

Municipalities Today

www.municipal.gov.sk.ca

Issue #1 January 2004



Hon. Len Taylor

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Minister of Government Relations.

I look forward to working with you to make Saskatchewan communities and municipalities prosperous and affordable places for all of us to live, raise families and set a course for the future.

Although I am one of the new faces around this cabinet table, I am not new to public life. I was a Member of Parliament from 1988 to 1997. I also served on North Battleford City Council from 2000 to 2003. This portfolio will be my first direct involvement in the provincial government, and, is one that I'm eager to undertake.

I was born and raised in North Battleford, where I have made my home and professional life.

I graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1974. I have worked as a journalist, owned my own business and recently have been providing financial and community development services.

I have served my community as a member of the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce, the North West Historical Society, the Battlefords Agricultural Society, the Battle River Settlement Foundation, Sons of Norway, the North Battleford Library Board, the Executive Committee of the Lakeland Region Library Board, the Battlefords Wildlife Federation, and the Battlefords Interval House Society.

My experience at both the federal and municipal levels of government and in operating my own business will be invaluable as I take on my responsibilities in Government Relations. As an MP I served as Chair of the NDP Caucus' Planning and Priorities Committee and House Leader. In Parliament, I served on various committees including Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Labour and Industry, Environment, Agriculture, and Indian and Northern Affairs.

I'm excited to be the Minister of Government Relations and to work with Saskatchewan's municipal leaders. I congratulate those of you who

are newly elected officials. Together we will learn the issues facing our municipalities.

I believe that Saskatchewan is a great place to live and raise our families. Together we can continue to make this a province of opportunity, one in which the cost of living is reasonable and all people have the chance to grow and prosper.

I look forward to meeting and working with municipal governments across the province.

Happy New Year



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Saskatchewan
Government
Relations and
Aboriginal Affairs

**Saskatchewan
Government Ministers
and Departments**

Lorne Calvert
Premier

Clay Serby
Deputy Premier
Agriculture, Food and Rural
Revitalization

Pat Atkinson
Crown Management Board
Immigration
Public Service Commission

Joanne Crofford
Community Resources and
Employment

Eric Cline
Industry and Resources

John Nilson
Health

Maynard Sonntag
Aboriginal Affairs

Buckley Belanger
Northern Affairs

Harry Van Mulligen
Finance

Andrew Thomson
Learning

Debra Higgins
Labour

Mark Wartman
Highways and
Transportation

Peter Prebble
Corrections and Public
Safety

David Forbes
Environment

Len Taylor
Government Relations

Joan Beatty
Culture, Youth and
Recreation
Provincial Secretary

Frank Quennell
Justice and Attorney
General

**Saskatchewan Power
Corporation**
More information on the new Cabinet
and government news releases, can be
found at: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/>

Video Conferencing: Saving Time and Travel

Northern elected officials and staff can now save travel time and money by hooking up through video conferences.

“Video conferencing is a fantastic opportunity for the people in the north,” Tina Rasmussen, Chair of the Northern Lights School Division, said. “The project allows northerners to participate in professional development courses without leaving their communities and saves them travelling time.”



Dan Baldwin, SaskTel VP, former Minister Osika, Larry Steeves, Associate Deputy Minister and Minister Belanger sign a Video Conferencing Memorandum of Understanding at a video conference event.

On December 2, the Northlands College Policy Council tested out the new video conference system by using it to meet, bringing together 17 participants from La Ronge, Air Ronge, Creighton and Buffalo Narrows.

Participants noted that the video conference was a significant improvement over conference calls. Meeting through this system also is far more cost and time efficient considering that a trip from either Creighton or Buffalo Narrows to La Ronge is an eight-hour round trip drive and an overnight stay.

The Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North), the Northlands College, the Keewatin Career Development Corporation, the Northern Lights School Division No. 113, the Ile-a-la-Croise School Division No. 112, and the Creighton School Division No. 111, Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, and SaskTel committed a total of \$87,000, staff resources and physical space for the Northern Video Conference Initiative.

For more information on video conferencing contact Gary Brewer at Municipal Resources and Technology, (306) 787-4975.

Updating the Municipal Directory

The new Municipal Directory is now available over the internet at www.municipal.gov.sk.ca

The Municipal Directory publishes contact information for Saskatchewan municipalities. Any person can view any municipality's page to obtain information about how and who to contact in that municipality.

As of May 2003, municipal clerks and administrators are updating their own municipality's details over the internet.

If you have not yet updated your municipality's entry since the recent elections, information on how to do an update can be found in the department web site under Municipal Relations Division, MDS Help Pages.

Updates may be submitted from any internet access point (e.g. municipal office, public library, home). Those with no internet access may obtain assistance by phoning (306) 787-2686.

Clean Up Underway in Uranium City

Uranium City residents have a safer townsite.

“Over the past several months, we’ve been working with the community on several clean-up initiatives on open basements and abandoned buildings,” said Randy Braaten, Northern Municipal Services Director.

