



Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report 2000 - 2001

Saskatchewan Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

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Letter of Transmittal

Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan
Government House
Regina, Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

It is our honour to submit to you the Annual Report of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001.

The report reflects the department's work in support of the goals of the Government of Saskatchewan. The department's work toward these goals has contributed significantly to the unique character of our province and to the quality of life possible for every individual in Saskatchewan.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Axworthy".

Chris Axworthy, Q.C.
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Lorjé".

Pat Lorjé
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Provincial Secretary

The Honourable Chris Axworthy, Q.C.
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable Pat Lorjé
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Provincial Secretary

Dear Ministers:

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration the Annual Report of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs (IAA) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001.

Department initiatives continued at many levels, within the province, and on the national and international scenes, to both ensure the continuation of a high quality of life for residents of Saskatchewan generally and to improve conditions for Aboriginal people in the province.

The Province of Saskatchewan's agenda to improve the quality of life for First Nations and Métis people in the province moved forward in several areas. Department staff worked with organizations and individuals within the Aboriginal community to develop a broad-based multi-department strategy and implement a number of initiatives that will enable Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan to participate more fully in the social and economic fabric of our province. The Department also led the province's representations at self-government negotiations with Canada and Saskatchewan First Nations.

The trade and international portfolio managed a full agenda of trade negotiations and trade disputes that directly affected Saskatchewan's economic interests. The federal-provincial and constitutional area was instrumental in advancing Saskatchewan's key social, economic and constitutional interests through a variety of initiatives.

The Provincial Secretary Division shared in the year's accomplishments. Each branch of the division contributed to the promotion of Saskatchewan's heritage and achievements.

Internally, the department advanced its strategic planning process and launched its web site at www.iaa.gov.sk.ca.

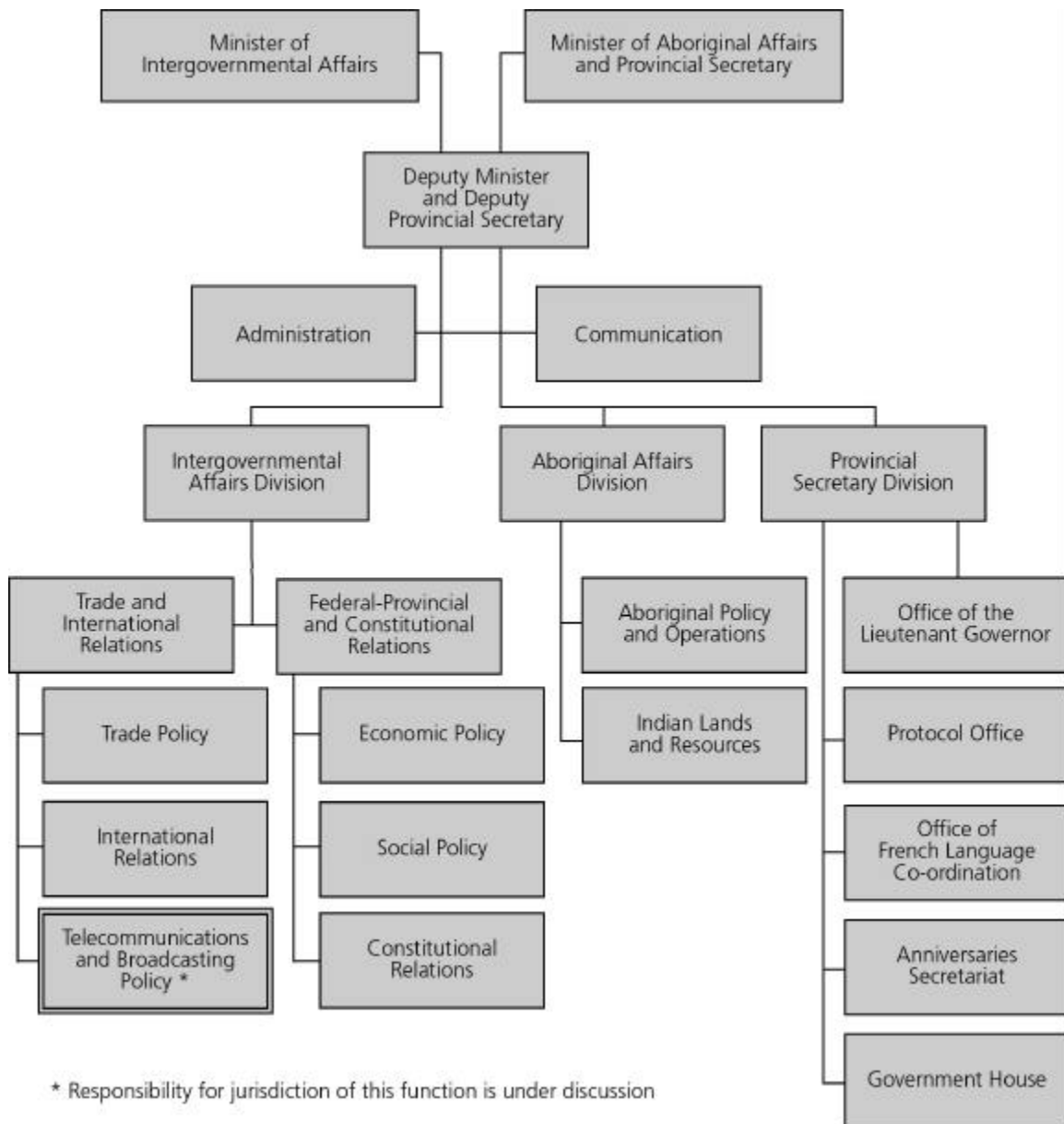
The issues at IAA remain ever challenging. I am confident, however, that the dedication and professionalism of our staff will make it possible to meet the challenges and to fulfil our objectives on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.



W. Brent Cotter
Deputy Minister
Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs
and Deputy Provincial Secretary



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



Department Strategic Direction

Our Department Vision

IAA is a PROFESSIONAL organization.

Employees have professional integrity and complementary skills and knowledge in the department's fields of endeavour.

IAA is a DYNAMIC and PROACTIVE organization.

Our department is a leader in the creation and support of initiatives within and between governments, communities and organizations. The department influences and effects positive outcomes by anticipating and embracing change, by addressing employee and community needs and by building strong and effective relationships.

IAA leads by example. Creative and collaborative problem solving and innovation are encouraged. The department recognizes the importance of effective communication.

IAA is a RESPECTFUL organization.

IAA recognizes and respects the cultural diversity of the communities with which it works. The department acknowledges the contribution of all employees. It employs a representative workforce.

IAA is a RESPONSIBLE organization.

IAA is accountable to the public for achieving its goals and objectives and for effectively managing its resources.

Our Guiding Principles

IAA believes in:

INTEGRITY. We conduct our activities and approach our relationships with honesty, fairness and trustworthiness.

RESPECT. We are supportive and sensitive to the needs of others. Our interactions are based on fairness, equity and openness.

PROFESSIONALISM. We strive for excellence and have pride in our work, take a non-partisan approach and are courteous and respectful toward all people.

OPEN COMMUNICATION. We communicate in an open, consultative and responsible manner.

TEAMWORK AND CO-OPERATION. We promote teamwork and co-operation.

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION. We promote a learning culture. We encourage new ideas and fresh approaches. We value risk-taking to achieve innovation.

HEALTHY WORKING ENVIRONMENT. We recognize the need to balance work and family life and the importance of acknowledging the contributions of all employees. IAA is accountable to the public for achieving its goals and objectives and for effectively managing its resources.

Mandates

Department Mandate

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs will:

- promote Saskatchewan's interests through the management of the province's relations with other governments, in Canada and abroad;
- work with Aboriginal people in the province and their organizations to develop and implement policies and programs which advance our common interests; and
- provide services related to protocol, honours, ceremonial and celebratory special events, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and the Office of French-language Co-ordination.

Intergovernmental Affairs Division

Trade and International Relations

Trade and International Relations will:

- initiate and co-ordinate the development and implementation of provincial policies on market access for exports from, and imports into, Saskatchewan with respect to goods, services, investment and labour;
- negotiate the acceptance of those policies by, in the case of international trade, the federal government and, in the case of internal trade, both the federal and other provincial and territorial governments in Canada; participate in the resolution of trade disputes involving Saskatchewan measures; assist the provincial government, and its departments and agencies, in achieving their economic, social and constitutional objectives through the instrument of trade policy; and, more generally, initiate and co-ordinate the development and implementation of policies and programs of the Government of

Saskatchewan in its relations with the governments and peoples of foreign jurisdictions, and with the governing bodies of international organizations and their institutions.

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations will:

- use available instruments to advance Saskatchewan's economic, social and constitutional objectives and interests intergovernmentally; and
- continue to assess developments within the federation to ensure that Saskatchewan's objectives and interests are strategically situated within the evolving policy and intergovernmental environment.

Aboriginal Affairs Division

The Aboriginal Affairs Division will:

- work with Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people and their organizations to develop and implement policies and programs that advance our common interests;

- increase the participation of Aboriginal people in the social, cultural, and economic life of the province through:
 - respect for Aboriginal cultures and identities as the foundation for policy development and our constructive relationships with Aboriginal communities and organizations;
 - facilitation of, in partnership with Aboriginal organizations, communities and the federal government, functional and accountable First Nations and Métis governance structures; and
 - a focus on practical matters in a strategic and co-ordinated approach that is advanced across government, between governments and through our relations with Aboriginal organizations.

Provincial Secretary Division

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor will:

- support the Lieutenant Governor in carrying out her constitutional responsibilities within our constitutional monarchy. These responsibilities include providing Royal Assent, signing Orders-in-Council, and constitutional matters that enable the government to function;
- support the Lieutenant Governor in her goal to be accessible to the people of Saskatchewan, through visits or by attending events and functions; and
- encourage citizen participation in the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

Protocol Office

The Protocol Office will:

- plan, organize and implement visits of foreign diplomats, heads of state and government, ministers and delegations;

- organize ceremonial occasions and other special events; administer the provincial honours and awards program; formulate and implement policy on provincial symbols; and
- provide consulting services to government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the general public.

