRE had delivered to government and with producing a report that: brings closure to those recommendations that have been satisfactorily dealt with by government; identifies those recommendations that remain outstanding; and focuses government attention on those outstanding recommendations that are of greatest interest and importance to ACRE.

ACRE will continue to monitor the outstanding recommendations, as well as any future recommendations the committee may present to government.

ACRE will now enter Phase III of its work, with a focus on defining and enhancing community, and on developing small business and entrepreneurship. Attention will be given to strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and other communities within regions, and Aboriginal participation in the workforce and economy.

ACRE MONITORING COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT – QUICK REFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS – examples of measures taken as of Spring, 2006.
(Refer to ACRE Monitoring Committee Final Report for additional information)

Accepted recommendations

F-4 - Explore the potential for a special youth tax structure as a means of encouraging youth to stay in or relocate to Saskatchewan to start businesses and families.

The province is committed to encouraging Saskatchewan students to develop their careers right here at home and is actively pursuing initiatives to make this happen. The Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit is a one-time tax credit that graduates and journeypersons may apply against their Saskatchewan Income Tax.

P-30 - ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan make further efforts to build relationships between Aboriginal individuals, communities and groups, involved governments, educational institutions and employers to provide adequate opportunities for Aboriginal students. More must be done to respond to the training needs and initiatives of Aboriginal people.

Through the Aboriginal Employment Development 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 Métis organizations to address barriers to employment and communicate employment and education opportunities to Aboriginal people.

P-27 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan place a renewed emphasis on training for the trades, and enhance trade learning by providing more funding for SIAST and the Regional Colleges.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of training and trades. Additional funding of \$188,000 was provided to the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (ATCC) in the 2005-06 budget under CareerStart to create 75 new apprenticeship technical training opportunities. Training institutions' needs for additional funding will continue to be reviewed as part of the budget planning process.

F-15 - Establish the Saskatchewan Opportunities Foundation to provide funding, grants, loan guarantees, scholarships and leadership training through public and private funds, private investment, tax credits and revisions to the PST.

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. 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.

F-41 - Encourage and enable the emergence of “Opportunity Regions” in rural Saskatchewan to alleviate the multiplicity of regional boundaries and to foster community and economic development.

Government Relations, Regional Economic and Co-operative Development, and Department of Highways and Transportation are assisting Saskatchewan Association of Regional Municipalities (SARM) in its review of rural economic impediments under its “Clearing the Path” initiative. SARM’s proposals for sector specific planning commissions and a primary weight road network will facilitate inter-municipal co-operation.

F-52 - Explore the concept of “business clusters” for the rural manufacturing and construction sector.

Cluster initiatives are progressing well in several parts of Saskatchewan.

Action Southwest, for example, is a true strategic economic alliance with the purpose of applying sophisticated, world class models for economic and business development. Action Southwest focuses on asset based economic development which means that it uses the philosophy of building existing business as a means to growing a regional economy. An industry cluster development initiative was implemented to build community capacity, harness regional collaboration, gain competitive intelligence and implement projects to build infrastructure in the region’s four key sectors of agribusiness, manufacturing, energy and tourism.

The leadership demonstrated through the Action Southwest economic alliance has brought forth a new entrepreneurial vibe and enterprise mentality, instilling new regional pride and confidence to invest in community economic development. To date, this initiative has created an economic impact that will benefit the region well into the future.

The Capacity Exchange Pilot Program in Humboldt is another example of how manufacturers from a regional cluster in rural Saskatchewan share their excess capacity.

Outstanding recommendations:

F-18 - Engage Aboriginal people in the work force, and include expansion of Aboriginal business ownership.

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. 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.

While 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-18 - ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan promote and support a regional approach to infrastructure development.

A regional approach includes issues such as the new deal for cities with incentives for regional projects, school division and health region amalgamations and regional pipeline projects.

Many people do not recognize the many activities happening in their province focused on regional actions. Many still associate "regional" with amalgamation.

Rural Saskatchewan is becoming more accepting of the regional concept and this will be a major item for ACRE, and the Province, to pursue in the future.

P-33 - ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan continue ongoing identification of employment skill needs and labour shortages.

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.

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.

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 identification of employment skill needs and labour requirements.

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.

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.

However, ACRE believes more work must be done in this area.



**Action Committee on the Rural Economy
(ACRE)**

Monitoring Committee Report

October 2006



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ACRE Vision

“A network of strong, dynamic rural communities all across Saskatchewan – communities that can grow and prosper through sustainable rural economic development; a viable agricultural sector that provides opportunity and prosperity for today’s and tomorrow’s rural residents. Communities where people are secure in the knowledge that they and their children can look forward to a bright future.”

Executive Summary

Since its inception, the Action Committee on the Rural Economy (ACRE) has examined the rural economy and provided the Government of Saskatchewan with 220 recommendations for action. ACRE’s Monitoring Committee has taken on the task of examining the province’s response to each of these recommendations.

Overall, the Monitoring Committee believes that the Province of Saskatchewan has listened to ACRE and has made considerable effort to implement ACRE’s recommendations. The government has dealt with almost two-thirds (143) of ACRE’s recommendations to the satisfaction of the Monitoring Committee and has begun the work to implement the remaining third (77) of ACRE’s recommendations.

The Monitoring Committee’s mandate was to review government progress on implementing the recommendations submitted by ACRE to the provincial government and identify priority areas for work that remains to be done. The Committee has carefully considered each of the remaining 77 recommendations, identified those that it considers to be important in establishing the foundation for growth in the province and grouped

them into seven theme areas. The report provides a discussion of the “foundation” recommendations in each theme area and identifies other “Works in Progress” recommendations that also fall within that subject area. The theme areas are: immigration; co-ordination; infrastructure; taxation; business/labour; value-added; and Crown land use.

To ensure that the provincial government continues to act on implementing these foundation recommendations as well as the remainder of the 77 outstanding recommendations, the Monitoring Committee recommends that ACRE continue to review the government’s progress with respect to these recommendations on an annual basis.

Throughout the review process, the committee was cognizant of the need for all stakeholders, including the aboriginal population, to be engaged in the development of economic growth in the province. Good work has been done by the people of Saskatchewan and the Government of Saskatchewan to improve the economic climate in rural Saskatchewan. The progress made in implementing ACRE’s recommendations demonstrates that we can work together to accomplish our objectives, and build a prosperous future.

Background: Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal Population

Members of the ACRE Monitoring Committee recognize that Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal community is an integral part of rural and urban Saskatchewan. The needs of the Aboriginal population have been considered implicitly in all of the Committee’s deliberations and recommendations. As an example, recommendation F-18 speaks to the importance of engaging Aboriginal people in business opportunities. As well, recommendation P-24 states the provision of financial support and the expansion of recruitment and training of Aboriginal apprentices is critical.



1. Context

ACRE held its first meeting in 2000, when 45 rural stakeholders met for the first time. ACRE's mandate allowed the group to study several aspects of the rural economy and to develop recommendations for action by the Province of Saskatchewan that would strengthen and improve the rural economy. Since 2000, ACRE members have conducted research, met with other rural stakeholders and organizations, studied best practices in other countries, and held public consultations. This work resulted in several reports and a total of 220 recommendations for action by the Province of Saskatchewan.

In November 2002, the Province of Saskatchewan expanded ACRE's mandate. The revised mandate directed ACRE to continue investigating the rural economy and making recommendations, as well as to monitor the province's implementation of the actions recommended by ACRE.

The ACRE Committee members, supported by ACRE's Co-Chair, Deputy Premier Clay Serby, has insisted that ACRE's reports and

recommendations would not 'sit on a shelf', but would be used in the development of provincial public policy and programming. The expanded mandate provided ACRE with a method to hold government accountable for implementing ACRE's recommendations.

To meet the demands of its expanded mandate, ACRE created a "Monitoring Committee", a group of ACRE members that would examine the province's response to each of the 220 recommendations and identify important first steps to establishing foundations for growth in the province. This report is the result of the work of the Monitoring Committee and provides an overview of the work of the Province of Saskatchewan to implement ACRE's recommendations. Appendices referred to in this document provide a complete listing of each of the 220 recommendations, the government's response to the recommendations, and brief comments by the Monitoring Committee on the government's response. Government responses reviewed were current as of the fall of 2005 with some updated information provided where requested by the Monitoring Committee.

Background: ACRE's Research

In both Phase I and Phase II, ACRE conducted much of its work through smaller subcommittees of ACRE members. This structure allowed ACRE members to focus on one area and gain an in-depth knowledge of the issues before making recommendations.

In Phase I, ACRE members formed ten subcommittees: Agriculture; Agri-Value; Community in Evolution; Farm Structure and Farm Income; the Resource Sector; Rural Manufacturing and Construction; the Rural Service Sector; Tools for Economic Development; Grains and Oilseeds; and Transportation.

Phase II followed with four new ACRE subcommittees. They reviewed issues related to: Business Development; Crown Lands; Rural Infrastructure; and Rural Employment.



2. Process

The Monitoring Committee is made up of 19 ACRE members. Committee members were self-selected – that is, any ACRE members that were interested and available were welcome to take part in the Committee. Once Monitoring Committee members were identified, Thad Trefiak and Deb Ehmann were selected from that group to co-chair the committee.

At the Committee's first meeting, members realized that the best use could be made of their time if the Committee split into two working groups: the Agriculture and Transportation Working Group and the Economic Development Working Group. The 220 recommendations were divided into these two groups.

The work of both working groups was thorough and demanding. The Government of Saskatchewan, through the Department of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development (RECD), provided the working groups with summaries of the work government has done in relation to each of the 220 recommendations. Members examined these responses carefully, assessing the provincial actions related to each individual recommendation in order to determine if the government's actions adequately met ACRE's intent.

In assessing the Government of Saskatchewan's actions, the committee classified the 220 recommendations as either "Accepted", or as "Works in Progress". In classifying recommendations as "Accepted", ACRE

Background: ACRE's Recommendations

In Phase I and II, ACRE created a total of 220 recommendations. These recommendations can be categorized as:

- 7 initial recommendations, developed in the early days of ACRE's work;
- 58 Phase I final recommendations, resulting from Phase I work;
- 108 supplemental recommendations, resulting from Phase I work;
- 12 supplemental transportation recommendations, resulting from the work of the ACRE Phase I Transportation Subcommittee; and
- 35 Phase II final recommendations.

The first of these two groups, chaired by Thad Trefiak, examined those ACRE recommendations that pertained directly to agriculture and transportation issues. All other recommendations were examined by the second working group, chaired by Deb Ehmann, and pertained to economic development issues.

recognized that many government initiatives and responses to ACRE recommendations are on-going and will not have an ending point. However, from ACRE's perspective, ACRE is satisfied that government has reviewed, is taking action and no longer needs to monitor these recommendations. A complete listing of all of the "Accepted" recommendations can be found in the appendices document under Appendix B.

“Works in Progress” are all recommendations that still require attention from the Government of Saskatchewan. The “Works in Progress” recommendations were then reviewed to identify those that were considered foundations for economic growth and were grouped into seven theme areas. The balance of the “Works in Progress”

recommendations were then allocated to a theme area to ensure that they were not lost and would continue to receive attention from government. Foundation recommendations can be found in the appendices document under Appendix A1. A listing of the remainder of the “Works in Progress” recommendations is attached to this document as Appendix A2 along with detailed information related to these recommendations. The theme areas are highlighted below:

Infrastructure: recommendations related to the physical and social infrastructure that serves Saskatchewan residents.

Immigration: recommendations related to Saskatchewan’s immigration policies and programs.

Taxation: recommendations supporting the financial stability and fair and equitable approaches to the provincial revenue.

Coordination and Skill Development: recommendations dealing with education, skills training, delivery of services, and collaboration among the three levels of government.

Business and Labour: recommendations that encourage a stronger business climate and better working relations in Saskatchewan.

Crown Land Use: recommendations addressing management and use of Crown lands in the province.

Value-Added Agriculture: recommendations to engage activities in Saskatchewan that add value to agricultural commodities.

3. Findings

Overall, the Monitoring Committee believes the Province of Saskatchewan has made significant progress toward the implementation of ACRE’s recommendations. Of the 220 recommendations, the Monitoring Committee classified almost two-thirds (143 recommendations, or 65 per cent) as “Accepted”. The Economic Development Working Group was especially satisfied, with members concluding that the provincial government’s response was considerable in some areas. One example the working group cited was the government’s action to implement ACRE’s recommendation that a venture capital fund be created that could be accessed first to leverage private capital. The Government of Saskatchewan met the spirit of the recommendation by creating the Saskatchewan Entrepreneurial Fund, a pool of government funds that can be used to leverage private funds and is managed by a non-government private sector firm.

Detailed outcomes of the Monitoring Committee’s work can be seen in the Appendices document under the sections A1, A2 and B. These appendices include each of the 220 recommendations, the province’s response to date (including supplemental information that the Committee requested during the examination process), and the Monitoring Committee’s classification of, and commentary relating to, each recommendation. Appendix A1 outlines information on the “Foundation” recommendations, Appendix A2 includes detailed information related to the other “Works in Progress” recommendations and Appendix B includes those recommendations deemed by the Monitoring Committee to be “Accepted”.



[Agriculture and Transportation Working Group](#)

This working group reviewed 103 of the 220 recommendations. The working group was satisfied with government actions to implement 75 of these recommendations and classified these 75 recommendations as “Accepted”.

These 75 recommendations include six recommendations that are not necessarily fully implemented by the Government of Saskatchewan, but have been forwarded by the Monitoring Committee to the Farm Support Review Committee (FSRC) for its consideration. The FSRC is a committee of experts in agriculture safety nets, appointed to provide the Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food with information and advice related to farm programming. The Monitoring Committee’s Agriculture and Transportation working group made this decision in recognition of the fact that the FSRC is in the best position to analyze and assess work in the areas.

Twenty eight of the recommendations this working group examined have been classified as “Works in Progress” and require further attention from the Government of Saskatchewan.

Agriculture and Transportation Monitoring Working Group Members

- Thad Trefiak (Chair)
- Joan Chase
- Lester Lafond
- Keith Lewis
- Gordon Lightfoot
- John Serhienko
- David Sloan
- Brian Weedon
- Wanda Wolf

[Economic Development Working Group](#)

The Economic Development working group examined 117 of ACRE’s 220 recommendations. The working group found that 68 of the 117 recommendations have been implemented satisfactorily and classified them as “Accepted”. The remaining 49 recommendations have been classified as “Works in Progress” and require further attention from the government.

Economic Development Monitoring Working Group Members

- Deb Ehmann (Chair)
- Dennis Banda
- Colleen Bilokreli
- Joan Corneil
- Clay Dowling
- Guy Lonechild
- Les Lindberg
- Fay Myers
- Darell Pack
- Linda Pipke

[Specific Findings](#)

In the case of many recommendations, the Monitoring Committee reviewed the information initially provided by the Government of Saskatchewan and requested more information about the province’s response. The Committee’s requests were generally fulfilled, resulting in Committee members having a better understanding of the situation.

Not all recommendations were accepted by government. Additional information was obtained, both through written submissions and in face to face meetings that resulted in a better understanding of the issues and options and frequently resolved the issue. Several recommendations, however, were not resolved in



this manner and the Monitoring Committee continues to feel that government must take action to address them. They include the following:

- The Monitoring Committee did not accept the government’s rejection of its recommendation that Saskatchewan Government Insurance (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 “Works in Progress”. SGI has agreed to discuss possibilities to address these issues with both the Insurance Brokers of Canada and the Insurance Brokers of Saskatchewan.

- The Monitoring Committee did not accept the government’s rejection of its recommendation that a program be developed to assist small communities with the energy costs of operating cultural and recreational facilities. Monitoring Committee members met with SaskPower to further discuss this issue and were pleased with the outcome of the meeting. SaskPower will look at ways that relief could be provided to rural communities. This recommendation has been re-classified as a “Works in Progress”.

In its early deliberations, ACRE developed recommendations related to the delivery of emergency services, such as fire protection and ambulance assistance, in remote and isolated areas of the province. While the province has technically implemented the relevant recommendation as worded by ACRE, the Monitoring Committee believes there is more work to be done in this area. Some remote rural areas of the province are still not served by adequate emergency services. The Monitoring Committee believes that ACRE must continue to monitor the province’s work in this area.

ACRE recognizes the importance of recommendations related to the grains and oilseed sector and the overall impact on the agricultural environment. The Monitoring Committee will continue to monitor these complex value-added recommendations.

4. Foundations for Economic Growth

A full listing of the 77 recommendations that the Monitoring Committee has classified as “Works in Progress” is shown in Appendices A1 and A2. Of these 77 recommendations, the ACRE Monitoring Committee has classified outstanding recommendations into seven theme areas.

Infrastructure

In Phase II, ACRE’s Rural Infrastructure Subcommittee recommended that the Province of Saskatchewan promote and support a regional approach to infrastructure development. While some action has been taken in this area, there is still much to be done. ACRE continues to believe that this recommendation is vitally important. Saskatchewan must serve the needs of a sparse population with limited resources. If the infrastructure that rural residents need to live and do business is coordinated on a regional bases, duplication and overlap can be reduced or eliminated, public finances can be used optimally, and all rural residents can still be assured of having reasonable access to essential infrastructure.

“Saskatchewan has led the country to cover its territory and offers broadband services to every community over 200 people”—Seaboard Group (Regarding Internet Services in the province)

Outstanding Recommendations related to Infrastructure	Identification Number
Apply a consistent set of regulations for the use of rural municipal roads.	F11
Implement policies that encourage aboriginal partnerships in the private and public sector.	F19
Develop a plan for infrastructure built around key irrigation sites.	F31
Work with municipal governments to develop and implement an integrated road, rail and air services strategy.	F33
Adopt policy that allows expansion of the current irrigation system.	F36
Develop an integrated approval business process to assist businesses from project conception to the start up of the enterprise.	P07
Mandate SGI to develop partnerships and policies that provide insurance packages to rural business.	P08
Incorporate into land use policies recognition of land holder's existing rights.	P15
Support a regional approach to infrastructure development.	P18
Implement enforcement measures to support the weight hauling audit program.	S57
Conduct random weigh bill audits on all industries moving product by truck.	S58
Work with the private sector through co-operation and coordination to develop an economic development strategy and rural infrastructure strategy.	P19
Establish, maintain and deliver a complete, accurate and current ecological and geological information database to industry.	S24
Provide a comprehensive, multi-discipline, single-source database of information on soil, water supply, transportation infrastructure, incentives, local government structure, land ownership and taxation to governments, businesses and organizations.	S27

Outstanding Recommendations related to Infrastructure	Identification Number
Review the approval processes for zoning, planning and development, water and sewage.	S28
Work with municipalities, REDAs and Community Futures to improve integration of agriculture, economic and rural development.	S29
Establish an integrated transportation corridor system.	S51
Ensure an integrated development of the transportation system.	S53
Educate the public on the highway system, construction, overweight regulations and costs.	S59
Conduct a review of the current and future railway rights-of-way and rail line removal process.	S74
Educate the public on importance of weight compliance and safety issues.	S76
Develop an Internet based central cataloguing system of available Sask Housing units.	S80
Establish a program to assist small communities with the energy costs of operating cultural and recreational facilities.	S81
Expand existing community pastures or co-operatives through public, private and corporate partnerships.	S95
Sustain a north/south international trade corridor system.	T01
Update policies governing design/inspection of municipal roads.	T03
Review existing population criteria policy for highway maintenance.	T12
Develop a trucking method and axle system to maximize the use of containers.	S68

Immigration

Since ACRE’s inception, committee members have recognized the importance of immigration to replace rural Saskatchewan’s declining population and ensure that workers are available to fill jobs in rural Saskatchewan in the future. ACRE recommended that the province:

- substantially expand existing immigration programs (the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program and the Migrant Workers’ Program) in response to identified skill and worker shortages; and
- aggressively examine the barriers faced by immigrants, and promote immigration programs to employers and potential immigrants.

ACRE members recognize that Saskatchewan

faces significant challenges in attracting immigrants to the province, especially to rural areas. However, attracting and retaining immigrants is vitally important and these obstacles must be overcome.

While the province has committed significant funding in response to this recommendation, more action is required. Additional government staff and funding for programs and organizations that support immigrants and promote immigration, especially to rural areas, must be put into place.

The Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) continues to grow. For example, entrepreneur, skilled worker and Health profession categories have been expanded.

Following the changes in 2002 to the farm ownership rules under “The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act” there have been a considerable number of farmers and ranchers moving here from other jurisdictions. An example: farmers are moving from Alberta to the Yorkton area through an immigration project called the “Last Cattle Frontier”.

Outstanding Recommendations related to Immigration	Identification Number
Substantially expand the existing programs (Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program and Migrant Workers’ Program) in response to identified skill and worker shortages.	P32
Aggressively examine the barriers faced by immigrants, and promote immigration programs to employers and potential immigrants.	P33
Enhance support mechanisms for immigrants, such as cultural, language, foreign credentials and settlement funding.	P34
Examine barriers faced by immigrants, and promote immigration programs to employers.	P35
Promote immigration of families and extended families and eliminate obstacles for professions such as nurses and teachers.	S47

Taxation

In Phase I, ACRE recommended that the Province of Saskatchewan reduce its reliance on property taxes to fund the education system by increasing provincial funding, and complete the ongoing major review of the Foundation Operating Grant.