Since 1995, several buildings have been demolished and sites have been cleaned up. In August, 2003, the remaining open basements in the core area of the settlement were filled, and several sites outside the core area were cleaned-up.

Prior to the closure of the Beaverlodge mine in 1982, Uranium City went through several periods of rapid growth and decline. At times the district’s population reached more than 5,000 residents.

Following the mine closure, residents were provided with a relocation package, and most left Uranium City. Currently, the population of Uranium City is approximately 150.

The dramatic decrease in population left a large number of abandoned commercial and residential buildings.

Residents originally requested that the buildings not be demolished, to allow materials to be salvaged and recycled.

A provincial interdepartmental committee has also been established to review other issues affecting the community, including fuel supply, health services, transportation and tourism.

Municipal Relations Staff

Each edition of *Municipalities Today* will introduce *Municipal Relations Staff*.

Municipal Boundary Officer



Meet Michael Hayes

Michael Hayes is the Municipal Boundary Officer in the Community Planning area. He will provide guidance to municipalities regarding boundary alterations, annexations, status change, and voluntary municipal restructuring processes.

For information regarding such matters, please contact Michael Hayes directly at the Community Planning Branch:

4th Floor - 1855 Victoria Avenue,
Regina Saskatchewan S4P 3V7
Phone: (306) 787-2162
Fax: (306) 798-0194
E-mail: mhayes@graa.gov.sk.ca

Municipal Advisors

The Advisory Services unit offers a variety of services to northern, rural and urban administrators and councils as well as the general public. These services include assistance in understanding the legislation, the development and delivery of workshops for elected and appointed officials, and the development and publication of resource materials.

Advisory Services partnered with the New North to deliver a three-day series of workshops specific to northern municipalities. Following the urban and rural civic elections, the unit worked with SARM and SUMA to inform newly elected members of their roles and responsibilities. The unit maintains a close working relationship with RMAA and UMAAS to present administrators with educational seminars on current municipal issues.

The unit develops material for placement in the publications area of the GRAA website. These publications are reviewed on a timely basis, and updated as necessary. A sampling of topics would include Administrators’ Guide, Appealing Your Property Assessment, Councillors’ Handbooks, Nuisance Guide, and many others. Where necessary, there are separate publications for northern, rural and urban municipalities.

Municipal advisors:

In Regina	
Carol Ingham	787-2637
Phil Boivin	787-5039
Allan Laird	787-3528
In Saskatoon	
Bonnie Bjorndalen	933-6922

For northern inquires:

In La Ronge	
Cliff Friesen	425-4325
Cam Leitao	425-4323
In Buffalo Narrows	
Bruce Leier	235-1726

Municipal Leadership Development Program Workshop



Participants at Newly Elected Officials’ Workshop conduct a mock council meeting.

Northern Capital Grants Program Renewed

The Northern Capital Grants Program has been renewed to March 31, 2008.

A total of \$8.3 million will be available to northern municipalities and settlements, over the next five years, to help northern communities establish adequate local infrastructure to support and enhance community development.

This combines \$6.8 million in incremental funding plus \$1.5 million carried over from the previous program.

“The renewed program increases the per capita grant and minimum grant components for each community, and allows up to 20 per cent of the grant allocation to be used on capital works that support economic development,” Randy Braaten, Director, Northern Municipal Services-La Ronge, said.

The five year program is funded by the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account.

The program assists northern communities to construct or upgrade municipal facilities and purchase municipal equipment.

Since the program began in 1983, the Northern Capital Grants Program has provided \$24 million to northern communities.

News from Other Departments

Liability Insurance Affected by Water Works Operator Certification

Saskatchewan Environment's regulations have changed. And those changes may have an effect on your municipality's liability insurance.

Starting July 15, 2005 each owner of a municipal water and wastewater works must ensure the operation, maintenance and repair of those works is under the direction of an operator certified at the facility's classification level.

Saskatchewan Environment will phase-in the new regulations until July 15, 2005.

Insurance firm policy on providing liability insurance during the phase-in period for water treatment and distribution without a certified operator ranges from continued coverage without a restricted liability limit to continued coverage with a restricted limit of liability.

However, after July 15, 2005 insurance firms would not provide liability coverage if an operator is not yet certified.

Further discussion with insurers has determined that the provision of liability

coverage would not be affected when one community provides back-up coverage for another community's certified operator, or when a number of communities formally share a certified operator.

Also the Operator-in-Training certification category would allow a community to obtain normal liability insurance coverage for their waterworks.

Owners of water works are encouraged to contact their insurers if they wish to clarify their individual community situations.

