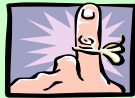




Inside

- € Message from the Minister
- € RM Election Day
- € Providing Public Notice for Planning Bylaw
- € Provincial-Territorial Ministers Urge Negotiations on Federal Funding
- € Principles Underlying Federal Government Initiatives

Have you updated **YOUR** information in the **Municipal Directory On-Line?**



Check it out!

Municipal Relations Division welcomes your feedback on [**Municipalities Today.**](#)

Contact us by **phone** at (306) 787-2739 or **email:** muninfo@gr.gov.sk.ca

Message from Len Taylor, Government Relations Minister

As 2004 comes to an end, I want to extend to municipal officials and staff my appreciation for your dedication and commitment. I look back over the last year with pride for how much we have accomplished by the collaborative efforts of the municipal sector and the province.

Municipal associations joined with the province to seek a better deal from the Federal Government on the manner in which resource revenue was treated under equalization and we were successful. As a result, the province will be providing a one-time payment of \$110 million in education property tax relief over the upcoming two years.

Input from municipalities helped me to advance Saskatchewan's interests with the Federal Government's New Deal for Cities and Communities. I enjoyed the opportunity to work with a committee of Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government which gained support from the federal government for principles that will support stable, ongoing funding relationships and respect provincial jurisdiction.

We have achieved much together on infrastructure renewal. As we approach the conclusion of the Canada Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program, we will have approved 390 municipal projects with a total value of more than \$250 million. In our Mid-year report the province announced its intention to budget an additional \$38 million for the upcoming years as the

province's commitment to the new Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, and we are participating in other strategic infrastructure projects.

After a great deal of consultation, we've established percentages of value to be applied to the 2005 revaluation of property tax assessments.

The input of representatives from SUMA and SARM was very helpful to the province in preparing and introducing *The Municipalities Act*, to consolidate the urban and rural municipal acts. This will provide jurisdictional advantages of *The Cities Act* while also considering the needs and capacity of rural and smaller urban municipalities.

Although *The Municipalities Act* did not achieve passage this past session, I am committed to reintroducing it this coming spring.

I would like to extend to you and your communities, my best wishes for this holiday season. I am looking forward to our Centennial in 2005, as our 100th anniversary will be a time to celebrate our proud past and our exciting future. One of the reasons Saskatchewan is so successful, is our spirit of cooperation and the fundamental belief that the promise of the future lies in working together to achieve more for all. There is a lot of history in Saskatchewan, but most of all, there is a lot of heart.

I encourage all of you to join together and celebrate.....celebrate 100 years of heart.

Seasons greetings,
Len Taylor

Events December

- 1 MLDP workshop, Leader
- 2 MLDP workshop, Wadena (Full)
- 14 MLDP workshop, Ponteix
- 15 MLDP workshop, Rosthern (Full)

Feature Publications

- € Education Property Tax Relief Options
 - € Rural Council Meeting Procedures Guide
 - € Rural Councillor Handbook
- Above are available at:
<http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/mrdpublications.shtml>

Facts:

Saskatchewan is Canada's sunniest province, averaging 2,000 to 2,500 hours of sunshine annually.

Saskatchewan is rich in natural tourism attractions, including:

- Canada's largest protected grasslands area
- The most northerly sand dune formation in the world

Source: WideOpen Future

RM Election Day

In our last two issues, it was noted RMs were gearing up toward elections for reeves, and councillors in odd numbered divisions. With elections over, Government Relations wants to congratulate returning and new RM officials. The work you do on behalf of your ratepayers is very important.

To assist RM officials with their duties, the department has developed the *Rural Councillor Handbook* and the *Rural Council Meeting Procedures Guide*. The *Rural Councillor Handbook* is a reference that will aid elected officials with the duties and responsibilities of public office. The *Rural Council Meeting Procedures Guide* will provide information on conducting council meetings. Both publications can be found on the Municipal Relations Division's website at <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/mrdpublications.shtml>

Did you know:

On or before the 10th of each month, the taxes collected in the preceding month on behalf of a school division or other taxing authority shall be forwarded to the treasurer of that school division or other taxing authority. (390, RMA).