Government House Heritage Property

Government House Heritage Property will:

- operate as a premier heritage and tourism attraction featuring cultural and educational programming to all markets;
- operate a hospitality facility for events of government and certain non-profit organizations; and
- provide suitable facilities for the offices and functions of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

Office of French-language Coordination

The Office of French-language Coordination will:

- form productive partnerships with Saskatchewan's Francophone community, relevant government departments and agencies, other provinces and territories and the federal government; and
- enhance the delivery of French-language services in Saskatchewan, in sectors important to Saskatchewan's Francophone community.

Anniversaries Secretariat

The Anniversaries Secretariat will:

- co-ordinate the implementation of Millennium and Centennial activities and projects;
- consult with, and receive direction from, the Citizens' Advisory Council on Anniversaries; and
- make recommendations to government regarding Centennial celebrations; and
- promote Saskatchewan's Centennial within the province and across Canada.

Department Goals

- I. The aspirations of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people are understood and realized within the broader Saskatchewan community in a manner that is fair and equitable.
- II. Canada's constitutionally recognized communities and people are acknowledged, respected and supported within our province and federation.
- III. Saskatchewan's social, economic and constitutional interests are advanced, and its values are recognized and reflected, within a strong, united Canadian federation and within the international community.
- IV. Saskatchewan's identity, heritage and the achievements of our people are honoured, promoted and celebrated.
- V. A high quality of working life and an adequately resourced, healthy, learning organization are the foundations on which excellent service is provided by our representative workforce.

Legislation

The Honourable Chris Axworthy, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Honourable Pat Lorjé, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Provincial Secretary, have responsibility for the following Acts and Regulations:

The Department of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Regulations, 1998

The Honourable Chris Axworthy, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, has responsibility for the following Acts and Regulations:

The Community Cablecaster Act (not proclaimed)
The Rural Telephone Act
The Telephone Department Act

The Honourable Pat Lorjé, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Provincial Secretary, has responsibility for the following Acts and Regulations:

The Indian and Native Affairs Act
The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act (administered by Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs on behalf of the Premier of Saskatchewan)
The Provincial Secretary's Act and Regulations
The Saskatchewan Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (Treaty Land Entitlement) Act
The Treaty Land Entitlement Implementation Act

Goal I:	The aspirations of Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people are understood and realized in a manner that is fair and equitable.
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INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN PROVINCIAL LIFE

Framework for Cooperation: A Strategy and Action Plan for Working with Métis and Off-Reserve First Nations People

The *Framework for Cooperation* proposes integrated action by 12 sponsoring departments to address primary, secondary and post-secondary education, skills training and work preparation, representative participation in the provincial economy, and individual and community well-being.

The *Framework for Cooperation* was formalized as the provincial response to the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples with an emphasis on four areas: primary, secondary and post-secondary education; skills training and work preparation; representative workforce participation in the provincial economy; and individual and community well-being.

During 2000-01, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, in conjunction with the 12 sponsoring provincial departments, undertook a detailed analysis of community and stakeholder comments that were gathered during consultations in the winter of 1999-2000. The views of teachers, school boards, health districts, post-secondary education institutions, the business community and labour were reviewed in detail. Most importantly, the perspectives and priorities of Aboriginal parents and others present at community meetings in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, La Ronge, Ile a la Crosse and Yorkton were examined against the proposals set out in the 1999 *Framework for Cooperation* discussion document.

This work included a detailed review of provincial services to examine how provincial services responded to the stated community priorities:

- jobs and economic development;
- skill training and work preparation;
- primary, secondary and post-secondary education with particular emphasis on initiatives that assist Aboriginal children to stay in school, keep them in school, and graduate from high school, and university education;
- youth; and,
- well-being to address the growing incidence of diabetes among Aboriginal people, culturally sensitive social services, and housing.

Community feedback validated the *Framework for Cooperation* to be appropriate for Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in Saskatchewan. The feedback then served as the foundation for formulating objectives that responded directly to the goals that were affirmed by communities and stakeholders during the consultations.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, and all other sponsoring departments, will announce and begin implementation of integrated initiatives under the auspices of the Framework for Cooperation, the Province's first comprehensive strategy for addressing the needs and aspirations of Métis and off-reserve First Nations people in Saskatchewan.

The department also will continue to advance to the federal government the priorities identified through consultations to address the ever-growing and pressing needs of Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis people.

Aboriginal Employment Development Program

The Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP) was established in 1992 to facilitate employment opportunities for Aboriginal people across the public and private sectors. The program promotes and facilitates partnerships between Aboriginal people, organizations and public and private sector employers.

These partnerships help ensure that Aboriginal people get the training they need to compete for, and obtain, jobs in Saskatchewan workplaces. Partnerships emphasize Aboriginal employability and employer commitment, remove barriers to employment and retention, and identify and develop business opportunities.

Department representatives continue to meet with private and public sector employers to promote the goal of a representative workforce in Saskatchewan.

Elements of the representative workforce strategy include:

- linking employers with the Aboriginal labour force;
- relating training for Aboriginal people to real job opportunities;
- linking First Nations and Métis education institutions with employers;
- fostering a greater role for Aboriginal communities in employment;
- overcoming employment barriers based on racial and cultural factors; and
- facilitating investments by the private sector.

Aboriginal Affairs funded 25 projects under the AEDP during the 2000-01 fiscal year. Key initiatives include:

- Partner organizations have hired **11 full-time coordinators**, as of March 31, 2001, to implement policy and programs within their respective workplaces to enhance Aboriginal employment. The department cost shares the first year of Aboriginal employment coordinator positions to assist in the implementation of employment strategies with partnering organizations.
- **Workplace audits** of Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, Saskatchewan Health and the University of Regina were undertaken in fiscal 2000-2001. Employee audits of all of partner employer positions are completed to identify and communicate all employment classifications within a workplace to the Aboriginal community. In addition, the department developed a database of all employee audits to enhance the communication of job opportunities. With this information Aboriginal people can focus their training efforts on real job opportunities.

Judy Robinson has been working as a Public Health Aide with the Prince Albert Health District since 1997 as a result of AEDP. “My presence makes clients feel more comfortable with the help they receive in their homes.”

- To prepare the workplace and help ensure retention, **cultural awareness education** continues to be an important element of the strategy in addressing misconceptions about Aboriginal people. Partner employers provide training for employees to advance the

creation of “fair workplaces” which will be ready to hire and retain Aboriginal employees.

- The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Health Care Council, the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) and the Government of Saskatchewan signed the first ever **management/union /Aboriginal partnership agreement**. Together, the three parties will identify issues and implement solutions that will enhance Aboriginal employment in the health sector.
- The department funded, in partnership with the federal government, the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority for an **Aboriginal Youth Strategy** in the City of Regina to promote increased Aboriginal participation in the business community.

- Saskatchewan employers and the Aboriginal community attended **presentations and workshops** about the AEDP. These presentations informed employers about the need for, and benefits of, preparing workplaces for Aboriginal employees. The presentations also informed the Aboriginal community of how to take advantage of employment and business opportunities in partnering organizations.
- The department continued to support the **Aboriginal Government Employees Network (AGEN)**.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The department will continue to work toward its goal of increasing the number of Aboriginal persons employed in Saskatchewan by signing as many as 12 new AEDP partnership agreements.

Accomplishments

- ✓ More than 1,100 Aboriginal people within partner organizations have competed successfully for jobs since AEDP was initiated.
- ✓ A total of 420 Aboriginal people have received work-based training.
- ✓ More than 1,700 senior managers, supervisors and employees in partnering organizations have received Aboriginal cultural awareness education.
- ✓ By March 31, 2001, 28 partnership agreements were signed, encompassing 26 employers.

Aboriginal Peoples' Economic Development Strategy

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and Economic and Cooperative Development jointly initiated work on an Aboriginal Peoples' Economic Development Strategy to work toward a representative provincial workforce. The work is being done in partnership with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS), 18 provincial departments and Crown

corporations, and federal government departments and agencies including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Canada-Saskatchewan Business Center.

During 2000-2001, the department concentrated on ensuring that Aboriginal people were included in the broadly based provincial economic development strategy to promote labour force participation in all aspects of the provincial economy.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

In 2001-02, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and Economic and Co-operative Development will complete an Aboriginal Economic Development action plan that complements the provincial economic development strategy. The comprehensive representation of organizations involved in the current year's work will continue to be involved in this process.

Aboriginal Community Management Authorities Program

Through the Aboriginal Community Management Authorities Program, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs promotes Aboriginal community development by enabling First Nations and Métis people to develop their own service delivery systems in urban settings. This work helps to develop models for community-based and managed approaches for providing integrated services. These Aboriginal service institutions deliver culturally appropriate, rationalized and accountable services. Delivery systems can be First Nation specific, Métis specific, or a cooperative arrangement where First Nation and Métis organizations form a partnership.

In 2000-01, the Aboriginal Community Management Authorities Program funded three projects: Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services Inc., Saskatoon Tribal Council Urban First Nations Inc., and the Prince Albert Grand Council Urban Authority. Funding was also provided to the Yorkton Tribal Council's community development process for urban First Nations people residing in Yorkton.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The department will continue to support implementation of programs and services in all four centres. The Yorkton

Tribal Council will initiate urban programs and services in Yorkton.

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Program (ACAP)

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs developed the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Program (ACAP) in partnership with the Public Service Commission and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in 1997. ACAP resulted from the 1994 *Aboriginal Policy Framework* developed by the Saskatchewan Indian and Métis Affairs Secretariat which stated one of the government's priorities was to improve race and cultural relations by:

- increasing the understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal peoples;
- eliminating systemic barriers;
- providing a coordinated approach to cross-cultural relations; and
- supporting the recognition and maintenance of First Nation and Métis communities.

ACAP is coordinated through IAA and is available to all government departments, Crown corporations and publicly funded organizations. The program provides an introduction to understanding Aboriginal people in an effort to improve relationships in the workplace.

The program includes one core module and four optional modules:

Module One - Historical and Contemporary Issues: provides the context for the other modules and demonstrates the relationships between historical and present-day events and modules.