While the province’s March 3, 2006, announcement of an additional \$52.8 million per year in education property tax relief on agriculture land begins to work toward this goal (and establishes, on average, a 60/40 provincial/local education tax split), there is more work to be done. Education property taxes are regressive taxes that bear no relation to the income earned by farmers and other rural business owners. Business owners whose income fluctuates from year to year have

difficulty remaining competitive in the face of high education property taxes.

Continuing provincial efforts are required to improve the education property tax system and improve transparency and equitability.

Saskatchewan has introduced reductions to provincial business taxes (phased in elimination of Corporate Capital Tax, reduction of Corporate Income Tax and making the Investment Tax Credit for Manufacturing and Processing refundable) that will benefit rural Saskatchewan.

Outstanding Recommendations related to Taxation	Identification Number
Ensure consistency of taxation in all rural municipalities.	F03
Reduce 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.	F06
Implement a consumer tax to fund tourism products and marketing.	F09
Implement a taxation/assistance program to support transfer of land inter-generationally.	F10
Implement a Saskatchewan Equity Investment Tax Deferral Program.	P02
Ensure fair competition with other provinces by developing a PST exemption program, systematic elimination of Corporate Capital Tax and reduction of Corporate Income Tax.	P06
Establish an apprenticeship training tax credit.	P23

Co-ordination and Skills Development

When members of ACRE’s Phase II Business Development subcommittee began to examine programs available to rural entrepreneurs, subcommittee members were surprised to find that, rather than not enough programs and services, there were in fact too many. The three levels of government offer a veritable maze of programs and services for economic development, making it difficult for entrepreneurs and community leaders to find and access the most appropriate source of support. The sheer volume of available programs results in funding and staff spread thinly across many programs. The system could be more effective if human and financial resources were concentrated on a much smaller number of accessible, effective programs.

In response to this, ACRE has recommended that the province work with the Government of Canada and with Saskatchewan Municipal Governments to create a Task Force that will:

- 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
- b. examine the rural economic development delivery system with the

There have been increases in funding to Career-Start. This includes increased capacity in JobStart/Future Skills, additional capacity for adult basic education and apprenticeship training.

aim of eliminating the overlapping mandates and jurisdictions and of improving the effectiveness of that delivery system.

The province has not yet taken adequate action on this file. It is important that this work take place as quickly as possible. Entrepreneurs and community leaders need strong, readily available programs to build their businesses and communities. A discussion among political representatives from all three levels of government (federal, provincial, and municipal) would be a good beginning to implementing this recommendation.

The Training System Review Panel, appointed in May 2005, and chaired by Douglas McArthur, undertook a comprehensive review of Saskatchewan’s training and apprenticeship system.

Mr. McArthur indicates “Our report emphasizes the need to adopt a new training model that is flexible and adaptable, responsive to learners’ needs and circumstances, and community based.

Outstanding Recommendations related to Coordination and Skills Development	Identification Number
Provide safety and environmental ag-industry policies and practices consistent with other jurisdictions.	F12
Share the provincial vision with Aboriginal people at all levels.	F17
Initiate the removal of barriers to provincial programs that prevent First Nation participation.	F21
Promote careers in the trades.	F23
Engage the appropriate departments/organizations to develop and implement a curriculum based component on business ownership/entrepreneurship for the educational system.	F27
<p>Work with the Government of Canada, and with municipal governments in Saskatchewan, to create a Task Force that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 b) examine the rural economic development delivery system with the aim of eliminating the overlapping mandates and jurisdictions, and of improving the effectiveness of that delivery system. 	P01
Provide resources needed to establish strong governance systems by building an effective network of leaders and mentors and disseminating information to community boards and entrepreneurs.	P04
Provide financial support and encourage the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission to expand its efforts to recruit and train Aboriginal apprentices.	P24
Create a trade job bank.	P25
Increase flexibility in compulsory training ratios related to apprenticeship certification for rural and small businesses.	P26
Support an increase in delivery of in-community education and training by using existing systems such as SIAST, Regional Colleges, Universities and others.	P28
Match municipal funding for emergency and fire protection equipment, training, telecommunication systems and Global Positioning Services.	S33
Implement a program that allows people to build entrepreneurial, leadership and management skills.	S34
Develop and implement a rural air service access strategy.	S62

Business and Labour

In its initial phase of research, ACRE recommended that the Government of Saskatchewan, in conjunction with the private sector, develop a provincial economic development strategy, and a supportive rural infra-

BizPal (a federal, provincial, and municipal program) provides a one-stop, interactive site for business permit and license information from each level of government. A number of rural communities are considering setting up this simplified service.

structure strategy, while ensuring a high level of co-ordination and co-operation among and within provincial government departments and Crown corporations for the implementation of these strategies. The Monitoring Committee does not believe enough work has been done to implement this recommendation.

To help Saskatchewan’s business and labour communities communicate more effectively, both in rural and urban Saskatchewan, ACRE has recommended that the province establish a

Labour-Business Council which would focus on private sector labour issues. This Council would provide a mechanism for labour and business to meet together in an environment that would foster dialogue, allowing representatives to develop mutual respect and to define areas of agreement. ACRE understands that the Province of Saskatchewan has faced obstacles in attempting to implement this recommendation, but this issue is still important to ACRE, and to the labour and business communities. It is important that government implement this recommendation.

Outstanding Recommendations related to Business and Labour	Identification Number
Provide industry-wide policies that support food safety and environmental practices.	F12
Collaborate with labour and industry to review and establish labour efficiencies.	F13
Engage Aboriginal people in business ownership and work force opportunities.	F18
Provide opportunities for businesses to assess and build entrepreneurial, leadership and management skills.	F24
In conjunction with the private sector, develop a provincial economic development strategy, and a supportive rural infrastructure strategy, while ensuring a high level of co-ordination and co-operation among and within provincial government departments and Crown corporations for the implementation of these strategies.	P19
<p>Establish a Labour-Business Council, 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>The council would be made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Six representatives recommended by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, who would then appoint a co-chair; b) Six representatives recommended by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, who would then appoint a co-chair; and c) Secretariat: Labour, and Industry and Resources. The committee would report to these ministers. <p>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>It is important that each organization be allowed to assign representatives without obtaining consensus from government or from the other party.</p>	P20
Continue ongoing identification of employment skill needs and labour shortages.	P33
Develop a program that helps build entrepreneurial, leadership and management skills.	S34
Develop a labour strategy.	S37



Crown Land Use

The province, through its various departments and agencies, owns a significant amount of land in the province. The administration of Crown land is very challenging as citizens of the province have differing views on how this land should be used. As a result of these differing views, conflicts sometime develop over how the land should be managed by the province.

ACRE identified that addressing existing obligations regarding Treaty Land Entitlements is important. Based on a “willing seller—willing buyer” basis some 178,000 acres of Crown agricultural land has been sold to First Nation signatories of the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement.

During the ACRE process, Crown land was an on-going issue with many ACRE members. As a result, a sub-committee was formed specifically to examine the future of Crown land ownership in the province and how Crown land could be used to facilitate economic activity in rural Saskatchewan. As a result of the sub-committee’s findings, ACRE believes that the management and future direction for Crown lands is an important area that the province needs to address. The following recommendations speak to the many issues surrounding the future direction of Crown lands in the province.

Outstanding Recommendations related to Crown Land	Identification Number
Establish legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks that encourage sustainable non-traditional and multi-use of Crown land.	F38
Work with Municipal Government to develop a land use planning process.	F39
Use Crown land as a tool to enhance the livestock industry.	F47
Develop criteria for Crown land management.	P10
Review non-committed Crown land usage and consider realistic options.	P11
Promote non-traditional land uses, being cognizant of all stakeholders’ needs.	P12
Strengthen regulations governing land usage to protect against ecological damage.	P13
Develop resource management planning standards to support regional and local planning exercises.	P14
Incorporate existing land obligations into land use policies and communicate with lease holders.	P15
Review and revise the <i>Provincial Lands Act</i> and its regulations.	P17



Value-added Agriculture

Over many years, Saskatchewan producers and the province have had the goal of increasing the value of agricultural commodities before they leave the province. Much of the province’s agricultural production leaves the province in its raw, unprocessed form. Adding value to these unprocessed commodities would create economic activity and increase employment. In addition, increasing the value-added content of Saskatchewan’s agricultural products could increase the incomes of producers if producers were able to have an ownership stake as these products moved up through the value chain. Saskatchewan is not alone in trying to add value to their commodities as there are many other jurisdictions in North America following the same path.

Given ACRE’s mandate to further develop Saskatchewan’s rural economy, adding value to Saskatchewan’s agricultural commodities was seen by ACRE members as one of the key economic drivers for rural Saskatchewan. As a result, a number of recommendations were

developed by ACRE around the theme of adding value to Saskatchewan’s agricultural production.

As producers and the province increase added-value activity in Saskatchewan, the province must be strategic in its approach, especially in the face of low-cost competition from other countries such as Brazil in ethanol and with regards to the high subsidies given to farmers and industries in countries such as the United States. As the province and producers move forward, we need to keep in mind that in many value-added markets (especially in mature industries such as meat processing) there are large and powerful players that have a large presence in the marketplace. This means that developing these new value-added industries will be no small task.

Saskatchewan was the first Canadian jurisdiction to mandate the use of ethanol. In the fall of 2006, there will be three ethanol production facilities in operation in Saskatchewan.

Outstanding Recommendations related to Value-Added	Identification Number
Establish a Venture Management Initiative.	F30
Support the development of the ethanol and biofuel industry and align Saskatchewan with other provinces in Canada.	I07
Facilitate initiatives that improve liquidity of investments in community projects and businesses.	P05
Implement the Saskatchewan Works fund as a source of capital investment.	P09
Develop and implement a strategy to research production technologies and the skills required to deliver results.	S06
Lead an Agri-business Investment Strategy to entice entrepreneurs, agri-business, partners and capital into targeted sectors.	S18
Encourage processing of horticultural crops.	S48
Support marketing initiatives and processing of specialized livestock.	S90
Investigate opportunities for the Grain and Oilseed sectors.	S93



5. Next Steps

While the work that was required to develop this report was important for ACRE, ACRE's role in monitoring the progress of recommendations is not yet finished. The ACRE Monitoring Committee recommends that members of ACRE's next phase continue to monitor the province's progress in implementing those 77 recommendations that have been classified as "Works in Progress".

However, the 143 recommendations that have been classified as "Accepted" can now be considered complete. Unless there are significant changes to government policies and programming, these recommendations will not receive future scrutiny from ACRE.

Over the past year, the province has provided ACRE with a bi-annual update describing actions that have been taken with respect to each of ACRE's 220 recommendations. The Monitoring Committee recommends that the province continue to provide updates on progress made in implementing the 77 "Works in Progress" recommendations.



6. Conclusion

ACRE's 220 recommendations are quite diverse, covering a large range of topics and spanning a period of approximately three years from March 2002 to May 2005. In reviewing these recommendations, the Monitoring Committee realized that the specific wording chosen for each recommendation had a significant impact on the assumed intent and ultimate impact of each recommendation.

When the Monitoring Committee began the process of reviewing progress on ACRE's recommendations, the task of assessing each of 220 recommendations and analyzing all the changes that the Government of Saskatchewan

has made to policies and programs since ACRE's inception seemed overwhelming. However, as a result of the professionalism and efficiencies of committee members and the dedicated support the committee received from provincial government staff, the task was accomplished without complications.

Throughout the review process, the committee was impressed by the good intentions and hard work demonstrated by the people of Saskatchewan and the Government of Saskatchewan. People from across Saskatchewan are pulling together to develop a vital rural economy in this province. The progress that has been made in implementing ACRE's recommendations demonstrates that we can work together to accomplish our objectives and build a strong future in rural Saskatchewan.



Related Documents:

Appendix A1
“Works in Progress” Recommendations - Foundation

Appendix A2
“Works in Progress” Recommendations - Not including Foundation

Appendix B
“Accepted” Recommendations

To view these documents online. visit
www.recd.gov.sk.ca/acre



**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

Appendix A2: “Works in Progress” Recommendations – Not including Foundation

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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)		Comments
		<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>	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
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

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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

“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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	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.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
			<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>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
			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 journeyman 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

