



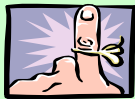
## Contents

- Message from Minister Taylor
- *Planning and Development Act, 1983 Phase 2 review*
- Zoning bylaw, basic planning statement and development plan bylaw amendment procedures
- Community planning day
- Rural municipality elections
- Water treatment plant provides quality water
- State-of-the-art facility to open in Swift Current
- Did you know?
- New publications centre launched

### Events:

- [Municipal Leadership Development Program Winter Schedule](#)

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**YOUR**  
information in the  
**Municipal Directory On-Line?**



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## Message from Minister Taylor

Congratulations to Councillors elected at the November Rural Municipal Elections. To those of you, who are new to municipal government, welcome.

Mayors, Reeves and Councillors are a vital link to the strength of our province. Saskatchewan communities are fortunate to have dedicated people like you, providing local governance. We are facing incredible changes globally that affect the way we make decisions at all levels of government. It is your dedication that will serve local governments well as we look cooperatively at changes now to ensure the municipal sector remains strong into the future.

The Throne Speech outlined a vision for the next century, building upon the successes of the past and the hopes and dreams of the future. It is our hope that the Building Communities Fund will help communities maintain and build infrastructure that will address the cultural, recreational, and economic development needs of their area.

One of the issues to address is that of the current level of education property taxes. We have to make sure that any changes in the system results in tax relief to property owners.

One step toward this is the amalgamations of school divisions that take effect January 1, 2006.

We are entering a new era in how local, provincial and federal governments relate to each other. Programs like the New Deal signals a new way of working together. The bilateral agreement for this program was signed by the federal government and the province and witnessed by the presidents of SUMA and SARM.

With The Municipalities Act coming into effect January 1, 2006, local governments are seeing the advent of more opportunity to make local decisions coupled with more accountability at the local level for the decisions made.

Congratulations to all members of the Municipal Act Preparedness Committee. You are doing an excellent job of providing training and support in anticipation of the New Act.

As we enter the last month of our Centennial year, I wish each of you a happy Holiday Season. May the spirit of good will and cooperation that filled our centennial celebrations continue into our next century. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming SUMA and SARM Conventions.

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## ***Planning and Development Act, 1983 Phase 2 review***

Stakeholder consultation meetings for the Municipal Authority, and Public Participation themes were held in November. Information regarding these meetings will be located on the website at: [http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/cpb/cpb\\_panddact.shtml](http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/cpb/cpb_panddact.shtml)

The next review committee meeting will be held in December.

## **Zoning bylaw, basic planning statement and development plan bylaw amendment procedures**

On July 1, 2005 amendments to *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* relating to Public Participation in Bylaws were proclaimed. These amendments apply to development plans, basic planning statements or zoning bylaws.

The date of the first public notice of a proposed amendment to or repeal of an existing bylaw must be published at least two weeks before the date of the public hearing to consider presentations respecting council's proposal. Previous to the amendment the required time was three weeks.

The date of the first public notice of new development plans, basic planning statements or zoning bylaws must be at least four weeks before the public meeting.

This requirement has not changed.

## **Community planning day**

The Honourable Len Taylor, Minister of Government Relations declared November 8<sup>th</sup> as Saskatchewan's inaugural Community Planning Day. This special day was held in conjunction with the Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan. The Association celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. This year Saskatchewan has joined 30 countries on four continents in celebrating November 8 as World Town Planning Day (in Saskatchewan called Saskatchewan Community Planning Day) to raise awareness of how urban and regional planning helps to build healthy and vibrant communities.

## **Rural municipality elections**

Rural Municipalities (RM) have just held elections for councillors in even numbered divisions. With elections over, Government Relations wishes to congratulate returning and new RM officials; the work you do on behalf of your ratepayers is very important.

It is important to update the [Municipal Directory](#) with any changes to your council. If your administrative staff is experiencing problems with this, please contact by e-mail at [muninfo@gr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:muninfo@gr.gov.sk.ca).

To assist RM officials with their duties, the department has developed the *Municipal Council Handbook* and the *Municipal Council Meeting Guide*. The *Municipal Council Handbook* is a reference that will aid elected officials with the duties and responsibilities of public office. The *Municipal Council Meeting Guide* will provide information on conducting council meetings. Both publications can be found on the [Municipal Relations Division](#) website.

