

**From:** [SARM Policy](#)  
**To:** [RM 220 Administrator](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Policy Bulletin  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 10:00:31 AM

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17-5-2022

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## Reminders

### Board of Revision Renewal Project Updates

The Ministry of Government Relations is currently seeking inputs from municipalities and municipal associations on the training program, certification of boards of revision process, and the centralized board of

revision.

SARM was advised that the invitation to participate was sent to all municipalities on May 2, 2022.

We encourage all municipalities to participate in input by completing the survey.

Please note that the survey will close on **May 31, 2022**.

[Take the Survey](#)

## Feedback

### Tackling Red Tape in the Environmentally Impacted Sites Environmental Code Chapters

The Government of Saskatchewan is looking for ways to reduce red tape within *The Environmental Protection and Management (Saskatchewan Environmental Code Adoption) Regulations*.

The Government of Saskatchewan would appreciate participation from the rural municipalities of Saskatchewan in a short survey on red tape reduction as it relates to the environmentally impacted sites chapters of the Environmental Code.

The survey can be found on the Government of Saskatchewan's Public Engagement page.

SARM encourages its members to complete the survey by **May 26, 2022**.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact [kim.davis@gov.sk.ca](mailto:kim.davis@gov.sk.ca).

[Take the Survey](#)

## Information

### More Highway Safety Improvements West of Prince Albert

Construction is underway on a \$21.4 million

The Government of

twinning project on Highway 3, west of Prince Albert.

The Highway 3 twinning project will cover almost eight kilometres and will run from the junction of Highway 2 to the Shell River bridge. The design includes a four-lane highway with a concrete median barrier in the centre of the road, four protected T-intersections, as well as new lighting throughout the corridor.

The Highway 3 safety improvements are in addition to new passing lanes which opened last fall between Shellbrook and the Shell River Bridge.

Saskatchewan is keeping its 10-year Growth Plan commitment to build and improve 10,000 km of provincial roads and highways.

Planned delivery over the first three years is more than 3,500 km, well ahead of the pace needed to meet our target.

[View Full News Release](#)[View Project Map](#)

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## Animal Health Control Area Order Extended Due to Avian Influenza Risk

An animal health control area order limiting the co-mingling of poultry has been extended to **June 14, 2022**, due to the continued risk of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

The order from Saskatchewan's Chief Veterinary Officer prohibits the movement to and participation of birds in shows, auctions and agricultural fairs, as well as any other events where birds would be brought together from multiple locations. The order, originally implemented on April 14, 2022, had been due to expire on May 14, 2022.

Since the initial confirmation avian influenza in a Saskatchewan poultry flock in mid-April, Saskatchewan has continued to see outbreaks in commercial and backyard flocks. As a federally reportable disease, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is leading the HPAI response in Saskatchewan and other affected provinces, supported by provincial governments and the poultry industry.

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## Update from SPSA President & Fire Commissioner: Marlo Pritchard

□ The last SPSA meeting was held

□ The next meeting is scheduled to □

on April 28, 2022. SPSA has asked that we circulate a copy of the meeting minutes for review by the rural municipalities of Saskatchewan.

[View Meeting Notes](#)

held on May 26, 2022. If your RM has any questions that they would like addressed during the next meeting, please contact Ms. Deanna Nichols, Policy Administrator at (306) 761-3947 or Mrs. Alicia Bay, Policy Analyst at (306) 761-3742.

## Government Supports Irrigation Expansion in Saskatchewan

The Ministry of Agriculture is providing additional support for irrigation development in the province with a \$2.5 million investment to help producers finance irrigation infrastructure.

The \$2.5 million included in the 2022-23 Budget will allow producers to continue to access up to \$500,000 under the Irrigation Development

Program, from the previous maximum payment of \$300,000. The Irrigation Development Program supports the installation of irrigation infrastructure, such as pumps and pipelines, to create a secure water supply to the edge of irrigable parcels of land.

The Government of Saskatchewan also recognizes that irrigators need additional time to complete projects within the current program timelines. In response to these challenges, the program deadline for Irrigation Development pre-approval applications has been extended from January 15, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The program deadline for Irrigation Environmental Efficiency pre-approval applications has been extended from August 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. Extending the deadline will allow irrigators additional flexibility to complete their projects.

Applicants will have up to 18 months from written project approval to submit a claim under the program.

## Notice to Municipalities: Fire Service Minimum Standard Guidelines

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is excited to announce the launch of the Provincial Fire Service Minimum Standards Guide, which is now available at

[saskpublicsafety.ca](https://saskpublicsafety.ca). The Guide outlines a range of minimum standards that fire departments can choose from to meet the needs of their residents.