**Appendix B
Accepted Recommendations**

Appendix 1 - B

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
W	<p>F-1 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan conduct a comprehensive review to assess the province's competitiveness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Competitiveness Branch has been established within Saskatchewan Industry and Resources (SIR). The Branch will examine barriers to investment and growth through consideration of taxation issues, labour issues, regulatory reform, investment attraction, and incentive programs. • The provincial government is participating in discussions to harmonize Securities Commission approval processes across the country. Implementation of a passport system is proceeding with a targeted implementation date of September 2005. Under a passport system, approval in one jurisdiction will enable an applicant to operate in another jurisdiction which is party to the agreement without going through the Securities Commission approval process again. • The Premier's Investment Attraction Council was formed to seek out opportunities to increase investment in Saskatchewan. • Effective October 1, 2002, the government introduced lower royalty and production tax structures on production from new oil and gas wells and projects, introduced a new system of volume incentives, and reduced the Corporation Capital Tax surcharge. The province also introduced changes to benefit horizontal and deep wells and established a new royalty and production tax regime for natural gas produced by-product from oil wells. 	<p>Acknowledge the response, but province needs to review this area on an on-going basis. ACRE should consider reviewing other aspects of provincial competitiveness in the next phase of ACRE.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2003, the government made substantial changes to the royalty tax structure for potash. The changes included removing the profit tax component for incremental sales above the 2000-2001 average sales level and permitted capital spending in excess of 90 per cent of the 2001 spending level to be depreciated at 100 per cent. • In 2001, the government also made changes with respect to uranium. Taxes were changed from a profit basis to an ad valorem (percentage based on sales) basis and the top marginal tax rate was reduced from 50 per cent to 19 per cent. • In the 2002 Budget, the Corporation Capital Tax exemption was increased from \$10 million to \$15 million depending on a company's proportion of employment in Saskatchewan. • In September of 2002, a six year mineral exploration incentive program was introduced. Components of the program include providing incentives to prospectors and exploration companies to initiate new mineral exploration, the development of a competitive diamond royalty and tax structure and rebates on fuel tax used in off-road mineral exploration activities and for remote power generation. • In March 2005, an independent Business Tax Review Committee headed by Mr. Jack Vicq, was appointed to examine Saskatchewan's business taxes relative to 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>other jurisdictions and to make recommendations by November 30, 2005, for changes to increase the province's competitiveness and encourage job creation and investment.</p>	
AV	<p>F-2 Explores the adoption of a "Saskatchewan Value-Added Tax Credit" by December 2002.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Incentive programs for the manufacturing and processing sector in Saskatchewan consist of the Manufacturing and Processing Profits Tax Reduction and the Manufacturing and Processing Investment Tax Credit. Both programs apply to firms in the manufacturing and processing industries. • The two existing "value-added" tax incentives will continue to be examined in terms of their effectiveness and in terms of government's overall taxation policy and fiscal capacity. • The Vicq Commission is currently examining into all aspects of business taxation in the province. Once its report is issued, government will assess its recommendations within the context of the 2006-07 budget development process. • The independent Business Tax Review Committee headed by Mr. Jack Vicq will examine various tax incentives, including a value-added tax credit, and make recommendations by November 30, 2005, to increase the province's competitiveness and encourage investment and job creation. 	<p>This recommendation was superseded by Recommendation P-006 and has therefore been classed as complete. P-006 remains a work in progress.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
FIFS	<p>F-4 Explores the potential for a special youth tax structure as a means of encouraging youth to stay in or relocate to Saskatchewan to start businesses and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province is committed to encouraging Saskatchewan students to develop their careers right here at home and is actively pursuing initiatives to make this happen. • The Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit is a one-time tax credit that graduates and journey persons may apply against their Saskatchewan Income Tax. • For 2005, the graduate tax credit will increase from \$500 to \$675 for students who graduate from eligible post-secondary institutions between January 1 and December 31, 2005. The Tax Credit will continue to increase each year to \$1,000 by 2007 	<p>Acknowledge response.</p>
FIFS	<p>F-5 Takes steps to alleviate the current education tax burden on farmland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Boughen Commission released its report in January 2004, with 12 recommendations. The recommendations included a reduction in education property tax by \$300 million over six years. • Government announced it is meeting its commitment to address property tax relief by dedicating \$110 million in the 2005 and 2006 taxation years to reduce the education property levy on all properties in Saskatchewan. Through the Working Committee on Education Property Tax Relief, the Government of Saskatchewan is working with Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and the Saskatchewan School Board 	<p>Acknowledge recent government action. Need to ensure that provincial share of education tax remains at the new ratio.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>Association, 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On March 3, 2006, the province announced education tax relief for farm property. 	
RM C	<p>F-7 Examines the use of the fuel tax exclusively for road Maintenance and construction in the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province invests about 96 per cent of all on-road fuel tax revenue in the transportation system. 	<p>Complete A public education question—the recommendation probably should have included a public education component.</p>
FIFS	<p>F-8 Promotes machinery or land co-operatives, or collaborative ventures that promote the shared use of specialized equipment, through a more favourable tax environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government policy is to provide equitable tax treatment to businesses irrespective of organizational structure. Regional Economic and Co-operative Development (RECD) administers the Co-operative Development Assistance Program, which could help producers develop means to creatively share equipment, land, or machinery. RECD maintains a network of Co-op Development specialists to assist with such endeavors. Saskatchewan provides \$300,000 annually in funding to Agricultural New Generation Co-operatives Program to provide opportunities for producer groups to work together to develop businesses for producing value-added products from primary production. 	<p>Acknowledge government response.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
A	<p>F-14 Actively encourage immigrant producers that have experience in growing products which take full advantage of irrigation opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) has increased both the human and financial resources that are working to market the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program in foreign markets. Efforts have been mainly focused in the United Kingdom (UK), and Netherlands because, according to Statistics Canada analysis, new rural immigrants to Canada have traditionally come from Western Europe and that is expected to continue. As well, the types of skills required to broaden and deepen the rural economy are found in these two markets (e.g., livestock, irrigation, special crops, value-added and distribution). SAF has a strategy in these two markets which includes: targeted advertising in the farm press; presentations at agriculture schools; in-person meetings with farmers; booths at immigration trade shows in both countries; provision of marketing materials as support to Saskatchewan realtors promoting their services; provision of agronomic information; and assistance with planning to incoming farmers visiting Saskatchewan. • The province is opening the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) which will do away with specific skill categories and make it easier for immigrants to access employment opportunities in any sector and for rural Saskatchewan employers to recruit immigrant employees. • The province is working with business, industry, and the agricultural sector to address specific skill 	<p>Provision of agronomic function critical.</p> <p>Accept response, but province needs to keep up to date on the changes occurring.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>shortages and encouraging immigrants with those skills to move to Saskatchewan through the SINP. This program now includes a new category – Farmer/Owner-Operator that will allow recruitment of foreign farmers having experience in areas such as irrigation.</p>	
CIE	<p>F-15 Establishes the Saskatchewan Opportunities Foundation to provide funding of grants, loan guarantees, scholarship and leadership training through public and private funds, private investment/tax credits and revisions to the PST.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Crown Investments Corporation (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 the 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. 	<p>This has been rejected by government. (This would create a super arms length development agency.) Why would we want to establish yet another program when there are already 1200 programs out there?</p> <p>Existing programming is meeting the needs.</p> <p>Currently line departments (including RECD) are delivering functions outlined in the recommendation.</p> <p>Reference the Phase II Business Development recommendation on consolidation of programs and services—Rural Development has initiated a review of this issue.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
AV	<p>F-16 Develops and leads an Agri-business Investment Strategy that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing existing and attracting new agri-business in the province; and • Establishing Business Assistance Teams to assist firms with location analysis, accessing equity and debt financing, navigating the regulatory requirements, determining /negotiating business costs (i.e., utilities, accessing programs and overall problem solving). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF created an Agri-Business Development Branch. The Agri-Business Development Branch works with communities to define their agri-business development goals and to align their by-laws with their development strategies in order to attract the type of agri-business development they desire. Agri-Business Development Specialists provide service support to communities and business proponents through all stages of project development. This includes providing advice and guidance on financing options and on understanding and achieving regulatory requirements for their business venture. In doing this, SAF (the Agri-Business Development Branch) and SIR (Strategic Sector Development Branch) will ensure a close working relationship is maintained. • SAF, SIR and Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership are actively involved in developing investment activities in the province. 	<p>Accept response, but province needs to keep up to date on the changes occurring.</p>
ED	<p>F-20 Initiates discussions with the Government of Canada, the FSIN and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan to provide mechanisms for Aboriginal people and their communities to access federal programs and services initiated at the provincial level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See F-18 and F-19 and F-21. 	<p>Discussions have begun. Specific actions are ongoing and are addressed in Recommendations F-018, F-019 and F-021.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
ED	<p>F-22 Establishes and implements targeted, set aside policies for Aboriginal providers of goods and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SaskEnergy does not adhere to specific set-aside policies. However, all of our formal tender documents (>\$10,000) request Aboriginal content from vendors. SaskEnergy maintains statistics of Aboriginal vendors, Aboriginal bidders, and awards to Aboriginal businesses and has established formal annual targets for Aboriginal content which are reported quarterly to the CIC. 	<p>Government position—the playing field is level, but not prepared to implement a specific set-aside policy.</p> <p>The situation is somewhat different for northern residents, but not a broad inclusive policy, as such, although applied in some specific cases.</p> <p>Complete—The Working Group is o.k. with the government’s rejection of a targeted set aside policy.</p>
RS	<p>F-25 Expand distance education through technology so that options for learning can be made available to school children who face extended busing on a daily basis; and so that post secondary students and adults can receive further education or training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Campus Saskatchewan, institutions are working together to give students more flexibility to take courses and to complete the requirements for credentials online. This program provides distance learning opportunities from Saskatchewan’s post-secondary institutions, delivering courses through alternative methods including the Internet, Saskatchewan Communication Network (SCN) Interactive Television and off-campus classes. A searchable course catalogue is available online at www.CampusSaskatchewan.ca. Campus Saskatchewan enhances a student’s ability to pursue post-secondary education by bringing the campus to students, no matter where they live. 	<p>A number of initiatives have been undertaken by government to address this recommendation.</p> <p>Complete.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan has moved ahead with providing affordable, high speed Internet access through CommunityNet to 366 communities, educational institutions, libraries, and health facilities across the province. CommunityNet began initial connections to K-12 schools in June 1, 2001. As of December 2004, all schools and division offices have been connected, and those connected via satellite now have two-way service. Regional colleges are also on CommunityNet, and many of the public libraries – opening additional access points to all learners. 	
RS	<p>F-26 Utilizes the expertise of local people and the availability of local private sector facilities in the delivery of education programs where such expertise and facilities are not readily available within the education system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan has a well-developed regional college system that utilizes the expertise of local people and the local private sector facilities where such expertise and facilities are not readily available within the education system. Saskatchewan Learning’s Community Schools Program provides additional resources and supports to schools serving significant numbers of vulnerable students and families. In the last few years, the government has doubled the number of Community Schools. There are now 98 funded Community Schools provincially in urban, rural, and northern communities, encompassing elementary and secondary schools. 	<p>Actions taken by government satisfy the intent of this recommendation.</p> <p>Complete</p>
FIFS	<p>F-28 Increases resources available for training people for a career in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although currently not funded, Saskatchewan has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) 	<p>Acknowledge government response.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>agriculture and rural businesses.</p>	<p>with the University of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) to develop new agricultural training programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2002, Saskatchewan entered into a two year agreement (\$50,000 per year) to support the Veterinary Medical Association’s efforts to develop a mentorship program to support the number of rural veterinarians. • Agriculture 20 is offered as a credit class by the Saskatchewan Government Correspondence School. In 2004-05, a total of 83 students, including two adults, were enrolled in this course. • In partnership with Saskatchewan Regional Colleges, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) and the Universities, the Canadian Agriculture Skills Service was launched in late summer 2004, to provide financial and planning support for Saskatchewan farmers and their spouses. • 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 Agriculture Policy Framework. CASS has 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>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 (AAFC) and the program is delivered in partnership with the provinces' public and private training and education institutions and organizations.</p>	
CIE	<p>F-29 Provides funding for comprehensive community-based leadership training to build local capacity to position the community for change (easily accessible and builds on existing modules/programs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An education and training partnership between government and the municipal sector has been established to develop training programs for administrators and elected officials. • Saskatchewan provided \$90,000 to Saskatchewan Council for Community Development (SCCD) to facilitate further development and delivery of a Rural Leadership Development Program that places an increased emphasis on women, Aboriginal people, and youth. • SAF formed an Agri-business Development Branch to foster community capacity building. • In 2004, SIR partnered with the Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association (SEDA) to deliver workshops throughout Saskatchewan on the community capacities needed for <i>Investment Readiness and Business Attraction</i>. SIR has previously worked 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>on community capacity development initiatives such as <i>Project Management for Community Projects</i>, and <i>Business Retention and Expansion Initiatives</i>. Further, SEDA (sponsored by SIR) is delivering basic economic development training modules to SARM and SUMA memberships</p>	
FIFS	<p>F-32 Invests in the infrastructure that is needed to accompany agricultural producers in transition into new sectors which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging development of related sectors along logical corridors; • Providing financial support for water development for livestock operations, incorporating necessary environmental principles of sustainability, health and safety; and • Providing financial assistance through loans or incentives for development of necessary facilities for livestock or specialized crops (vegetables, herbs, organics, berries, etc.) (FIFS, page 17). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIR does not have a definition of “logical corridors”. SIR pursues economic development across the province and does <i>not</i> establish priorities along geographic lines. If a business investor approaches SIR seeking input and advice in establishing an enterprise here, our officials work to define business needs and address them within our mandate. If specific needs are identified, SIR works with Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDA) and with Rural Development, as appropriate, to identify locations that may meet these needs and informs the investor. SIR officials advise the investor of the advantages of choosing Saskatchewan over other jurisdictions and may, if required, present alternatives to Cabinet to address specific and unique opportunities that may require a Cabinet-level policy change or investment decision to complete a partnership with the government or arrange financial support. SIR officials do not promote one Saskatchewan location over another. 	Accept response.
RM C	<p>F-34 Ensures the installation of three-phase power, gas, and telephone and lines to rural Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government will continue to maintain and enhance its 23,000 kilometre of three-phase power lines, 115,000 kilometre of single phase power lines and its 65,000 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>kilometre of natural gas distribution pipelines for businesses and communities to ensure it can meet load growth across the province as rural areas develop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In rural Saskatchewan only five communities with more than 200 people do not currently have natural gas service. Each of those communities has been offered service in the past and declined. Ninety three per cent of all residences have, or have access to, natural gas service. 	
RM C	<p>F-35 Provides access to high-speed phone lines and cellular coverage in order to keep pace with new technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SaskTel has invested \$24 million to increase digital cell phone coverage to additional Saskatchewan communities. By 2003, digital cellular service was available to more than 90 per cent of Saskatchewan's population, serving more than 270,000 square kilometres. In March 2002, SaskTel announced the expansion of its High Speed Internet service to 191 more Saskatchewan communities over the next two years under the province's CommunityNet high speed internet initiative. In June 2004, the second phase of CommunityNet was launched. An additional 71 communities are being added to the network. As well, most farmsteads and businesses within 30 kilometres of many existing CommunityNet centres will be able to access SaskTel's commercial high-speed network. 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federal government has made available \$7.5 million from Broadband for Rural and Northern Development (BRAND), \$2 million from the Northern Development Accord and \$525,000 from the federal/provincial Western Economic Partnership Agreement (WEPA) over the past two years to fund Broadband (high speed internet) in Saskatchewan. The majority of benefactors live in rural, northern and Aboriginal communities. They also provide \$5 million for the first phase of CommunityNet and an additional \$2.25 million to connect all the libraries to high speed internet. 	
RS	<p>F-37 Develops options that ensure a practical and economically feasible water treatment, distribution and wastewater management infrastructure in the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government's Safe Drinking Water Strategy includes: better regulations, protection of source waters, and improved water treatment infrastructure. As part of the strategy, SaskWater was restructured and received a new mandate. The new SaskWater was established October 1, 2002, with the proclamation of <i>The Saskatchewan Water Corporation Act (2002)</i>. Through this <i>Act</i>, SaskWater became a fully commercial CIC Crown corporation providing competitively-priced, customer-focused, quality water and wastewater services to Saskatchewan First Nations, industries, municipalities, and rural water groups. In addition, SaskWater operates and maintains community-owned systems under contract and partners 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>with communities and the private sector to design and build regional water supply systems (i.e., pipelines).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July 2005, following consultations involving municipalities, the Department of Western Economic Diversification Canada, Infrastructure Canada, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Government Relations (GR) and SaskWater, the Government of Canada announced funding of \$27.3 million (provided through the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund, for the development of regional water supply systems in Saskatchewan. • SaskWater has begun discussions with several Saskatchewan communities to develop and implement project plans that meet the program’s guidelines. Potential projects are selected based on their expected contribution to providing highly-reliable, secure, quality water source to rural communities; reducing barriers to expanding regional economic development opportunities; and meeting the federal government’s commitment to provide safe, clean drinking water to First Nations communities. • Saskatchewan Health is involved in the following initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saskatchewan Health is working with regional health authorities to develop a database that will capture information (such as location, owner/operator, source type, treatments and test information) related to public water supplies 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>regulated under Saskatchewan Health's <i>Health Hazard Regulations</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan Health is working to develop a provincial water-borne disease investigation protocol. 	
CIE	<p>F-40 Creates a Rural Opportunities Office to develop and implement a long term, comprehensive, action plan for rural Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rural Revitalization Office was created. The Office was transferred to Saskatchewan Agriculture Food and Rural Revitalization (SAFRR) and has been renamed the Rural Issues Office. The government produced a provincial rural strategy titled "A Strategy for Rural Saskatchewan: Responding to ACRE" in 2002. The government created an Interdepartmental Working Group and Steering Committee, chaired respectively by the Director of Rural Issues Office and the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for rural revitalization, to coordinate the delivery of the Rural Strategy across government. 	<p>A number of actions have been taken by government that address this recommendation.</p> <p>Complete</p>
CIE	<p>F-41 Encourages and enables the emergence of "Opportunity Regions" from the grassroots in rural Saskatchewan to alleviate the multiplicity of regional boundaries and to foster community and economic development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>As part of this process, it is recommended that the province establish a voluntary program</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GR, Rural Development (RD), and Department of Highways and Transportation (DHT) are assisting SARM in its review of rural economic impediments under its "Clearing the Path" initiative. SARM's proposals for sector specific planning commissions and a primary weight road network will facilitate inter-municipal cooperation. The new <i>Municipalities Act</i>, effective January 2006, will help to enable better community cooperation and 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>that encourages municipalities in a region to co-operate in a Reeves-mayor’s council similar to that initiated under the Regional Parks Program. For example, under this program, the council could qualify for assistance (financial and technical) to establish a co-ordinating office and co-ordinating opportunities fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is also recommended that the Government of Saskatchewan along with the Government of Canada examine the concept of developing co-terminus boundaries as a means to create a more conducive and comprehensive environment for their service delivery and rural community and economic development. 	<p>establish a standard set of principles and procedures common to rural and smaller urban municipalities in the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACRE Infrastructure Subcommittee made a recommendation related to a regional approach to provision of infrastructure. See recommendation P-18 	
ED	<p>F-42 Conducts a review of the programs implemented in Ireland to assist in the development of business start-ups to determine the applicability of the programs to rural Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From examining reports on economic development processes in Ireland, government found that substantial differences exist between the two jurisdictions (i.e. Ireland and Saskatchewan). Population and the fact that Ireland is a member nation of the European Union (EU) are key differences. As well, other factors for success include currency depreciation, EU subsidies, market access to the EU, foreign direct investment, tax 	Complete.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>reductions, regulatory reform, a more uniformly skilled and educated work force, and “social pacts” between industry, labour, and government aimed, among other things, at providing stable labour-management relations.</p>	
A	<p>F-43 Moves forward on the development of a feeding industry to complement the grains and oilseeds sector by ensuring that financing, regulatory impediments, environmental sensitivity and leadership are addressed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See I-1. • <u>Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Recovery Programs:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Saskatchewan government responded to the BSE crisis by offer a number of programs to help Saskatchewan beef and other ruminant producers cope with the challenges presented by the United States (US) border closure. ○ In 2003, Saskatchewan delivered the Slaughter Element and Packer Incentive Element of the federal-provincial BSE Recovery Program. ○ In addition, the province also delivered several provincial only programs including the Saskatchewan Fed Livestock Competitive Market Adjustment Program, the Saskatchewan Set-aside Program and the Saskatchewan Cull Animal Program. ○ Saskatchewan also assisted the federal government by delivering the Federal Cull Animal Program in Saskatchewan. ○ In 2004-05, Saskatchewan participated in the third wave of programming which included the Canada-Saskatchewan Feeder Calf Set-aside Program and the Canada-Saskatchewan Fed Cattle Set-aside 	<p>Accept response.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>Program. These program were designed to delay the finishing (and slaughter) of a portion of the provinces cattle in order to better match fed cattle supply with slaughter capacity and therefore help to support market prices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also in 2004-05, Saskatchewan provided support to “other” ruminant producers through the Other Ruminant Industry Transition Program – this was a provincial-only initiative. ● Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation offers a Forage Rainfall Insurance Program for native forage and tame grazing acres. This program has provided coverage on an average of 2.5 million acres over the last four years and 8.5 million in indemnities has been paid to customers over this same time period. ● Under Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), the environmental chapter promotes the adoption of best management practices on farms. Federal – provincial governments have been working together to develop beneficial management practices (BMP). Farmers who completed their environmental farm plans are eligible to apply for BMP incentive funding under the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program. Application dates for the first year of the program are May 1, June 1, and August 1, 2005, and February 1, 2006. 	
FIFS	F-44 Expands efforts to facilitate increased forage production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Conservation Cover Program provided financial incentives for farmers to convert marginal cropland 	Accept response, but programs should be

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		<p>into forage. Over a three year period (2001, 2002 and 2003), the program contributed over \$14 million to assist in the conversion of 1.3 million acres to perennial cover. The Conservation Cover Program ended in 2003-04.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal Green Cover Program is now in place. • The government provides applied research funding to the Western Beef Development Centre (WBDC). • Through Agricultural Development Fund (ADF), government invests money in forage research. • In addition to multi-peril crop insurance offered for a number of forage crops, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation offers a Forage Rainfall Insurance Program for native forage and tame grazing acres. New initiatives for forage crops for 2005 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forage Diversification Option – Uses a proxy crop approach to insure forage crops not insurable under the regular multi-peril program. ○ Greenfeed Establishment Benefit – Provides coverage for annual cereal crops that fail to establish. ○ Timothy Hay – Pilot insurance program offered on irrigated timothy hay intended for export. 	<p>periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.</p>
A	F-45 Ensures a broad based organic strategy is developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF provided \$500,000 (four-year project) to fund the Organic Trade and Market Analyst position at the University of Saskatchewan. The project assists in 	<p>Accept response, but programs should be periodically reviewed and</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>developing accreditation/certification systems and marketing research, providing benefit to Saskatchewan's organic industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF has provided a grant of \$250,000 to the OACC, allowing the OACC Prairie Office to continue its research and extension efforts in Saskatchewan for the next five years. • In September 2004, SAF, AAFC and Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership co-hosted an EU Trade Mission featuring four European countries. Buyers from these countries were able to meet directly with Saskatchewan organic marketers and exporters. 	<p>updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.</p>
A	<p>F-46 Assists in the industry-driven establishment and implementation of a national accreditation system for the organic sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF will support the work of the federal government in their efforts to maintain access to EU markets. SAF will support and monitor the development of the national standard and accreditation system, to be in a position to respond to any requirements for provincial involvement. • SAF and AAFC co-hosted a regulatory consultation meeting with AAFC and Canadian Food Inspection Agency officials and the Saskatchewan organic industry in March of 2004. Consultation was in regard to the national regulation of organic standards. 	<p>Accept response, but programs should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.</p>
FIFS	<p>F-48 Expands Livestock Loan Guarantee Program (bison females, feedlot program, expanded dollars)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loan guarantee limit has now been increased to \$70 million from \$65 million in 2003-04 and from \$60 million in 2002-03. 	<p>Accept response, but programs should be periodically reviewed and</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	in existing program).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the uncertainty created by the BSE crisis, female bison have not been added as an eligible commodity under the Livestock Loan Guarantee Program. This issue will be revisited once the industry stabilizes or the border reopens to live bison exports • See Response I - 1. 	updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.
FIFS	F-49 Develops a central registry of available service providers and producers' demand for services to facilitate a more effective use of agriculture resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, there are a number of different public and private internet websites and service providers that provide this information and service (e.g., feed and forage listing service at SAF website, SCCD). • Government has taken no additional action. 	Acknowledge government response.
FIFS	F-50 Examines available options for assisting producers such as loan guarantees in other areas, interest subsidies or tax incentives for those in transition to sustainable production systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See I-1. • See F - 43 for BSE Recovery Programs. • The Federal/Provincial/Territorial, APF Renewal Program was launched in Saskatchewan on October 1, 2004. This program includes new programming to support effective business planning and to improve access to skills development and learning which contribute to the development of successful business ventures and increased income for farm families in rural Saskatchewan. 	Accept response, but programs should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.
FIFS	F-51 Provides linkages between producers and technical expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agriculture Applied Research Management (Agri-ARM) program conducts producer-driven research and 	Acknowledge response, but programs should be

