

Media Backgrounder

Long-Term Safe Drinking Water Strategy

Vision – A sustainable, reliable, safe and clean supply of drinking water that is valued by the citizens of Saskatchewan

Principles:

- The strategy is responsive to the needs of all citizens
- Human health is the primary concern
- Preventing risks to drinking water quality, including meeting the National Drinking Water Quality Guidelines, is a high priority
- Transparency and clear lines of accountability and responsibility
- Full-cost pricing for the supply of water
- Commitment to knowledge-based approach
- Partnership among all levels of government and citizens in developing and implementing water management solutions

Goals & Objectives:

- 1. Waterworks systems provide safe, clean and sustainable drinking water.**
 - \$ Waterworks staff are capable and well-trained
 - \$ Infrastructure produces water that meets the National Drinking Water Quality Guidelines
 - \$ Waterworks systems and operations are financially sustainable
- 2. The drinking water regulatory system is clear and effective.**
 - Regulations are clear and ensure that health and drinking water quality will be protected
 - Professional regulatory staff have access to the tools necessary to ensure compliance
- 3. Source Waters are Protected Now and into the Future.**
 - Risks to source water quality are known
 - Watersheds are protected, natural purification and protection processes are maximized and potential for contamination is minimized
- 4. Citizens and consumers trust and value their drinking water and the operations that produce it.**
 - Citizens have meaningful access to information about the quality of their water
 - Reduced consumption of water
 - Consumers value quality water and are willing to pay for it
 - Citizens and consumers trust the quality and reliability of their drinking water systems and are confident in the regulatory system

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

To better co-ordinate efforts to protect water sources across Saskatchewan, the watershed management responsibilities of Sask Water, Saskatchewan Environment and Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation (SWCC) are being combined to form a new crown corporation, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA). The corporation will focus on protecting the quality of sources water

Regulatory Improvements

The duty of regulation for waterworks in the province is consolidated in Saskatchewan Environment. Other departments responsible for components of the overall water program will continue to provide their valuable skills and perspectives to ensure an efficient and effective program. The regulatory system is to be clear and effective with human health as the primary concern.

Water System Delivery

In the context of a system based on user-pay principles, the province is providing municipalities with consulting and technical services through Sask Water on a full cost basis to assist them to improve their water treatment infrastructure. Provincial financial assistance to municipalities will continue through the Municipal Financing Corporation. The Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program also provides grants for water and wastewater system projects. Communities with water problems are eligible for “green municipal infrastructure” priority funding of two-thirds of the cost of improvements.