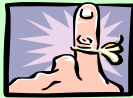




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Have you updated **YOUR** information in the **Municipal Directory On-Line?**



Check it out!

municipal.gov.sk.ca

Municipal Relations Division welcomes your feedback on **Municipalities Today.**

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

New Deal Update

The Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government and the federal Minister of State, Infrastructure and Communities met in the fall of 2004. The federal minister indicated support for the provincial and territorial principles, which focus on respect for provincial jurisdiction regarding municipalities and stable federal funding. The principles also emphasize that federal initiatives must recognize the different needs and specific conditions in each province and territory and be flexible and adaptable. (See the December 2004 issue of Municipalities Today for further details).

Discussions about the New Deal have begun through the Municipal Forum, of which the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) are participants.

The Municipal Forum's New Deal Working Committee developed a draft concept paper and preliminary principles outlining Saskatchewan's priorities within the federal New Deal framework. The committee is considering various concepts for distribution of federal gas tax funding.

Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, John Godfrey, announced the federal mandate to

negotiate the New Deal on February 1, 2005.

Minister Godfrey's announcement also included each province and territory's share of \$5 billion in federal gas tax funding over five years, starting in 2005. Saskatchewan's total allocation over five years will be \$147.7 million with yearly funding by year 5 of \$59.1 million. The amount to be received in 2005 will be announced in the 2005 federal budget.

Municipal FAQ

Q: What percentage of the hamlet taxes does the rural municipality keep when administering an organized hamlet and how is this impacted by tax tools?

A: An amount between 40% and 75% of the taxes collected may be allocated to the organized hamlet special account. This amount is to be determined by the council, in consultation with the hamlet board. Therefore, the rural municipality keeps 25% to 60% of the taxes collected.

Any amounts collected, whether based on a uniform mill rate or the use of tax tools, would be shared in accordance with the percentage agreed to by the council and organized hamlet board. (Section 15 RMA)

Events 2005

February 16th

Board of Revision Workshops
in Wadena - Wadena
Community Legion Hall, 254
Main Street

February 17th

Board of Revision Workshops
in North Battleford - Don Ross
Centre, 891-99th Street

February 23rd

Board of Revision Workshops
in Swift Current - Days Inn,
Highway #1 East

February 24th

Board of Revision Workshops
in Weyburn - Royal Canadian
Legion

March 7th – 10th

SARM Annual Convention,
Saskatoon
www.sarm.ca/Events/calendar.htm

Feature Publications

- Appealing Your Property Assessment
- Assessment Appeal Process
- Assessment Appeal Decision Writing Process
- Assessment Appeal Hearing Process

These documents can be found
on the MRD website at:
www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/gapmr/index_pmr.as.shtml

Status of Consolidated Municipal Act

As reported in the January issue, the *Municipalities Act* (MA) was introduced in the fall 2004 legislative session, but was not passed. Government Relations (GR) is taking the necessary actions to re-introduce the Act during the spring 2005 session of the Legislature, to come into effect on January 1, 2006.

In the interim, consultation on the Act continues. The proposed Act will continue to be posted on the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) websites. SUMA and SARM plan to discuss the proposed new legislation at their upcoming annual conventions. GR will ensure that any changes or refinements of a substantive nature are reviewed with the Working Committee and that the needed changes are incorporated into the draft Bill to be introduced during the spring session.

It will take time for all municipalities to gain a full understanding of the Bill and its ramifications. In support of this goal, GR has initiated, with the municipal associations, a joint committee to develop and deliver training to municipalities in preparation for an effective transition to the new Act. The committee has met several times and plans are being put into place for workshops, information guides, and other supporting Internet - accessible information and resources.

Minister Taylor also plans to consult directly with the municipalities on the new legislation. Four meetings around the province have been planned as follows:

- Feb 9th** – Weyburn
Royal Canadian Legion Auditorium
150 – 3rd Street, Weyburn
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Feb 10th** – Aberdeen
Aberdeen Community Hall
Center Avenue, Aberdeen
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Feb 10th** – Wilkie
Community Centre/Dance Hall
301 – 5th Street West, Wilkie
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Feb 12th** – Humboldt
Humboldt Uniplex Meeting Rooms
Highway #5 West, Humboldt
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Although the Minister's schedule did not permit more meetings, department staff can be made available to make presentations in other regions or to regional associations, and will take input and advice on the legislation for consideration.

For example, presentations by the department are scheduled in Swift Current on February 23rd and in Naicam on February 24th.

Municipal FAQ

Q: Who is responsible for complying with the building and accessibility standards?

A: Building owners are responsible for complying with the standards. Owners who are unfamiliar with the standards should hire designers and builders who can enter contracts with the owner to provide design and construction services to satisfy the building owner's responsibility.

Did you know...

The brochure, "Appealing Your Property Assessment", has been updated, replacing the 2001 brochure describing the assessment appeal process. The brochure was mailed out to Saskatchewan municipal offices in December 2004.