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>on market information, market access and development issues.</p>	<p>development projects in rural Saskatchewan near eight communities – Canora, Redvers, Indian Head, Melfort, Scott, Prince Albert, Swift Current, and Rosthern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF set-up the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC) in Moose Jaw as the first point of inquiry for both technical and general agriculture inquiries. The AKC is staffed by 14 people including four resource agents, eight specialists, an office administrator and a manager. Specialist positions provide top end expertise related to crops, livestock, forages, and business management. The AKC can be accessed by toll-free telephone, fax, or e-mail. • SAF has established nine Agriculture Business Centres throughout the province to meet regional agriculture development needs. These offices are located at: Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, Swift Current, Outlook, North Battleford, Tisdale, and Weyburn. In each of these centres, a team of specialists (agri-business development, livestock, crops and forages, and regional business planning specialists) are available to help individuals and communities build on opportunities for agriculturally-based economic development. They focus on providing leadership and expertise to agri-entrepreneurs and communities in the areas of applying new technology to operations, business development processes, and capacity building. This is done through building partnerships with people and agencies in order to help clients expand, change or start an agriculture-related business. 	<p>periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
RM C	<p>F-52 Explores the concept of “business clusters” for the rural manufacturing and construction sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluster initiatives are progressing well in several parts of Saskatchewan. Examples of successful initiatives include the Swift Current and Moose Jaw Regions. Capacity Exchange Pilot Program in Humboldt is another example of how manufacturers from a regional cluster in rural Saskatchewan share their excess capacity. • The ACRE Infrastructure Subcommittee, as part of its mandate, is examining the opportunities for economic clusters in Saskatchewan. • The new website - www.capacityexchange.ca was launched in June 2005, to enable businesses to trade excess labour hours, machine hours, design hours, materials, and transportation with other Saskatchewan businesses. The site is a partnership of the Carlton Trail Regional Economic Development Authority and the Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association. • Northwest <i>Strategic Alliance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On April 1, 2005 the Battlefords REDA, Big Bully REDA, and Border REDA combined resources to form a strategic alliance in the northwest region of the province. ○ The strategic alliance was formed as a two-year pilot project to determine and demonstrate the partnership’s capacity to address common issues, provide more opportunity to develop and deliver economic development programming and to achieve overall improved efficiencies and 	<p>Government has explored the concept.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action Humboldt</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action Humboldt is an ad hoc organization created to spearhead the creation of an economic development plan for Humboldt. Its vision is to make Humboldt and region, by 2009, a growing, thriving hub in Saskatchewan, with quality education and business opportunities. ○ Action Humboldt’s mission is to develop in its community, with support from key organizations, a quest for growth and common good. • <i>Action Southwest Business Networks Coalition</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action Southwest is a true strategic economic alliance with the purpose of applying sophisticated, world class models for economic and business development. Action Southwest focuses on asset based economic development which means that it uses the philosophy of building existing business as a means to growing a regional economy. An industry cluster development initiative was implemented to build community capacity, harness regional collaboration, gain competitive intelligence and implement projects to build infrastructure in the regions four key sectors of agribusiness, manufacturing, energy and tourism. The leadership demonstrated through the Action Southwest economic alliance has brought forth a new entrepreneurial vibe/enterprise mentality, instilling new regional pride and confidence to invest in community economic development. To date, this initiative has created an economic impact that will benefit the region well into the future. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
RM C	<p>F-53 Promotes the rural manufacturing and construction sector to the people of Saskatchewan explaining about its contribution to the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Manufacturing Team of SIR continues to promote the rural manufacturing and construction area through attendance at strategic trade shows and by working closely with the sector on opportunities for growth and expansion. • 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 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. • 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 Panels 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 	<p>This should be the role of the industry, more so than government.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		and employment requirements.	
RS	<p>F-54 Enhances the province’s emergency services to provide rural residents with effective emergency services and speedy access that will ensure delivery of primary health care facilities and services on a co-ordinate, integrated and multi-disciplinary team basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care identified a number of priority initiatives towards the integration of primary health care services. Since the Action Plan was released, significant work related to the development of primary health care in Saskatchewan has been undertaken, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing primary health care teams and integrated services linked by networks throughout the province. There are now currently 35 primary health care sites across the province. Work continues on development of standards for primary health care networks in the areas of access and program requirements. ○ Regional health authorities have enhanced capacity to develop and support primary health care teams. ○ Continued work with the Saskatchewan Medical Association to develop model contracts for family physicians working in a primary care setting. ○ As part of the 2003 national Health Accord, Saskatchewan has committed to ensuring that at least 50 per cent of its population will have access to an appropriate health care provider, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as soon as possible (within eight years at the latest.) ○ Saskatchewan people have access to a 24 hour telephone advice line for immediate and reliable health advice. Healthline is a 24 hour a day, seven days a week health advice and information telephone line that was launched in August 2003. It is an innovative, efficient way to ensure that 	<p>Sufficient government actions to satisfy the intent of the recommendation.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>residents across the province have immediate access to health advice. In the first eighteen months of operation, over 110,000 calls have been managed from every health region in the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care also outlined a number of key actions that will enhance the province’s emergency services to provide rural residents with effective emergency services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ providing more training to emergency management services providers; ○ improving response times, particularly in isolated areas; and, ○ improving dispatch of ambulance services. 	
FIFS	<p>F-55 Invests significantly in research aimed at reducing fuel consumption and development of alternative fuel sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan’s Greenprint on Ethanol Production will stimulate investment in ethanol fuel and byproducts that in turn will support increased livestock development. • Saskatchewan has become the first province in Canada to establish the legal framework to allow for mandating an ethanol blend in gasoline sold in the province. • Saskatchewan has established an Office of Energy Conservation. • SAFRR has provided technical support to Milligan Bio-Tech in Foam Lake for bio-diesel development. 	<p>Accept response, but programs should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskPower, through its Green Power Portfolio, is pursuing wind and environmentally preferred power supplies. In 2003/04 Sask Power provided \$10.2 million for expansion of the Cypress wind facility. • SaskEnergy has partnered with SaskPower to demonstrate flare gas conservation and conversion to electricity using micro turbines and to demonstrate distributed generation opportunities for institutional applications • SaskEnergy has conducted research into the conversion of forest and agricultural residues into synthetic natural gas. • SaskEnergy began offering prime rate loans in July 2001, through the SaskEnergy Network to encourage customers to use more energy efficient natural gas appliances. With Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) participation beginning in December 2002, the focus of the program became ENERGY STAR qualified furnaces and boilers. To date, SaskEnergy has assisted over 11,500 customers with up to \$45.4 million in loans for more energy efficient equipment. • From September 2004 to March 2005, SaskEnergy assisted over 1,550 customers in choosing ENERGY STAR qualified heating equipment, saving them an estimated \$1.6 million in energy and borrowing costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 3,400 tonnes per year. With the support 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>of both NRCan and SaskPower, the ENERGY STAR Loan Program is running again from August 15, 2005 - March 31, 2006, for ENERGY STAR qualified furnaces with high efficiency motors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskEnergy also offers an online Home Energy Audit, and supports the EnerGuide for Houses program with a SaskEnergy billing option, both of which are focused on helping consumers conserve energy and use energy more efficiently. 	
ED	<p>F-56 In conjunction with all provincial associations/organizations and media, develops and commits to an action plan that builds positive attitudes and promotes the attributes of rural Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan has more than 12,000 non-profit organizations and 5,000 incorporated charities all drive by a vibrant volunteer community. The positive attitudes that volunteers bring to their tasks enriches the lives of rural Saskatchewan residents. The Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative was established in 2002. It works to strengthen the relationship between government and Saskatchewan's voluntary sector to assist volunteer organizations in effectively fulfilling their mandates. • Organized the Premier's Centennial Summit in January 2005, which provided a major forum for business, labour, community, First Nations and Métis, and youth leaders to celebrate Saskatchewan's economic successes and explore our future challenges and opportunities. • The Saskatchewan Dream (which ran from 2001 to 2003). 	<p>While perhaps not a specifically defined action plan, a number of actions have been taken.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing the Future. • Saskatchewan's <i>Our Future is Wide Open</i> campaign was launched in November 2002, to improve the perception both inside and outside the Province of Saskatchewan as a good place to live, work, invest, and do business. • Ongoing sponsorship of Rotary's <i>Your Future is Here</i> campaign aimed at encouraging Saskatchewan young people to make their career in Saskatchewan. • Marketing campaign to promote the young entrepreneur component of the Small Business Loan Association (SBLA) program in rural Saskatchewan was launched in October 2004. • While many initiatives have been undertaken, a coordinated strategy still needs to be developed. <p><i>Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This resolution relates to the <i>Our Future is Wide Open</i> (OFWO) marketing campaign. • OFWO was in its planning and development stages prior to ACRE's recommendation (planning started in early 2002). At that time, the Department was directed to develop and lead a broad-based public education campaign that targeted both in-province and national audiences. However, SIR tried to accommodate ACRE's recommendation within the parameters of the 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>larger initiative. As well, SIR worked with third parties wherever possible to execute different elements of the campaign. Some examples of in-province components that included partnerships were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SaskScene (2003): SIR partnered with First Nations University of Canada’s communication school to produce video vignettes of community cultural events, many in rural Saskatchewan; and ○ Your Future is Here (2003 and ongoing): the Department sponsored this Rotary-led campaign to educate young people about career opportunities in Saskatchewan. Rotary has a strong rural base and is working to generate a higher profile for the campaign in rural areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Although OFWO wound down in late 2004 to make way for Centennial promotions, SIR will continue to work with third parties where possible to educate Saskatchewan people about our economic strengths. ● The Department of RECD has initiated broad based initiatives such as mail outs to rural Saskatchewan promoting development in rural areas. 	
FIFS	<p>F-57 Invests a maximum amount of available government dollars into publicly accessible applied research and development that will provide the greatest benefits in opportunity areas, education and technology transfer for the industry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Saskatchewan funds approximately \$120 million in research and development initiatives on an annual basis. This funding is made available to the University of Saskatchewan, federal institutions, industry and research institutions such as the Prairie Swine Centre, Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, Western Beef Development Centre, and Veterinary Infectious 	<p>Accept response, but programs should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>Disease Organization to carry out research activities that address food and non-food processing, value added, the livestock and crop sectors, and the organic industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agriculture Applied Research Management (Agri-ARM) program conducts producer-driven research. • The Saskatchewan Forestry Centre. • The Saskatchewan Petroleum Technology Research Centre. • The Saskatchewan Petroleum Research Incentive. • The International Test Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture and the Canadian Clean Power Coalition. • In its deliberations of funding, SIR considers projects that address a large number of priority sectors of the province. Support for research and innovation are two major considerations. • Protein, Oilseeds and Starch Pilot Plant at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). • The Food Centre at the U of S. • The Institute of Agricultural Rural and Environmental Health. 	<p>Consideration should be given to increasing the publicity of these investments.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saskatchewan Market Assessment of Research and Technology Program received funding of \$228,000 to support market research projects in fiscal year 2003/04 and 2004/05. This funding was made up of equal contributions from National Research Council of Canada – Industrial Regional Assistance Program and SIR. The goals of the program are threefold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enable small medium enterprises (SME) to acquire market planning, research, or development assistance beyond their in-house capability. ○ Expose SMEs to the skills available in the consulting community and help foster relationships between individual companies and consultants. ○ Allow the local consulting community to display their capabilities to local SMEs. 	
FIFS	<p>F-58 Invests in research in farming practices that help farmers better utilize land and energy resources (e.g., integration of livestock and field crop production to reduce reliance on synthetic fertilizers).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF provides \$12 million in agriculture research and development initiatives annually. SIR contributes to infrastructure to support research and development. • The Agri-ARM program receives funding from SAF and the Saskatchewan Forestry Centre. • The Saskatchewan Forestry Centre. • Under the APF, the environment chapter provides for Environmental Farm Plans (EFP). The Saskatchewan EFP program became operational early in 2005. By June 2005, the Provincial Council of ADD Boards (PCAB) had delivered a total of 158 EFP workshops involving 1,242 producers for the workshop I sessions 	<p>Accept response, but programs should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>and 685 participants for workshop II. SAF employees provide technical support services to support EFP programming. The Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Advisory Council, composed of leading edge producers, has been established to provide advice regarding implementation of EFPs.</p>	
AV	<p>I-1 That government should improve access to capital funding by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an Agriculture Venture Capital Fund aimed at stimulating new capital investment in large farm related and value-added agriculture; • Establishing an Enterprise Investment Fund that would enable equity investment into new expanded agri-business by smaller groups of interested investors in a local community; • Establishing a Feedlot Loan Guarantee for the feedlot industry, similar to the Livestock Loan Guarantee Program; and • Investigating the development of an Adjustment/Transition Rural Development Fund aimed at smaller on-farm diversification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APF – Renewal chapter will launch a new education and skills program for farmers, called the “Canadian Agriculture Skills Service”, to help farmers and their spouses increase their family income through improved farm practices and building new agricultural enterprises, building new rural business ventures or through obtaining employment income. (See I-2 for more program details) • On November 9, 2005, CIC announced the establishment of the Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Entrepreneurial Fund to assist with the development and growth of small businesses in the province. • The Entrepreneurial Foundation has been established as a non-profit corporation to provide business advice, mentoring, and support services to assist aspiring entrepreneurs in the development of investment-ready business plans. These businesses will then be eligible for investment from the Entrepreneurial Fund, which will provide financing of up to \$1 million. • CIC is providing \$1.8 million in operating capital over 	<p>Accept response. Programs should be reviewed and updated periodically including loan limits.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>businesses that could assist with generational transfers and rural development.</p>	<p>five years to the Foundation and up to \$25.0 million to the Fund over the next five years, in partnership with other investors including SaskCentral and Prairie Financial Management. The Fund is being managed by Prairie Financial Management, a private sector fund manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While this Fund is not targeted to specific sectors, such as agriculture, its capitalization is large enough to allow for a significant amount of projects to be funded throughout the Province in a number of sectors. Similarly, while the services of the Foundation are open to all aspiring entrepreneurs, particular attention will be paid to those groups which have traditionally had less access to networks of business mentors and advisors, including young people, First Nations and Metis people, and northern and rural residents. • Feedlot Loan Guarantee Program (Feedlot Construction Option): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides a loan guarantee of 25 per cent to lenders who finance the construction of a new feedlot or the expansion of an existing feedlot. ○ The program is available to feedlot operators and provides a guarantee limit of \$.075 million per feedlot. ○ The Feedlot Construction Option is part of a suite of new program options introduced in 2004 and collectively, these programs have a government guarantee cap of \$20 million. • Feedlot Equity Option (Loan Guarantee): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Feedlot Equity Option program provides a loan 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>guarantee to lenders who advance credit to individuals who wish to make an equity investment in a new or expanding feedlot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The guarantee provided to the financial institution by the provincial government is 25 per cent of the loan(s) outstanding at the time of first default ○ The program is designed to encourage community participation in the financing of new or expanding feedlots ○ This program options remains under consideration as the level of support from lenders has been low. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individual Feeder Option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides a loan guarantee of 25 per cent to lenders who finance the purchase of feeder cattle held in a feedlot ○ The program is available to individual feedlot operators and provides a borrowing limit of \$3 million per feedlot participant ○ Currently there are no active participants in this program. However, once the beef industry stabilizes, the program is expected to begin operation ● Short Term Hog Loan Program – Deferral Option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As a result of depressed prices and limited cash flow, SAFRR introduced a deferral option under the Short Term Hog Loan program in the spring of 2004 in order to provide the option to hog producers who receive loans under this program to extend the repayment period for their loan ○ The deferral option allowed producers to defer 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>principal payment on their Short Term Hog Loans for one year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SBLA Program, which continues to help create and maintain jobs by providing a line of credit to local Small Business Loans Associations, which in turn provide loans of up to \$15,000 to businesses that have experienced difficulty accessing financing through traditional means. As of July 2004, the SBLA program has funded over 8,900 new and existing businesses; provided loans totalling \$47.5 million; created 9,890 jobs; maintained 9,805 jobs; and over 90 per cent of activity is outside Regina and Saskatoon. • Agrivision, working closely with labour organizations is developing a labour sponsored venture capital fund targeted at increasing investment in the Saskatchewan value added agriculture. • On the matter of the enterprise fund, it is our understanding that representatives of Agrivision Corporation are seeking matching federal and provincial commitments of \$10 million “seed money” before further pursuing the matter. Officials in SIR are responsible for managing the provincial labour-sponsored tax credit program and do not advocate on behalf of interests seeking seed capital to pursue a labour-sponsored venture capital fund. As a matter of policy, SIR will not seek budgetary funds for any purposes above the tax incentive funding as it relates to venture capital funds, including Agrivision’s proposed 	