Comprehensive training guidelines ensure firefighters have the skills needed for safer and more efficient response. The guidelines also enhance coordination between elected officials and the fire department by providing an opportunity:

- For coordination and fiscal planning to ensure firefighters have the training and type of equipment they need for their service level; and
- To provide guidance on equipment maintenance.

All Fire Chiefs will be asked to review the Minimum Standards Guide and declare a service level based on those guidelines. This declaration of service would also determine the minimum associated training standards for your local fire department based on that service level, as well as the appropriate equipment required to meet your community's needs.

Please note that information regarding this launch has also been provided to Saskatchewan fire chiefs.

These **non-mandatory** guidelines could not have been developed without the strong collaborative efforts of the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs (SAFC), the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (SVFFA) and the Provincial Training Standards Committee. The Agency appreciates the high level of engagement and feedback these groups have provided over the past two years as these guidelines were developed.

### Assessing and Declaring a Service Level

The assessment and declaration phase is now open and runs until October 31, 2023. During this time, fire departments should review the guidelines and declare a service level based on those guidelines. To assist Fire Chiefs during this phase, a set of questions and answers are also available on the [SPSA website](#).

There are five steps involved in declaring a service level, which are listed below. Appendix A of the Fire Service Minimum Standards Guide

provides more information on this process and outlines the action items associated with each of these steps.

- Step 1:** Fire Chief reviews the Minimum Standards Guide
- Step 2:** Fire Chief and council meet to discuss proposed service level
- Step 3:** Checklist is completed by the Fire Chief
- Step 4:** Fire Chief and council complete and approve the Declaration of Service Form
- Step 5:** The Declaration of Service Form is submitted to the SPSA

Once the declaration phase ends on **October 31, 2023**, the SPSA will provide council with a letter confirming the service level identified.

If you wish to participate in the program but require assistance with the process, we would be pleased to assist. Unless we hear from you, the SPSA's records will show that your community has decided not to participate in the program.

[Learn More](#)

## Health Renewal Funding Projects Benefit Patients

Patients, families, and health care staff across the province are benefitting from a \$100 million investment in health renewal projects. This is part of the government's \$7.5 billion, two-year capital plan to build a strong Saskatchewan and stimulate the province's economic recovery.

As of March 31, 2022, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has expended more than \$82 million in stimulus funding on completed projects, including commitments to several projects currently underway or in the planning stages.

Over 400 projects have been completed to date with more than 120 others currently in progress or planning, including:

- an \$8 million investment in roof replacement and repairs to address potential future interior damage that could impact access to patient rooms at six facilities in Saskatoon, including Parkridge Centre, Royal University Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, Social and Brief Detox, Kinsmen Children's Centre, and the Nurses Alumni Wing at Saskatoon City Hospital;
- boiler replacements at facilities across the North to improve the reliability and energy efficiency of heating equipment, and the installation of Oxygen concentrators to enhance nursing services

and remove the risk of injury due to lifting and moving high-pressure tanks;

- changes to the aesthetic appearance of the Battleford Union Hospital's front entrance to enhance facility access with auto door openers and improve traffic flow and replacement of the aged Prince Albert Victoria Hospital elevator to ensure access to safe, reliable elevators for patients and staff

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## Resources

### Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network: Radio Refresh Program

The Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN) began operation in 2010. At that time, radios were provided to firefighting agencies by the provincial government at that time at no charge beyond a monthly system access fee. Those radios are aging, and a four-year replacement program is now underway.

New radios will be supplied to all existing fire clients at no charge. This includes replacement of radios purchased by fire departments in excess of their initial allotment.

Note that the monthly access fee, \$40.00 per radio, as well as the \$41.00 annual federal licence fee, will remain the responsibility of the user for all assigned radios.

This replacement program involves approximately 2,000 fire radios and will require technicians to travel to hundreds of locations across Saskatchewan. Priority will be given to the larger, busier departments and smaller departments will be accommodated where practical. Clients will be contacted before SPSA technicians are scheduled to be in your area.

For more information, please contact the PPSTN Help Desk at 1-888-953-3693

[Learn More](#)

### AgriStability Program



AgriStability is a low-cost business risk management program. In Saskatchewan, the average cost to participate in the AgriStability Program \$0.67 per acre or \$1.16 per head.

Apply early. The last day to enrol is extended to **June 30, 2022**.

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