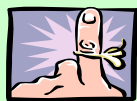




Contents

- **New ComMuniLink forum**
- **New planning bylaws and amendment information**
- ***Planning and Development Act, 1983* Review**
- **BizPal online permit and licence information service launched in Saskatoon**
- **Heading to the polls 2006 - let your voice be heard**
- **Got your construction permit?**

Have you updated
YOUR
information in the
Municipal Directory On-Line?



Check it out!

municipal.gov.sk.ca

Municipal Relations Division
welcomes your feedback on
Municipalities Today.

Contact us by **phone:**

(306) 787-4340

or **email:** muninfo@gr.gov.sk.ca

New ComMuniLink Forum

The new ComMuniLink forum was launched on August 30 featuring a new look, new features and improvements.

Many of the new features make it much simpler for users to share information and quickly find what they are looking for:

- posts can now be categorized for simpler navigation;
- users can automatically be notified when others reply to their topics or when new topics are created;
- files can be attached to posts for others to download;
- a calendar has been added to keep track of important dates and events;
- users can now send private messages to other users; and,
- users can search for words or phrases in the entire forum, a particular category or topic or within their own personal messages.

If you have not yet created an account, please go to this page – [ComMuniLink Home Page](#) - and click register at the top of the page. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with your login information.

For a listing of the new ComMuniLink features as well as help topics, please go to this page – [ComMuniLink Help Pages](#).

Questions and comments about the new ComMuniLink forum can be posted in the *Site Comments* section.

New planning bylaws and amendment information

The Community Planning Branch [website](#) has instructions on how to adopt new bylaws and amend existing ones. It also has sample bylaws and notices.

This information benefits municipalities that are interested in updating their Basic Planning Statements, Development Plan or Zoning Bylaw to enable new land developments.

If you have any questions on these issues please contact the Community Planning office in Regina at 787-2725 or Saskatoon at 933-6937.

Planning and Development Act, 1983 Review

The Planning and Development Act, 1983 proposed legislative provisions document is now available on the department [website](#).

The draft summary of stakeholder discussions is also posted. New information will continue to be posted on the site throughout the review process.

BizPaL online permit and licence information service launched in Saskatoon

Entrepreneurs seeking simplified access to required licence and permit information from all levels of government have found it in BizPaL, an interactive one-stop website that helps participating jurisdictions improve service levels to their business clients.

On June 12, Saskatoon became the first Saskatchewan municipality to launch the service, which allows business users to use a step by step "wizard" to indicate the location and type of business and answer a series of questions about the nature of the operation. This information is used to generate a customized list of the permits and licences required including detailed information about each permit and any links to begin the application process. Providing business operators with comprehensive information also reduces the risk that businesses will not get the appropriate licences or permits simply because they are unaware of the requirement.

BizPaL is a partnership of participating jurisdictions from across Canada. In Saskatchewan this has included the City of Saskatoon, the Province of Saskatchewan (Industry and Resources), and the Government of Canada (Industry Canada). Moose Jaw and Regina are the most recent Saskatchewan cities to become BizPaL partners and are expected to have their information online by the end of 2006. The Canadian Federation of Independent

Businesses, Saskatoon and District Chamber of Commerce, Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority, and the Canada-Saskatchewan Business Service Centre contributed to the BizPaL launch.

BizPaL will be expanded to more business sectors and other Saskatchewan municipalities over the next year. Visit the new website at www.bizpal.gov.sk.ca or www.saskatoon.ca. To inquire about expanding BizPaL to your municipality, please contact bizpal@gov.sk.ca.

Heading to the polls 2006 - let your voice be heard

Saskatchewan people will be heading to the polls in 2006 for municipal elections. This is an opportunity for citizens to be heard by voting for the representatives of their choice.

Elected local government officials play a significant role in the future of Saskatchewan and its municipalities. The decisions made by mayors, reeves and their councils affect the daily lives of people in this province. Municipal governments help to ensure local residents have access to a wide range of services. They make decisions about crime prevention, public transportation, infrastructure, budget, safe and affordable housing and much more.

Eligible voters are encouraged to participate in the upcoming elections and take an active interest in their local government.

For information on voting in the upcoming election, voters should call their municipal office. For a list of election dates [click here](#).

- Resort Village elections were held on July 22.
- Urban elections will be held October 25.
- Rural municipal elections will be held November 1.
- Northern municipal elections will be held in the Fall of 2006 beginning in September

Got your construction permit?

Saskatchewan Environment is reminding all waterworks owners, operators and permittees that *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002, Section 21* requires construction permits to be issued for new or altered water and sewage works before any construction work begins.

Obtaining a permit ensures and provides certainty that the proposed improvements meet regulatory requirements before planning and construction begins. Obtaining a permit will help prevent costly modifications to the newly constructed, extended or altered works and will reduce the likelihood of compliance actions being imposed by Saskatchewan Environment.

Copies of the department's construction related application forms are available on the internet [here](#) under the "**Forms**" heading. If you are unsure whether work you are doing needs construction permits please call 787-6504 and ask for one of the Approvals Engineers in the Drinking Water Quality Section.