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YOUR



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municipal.gov.sk.ca



2005-2006 Saskatchewan Provincial Budget

The 2005-06 Budget is about building for Saskatchewan's next 100 years.

BUDGET 2005-06 HIGHLIGHTS

- Health spending of \$2.9 billion (up 7.1 per cent or \$192 million)
- Education spending of \$1.2 billion (up 6.8 per cent or \$74.4 million); when including teachers' pensions and benefits, the total climbs to \$1.33 billion
- \$55 million in education property tax relief; \$110 million over two years
- \$326.9 million in total capital spending for schools, universities, hospitals, highway twinning and other capital projects
- \$3.15 billion in transfers to third parties such as schools, municipalities and hospitals (up 7.3 per cent or \$215.3 million)

FUNDING TO MUNICIPAL SECTOR

- \$ 85 million in Revenue Sharing
- \$ 22.66 million for the Canada Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program (federal/provincial)

- \$ 2.65 million for the Transit for the Disabled Program
- \$ 11.5 million for Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes (includes municipal, school and library)
- \$ 9.215 million for the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (federal/provincial)
- \$ 5.9 million for the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund
- \$.5 million for the Urban Development Agreements for Saskatoon and Regina
- \$ 4 million to the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (statutory)

The 2005-2006 Provincial Budget Performance Plan for Government Relations can be found in the What's New Section of the department web site at : www.gr.gov.sk.ca



Facts

Saskatchewan's landscapes reflect the long-term interaction of its geology and climate, and recently of its people. The shape of the landscape has to do largely with geology, particularly the glacial history. The ecological land classification system describes the landscapes of Saskatchewan using physical and biological characteristics as well as human activities to determine ecologically distinctive areas. The broadest level of classification is the ecozone; within Saskatchewan, four ecozones have been identified.

The Boreal Shield is one of those ecoregions.

This is a land of water and forest. Typical of the Precambrian Shield, the landscape is characterized by a mix of rock outcrops, wetlands and lakes created by the repeated scraping and gouging of numerous glaciations. Lakes, accounting for as much as 40 per cent of the area, are typically long and narrow, linked by stretches of fast flowing rivers. Broadly rolling uplands and lowlands support low growing stands of black spruce and jack pine forests intermittent with low lying boggy areas.

Source: www.sask2005.ca

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

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

Road Closure Procedures

The website now has road closure procedures for municipalities to follow when leasing or selling road or street rights-of-way that are no longer needed. Different procedures are involved depending on the type of road being closed and how the land will be used.

When the proposed *Municipalities Act* comes into force in 2006, new common procedures will be in place for road and street closures.

When only part of a road or street is being closed, or when the closed portion is to be combined with other land, an *Application to Subdivide Land* must also be completed and submitted for approval to the Community Planning Branch.

For further details see:
www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/umu_powstreets.shtml and
www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/rmu_roads.shtml.

Local Government Election Act Update

The Department of Government Relations is proposing to amend *The Local Government Election Act* to address the procedural challenges that have developed with local elections in the context of larger school divisions, and to incorporate the election provisions that are currently in *The Rural Municipality Act, 1989*.

The amendments will be introduced during the spring 2005 session of the Legislature.

C-SMRIF Application Deadline

The Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund agreement was signed on January 14, 2005. This is a four year program beginning in the 2005-06 fiscal year that provides capital funding for municipal infrastructure. Information packages were distributed in February. Applications for the first round are being accepted between March 1 and April 15, 2005. Program information is available on our website at www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/prosimsi.shtml

Applications can be submitted on-line or mailed to

Canada Saskatchewan
Infrastructure Secretariat
410 – 1855 Victoria Avenue
REGINA SK S4P 3V7

If you are not able to meet this initial application deadline, there will be a second and final application period scheduled in 2006.



Changes to the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) Board of Directors

Amendments to *The Assessment Management Agency Act* (AMAA) in the fall of 2004, resulted in changes to the number and composition of the SAMA Board of Directors.

The amendments to the AMAA changed the governance structure to include another member for boards of education, and two more members selected by the provincial government. The Saskatchewan Assessment Appraisers' Association no longer has a member on the SAMA board. The board will now be made up of two members for each of the local government sectors, plus five provincial nominees, none of whom are employed by the provincial government. This brings the total number of SAMA board members to eleven.

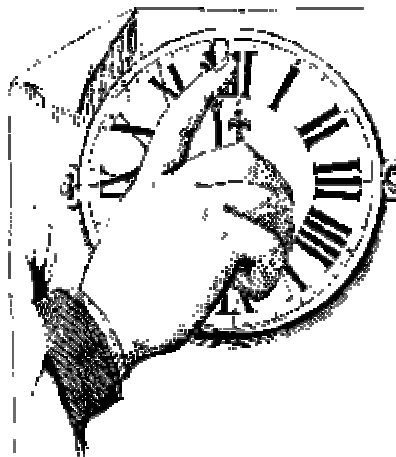
The amendments also changed the process by which local government representatives on the SAMA board are selected by having them nominated by the local government associations rather than being elected at the SAMA annual meeting.