## **Water treatment plant provides quality water**

Congratulations to the [Town of Langham](#) on the opening of its new water treatment plant.

The plant can produce approximately 200,000 imperial gallons of water per day. That amount can be expanded, as the system was designed and built for future growth.

New ground water wells eliminate raw water safety hazards due to surface water contamination and ensure maintenance of potable water quality during peak summertime demand. Dedicated storage enhances fire fighting capacity.

"We now have a reliable supply of excellent quality water," says Langham Mayor, Emery Ens. "Our community and the environment will both benefit from this project."

Refer to the [News Release](#) for information about project implementation and costs.

### State-of-the-art facility to open in Swift Current

Swift Current is known as the city where *life makes sense*. Part of this distinction comes from the city's focus on becoming a leader in providing safe, environmentally-friendly infrastructure for its residents.

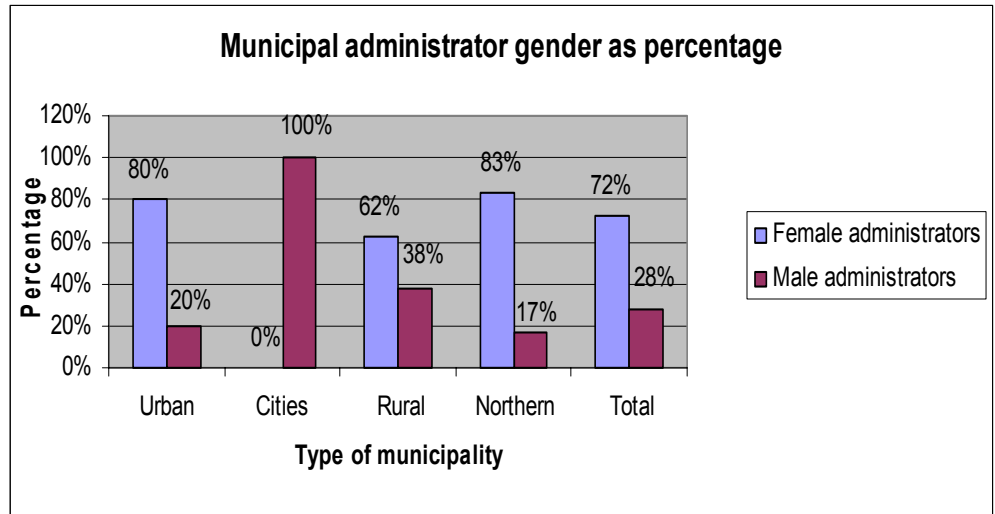
The construction of a new advanced wastewater facility is an example of that focus. The biological nutrient removal plant will reduce pollutants found in wastewater before they're discharged back into the environment.

The high quality effluent produced can be discharged on a continuous basis into the Swift Current Creek. The highly beneficial and cost effective effluent disposal as irrigation to local farmland will be maintained.

Having the ability to treat the City's effluent in a non weather dependence system will free up valuable storage capacity in the existing lagoon system. This will in turn provide positive benefits to residents and increase economic growth, paving the way for new industry to settle in [Swift Current](#).

### Did you know?

*In the last edition of Municipalities Today, there was a quick note on the gender breakdown of elected officials in Saskatchewan's municipalities. This month, similar information is provided on administrators in Saskatchewan's municipalities.*



### 72% OF ALL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS ARE FEMALE

There are approximately 699 chief administrators in Saskatchewan municipalities. Of that number, 501 are female (for 72%) and 198 are male (for 28%). Urban municipalities employ 80% women as chief administrators, rural municipalities employ 62% women, while northern municipalities employ 83% women. Saskatchewan's cities stand out in contrast to other municipalities with 100% of city managers being male.

The overall number of 72% women stands in marked contrast to the elected officials, of whom approximately 82% are male and only 18% female.

While Saskatchewan municipal councils tend to be dominated by men, the position of chief administrator in Saskatchewan municipalities tends to be dominated by women.

### New publications centre launched

The Government of Saskatchewan recently launched a web-based Publications Centre to provide "one-

stop shopping". The area of the Publications Centre that has Government Relations information can be found at:

[www.publications.gov.sk.ca/gr](http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/gr)