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		<p>enterprise fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of Prairie Ventures Fund (see http://www.gov.sk.ca/newsrel/releases/2002/01/21-033.html) addresses this recommendation; Golden Opportunities Fund; Working Ventures Fund. 	
W	<p>I-2 That the provincial government, in co-operation with the federal government, place a priority on establishing a skills development program designed to help producers to remain in rural Saskatchewan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting producers in improving their farm management skills; Assisting producers in adjusting their enterprise into new agricultural opportunity areas; Assisting producers by improving their opportunities for off-farm employment; and Assisting producers to develop the skills necessary for full-time employment should they choose to exit farming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The APF Renewal Program was launched in Saskatchewan on October 1, 2004. This includes the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service which supports skills development and learning. Assistance will be provided to access training in areas such as business management, accounting, finance, human resource management; training for employment; or training to acquire skills for starting a new business. Financial support such as tuition fees for courses, textbooks and travel will be provided for eligible clients with an approved Individual Learning Plan who are pursuing new skills to capture new opportunities. In April 2004, SAF created the Agri-Business Development Branch, which includes the former Family Farm Opportunities Initiative (FFOI) to address regional agriculture development needs. Offices are located at: Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina, Swift Current, Outlook, North Battleford, Tisdale and Weyburn. Specialists provide leaderships and expertise to entrepreneurs and community groups in initiating and applying business development processes and building community capacity (both human and financial). This is done through building partnerships 	Accept Response.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>with people and agencies in order to help clients expand, change or start an agriculture-related business. Regional Business Planning Specialists deliver renewal programming in partnership with the federal government under the APF Agreement to assist farmers in improving their farm management skills; in adjusting their enterprise into new agricultural opportunity areas; in improving their opportunities for off-farm employment; and, in developing the skills necessary for full-time employment should they choose to exit farming.</p>	
W	<p>I-3 That the Government of Saskatchewan facilitate rural development by implementing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ongoing regulatory review to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of all regulations; • A timely process to examine specific regulatory issues raised by those involve in industry; • A mechanism to guide proponents through the approval process; and • An ombudsman to serve as an independent, third party adjudicator of disputes with agriculture and agri-food. <p>All levels of government will commit to clear standards of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of a provincial Regulatory Reform Initiative announced in 1996, government committee to review all existing regulations within a 10 year time frame. This review was completed in March 2006. To date, over 81 per cent of the original regulations have been reviewed for relevancy and effectiveness, with a view to updating or repealing them if necessary. The Competitiveness Branch of SIR has been tasked with identifying and addressing red tape concerns and business irritants, particularly as they impact small and medium sized businesses in the province. • GR, SAF and other departments are assisting SARM in its review of rural economic impediments under its “Clearing the Path” initiative. • The Agri-Business Development Branch of SAF focuses on working with other economic development stakeholders in the region to identify both the 	<p>Acknowledge the response, but province needs to review this area on an on-going basis.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>accountability for development projects.</p>	<p>competitive opportunities for each respective region and also the barriers that proponents and existing agri-business experience with respect to business development and expansion. This information will be available to policy-makers and will thereby contribute to the policy decisions of government. Agri-Business Development Branch will also provide service support to proponents as they pursue their business initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan has a Provincial Ombudsman that serves as an independent third party adjudicator between individuals and the province. There is no intent to duplicate this service. 	
W	<p>I-4 That the federal and provincial governments take necessary actions, including increased funding, to provide universal, affordable access to high speed Internet and cell phone coverage to all residents throughout Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2002, SaskTel announced the expansion of its high speed internet service to 191 more Saskatchewan communities over the next two years under the province’s Community Net high speed internet initiative. • In June 2004, the second phase of Community Net was launched. An additional 71 communities are being added to the network. As well, most farmsteads and businesses within 30 kilometres of many existing CommunityNet centres will be able to access SaskTel’s commercial high-speed network. December 2004 saw the completion of upgrade installs from one way to two way satellites for 72 First Nations schools thanks to a partnership between Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation and KCDC. KCDC is a Regional Management Organization that has been contracted to provide program delivery for Industry 	<p>Acknowledge response and continue to review on an on-going basis.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>Canada's First Nations SchoolNet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal government has made available \$3.5 million from BRAND, \$2 million from the Northern Development Accord and \$525,000 from the federal/provincial WEPA over the past two years to fund Broadband (high speed internet) in Saskatchewan. The Northern Brand project is a \$11.6 million project with a total of \$5.6 million coming from eternal funding including BRAND. The remaining dollars are SaskTel. The majority of benefactors live in rural, northern and Aboriginal communities. They also provide \$5 million for the first phase of CommunityNet and an additional \$2.25 million to connect all the libraries to high speed internet. • By the end of 2006, SaskTel will serve approximately 85 per cent of the population with high speed Internet (currently at 80 per cent). Saskatchewan has, through Community Net Phase I and II, and the Northern Broadband initiative, ensured that this province has one of the highest penetration rates of high-speed Internet for rural people in Canada. It is estimated that SaskTel would require an expenditure of approximately \$50 million to expand high-speed to 95 per cent of the population. Virtually all of this capital expenditure and infrastructure would need to be continually subsidized in order to meet ongoing operation and replacement costs. It is our hope that newer wireless technologies or infrastructure programs external to SaskTel will make further expansion viable. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With respect to cellular, approximately 95 per cent of the populace resides in a coverage area today and our target is to continue to expand that coverage. With respect to high speed internet, SaskTel has a target of providing high speed Internet coverage to 95 per cent of the population of Saskatchewan. As a result of its \$120 million investment in a digital network, SaskTel now offers digital cellular service to over 95 per cent of the population. While further coverage enhancements and expansions beyond those currently announced are very likely, it is unlikely that Saskatchewan will receive 100 per cent coverage due to: The lack of population, highway traffic volumes or other economic activity in many of those areas not covered at this time; and terrain, foliage and other considerations which hamper the ability of current cellular technology to reach given areas. 	
W	<p>I-5 That the Government of Saskatchewan should devote more resources to the immigration file. Among the areas that the government should concentrate on include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the current Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is fully utilized with a more aggressive marketing approach; Make the PNP a permanent agreement and negotiate with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAF has increased both the human and financial resources that are working to market the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program in foreign markets. Efforts have been mainly focused in the UK, and Netherlands because, according to Statistics Canada analysis, new rural immigrants to Canada have traditionally come from Western Europe and that is expected to continue. As well, the types of skills required to broaden and deepen the rural economy are found in these two markets (e.g., livestock, irrigation, special crops, value-added and distribution). SAF has a strategy in these two markets which includes: targeted advertising in the farm press; presentations at 	<p>Replaced by P-032 to P-035</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>the federal government to increase the number of nominees (as the province feels necessary) under a future PNP;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the needs of the agricultural and rural sectors be taken into account as the province considers broadening the scope of skills it will consider under the PNP. 	<p>agriculture schools; in-person meetings with farmers; booths at immigration trade shows in both countries; provision of marketing materials as support to Saskatchewan realtors promoting their services; provision of agronomic information; and assistance with planning to incoming farmers visiting Saskatchewan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province is opening the SINP which will do away with specific skill categories and make it easier for immigrants to access employment opportunities in any sector and for rural Saskatchewan employers to recruit immigrant employees. • The Commonwealth Caribbean and Mexican Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program was implemented on a pilot basis in 2003 for the nursery, vegetable, fruit and honey industries. In 2003, 21 workers were employed under the program by two nursery operations, one fruit grower and one vegetable grower. In 2004, three beekeepers participated in the program and along with the same operations from 2003 employed a total of 32 workers. The Pilot was agreed upon for a three year period (beginning in 2003). The Pilot was doubled this year (2004), and there is indication of continued demand into the third year. A survey of workers in 2004 indicated a very positive response. Participating employers have also expressed very positive experiences with the program. There have been a number of favourable media interviews with employers. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This remains under active examination by the ACRE Employment Subcommittee. 	
W	<p>I-6 That the Government of Saskatchewan make a commitment to a major public education program aimed specifically at Saskatchewan that emphasizes our rural strengths and resiliency and the facts about our competitiveness with other provinces - to be contracted through a third party.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Future is Wide Open (OFWO): National advertising in the Globe and Mail and National Post emphasized our competitiveness compared to other jurisdictions. Used some rural-based examples e.g., Swift Current egg carton manufacturer; national TV commercial on Saskatchewan exports featured timothy hay producer and plastics manufacturer in Humboldt. A special six-page Saskatchewan supplement in the Globe and Mail has also featured an agricultural equipment manufacturer in Craik, a flax fibre processor in Canora, and an organic waste processor in Cudworth. The OFWO initiative was in its planning and development stages prior to ACRE’s recommendation (planning started in early 2002). At that time, Cabinet had directed SIR to develop and lead a broad-based public education campaign that targeted both in-province and national audiences. However, SIR tried to accommodate ACRE’s recommendation within the parameters of the larger initiative. As well, SIR worked with third parties wherever possible to execute different elements of the campaign. Some examples of in-province components that included partnerships were: SaskScene (2003): SIR partnered with First Nations University of Canada’s communication school to 	Accept response.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>produce video vignettes of community cultural events, many in rural Saskatchewan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Future is Here (2003 and ongoing): the Department sponsored this Rotary-led campaign to educate young people about career opportunities in Saskatchewan. Rotary has a strong rural base and is working to generate a higher profile for the campaign in rural areas. • Although OFWO wound down in late 2004 to make way for Centennial promotions, SIR will continue to work with third parties where possible to educate Saskatchewan people about our economic strengths. • Other initiatives include the Saskatchewan Dream which featured successful rural businesses across the province (2001-2003), Growing the Future and Ongoing sponsorship of Rotary's <i>Your Future is Here</i> campaign aimed at encouraging Saskatchewan young people to make their career in Saskatchewan. • Non-government groups have come forward to carry the message of Saskatchewan's strengths and opportunities including Agrivision and the Chamber of Commerce. • The <i>Saskatchewan Ambassadors Program</i> (formerly the Saskatchewan Business Ambassadors Program) – launched in 1998 promotes Saskatchewan as a place to do business. Under the program, people who are 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>traveling outside of the province on business may receive a promotional kit with information on Saskatchewan. The information can be tailored for specific economic sectors and regions of the province. The program currently has about 750 ambassadors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As well, reports such as the KPMG Competitiveness Alternatives Report and more recently, the Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan Reports are showing Saskatchewan as a place to invest. • The Centennial celebrations attracted individuals into Saskatchewan and both supplement rural economic activity while allowing Saskatchewan to highlight itself as a place to live, raise a family and do business. 	
BD	<p>P-3 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan encourage and provide support to Saskatchewan’s economic development associations to examine the potential of an “angel” investment network to increase equity funding available to rural Saskatchewan businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Saskatchewan supports the development of an integrated angel investment network to enhance equity placement within Saskatchewan-based small-and medium-sized businesses. In May 2004, the province along with regional and federal partners, hosted an Angel Investors session, where experts in the Angel investment communities from Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario discussed the lessons-learned in establishing successful angel networks within in their respective region. Feedback received from Angel investors in attendance at the event indicated a preference to the establishment of a member managed investment network. 	<p>The government has initiated significant actions in support of this recommendation and the recommendation is considered complete.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Saskatchewan Angel Investors Network (SAINT) was formed at a February 10, 2006 news conference at Innovation Place in Saskatoon. Dale Lempke, with SAINT, indicated it has nearly 50 qualified investors. It joins a network of 250 angel investor networks in North America. The web site is: www.saint.sk.ca. The Saskatchewan Advanced Technology Association had also been pushing for such a network. SAINT has been established and designed to bridge the gap between entrepreneurs and investors. 	
CL	<p>P-16 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan ensure contractual obligations to First Nations are honoured, including Treaty Land Entitlements or TLE and Specific Land Claims. The commitments made to First Nations under these agreements, as well as commitments to third party interests (i.e. lease and permit holders), as they relate to TLE and Specific Land Claims, must be communicated in a way that enhances the understanding of both First Nations and non-First Nations people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policies and practices of all Departments follow the commitments made in the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Agreements. It is the responsibility of First Nations and Métis Relations to monitor this and ensure it occurs. Fact Sheets on TLE are used to communicate with Saskatchewan residents. Work has begun on reviewing their adequacy and identifying the need for new Fact Sheets. As well, a review of the distribution of these Fact Sheets to ensure better communication with First Nations and non-First Nations people is underway. The DHT land group was an active committee member on both the Steering Committee and the Inter-Agency Committee. The department 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. 	Acknowledge government response.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nations and Métis Relations ensures that the policies and practices of all Departments are consistent with the commitments made in the TLE Agreements. Work has begun on the preparation of Fact Sheets that will be used to communicate with First Nations and non-First Nations people. 	
RE	<p>P-21 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan improve access to apprenticeship training in rural Saskatchewan by introducing a program similar to Alberta’s Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP is a special program that allows students to get started on an apprenticeship during high school and get paid for their work).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of allowing students to get started on apprenticeship training in rural Saskatchewan. The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (ATCC) has enhanced the high school to Apprenticeship Program and two projects were piloted in 2004-05. The ATCC is expanding the initiative in 2005-06 with additional pilots in Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan. The ATCC will investigate the prospect of province-wide implementation in 2006-07. 	Complete
RE	<p>P-22 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan press the federal government to speed up the time taken for apprentices to receive Employment Insurance benefits when on education leave.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Saskatchewan would encourage the federal government to examine improving efficiency with respect to benefit payment. However, it is noted that the first time apprentices in technical training apply for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits they must serve a two-week waiting period before receiving benefits. In each level of training thereafter, there is no waiting period. The length of time to receive benefits depends largely upon the processing times in the federally administered EI system. 	<p>System speeded up considerably.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
RE	<p>P-27 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan place a renewed emphasis on training for the trades, and enhance trade learning by providing more funding for SIAST and the Regional Colleges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of training and trades. Additional funding of \$188,000 was provided to the ATCC in the 2005-06 budget under CareerStart to create 75 new apprenticeship technical training opportunities. Training institutions' needs for additional funding will continue to be reviewed as part off the budget planning process. 	Complete
RE	<p>P-29 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan require primary schools to begin career counseling in grade school to increase awareness of careers (especially trades) and understanding of training choices, and require secondary schools to enhance career development and counseling services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Saskatchewan agrees, and has for a number of years, required that Career Guidance be taught to all students, Grades six to nine. A career development component to instruction is in the process of being integrated throughout the curriculum at all grade levels. The <i>Blueprint for Life/Work Design</i>, a framework of career development competencies and indicators, is being used to guide the new instructional objectives being integration into the curriculum. Saskatchewan Learning is partnering with the Saskatoon and District Industry-Education Council to conduct a pilot that will work closely with industry and employers to enhance the delivery of career services through an internet-based web portal originally developed in North Carolina and re-designed to meet the needs of Saskatchewan people. The pilot is known as Futures for Kids and will span an 18-24 month duration. 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As well, Saskatchewan Learning is currently working with the Saskatchewan ATCC on the development of a Youth Apprenticeship Initiative. The goal of this program will be to raise the awareness of and improve the attitudes toward opportunities in the skills trades and technologies area for students, parents and teachers. 	
RE	<p>P-30 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan make further efforts to build relationships between Aboriginal individuals, communities and groups, involved governments, educational institutions and employers to provide adequate opportunities for Aboriginal students. More must be done to respond to the training needs and initiatives of Aboriginal people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Aboriginal Employment Development 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 Métis organizations to address barriers to employment and communicate employment and education opportunities to Aboriginal people. 	<p>Government has made Substantial efforts to date.</p> <p>Complete</p>
RE	<p>P-31 ACRE recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan increase Basic Education programming and the Provincial Training Allowance to enroll more students in Basic Education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the need to increase ABE programs throughout the province. In 2005-06, ABE was allocated an additional \$390K to boost, capacity to provide programs. The Provincial Training Allowance budget was also increased so that the new students would have income support available. 	<p>Actions have been taken since the recommendation was originally submitted to government.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
A	<p>S-1 The government should work with private sector partners to develop increased meat processing in the province. These efforts would include assessing impediments that restrict meat plants from gaining an inspection status that would enhance market access opportunities (currently only federally inspected plants can ship out of the province).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of SAF's six point development strategy for the meat industry, a \$37.3 million dollar investment was a part of SAF's six point development strategy for the meat industry, a \$37.3 million dollar investment was announced in June 2005, with funding being allotted for a rebate program for companies investing in the building or expansion of slaughter and processing facilities to federal status, Food Centre and toll processing. • SAF through the Food Centre is funding a pilot project to determine the feasibility of using distance based inspection technology as part of government oversight to provide equivalent food safety outcomes as on-site inspection methods in Saskatchewan regulated meat plants. • Saskatchewan continues to support Federal/Provincial/Territorial initiatives for Canadian Food Inspection System reform that would allow the distribution of food products inter-provincially. • SAF has provided \$80,000 funding to support the Saskatchewan Meat Processors Association develop training materials in collaboration with Saskatchewan Labour (Apprenticeship and Trade) and SIAST which would elevate meat cutting to the status of an indentured trade. • SAF in collaboration with Saskatchewan Health will conduct consultations with the Saskatchewan meat 	<p>Acknowledge response, but programs should be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect the economic conditions of the day.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>processing industry, producer associations, and consumer groups regarding options for a provincial meat slaughter inspection program.</p>	
FIFS	<p>S-2 With a finite amount of taxpayer dollars, the importance of a properly functioning, affordable and effective support structure is critical. Governments must more efficiently target and cap programs and payments and assist producers in transition to production systems that are much less reliant on government support. Farm support priorities must focus on helping producers adjust their operations and management skills so they can move effectively into long-term, sustainable sectors. Governments must be prepared to maintain strong social institutions, an effective regulatory system, labour legislation, and a just taxation system, to balance the increasing concentration of corporate power in today’s global economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On December 22, 2003, Saskatchewan signed the APF Implementation Agreement, making available the two national safety net programs (the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program and Production Insurance – otherwise known as Crop Insurance) for Saskatchewan producers. The CAIS program replaces the Net Income Stabilization Account program and the Canadian Farm Income Program with one program that provides both income stabilization and income disaster protection. • The CAIS program is a whole-farm margin based program which seeks to provide support to producers that is commensurate with each farm’s productivity and profitability history. The CAIS program is federally administered by the Farm Income Programs Directorate in Winnipeg. Crop Insurance is also an important risk management tool for Saskatchewan farmers. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) administers the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Program. SCIC reviews the crop insurance programs annually in an effort to ensure the program provides effective and efficient production insurance products. • The CAIS program and Crop Insurance are both targeted assistance programs. Crop Insurance provides targeted support when individuals crop 	<p>Since the mandate of ACRE did not include safety nets, this recommendation was passed onto the ACRE executive who referred it to the Farm Support Review Committee.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>production levels are below insured historic levels. The CAIS program provides targeted support to individual farms when the eligible income less expense for the farm claim year declines below the individual farms previous average eligible income less expenses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and provincial governments consulted with industry to develop alternatives to producer deposit requirements under the CAIS program, as well as other program changes and modifications. The Farm Support Review Committee was consulted provincially and the National Safety Nets Advisory Committee was consulted federally, as were other industry organizations. 	
FIFS	<p>S-3 Adequate short-term assistance is still required for stabilization and disaster programming during the transition period. In order to make the most effective use of this funding government must adjust current programs to better target need including improved disaster protection. The provincial Farm Support Review Committee and the National Safety Net Review process must be directed to find meaningful changes to the package of farm support programs [crop insurance, the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) program, and the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See S2. 	<p>Since the mandate of ACRE did not include safety nets, this recommendation was passed onto the ACRE executive who referred it to the Farm Support Review Committee.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP)] including improving existing programs, the possible elimination of programs or portions of programs, and the introduction of new programs. It is essential that governments and the general public recognize that producers are not seeking income assurance but rather, adequate protection against disasters.</p>		
FIFS	<p>S-4 Any government support programs, long or short-term, must be designed to be accessible to all producers, including First Nations farmers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although accessibility of First Nations producers to safety net programs technically exists, practical ability to access these programs still needs to be reviewed. 	<p>Since the mandate of ACRE did not include safety nets, this recommendation was passed onto the ACRE executive who referred it to the Farm Support Review Committee.</p>
GO	<p>S-5 A mandatory producer levy should be considered. The funds raised should not be commodity specific and a producer driven process be developed and implemented that identifies emerging sectors or market opportunities for existing and new crops for both food and non food uses, and results in public partnership of intellectual partnership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of livestock and crop groups are currently participating in commodity specific check-off programs for both refundable and non-refundable levies. A number of other groups are exploring the possibilities of implementing similar producer levy programs for their sectors. • Government will not proceed with a mandatory producer levy without general support of affected producers. 	<p>Acknowledge government response.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
GO	<p>S-7 The development of any environmental farm plans be developed in consultation with Saskatchewan producers and producer groups and that the programs reflect the conditions and environmental priorities of Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental farm planning constitutes the major component of the Environment Chapter of the Federal/Provincial APF. • The Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Advisory Council consisting of 15 leading producers has been created to provide advice on agri-environmental issues to the Canada Saskatchewan Implementation Management Committee and the Federal/Provincial Environmental Working Group under the Environment Chapter of APF. The PCAB has been contracted to deliver EFPs in Saskatchewan. • The Saskatchewan EFP program became operational early in 2005. By June 2005, PCAB had delivered a total of 158 EFP workshops involving 1,242 producers for the workshop I sessions and 685 participants for workshop II. 	<p>Accept response.</p>
GO	<p>S-8 The provincial government pressure the federal government to develop and implement a strategy, including compensation, to mitigate the impact of trade distorting subsidies on the profitability of the grains and oilseeds sector and related industries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan efforts to pursue trade injury compensation are vigorous and ongoing. 	<p>Since the mandate of ACRE did not include safety nets, this recommendation was passed onto the ACRE executive who referred it to the Farm Support Review Committee.</p>
GO	<p>S-9 That in cases of grain dealer/processor bankruptcy the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provincial government agrees producers should be fully compensated when a grain merchandiser licensed 	<p>Acknowledge response.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of producers receiving payment for product delivered and therefore urge the Canadian Grain Commissioner to pursue options that provide protection to producers.</p>	<p>by the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) defaults on cash purchase receipts, elevator receipts or grain receipts recognized under the <i>Canada Grain Act</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan also believes the CGC needs to be more vigilant in the policing of unlicensed operations that are engaged in the purchase and resale of grain. • SAF continues to raise these issues with the CGC. 	
GO	<p>S-10 The provincial government encourage the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) to continue to have a free and open discussion with producers and industry to facilitate the development of the tools and policies necessary for a profitable value added sector for both producers and industry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government believes that the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is doing a good job in promoting value-added activities. The promotion of activity must be on-going, with the agency continuing to seek out new ways to facilitate increased processing of grains in Saskatchewan. • Specific activities include: • The issue is re-affirmed in meetings between officials of SAF and the CWB. Meetings between the provincial Minister of Agriculture and Food and directors of the CWB occur at least annually. Action taken by the CWB to facilitate value-added activity is a regular agenda item. 	<p>Acknowledge government response.</p>
GO	<p>S-11 The provincial government acknowledge the concerns that some wheat customers have expressed in relation to foods and food ingredients that are the result of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This position is essentially identical to that of the province. The Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food has conveyed this position to AAFC. 	<p>Acknowledge response.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>modern biotechnology and that a market focus is critical to the success of farmers.</p>		
GO	<p>S-12 The provincial government not support the introduction of genetically modified (GM) wheat until market acceptance issues are addressed and technologies capable of identifying and segregating grains are in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan endorses this recommendation. 	<p>Acknowledge response.</p>
GO	<p>S-13 The provincial government lead an effort that results in producer groups, industry and other provincial governments coming together in a common effort to impress upon the federal government their responsibility for any trade injury compensation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan efforts to pursue trade injury compensation are vigorous and ongoing. 	<p>Since the mandate of ACRE did not include safety nets, this recommendation was passed onto the ACRE executive who referred it to the Farm Support Review Committee.</p>
GO	<p>S-14 The provincial government pressure the federal government to negotiate a World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement that requires penalties for parties involved in trade harassment policies and practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Saskatchewan has repeatedly called upon the federal government to increase trade access to Saskatchewan producers. • Saskatchewan continues to press the federal government to seek changes at the World Trade Organization level to the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures that would clarify the existing rules and make them less prone to manipulation citing the inappropriate use of countervail and anti-dumping in agriculture as an example. Saskatchewan also continues to highlight the negative impact of these measures in discussions with the 	<p>Since the mandate of ACRE did not include safety nets, this recommendation was passed onto the ACRE executive who referred it to the Farm Support Review Committee.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		federal government on concerns arising from North American Free Trade Agreement.	
GO	<p>S-15 The Government of Saskatchewan use its influence with the federal government to ensure that the Canadian Grain Commission review panel report and recommendations are made in a timely fashion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reports on the internal and external reviews which were undertaken on the CGC were submitted to then Minister of AAFC Lyle Vanclief during the 2002-03 fiscal year. Prior to this, SAFRR met with the Review Panel that was performing the external review. • On July 2, 2002, Minister Serby wrote Minister Vanclief in respect to both the internal and external reviews that were underway at that time. In this correspondence Saskatchewan expressed concern with the process of the review and recommended to the Government of Canada that they proceed carefully with any changes to the scope and mandate of the CGC. The federal government was also encouraged to provide producers with ample information and time to provide their input to the review process. • There has been no follow-up action by the federal government on these reports, nor have they been publicly released. • The previous federal government took no action on the CGC Review Panel report and recommendations which were completed during the 2002-03 fiscal year. The new federal administration is expected to commence a review of the <i>Canada Grain Act</i> sometime in 2006. It is anticipated that the Government of Saskatchewan will participate and provide input in this review. 	Acknowledge response.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
A	<p>S-16 One of the problems identified for the development of farm-based tourism is high insurance premiums. A useful move would be to pull the insurance industry together and give them an opportunity to respond, and failing satisfactory results, examine alternative ways of group insurance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High insurance premiums have been identified as a barrier for small rural and northern tourism operators particularly those that are attempting to add value to their tourism product experience (e.g., horseback riding, snowmobiling, water-based activities). The Saskatchewan Country Vacation Association has identified the need to address this issue from time to time, but to date have not brokered any special group insurance plan. The Saskatchewan Outfitters Association has developed an ongoing relationship with Reiben Insurance out of Creighton which specializes in serving the needs of their sector. • At the national level, the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) has also been addressing this issue recently. They completed a cross-country operator survey in 2002, which resulted in a database which profiles insurance providers for adventure and ecotourism operators which is posted on their website. Another useful reference tool available on the CTC website is the “Risk Management and Insurance Guide” (2001). 	<p>Accept the government response, but would like to turn this back to the industry since it is an issue that needs to be addressed.</p> <p>A number of the issues raised in this recommendation are similar to and are superseded by those raised in Recommendation P-008.</p> <p>Complete</p>
RS	<p>S-17 Specific opportunities in agri-tourism, eco-tourism and aboriginal tourism must be identified and qualified; involving potential private sector and public sector partners, and First and Metis Nations in both the process and any subsequent development are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Saskatchewan will continue to work with industry to identify the specific development resources required to further the rural tourism initiative. • Vertical tourism development strategies were prepared for ecotourism (January 1996), agritourism (April 1998), and Aboriginal tourism (March 1996). Further to this, tourism development strategies for the Métis 	<p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>potential private sector and public sector partners, and First Nations and Metis.</p>	<p>were also prepared covering three general regions (2000). Tourism Saskatchewan, with input from industry, plans to undertake reassessments of each of these vertical sectors with the objective of revising and refining the related strategies to ensure that they reflect current industry challenges and opportunities. Each of these sectors does provide opportunity for the growth of businesses in rural Saskatchewan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the reassessment of these strategies within the broader opportunities linked to rural tourism and the development of tourism destination areas, Tourism Saskatchewan will continue to work with industry to identify the specific development resources required to further the rural tourism initiative. While accelerating the growth of rural tourism is largely a function of program and private investment, Tourism Saskatchewan has identified this area as one of its' top-line opportunities and, as such, will direct substantial effort towards achieving growth in this area. • Tourism Saskatchewan will also be prioritizing cultural tourism as a top-line opportunity as this area has considerable tourism potential as well. A different type of strategic priority setting will take place in this case as there is no base strategy to be used as a template. • The current fiscal year will see action plans associated with these assessments discussed with stakeholders. Availability of resources required to implement the 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		strategies and action plans will determine progress in each of the areas.	
FIFS	S-19 Given that the opportunities in this province far outweigh the capacity of our internal capital resources, the attraction of outside investment will assist in stimulating growth and economic development within the agriculture sector. In an effort to put our industry on a more level playing field with neighboring provinces when it comes to attracting outside investment into the industry, the province should consider changes to the Farm Ownership Provisions under the Saskatchewan Farm Security Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province has passed legislation that removes farm ownership restrictions on individuals and companies from other provinces. Formerly there were ownership restrictions of the acreage for those from outside the province. This change was made to <i>The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act</i> to promote investment in Saskatchewan’s rural areas. 	Accept response.
FIFS	S-20 The provincial government should remove the residency requirements under the Farm Land Security Act for all individuals who are Canadian citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province has passed legislation that removes farm ownership residency restrictions on individuals and companies from other provinces. 	Accept response.
FIFS	S-21 The provincial government should examine lifting the ownership restrictions under the Farm Land Security Act for specific development corridors or value-adding agricultural industries that are known to have significant local economic impact and are currently generally approved under existing exemption provisions (horticulture,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province has passed legislation that removes farm ownership residency restrictions on individuals and companies from other provinces. This change was made to <i>The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act</i> to promote investment in Saskatchewan’s rural areas. There is allowance in legislation for case by case examination of projects that may not meet the provisions of <i>The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act</i>. 	Acknowledge response.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>livestock, etc.). The objective is to encourage outside investment in Saskatchewan into areas that will stimulate growth within the province.</p>		
ED	<p>S-22 That the Government of Saskatchewan form a Task Force to study the feasibility of establishing a foundation similar to Ontario’s Trillium Foundation that would support rural community economic development initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been reviewed. Ontario’s Trillium Foundation is driven by lottery revenues, but its focus is on community development and social and cultural issues. • Saskatchewan addresses similar intents through the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation work with non-government organizations at the community level. SIR was involved in community economic development through its services for provincial business and co-operative development through the Federal/Provincial Canada-Saskatchewan Business Service Centre and its 16 Regionalization sites. This function is now largely handled by Rural Development with the province’s 28 REDAs to support business and community economic development through the development of “how to” business resources and training initiatives, and co-locations in regional One Stop Business Enterprise Centres to support and encourage business development in those regions. 	<p>Federal/provincial initiative.</p> <p>A review was done and the province had decided to take a different route.</p> <p>Complete</p>
ED	<p>S-23 That the Government of Saskatchewan dedicate a pool of financial resources to create a venture capital fund that can be accessed by professional financial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See I1 	<p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	management firms to leverage private capital.		
ED	S-25 That the economic development and/or delivery opportunities presented by CommunityNet be taken into consideration in determining the most effective provision of health care services in rural and remote Saskatchewan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telehealth Saskatchewan currently allows patients and physicians in rural and remote areas to have consultations through an interactive video link with specialists in larger centres. 	Complete
ED	S-26 That the economic development and/or delivery opportunities presented by Community Net be taken into consideration in determining the most effective provision of educational services in rural and remote Saskatchewan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through SCN, Saskatchewan is providing remote learning opportunities to rural citizens in several different ways, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing CommunityNet through a digital satellite network to the approximately 150 schools and communities not reached by SaskTel’s CommunityNet service; ○ Providing approximately 2,500 hours per year of school credit programming through the e-learning television network. Fifty-six different classes are currently being taught through this medium. About 3,000 students are registered each year, the majority rural; and ○ Providing remote learning opportunities through the SCN special events network on a fee-for-service basis. 	Complete
RS	S-30 The first priority must be an effective primary health care strategy and system that is proactive, understood, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is promoting the development of primary health care teams, which build on existing Regional Health Authority (RHA) programs and services, emphasize a coordinated team approach to 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>supported by funding. Only when this is in place can an effective governance model be developed with clear definitions and understandings of roles, authority, accountability and autonomy.</p>	<p>service delivery, and support stronger linkages among health care providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A document entitled <i>Guidelines for the Development of a Regional Health Authority Plan for Primary Health Care Services</i> has been developed. • See F-54 for additional primary healthcare development information. 	
CIE	<p>S-31 Health and Emergency Services: Factors that need to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry development; • Business growth and expansion; • Commuting population traffic volumes and transportation of dangerous goods; • Location of closest primary and acute facilities, health centers, and ambulatory services; and, • Changing demographics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Health feels that recruiting and retaining qualified professionals is an additional factor that needs to be considered in health and emergency services. • Saskatchewan Health works closely with RHA and other partners in the health sector, to assess local needs in rural and northern Saskatchewan. These needs are then balanced with broader quality/volume issues to ensure that the most effective and sustainable types of services are provided. • <i>The Action Plan on Saskatchewan Health Care</i> established a new joint planning relationship between RHAs and Saskatchewan Health, one that is linked to the overall government budget and planning processes. A key component of the new planning and accountability regime was the establishment of integrated planning forums including the Minister’s Forum (Board Chairs and Minister) and the Leadership Council (Chief Executive Officers and Deputy Minister). 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the planning cycle includes the preparation of a regional environmental scan. An environmental scan helps identify the key regional opportunities and challenges, and serves as a foundation for the RHA operational plan including identifying health and emergency services to be provided by RHAs. In the scan, RHAs are expected to consider the following broad categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ regional demographics and epidemiology; ○ health status of residents; ○ community/client/key stakeholder expectations; ○ regional economic trends; ○ human resources; and ○ service volumes. 	