Module Two - Culture and Language: presents an overview of First Nations and Métis languages and cultures. This module emphasizes the importance of culture and language to First Nations and Métis people.

Module Three - Demographic and Socio-Economic Issues: examines the demographic and socio-economic issues confronting Aboriginal people today, and highlights current initiatives that are having a positive impact.

Module Four - Current Issues: provides an overview of issues currently confronting Aboriginal people. Topics include justice, economic development and self-government.

Module Five - Workplace Issues: examines issues confronting Aboriginal people in the

workplace and highlights initiatives that are having a positive impact.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

ACAP priorities include program promotion, a curriculum review and further facilitator training. The department has targeted numerous government departments for program delivery and anticipates that participation in ACAP will increase.

Accomplishments

✓ Along with marketing and provincial coordination of the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Program (ACAP), the department has provided training to the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association and the provincial departments of Labour, Finance, and Environment and Resource Management.

Public service employee participation in the ACAP is significant:

Module 1 – 658 participants

Module 2 – 243 participants

Module 3 – 247 participants

Module 4 – 349 participants

Module 5 – 90 participants

Aboriginal Women's Program

The department supports Aboriginal women's organizations to enable them to undertake special projects and policy development activities of benefit to their respective members.

Aboriginal Affairs provided funding to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan to incorporate Métis women's perspectives into the tripartite process. The Aboriginal Women's Council of Saskatchewan received department funding to offset costs for programs, referrals and advocacy work for Aboriginal women through the Prince Albert Wellness Resource Centre. Funding was also provided to assist with a conference for Aboriginal women in business.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The department will continue to support Aboriginal women in Saskatchewan through their representative organizations and will seek to establish a working relationship with the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Council.

Grants to First Nation and Métis Organizations

Grants are provided on a case-by-case basis to enable Aboriginal organizations to undertake special projects and policy development activities of benefit to their respective memberships. The department administers the funding, with delivery by First Nations and Métis organizations.

**Intergovernmental Relations:
Saskatchewan's Aboriginal Relations
Policies**

Saskatchewan's Aboriginal relations policies.

Federal-Provincial Relations supported the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in outlining the key social trends affecting Saskatchewan and in highlighting these trends in relation to Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people at two intergovernmental meetings. The first meeting was the Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Council on Social Policy Renewal (May 2000 in Toronto). The second was the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Council on Social Policy Renewal (June 2000 in Newfoundland). Through these roundtable discussions, Saskatchewan worked to improve information-sharing among governments; identify common trends and emerging issues; consider the policy implications of these social trends; and identify opportunities for collaborative action in social policy, particularly for those most vulnerable.

Federal-Provincial Relations continued their work to implement the Social Union Framework Agreement (SUFA) commitments made at March 1999 meeting between Premiers and the leaders of the five national Aboriginal organizations, and at the meeting between the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Council on Social Policy Renewal, the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and the leaders of the five national Aboriginal organizations in December 1999. Through a tripartite process, national Aboriginal organizations will be engaged in SUFA implementation wherever such implementation has implications for Aboriginal people.

The department monitored and participated in the development of agreements, memoranda of understanding and other arrangements with Aboriginal people and the federal government to promote

Goal II: Canada's constitutionally recognized communities and people are acknowledged, respected and supported within our province and federation.

RESOLVING FIRST NATIONS LAND MATTERS

Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements

First Nations land matters are facilitated, managed and resolved in an effective, timely and harmonious manner in accordance with the provincial government's obligations under Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement Agreements signed with the federal government and First Nations. In total, 29 Entitlement First Nations will receive \$539 million over 12 years from Canada and Saskatchewan to purchase up to two million acres of land to add to their reserves.

The 25 Entitlement First Nations that signed the 1992 TLE Framework Agreement will receive approximately \$440 million over 12 years to purchase up to 1,645,962 acres of deeded and Crown land in Saskatchewan. Funding is cost-shared with the federal government.

Four additional settlements have been completed, bringing the total to 29 Entitlement First Nations. First is the separate but parallel Nekaneet TLE Settlement Agreement which involves approximately \$8 million to purchase up to 27,327 acres.

The Cowessess First Nation signed a TLE Agreement on March 14, 1996. Under the Cowessess Agreement the federal and provincial governments will provide \$46.6 million for the purchase of up to 189,367 acres of land.

On March 29, 1996, the Carry the Kettle First Nation signed a TLE Settlement Agreement with Saskatchewan and Canada.

Under the Carry the Kettle First Nation Agreement the federal and provincial governments will provide \$21.3 million for the purchase of up to 86,491 acres of land.

These agreements will allow Canada to fulfill the land entitlements promised to First Nations under Treaties. Saskatchewan has a legal and constitutional obligation to assist the federal government in the settlement of outstanding Treaty land entitlements.

Each Entitlement First Nation must purchase and transfer to reserve status a minimum amount of land called shortfall acres. The amount of money that Entitlement First Nations can spend to purchase land and minerals up to the shortfall acres is capped. After its shortfall acreage amount attains reserve status, an Entitlement First Nation can use any remaining money for Band development (including economic development) purposes. The total shortfall for the 29 Entitlement First Nations is 522,456 acres.

The two million acres involved under these agreements represent a portion of land equal to about twice the size of the Prince Albert National Park.

Under the TLE Framework Agreement, Saskatchewan has the following legal obligations to the federal government:

- to provide a 30% share of the annual payments to the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Fund for the use and benefit of Entitlement Bands;
- to provide up to an additional 19% of the shared costs of the Saskatchewan TLE Framework Agreement and Nekaneet TLE Settlement Agreement

-
- based on actual provincial savings in specified program areas from northern community transfers; and
- to provide the provincial share of the Rural Municipal and School Division Tax Loss Compensation Funds to a maximum federal and provincial payment of \$32 million for each fund.

Land Acquisition

Entitlement First Nations can purchase deeded (i.e. private) or Crown land and underlying minerals on a "willing-seller, willing-buyer" basis for future transfer to reserve status. Treaty Land Entitlement monies received by a First Nation are held in a trust fund controlled by the Band which may only be used to purchase land for entitlement until each Band's shortfall acreage amount has attained reserve status.

The Framework Agreement defines the terms and conditions for Crown land and mineral acquisition and also addresses issues such as water, roads, third party interests, urban reserves, and procedures for reserve creation.

The Government of Saskatchewan works closely with First Nations in the provincial Crown land acquisition phase of the TLE Agreements.

The department coordinated provincial implementation of the Framework and Settlement Agreements on TLE, administered provincial funding obligations under the agreements, and facilitated provincial compliance with the agreements during fiscal 2000-2001.

In addition, the department:

- coordinated the review of Crown land purchase requests and deeded land purchases to identify provincial and known third party interests;
- chaired the Provincial TLE Review Committee, composed of 12 departments and Crown corporations;
- chaired the Core TLE Review Committee, composed of land administering departments (including Agriculture and Food, Environment and Resource Management, Energy and Mines, and Municipal Affairs and Housing);
- served as a single "window" into the Saskatchewan government for Treaty Land Entitlement; and
- represented the Province on the Land Settlement Board.

Entitlement First Nations continue to focus their purchases on agricultural and privately owned lands. They also confirmed their continuing interest in purchasing provincial Crown lands previously selected under the "1976 Saskatchewan Agreement."

Under the TLE agreements, 29,056 acres were transferred to reserve status in 2000-2001. Fiscal year totals are highlighted below for each Entitlement First Nation along with settlement values.

<u>First Nation</u>	Settlement Value	Equity Acres	Shortfall Acres	Reserve Acres 2000/2001	Total Reserve Acres
Beardy's and Okemasis	\$ 19,175,704.22	71,137.51	11,648.00	1,539.42	15,922.25
Canoe Lake	\$ 13,412,333.43	49,973.33	6,885.00		13,327.44
Carry The Kettle	\$ 21,393,564.00	86,491.00	24,320.00		3,123.44
Cowessess	\$ 46,662,314.00	189,367.00	53,312.00	5,000.59	27,413.39
English River	\$ 10,457,408.21	37,646.66	13,040.70		13,900.10
Flying Dust	\$ 9,196,342.56	33,910.08	6,788.00	1,079.89	6,876.03
Kawacatoose	\$ 23,191,969.00	102,976.00	7,872.00		
Keeseekoose	\$ 17,998,139.46	83,200.00	7,552.00		8,714.37
Little Pine	\$ 25,732,066.54	92,870.31	30,720.00	4,803.36	15,506.48
Moosomin	\$ 20,880,639.82	75,355.43	24,960.00	3,963.15	26,078.46
Mosquito-Grizzly Bear's Head	\$ 9,569,792.38	33,153.33	20,096.00		-
Muskeg Lake	\$ 8,642,228.85	48,604.67	3,072.00		3,473.41
Muskowekwan	\$ 14,332,798.27	51,555.52	18,121.26	1,526.53	18,564.57
Nekaneet	\$ 7,963,993.00	27,327.00	16,160.00		26,155.89
Ochapowace	\$ 16,222,124.14	54,160.59	44,928.00	1,117.84	31,054.69
Okanese	\$ 4,069,921.10	14,337.58	6,905.60	475.30	7,589.86
One Arrow	\$ 15,852,313.21	58,615.79	10,752.00	619.54	6,795.14
Onion Lake	\$ 29,630,152.01	108,550.57	25,984.00		-
Pelican Lake	\$ 9,632,302.71	35,714.68	5,961.60	316.69	12,498.89
Peter Ballantyne	\$ 62,428,657.03	234,248.85	22,465.56	20.41	23,987.94
Piapot	\$ 23,017,020.47	81,081.41	39,073.02		29,282.82
Poundmaker	\$ 13,125,250.38	47,687.44	13,824.00	2,817.36	9,576.36
Red Pheasant	\$ 19,869,976.46	72,331.77	20,118.00	1,644.92	36,769.73
Saulteaux	\$ 15,478,470.77	56,144.17	16,845.13		17,618.60
Star Blanket	\$ 3,156,095.85	11,235.58	4,672.00	625.40	1,416.45
Sweetgrass	\$ 6,638,656.96	23,914.02	8,192.00		8,447.06
Thunderchild	\$ 33,407,734.61	120,816.41	38,464.00	3,505.95	4,234.63
Witchehan Lake	\$ 8,862,660.29	32,442.60	7,923.00		13,250.72
Yellow Quill	\$ 29,376,731.07	117,274.00	11,801.60		642.00
Totals:	\$ 539,377,360.80	2,052,123.30	522,456.47	29,056.35	382,220.72

Accomplishments

- ✓ Under the Kawacatoose First Nation Agreement, signed June 28, 2000 with Canada and Saskatchewan, the federal and provincial governments will provide \$23.1 million for the purchase of up to 68,406 acres of land.
- ✓ 29,056 acres were transferred to reserve status in 2000-2001 under TLE agreements.
- ✓ Three First Nations achieved their Shortfall Acres: Muskowekwan, Moosomin and Flying Dust.
- ✓ The Province made its ninth payment under the TLE Framework Agreement and its sixth payment under the Amended Cost-Sharing Agreement.
- ✓ The department coordinated the reviews of approximately 596,319 acres of Crown land, private land, and underlying Crown minerals. As well, 459,670 acres were made available for sale or transfer as of March 31, 2000, as follows:
 - 252,725 acres of Crown Land and underlying Crown minerals
 - 206,945 acres of Crown minerals underlying deeded land
- ✓ The Province sold 24,915 acres of Crown land to Entitlement First Nations.
- ✓ The Province passed 56 Orders-in-Council transferring an additional 50,502 acres of Crown minerals to the Federal Crown effective upon reserve creation.

