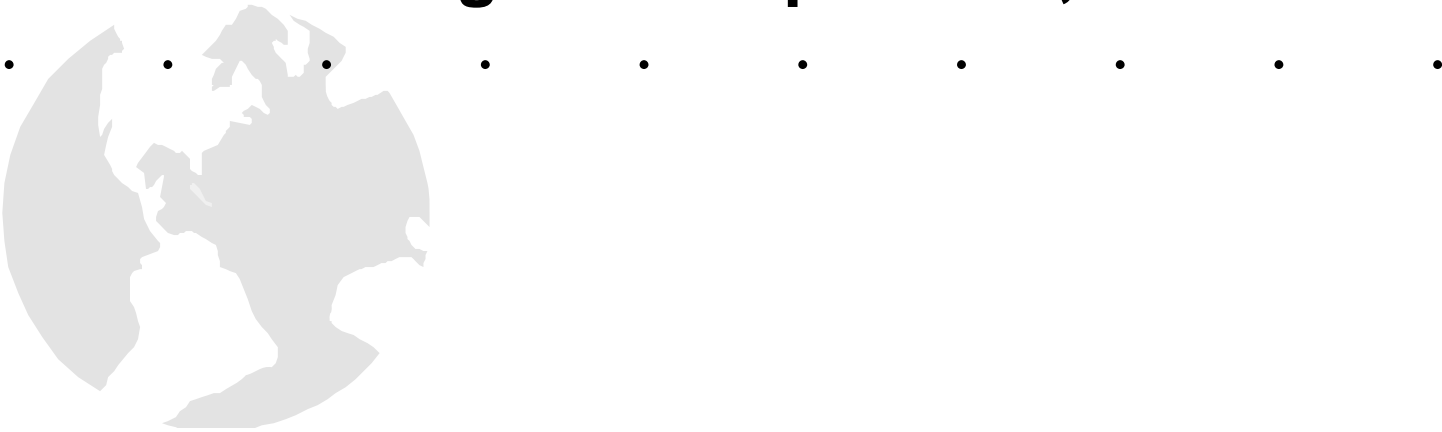




**Saskatchewan Urban Agenda
Launch
August 31 – September 1, 2006**



Report on Outcomes



Saskatchewan Urban Agenda: Launch of the Discussion

Report on Outcomes

Background

On August 31 and September 1, 2006, Saskatchewan Government Relations convened a two day forum to discuss an urban agenda for the province. This event brought together senior government officials from various provincial government departments, city mayors, city managers, representatives from SUMA, SARM and REDAs, Chamber of Commerce officials from around the province, and a number of Saskatchewan business leaders.

Discussion of an urban agenda is being undertaken in response to the growing recognition that Saskatchewan's urban centres are an essential part of the provincial economy and future development of the province. Recent studies have concluded that cities are major drivers of the economy and as cities grow surrounding rural communities grow. Also, urban centres provide a wide range of services to their residents and surrounding rural communities. Urban and rural areas support and sustain each other. An urban agenda needs to involve large and small urban and rural municipalities.

Objective of the Forum

The objective of the forum was to begin discussions on shared interests and goals between the provincial government and municipalities, and on provincial and municipal roles and responsibilities in order to develop a more coordinated and strategic partnership between the provincial government and Saskatchewan urban centres to address the needs of Saskatchewan residents.

Overview of the Forum Events and Processes

The forum began with an evening session where the Honourable Michael Harcourt, the Chair of the Prime Minister's External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, provided an overview of the findings and recommendations of the Committee and how they apply to Saskatchewan.

On the following morning, the forum was organized to address two broad themes – economic development and human and community services in Saskatchewan. For each of these themes, presentations were given by a panel of Saskatchewan government deputy ministers on their departments' initiatives, future directions, issues and opportunities that have relevance for the municipal sector.

Following each panel presentation, participants discussed in small groups and then at corresponding plenary sessions the following questions:

- What are the common municipal and provincial priorities, and are there gaps?
- What needs to be done in these areas and who should do it?
- What do urban centres contribute to these areas?