CIE	<p>S-32 The Saskatchewan Government will stop the erosion of services and ensure that essential health and emergency services are available in rural communities to sustain and enable development. People need to know what health services they are assured of receiving within their rural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to primary health care development, the following are examples of Saskatchewan Health strategies to help ensure quality health care services for residents of rural Saskatchewan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Senior Citizens Ambulance Assistance Program and the Air Ambulance Program, limits the cost of road ambulance services within Saskatchewan to \$250 per trip for seniors 65 years of age and older. Air ambulance clients, with the exception of those living in northern Saskatchewan, pay a fixed amount of \$350 per trip. Rural and northern residents receive the most benefit from these programs because of the distances traveled. ○ Implementation of a three-year training initiative to bring emergency medical service providers up to 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>emergency medical technician-basic level. This training initiative is targeted to emergency medical providers in rural and northern ambulance services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved dispatch of ambulance services by having all calls for ambulance services in the province handled through wide-area dispatch centres. ○ Continuation of cancer outreach treatment programs, which enable rural residents to receive chemotherapy treatment and other supports in or close to their home community. ○ Expanded treatment and diagnostic services outside Regina and Saskatoon. For example, the expansion of renal dialysis services with further satellite sites being available for dialysis patients (renal satellites in operation in seven communities) and additional specialized medical imaging services outside Regina and Saskatoon. CT scanner services are currently available in the communities of Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Swift Current, Prince Albert, and are also being implemented in North Battleford and Lloydminster during the 2005-06 fiscal year. ○ Telehealth Saskatchewan currently allows patients and physicians in rural and remote areas to have consultations through an interactive video link with specialists in larger centres. ○ Work with regional health authorities to develop and implement regional population health promotion strategies, taking into consideration provincial priorities and local needs. ○ Continuation of efforts related to the Long Term Safe Drinking Water Strategic Plan. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continued work towards the implementation of a Northern Health Strategy. ○ Encouragement of research related to the challenges of providing health services to rural and remote populations through the Health Research Strategy. ○ Implementation of province-wide health human resource planning. ● There are also some specific programs and initiatives targeted to recruiting and retaining physicians in both rural and urban settings. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency Room Coverage and Weekend Relief Program. ○ Rural Practice Establishment Grant (RPEG) Program. ○ RPEG for foreign trained Physicians. ○ Medical Resident Bursary Program. ○ Undergraduate Medical Student Bursary Program. ○ Rural Practice Enhancement Training. ○ Rural Emergency Care/Continuing Medication Education Program. ○ Locum Service Program. ○ Rural Extended Leave Program 	
AV	<p>S-35 The Saskatchewan Government utilize existing resources to establish resources to establish a venture management initiative that would match experienced managers with new or expanding agri-business.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SIR is currently working with several partners in developing what will be a "Business Mentorship" initiative. ● SIR and RD continue to move forward and work with several partners in developing a "Business Mentorship" 	<p>This initiative is a work in progress and has been superseded by Recommendation P-004.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. 	
RS	<p>S-36 Enhance agriculture in school curriculum and acknowledge its importance to Saskatchewan and Canada.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A science credit at the Grade 11 level can be earned in Agriculture 20. As well, there are numerous courses that contain an agricultural perspective within the Practical and Applied Arts such as Agriculture Studies 30; Horticulture 10, 20, 30; Wildlife Management 10, 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>20, 30; Food Studies 10, 30; and, Forestry Studies 20, 30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Learning has a partnership with Agriculture in the Classroom that has been very beneficial to Saskatchewan schools and is currently part of the group including Agriculture in the Classroom, Saskatchewan Labour, and others that developed and implemented the <i>Grow Up With Safety</i> school resources (health-education support). There is a strong farm safety component in this resource. • The Green Certificate program provides hands-on training and experience in various lines of agriculture, including feedlot, cow/calf, dairy, sheep, crop, irrigated crop production, and aerial application. Approximately 90 people receive training through the program each year. • On March 25, 2003, a MOU was signed between the FSIN and SIAST. This partnership between the two organizations is going to mean new agricultural training for First Nations people. SIAST will be delivering the training where the people are, at the First Nation sites so people can stay in their home communities. 	
ED	<p>S-38 The Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan work together to implement a province-wide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See S – 35. SIR and RD continue to move forward and work with several partners in developing a "Business Mentorship" initiative. 	<p>Covered by S-035 and P-004.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>mentorship program. For example, a project manager would be assigned to a project in a community to work with the volunteers to initiate the planning process and provide direction and experience of navigating a project through the regulations of government and financial institutions.</p>		
RS	<p>S-39 Encourage professionals and tradespersons to live and work in rural Saskatchewan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and promoting the concept of local municipalities and professional/trade organizations financing the education of tradespersons and professionals, with a requirement for service in rural Saskatchewan; and, • Recognizing the need for isolation and remoteness incentives to attract professionals to rural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address the needs of local administration GR in partnership with Rural Municipal Administrators Association, Urban Municipal Administrators Association, SARM and SUMA established a Municipal Leadership Development Program that provides training to rural and urban administrators/clerks and elected officials. Administrators and clerks work in over 800 municipalities throughout the province. • Further work needs to be done. 	<p>There are some initiatives to encourage targeted individuals to live in rural areas but no general overriding program as such. (nursing, vet med, etc.)</p> <p>There are incentives for people to stay in Saskatchewan but not necessarily in rural.</p> <p>Complete (while agreeing with the government's rejection of the funding portion of the recommendation).</p>
RS	<p>S-40 Entrepreneurial training is needed for arts and culture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently a number of mentoring and training programs exist or are being contemplated. The 	<p>Complete. A number of initiatives in place to now</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>Research on opportunities and business models need to be made available.</p>	<p>Cultural Industries Development Council represents organizations such as book publishers, sound recording, craft and visual artists and art galleries. Their focus is helping Saskatchewan artists market their work. A contact for the Council is the Saskatchewan Publishers Group at www.Saskpublishers.ca.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Artists Representation – Front des Artistes Canadiens – a visual artist advocacy organization-- provides mentoring services and workshops for visual artists often related to setting up business and marketing work. Contact www.Carfac.sk.ca. • The Saskatchewan Craft Council has developed a business planning program for members. Contact www.Saskcraftcouncil.org. • SIR has done extensive work with Art and Craft Businesses to examine their marketing needs. In this regard we have worked collaboratively with Culture, Youth and Recreation and industry associations to determine needs. 	<p>allow the industry to take care of itself.</p>
RS	<p>S-41 Performing and visual arts events, often located in larger urban centers, provide rural communities with opportunities for community-based entertainment, culture, and an enhanced quality of life. Public arts policy must assist rural areas to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils tours exhibitions and performing arts activity throughout Saskatchewan often over a 12 month period. Contact www.OSAC.sk.ca. • Galleries such as the Mackenzie in Regina have an extensive exhibition/education program taken to rural 	<p>Considerable initiatives taken during Centennial year (may need to be kick started in future years).</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>develop these opportunities at a local level.</p>	<p>communities each year. Contact www.Mackenzieartgallery.sk.ca.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskCulture exists to help its member groups offer numerous cultural programming and training opportunities throughout the province. From community theatre to historic property renovation programs, SaskCulture's members have programs that serve the entire province and stretch across the total spectrum of cultural offerings, training and development assistance. Contact them at www.saskculture.sk.ca • The Saskatchewan Arts Board plays a central role in making the arts accessible to Saskatchewan residents. • Communities have also taken the initiative to make the arts available to Saskatchewan residents. Just one example of this is the Centre 48 initiative in South East Saskatchewan. 	
RS	<p>S-42 That entrepreneurial training be developed and included in our K-12 school system.</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 PAA curricula include a focus on ten Transition to Work Dimensions, one of which is entrepreneurship. These dimensions are expected to be addressed in the 	<p>Actions address the intent of the recommendation.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		entire Practical and Applied Arts courses.	
RS	<p>S-43 Saskatchewan’s post-secondary educational institutions should give increased priority to practices that contribute to retaining young people in Saskatchewan, especially rural Saskatchewan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being more aggressive in recruiting and retaining our high school graduates through scholarships and other incentives; and, • Allocating seats in various professions and disciplines giving priority to students who will commit to future service in rural Saskatchewan. 	<p><u>Recruitment and Retention:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit is a one-time tax credit that graduates and journeypersons may apply against their Saskatchewan Income Tax. For 2005 the graduate tax credit will increase from \$500 to \$675 for students who graduate from eligible post-secondary institutions between January 1 and December 31, 2005. The tax credit will continue to increase each year to \$1,000 by 2007. • Centennial Merit Scholarship targets top students from Saskatchewan high schools and enhances the ability of institutions to attract and retain high-calibre students. The funding is paid to institutions responsible for its administration. Total funding amount has been increased in 2005-06 from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. • Other scholarships funded through the Student Aid Fund that are available to Saskatchewan Students are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship in Parliamentary Studies (\$20,000 for university level study of Saskatchewan politics and government); ○ the Queen Elizabeth II Centennial Aboriginal Scholarship (\$20,000 scholarship to First Nations or Métis graduates pursuing graduate studies in Saskatchewan);. ○ the D.R. Simmons Memorial Scholarship (\$500 to graduating Grade 12 students of First Nations or 	<p>Seats not currently provided for doctors committing to practicing in rural Saskatchewan.</p> <p>Much has been done or in place.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>Métis ancestry continuing studies at the post-secondary level);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the James Dickson Scholarship (\$500 to graduating Grade 12 students of black ancestry continuing studies at the post-secondary level); and ○ the Doreen Kronick Matching Scholarship (up to \$1,000 to full or part-time Saskatchewan graduate students studying in Saskatchewan in a field that addresses the needs of the learning disabled. <p><u>Service Commitments in Rural Saskatchewan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NEPS represents a partnership between the University of Saskatchewan, the SIAST and the FNUC. The Northern NEPS program was implemented in the 2002-03 academic year with a seat capacity of 40. The program which is delivered in Prince Albert First Nations University of Canada (FNUC) gives priority to northern residents who are of Aboriginal ancestry. ● The Northern Health Science Access Program in Prince Albert provides supports to academically prepare Aboriginal and northern students for careers in the health professions with an emphasis on nursing. This program is a partnership between the provincial government and three educational post-secondary institutions – FNUC, SIAST, and U of S; the Northern Intertribal Health Authority and the Métis Employment Training of Saskatchewan. There were 19 graduates in 2002-03, 28 graduates in 2003-04, and 24 graduates in 2004-05. Forty-five students have been accepted into the program for the 2005-06 academic year. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Native Access Program to Nursing provides supports to Aboriginal Nursing students enrolled in the NEPS. • In addition, there are several initiatives and programs targeted to attracting and keeping physicians in rural Saskatchewan. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural Practice Establishment Grants. ○ Rural Practice Enhancement Training. • Saskatchewan Health also offers bursaries for students that are prepared to sign “return for service” contracts in a number of disciplines. Some of the bursaries are more quickly forgiven if they work in rural areas than in urban ones. 	
CIE	<p>S-44 The people of Saskatchewan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a vision of public education that promotes a broad liberal education at the secondary level; and, • Ensure post-secondary institutions have a vision of specialized education. 	<p><u>K-12:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Goals of Education for Saskatchewan schools provide direction for a broad, comprehensive education that outlines the foundation knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities for a successful life. • Opportunities to develop the <i>Common Essential Learnings</i> are central in the K-12 education system. If students can communicate well, are numerate, are critical and creative thinkers, have positive social values and skills, are technologically literate, and are independent learners by the time they finish high school, they will be well-equipped to become productive, contributing members of society. 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships, such as the School^{PLUS} and Early Childhood Development initiatives, within the Saskatchewan community strengthen the system to ensure that all Saskatchewan children and youth benefit from the breadth of the Saskatchewan curriculum. <p><u>Post-Secondary Education:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-secondary education institutions in Saskatchewan have a well-developed vision of the importance of both general and specialized education, as evidenced by the current array of programs and services offered. 	
CIE	<p>S-45 The people of Saskatchewan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the philosophical structure of community schools in rural education systems as outlined by Saskatchewan Learning. As a hub for a network of community organizations, community schools can foster the development and well being of the entire community. Increased utilization of schools at the community level is needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of community schools has extended from urban elementary and northern schools to secondary and rural schools and have more than doubled since 2000 from 41 to 98. • On February 21, 2002, the Government of Saskatchewan endorsed the vision of School^{PLUS}, a concept that sees schools as enhancing student outcomes through the delivery of a strong learning program and being the centre of services and supports for the children and families they serve. Its goal is to create the conditions where every school is relevant to children and youth, responsive to family and community and results oriented. School^{PLUS} requires the concerted and sustained efforts of school personnel, families, communities and human service providers working together. 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
CIE	<p>S-46 Post-secondary institutions will change post-secondary requirements (real and assumed) to reflect the vision of public education (e.g. calculus, seven sciences). There is currently not adequate time to take a range of classes in the secondary system if post-secondary education entrance requirements and expectations are met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department includes post-secondary representatives on provincial curriculum reference committees. In this way, post-secondary representatives have input into curriculum content (e.g., Grade 12 English language arts curriculum) and become knowledgeable about the direction of new curricula. In some cases, this has caused post-secondary institutions to change the content of their course offerings (e.g., introductory English language arts courses at university). • As the department develops Grade 12 curricula, our provincial Saskatchewan Learning registrar forwards course descriptions of new curricula to post-secondary institutions so that they can determine the courses that are acceptable to meet university entrance requirements for particular post-secondary programs. • Meetings are held between department staff and post-secondary faculty (university deans and SIAST deans) to discuss new Grade 12 courses and potential use for entrance requirements or post-secondary credit. • Meetings are held among department staff, SIAST and the ATCC to determine Secondary Level Practical and Applied Arts courses that will be accepted to challenge the Level 1 Apprenticeship exam (e.g., Welding 10, 20, and 30). 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
T	<p>S-49 The province change its policy on how it charges for permits that allow users to run primary weights on secondary weight highways. The fees for TPP should be changed so that businesses wishing to run trucks at primary weights over secondary weight highways are charged a fee, which reflects the costs of the incremental damage caused to the secondary weight highways by using primary weights. The fee would apply for every km that a truck runs on a secondary weight highway at primary weights. The shipper would no longer be required to share the benefits with DDHT associated with fewer trips. The fees should be administered fairly and equitably across all industries and all road users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT does not intend to change the policy as it applies to heavy hauls where vehicles are carrying loads above primary weights. However, the policy for primary weights being carried on secondary weight roads has been revised, to support the movement of certain agricultural products. The revisions to the Trucking Partnership Program allow producers and shippers to save on trucking costs by hauling primary weights on secondary weight highways. In return for the ability to access increased weights, shippers pay incremental road damage costs caused by primary weight hauls on secondary highways, a share of productivity savings on the secondary weight portion of the trip and an annual \$200 administrative fee. Productivity savings were previously assessed on the entire trip, from origin to destination. The revisions apply to the movement of livestock to intermediary or processing facilities, potatoes, feed grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, and agricultural products moved by container or trailer on flat car trailers. • Application of this revised policy to all commodities would result in inordinate road damage to our secondary weight highways leading to an unsustainable road system and a reduced level of service. • The department is also in the process of reviewing the winter weight policy (duration and application to eight axle trucks). • SARM’s Clearing the Path initiative will further 	<p>Acknowledge response, need to review on an on-going basis.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>examine transportation impediments at the local level and the government will consider recommendations that may flow from the process.</p>	
T	<p>S-50 The province amend legislation which would allow municipalities the ability to assess special fees on industries which create extra road costs above and beyond the normal road traffic loads. The extra fees should be administered fairly and equitably across all industries and all road users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural municipalities currently have the ability to enter into road haul maintenance agreements. GR is working with municipal stakeholders to consolidate <i>The Urban and Rural Municipal Acts</i>. The new consolidated <i>Act</i> will allow urban municipalities to enter into road maintenance agreements, similar to rural municipalities. • 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, SAF and other departments are assisting SARM in its review of rural economic impediments under its “Clearing the Path” initiative. SARM is reviewing road haul agreements. 	<p>Acknowledge response.</p>
T	<p>S-52 The province develop transportation infrastructure investment strategies that maximize rates of return to the economy. The investment strategies also must recognize the role of rural areas in generating GDP. The investment strategies must be developed for both the long-term and the short-term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT currently uses the Asset Management System to determine preservation investment strategies. Condition ratings on the transportation system are done on an annual basis and fed into the Asset Management System. The system then calculates the optimum preservation program for the available funding. • Funding for capital investments such as twinning, forestry expansion, rural roads etc. becomes dependent on the level of investment required to provide and 	<p>Acknowledge the response, but province needs to review this area on an on-going basis.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>operate a safe transportation system and the level of investment required to preserve the existing system. Capital projects are very expensive running as high as \$500,000 per kilometer. It is, therefore, important that capital is strategically invested to meet the most important needs of society and the economy.</p>	
T	<p>S-54 The Department of Highways and Transportation develop a policy to accommodate changing weight requirements and road capabilities. Authority to approve weight designation changes should rest with the Minister of Highways and Transportation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant changes to weight restrictions above current levels are a major public policy issue with many financial ramifications to the province. As with any major public policy issue, Cabinet approval is required when significant changes are proposed. DHT is currently consulting with stakeholders regarding current weight designations for the principal and regional transportation systems. DHT has consulted with stakeholders regarding expansion of the primary weight network. • Section 35 subsections (1) and (2) of <i>The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997</i>, authorize the Minister of DHT to approve weight designation changes as suggested above. • Vehicle Weights and Dimension Regulations, 1999 set out the maximum weights for primary and secondary and identify the highway. The Minister has powers under this regulation to issue an Order that can restrict regulation weights or grant overweight permits, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2002 the Minister by Order converted all 10 month primary weight designated highways to 	Accept response.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>12 month primary weight designated highways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Minister has also issued orders in both 2004 and 2005 to restrict winter weights during the expanded winter season when roadbed conditions were not favourable for winter weight haul. ○ The Minister routinely issues orders to restrict weights on those TMS roads involved in strategic rural road partnership agreements to preserve the surface for light vehicle travel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 or harmonizing weight limits or designated truck routes. The dispute resolution will help to ensure continuity of transportation routes across jurisdictions. ● GR is working with municipal stakeholders to consolidate <i>The Rural and Urban Municipality Acts</i>. The consolidated <i>Act</i> will propose that both rural and rural municipalities continue to have authority to designate primary weights and transportation routes and a dispute resolution process. It will also propose that urban municipalities be allowed to enter into road maintenance agreements, similar to rural 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>municipalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GR has jurisdiction over municipal roads and is currently in the process of amending municipal legislation regarding weights designations. The amendments will allow municipalities to the ability to designate their roads as primary weight roads if they so choose. 	
T	<p>S-55 The province provide adequate resources to assess the load bearing capacities, width capacities and conditions of all municipal and provincial bridges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the trend to larger trucks it is important to assess the capacity capabilities of the bridges in the province. DHT has increased staffing levels to better expedite bridge inspections so that bridge capacity and condition deficiencies can be addressed in an integrated strategic manner. 	<p>Acknowledge response.</p>
T	<p>S-60 There be no further increase in the primary weights, regardless of what other provinces do, until the primary weight transportation system in the province is at a long-term standard capable of handling increased weights. An exception to this would be where 100 percent federal funding is made available to address national/international harmonization issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHT is always under pressure to increase weight restrictions on the roads. Increases in allowable weights are an important element in improving overall productivity in the economy. Increases in allowable weights can reduce the cost of moving goods to market resulting in a more competitive position for Saskatchewan businesses in the global market place. There are no plans to increase primary weights but have made a request for funding through the 2006-07 budget approval process to allow a moderate expansion of the primary weight network. Also, there are no plans to increase axle group weights on the maximum gross weights on multiple unit configurations through regulations. Minor adjustments in the future may be 	<p>Acknowledge government response. However, there are concerns about small increases in the adjustments with respect to harmonization.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>required for an increase in the steering axle maximum for the tractor weights due to environmental/engine weight increases, designs, etc. and for the national and international harmonization.</p>	
T	<p>S-61 The province change the existing legislation to permit rural municipalities to designate routes for weights, dangerous goods and dimension (over-sized) loads.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2003 amendments were made to <i>The Rural Municipality Act, 1989</i>, as a result of a review by GR of municipal road issues in the heavy oil producing area of Saskatchewan. Those amendments provided authority for all rural municipalities to designate primary weights and truck routes for municipal roads. The new authorities also provided for harmonization among rural municipalities and included a dispute resolution process for municipalities and road users to ensure continuity of transportation routes across jurisdictions. • Effective January 1, 2006, <i>The Municipalities Act</i> came into force, replacing <i>The Rural Municipality Act, 1989</i> and <i>The Urban Municipality Act, 1984</i>. While the authority outlined in the <i>The Municipalities Act</i> to designate primary weights and truck routes for municipal roads remains similar to what existed in <i>The Rural Municipality Act, 1989</i>, it has been extended to now include both urban and rural municipalities. Provisions relating to municipal harmonization and the dispute resolution process contained in <i>The Rural Municipality Act, 1989</i> have also been incorporated into the <i>The Municipalities Act</i> to ensure continuity of transportation routes across jurisdictions. 	<p>Acknowledge government response.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
T	S-63 That the Government of Saskatchewan continue to treat all future short lines as commercial ventures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short line railways are currently treated as commercial ventures. There are no plans to change this policy. 	Acknowledge response.
T	S-64 The federal government fund the construction and maintenance of the national highway system in Canada.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT agrees that there is a need for more federal funding and in particular ongoing funding for a national highway system. There has been some success in procuring federal funding on a somewhat ad hoc basis. Examples include the Canada Ag-Infrastructure Program, Prairie Grain Roads Program, the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund, the Border Infrastructure Fund, and the Strategic Highways Infrastructure Program. 	Acknowledge government response.
T	S-65 It is recommended that any permits, fines for overweight vehicles or other charges, directly related to road costs, collected by the Department of Highways and Transportation should remain with the Department of Highways and Transportation rather than being allocated to the General Revenue Fund for the Province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current fiscal policy of the government is that all revenues accruing to the government accrue in the consolidated government revenue fund (GRF). Any changes in this policy are at the discretion of Cabinet. • The Department of Finance position on dedicated revenue is that it is contrary to the consolidated budgetary approach the government takes to funding priority areas. This approach requires that revenue be collected on a province-wide basis and pooled in the GRF. The government has adopted this approach for the following reasons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Gass Commission of 1992 recommended that all revenue be paid to, and all expenditures be appropriated from, a single consolidated fund controlled by the Legislative Assembly. ○ This approach ensures that the government's 	Acknowledge response.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>limited fiscal resources are targeted to the highest priority areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consolidated budgetary approach also allows the government to review and evaluate each funding request within the context of other financial pressures, affordability, and balanced budget commitments. This approach maintains flexibility in the Government's ability to respond to the changing needs of the Province, whether it be in agriculture, highways, health care or any other area of public service provincial residents rely on. 	
T	<p>S-66 The province conduct an independent review of existing Department of Highways and Transportation contracts used for construction, maintenance and engineering contracting to the private sector to ensure the department is receiving value for money.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHT recently underwent a value for money audit of the tendering process with no major concerns being identified regarding the overall process. All DHT expenditures are subject to provincial audits on an annual basis. When contractors are hired through the tendering process the contractors are required to post a performance bond. Any performance problems result in the forfeiture of some or all of the performance bond and also result in the contractors returning to rectify any problems that do occur. Review of other agency processes was completed. Specifications are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. A review of the consultant selection process is 	Acknowledge response.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>underway with an emphasis on Quality Based Selection.</p>	
T	<p>S-67 The province direct the Crown utilities to work with road authorities to achieve an efficient transportation and utility distribution system that is cost effective and workable for all parties. Prior to construction/reconstruction of linear utilities the consultation process must also include adjacent landowners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT agrees in principle with all parties working together to resolve any differences regarding the Crown utilities use of rights-of-way. DHT will continue to work with the Crowns to achieve the best solutions possible for all stakeholders. • DHT has agreements with SaskTel and SaskPower that details the conditions for allowing utilities in right of ways and have legislated authority for permit processes to deal with utility companies. • SaskPower agrees with the response given from the DHT to the ACRE committee. • SaskPower strives to work closely with the DHT to achieve not only the best but also the least cost solution 	<p>Acknowledge response. The agencies involved should continue to work closely together.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>to build our facilities in the DHT right-of-way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskPower has an agreement with the DHT detailing the conditions for the use of the right-of-way along with legislated authority for the permit process for SaskPower to install facilities in the DHT right-of-way. • When SaskPower receives an application for construction/reconstruction of facilities due to road construction/reconstruction from the DHT, SaskPower will communicate design and requirements with the customer, DHT. Due to the nature of road construction/reconstruction, the DHT will consult with all affected landowners. • As a courtesy, SaskPower may send a copy of the proposed power line route to the local Rural Municipalities (RM) office as an informational item. The local RM office would then have the opportunity to communicate this information to the affected landowners. SaskPower provides this as an informational package only, as the DHT will give the final approval of the proposed power line and route to SaskPower. • Copies of all SaskTel projects involving the placement of buried/aerial or underground facilities, are sent to the RM's, and all of the utilities (Sask Power/ SaskEnergy/DHT) for their comments prior to the project being released to our construction forces. If SaskTel does not receive any comments, we assume 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>that they are in agreement with the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskTel makes every effort to place facilities that run parallel to RM roads, outside the road Right of Ways (ROW). Our current standard is to place all rural buried cables on private land and parallel to the road at a distance of 60 metres from the road property line to provide adequate separation from the power lines. When a pedestal is required at every 1370 metres, the cable is placed at 90 degrees to the road for 60 metres and the pedestal is placed inside the road ROW by 0.5 metres. If the landowner farms the ditch (assuming that he/she has RM permission) they will be asked if they want the pedestal to be at 60 metres from the property line and receive a one time payment of \$250.00, or have the pedestal at 0.5 metres inside the road ROW. If the adjacent landowner does not agree with the 0.5 metre distance, and wishes to have the pedestal closer to the center of the road, SaskTel will require RM written approval to place it any closer. SaskTel has concerns with vehicle and equipment safety. SaskTel makes every effort to place its buried facilities on the west and south sides of roads, and expects SaskPower to be on the north and east sides of the road. If SaskTel is unable to acquire an easement and chooses not to expropriate the landowner, SaskTel will discuss the option of placing the cable in the west or south ditch, and try and address any concerns that the RM may have with future upgrades to the road. The present guideline is to cost share any relocation costs that may be incurred by SaskTel to relocate the buried cable because of road construction. If SaskTel 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>has to place a cable in the ditch, we would generally not contact the adjacent landowners, because we would not be placing any facilities on their property nor do we place many above ground obstructions in any event (i.e., other than pedestals, SaskTel's rural builds are virtually 100 per cent buried).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The utilities (SaskTel, SaskPower, and SaskEnergy) thru their respective <i>Acts</i> allow them to place facilities inside the road ROWs after consultation with either the urban or rural municipalities. This right of access would not be enjoyed by other telecommunications, power or gas distributors. This right of access is used as a last resort when adjacent landowners are not willing to provide easements to serve both themselves and their neighbors. 	
T	<p>S-69 The province, industry and educational institutions promote the opportunities, careers and training that are available in the transportation sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT recognizes the challenges of promoting the transportation sector regarding the opportunities, careers and training that are available within the industry. DHT is one of the largest employers of students in the province. This enables students to gain first hand knowledge of and experience in the large variety of career opportunities available in the transportation sector. • With respect to promoting opportunities, careers and training in the transportation sector, the Department of Learning also wants to ensure that Saskatchewan people have access to the information they need to make good decisions about their career choices, 	<p>Acknowledge response, but province has to enhance the awareness of these opportunities.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>including information about education opportunities. The SaskNetWork website (http://www.sasknetwork.gov.sk.ca) provides current and relevant information on today's world of work and the education and training requirements to achieve career goals. Information can be obtained on the transportation industry and the types of employment opportunities in that sector. Another informative website is Saskatchewan JobFutures (http://www.saskjobfutures.ca), which contains in-depth information on numerous occupations with respect to wage rates, education and training requirements, and employment potential. One section includes information on occupations in the transportation industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A publication produced by Saskatchewan Learning, <i>Overview of the Saskatchewan Economy and Labour Market</i>, provides a synopsis of economic, demographic and labour market trends in Saskatchewan and is intended as an information tool for labour market planners in the learning sector, government and crown corporations. It examines overall trends in the economy, demographics and the labour market to better understand their current and future effect on jobs and growth in a number of industries. • There is a section dealing specifically with transportation and warehousing. The last release of this publication reported a positive employment outlook with an above average annual growth rate of 2.1 per cent in this industry. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessments are conducted by regional colleges and SIAST to determine the labour or training requirements of industry. Learning programs in the training system are then tailored to respond to those needs. In recent business plans from the regional colleges, training for occupations in the transportation industry, such as trucking, has been identified as an area in demand. Work will continue with our partners in the learning sector, such as the universities, regional colleges, and SIAST, to increase the profile of the quality educational opportunities available in our province. 	
T	<p>S-70 The trucking industry continue with an increase in their presence at high schools and public forums in promoting the interest and respect of the trucking industry and the job opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See S69 	<p>Acknowledge response, but province has to enhance the awareness of these opportunities.</p>
T	<p>S-71 The province update the digital map on the location of airports, airstrips and their classifications in Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHT worked in partnership with the SAC to produce a new air facilities map that among other things show or identify the location of airports and airstrips in Saskatchewan. The map may be obtained by contacting the SAC Administrator at 306-931-6118. 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province notify the public of any changes.</p>
T	<p>S-72 The province continue the Short line Advisory Unit in the Department of Highways and Transportation and continue to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHT plans on continuing to support the Rail Services Unit and their activities. 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province notify the public of any changes.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>develop, in consultation with existing short lines and local stakeholders, regulations under the Saskatchewan Railway Act.</p>		
T	<p>S-73 The DHT, the Area Transportation Planning Committees (ATPCs) and the Saskatchewan Trucking Association (STA) work together to promote truck safety and to increase the public's awareness and perception of large trucks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) has developed several media spots relating to large trucks on the road. The ads highlight stopping distances and blind spots. 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province notify the public of any changes.</p>
RS	<p>S-75 That the Government of Saskatchewan provide funding to the Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) to provide basic public passenger and freight transportation services to rural Saskatchewan where use warrants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since inception in 1998, Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) has been receiving funding from CIC. STC provides service to 275 communities in the province and through interline partnerships with other bus companies, reaches almost 400 Saskatchewan communities, as well as all of North America. In 2003, STC received an operating grant of \$1.6 million from CIC and carried 258,841 passengers and 1,275,000 parcels for its customers. 	<p>Complete</p>
RS	<p>S-77 Highway signage is very important to rural communities and businesses. Directional signage for communities must be effective and up-to-date. Provision of signage within the highway right-of-way for specific</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHT recognizes that signage is an important element in rural economic development. Further work needs to be done to accentuate communities, including First Nation communities, and the services provided within these communities. The department has commissioned an engineering consultant firm to dialogue with stakeholders and to evaluate potential options for 	<p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>businesses and community services should be available on a cost-recovery or cost-shared basis.</p>	<p>improvements to existing sign polices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work also needs to be done to educate communities, including First Nation communities, about the existing signing opportunities already available to them to promote their communities and their services. The department plans to investigate ways of doing this as a subsequent project once the outcomes of the above consultant study are known. 	
RS	<p>S-78 That the Government of Saskatchewan provide funding to the Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) to provide basic public passenger and freight transportation services to rural Saskatchewan where use warrants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT has secured multi-year funding over the past several years through its negotiations with the federal government. In addition, the province has made multi-year funding commitments for transportation infrastructure investment. This allows the province to announce multi-year capital construction project plans. DHT also publishes a performance plan that identifies key actions to be accomplished each year and a set of measures that show progress towards long term goals and objectives. Annual performance plans and multi-year funding commitments provide the public, road building and other industries with timely information about transportation improvements to assist them in their planning and business operations. 	Complete
RS	<p>S-79 Given the continuation of declining enrollments and school closures, policies and programs for renovations of facilities must be given at least the same priority as construction of new facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past number of years, the Department of Learning (and formerly the Department of Education) spent the vast majority of its available K-12 capital budget in the area of replacement of building systems, modernization, and restoration activities with some additions to existing facilities. Some new schools have 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>been announced and built in recent years, and a good proportion of them were for replacement of schools that had outlived their economic and functional lives (i.e., it was more cost effective and functionally appropriate to build new than to renovate). The new schools built over the past several years and not in this category were for areas of the province where enrolment growth occurred. Given that there were 778 K-12 facilities in the province as of September 2002, the number of “new” buildings, as a proportion of that number, has been very small.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to place even further emphasis on maintaining existing facilities, the Department approved-in-principle a new Restoration Program in 2002. • The Restoration Program was created through consultation with stakeholders (Saskatchewan School Trustees Association and the Council Educational Facility Planners, International). The proposal met with virtually unanimous endorsement from all school divisions across the province. A capital reference committee is being established to further review and refine the program. 	
RS	<p>S-82 Endorsement of SaskPower’s Green Power Program and the pursuit of wind-power, co-generation and other electricity generational alternatives, many of which appear to be feasible in rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of September 2004, SaskPower has selected three project proposals for the first year of its Environmentally Preferred Power program. The program creates the opportunity for SaskPower to partner with independent power producers to build and operate small-scale generation projects, with up to five 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>megawatts capacity, in order to meet Saskatchewan's projected energy needs until 2010 with no new greenhouse gas emissions. Subsequent request for proposals will be issued in 2004 and 2005, for a total solicitation of 45 megawatts. The first in-service date for any project would be 2005. Eligible technologies would include solution flare gas, wind, run-of-the-river hydro, biomass, biogas, heat recovery from existing waste heat source, landfill gas and photovoltaic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan is in the process of developing a strategy to foster development of a “Green and Prosperous Economy”. <p><i>Updated Information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskPower is developing three demonstration projects to define options for financing and implementing energy efficiency projects in community facilities, targeting municipal, community and commercial facilities in rural and First Nation communities. The objective is to develop a service that packages technical, financial and project management resources enabling improved energy efficiency for community and business facilities. <p><i>Update:</i> 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 (SRC), assisted the town with an energy audit, recommended energy conservation measures and is continuing to</p>	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>provide logistical support for the installation of energy efficient lighting, motors and system controls in town facilities. SaskPower will study the results of the Watrous project to determine whether it is feasible to establish a broader CEMS program.</p> <p>Based on the existing energy usage levels, the energy audit findings allowed SRC and SaskPower to recommend a set of energy conservation measures with the intent that the town of Watrous could use the potential energy savings to offset the capital cost of installing energy efficient equipment. Implementation of the measures is expected early in 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskPower began its three-year program of annual solicitations for 15 Megawatts (MW) of “Environmentally Preferred Power” (EPP) for a total of 45 MW, following ACRE’s endorsement of the Green Power Program and the pursuit of wind-power, co-generation and other electricity generational alternatives, many of which appear to be feasible in rural Saskatchewan. The first power from this program is expected to come on stream in 2005. Projects with low greenhouse gas intensity, as well as projects with technologies that meet strict emission guidelines and environmental criteria will receive preferential consideration. <p><i>Update:</i> In the fall of 2003, SaskPower issued its first solicitation for up to 15 MW of EPP. Eligible technologies include flare gas, wind, run-of-the-river hydro, biomass, biogas, heat recovery from existing</p>	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>waste heat source, landfill gas and photovoltaic. In September 2004, SaskPower selected a heat recovery project and two wind power projects totaling over 13 MW of new capacity. In February 2005, SaskPower revised its solicitation plan and issued a second solicitation for 32 MW of Environmentally Preferred Power. This will be the final solicitation to fully subscribe the 45 MW of new generation planned for the program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskPower and Clear-Green Environmental Inc. are partnering in a two-year demonstration using animal manure in bio-digester technology to generate heat and electricity. • SaskPower completed its electrical generation projects at the Cory Cogeneration Station near Saskatoon, the Boundary Dam Power Station in Estevan, and the Nipawin Hydroelectric Station. System reliability for northern customers was improved with the completion of the Prince Albert to Timber Cove section of the PA8 power line rebuild project. SaskPower also began implementing its Green Power Portfolio, most notably with the announcement of a 150-MW expansion to electrical generation from wind in Saskatchewan. In total, SaskPower invested \$267 million in capital projects in 2003. 	
RS	S-83 Government needs to play a strong advisory, advocacy, co-ordination and regulatory role to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Saskatchewan has developed and is implementing a Safe Drinking Water Strategy. 	A number of important initiatives have been taken by government.

