

Government Relations

# MUNICIPALITIES TODAY

An electronic INFORMATION SOURCE for local governments in Saskatchewan

November 2006

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# Please visit the <u>Communilink</u> Online Forum to discuss issues that impact your municipality

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

# Public waterworks information under municipal legislation

This is a reminder of the public reporting on waterworks requirements under The Municipalities Regulations, The Cities Regulations and The Northern Municipalities Public Reporting on Municipal Waterworks Regulations. Saskatchewan Government Relations has not yet received from a number of municipalities a copy of the public waterworks information that is to be provided directly to consumers and copied to the province following these provincial regulations.

- By July 1, 2006, municipalities were to establish a waterworks rate policy and capital investment strategy.
- Each year, starting September 1, 2006, municipalities were to directly inform their waterworks consumers, through their website or in a newspaper or mail out, of the following annual waterworks information:
  - total revenues, expenditures and debt payments;
  - the extent that revenues cover expenditures and debt payments expressed as a ratio; and
  - a list of the waterworks information that is available at the municipal office.

A copy of the information provided directly to the consumers is to be sent to:

Saskatchewan Government Relations Policy Development Branch 1855 Victoria Avenue 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1540 Regina, SK S4P 3T2

- Each year, starting September 1, 2006, municipalities are to make available at their municipal office for public viewing:
  - their waterworks rate policy and capital investment strategy;
  - the above annual information that is to be provided directly to consumers, plus the transfer of funds to and from the waterworks;
  - current waterworks reserves;
  - the most recent waterworks assessment as required by Saskatchewan Environment;
  - capital plans for waterworks infrastructure projects and sources of funding; and
  - any agreements respecting the provision of waterworks services.

# Clarification of requirements when there is a public utility board

The requirements for reporting public waterworks information also apply to public utility boards, as established under The Municipalities Act, The Cities Act and The Northern Municipalities Act. If a municipal council has delegated the full range of powers for its waterworks to a public utility board as allowed in legislation, the public utility board can operate independently and be responsible for establishing the waterworks rate policy and capital investment strategy. The municipality would still be required to provide the waterworks information on the public utility board at the municipal office. Either the municipality, or the public utility board on behalf of the municipality, could provide the direct information to the consumers.

# Northern Saskatchewan news

- New North Annual General Meeting will be held in Prince Albert, on November 15 – 17, 2006.
- Workshops will be held during the last two weeks of November for newly elected council members. Two workshops will be held, one in La Ronge and one in Buffalo Narrows.



## Showcase your community with a

# Municipal Award.

This new and exciting program has been established to celebrate the many excellent practices of municipal governments of all sizes that are serving the residents of Saskatchewan on a daily basis. We invite your municipality to participate in *Celebrating Excellence in 2007*!

# Award Categories

# **Municipal Service Excellence**

Any municipal practice that enhances the ability of a municipal corporation(s) to deliver costeffective services that regularly exceed the expectations of their customers.

## **Economic Development Leadership**

Any municipal practice that demonstrates the municipal corporation(s) use of strategies to improve the local economic development climate while supporting long-term economic development in Saskatchewan.

# **Regional Leadership and Partnerships**

Any municipal practice that exemplifies efforts to consult and cooperate with other municipalities, non-governmental organizations, community groups, First Nations, other governments, and citizens for the purpose of delivering benefit to citizens.

## **Community Leadership**

Any municipal practice by a municipality with a population of 500 or less, that demonstrates the municipal corporation's commitment to providing leadership by meeting the existing and future needs of the community.

# For more information

Visit the SMA website at <u>www.communilink.sk.ca/awards</u> or call 306.787.8808.

Nomination packages will be sent to all Saskatchewan municipalities by the end of November 2006. Nominations must be received by 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 19, 2007, to be considered.

This program is made possible by the generous financial support of:

- Conexus
- SARM
- SUMA
- Saskatchewan Government Relations

#### Check out the resources for municipal officials

Please visit our <u>Publications</u> section on our website and check out all the publications we have to assist new councillors and municipal officials.

Contact us for more information or if you've received this newsletter in error, phone (306) 787-4340 or email: **muninfo@gr.gov.sk.ca**.