During the lunch hour, Mark MacLeod, President of the Saskatchewan Information Services Corporation, spoke about his experience as the Saskatchewan member of the External Advisory Committee.

The forum ended with a plenary discussion to summarize the discussions from the two morning sessions and to chart the way for future action to develop an urban agenda.

Setting the Stage: A Summary of the Honourable Michael Harcourt's Speech

The following are the main points made by the Honourable Michael Harcourt:

- We live in a globalized world. Global competition has shifted from the national level to cities and communities. To be successful in the global economy, Canadian cities and communities need to be competitive and sustainable in the long-term.
- Sustainability needs four integrated dimensions – economy, environment, social issues and culture – and is a first step to ensure competitiveness of our communities.
- Canadian communities need to engage in integrated sustainability planning, but there is no “cookie-cutter” approach for all communities. For communities, “place and size matter”, and creativity is needed when approaching sustainability planning.
- There is a synergy between communities of different size. Promoting and supporting this synergy is very important for the future of Canada. Co-operative governing in our communities would contribute to sustainability and competitiveness of Canadian communities and the double devolution approach to authority and resources would improve the quality of local governance.
- In Saskatchewan, integrated sustainability and cooperative governance amongst communities of various sizes and regions is especially important for the province to achieve long-term sustainability and global competitiveness.
- Competitiveness is an issue of national significance and the federal government has an important role to play in the national and provincial urban agendas. At a meeting, Minister Cannon's positive remarks on the External Advisory Committee's recommendations may be an indication of federal interest and support for national and provincial urban agendas.

Setting the Stage: A Summary of Mark MacLeod's Speech

Mark MacLeod made the following comments on the Commission's findings from a Saskatchewan perspective:

- Saskatchewan is a place where innovation and innovative thinking has always been found.

- Today is a beginning of a journey which will be as important as the destination itself. Participants need to take on a perspective that you cannot win unless the other person also wins.
- We need to ask why we need an urban agenda. While developing an urban agenda is important, it is not necessarily sufficient. We need to start making decisions that are sensitive to “place and size” of communities.
- Sixty percent of our economy comes from two major centres that have 40 percent of the population. Urban centres have unique issues and challenges, therefore, it seems that urban agenda is a way to go.
- In the same way that a national strategy won’t work if it focuses strictly on three main centres of the country, a Saskatchewan urban strategy that focuses on two main centres, or 13 urban centres, may not work for Saskatchewan.
- We need to include all communities in the provincial vision. This vision needs to encompass a long period of time, such as 100 years, and it should be a provincial vision that is shared by people, not a provincial government vision.
- Today’s discussion should focus on where we are going and how we going to get there. We need to involve our youth in this process.
- Not all rural communities will survive. We need to prepare for that and deal with this issue with dignity and before crises.
- We should embrace the principles of double devolution.
- An urban agenda needs to be bold, leadership-based, and abundance-based, not scarcity-based. It should recognize diversity of communities in our province. It should also recognize that we need to make some tough decisions on the sustainability of our communities.

Looking Through an Economic Lens

What the Panel Told Us

The following is a summary of the main points from the deputy ministers on economic development initiatives, further directions, issues and opportunities that have relevance to municipalities:

Doug Matthies, Deputy Minister of Finance

- Saskatchewan’s economy performed well over the past three years. The provincial rate of GDP growth was the second highest in Canada in 2003 (3.8 %) and the third highest in 2004 (3.4 %) and 2005 (3.2 %). It is estimated that the GDP growth in 2006 will be in the range of 2.9 to 3.2 %.
- Currently, about 37 percent of the current revenues of the provincial government are from non-renewable royalties and federal transfers, which are very volatile in nature and uncertain in the future.
- Health care continues to be the largest expenditure item of the provincial budget (45% of the total operating expenditures). About 61 percent of the budget is spent on salaries and benefits (health regions, schools, provincial government, etc.).
- The Saskatchewan economy is primarily based on exports, which presently constitute 70 percent of the GDP. This makes our economy more susceptible to negative impacts from outside of the province, which are hard to predict and mitigate. Economic

diversification has become a pressing need for the province, especially if there is a global economic slowdown in the near future.