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>ensure the protection of vital water resources for present and future generations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was created to protect Saskatchewan’s watersheds, through allocation of water rights and studies of surface and ground water supplies, ensures water use does not exceed the sustainable supply. • The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is leading development of a Water Conservation Plan. The plan will be completed in 2006. • Agrivision released their “50 year plan for water” at a conference in November 2004. Government will carefully study the recommendations coming out of the conference and contained within the plan. 	<p>Complete</p>
RS	<p>S-84 Education on water quality management and monitoring is needed for rural residents and municipal technicians.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Safe Drinking Water Strategy, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was designated to lead an interdepartmental and interagency plan for public education on all aspects of watershed management and drinking water issues. • The Authority supports a number of educational programs, primarily directed to school-aged children. The most significant of these is Project Water Education for Teachers. • The Authority delivers a number of stewardship programs that work with land owners to protect watersheds. • A toll-free inquiry line (1-866-SASK-H2O) has been established. This service provides citizens with one 	<p>A number of initiatives underway.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>contact number for their water related questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskWater provides water and waste water training to local communities on a fee-for-service basis. Through a contract with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, SaskWater provides technical assistance and operator training to a number of First Nations and northern communities. 	
RS	<p>S-85 The role and support of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) in farm rural water development, which has diminished in recent years, should be restored to previous levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFRA is a federal agency. However, Saskatchewan's basic annual allocation under PFRA's Rural Water Development Program has been stable at \$2.2 million for the past five years. This program was enhanced over the 2001-02 and 2002-03 period through the Canada-Saskatchewan Livestock Farm Water Program with an additional \$2.5 million in federal contributions and \$1.5 million in provincial contributions. One half million dollars of the federal contribution was allocated to strategic research projects; the balance of the federal funding and all of the provincial funding was allocated to on-farm projects. • Saskatchewan participates in the National Water Supply Enhancement Program, a four year \$60 million initiative to improve communities and producer's capacity to deal with drought situations through expanded rural water supply 	<p>Issue has been raised. This is a federal issue and not within jurisdiction of provincial government.</p>
RS	<p>S-86 A local approach and cooperation between municipalities should be encouraged for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office of the Fire Commission (OFC) has encouraged and supported co-operation among municipalities for fire fighting services since 1994. 	<p>Why should incentives be required for something that will save money in itself?</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>firefighting services. Incentives should promote co-operation between municipalities.</p>	<p>This is a trend across North America as jurisdictions identify the benefits of area-wide services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The services offered by the OFC are ongoing, however there are no recommendations to provide financial incentives. The OFC continues to update and modify models and advisory systems to assist municipalities develop are-wide services to address technology. • The resource needs for municipalities vary widely to undertake a risk and needs assessment for area wide services. SUMA has a subcommittee on emergency services, which has shown some interest in this issue, and a presentation was made at the SUMA conference in February 2003. There has been no further follow-up requested from SUMA. The presentation was offered to SARM for their 2002 conference, but there was no response back on the offer. 	<p>Rejected (Working Group agrees with the government's rejection).</p> <p>Complete</p>
RS	<p>S-87 There is a need to create awareness of what citizens can do to supplement police services through programs such as: Rural Crime Watch, Crime Stoppers, and Citizens on Patrol.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Crime Watch: Community based and pro-active. Addressed through SARM. Programs within province are uneven, ranging from active to almost non-existent. Rural Crime Watch operates on a volunteer basis and is financed through fundraising activities. A Regina Neighbourhood Crime Watch Program with a similar structure and organization is also active. • Citizens On Patrol Program: Community based and pro-active. Addressed through SUMA. Created from the Rural Crime Watch concept to address municipal 	<p>Complete (Many urbans are now joining CrimeStoppers).</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>crime concerns. Citizens On Patrol is becoming stronger throughout the province as community members become more aware of how they can take responsibility for addressing crime within their community. Citizens work and communicate directly with local police. About 25 communities are active. Citizens On Patrol works on a volunteer basis and is financed through fundraising activities, supplemented in one instance by Saskatchewan Justice funding (\$5K annually for the Yorkton Citizens On Patrol Program).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime Stoppers: Crime Stoppers combines media, police and the public in a co-operative crime-solving effort. It combats two major obstacles to the reporting of crime, apathy and fear, by offering cash awards and anonymity. The program is delivered by autonomous associations that are managed by civilian boards of directors and supported by fundraising activities and donations from individuals, corporations, service groups and community organizations. Such funds are augmented by a \$10K annual Saskatchewan Justice grant to support the Crime Stoppers Saskatchewan program. A strong media/internet-based awareness campaign is used to provide information to the public about the program and specific criminal incidents (see, for example, http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com/, http://www.cstips.com/ or http://www.saskatooncrimestoppers.com/index.html). Awareness is also created through citizens and police service members becoming more informed by accessing available written and web-based material, 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>attending information sessions and word-of-mouth communication.</p>	
RS	<p>S-88 Training for firefighting must include rural conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fire Commissioner for the province indicates that while they can facilitate training for fire fighting they do not directly provide such training. Individual forces and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Firefighters Association provide much of this training. • At times SIAST and regional colleges also assist in facilitating such training. The Fire Commissioner is aware of the concern that rural conditions be included in training programs. However, if a rural municipality has an agreement with an urban center for firefighting services it is the responsibility of the rural municipality to ensure its needs are being met. • The OFC has encouraged and supported co-operation among municipalities for fire fighting services since 1994. OFC continues to update and modify models and advisory systems to assist municipalities develop area –wide services. 	Complete
RS	<p>S-89 ACRE strongly reiterates the January 2001 recommendation for extension of high-speed Internet and cellular telephone services throughout Saskatchewan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaskTel provides access to high-speed phone lines and cellular coverage in order to keep pace with new technology. • SaskTel has invested \$24 million to increase digital cell phone coverage to additional Saskatchewan communities. By 2003, digital cellular service will be available to more than 90 per cent of Saskatchewan's 	<p>SaskTel has made extensive investment in rural Saskatchewan.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>population, serving more than 270,000 square kilometres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2002, SaskTel announced the expansion of its High Speed Internet service to 191 more Saskatchewan communities over the next two years under the province's CommunityNet high speed internet initiative. • In June 2004, the second phase of CommunityNet was launched. An additional 71 communities are being added to the network. As well, most farmsteads and businesses within 30 kilometres of many existing CommunityNet centres will be able to access SaskTel's commercial high-speed network. • Upon completion of the second phase of CommunityNet, more than 86 per cent of the Saskatchewan population will have access to high speed Internet. • The federal government has made available \$7.5 million from BRAND, \$2 million from the Northern Development Accord and \$525,000 from the federal/provincial WEPA over the past two years to fund Broadband (high speed internet) in Saskatchewan. The majority of benefactors live in rural, northern and Aboriginal communities. They also provide \$5 million for the first phase of CommunityNet and an additional \$2.25 million to connect all the libraries to high speed internet. 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
R	<p>S-91 Generally, there is a lack of knowledge in Saskatchewan about the resource sector and its contribution to the rural economy. This committee recommends that the benefits of the resource sector, particularly in terms of employment, be built into the larger communications strategy to encourage rural Saskatchewan to welcome the economic opportunities and employment associated with resource development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messages and activities that describe the benefits of the resource sector are integrated into SIR communication plans and activities, such as ministerial speeches, stakeholder events, and promotional information. Some of the communications activities planned by SIR include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resources and rural development messages will be represented in communications around the province’s economic action plan. ○ Resource messages will be included in Business <i>Unlimited</i> (circulated to 10,000 people, many in rural Saskatchewan). ○ Messages will be incorporated into materials at department’s display booth at trade shows, such as the Weyburn Oil Show. ○ The resource message will be included in rural events, where and when appropriate. ○ Rural outreach through ministerial tours and interviews with rural media. ○ General and sector specific print advertising can incorporate resources/rural messaging, where appropriate. 	Complete
R	<p>S-92 There are opportunities to use the province’s hardwood resource (poplar) for purposes including, but not limited to oriented strand board. The committee recommends that the province create an awareness of the opportunities for utilizing the province’s hardwood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government recognizes the economic development potential of the province’s hardwood resource. The government continues to inventory and map our timber resources and uses this information to target specific hardwood using industries as potential investors in Saskatchewan. Additionally, the government is working with the province’s Forest Management 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	resource so that private investment and related employment can occur.	Agreement holders to encourage best use of all ready allocated resources.	
A	S-94 Intergenerational transfer of farms contains a number of additional considerations beyond those for new entrants. For example, retiring parents needs to have timely access to sufficient capital to retire and need to be confident that the risk of future financial difficulty of the farm will not jeopardize their retirement. Programming needs to be developed to address the specific issues of those exiting the industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-business development staff presently provide business advice to farm families who are contemplating a change to their business operation. • The APF, Renewal Chapter will advance the program to provide financial support to farmers to develop comprehensive business plans of which succession planning is a significant element. • The income tax system currently supports such transfers by allowing for the deferral of tax on capital gains on the transfer of farm property from a parent to a child. 	Acknowledge response, need to review on an on-going basis.
R	S-96 First Nations control a large land resource that is an integral part of rural Saskatchewan. The committee recommends that the Government of Saskatchewan, in conjunction with the federal government, work with First Nations to facilitate development of First Nation resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although decisions regarding the development of First Nations resources is left to individual First Nations, the government is willing to coordinate and develop linkages and partnerships between First Nations, industry, and government. • The government has a number of working relationships with individual First Nations and the FSIN. In March 2003, the government entered into a new bilateral agreement with the FSIN to examine issues of mutual concern to First Nations and the province. • A Common Table Protocol Agreement with Canada and the FSIN was established to discuss fiscal and 	A number of government initiatives in place. Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>jurisdictional matters related to self-government. This process is aimed at creating a new fiscal relationship in support of First Nation's self-government. The government is also participating in negotiations at the self-government table with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council and the Government of Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan helped sponsor an Aboriginal land conference in June that drew together Aboriginal peoples with a common interest in land and resource management from across the world. 	
R	<p>S-97 The committee recommends the province encourage training of rural residents, including First Nations, to participate in opportunities related to the forestry sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The involvement of rural residents and Aboriginal people in the development of the forest industry is a key component of the forest development strategy. • The government supports the development of a Forest Centre of Excellence. • Clarence Campeau Development Fund has a training component, although not specific to forestry. The Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology and the First Nations University also provide support to Aboriginal people in various fields and may be complementary to the forestry industry. 	Complete
RS	<p>S-98 SaskEnergy's approach to link rural offices by electronic communications technology and move work to offices with capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, technology will continue to be considered as an alternative to allow offices and staff in rural locations to remain. 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>is a model to be considered by provincial government departments, crown corporations and agencies to maintain a presence in rural Saskatchewan, avoid office closures and provide employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many government departments, Crown corporations and agencies maintain offices and provide employment opportunities in various parts of the province. 	
A	<p>S-99 Government should also consider the establishment of a feed processing facility that can research and demonstrate the processing, combining of constituents, and evaluating all manner of feed stocks for livestock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF is funding a feed research chair at the U of S and will work in conjunction with the Prairie Feed Resource Centre. ADF has a Crops/Livestock Interface Program which determines nutritional and functional components of feed and their use in animal production. • SAF provides two additional research chairs to be located at the WBDC to work on feed-related issues. • Total funding for the three research chairs is \$495,000. • SAF provides support to the Prairie Swine Centre and the WBDC which conduct research and analysis on feed for swine rations and beef feeding. 	<p>Acknowledge response, need to review on an on-going basis.</p>
RS	<p>S-100 Publicly funded agriculture development programs and services need to be maintained and enhanced to further the growth of Saskatchewan agriculture at primary production and value-added levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF's Development Division continue to provide a wide range of programs and services directed at primary production and value added services, these services include; agriculture business development branch, food safety (quality assurance), specialists services supporting both crops and livestock development and funding through research and development (R&D) to support the development of the 	<p>Complete</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>agriculture industry in the province. R&D provides funding in areas such as crops, soil and environment, value added processing, and livestock.</p>	
GO	<p>S-101 The federal and provincial governments implement strategies that improve the balance between public and private plant breeding efforts where the public supported breeding meets specific gaps or needs of Saskatchewan producers and result in public ownership of intellectual property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government, through the Strategic Research Program with the U of S, provides funding for plant breeding including: pulses (lentil, pea, chickpea, and bean), cereals (wheat, oat, barley) and flax. The University is granted ownership of intellectual property on the understanding that the University will use its best efforts to preserve and protect the intellectual and project property and pursue commercialization in Saskatchewan where possible. In addition, funding for plant breeding projects is provided under the SAF – ADF Program. The same ownership rights are granted to the University under these contracts. 	<p>Acknowledge response, need to review on an on-going basis.</p>
GO	<p>S-102 Research related to crop varieties should be focused on variety development that results in specific, profitable, market opportunities for producers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the SAF strategic plan one of the objectives is to have increased livestock production and diversification to higher value crops. Two of the priority areas for SAF under this strategy include flax and pulses. These crops have the potential to create increased diversity and profitability in the agricultural sector. The federal APF will provide funding in areas of Food Safety and Quality, Renewal, Environment, Science and Innovation and Business Risk management and corresponding provincial funding will address some of the areas noted above. In addition SAF provides R&D funding to support the development of new crops through the Strategic 	<p>Acknowledge response. The province needs to continue support.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>Research Program at the U of S and also provides funding through the ADF for R&D projects that are targeted at crops and value-added/processing that will result in increased profitability for the agri-industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF also supports seven research chairs at the Crop Development Centre at the U of S. • A new strategic advisory board for the Crop Development Centre has been established. 	
GO	<p>S-103 That SAFRR support research into alternate methods of control to strychnine for ground squirrel and pocket gopher control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department partners with the federal government and the Irrigation Industry through the Irrigated Crop Diversification Corporation (ICDC) in the development of pocket gopher control strategies. Six hundred people have participated in ICDC field events. Through this work, a private practitioner is now doing control on a per acre fee basis in addition to an Irrigation District ditch rider. • The Department of Animal and Poultry Science with \$70,000 of support out of the Agriculture Development Fund is developing mechanisms for more effective control of the gopher population in Saskatchewan. This three year study is looking to increasing the toxicity of common rodenticides. • SAF, Alberta Agriculture, food and Rural Development (AAFRD), and the University of Lethbridge are reviewing a proposal from an MSc 	<p>Acknowledge response. The province needs to continue support.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>student to assess the economic impacts caused by the Richardson's Ground Squirrel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Western committee with representatives from SAF, AAFRD, SARM, Alberta Ag County Fieldmen, Canadian Wild Life Service, University of Lethbridge, Pest Management Regulatory Authority (PMRA), Nu-Gro IP International and Maxim Chemicals have developed a Richardson's Ground Squirrel Pest Management Profile identifying areas for potential research. • Future ground squirrel programs will be developed around an Integrated Pest Management Strategy. The PMRA is assisting Alberta and Saskatchewan with development of this Integrated Pest Management Plan. 	
GO	<p>S-104 The provincial government provides adequate resources for research into new crops and value added opportunities for existing grains and oilseeds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAF places a high priority by funding research for new crops, oilseeds, cereals, and value added. The Agriculture Development Fund (\$7.4 million) through project funding and money provided to the Strategic Research Program (\$3.3 million) at the U of S are specific programs that support research for these crop areas. • See S – 102 for other examples. 	<p>Acknowledge response. The province needs to continue support.</p>
GO	<p>S-105 SAFRR should recognize marketing as an important component of new crop development and value added</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The market research is eligible for funding under ADF. • Under SAF's ADF projects that are approved for funding must be able to demonstrate marketability. 	<p>Acknowledge response. The province needs to continue support.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>initiatives and that marketing be incorporated into the mandate of the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).</p>	<p>One of the goals of ADF is to carry out research activities that will have the greatest return for the Saskatchewan agriculture industry. The development of a new Strategic Research Program at the U of S is intended to develop research capacity that will provide targeted research for the province. The new evaluation system for ADF project funding specifically addresses potential economic impact.</p>	
R	<p>S-106 The industry has developed a niche of expertise in the development of marginal reserves and the province must continue to support relevant oil and gas research and development, through facilities such as the Petroleum Technology Research Center.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Saskatchewan renewed and enhanced its funding commitment to The Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC) with the intent of ensuring its long-term viability. • The Government of Saskatchewan renewed the Saskatchewan Petroleum Research Incentive. • In addition, the government continues to ensure the continuation of research activities through independent funding requests by the PTRC, University of Regina and U of S related to this initiative. • Funding of \$1.65 million was provided to PTRC through the Western Economic Partnership Agreement for VAPEX enhanced oil recovery research and to build modeling and risk assessment capacity related to CO2 storage. 	Complete
R	<p>S-107 The provincial government should also support the Forest Centre of Excellence which deals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government supports the development of a Forest Centre of Excellence and has been working with various private and public organizations to bring this 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>with value-added research and the identification of market opportunities.</p>	<p>concept to reality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saskatchewan Forest Centre is currently working toward establishing itself to be of national importance in the areas of testing and certification processes. • The government has been providing operational funding and is prepared to entertain project proposals fitting with the WEPA criteria. 	
RS	<p>S-108 Incentives to promote exploration and development of natural gas in Saskatchewan should be considered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government has accepted all the recommendations of GSH Land Use Strategy Review Committee enabling gas development to proceed in the ES2 area of the GSH and is also adding more protected land to the area and commissioning a major environmental study of the entire area. A major environmental study of the entire area is currently underway. An important component of the study is to identify portions of the area where gas development may occur. Knowing which areas in the GSH are approved for natural gas development will benefit industry by enabling them to better plan their acquisition of natural gas rights, exploration and development activities. • Measures taken by TransGas to promote the upstream development of the natural gas industry fall into four categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct fiscal measures - TransGas has reduced natural gas transportation rates for the second year in a row effective November 1, 2004. 	Complete