Specific Claims

Canada has settled a number of wrongful surrender claims with First Nations. Although these specific claims are a matter between the federal government and First Nations, there are implications for the Province.

The department is responsible for coordinating reviews of provincial lands purchased by First Nations for the purpose of attaining reserve status. These reviews identify provincial and known third party interests. In this capacity, the department works with First Nations, Canada and provincial agencies to identify and address provincial interests.

In May 2000, Saskatchewan signed agreements regarding tax loss compensation for Specific Claims settlements with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association and the Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association Inc. The associations received \$2.8 million, \$1.2 million, and \$100,000 respectively.

The department completed a *Specific Claims Provincial Process and Procedures* manual on March 30, 2001 as required by the Memorandum of Agreement Facilitation of Implementation of the Specific Claims Settlements signed in March 2000. The document was developed in conjunction with other provincial departments and Crown Corporations.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

Plans include completion of all provincial actions required for reserve creation on an additional 115,000 acres and the transfer of an additional 70,000 acres to reserve status by March 31, 2002. The department will also ensure an additional three or four Entitlement First Nations achieve Shortfall Acres. The department will transfer an additional 1,708 acres to reserve status under Specific Claims settlements by March 31, 2002.

FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

Common Table Processes with Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and Canada

In 1996, Saskatchewan became party to a Common Table Protocol Agreement with Canada and the FSIN to discuss fiscal and jurisdictional matters related to self-government. Fiscal and governance tables were established under the umbrella of the Common Table. The process is aimed at establishing a new fiscal relationship in support of First Nations self-government that is balanced and that will benefit all Saskatchewan residents.

Negotiations continued throughout 2000-2001. Both the Governance and Fiscal Relations Tables hosted an education conference in 2000, a membership/citizenship symposium in 2001 and a jurisdiction conference in 2001.

Fiscal

The Fiscal Relations Table has completed most of the detailed background work on matters including structure and nature of agreements, roles and responsibilities, comparability, Treaty, own source revenue, taxation, resource benefit sharing, population/ scope/ coverage issues, and review and continuity. The next step is to find practical solutions to these complex issues through negotiation.

The Fiscal Relations Table has also undertaken developmental work respecting fiscal accountability, establishment of a socio-demographic and expenditure data base, fiscal principles and potential fiscal arrangement models.

Governance

Saskatchewan, the FSIN, and Canada are attempting to develop agreements-in-principle that address First Nation

governance structures, jurisdiction and fiscal arrangements by January 2002. The parties are taking an incremental, sectoral approach, beginning with education and child and family services. IAA is the provincial lead department.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

Negotiations will continue, leading to the signing of a Comprehensive Agreement-in-Principle with First Nations, the FSIN and Canada, and a Tripartite Agreement-in-Principle between the FSIN, Canada and Saskatchewan. The work of the Governance and Fiscal Relations Tables will become increasingly integrated.

The department will continue to participate in tripartite self-government negotiations between FSIN, Canada and Saskatchewan to achieve Agreements-in-Principle on education and family and child services, and between the Meadow Lake First Nations, Canada and Saskatchewan.

Self-Government Negotiations at the Meadow Lake Tribal Council Table

In 1996, Saskatchewan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that shifted the status of the Province from observer to participant in negotiations at the self-government table with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) and Canada.

In 2000-01, Saskatchewan provided grant funding to the MLTC to offset costs of planning, community consultations, communications, liaison and coordination related to the MLTC/Provincial MOU regarding on-reserve self-government discussions.

Accomplishments

Aboriginal Affairs and Constitutional Relations, in conjunction with other departments, worked on the continued development and implementation of the self-government policy framework for Aboriginal communities in Saskatchewan.

Key accomplishments included:

- ✓the signing of an Agreement establishing the Framework for Governance of Treaty First Nations between Canada, Saskatchewan and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations on May 27, 2000;
- ✓the start of negotiations toward an Agreement-in-Principle; and
- ✓the signing of a Tripartite Agreement-in-Principle among Meadow Lake First Nations, Canada and Saskatchewan on January 22, 2001, and the start of negotiations toward a Final Agreement.

National Process

In December 1999, national Aboriginal leaders of the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, Metis National Council, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the Native Women's Association of Canada and the federal/provincial and territorial Ministers established the Federal/Provincial/Territorial/Aboriginal Forum. This process focuses on achieving practical results through cooperative initiatives, providing increased communication and information-sharing, and facilitating Aboriginal interests within governments. As part of this process, the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy was developed to address the depressed socio-economic status of many Aboriginal youth in Canada.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

Federal/provincial/territorial Ministers and Aboriginal leaders will receive a report, "Strengthening Aboriginal Participation in the Economy," in fiscal 2001-2002 and are expected to direct the implementation of its recommendations. About 120 Aboriginal youth representing many national Aboriginal organizations are expected to attend a National Aboriginal Youth Conference in Edmonton in October 2001. The conference will give

Aboriginal youth an opportunity to provide input into the implementation of the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy and to provide a national forum for participants to give their views on key issues of concern.

Bilateral and Tripartite Processes with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS)

The Province actively participates in two processes involving the MNS. The Bilateral process brings the Province together with the MNS to discuss issues of mutual concern, including policy and program matters. The Province's participation in the Tripartite process brings the MNS, the Government of Canada and the Province together to address Métis issues and promote building Métis community governance capacity. Fostering capacity building to support Métis community and institutional governance, facilitating economic development, and recognizing Métis culture are the Province's primary objectives in the process.

In 2000-01, Saskatchewan provided grant funding to the MNS to offset costs associated with community consultations, research and coordination in the Bilateral and Tripartite processes.

Through the Tripartite process, the MNS continued to consult with northern and urban communities and Métis citizens on the proposed governance models. Through the Bilateral process, *The Métis Act* received extensive review and discussion within the Métis community and the Province.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

In an effort to enhance the MNS electoral process, the Province, the MNS, and the Government of Canada, through the Tripartite process, will participate in a review of the MNS

electoral system. The Métis Act will be introduced in the legislature in 2001. This Act will recognize the historic, economic and cultural contributions Métis people have made to the development and prosperity of Saskatchewan and Canada; it will allow the MNS to operate outside The Non-Profit Corporations Act; and it will provide a mechanism to address practical, non-rights based issues and will enhance opportunities that are important to Métis people, such as capacity development, land, harvesting, and governance.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES IN SASKATCHEWAN

Fiscal 2000-2001 was a year of building and progress for the Office of French-language Co-ordination (OFLC). The signing of the new Canada-Saskatchewan General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages was announced in June 2000. This new 50-50 cost-shared agreement represents a potential combined investment of \$3.15 million from 1999-2004.

An essential component of the agreement is its action plan which emphasizes liaison and coordination in support of the development and vitality of the province's Francophones. Consequently, the OFLC Director position, now reporting directly to the Deputy Minister, was reinstated to ensure that the office had the necessary staff in place to effectively accomplish its new mandate.

This new focus produced positive results. The working relationship with the Fransaskois community grew stronger and the provincial government's awareness of Francophone issues improved through more frequent contact with departments and agencies. OFLC increased its coordination and liaison role in sectors identified as priorities by the Fransaskois community, such as court services, health, post-secondary education and communications.

The translation unit responded to 382 translation requests totalling 292,292 words from 30 provincial departments, agencies and commissions. In-house translators handled 83% of the requests and 52% of the translation volume.

The office laid the groundwork for the creation of the joint provincial government - Fransaskois community French-language services liaison committee.

OFLC actively pursued opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation. In July 2000, the office hosted a meeting of senior federal/provincial/territorial officials responsible for French-language services to prepare for the 5th meeting of Francophone affairs ministers, held in Prince Edward Island in October 2000. Participating ministers committed to meeting annually on substantive issues and to enhancing services in French in their respective province or territory.

In March 2001, OFLC launched a new tool for increasing the visibility of the French fact in Saskatchewan and promoting government services: its web site (www.iaa.gov.sk.ca/ocaf).

“A vibrant Fransaskois community is a valuable social, economic and cultural asset to the province of Saskatchewan.”

- The Honourable Pat Lorjé,
Provincial Secretary

The working relationship with the federal government deepened over the past year in sectors important to the Fransaskois community. Most importantly, OFLC's relationship with a key federal partner, Canadian Heritage, grew stronger through more regular contact.

Federal-Provincial Relations and Constitutional Relations continued to provide policy advice on the province's evolving relationship with its Francophone community, including reviewing and participating in the successful re-negotiation of Minority-Language Education and Second Language Instruction Agreements.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

OFLC's main challenge will be to further develop its new mandate to enhance liaison and co-ordination activities in support of the development of the Fransaskois community.