Bruce Wilson, Deputy Minister of Industry and Resources

- Saskatchewan Industry and Resources focuses on six key sectors of the provincial economy – oil and gas, mining, forestry, agri-value, manufacturing, and advanced technology, which are important to municipal prosperity.
- The department's specific strategies directed at economic growth, such as encouraging business growth and retention, promoting the province, resource development, and supporting specific projects, relate to and impact municipalities.
- The department is involved in several strategic partnerships with the municipal sector, including the Canadian Life Source synchrotron in Saskatoon, the Petroleum Technology Research Centre in Regina, Communities of Tomorrow project in Regina, and the BizPal web-based portal.

John Law, Deputy Minister of Highways and Transportation

- The department's new Transportation for Economic Renewal framework connects investment and economic activity in Saskatchewan to the transportation system and global markets.
- The framework supports cities by enabling economic development, opening new investment opportunities and addressing traffic congestion and environmental concerns. The government is continually examining issues that are important for future economic prosperity of the province, such as ensuring continuity of needed economic corridors and efficiency in the free flow of shipments through and around cities, and addressing bottlenecks and safety concerns.
- In the past, the department's work with cities has been ad hoc. The department will be establishing new co-operative relationships with Saskatchewan municipalities using this framework.

Denise Haas, Deputy Minister of Regional Economic and Cooperative Development

- Successful economic development comes from the grass roots. The Department of Regional Economic and Cooperative Development facilitates and encourages grass roots regional development by working with stakeholders, including municipalities, and using regional economic development authorities (REDAs) to develop common knowledge and decision-making for regions.
- Presently, there are many initiatives that support regional development in the province, such as SARM and SUMA's Clearing the Path, regional transportation committees and REDAs.
- The department will work with municipalities to ensure greater regional development that supports the provincial economy.

Bonnie Durnford, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Employment

- Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment supports the postsecondary education and training sector and connects people with jobs and careers in urban and rural municipalities throughout Saskatchewan. Twenty offices across the province provide front-line services to job seekers and employers.

- More work needs to be done to support immigrants to settle in communities and find jobs as well as to help Saskatchewan youth, and First Nations and Métis people find employment.
- Given Saskatchewan's booming economy, ageing population, limited immigration and out-migration, attracting and retaining people to the Saskatchewan labour market is one of government's key priorities.
- Discussion is needed on the role that Saskatchewan cities and municipalities may play in ensuring an adequate supply of qualified labour in the province.

What the Participants Told Us

The participants identified a number of common provincial and municipal priorities for economic development in the areas of employment and jobs; labour shortage/supply; postsecondary education and trades training; retention and attraction of youth; immigration; First Nations' participation; succession planning; infrastructure; transportation; labour legislation; and regionalization.

The participants also identified common priorities for community and human services that are needed to support economic development in the areas of health; public safety (fire fighting and protection, water quality, roads, etc.); emergency services; quality of life; housing; education; city core issues; and recreation and cultural amenities.

Participants agreed that although specific priorities will differ among municipal governments and with the provincial government, they do not need to be competing.

What Needs to Be Done for Economic Development

In terms of what needs to be done in the areas of common priorities to encourage economic development in Saskatchewan, the participants identified the following possible actions:

Labour Supply:

- Develop strategies to attract and retain youth, increase immigration, and increase First Nations' and persons with disabilities' participation in the economy.
- Provide quality of life services in urban centres.
- Promote Saskatchewan to attract labour and build self-esteem, emphasizing availability of quality jobs, safer communications, good quality of life, environmental factors, less commuting time, and other positive features of living and working in the province.
- Build confidence with industry that labour supply will be available.
- Recognize that Saskatchewan competes with Alberta, the rest of Canada and the rest of the world for the skilled labour and that that labour is very mobile.

Education and Training:

- Increase post secondary and training placements.
- Coordinate training with tendering and construction.
- Provide mentoring programs.
- Develop partnerships with schools.

