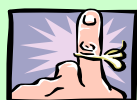




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Have you updated  
**YOUR** information  
in the **Municipal  
Directory On-Line?**



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[municipal.gov.sk.ca](http://municipal.gov.sk.ca)

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

### Contact us:

- by phone: (306) 787-2687
- or email: [cgourlie@gr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:cgourlie@gr.gov.sk.ca)

## The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Celebrate Excellence

Have you seen a Municipality excel – then recognize it with a nomination for the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.

The deadline for submitting a nomination for the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards is fast approaching. **All nominations must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 19.** You can nominate your own municipality, or nominate a neighbour.

There are four award categories:

- *Municipal Service Excellence* – recognizes a municipal practice that enhances the ability of the municipality or two or more municipalities to deliver cost-effective services that regularly exceed the expectations of their customers.
- *Economic Development Leadership* – recognizes any municipal practice that demonstrates the use of strategies to improve the local economic development climate while supporting long-term economic development in Saskatchewan.
- *Regional Leadership and Partnerships* – recognizes any municipal practice that exemplifies efforts to consult and cooperate with other municipalities, non-government organizations, community groups, First

Nations, other governments, and citizens for the purpose of delivering benefit to citizens.

- *Community Leadership* – recognizes a municipal practice by a municipality with a population of 500 or less, that demonstrates the municipality's commitment to providing leadership by meeting existing and future needs of the community.

For more information on the program, visit the Web site at <http://www.communilink.sk.ca/awards> or call 787-8808.

Don't let this opportunity to be recognized pass your municipality by!

## SaskH<sub>2</sub>O Website Provides Water Information

The SaskH<sub>2</sub>O website at: <http://www.saskh2o.ca> brings together, under one web address, information and services available from the Government of Saskatchewan that relate to water. The site includes government performance plans and annual reports on the safe drinking water strategy and information on municipal water sample test results, inspections of municipal waterworks, drinking water standards, certified operator requirements and training, how private wells can be tested, and links to other key water websites.

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## Does Your Council Have a Youth Member?

Section 82.1 of *The Municipalities Act* enables council to appoint a youth member to sit with council and participate in the decision making process. It is up to council to determine terms and conditions with respect to this appointment. Prior to appointing its first youth member, council should decide the duration of the appointment, whether the youth member receives any type of compensation and the types of action which might result in revocation of the appointment.

The legislation provides that the youth member must be less than 18 years old, since a person aged 18 or older would be eligible to run for office as an elected member. The youth member is not considered as a member of council, and therefore his or her vote is not counted. The appointment of a youth member does not alter the requirements for a quorum.

Appointing a youth member provides council an opportunity to obtain input from a part of society that uses certain municipal services, such as recreation, but has no formal or other means by which to speak to municipal leaders. Municipal government like other segments of the economy is facing a labour shortage, and an introduction to local governance may inspire that individual to seek a career as a municipal employee or run for office at some point in the future. This is an opportunity for council to take a proactive step to reengage

youth in the process of municipal governance.

As council begins to map out its activities for 2007, it may consider the value of having a youth member participate in council discussions. To start, council may wish to consult with teachers or others to identify potential candidates.

If your municipality has already appointed a youth member or is thinking about doing so, or if you have any questions about youth members, the Municipal Relations Division would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mark Cooper, Senior Provincial Municipal Relations Consultant at (306) 787-2740.

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## \$100 Million Building Communities Program Provides Funding to Four Regional Partnerships

Four Saskatchewan regions are the first to receive funding from a new initiative that will enhance cultural and recreational facilities in their areas.

Culture, Youth and Recreation Minister Glenn Hagel announced on December 13 that Lloydminster's Common Wealth Centre, Swift Current's Centennial Civic Centre, Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Yorkton's Gallagher Centre have received funding under the new Building Communities Program. The three-year program will

provide \$100 million to support regional cultural and recreational infrastructure needs, supporting the government's commitment to make life better for Saskatchewan families and build a better future for young people.

"Cultural and recreational activities are key contributors to the quality of life that we celebrate in this province," Hagel said. "The Provincial Government is pleased that our healthy financial position allows us to help ensure the sustainability of significant regional facilities and the programs they provide."

The Building Communities Program will provide \$100 million over three years – up to \$20 million in the first year (2006-2007) and \$40 million for each of years two (2007-2008) and three (2008-2009). This includes \$2 million for infrastructure needs in northern Saskatchewan.

Complete information on the Building Communities Program can be found on the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation's website [www.cyr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.cyr.gov.sk.ca).

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## The Municipal Capacity Development Program

Government Relations is pleased to announce that, in conjunction with the municipal associations, three new positions are being created to assist municipalities and working groups to foster increased municipal capacity, and assist in the preparation of long-term

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sustainable community plans. The Clearing the Path (CTP) workshops of this past spring identified that a major barrier to inter-municipal agreements and attracting economic development was the lack of resources at the local level.

The Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP), announced in December 2006, was developed in response to this need. The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), and the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (SANC) applied to the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to support three municipal capacity development officers.

Government Relations will provide a senior planner and office space in Regina. The three new staff will be hired under a three-year contract. Two of the consultants will be working out of Regina and one consultant, dedicated to the North, will be working out of La Ronge.

While the specific terms of reference for the delivery of the program has not been finalized, much of the work will be dictated by various CTP and MRIF projects.

Some of the duties of these staff include:

- conducting workshops on CTP and land use and community development planning;
- assisting with inter-municipal

agreements and area wide community development plans;

- working with Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDA's), First Nations, Community Futures and other economic development groups on joint ventures;
- designing templates for plans, projects and funding requests, which can be utilized as guidelines for all municipalities; and
- helping municipalities seek funding for sector specific plans, regional growth management strategies, and other inter-municipal projects.

For more information, contact Tyler Lynch of the Clearing the Path Committee c/o SARM by phone at (306) 761-3734 or Tim Cheesman, Manager of the MCDP program, by phone at (306) 787-2730.

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### **Aboriginal Consultations: Sharing Provincial Guidelines**

Saskatchewan Justice and First Nations and Métis Relations have recently released the *Government of Saskatchewan Guidelines for Consultation with First Nations and Métis People: A Guide for Decision Makers (Guidelines)*. These *Guidelines* are designed to assist the province and our municipalities with consulting and initiating relationships with local Aboriginal communities.

Existing Treaties between the federal government and Saskatchewan First Nations were developed to ensure successful cohabitation between European

settlers and First Nations. Recent court decisions in Canada have highlighted that governments have to consult with First Nations regarding local land use decisions. The new *Guidelines* will assist provincial and municipal governments to carry out the intent of the Treaties.

The *Guidelines* cover the entire consultation process including providing background information, guiding principles and objectives. It also details the pre-consultation assessment, presents instructions on providing notice, and preparing for a response and negotiations.

The *Guidelines* have been distributed throughout the provincial government and to Aboriginal communities and will also be provided to municipalities. We encourage municipalities to consider how the Duty to Consult and the *Guidelines* will affect your own municipalities. Government Relations is also working with First Nations and Métis Relations, Justice and the municipal associations to provide further information on fulfilling responsibilities for consultation. Incorporating the *Guidelines* into your municipal land use decision making processes will be key for successful growth.

Stronger partnerships and relationships between municipalities and Aboriginal communities will prove to be mutually beneficial as communities work together to avoid land use conflicts, understand traditional rights and land uses, and ensure the long-term success of Saskatchewan.