Collections made for the month of November on behalf of the other taxing authority shall be remitted to that authority. (279.01(5), UMA).

For more information from the **Municipal Calendars or Journals** check out:

<http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/mrd/MUNcalendars.shtml>

PLANNING MATTERS:

Providing Public Notice for Planning Bylaw Amendments

Many municipalities are in the process of preparing and adopting a new Basic Planning Statement and Zoning Bylaw. Others are amending bylaws to update community plans.

Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* requires that public notice be provided when bylaws are adopted or amended.

Public notice for new or amended planning bylaws must be published in two consecutive issues of a local newspaper. For a new Basic Planning Statement or Zoning Bylaw, the first notice must appear **at least four weeks** in advance of the date of council's public hearing. For bylaw amendments, the first notice must appear **at least three weeks** in advance.

Advance notice is an important aspect of public participation in planning bylaw preparation and amendment, and ensures that any interested person has sufficient time to obtain copies of the bylaw, discuss the proposal and prepare a written or oral submission for council's consideration.

Information regarding notice requirements for planning bylaws, including a sample newspaper notice, is located on Community Planning webpages at <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/cp/b/zongivingnotice.shtml>.

Tip: Advertising costs may vary according to the format of the ad, for example if it is contained in one column or spread over two.



Provincial-Territorial Ministers Urge Immediate Negotiations on Federal Funding

A committee of Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government chaired by Minister Taylor, met on November 12, 2004 in Toronto and collectively reaffirmed the principles agreed to last September (see next article) in Quebec City. Ministers stressed their readiness to begin bi-lateral negotiations immediately with the federal government.

The ministers met with John Godfrey the federal Minister of State, Infrastructure and Communities. Minister Godfrey supported the provincial and territorial principles which focus on respect for provincial and territorial jurisdiction, bi-lateral negotiations with the provinces and territories, and the need for reliable and sustainable federal funding for municipal and local needs.

Provincial and territorial ministers emphasized to Minister Godfrey that federal funding for municipal and local needs must be flexible in recognition of specific conditions in each province and territory. Funding is expected to start in 2005, ramping up over five years, and be sustained permanently. Each province and territory is committed to continuing to work with its municipal sector to ensure their needs are met.

Principles Underlying Federal Government Initiatives Regarding Municipalities

Principles agreed to by Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government, September 2004:

Respect for provincial and territorial fields of jurisdiction

Federal government initiatives must respect provincial and territorial jurisdiction over municipal matters and their legislative authority in this realm. In this spirit:

- ∄ Programs stemming from federal initiatives in respect of the municipalities must be covered by federal and provincial-territorial agreements that should:
 - respect provincial and territorial priorities;
 - ensure that the projects and programs stemming from the federal government initiative are subject to the approval of the provinces and territories concerned.
- ∄ It is incumbent upon the provinces and territories to determine individually the appropriate type of consultation with their municipalities.
- ∄ Agreements and fiscal arrangements between the federal government and the provinces and territories in respect of federal initiatives and programs must be transparent as regards all of the provinces and territories.

- ∄ Federal initiatives must recognize the different needs of and specific conditions in each province and territory and be flexible and adaptable.
- ∄ Federal government initiatives and programs likely to concern the municipalities should be elaborated and planned following consultation and in agreement with the provinces and territories.

Funding

- ∄ Any federal funding likely to concern the municipalities must be stable, on-going and thus reflect a commitment to achieving long-term solutions.
- ∄ Provinces/territories and municipalities will not be expected to sustain federal initiatives over the long term without federal funding.
- ∄ Federal initiatives will not pressure provinces/territories to divert financial resources from current priorities or allocate their resources to areas that are not priorities of provinces/territories.
- ∄ Federal initiatives will not create expectation of new revenues from provinces/territories to municipalities.
- ∄ Federal initiatives and program relating to municipalities will be available to all provinces and territories.

Contact us for more information or if you've received this newsletter in error, **phone** (306) 787-2739 **or email:** muninfo@gr.gov.sk.ca.

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