- Encourage businesses to provide training.
- Examine opportunities for decentralizing training.
- Examine education facilities that are competing for resources and have overlapping responsibilities, i. e., universities, SIAST, community colleges, and separate and public schools.

Municipal Finance:

- Address municipal revenue sharing and fiscal balance issues.
- Address municipal infrastructure needs and deficits.
- Provide alternative municipal revenue raising powers.

Provincial Taxation System:

- Undertake further work to ensure a provincial competitive tax system (corporate taxes).
- Address Saskatchewan-Alberta competitive tax issue affecting the City of Lloydminster.

Transportation:

- Further develop freight and trade corridors, such as the north/south road system, and that include rail line and air transportation.
- Address heavy oil road issues.

Regulatory Environment:

- Reduce the municipal and provincial regulatory requirements and obstacles for developers and businesses.
- Develop a coordinated response to business development, such as one-stop shopping for permits and regulation.
- Determine how governments can respond more quickly and be more flexible to take advantage of business opportunities.

Labour Legislation:

- Address provincial labour relations and legislation issues, and instances where federal legislation overrides the provincial legislation, creating problems within the provincial labour force.

Municipal-Provincial Relationship:

- Build collaboration, trust and communication.
- Clearly define municipal and provincial roles, responsibilities and ensure the required level of resources to fulfill those responsibilities.
- Together with other parties, develop a vision for economic prosperity for Saskatchewan and work on a regional basis to establish objectives and priorities.
- Address nuisance liabilities and complete the Lloydminster Charter review.

Provincial Government Organization and Coordination:

- Need for continuity of ministerial and deputy ministerial appointments.
- Need for municipal issues to be dealt with by one department and for one department to be responsible for economic development.
- Provide government services through a common set of regional boundaries.

- Work with municipalities on a regional basis, where possible.
- Increase coordination and dialogue amongst government departments and between the departments, municipalities and First Nations.

Municipal Governments:

- Work together more on a regional basis to encourage economic development; provide more support to REDAs; use Clearing the Path as a model, and provide and promote examples of success in regional municipal cooperation.
- Work together to provide services, share costs and revenues from development and coordinate planning.
- Be creative in encouraging economic development.
- Look at possible reversions, where possible.
- Stop waiting for the provincial government to take action and provide funding.

Urban Centres' Contributions to Economic Development and the Provincial Economy Strategy

In the discussion on the contribution of urban centres to economic development and the provincial economic strategy, participants commented that cities:

- Contribute to quality of life for Saskatchewan residents and to economic prosperity of the province.
- Generate economic activity.
- Provide pools of labour.
- Provide infrastructure and services to urban and rural residents.
- Attract and retain people in Saskatchewan.
- Support surrounding rural areas.

Participants agreed that Saskatoon, Regina and other cities need to be supported by the provincial government, but not at the expense of rural Saskatchewan.

Looking Through Social and Community Lenses

What the Panel Told Us

The following is a summary of the main points from the deputy ministers on provincial government human and community service initiatives, further directions, issues and opportunities that have relevance to municipalities:

John Wright, Deputy Minister of Health

- The health care system is one of the foundational elements of any community.
- For the health care system to continue to fulfill this role, an appropriate supply of health care workers is needed at all levels. Retention of health care workers in rural communities, villages and small towns is currently a significant issue in Saskatchewan.
- The lack of skilled health care workers is impacting the time people wait for surgeries and other specialized medical services, such as sleep apnea clinics, speech therapy and many other services.

- Five key areas are being focused on – work force planning and rural and small urban retention of health care workers; electronic health records for transmission, diagnosis and remote services; wait times for surgeries and medical services; primary health care; and chronic health care.

Wynne Young, Deputy Minister of Learning

- In 2004, Saskatchewan Learning committed to three critical areas – education equity, restructuring of the school divisions, and developing a fair system of funding education, while trying to find a long-term solution to lowering education property taxes.
- The department has been working with communities and developed some good partnerships in initiatives, such as Community Schools, School Plus, the Regional Intersectoral Committees, and partnerships with Aboriginal educators.
- As part of the vision for the restructuring of the school system in Saskatchewan, the department will be launching the School Community Councils Initiative in every school in the province in 2007.
- The department is interested in working with communities in the area of literacy, and particularly in maintaining the provincial library system.
- The department has built the foundation of a system that will meet the needs of students and communities better. Saskatchewan Learning is committed to building on this foundation in the future and working with communities and municipalities.