Serving as both a capacity-builder and a catalyst, the OFLC will encourage provincial departments and agencies to provide more services in French. Areas where progress has been made, such as post-secondary education, will be given special attention. Consequently, OFLC will need to develop solutions to meet the resulting increases in translation needs.

The joint provincial government Francophone community French-language services liaison committee will begin holding regular meetings and making recommendations to the provincial government through the Provincial Secretary.

As well as finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a framework to facilitate economic and human resource development in the Fransaskois community, the OFLC will pursue other opportunities for intergovernmental co-operation, establishing partnerships with federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Promoting the visibility and vitality of the Fransaskois community, at the provincial, national and international levels, will remain a priority.

LES SERVICES EN LANGUE FRANÇAISE EN SASKATCHEWAN

L'année financière 2000-2001 s'est révélée une année de construction et de progrès à l'Office de coordination des affaires francophones (OCAF). La signature d'une nouvelle Entente-cadre Canada-Saskatchewan sur la promotion des langues officielles a été annoncée en juin 2000. Cette nouvelle entente à frais partagés 50/50, représente un potentiel d'investissement combiné de 3,15

millions de dollars au cours de la période quinquennale 1999-2004.

Un élément essentiel de l'entente est son plan d'action qui met l'accent sur la liaison et la coordination en appui au développement et à l'épanouissement des francophones de la province. C'est pourquoi, le poste de directeur de l'OCAF, qui est comptable directement au sous-ministre, a été rétabli pour faire en sorte que l'Office soit doté du personnel nécessaire

pour s'acquitter efficacement de son nouveau mandat.

Cette nouvelle orientation a produit des résultats positifs. Les relations de travail avec la communauté fransaskoise se sont intensifiées et le gouvernement provincial comprend mieux les dossiers francophones par suite de contacts plus fréquents avec les ministères et les sociétés d'État. L'OCAF a accru son rôle de coordination et de liaison dans des domaines reconnus comme prioritaires par la communauté fransaskoise, tels que les services judiciaires, la santé, l'enseignement postsecondaire et les communications. L'unité de traduction a répondu à 382 demandes de traduction pour un grand total de 292 292 mots. Ces demandes provenaient de 30 ministères, sociétés d'État et commissions. Les traducteurs à l'interne ont traité 83% des demandes et 52% du volume de la traduction.

L'Office a jeté les bases de la formation d'un Comité mixte de liaison sur les services en langue française, composé de représentants du gouvernement et de la communauté fransaskoise.

L'OCAF poursuit activement des possibilités de collaboration intergouvernementale. En juillet 2000, l'Office organisait une rencontre de hauts fonctionnaires fédéraux, provinciaux et territoriaux, responsables des services en langue française, en vue de préparer la 5^e Conférence des ministres des Affaires francophones, qui s'est tenue à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard en octobre 2000. Les ministres participants ont pris à cette occasion l'engagement de se rencontrer une fois par année sur des questions de fond et d'améliorer la prestation des services en français dans leur province ou territoire respectif.

“Une communauté fransaskoise dynamique est un atout précieux dans le développement social, économique et culturel de la province de la Saskatchewan.”

- L'honorable Pat Lorjé,
Secrétaire provinciale

En mars 2001, l'OCAF a lancé un nouvel outil dans le but d'accroître la visibilité du fait français en Saskatchewan et de promouvoir les services gouvernementaux : son site Web (www.iaa.gov.sk.ca/ocaf).

Les relations de travail avec le gouvernement fédéral se sont approfondies au cours de l'année dernière dans des secteurs importants pour la communauté fransaskoise. Ce qui est le plus important, les relations de l'OCAF avec son partenaire principal, Patrimoine canadien, se sont raffermies grâce à des contacts plus réguliers.

Les unités des Relations fédérales-provinciales et des Relations constitutionnelles ont continué d'offrir des conseils en matière de politiques concernant les relations, en pleine évolution, de la province avec sa communauté francophone; elles ont, notamment, révisé les Ententes sur l'enseignement dans la langue de la minorité et sur l'enseignement de la langue seconde en plus de participer à la renégociation couronnée de succès de ces ententes.

Pour l'exercice financier 2001-2002

Le principal défi pour l'OCAF consistera à approfondir son nouveau mandat afin d'accroître les activités de liaison et de coordination en appui au développement de la communauté fransaskoise.

Dans son rôle à la fois d'activateur et de catalyseur, l'OCAF s'attachera à encourager les ministères et les sociétés d'État de la province à offrir plus de

services en français à la communauté fransaskoise. On prêtera une attention toute particulière aux domaines où des progrès ont déjà été réalisés, comme l'enseignement postsecondaire. En conséquence, l'OCAF se doit de trouver des solutions aux besoins croissants en traduction qui en découlent.

Le Comité mixte de liaison sur les services en langue française, composé de représentants du gouvernement et de la communauté francophone, commencera à tenir régulièrement ses réunions et à faire des recommandations au gouvernement provincial par le truchement de la Secrétaire provinciale.

En plus de la mise au point définitive du Protocole d'entente visant à établir un cadre pour faciliter le développement de l'économie et des ressources humaines de la communauté fransaskoise l'OCAF poursuivra aussi des possibilités de collaboration intergouvernementale en créant des partenariats avec les gouvernements fédéral, provinciaux et territoriaux.

Favoriser la visibilité et l'épanouissement de la communauté fransaskoise, à l'échelle provinciale, nationale et internationale restera une priorité.

<p>Goal III: Saskatchewan's social, economic and constitutional interests are advanced, and its values are recognized and reflected, within a strong, united Canadian federation and within the international community.</p>

ADVANCING SASKATCHEWAN'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL INTERESTS

Federal-Provincial and Constitutional Relations

The department supported the advancement of Saskatchewan's key social, economic and constitutional interests through:

- the Premier's participation in the 2000 Western Premiers' Conference (in Brandon, Manitoba, May 23-25), the 2000 Annual Premiers' Conference (in Winnipeg, August 9-11), and the First Ministers' Meeting (in Ottawa, September 11, 2000);
- participation by the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in meetings of the Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Council on Social Policy Renewal (in Toronto, May 4-5) and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Council on Social Policy Renewal (in St. John's, Newfoundland, June 23);
- the provision of strategic and policy advice and support to government departments and Cabinet to ensure the advancement of Saskatchewan's priorities in the intergovernmental arena in a consistent and coordinated manner;
- the ongoing assessment of Canada's intergovernmental environment, in order to manage and respond effectively to changes which impact on the interests and priorities of Saskatchewan.

Key accomplishments include:

- ✓ First Ministers' Accords on health and early childhood development (ECD),

accompanied by federal increases to provinces/territories under the Canada

Health and Social Transfer (CHST) of \$23.4 billion over five years. The Health Accord identifies an eight-point action plan for health system renewal and commitments on accountability/public reporting. The ECD initiative builds on the National Children's Agenda launched by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Council on Social Policy Renewal in May 1999, and complements the National Child Benefit launched in 1998.

✓ Release of a discussion paper by the Provincial-Territorial Council on Social Policy Renewal regarding a proposed dispute resolution mechanism for disputes related to the interpretation of the Canada Health Act.

✓ Endorsement by Premiers at the 2000 Western Premiers' Conference of the need for a more accountable, efficient, commercial grain handling and transportation system.

✓ Consensus by Premiers at the 2000 Annual Premiers' Conference that funding for transportation, particularly highway systems, and other basic infrastructure should be major components of new federal infrastructure investments.

✓ Agreement by Premiers at the 2000 Annual Premiers' Conference that the federal government should aggressively pursue the reduction of international trade distorting agricultural subsidies and the elimination of export subsidies.

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, in conjunction with other departments, concluded more than 50 bilateral agreements between Canada and Saskatchewan on issues of importance to the province including: Business Service Centre Renewal Agreement; Prairie Grain Roads Program; Agreement on Railway Safety Inspection Services; National Population Health Survey, 2000-01 Crop Insurance Agreement; Framework Agreement on Agricultural Risk Management; Minority-Language Education and Second Language Instruction Agreements.

The department held 12 consultation meetings with 68 stakeholder organizations and individuals interested in immigration in September 2000. The department received input on objectives for Saskatchewan, as well as participants' views on the province's role in immigration. Based on this input, IAA formulated recommendations for Cabinet and Treasury Board consideration on increasing economic immigration into the province, addressing issues in accreditation of immigrant professionals and tradespeople, and strengthening services that assist immigrants and refugees to effectively settle in Saskatchewan.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The key challenge will be to continue to ensure that Saskatchewan's interests and objectives are effectively advanced through its relations with other governments. To address this challenge, the department plans to:

- *advance Saskatchewan's interests on health system renewal intergovernmentally, including through a special meeting of Premiers in January 2002;*
- *encourage continued federal-provincial partnership approaches in social policy, as contemplated in the Social Union Framework Agreement (SUFA) signed by First Ministers in February 1999. Particular emphasis will be placed on:*

- *pursuing fuller federal financial participation in health, education, children's and other social programs by building on the funding increases the federal government announced at the September 2000 First Ministers' Meeting;*
- *engaging with the federal government and other provinces/territories in a joint review of the SUFA, including commitments made to the national Aboriginal organizations to consider proposals to strengthen their involvement in the social union process; and*
- *completing, with the federal government and other provinces/territories, a dispute resolution mechanism applying to the interpretation of the Canada Health Act.*
- *aggressively advance to the federal government the interests of Saskatchewan agricultural producers, and the economic interests of rural Saskatchewan;*
- *work to ensure, to the extent possible, that federal-provincial arrangements in economic development support Saskatchewan's objectives;*
- *continue to monitor and assess political developments in the federation, in order to manage and respond effectively to changes that could impact on the interests and priorities of Saskatchewan;*
- *continue to advance to the federal government in a comprehensive, coordinated and effective manner, priorities identified through consultations, to address the ever-growing and pressing needs of Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis people.*

The department will also develop and implement an action plan for an Immigration Branch created in fiscal 2001-02 that will include:

- *expanding the resources and mandate of the Provincial Nominee Program (transferred from Economic and Co-operative Development), and more effectively using immigration and other foreign labour options to meet Saskatchewan's labour market and economic needs;*
- *providing information to prospective and new immigrants on occupational and accreditation processes and requirements, and working with stakeholders to find mutually acceptable solutions to accreditation issues facing immigrants; and*
- *reviewing settlement and integration services in Saskatchewan to identify opportunities to improve provincial retention of immigrants, and strengthen services.*

Telecommunications and Broadcasting Policy

In mid-2000, SaskTel formally came under federal regulatory authority. Since that date, it operates under the federal *Telecommunications Act* and is subject to regulation by the national Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

On November 30, 2000, the CRTC publicly announced its decision to establish, effective January 1, 2001, a new, national, revenue-based contribution collection mechanism (otherwise known as a National Contribution Fund, or NCF). Now, telecommunications companies like SaskTel that service high-cost rural and northern residents will be able to draw subsidies from the NCF to offset those costs.

