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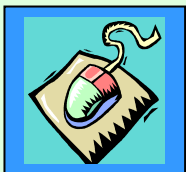
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## Events

[Register](#) now for one of the following **Municipalities Act Workshops**:

Sept. 19	North Battleford
Sept. 20	Saskatoon
Sept. 21	Kelvington
Sept. 22	Kipling
Oct. 5	Moose Jaw
Oct. 6	Swift Current

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MUNICIPALITIES TODAY

## New Deal agreement signed



Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities) John Godfrey and Government Relations Minister Len Taylor sign the agreement while Prime Minister Paul Martin looks on.

The New Deal for Cities and Communities agreement to distribute federal gas-tax revenue was signed between the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan on Aug. 23, 2005.

Saskatchewan municipalities will receive \$147.7 million in federal gas tax revenues for the first five years of a ten year agreement, beginning with \$17.7 million in each of the first two years.

Saskatchewan Government Relations will administer the distribution of the funds to municipalities.

"I am confident that the New Deal will have a significant, positive impact on all of our municipalities," said Len Taylor, Minister, Government Relations.

Eligible infrastructure projects must contribute to clean air, clean water or greenhouse gas reduction in the areas of water, wastewater, solid waste management, public transit, community energy systems and roads and bridges. In addition, municipal capacity building projects are eligible.

**Government Relations is mailing further details of the New Deal agreement to municipalities.**

The complete [news release](#) and a [fact sheet](#) are available on the [Government Relations website](#).

## Rural elections

It's time to prepare for the **Nov. 2, 2005** election of rural councillors in even-numbered divisions. There are important procedures to follow to get ready for Election Day.

Prior to Oct. 1, council must:

- appoint a returning officer and other election officials;
- prepare voters' list (if using);
- name polling places and appoint a deputy returning officer for each division; and
- establish advance poll if asked to by at least five voters.

Legislation pertaining to rural elections is contained in [The Rural Municipality Act, 1989](#).

Government Relations also has resources to help identify key election activities:

[Election Guide for RMs](#)

[Rural election calendar](#)

[Rural election journal](#)

General elections for urban and northern municipalities will be held in 2006.

## Perhaps you're wondering...

...what deems a person eligible or ineligible to run for, and hold, an elected office?

Regarding rural candidates, [The Rural Municipality Act \(RMA\), 1989](#) provides that a person is qualified to be nominated as a candidate if they are:

- at least 18 years of age;
- a Canadian citizen;
- a resident of Saskatchewan;
- eligible to vote in the municipality; and,
- not disqualified by reason of any provision of this or any other Act.

Regarding urban candidates, [The Local Government Elections Act \(LGEA\)](#) provides that a person is qualified to be nominated as an election candidate if they:

- are age 18 on election day;
- are a Canadian citizen living in Saskatchewan for at least six months;
- have lived in the municipality they are seeking office in for at least three months (excluding resort villages); and,
- aren't disqualified from holding office as a candidate.

At present all statutes governing municipalities in Saskatchewan are similar on what constitutes disqualification.

[The Northern Municipalities Act](#) provides that a member is disqualified if that person:

- is not qualified to be nominated or elected to hold office as a member;
- absents himself from all meetings for three consecutive months without authorization by resolution of which period at least two meetings have been held; or,
- ceases to reside in the northern municipality.

[The Urban Municipality Act, 1984](#) contains the same provisions with a residency requirement, and provides a residency exemption for councils in resort villages.

In the *RMA*, additional provisions for disqualification include when a person:

- is convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for five or more years, or
- fails or refuses to subscribe the declaration.

[The Cities Act](#) incorporates sections of the Criminal Code related to municipal corruption and the purchasing or influencing of an office.

If the disqualified member refuses to resign, all current statutes allow the council or an elector to apply to a Provincial Court to declare the position vacant.

Beginning in January 2006 with the implementation of

[The Municipalities Act](#), the election procedures governing all municipalities will be contained in the *LGEA*.

## Annual assessment return

Many Boards of Revision are now complete and it's time to levy the taxes.



Taxes may be levied prior to the annual assessment return confirmation. However, confirmation *is* required before the recovery of taxes through tax enforcement.

These terms remain unchanged when *The Municipalities Act* comes into effect Jan. 1, 2006.

## P & D Act phase one review

The Phase One review of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*, has been completed. [Amendments](#) are available on the Government Relations website or from the Queen's Printer.

Phase Two of the review begins this fall. It will provide a more in depth analysis of the issues in municipal planning and, with the help of stakeholders, develop solutions suitable to creating a green and prosperous Saskatchewan.

## Youth council members

Government Relations is interested in your feedback on a proposed new section of *The Municipalities Act* that will allow a municipality to appoint a youth member to council.

The youth member will be someone under the age of 18 years who will sit with council and participate in deliberations.

While not eligible to vote or be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum, the youth member will be expected to contribute to the decision-making process by studying materials and taking part in discussions on issues that come before council.

Councils will benefit by hearing from youth who may have a different perspective on issues. The youth member will learn about the role of municipal government and gain experience in decision making by committee and in public speaking. Subsequently, this proposal could help to engage more youth in community issues and initiatives.

The Northwest Territories and Manitoba are two jurisdictions that allow the appointment of youth members of council.

If you have any comments about the proposed provision, contact Allan Laird, senior policy analyst, Policy Development Branch, at:

306-787-1604 or  
[alaird@gr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:alaird@gr.gov.sk.ca)

## Dedicated lands and subdivision regulations

### Dedicated Lands Regulations

Amendments have been made to the *Dedicated Lands Regulations*. Included in these amendments are provisions for councils that have been delegated with approving authority to lease municipal reserve or environmental reserve, based on their planning bylaws and the requirements set out in *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*.

### Subdivision Regulations

Amendments have been made to the *Subdivision Regulations*. Included in the amendments are the following changes:

- new definitions;
- new requirements as to what must accompany the application for subdivision;
- new requirements as to what must be on The Plan of Proposed Subdivision that accompanies each application for subdivision;
- new section regarding registration of interests;
- new requirements for removal of tie codes;
- changes to the fee schedule; and,
- changes to accommodate broader subdivision consultation with other stakeholders.

The complete [Dedicated Lands Regulations](#) and [Subdivision Regulations](#) are available on the Government Relations website.

## Hot topic

As summer draws to a close we're still feeling the heat in Saskatchewan. Hot, windy weather and increased human activity elevate the risk of wild fires from April through October.



Photo courtesy Saskatchewan Environment

To help keep our communities, forests and grasslands safe, Saskatchewan Environment (SE) offers important information about fire safety, provincial danger areas and current fire locations. SE's [fire management site](#) includes a special section for kids and [Smokey Bear](#) is always ready with fire safety tips.

For information regarding provincial fire fighting responsibilities, financing and liabilities, refer to the [Prairie and Forest Fire Act, 1982](#) and related legislation.

To support municipalities in the promotion of fire safety, the Office of the [Fire Commissioner](#) offers a variety of programs, services, publications and links to fire prevention legislation.

Over one half of all wild fires in Saskatchewan are caused by people. Let's work to ensure the safety of our provincial forests, parks and grasslands.