Doug Moen, Deputy Minister of Justice

- Communities play a significant role in ensuring public safety and security.
- Community-based strategies on targeted crime reduction, such as Regina’s Car Theft Strategy and Saskatoon’s Break and Enter Strategy, are very effective. They focus on those chronically involved in crime. These strategies have resulted in a significant drop in the number of car thefts in Regina and break-ins in Saskatoon.
- Projects that are focused on a particular problem and bring together a number of players can be very helpful, regardless of community size. Community-based approaches are needed to deal with organized crime, drug trafficking and prostitution in the province.
- The department is currently developing several programs in which it would like to encourage more and wider involvement of community organizations. With the Aboriginal Justice Commission, Saskatchewan Justice promotes therapeutic courts for cases of domestic violence and drug-related offence. Such courts have already been set up in Saskatoon and North Battleford, with one to come soon in Regina. The department is also working closely with SUMA, SARM and the RCMP on the renewal of the RCMP service agreement, which expires in 2012.
- Provincial-municipal partnerships are critical in the area of justice. Justice becomes affordable when costs are shared. Political leadership is urgently needed to work at this at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, and with Aboriginal governments. Working with the Aboriginal community is more and more critical.

Darrell Jones, Assistant Deputy Minister Responsible for Housing, Department of Community Resources

- Saskatchewan Community Resources touches the lives of many citizens and communities on a day-to-day basis in Saskatchewan.

- About 60 percent of people presently receiving social assistance have a disability. The department is striving to integrate people with disabilities more fully into society and to improve their quality of life. Access to jobs is critical. The provincial government and communities need to work on this together.
- The department has a number of long-standing partnerships with municipalities in the area of affordable housing. Saskatchewan Community Resources introduced a Home First provincial housing strategy. It will provide a \$200 million investment in housing over a five-year period. Substantive consultations were undertaken with municipalities on the strategy.
- The department is working closely with First Nations and Métis communities. Recently, \$26 million of federal government funding was earmarked for support of the Aboriginal households in Saskatchewan.

Terry Lang, Deputy Minister of Corrections and Public Safety

- Legislation places considerable responsibility on municipalities to provide public safety services, but smaller communities have little or no capacity to deliver these services to their residents. Local people and organizations are in the front lines of most emergency situations in Saskatchewan. The department supports and assists local people and communities in providing emergency services.
- Work under an urban agenda could include collaborating with communities through mutual aid agreements and sharing resources and experience, and enhanced provincial training and support.

Dave Phillips, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment

- Saskatchewan's recent Green Strategy creates opportunities for cooperation among government, businesses and the communities. Extensive consultations were undertaken on the strategy. Six areas of common interest between the department and municipalities emerged – replacing aging infrastructure with more energy efficient and environmentally friendly infrastructure, reclamation of contaminated sites and brown fields, solid waste management, wild fire management and protection, capacity building and mutual aid agreements, and tourism.
- Tourism could be of particular importance to an urban agenda, as tourism is becoming more natural amenity-based. There is demand for country residential living combined with recreational opportunities. Communities of all sizes need to work together with the provincial government in this area.

Lily Stonehouse, Deputy Minister of Government Relations

- Saskatchewan Government Relations' mandate is to support effective governance of municipalities. The department has three priorities: to articulate a provincial strategy to support the development of Saskatchewan communities, including establishing a predictable approach to urban revenue sharing; to continue working with the federal government to negotiate infrastructure funding arrangements; and to introduce a new planning and development act to increase the tools available to municipalities for land use planning.
- The provincial government and municipalities need to work together to set priorities for infrastructure funding and establish operational funding requirements for municipalities

that are linked to municipal roles and responsibilities, as well as their revenue generating capacity.