“The department, by taking a lead role intergovernmentally, has made a significant contribution to Saskatchewan’s economic and social development, from the federal-provincial Accords on health and early childhood development, to the new national fund in support of the information highway for our rural and northern residents, to negotiating better and fairer trade rules for our export dependent economy.”

- The Honourable Chris Axworthy
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

The establishment of the NCF means that all service providers to high-cost areas, including SaskTel, will no longer be at a competitive disadvantage from having to serve a disproportionate number of high-cost rural and northern customers. It also means that, in future, our rural and northern residents should be able to afford high-quality telecommunications at rates that are reasonably comparable (but not equal) to those in urban areas, which is essential for ensuring equitable access to the 'information highway' and participation in the knowledge-based economy.

In creating the NCF, the CRTC accepted virtually all of the characteristics for the new Fund proposed by Saskatchewan since early 1998. Saskatchewan had proposed that such a fund be national in scope, industry-funded, transparent, predictable, equitable, competitively and technologically neutral and targeted on the needs of rural and northern residents in high cost areas of the country.

Under the new NCF, all telecommunications service providers with annual revenues of \$10 million or more (except NorthwestTel) will be assessed the equivalent of a flat rate of 4.5% of revenues from their contribution-eligible services in 2001. The rate is expected to be adjusted downward according to a new costing mechanism to be decided later in 2001 and to come into effect in 2002.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

On April 27, 2001, the CRTC announced its decision on the new operational parameters for the NCF. Essentially, that decision means that in 2002 and beyond there will be a considerably smaller national or total subsidy 'pool' than at present. The pool will shrink by two-thirds from its current size because the 'contribution' levy on service providers' revenue will fall from 4.5% to 1.5%. Telephone rates in high-cost areas, therefore, will likely be allowed to rise to an as-yet-undefined affordability threshold.

In Saskatchewan, local and long-distance competition among telecommunications service providers is fully operational. However, SaskTel continues to service the vast majority of customers in high-cost areas of the province. SaskTel expects to continue to

benefit more than most from the creation and operation of the NCF. Under current rules, however, there will likely be a growing gap between the actual cost to SaskTel of maintaining and enhancing service in rural and northern Saskatchewan and the amount of off-setting subsidy it receives from the NCF. More importantly, it will not receive enough from the fund to replace the current system in future. As a result, SaskTel will continue to have to raise a significant proportion of the money necessary to subsidize service in rural and northern Saskatchewan through other own-source revenues.

For these reasons, SaskTel has now chosen to appeal this decision in a bid to secure modified costing and other rules that more adequately balance its actual and future costs against its subsidy entitlement from the NCF. SaskTel intends to request the CRTC formally to vary its decision in this case, as is provided for in the federal Telecommunications Act. Such a request for repeal/variance has to be made within six months of the release of the original decision (i.e. by October 27, 2001). If that request is unsuccessful, SaskTel can petition the federal Cabinet directly within a further three months (i.e. by the end of January 2002) to vary the CRTC's decision.

IMPROVING THE STRATEGIC FOCUS OF SASKATCHEWAN'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Strategic International Policy and Program Framework

The department finalized a government-wide inventory of the international activities and interests of provincial departments/agencies as the basis for initiating strategic international policy and program development in 2001-2002. It also

initiated a review of the proposed provincial economic development strategy to identify its international dimensions and possible instruments of relevance to the international relations strategic planning process.

The department also continued work on a more strategic Diplomatic and International Visitors Program that is more closely aligned with provincial priorities and

interests, as identified through the strategic planning process.

The purpose of the visits is to facilitate exchanges of information, trade, investment, cultural relations and tourism. In 2000-2001, the department handled 30 such visits, the largest number in several years.

The visits included two heads of government: the Premier of Free State in South Africa and the Governor of Minnesota, as well as the Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota.

Provincial Positioning Strategies for Priority Countries

United States

The department negotiated a *Framework for Cooperation* between the Western Premiers Conference (WPC) and the Western Governors' Association (WGA) in conjunction with other western and northern provinces and territories. It formalized Saskatchewan's on-going participation in the U.S. Midwestern Legislative Conference, a regional component the U.S. Council of State Governments, in collaboration with the Speaker's Office and the Legislative Assembly.

IAA also coordinated and managed the participation of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in the annual meeting of the U.S. Council of State Governments, where he spoke on the provincial role in international trade negotiations.

Development of ongoing direct bilateral working relations with Saskatchewan's border States, Montana and North Dakota, continued in conjunction with other provincial departments and agencies.

The department developed and implemented a pilot project for monitoring and early

intervention on border-State legislative initiatives of interest to Saskatchewan.

China

The department successfully conducted a multi-stakeholder roundtable on Saskatchewan's positioning in China, resulting in recommendations for future action.

On that basis, IAA developed and successfully negotiated a second-generation, responsive 'twinning' agreement with our sister-province of Jilin in northeast China.

The department also coordinated and staffed the Premier's participation in the 'Team Canada' mission to China, resulting in more than \$40 million in new contracts.

Ukraine

IAA continued to coordinate and manage implementation of the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Memorandum of Cooperation (1995), including:

- a \$4 million Beef and Forage Development Project led by the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP);
- a prominent provincial role in a \$5 million Health Promotion for Youth Project;
- establishment of a Petroleum Technology Exchange Program with the Ivano-Frankivsk State Technical University;
- participation by Saskatchewan Energy and Mines in a \$1.4 million Canada-Ukraine Climate Change Project;
- successful cultural industries joint ventures in film production and book publishing;
- Saskatchewan participation in Phase Two of the Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project; and,

-
- a joint curriculum development program in primary and secondary education in Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

The department also renewed and re-appointed the community-based Advisory Committee on Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations for another three-year term.

South Africa

IAA successfully negotiated a new provincial governance workplan of cooperative activities with Saskatchewan's 'sister province' of Free State under the second phase of the Canada-South Africa Provincial Twinning Project.

Provincial Development Assistance Policies/Programs

The department initiated a comprehensive review of the province's official development assistance programs and international governance activities with the objective of making them more strategic and effective.

As well, IAA successfully conducted the work of the Joint Liaison Committee, in collaboration with the province's executing agency for development assistance, the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC).

Key International Organizations

The department continued to assist provincial departments/agencies on a selective basis to manage their engagements with relevant international organizations, both directly and through federal interlocutors.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The department will produce a first draft of a Strategic Policy Framework document, then undertake and complete interdepartmental stakeholder consultations on the draft Framework and design a mechanism/process for external consultations. Based on the Framework, IAA will then initiate and complete comprehensive 'pilot' positioning strategies for the United States, China and Western and Eastern Europe.

As well, IAA will continue development of a strategy to maximize the value of diplomatic and delegation visits for Saskatchewan's economic, cultural and political relations in the world community.

The department will also successfully manage the Premier's and Minister's interventions in the United States, including under the WPC-WGA Framework for Cooperation, bilateral relations with Montana and North Dakota, and participation in relevant organizations of U.S. States.

As well, it will successfully implement the workplans with our Chinese and South African 'twins', Jilin and Free State respectively. The department will design and negotiate a second-generation, more permissive Memorandum of Cooperation with the Government of Ukraine.

The department will complete the review of the province's development assistance and governance programs, after which it will produce a set of recommendations for their strategic reform and conduct internal and external stakeholder consultations on the recommendations.

Plans also include drafting general guidelines for entering into international agreements and obtaining interdepartmental agreement on same.

Finally, the department will conduct an interdepartmental survey of activities and interests in key international

organizations and draft recommendations for future action.

INCREASING MARKET ACCESS FOR SASKATCHEWAN EXPORTS

Market Access Negotiations

The department coordinated and managed the development of the province's preliminary positions on the following on-going international trade negotiations:

- World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on agriculture and services. The federal government is advancing Saskatchewan objectives in agriculture related to export subsidies, domestic support and plant and animal health and safety measures, and in services related to protection for health, education and social services;
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) clarifications related to investment and services. The department made progress toward achieving Saskatchewan Chapter 11 (Investment) objectives related to access to information and minimum standard of treatment;
- Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. The federal government is advancing many Saskatchewan objectives including those related to agriculture, services, investment and government procurement;
- Negotiations leading to free trade agreements with the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), Costa Rica, Singapore, and Central America Four (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua). The federal government is advancing many Saskatchewan objectives including those related to agriculture, services, investment and government procurement.

The department also managed Saskatchewan's participation in the ongoing

negotiation of the 'built-in' agenda of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) to expand its procurement commitments, complete an energy chapter, and revise the code of conduct on investment incentives. Progress was made toward completion of negotiations which would provide improved access for Saskatchewan suppliers to other provincial and federal government procurement and energy markets.

