



Saskatchewan
Government
Relations and
Aboriginal Affairs

MUNICIPALITIES TODAY

www.municipal.gov.sk.ca

June 2004

Welcome to the new Municipalities Today – the source for information affecting local governments in Saskatchewan. In our continuing efforts to provide timely information and services to municipalities, Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs has switched the newsletter to an electronic format. In addition to providing information to you quicker, Municipalities Today will no longer be limited in distribution through municipal offices. Administrators, elected officials and the general public can now subscribe on-line (see below for instructions on how to subscribe).

2005 Revaluation Consultations

Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs and Saskatchewan Learning are currently conducting consultations on the 2005 revaluation. Property assessment values used for municipal and school property tax purposes and in the distribution of education grants to school divisions are being updated by four years. The last revaluation was in 2001 and had a base date of June 30, 1998. Property values for the 2005 revaluation will be based on a June 30, 2002 base date. The following is a link to a package of information showing the projected assessment, property tax and education grant shifts due to the 2005 revaluation on a province wide basis. The information shown relies on the current percentages of value being applied (i.e. no changes to percentages of value). Government will review the effects of the 2005 revaluation and determine by fall 2004 whether adjustments are necessary to the percentages of value.

For more details: http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/revaluation_2005/2005PRR_index.shtml

Lloydminster Charter To Be Updated

The City of Lloydminster receives its operating authority from the Lloydminster Charter and its enabling statutes - *The Lloydminster Municipal Amalgamation Act, 1930 (Saskatchewan)* (LMAA-S) and *The Lloydminster Municipal Amalgamation Act, 1930 (Alberta)* (LMAA-A).

A new “City of Lloydminster Act” has been introduced in the spring 2004 session of the legislature. The new Act will provide updated authority for the municipal governance of the City of Lloydminster through *The Lloydminster Charter* (the Charter). This new Act will also update the process for amending and approving the Charter and will provide modernized wording throughout. The Charter will then be adopted by complementary Orders in Council signed by the Lieutenant Governors in Council for Saskatchewan and Alberta.

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A Guide to Voluntary Municipal Restructuring

Elected officials and residents throughout Saskatchewan have indicated that they need up-to-date information to assist them in determining if voluntary restructuring can help them meet their municipality's needs. The Guide provides a step-by-step, start-to-finish overview of the process of voluntary municipal restructuring.

The Guide is intended to be a reference for rural and urban municipal councils considering voluntary municipal restructuring as an option for their communities. However, anyone interested in voluntary municipal restructuring and other community matters is encouraged to read and use these materials.

The Guide is the culmination of the partnership and cooperation between New North, SARM, SUMA, RMAA, UMAAS and GRAA to help meet the changing needs of Saskatchewan municipalities.

The Guide is available at: <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/tocvolmunstr.shtml>

If you have any comments or questions concerning the Guide, please contact the Community Planning Branch at (306) 787-2162, by FAX at (306) 798-0194 or by mail to:

Community Planning Branch
Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs
4th Floor - 1855 Victoria Avenue
REGINA SK S4P 3V7

Northern Saskatchewan's First Regional Waste Management Authority

On April 28, 2004, the Lac La Ronge Regional Waste Management Authority officially signed an agreement to consolidate municipal solid waste management in the La Ronge area. The Authority is the first of its kind in northern Saskatchewan. Its representatives are the Town of La Ronge, the Northern Village of Air Ronge, the Lac La Ronge First Nation and the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, which represents the smaller communities in the area.

For more details see:

http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/revaluation_2005/2005PRR_index.shtml

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Progress on a Consolidated Municipal Act

Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs (GRAA) has been directed to consolidate the municipal Acts into one enabling statute for municipalities in rural Saskatchewan.

A single 'Municipal Act' provides an important opportunity for collaboration between the municipal sector and the government. The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association's (SUMA) significant work on new "Towns and Villages" legislation is serving as the foundation of the consolidated legislation.

By building on the SUMA initiative and by involving the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) in the preparation of new municipal legislation, government is continuing its commitment to collaboration and cooperation.

