



Contents

- RMAA hosts successful convention
- Parking enforcement
- Spring session legislative update
- Events
- Municipalities Act Preparedness committee
- Municipal/Provincial review of liability provisions
- Northern Canoe Quest

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:**

(306) 787-4340 or

email: muninfo@gr.gov.sk.ca

RMAA hosts successful convention

The Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan hosted its 85th annual convention in Saskatoon May 16 – 19. Government Relations' staff attended with 330 other delegates.

One of many highlights was the presentation of the Lou Jacobs Award to Jim Angus in recognition of his outstanding municipal government and community service.

Lou Jacobs was a department employee from the 1920s to 1960. Jim Angus is the administrator for the RM of Harris No. 316 and former executive director of the RMAA. Congratulations Jim!

Parking enforcement

Representatives from Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Government Relations and Justice are developing legislative amendments to enforce bylaws and payment of fines for parking offences.

The amendments, to be introduced in the fall 2005 session, will provide new tools and options to address parking violations and unpaid tickets through one or more of the following:

- summons by regular mail;
- default convictions for people who fail to appear in court;
- liens placed on vehicles;
- immobilization and impoundment of vehicles; and
- incarceration in extreme cases, after the offender has appeared before a judge to determine whether they have a reasonable excuse for not paying their fine.

These changes should reduce costs and improve the processing and collection of unpaid tickets and fines.

Spring session legislative update

Before a Bill becomes law it must pass through a number of stages to ensure thorough deliberation and to provide ample time to inform the public. These stages are known as the introduction and first reading; second reading; committee of the whole; third reading; and Royal Assent.

Len Taylor, Minister of Government Relations, introduced four Bills in the spring session of the Legislature.

- Bill 104 - *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2005*
- Bill 105 - *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2005*
- Bill 106 - *The Municipalities Act*
- Bill 107 - *The Consequential Amendment Act, 2005 / Loi de 2005 sur les modifications corrélatives découlant de la loi intitulée The Municipalities Act*

All four Bills received third reading on May 17.

Bill 115, *The Education Property Tax Credit Act*, received third reading on May 12. The Bill was introduced by Andrew Thomson, Minister of Learning.

For further information on the progress of Bills, click on the following link: <http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/publications/default.htm>.

Events 2005

June 7 – 10

[UMAAS](#) Annual Convention

June 14 – 16 & 21 – 23

[SARM](#) District Meetings:

- **District 1 – June 23**
- **District 2 – June 22**
- **District 3 – June 21**
- **District 4 – June 16**
- **District 5 – June 15**
- **District 6 – June 14**

June 22

[SUMA Central Region Meeting](#)

MAP Committee

In addition to several presentations already delivered, Municipalities Act Preparedness (MAP) committee members and Government Relations advisors will present at the following upcoming events:

[UMAAS](#) Annual Convention

June 7-10, Saskatoon

[SARM](#) District Meetings

June 14-23, (6 meetings)

[SUMA Spring Regional Meeting](#)

June 22, White City

[PARCS](#) Annual Convention

October 29-30, Saskatoon

In an effort to keep you informed on the implementation of [The Municipalities Act](#) watch for future information updates in *Municipalities Today* and from the MAP Committee.

Municipal/Provincial review of liability provisions

Municipalities, particularly the cities, have raised issues with the scope and nature of the liability protection afforded under Saskatchewan's municipal statutes.

In late 2004 representatives from Government Relations, Justice, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the four major cities began work on a review of these provisions.

Key questions under review include:

- What are the key principles that should guide the review and changes to legislation?
- What is the appropriate balance between protecting the interests of the municipal corporation (and taxpayers at large) and those of individual citizens, property owners and the general public?
- Is it appropriate to have identical statutory liability "protections" for all sizes and types of municipalities? Should capacity and/or location (e.g., rural vs. urban) have any effect?
- What trends or recent judicial rulings could or should be addressed by changes to the liability provisions?
- How do Saskatchewan's provisions compare with those of other jurisdictions?

Once the review is complete a report detailing options will be presented to the Municipal Forum and the cities' managers/mayors. Consultations will also be held with the municipal sector and other stakeholder groups.

For additional information on the review, contact Keith Comstock at 787-9641 or by Email at kcomstock@gr.gov.sk.ca.

Northern Canoe Quest

Northern and First Nations' communities will be hosting an exciting, historical event to celebrate the province's 100th birthday.

The Saskatchewan Centennial Canoe Quest honours the centuries-old method of transportation used by fur traders, Cree and Dene peoples. During the 16 day race voyageurs will follow a challenging 1,018 km route of open water, rapids and portages along the Churchill River system.

Opening ceremonies will be held in Prince Albert on June 18 to kick off that city's Founder's Day celebrations. The Quest itself starts at Clearwater River Dene Nation on June 20 and will conclude July 5 at the province's oldest permanent settlement, Cumberland House.

There are 13 overnight communities and 1 community that is hosting festivities along the route. Banquets, festivals, cultural demonstrations and music will be featured in the communities of:

- Prince Albert;
- Clearwater River Dene Nation;
- Dillon;
- Michel Village;
- Buffalo Narrows;
- Ile a la Crosse;
- Patuanak;
- Pinehouse;
- Grandmother's Bay;
- Stanley Mission;
- Pelican Narrows;
- Denare Beach;
- Sturgeon Landing; and
- Cumberland House.

The participation among numerous communities, businesses and provincial agencies offers the opportunity to showcase the natural terrain and beauty of northern Saskatchewan. It also promotes the history of Northern Saskatchewan and communities along the Voyageurs' route of days gone by.