Saskatchewan Measures/Interests in Trade Disputes

IAA managed the development and communication of Saskatchewan positions on the following disputes or trade actions that Canada was involved in at WTO, NAFTA or other international trade forums:

- U.S. and New Zealand challenge of Canada's dairy export practices and administration of import quotas (WTO). The ability to export Saskatchewan dairy products is maintained;
- Canada and Brazil: aircraft subsidies and related trade actions (WTO). The export market to Brazil for Saskatchewan potash remains open;
- European Union (EU) and U.S. challenge of Canada's patent practices and pharmaceuticals (WTO). The ability of generic drug producers to develop and market lower cost drugs in Canada is maintained;
- U.S. Section 301 investigation of Canadian Wheat Board marketing practices. Open access to U.S. market for wheat is maintained;
- NAFTA disputes (Chapter 11 - Investment): United Parcel Services; S.D. Meyer; Methanex; Pope & Talbot. Saskatchewan objectives, such as access to information and minimum standard of

treatment, were pursued in the context of these disputes;

- North Dakota Trade Restrictive Pesticide Legislation. Access to the North Dakota market for Saskatchewan goods remains open.

Trade Policy-Making Process

The department participated with other provinces/territories and the federal government in the development and implementation of a Canada-wide public consultation initiative to assist Internal Trade Ministers plan the future of the AIT in Canada.

IAA also participated in the planning for, and organization of, external stakeholder consultations in Saskatchewan on internal trade and on WTO Services negotiations.

Integration of Trade Policy Objectives into Other Provincial Plans

Trade policy issues were included in the public consultations on the new economic strategy, *Partnership for Prosperity*. The department coordinated and managed the government-wide implementation of the AIT's obligations and ongoing efforts to identify and develop the provincial government's interests and positions on domestic and international trade negotiations and issues.

The Federal Principle in International Trade Agreements

IAA continued to co-lead the provincial effort at Premiers' conferences to formalize a role in the making and management of international trade treaties. It initiated an internal legal analysis of the jurisdictional issues surrounding this issue.

Impact of Market Access Negotiations

The department initiated a research project with the University of Saskatchewan on

modeling the economic impact on the province of international trade agreements.

IAA also initiated a contract with Sask Trends Monitor to compile an international trade database consisting of various economic and social statistics related to trade.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The department will identify and achieve federal and provincial acceptance of Saskatchewan's objectives in a full slate of trade liberalization negotiations at the WTO, FTAA, NAFTA and AIT. It will also successfully defend Saskatchewan measures and interests in international and domestic trade disputes such as U.S. trade actions on softwood lumber, steel, agriculture and cultural industries.

IAA will also improve the transparency of the trade policy-making process through active participation in the completion of the national consultations on the future of the AIT and through improved stakeholder and public input into provincial trade policy-making.

It will integrate market access components into the realization of the export targets of the new provincial economic development strategy, Partnership for Prosperity.

The department will continue to pursue respect for the federal principle through research and analysis of the issues and options related to formalizing a provincial role in the making and management of international trade agreements.

Finally, IAA will continue to enhance its capacity to undertake quantitative analysis of the economic impact of trade barriers reduced or eliminated in new trade liberalization agreements.

Goal IV: Saskatchewan's identity, heritage and the achievements of our people are honoured, celebrated and promoted
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RECOGNIZING OUR PROVINCE'S DIVERSITY

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Fiscal 2000-2001 was the first year of office for the Honourable Dr. L.M. Haverstock, the 19th Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

Several Honourary Aides-de-Camp were appointed at the beginning of the Lieutenant Governor's term, and the process is ongoing to find military or police personnel to assist the office in the Prince Albert, North Battleford, Estevan, Weyburn, and Swift Current areas. The Lieutenant Governor wishes to cover as much of the province as possible over her five-year term. Her office is working to visit communities throughout the province as opportunities arise.

Early in 2000, the newly appointed Governor General visited Regina and the Lieutenant Governor hosted a dinner at Government House. The first year also saw the Lieutenant Governor and Mr. Olsen travel to Britain to attend at Buckingham Palace for their audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The visit to Britain coincided with the 100th birthday celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen Mother, and arrangements were made for Their Honours to represent the people of Saskatchewan at this event marking this milestone.

Highlights of the year included:

- Royal Assent was given to 90 Bills during the First Session of the 24th Legislature in the Province of Saskatchewan.

- The Lieutenant Governor attended 200 official functions and delivered 146 speeches to communities and organizations around the province.
- The Lieutenant Governor sent special letters of greeting to Saskatchewan residents celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries and birthdays upon request. In the past year, the office received approximately 2,861 requests for greetings, which were forwarded to other provincial and federal officials under a congratulatory greeting program, and the office sent approximately 1,748 greetings. As well, some 45 messages were prepared to recognize achievement or special events held by organizations or groups. The new on-line form has been implemented on the department web site and generated approximately 500 requests throughout the year.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The office wants to ensure the Lieutenant Governor visits at least four Saskatchewan communities not previously visited. As well, the office plans to assemble a package of information for school use during visits by the Lieutenant Governor to explain the role of the Crown in an interesting and unique way.

Other plans for fiscal 2001-2002 include:

- *arranging for the Lieutenant Governor's participation at a special event in two or three*

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- *locations where a vice-regal representative has never been, or has not been for some time;*
 - *participation by the Lieutenant Governor in several Saskatchewan Treaty Days in different communities;*
 - *active support of the United Nations Declaration of 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers by attendance at volunteer recognition and appreciation events and providing messages when attendance was not possible; and*
 - *increasing the number of speaking opportunities in schools, particularly high schools, with an emphasis on the "Role of the Crown."*

Protocol Office

In April-May 2000, Saskatchewan received the first official visit to the province of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada. The Governor General visited Saskatoon, Biggar, Baildon Hutterite Colony, Gravelbourg and Regina.

In fulfilling its mandate for ceremonial occasions, the department coordinated government support for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa in June 2000, the National Capitals Friendship Dinner in Regina on Canada Day, provincial participation in the funeral of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in October 2000, and the annual service of remembrance at the Legislative Building in November 2000. The department also assisted with the swearing-in of Premier Lorne Calvert and his Cabinet in February 2001 and the opening of the Legislature in March.

The department continued to fulfil its responsibility for policy on provincial symbols and for application of *The*

Provincial Emblems and Honours Act, including the authorization of non-governmental use of emblems. The department, as custodian of the art collection and galleries in the Legislative Building, commissions the official portraits of Lieutenant Governors, Premiers and Speakers and oversees the ongoing maintenance and restoration of the collection.

Saskatchewan Honours and Awards

Saskatchewan has a comprehensive program for recognizing its people. This includes two honours of the provincial Crown: the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, introduced in 1985, and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, introduced in 1995. Other means of recognition include the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award for non-residents of the province, started in 1997; recognition of Saskatchewan recipients of Canada's national honours; coordination of departmental awards; and occasional special events to mark particular groups or occasions.

Highlights of 2000-2001 include:

- an honours recognition event held in May 2000 in the presence of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson to pay tribute to a number of recipients of the Order of Canada, Bravery Decorations, Meritorious Service Decorations and the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award, as well as Saskatchewan's two provincial honours;
- the fifth annual presentation of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, to eight volunteers in May 2000;
- in the spring session of the Legislature, the Assembly passed unanimously an amendment to *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act* providing for posthumous appointments to the Saskatchewan Order of Merit of persons nominated within a year of their death;

- in September 2000, the Saskatchewan and Ontario honours secretariats co-hosted in Regina the first ever Canadian conference on honours and awards, attracting delegates from the Governor General's office and most provinces;
- the 16th investiture of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit was held in Regina in October 2000; among the eight persons honoured were former premier Allan Blakeney and Olympic curling champion Sandra Schmirler, the first posthumous appointment to the Order; and
- Protocol assisted the Department of Justice with the presentation of the Corrections Exemplary Service Medal of Canada to federal and provincial recipients in November 2000.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

Following are the primary challenges and plans:

- *The first visit by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, in April 2001.*
- *The Western Premiers' Conference, in Moose Jaw in May 2001.*
- *Renewal of the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award, after a year's lapse.*
- *Further amendments to The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act.*
- *Major additions to the Legislative Building art collection.*
- *The second official visit of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and her husband John Ralston Saul in September 2001.*
- *The beginning of the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.*

SASKATCHEWAN CENTENNIAL 2005

The work of the Anniversaries Secretariat relating to planning for Saskatchewan's Centennial focused on developing and managing a public consultation process and providing administrative support for the Citizens' Advisory Council. In an ongoing effort to link to the community, the Secretariat maintains a presence with several key provincial partners, including Tourism Saskatchewan, SaskCulture Inc., Sask Sport Inc., and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, connected formally through the *Events... Saskatchewan!* initiative.

Ongoing presentations at conferences, events and luncheons continue to keep the "Celebrating Saskatchewan" message in front of the public, thus creating on-going awareness about the upcoming Centennial.

Public Consultation

The Anniversaries Secretariat, working in concert with the volunteer Citizens' Advisory Council, consulted Saskatchewan people to acquire ideas for celebrating Saskatchewan's Centennial in 2005.

Fifteen public meetings took place in May and June 2000. Throughout the year, the Secretariat made presentations at luncheons and dinners of numerous service clubs, chambers of commerce and at conferences of major provincial organizations. In addition, 30,000 brochures and 3,000 Discussion Papers were distributed to: provincial, regional and community-based sport, culture and recreation organizations; provincial and regional tourism bodies; provincial and community-based aboriginal organizations; schools, libraries and related organizations; regional economic

development authorities; the provincial and local chambers of commerce; numerous community-based service clubs and church organizations; government departments agencies and crowns; and many others.

The mandate of the 19-member Citizens' Advisory Council, appointed in 1998, ended March 31, 2001. The Council ended its term by presenting the report, "*Celebrating A Century of Progress*" to the Provincial Secretary. The report comprised 11 recommendations on how the Province should celebrate its Centennial in 2005. The recommendations are developed from the public consultations, the responses from the numerous presentations and from feedback submitted through the brochures and the *Celebrating Saskatchewan* web site.

On-Line Events Database

In the spring of 2000 the Anniversaries Secretariat and Tourism Saskatchewan merged their two events databases. The combined events database (available at www.celebratingsask.com and www.sasktourism.com) showcase more than 1,400 Saskatchewan-based events during the year 2000. The initiative is the most comprehensive on-line events guide in Canada, and lists confirmed events now through to the end of 2005.

The partnership expanded later in the year to include Sask Sport Inc., SaskCulture Inc. and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. The Anniversaries Secretariat and Tourism Saskatchewan manage and administer the combined events database, and the three organizations (and their thousands of members – the event providers) supply the data. All of the data on Saskatchewan based events can be viewed on any of the 5 partners web sites.