- In order to address municipal infrastructure deficits and needs, better information is needed in this area.
- Land use and development activities increasingly involve more than one municipality or provincial department. Land development may involve shared servicing or have impacts on adjoining municipal services. Coordinating and managing these activities requires better cooperation among municipalities and with, and within, the provincial government. Also, Aboriginal people need to be more closely involved and all municipal land use initiatives need to contemplate the impact on treaty and Aboriginal rights.
- The operations of municipal corporations are getting more complicated, and some of Saskatchewan municipalities are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their statutory obligations. The municipal sector and provincial government need to work together to develop proactive approaches to ensure that essential services are in place in our communities, including attracting and retaining staff and enabling alternative approaches to service delivery.

What the Participants Told Us

The forum participants discussed human and community services issues and how they intersect with municipal governance and what can be done to make this intersection more effective. They pointed out that many of the human and community service issues also relate to and impact economic development in communities and the province. Municipal governance, roles and responsibilities and municipal-provincial relations in general were also discussed, stressing that effective delivery of human and community services is based on how well the former are defined, organized and managed.

What Needs to Be Done to Improve Human and Community Services

The following actions under common priority areas were identified to improve human and community services:

Education:

- Ensure early childhood development, particularly through quality day care centres and accountable and more visible elementary and secondary educational systems.
- Address the education property tax system issues.
- Enhance apprenticeship training.
- Address the issue of children not attending school through cooperation amongst government departments, school boards and municipalities.
- Provide municipalities with some discretion regarding multiuse facilities and access to education funding for such facilities.

Emergency Response:

- Improve cooperation between the municipal sector and the provincial government, as well as within the two levels of government, to improve emergency response services.

- Provide a systematic debriefing of emergency incidents to identify issues and opportunities and make improvements.
- Develop regional plans for emergency measures, as most emergency plans are for cities or urban centres and do not include surrounding rural areas and communities.
- Find ways to reduce or limit liability in order to eliminate barriers to taking action during emergency responses.

Health Care:

- Retain health care professionals in Saskatchewan communities.
- Work with municipalities to decide on the location of health facilities.
- Work with municipalities on addiction prevention and treatment programs.
- Make the provincial health care system more visible in and accountable to communities.
- Remove the required municipal capital health facility financial contributions.
- Develop partnerships between municipalities and the provincial government on promoting wellness through capital investments and program development.

Environment:

- Define environmental responsibilities as being shared equally between the municipal sector and the province, including setting of standards.
- Enhance inter-municipal cooperation in the area of environment.

Income Support and Affordable Housing:

- Clarify municipal and provincial roles and responsibilities in the areas of affordable housing and social programs. Municipalities have an important role in supporting social programs like Block Parents, business patrols and other programs.
- Remove the required municipal financial and land contributions to housing projects.

Municipal-Provincial Relations:

- Clarify municipal and provincial roles and responsibilities in the areas of health care provision, education, environmental standards, policing, income support and affordable housing.
- Improve co-ordination and communication between provincial departments and municipalities and other local agencies.
- Improve understanding of how the provincial government works and how the municipalities work.
- Develop a common vision and agenda in the area of human and community services.

Regional Planning:

- Support regional planning for human and community services.
- Educate the public, municipal and provincial governments that every community in Saskatchewan cannot have a school, a hospital and a medical clinic, and on the need for regional planning of service delivery.

Municipal Finance and Infrastructure:

- Address limited municipal revenue sources that affect the ability of municipalities to invest in infrastructure.

- Develop a municipal inventory of infrastructure needs.
- Provide better revenue sharing arrangements to help communities provide leisure and cultural facilities and programming to residents.
- Develop a long-term, three-year, funding arrangement among the federal, provincial and municipal governments, in place of the current annual arrangements, that includes identifying specific outcomes for measuring performance.
- Ensure project funding is provided for the length of the project.

Economic Development:

- Need to make Saskatchewan communities “development-ready” and showcase communities.
- Enhance co-operation and co-ordination among stakeholders when dealing with economic development in communities.

