

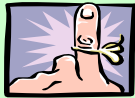


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## Municipalities Act passes

*The Municipalities Act (MA)* received Royal Assent on May 27. The new legislation comes into effect Jan. 1, 2006, providing a standard set of statutory principles and procedures for rural and smaller urban municipalities by replacing *The Urban Municipality Act, 1984* and *The Rural Municipality Act, 1989*.

“The impetus for this legislation came primarily from the municipalities themselves,” said Government Relations Minister, Len Taylor. “The drafting of *The Municipalities Act* has involved the full and direct participation of the municipal sector. I commend the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and both municipal administrators’ associations for creating change that will benefit municipal councils across the province.”

The *MA* affords the opportunity to create more effective local government by providing the statutory framework and tools needed to function in the 21st century. It balances increased flexibility and autonomy with measures to ensure municipalities are more accountable to their citizens.

The cooperative, collaborative process between Government Relations and the municipal sector that was instrumental in developing the *MA* continues through the Municipalities Act Preparedness Committee (MAP). The committee is organizing resources to prepare municipalities for the transition to the *MA* on Jan. 1.

A series of one-day workshops will be scheduled this fall at different locations across the province and members of the MAP committee will be presenting at the [PARCS](#) Annual Convention, Oct. 29 - 30, in Saskatoon.

Additional information can be found on the [Government Relations website](#).

## Annual Mill Rate Survey

The Mill Rate Survey form has been added to the online financial reporting system at the Government Relations website.

The form, information and reporting instructions are available online at [http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/gapmr/index\\_gafm.shtml](http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/gapmr/index_gafm.shtml)

Mill Rate Survey information is to be sent to the Minister of Government Relations on or before August 31, 2005.

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## UMAAS convention a success

The Urban Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS) hosted its 50th annual convention in Saskatoon June 7-10. Over 200 people attended the convention, including a number of Government Relations' staff.

The convention theme – Relax, Reflect, Rejuvenate – brought new meaning to the Three R's. The program incorporated a well-designed balance of informative and entertaining sessions.

Government Relations congratulates those administrators who were recognized at the convention for your length of service, recent retirement, or receipt of certificates from the Urban Board of Examiners. Your commitment to municipal government and your role in developing our province play an important part in making Saskatchewan communities great places to live, work and play.

## Public transit funding

Recently the Federal Government announced the start of negotiations with the provinces for the distribution of funding over the next two years for public transit.

For the complete release go to: [Support for public transit](#)

## Review of legislation proceeding

Government Relations is continuing a two-phase review of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*. Phase one amendments approved by the legislative assembly include:

- streamlining public notice requirements and planning processes, providing clarity and flexibility, and improving enforcement for all municipalities with land use planning bylaws;
- providing municipalities that have approving authority with greater flexibility, autonomy and accountability for planning and zoning; and
- permitting regulations to adopt statements of provincial interest to guide municipal planning.

Most amendments will become law in July 2005, except for the provisions regarding provincial interests. These provisions will take effect when the government has developed statements of provincial interest during phase two of the review.

Phase two will take place during 2005 and 2006, and will involve extensive consultations with stakeholders to:

- establish planning processes that support provincial initiatives such as the Safe Drinking Water Strategy and economic development, and

create a competitive business environment;

- provide greater opportunities for inter-municipal planning; and
- address municipalities' requests for amendments.

For further information on phase one amendments and the phase two review, visit the [Government Relations website](#).

## Revenue sharing working group established

A working group to review the revenue sharing program was recently established by the Municipal Forum, which includes representatives of Government Relations, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association.

The working group has held initial meetings to establish terms of reference and group processes.

The government is committed to continuing to work with the municipal sector regarding municipal financial assistance, including the revenue sharing program, and to address the needs of Saskatchewan communities.