Events... Saskatchewan!

Events... Saskatchewan! is a partnership among the Anniversaries Secretariat,

Tourism Saskatchewan, Sask Sport Inc., SaskCulture Inc. and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. *Events... Saskatchewan!* has a mandate to attract and enhance sport, culture and recreation events in Saskatchewan. Its initiatives are showcased on the *Celebrating Saskatchewan* web site. As part of its commitment to this initiative, the Anniversaries Secretariat houses the *Events... Saskatchewan* Co-ordinator and provides administrative and communications support to related projects.

International Year of Volunteers

The United Nations declared 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers. The Province undertook several initiatives to recognize the work of Saskatchewan's volunteers.

The Anniversaries Secretariat is managing a Saskatchewan Volunteer Pin program where specially designed pins are distributed, free of charge, to Saskatchewan-based, volunteer driven organizations.

Millennium Initiatives

The Anniversaries Secretariat concluded work on its many initiatives undertaken for the Millennium. Following is a summary of these initiatives.

"Celebrating Saskatchewan" Recognition Program

This program recognized community-based Millennium projects and events. During fiscal 2000-01, the Secretariat recognized almost 2,000 initiatives and distributed more than 127,000 placemats; 20,000 conference folders; 80,000 letterhead and promo sheets; 16,000 posters; 100,000 balloons; 20,000 tattoos; and numerous other promotional items.

Ringling in 2001

As a follow-up to the "Ringling in the Millennium" program held January 1, 2000, the Anniversaries Secretariat encouraged communities and community-based

organizations to 'Ring in the New Year' by coordinating bell-ringing events for 12 noon January 1, 2001. More than 200 communities participated in the 2001 bell-ringing program. The New Year's Day bell-ringing events will continue each January first through to 2005, when Saskatchewan will ring in its Centennial year.

Atlas of Saskatchewan

The Province of Saskatchewan, through the Anniversaries Secretariat, distributed 3,000 CD-ROMs of the *Atlas of Saskatchewan* to all Saskatchewan schools and every public library. This was the second phase of an arrangement between the Province and the University of Saskatchewan, publisher of the Atlas. The first phase saw the distribution of 1,100 copies of the hardbound *Atlas of Saskatchewan* during fiscal 1999-2000.

Trans Canada Trail Relay 2000

To create awareness of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT), the TCT Foundation created Relay 2000 when, during the summer of 2000, a single vial of water was drawn from each of Canada's three oceans and carried in a relay across Canada along the Trans Canada Trail. Relay 2000 crossed Saskatchewan during May and June passing through 80 communities. The Anniversaries Secretariat provided 10,000 *Celebrating Saskatchewan* brass hand bells. When the water-carriers arrived at the towns, villages and cities along the Trail route, the communities were encouraged to ring their local church, school and community bells, along with the *Celebrating Saskatchewan* hand bells.

DISCOVERING GOVERNMENT HOUSE

This year the opening hours of the museum were doubled for a second season, from three hours daily to six, from the Victoria Day weekend to Labour Day.

A community relations coordinator, hired in February 2001, began work immediately on

Busts of Walter Scott and Tommy Douglas

Busts for two former Saskatchewan Premiers, Walter Scott and Tommy Douglas, were created for the Millennium. As well, the bust of John G. Diefenbaker was repaired. The busts will be housed in the rotunda of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building.

New Brunswick Millennium Park

As a millennium initiative, the Province of New Brunswick invited all of Canada's provinces and territories to donate a rock that would be housed in a special Millennium park in that province. The Anniversaries Secretariat found and shipped a one-ton rock, now showcased in New Brunswick along a walk-way with rocks from each of the other provinces and territories.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The Anniversaries Secretariat will move to the next stage of planning and implementing initiatives in support of Saskatchewan's Centennial in 2005. This includes evolving the Secretariat into the Centennial Corporation, naming a Centennial theme and logo, developing a number of partnerships within the community and implementing the next stage of Centennial programming to build awareness and momentum for the celebrations in 2005.

a short-term marketing strategy to significantly raise public awareness in the Saskatchewan and northern U.S. market. Government House sent approximately 200 information packages to tourism partners and information outlets and printed 25,000 copies of a new promotional brochure.

The Government House web site and virtual tour were completed.

Work began on a CD-ROM project in partnership with the Millennium Bureau of Canada and the Government House Historical Society. IAA's contribution consisted primarily of in-kind support and Government House staff spent many hours researching and contributing written and graphic content.

The Future of Government House

The department received a consultant's report on the future of Government House in the spring of 2000. The consultant studied the uses of the facility and concluded it is a priceless asset for the Province of Saskatchewan which warrants major development to fully realize its potential as an educational, government and tourism attraction.

The consultant recommended construction of new buildings to accommodate visitor services, a gift shop, a coach house and administrative offices, and comprehensive landscaping. He also recommended a foundation be established to raise some of the funding from the non-governmental sector.

The Government House Management Committee conducted evaluation sessions on the report with major stakeholders. The outcome was a consensus much in line with the consultant's recommendations.

The department commissioned a firm of architects to prepare a concept of how such a development might be realized; the firm submitted its report in the winter of 2001. The Provincial Secretary appointed an advisory board chaired by Senator Raynell Andreychuk to examine the proposal for a foundation.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

The focus will be to change the notion that Government House is one of Regina's best-kept tourism secrets. Government House is, in fact, one of Saskatchewan's premier facilities for heritage, tourism, education and official use. The administration recognizes this value and will put into place a plan to address the marketing of this significant heritage site.

Government House management will develop new ways to reinforce the relationship and partnership with the Government House Historical Society. The first step will be to begin work on a more detailed marketing strategy to address more long-term awareness issues. The goal is to increase awareness, visitation and use of Government House, especially through learning opportunities for Saskatchewan youth.

The interpretive services staff will be tasked with fine tuning their programming to meet the changing needs of today's education market and to develop educational programs to cater to Saskatchewan's French-speaking community. The completion of the CD-ROM partnership project will be a significant challenge.

A prime element of next year's program will be to start implementing the recommendations of the consultant's report. Commissioning architectural drawings and establishing a foundation are expected to be the major tasks during 2001-2002.

Goal V:	A high quality of working life and an adequately resourced, healthy, learning organization are the foundations on which excellent service is provided by our representative professional workforce.
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The diversity of the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs mandate gives the department unique challenges and, at the same time, significant opportunities to harness its range of employee perspectives to achieve an exemplary organizational workplace.

A second annual strategic planning session, held in October 2000, furthered the objectives of involving all department staff in the strategic planning process and in giving employees an opportunity to give feedback directly to the department's senior management.

The department had committed the previous year to developing a staff survey to be used as a benchmark measure against which to evaluate IAA's progress in achieving its guiding principles. Employees' opinions and feedback received from the survey have proven very useful in determining internal department priorities and work projects.

Employees identified five priority areas within the department for attention over the next year. The areas are teamwork and cooperation; managing stress; balancing workload and resources; career opportunities; and staff development.

Work on the first priority area, teamwork and cooperation, began soon after the planning session. A two-person work team communicated the issues and identified solutions first to the department's Executive Management Committee, and then to all employees. From that process emerged a plan that focuses department action.

"When we support our staff effectively we show our respect for them and ensure quality service to the people of our province."

- W. Brent Cotter, Deputy Minister

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs is also committed to achieving a representative workforce, where Aboriginal workers are represented at all occupational levels (entry, middle and senior management) in proportion to their numbers in the province's population. Currently, Aboriginal people represent about 13 per cent of Saskatchewan's population.

As of March 31, 2001, 16.7 per cent of the department's workforce identified themselves as Aboriginal individuals.

In Fiscal 2001-2002

Work teams will address the remaining four priority areas identified in the staff survey: managing stress, balancing workload and resources, career opportunities and staff development. The results from the survey will be updated, and department priorities will be adjusted to reflect the results.

The department continues to place a high priority on leading the way in executive government for achieving a representative workforce.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS				
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW				
2000-2001 Revenue and Expenditure Statement				
Program	Estimates	Actuals	Variance	
Sub-Program	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	Notes
<i>Revenue</i>				
Federal Contributions and Other				
Miscellaneous Revenue	4,267	5,656	1,389	1
<i>Expenses</i>				
Administration	1,046	1,141	95	2
Accommodation and Central Services	1,375	1,338	(37)	
Provincial Secretary	1,904	2,239	335	
Lieutenant Governor's Office	299	363	64	3
Office of French Language Co-ordination	290	281	(9)	
Protocol	408	520	112	4
Government House	261	335	74	4
Anniversaries Secretariat	646	740	94	4
Intergovernmental Affairs	2,129	1,915	(214)	
Federal-Provincial Relations	579	615	36	4
International Relations	749	740	(9)	
Constitutional Relations	349	211	(138)	5
Trade Policy	452	349	(103)	6
Aboriginal Affairs	28,300	28,021	(279)	
Policy & Co-ordination	1,943	1,917	(26)	
Support for Aboriginal Organizations and Issues	850	872	22	
Federal Specific Land Claim Settlements	4,100	4,100	0	
Treaty Land Entitlements	21,407	20,033	(1,374)	7
Obligations under First Nations Gaming Agreements	0	1,099	1,099	8
Department Expenditure Totals	34,754	34,654	(100)	
FTE Staff Complement	77.9	77.8	0.1	

Notes

Explanations are provided for variances greater than 5% and greater than \$35,000 (0.1% of total expenditure).

- 1 Revenue adjustment to collect unaccounted-for Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Association expenditures.
- 2 Additional contractual expenses and costs associated with the addition of a second Minister.
- 3 The result of increased staff and salary costs.
- 4 Additional operating requirements.
- 5 Miscellaneous salary and operating savings.
- 6 Staff vacancies and operating savings.
- 7 Reduced Treaty Land Entitlement settlement payments, primarily as a result of delays by the federal government in establishing reserve land.
- 8 Requirement to provide payment to the Painted Hand Community Development Corporation as a result of attainment of reserve status.