You may contact your municipal office for a copy, or you may wish to access the brochure on the Government Relations' website at: www.municipal.gov.sk.ca

If municipalities require additional copies, a limited number may be obtained from the Communications Branch of Government Relations. Please contact 787- 8282.

Note new information (not available at the time of printing the brochure):

Chapters 1-4 and 7-8 of the Saskatchewan Assessment Manual may be accessed on the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) website, at no cost.

Facts

In 1995 we had Canada's largest interactive distance training network, provided by Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN). The SCN Training Network integrates our province's fiber-optic system with satellite transmission.

Source: www.sask2005.ca

Provincial Education Property Tax Credit Program

The Saskatchewan Government announced a two-year, \$110 million education property tax credit program for the 2005 and 2006 taxation year, on January 6, 2005.

The credit will apply to all property classes at a rate of 8% of the current school property tax levy. A \$2,500 cap (maximum reduction) will apply on the credit for commercial/industrial and multi-unit residential (excluding residential condominium) properties.

The Departments of Government Relations and Saskatchewan Learning established a technical committee with the local government and administrator associations to work out administration and implementation of the credit program.

Software vendors have been contacted and will make the necessary changes to the tax roll program.

Administrative Steps

1. The school division sets its uniform mill rate and notifies municipality;
2. The municipality applies the school division's uniform mill rate to the tax roll (same process as any other year) or adjusted school mill rate if mill rate factors are applied to the school portion of property taxes;
3. The municipality applies the 8% credit to the current school property tax levy on all properties, but commercial / industrial and multi-unit

residential properties (except residential condominiums) are limited to receiving a credit not exceeding \$2,500;

4. The municipality prints a provincial education property tax credit summary report for each school division. The report is sent to each school division with a copy kept on file by the municipality. This report should be submitted to the school division immediately following the levying of property taxes for the year and may be done prior to printing tax notices;
5. The municipality prints tax notices that show the usual information plus the provincial education property tax credit amount;
6. The school division compiles the provincial education property tax credit summary reports from the municipalities within its boundaries, totals the credit and submits a claim to Saskatchewan Learning; and
7. Saskatchewan Learning remits payment for the credit amount to the school division.

Please read the more detailed information contained in a progress report that is being sent separately to municipalities by Government Relations.



Did you know...

From the MRD website you can access information such as:

From the Journal for Rural Municipalities:

February 15 Last day to remit employee and employer payroll contributions and superannuation for the previous month (**18(1), Municipal Employees' Pension Act**).

From the Journal for Urban & Northern Municipalities:

February 10 Collections made for the month of January on behalf of the other taxing authority shall be remitted to that authority (291, The Education Act). (279. 01(5), UMA).

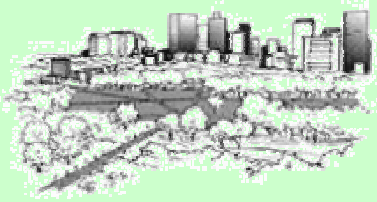
For more information from the **2004 Municipal Calendars or Journals** check out:

www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/calendar_events.shtml

The MRD website provides Rural, Urban and Northern sample bylaws for municipalities.

Check out:

www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/mrdsamplebylaws.shtml



Municipal FAQ

Q: How much may a municipality charge for a public utility service? What are the regulations regarding utility deposits?

A: Under Section 193 of The Urban Municipality Act, 1984, and Section 145(2) of The Northern Municipalities Act, a council may, by bylaw, establish a public utility service and set any rates, charges, tolls, fares or rents for the service including the lease or sale of equipment, fittings, equipment, meters or other things needed to deliver the service to consumers. Each municipality sets its own rates or fees based on its costs of providing the service. In most cases, the municipality owns and maintains water meters and may charge a deposit to cover meter replacement or repair costs, or meter lease or rent fees. After passing the bylaw, the municipal council must obtain the approval of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board before the municipality may charge the fees. Northern municipalities must also obtain ministerial approval of the bylaw. The Saskatchewan Municipal Board has different requirements for different types of bylaws. For details, go to the Board's website at www.smb.gov.sk.ca.

For more answers to frequently asked questions, check out:

www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/mrdfeedback.shtml



ISC Parcel Ties (tie codes)

The Planning and Development Act, 1983 deems a parcel of land separated into parts by an approved plan such as a roadway or railway plan or a natural boundary such as a river to be one parcel. Titles to these portions were linked by "parcel ties" created by the Information Services Corporation (ISC) when the ISC converted paper titles from the old Land Titles system.

Parcel ties indicate that linked portions have the same ownership and that one portion cannot be transferred without the other. The removal of a tie code has the effect of subdividing the original titled property that existed before the ISC conversion.

Parcel ties can link:

- legal subdivisions
- parcels or quarter-sections split by a natural boundary or a survey plan
- parts of parcels or lots that were consolidated under one title with other land in order to provide road access or to comply with zoning regulations.

If a separate property title is needed in these situations, an application must be submitted to the Community Planning Branch for review and approval. The Community Planning Branch web pages have details at:

www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/cpb/cpb_parcelties.shtml

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.

You can also subscribe or unsubscribe to **Municipalities Today** [here](#).