Consolidation provides an opportunity to extend concepts in *The Cities Act*, such as "areas of jurisdiction" and "natural person powers", to smaller urban and rural municipalities. At the same time, the new legislation can be designed to accommodate the unique needs and traditions of the different types of municipalities – rural versus urban – to the extent desired. *The Cities Act* will remain as a stand alone statute. The Northern Municipalities Act will not be included in the consolidation process at this time, pending further dialogue with northern leaders.

A number of key differences among the urban and rural Acts that will need to be acknowledged include:

- municipal incorporation and boundary and status alteration criteria;
- elections, terms of office, burgesses and electors, wards versus divisions;
- citizen initiative, petitioning and public notice provisions;
- concurrent business licensing and taxation;
- service areas/differential mill rates within municipalities; and
- property tax exemptions.

SUMA, SARM and the government are working as quickly as possible to complete a draft consolidated urban and rural Act. It is the intention of the partners to have this work completed by fall 2004.

Completed sections of the Draft Consolidation Proposal will be posted on SUMA and SARM's websites for elected and appointed municipal officials to review and provide feedback. More information regarding this will soon be sent directly to municipalities by SUMA and SARM.

Changes to Subdivision Approval Process

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The Community Planning Branch area of the Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs website (<http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/cpb/cpbdefault.shtml>) includes information about:

- policy plans and zoning, including sample bylaws;
- **subdivision, including dedicated lands and servicing agreements;**
- appeals; and
- municipal boundaries.

Recently, information about the **subdivision process** was updated with regard to registration of new, approved parcels at the Information Services Corporation (ISC). After a Certificate of Approval is issued by an approving authority for a new subdivision of land, the new parcel must be registered with ISC. To register a new parcel, information is submitted to ISC Plan Processing and Title Processing Systems. More details on this process are available on the Community Planning Branch webpage at: <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/cpb/cpbsubdivision.shtml#regis>. If you have questions about subdivision, contact a Community Planning Consultant in the Community Planning Branch in Saskatoon (306-933-6937) or Regina (306-787-2725). Questions regarding registration should be directed to ISC Customer Service (toll-free) at 1-866-275-4721 or by email to ask@isc.ca.

The Municipal Directory

The Municipal Directory moved on-line in June of 2003. Some clear advantages that the on-line service provides are:

- 24 hour access for the public as well as administrators;
- a current database of information; and
- a searchable resource that allows users to compile data in any number of ways and transfer the results to their own computers for any number of other applications.

The Municipal Directory webpage is also the access to the on-line financial reporting services.

The directory is located at: <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/mundirect.shtml>

News From Other Departments

Canada-Saskatchewan Water Supply Expansion Program Now Accepting Applications 5/21/2004

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Bob Speller, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Minister David Forbes and Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization Minister Mark Wartman today announced that applications are now being accepted for a new water infrastructure program targeting the water supply needs of agricultural areas in Saskatchewan.

http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/index_e.php?s1=n&s2=2004&page=n40521b

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Agriculture Development Fund Awards \$2.64 Million For Research *5/7/2004*

The Government of Saskatchewan will fund 22 new agriculture and food research projects through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/newsrel/releases/2004/05/07-247.html>

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

Reminder: Northern municipal financial statements, for the year ending December 31, 2003 are to be completed by the auditor on or before July 1, 2004.

SARM Annual District Meetings June 15-17 and 22-24.

Annual UMAAS Convention June 8-11.

Useful Links

West Nile Virus Information: http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/rr_wnv_info.html

Boughen Commission Report and Response: <http://www.cfe.gov.sk.ca/>

Great Sand Hills Land Use Strategy Review (draft report):
<http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/ecosystem/land%20use/Great%20Sand%20Hills/>

New or Updated Publications on the Municipal Relations Website:

- Local Improvements Manual & Forms
- <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/munlocalimprov.shtml>
- Tax Enforcement Manual & Forms
- <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/muntaxenforce.shtml>
- Municipal Nuisance Guide PDF 125 kb
- <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/pdfs/nuisanceguide2004.pdf>
- Understanding Municipal Government in Saskatchewan
- <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/tocundrmungov.shtml>
- Municipal Administrator's Guide (Urban & Rural) PDF 226 kb
- <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/pdfs/adminguide.pdf>
- 2005 Property Revaluation
- http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/revaluation_2005/2005PRR_index.shtml

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