



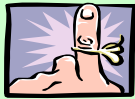
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Events:

- [Municipal Leadership Development Program Calendar](#)
- [SUMA Annual Convention - Regina - February 5 - 8, 2006](#)
- [SARM Annual Convention – Regina - March 6 - 9, 2006](#)

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Municipal Relations Division welcomes
your feedback on **Municipalities Today**.

Contact us by **phone:**
(306) 787-4340 or **email:**

muninfo@gr.gov.sk.ca

Province provides new funds for communities

Saskatchewan people will benefit from a total of \$42 million in immediate, one-time funding directed at local governments, as well as a \$10 million increase in revenue sharing in the 2006/2007 fiscal year. Premier Lorne Calvert made the announcement today in his remarks to SUMA delegates at their convention in Regina.

The funding comes from the province's improved fiscal position and will flow to all urban, rural and northern municipalities for the benefit of all residents.

"The 1990's were a time for restraint and cutback at all levels of government - federal, provincial and municipal," Calvert said. "Now, as we reap the benefits of sound fiscal prudence at the provincial level, we need to reinvest and rebuild our communities."

The funding announcement includes:

- A one-time, \$10 million dollar top-up to revenue sharing for the current fiscal year;
- One time funding of \$32 million targeted to municipal

capital needs through the new Community Share 2006 program; and

- A \$10 million increase in revenue sharing starting in the next fiscal year, for a total of \$95 million in annual, unconditional revenue sharing for all municipalities.

"The \$32 million for capital funding is meant to address the needs of people and communities – new buildings, recreational or cultural facilities, water, sewers and roads – but municipalities will determine their own capital priorities for these funds," Calvert said.

The \$32 million in funding to address capital priorities will be allocated on a per capita basis, and municipalities will determine the timing of their investments. This funding is on top of the province's commitment for \$55 million in education property tax relief in 2006/2007 – the second year of a \$110 million program.



The following article is being reprinted from the November 2005 issue of Municipalities Today, in response to questions the department has received about the Education Property Tax Credit program regarding the special circumstances.

Special Circumstances under the Education Property Tax Credit Program

Since the announcement and implementation of the Education Property Tax Credit Program earlier in 2005, a number of developments that have implications for municipalities and school divisions have arisen. These relate to:

- the federal government action to reduce the federal payments in lieu of property tax payments by an amount equivalent to the tax credit;
- the decision to apply the education property tax credit to the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) mainline properties; and,
- whether the education property tax credit is applicable to mobile home licences.

Federal Payment in Lieu of Property Taxes:

Under the tax credit legislation, the federal and provincial governments are excluded from receiving the education property tax credit. However, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), a branch of the federal government, plans to reduce its payments in lieu of

school property taxes by the current 8% tax credit.

The federal government has, on its own, elected to deduct the tax credit equivalent from their payments in lieu of property tax payments. In instances where its payment in lieu has already been paid to municipalities, PWGSC is claiming a partial refund of the amount paid to the municipality.

Based on the program legislation and regulations, the federal government is not eligible to receive the tax credit. However, strictly in terms of jurisdiction, the federal government maintains that it may choose how much federal payment in lieu is paid in any given year.

Municipalities are asked to notify school divisions of any reduced amounts in federal payments in lieu received or refunds issued. It is important that school divisions and the Department of Learning are aware of the impact of the federal government's decision on school division revenues.

This matter is under discussion between Saskatchewan Learning and the federal government. If there are changes to this information, municipalities will be updated.

The Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) Mainline:

CP plans to deduct the tax credit equivalent from its grants in lieu of property taxes paid on the CP

mainline. Although the provincial education property tax credit regulations do not currently accommodate the application of the tax credit to the CP mainline, Government Relations has been advised by Saskatchewan Learning that these properties will be included and reimbursement provided to school divisions, on the same basis as other property.

Municipalities should ensure that the equivalent to the education property tax credit is applied to CP mainline properties. Municipalities are asked to notify school divisions of any reduced amounts in CP grants received or refunds issued. It is important that school divisions are aware of the impact of the CP mainline tax credit claim on school division revenues so that they may in turn inform the Department of Learning.

Mobile Home Licences:

When mobile homes are assessed and taxed like other homes, the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency's rules and formulas apply. When mobile homes are licensed, the municipality may use a schedule of rates (e.g. based on square footage) to determine the annual fee. Mobile homes that are assessed and taxed like other homes are eligible to receive the tax credit. However, under the tax credit regulations, licensed mobile

homes are not eligible to receive the tax credit, as these mobile homes are subject to licensing, not taxation.

If you have any specific questions regarding the Education Property Tax Credit, please contact Gerry Sing Chin, Saskatchewan Learning at (306) 787-3958.

Municipal Relations at the SUMA Convention

Municipal Relations Division will be hosting a booth (#115 in the AgEx Pavilion) at the convention. A staff member will be available to assist you in updating your information on the Municipal Directory system and you can also get your username and password.

[The Municipalities Act](#) – Resources on our website

The intent of our website is to provide municipal governments, elected officials, administrators and citizens a primary source of information relating to the governance and administration of urban and rural municipalities. In addition to providing background developments leading to enactment of *The Municipalities Act*, the web site provides a wealth of information.

It provides direct on-line access to *The Municipalities Act* which also provides access to the *Municipalities Regulations*.

The publications section provides detailed information concerning topics such as council meetings, council member roles and responsibilities, elections, etc.

The Fact Sheets section explores terms and concepts of the following matters: natural person powers, areas of jurisdictions, public notice policy and nuisance abatement.

We have provided a cross reference section that is intended to facilitate comparisons between previous legislation and current legislation which may be researched bi-directionally.

A wide variety of sample bylaws provide templates for the creation of bylaws which are unique and specific to individual municipalities, including items such as animal control, nuisance abatement, tax tools, traffic control, and others.

It's easy to make us your home page – the first page you will see when you log onto the internet. Go to www.municipal.gov.sk.ca and on the tool bar (top of page), click on TOOLS, then INTERNET OPTIONS, then USE CURRENT, and then click OK.

Highlight on municipal Programs

Please click the programs that the Municipal Relations

Division administers for Saskatchewan municipalities.

- [New Deal Secretariat](#)
- [Canada Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund \(MRIF\)](#)
- [Grants-In-Lieu of Taxes](#)
- [Rural Revenue Sharing Grants](#)
- [Urban Revenue Sharing Grants](#)
- [Canada – Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program \(CSIP\)](#)
- [Municipal Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Northern Water and Sewer](#)
- [Northern Capital Grants](#)

Reminder: Mailing address for Municipal Relations

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