Urban Centres’ Contributions to Community and Human Services

The participants agreed that urban centres are the only areas in Saskatchewan capable of providing all key human services, but indicated that it should not only be urban centres that are given financial and other resources to deliver these services.

Plenary Session - Summary Discussions

Participants discussed the value of an urban agenda and indicated that:

- An urban agenda could be contentious and exclusionary.
- An urban agenda would have value, as Canada and Saskatchewan are becoming increasingly more urbanized and urban centres are where the majority of residents live.
- The cities indicate they have a city agenda. Municipalities are working more closely together. More needs to be done.
- This is an opportune time. The federal government is talking about working with municipalities differently. This session have brought government and municipal leaders together to identify common concerns and opportunities.

In terms of who should be involved in the urban agenda, participants indicated that:

- There should be a clearer definition of what “urban” includes.
- It is not clear why there should be a distinction between the “urban” and the “rural” in Saskatchewan.
- Rural municipalities recognize the importance of urban centres, but an urban agenda should not exclude rural Saskatchewan. All communities should be involved.
- An urban agenda should not result in the rest of the province being ignored.

The participants suggested the following be included in an urban agenda:

- Development of a common and shared vision, objectives and goals for economic development.
- Redefining how the provincial government and municipalities work together, including development of cooperation, trust, an equal relationship and shared decision-making.
- Reviewing municipal and provincial roles and responsibilities.

- Determining provincial funding to municipalities.
- Attraction and retention of youth.
- Promoting quality of life in Saskatchewan.
- Succession planning for the public and private sector.

In terms of the next steps, participants suggested the following:

- The provincial government needs to provide a long-term plan (beyond 30 years) to provide leadership. An urban agenda could be the first step.
- There should be three municipal agendas – urban, rural and urban and rural. A regional component should be part of the urban and rural agenda.
- Subcommittees are needed to move the identified items forward.

Lily Stonehouse, Deputy Minister of Government Relations, provided the following comments and suggested next steps:

- A number of key issues that have been identified today could be chosen for further discussion. These include what we have to do to attract investment, labour and immigration and how we should address the pressures on urban municipalities that provide services.
- A review of municipal roles and responsibilities would be a helpful starting place and could assist in the examination of revenue sharing. A number of areas have been identified for such a review.
- There are two existing provincial government forums that could facilitate development and implementation of an urban agenda:
 - The Municipal Forum, which is being used to discuss revenue sharing relating to a number of categories of communities (cities, rural municipalities, urban municipalities and northern municipalities); and
 - Two deputy ministers' committees on the economy and the environment, and human services.
- Discussion will be undertaken with the Municipal Forum and the deputy ministers' committees about the urban agenda and how we should move forward. After those meetings, we will come back to you with a proposal about how to move the urban agenda forward.

Next Steps

On September 28, 2006, Saskatchewan Government Relations will bring forward to the Municipal Forum for discussion:

- Who should be included in an urban agenda?
- What are the common municipal and provincial priorities, issues and opportunities that could be included under an urban agenda? Below is a summary of the overarching common priority areas that have been identified for consideration under an urban agenda.
- What process should be used for development and implementation of an urban agenda?

The Deputy Minister of Government Relations will undertake discussions this fall with the Deputy Ministers' Committees on the Economy and the Environment, and Human Services to determine what role these two committees could play in the development and

implementation of an urban agenda, particularly as the committees relate to interdepartmental coordination and cooperation.

Overarching Common Priority Areas for Consideration under an Urban Agenda

Municipal and Provincial Roles and Responsibilities and Partnerships

- Clarification of municipal and provincial roles and responsibilities, and identification of opportunities for municipal and provincial partnerships, in the areas of:
 - labour development/education and training
 - economic development/competitiveness/regulatory environment
 - transportation
 - regional cooperation
 - crime prevention
 - protective services
 - affordable housing and social programs
 - environmental standards and protection
 - health care provision

Municipal Funding and Infrastructure

- Alignment of municipal revenues with roles and responsibilities.
- Identification, prioritization and funding of municipal infrastructure needs.