Waterworks Legal Requirements

The following list provides a summary of some immediate requirements applicable to the operation and management of waterworks providing water used or intended for human consumption as required by The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 and The Water Regulations, 2002:

- Continuous disinfection unless otherwise approved, permittee must maintain a free chlorine residual of at least 0.1 mg/L for water entering the distribution system and at least 0.1 mg/L free chlorine residual or at least 0.5 mg/L total chlorine residual throughout the distribution system.
- Must meet bacteriological water quality standards of 0 total coliforms per 100 mls; 0 fecal coliforms per 100 mls and background bacterial of less than 200 mls (no overgrowth).

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- Manage any bacteriological water quality or similar concerns in accordance with the Bacteriological Follow-up Protocol for Waterworks Regulated by Saskatchewan Environment including additional sampling or monitoring, reporting to the Minister and notification of consumers served by the waterworks.
- Report any upsets that could adversely affect the quality of water supplied to consumers, including an occurrence of low chlorine residuals or failure of disinfection equipment.
- Keep waterworks operational records.
- Waterworks owners must report once each year, commencing in 2003, to the customers they serve on their drinking water quality, compliance with SE's sample submission requirements

and provide written information on compliance to SE's Minister.

- Have a Quality Assurance/Quality Control policy in place by December 31, 2003 for waterworks providing water intended or used for human consumptive use.
- Permittee to review operational records monthly beginning December 31, 2003.
- All analysis required by permits to be performed by an accredited laboratory as of March 31, 2004 (except field tests for chlorine residual and turbidity).

Further information may be obtained from Environmental Project Officers or through the Regina office of the Drinking water Quality Section of Saskatchewan Environment.

- Saskatchewan Environment

Help is as close as your phone 1-877-800-0002 - HealthLine

Saskatchewan's new 24-hour health advice and information line began taking calls this summer and is receiving very positive feedback from members of the public and health sector organizations.

The initiative is a recommendation of The Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care, introduced in December 2001, which identified it as an effective way to make health information easily accessible to all residents of the province.

HealthLine is free and confidential. Registered nurses answer calls any time of day or night. They help callers decide

whether they need to see a doctor, go to a hospital emergency room, or look after their health concerns right at home. HealthLine has fielded more than 7,000 calls in its first few months of operation.

HealthLine is a Government of Saskatchewan program, with service provided by the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. It offers multi-lingual translation services, and a TTY option for those with hearing or speech difficulties (1-888-425-4444).

HealthLine is not for emergency situations, and does not replace 9-1-1.

- Saskatchewan Health

Websites of Interest

A new website www.SaskH2O.ca is making it easier to find out information about drinking water in Saskatchewan.

Drinking Water Annual Report

The Saskatchewan government has recently released the first annual report on the State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan to the Legislature. This report provides an overview of the status of drinking water quality and waterworks infrastructure in Saskatchewan.

<http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/environment/protection/water/drinking.asp>



The Five W's of the School^{PLUS} Program

What is School^{PLUS}?

School^{PLUS} is a term coined by the Task Force on the Role of School (1999-2000) that describes a new conceptualization of schools as centres of learning, support and community for the children and families they serve. This model builds upon the successful practices of schools and community partners to date and strengthens their capacity for meeting the needs of all children and young people through the creation of a new social institution directly supported by other human services. It more actively involves family and community members, to help provide all children and young people with the supports they need for healthy development and learning success. These supports may include health, nutrition, recreation, culture, social and justice services for children and their families, as well as advanced learning opportunities for adults.

Who will be involved in implementing School^{PLUS}?

The healthy development, learning and life success of children depend upon the joint efforts of parents, families, community members and agencies, educators, health providers, social and justice workers, Elders and many others, working together. It takes a whole community to raise a child and to implement School^{PLUS}.

Where and When will School^{PLUS} happen?

School^{PLUS} will happen in every school and community across the province. In many schools, the transition to School^{PLUS} is already underway. This movement will continue to grow with the sustained commitment of community and Government over the next few years.

How will School^{PLUS} become a reality?

School^{PLUS} will be developed through the participation and sustained support of key organizations and agencies at the community, regional and provincial levels across the province. At the provincial level, there are eight departments of Government that are working together to create School^{PLUS}. These include Corrections and Public Safety; Culture, Youth and Recreation; Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs; Health; Justice; Learning; Northern Affairs; and Social Services. School^{PLUS} will become a reality when Saskatchewan schools have the capacity to meet the learning and developmental needs of every child and young person.

Why do we need School^{PLUS}?

The continued wellbeing and prosperity of Saskatchewan depends upon our ability and capacity to develop the full potential of all children and young people. School^{PLUS} represents a new social institution that will provide the

supports and services young people need to be successful in school and life. This initiative will enhance the opportunity for all young people to contribute actively to the social and economic future of our province.

- Saskatchewan Learning



An Elder teaches a student to make a dream catcher.



Education is an important step in the development of young people.

The role of the school

Schools today have two primary functions:

- 1) to educate children and youth – nurturing the development of the whole child, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically; and,
- 2) to support service delivery – serving as centres at the community level for the delivery of appropriate social, health, recreation, culture, justice and other services for children and families.

- Photos provided by Saskatchewan Learning