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marketing and promotion - TransGas undertakes a number of market efforts in addition to our web presence and periodic press releases to promote the upstream industry in the province. TransGas coordinates an annual Saskatchewan Natural Gas Advantage Workshop in Calgary to promote the industry within Saskatchewan. ○ Responsive to customer - TransGas' well-established customer dialogue process helps guide TransGas policy formulation to respond to our customers needs. ○ Customer connection process - TransGas prides itself in quick turnaround between producer commitment and having receipt points ready to flow gas. ● Royalty/incentive examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Saskatchewan Petroleum Research Incentive. ○ A new lower royalty/tax structure was recently introduced by the province for gas wells drilled on and after October 1, 2002. A lower Corporation Capital Tax Surcharge rate was introduced at the same time for these newly drilled wells. Saskatchewan's royalty/tax rates for new gas wells are very competitive with Alberta and British Columbia. ● Regulatory changes: ● On July 31, 2003, SIR made regulatory changes to reduce the regulatory burden of the natural gas 	

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>industry. These changes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ expansion of the area of the province eligible for in-fill drilling, which increases the number of potential locations to drill a natural gas well; ○ expanded target areas for gas wells, reducing the number of applications for off-target wells industry needs to submit; and ○ reduced regulatory requirements on the logging and testing of industry costs. newly drilled natural gas wells in the province, reducing. 	
T	<p>T-2 The province update and print the Rural Road Classification System map to assist in corridor development. The traffic flow maps should be produced in an updated format of the line width graph format, both on a provincial and municipal basis to assist in the development of the traffic corridors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SARM published a new road map in the spring of 2005. ● DHT is exploring the production of traffic flow maps using the line graph format for road classes two to five for the municipal road system. Municipal roads are counted on a four to five year rotation for this year it would not be possible to prepare current annual flow maps for all municipalities. ● A line width format to designate traffic counts on a provincial highway map would be difficult to read given that the traffic volumes ranges are essentially 0 to 2300 vehicles per day. It would be more practical for the DHT to assess the feasibility of preparing line width maps for the areas for palling purposes in their identification of traffic corridor on an as needed basis. 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province periodically review as a necessary.</p>
T	<p>T-4 Municipalities need to be</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See F – 11, S – 54 and S – 61. 	<p>Acknowledge response.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
	<p>cautious when issuing primary weight permits to ensure that any bridges along the route are able to withstand the increased weight.</p>		<p>Suggest that the province periodically review as a necessary.</p>
T	<p>T-6 Strengthen the relationship and linkages between Area Transportation Planning Committees and economic development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIR officials are working with ATPC to address transportation issues. • The SARM “Clearing the Path” transportation subcommittee is also examining this. 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province periodically review as a necessary.</p>
T	<p>T-7 The province, appropriate transportation authorities and industry develop strategies, schedules and facilities that enhance passenger and freight multi-modal services in order to facilitate and promote tourism and trade.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province consults with stakeholders and service providers on an ongoing basis as well as monitoring federal transportation legislation, regulations and policy to ensure that these instruments create an enabling environment. 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province periodically review as a necessary.</p>
T	<p>T-8 The province continue to be involved in the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) development to reduce traffic (truck) monitoring costs and assist in the development of the worldwide industry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Compliance Branch is researching, developing and deploying effective and efficient Intelligent Transportation System solutions for monitoring commercial vehicle operations in Saskatchewan. • DHT has entered into an agreement with Transport Canada to cost share equally the deployment of three sites that monitor trucks through weigh in motion and camera technology. • The enhanced monitoring of the trucking industry 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province periodically review as a necessary.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		<p>results in better protection of the infrastructure from overweight vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHT also entered into a partnership with International Road Dynamics Inc., Transport Canada, The U of S and Constance Consulting to conceptually design remote controlled weigh stations that could be operated from another scale or a central location. 	
T	<p>T-9 The province develop a winter weights regime based on the number of frost days for the various regions of the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been addressed through recent amendments to subsection 2(1) of <i>The Vehicle Weight and Dimension Regulations, 1999</i>. 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province periodically review as a necessary.</p>
T	<p>T-10 That the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) change its criteria for assessing the value of property owned by short line railways, especially in instances where there has been large changes in traffic from the base assessment period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rates developed in the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Authority Assessment Manual are established and then applied for a four-year period. The current 1998 Base Year Manual examined the average net tonnages from the period of January 1, 1995 to December 31, 1997, and established a rate per net tonnage based on this data. Rates are typically not changed between base years to provide stability to the assessment system. • With the 2005 revaluation the rates have been reexamined and take into consideration the feedback received from the short line railways. Rate changes will be made to address any inequities that may have existed (net tonnage increased and rates decreased). 	<p>Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province periodically review as a necessary.</p>

Sub-Com	ACRE Recommendation	Government Response/Example(s)	Comments
		Through consultations, it appears that this issue has now been resolved.	
T	T-11 The province review its present policy of maintenance of highways in urban centres. In cases where the province does not have equal or total control on speed, signage, access, and intersectional occurrences, then the maintenance of these portions should become the responsibility of the urban municipalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsection 153(2) of <i>The Urban Municipality Act, 1984</i> and subsection 12(2) of <i>The Cities Act</i> allows the province to assign responsibility for maintenance of a highway to the urban municipality or city. • Agreements are negotiated on a case by case basis. 	Acknowledge response. Suggest that the province periodically review as a necessary.

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