



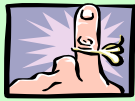
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The Municipalities Act

The Municipalities Act (MA) will be in force on January 1, 2006. The MA is a consolidation of *The Rural Municipality Act, 1989* and *The Urban Municipality Act, 1984* and will provide the legislative framework through which all municipalities exercise their powers and provide services, except those governed by *The Northern Municipalities Act* and *The Cities Act*. The MA is intended to grant municipalities broader powers, more flexibility and less provincial prescription to deal with matters that are of local nature. A copy of the MA is available for download from the Government Relations website or can be purchased from the Office of the Queen's Printer at : www.qp.gov.sk.ca or by phoning 1-800-226-7302 or (306) 787-6894. For further information, please visit the Municipal Relations Division website at www.municipal.gov.sk.ca or contact Advisory Services at (306) 787-2680.

Planning and Development Act, Review

On December 12th, the Review Committee for *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* addressed the topic of Inter-jurisdictional Planning. The

discussion included some of the benefits and challenges for co-operative opportunities between municipalities, with the province and First Nations. This topic will be continued at the next Review Committee meeting in January. Further information regarding the Act review will be located on the website at http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/mrd/cpb/cpb_panddact.shtml

Legislation introduced during the fall session

Len Taylor, Minister of Government Relations, introduced three Bills on November 10, 2005 to the fall session of the Legislature.

- Bill 4 - *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005*;
- Bill 5 - *The Cities Amendment Act, 2005*; and
- Bill 6 - *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005*.

In response to requests from the municipal sector, assessment service providers and the commercial sector, the department proposed amendments to *The Cities Act* (CA), *The Municipalities Act* (MA) and *The Assessment Management Agency Act* to complete the legislative framework required to facilitate the move to a market value assessment system and enable

the use of valuation methods such as the rental income approach.

The assessment related amendments are being proposed now to assure the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency and the other assessment service providers that legislation will be in place in 2009 to support the final move to a market value based property assessment system for urban residential and commercial properties.

In addition to the assessment issues, amendments to the CA and MA also follow through on government's commitment to implement legislative changes that would enable cities to deal more effectively with parking. Also included in the amendments is new authority for a council to appoint a "youth member" to council.

The Bills were not passed during this legislative session, as a result government decided to further consult stakeholders on these Bills over winter. As the session is recessed until spring, the Bills will continue to be dealt with during the spring 2006 session.

The amendments to the CA and MA that provide more options for municipalities to enforce parking and deal with parking tickets will work hand-in-hand with amendments made to *The Summary Offence Procedure Act*

(SOPA). The provisions in SOPA address the service of summons, enforcement through fines and liens, and warrants of committal. The amendments within the municipal statutes relate to the sale and seizure of vehicles.

The amendments to SOPA did pass during this session of the Legislature; the new provisions in SOPA related to parking offences are now in effect. While SOPA and the amendments to the CA and MA that deal with parking issues are not directly tied, there may be some ramifications for municipalities. Municipalities should discuss with their legal counsel any actions that might be considered related to passing bylaws to undertake more stringent enforcement of parking tickets, prior to the coming into force of the CA or MA amendments.

To follow the progress of Bills when the Legislature reconvenes, click on the following link:
<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/bills/progbill.htm>

Notice:

Please address all mail for Victoria Tower (1855 Victoria Avenue, Regina, SK) to postal code S4P 3T2, the post office has advised us they will return any mail that does not have this postal code on it.

Municipal Leadership Development Program Winter 2006

The Winter 2006 modules in the Municipal Leadership Development Program have been scheduled and registrations are now being accepted. Please click [here](#) for the winter schedule.

More information about the modules, and a printable registration form, can be found at www.mldp.ca. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Dowler, Program Administrator at 761-3731. A flyer and registration form can be found at the [website](#), it can be hung in your office, or handed out at your council meeting.