The names of the six members representing urban municipalities, rural municipalities and the boards of education were advanced by the Saskatchewan Urban

Municipalities Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, respectively.

The SAMA Board of Directors, including newly appointed and reappointed members, is now comprised of:

- Craig Melvin, Regina, Chairperson
- Darryl Senecal, Rosetown
- John Wagner, Maple Creek
- Sharon Armstrong, Wynyard
- Fred Clipsham, Regina
- Dan Danielson, Saskatoon
- Richard Douglas, Eatonia
- Ron Thomas, Regina
- Rick Brunson, Saskatoon
- Art Scherr, Yorkton
- Robert Schultz, Lashburn



Government Decision Regarding Daylight Saving Time

The provincial government has examined the Daylight Saving Time issue in detail, and announced on March 21, 2005, that it has decided to retain the current time system established under *The Time Act* for all of Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's current time system was put in place in the 1960s after a great deal of study and consultation. *The Time Act* was introduced in 1966 and allowed the people of Saskatchewan to observe a more uniform time throughout the province.

With *The Time Act*, Saskatchewan shares the same time as Alberta during the summer months and the same time as Manitoba during the winter months.

People living in jurisdictions that observe DST turn their clocks ahead one hour in the first week of April and turn their clocks back one hour in the last week of October.

An article providing a scientific and historical perspective on the time system in Saskatchewan can be found on the Municipal Relations' Division homepage at www.municipal.gov.sk.ca.



Tax Enforcement and Farm Debt Mediation Board

A Rural Municipality (RM) pursuant to *The Farm Debt Mediation Act* Section 21, is to serve the "Notice of Intent to Realize on Security" at the same time as they register an interest on farm land. If a partial payment has been made after the Notice of Intent is served and the RM wishes to delay the process, a Notice of Intent must be served again if the tax enforcement process continues at a later date. This does not affect the tax enforcement process timeline unless the land owner (farmer) files for a Stay of Proceedings with Farm Debt Mediation Services.

In addition, please note that the latest version of the Notice of Intent form MUST be used or it will be deemed invalid. This form must also be served to the land owner by registered mail, priority post or courier (a method that can be tracked and must be signed for). If this notice is not picked up, it is deemed served after 7 days. This form may be mailed or faxed to the Farm Debt Mediation Board.

The Internet link to *The Farm Debt Mediation Act* is:

laws.justice.gc.ca/en/F-2.27/index.html

If you have any questions regarding the Notice of Intent form or the Farm Debt Mediation Board process as it

relates to tax enforcement please contact Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at 306-780-5594.

Facts

The Trans Canada Trail winds across Canada and Saskatchewan, linking several communities and parks enroute. Five provincial parks in Saskatchewan form part of the Trans Canada Trail to date: 37 km have been designated in Cypress Hills (15 km in west block, 22 km in centre block), 17 km in Duck Mountain, 12 km in Douglas, 13 km in Danielson and 2 km in Crooked Lake.

Source: www.sask2005.ca

Proposed Regulations on Public Reporting on Municipal Waterworks

Saskatchewan Government Relations is currently undertaking a second round of consultations with the municipal associations, cities and other groups on revised proposed regulations that will require municipalities to establish and publicly report on waterworks pricing and capital investment bylaws. These regulations are being established as part of the government's Safe Drinking Water Strategy to encourage municipalities to work towards financially sustainable waterworks that can provide safe drinking water. If you have any questions, contact Saskatchewan Government Relations at 787-2780 or swheale@gr.gov.sk.ca

Planning a Centennial Event? Here's an Idea!

Centennial placemats featuring visuals of a Saskatchewan sunset and various regions in the province, are available from Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan (ISC) for use at your community's Centennial event celebrations. Placemats will be distributed on a "first come, first served" basis while supplies last. If interested please contact Virginia Wilkinson at (306) 787-4547 to place your order. The placemats will be provided free of charge but orders need to be placed before April 15, 2005.

Facts

The goal of the Better Farming Train was to travel the province bringing information about proper farming methods to different communities.

One coach was equipped for the care of young children while their parents visited the train. Three coaches were converted to lecture cars, one of which was devoted to lectures and demonstrations in household science. The other flat cars and coaches carried exhibits of livestock, field crops, farm machinery, poultry and dairying.

The Better Farming Train was a three way co-operative enterprise. The Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern Railways donated the railroad services; the College of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture equipped the train and provided the technical staff.

Source: www.sask2005.ca

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](#)

