

RM 220 Administrator

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

22-3-2022

Information

Government Partners with PATHS to Move Training Program Online

The Government of Saskatchewan released a news article on March 10, 2022 outlining a recent partnership with PATHS regarding online training programs, the article is set out below:

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and the Status of Women Office are partnering with the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) to develop an online course to educate employers and staff on how to support colleagues experiencing interpersonal violence outside of the workplace.

"Investing in the development of online modules to educate the workforce on the complexities of interpersonal violence and abuse is a key step in prevention," Justice Minister and Attorney General Gordon Wyant said. "Educating employees and building awareness helps to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the workplace."

Together, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and the Status of Women Office have invested \$59,000 to move the training online.

"Enhancing initiatives that address interpersonal violence and abuse is important work," Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Office Laura Ross said. "PATHS is leading the

way on this initiative and I am pleased that the Status of Women Office has been able to support their efforts."

The Effective Workplace Response to Interpersonal Violence training module will focus on how people experiencing interpersonal violence can be impacted and how employers and co-workers can offer support. The course outlines how to recognize the signs of abusive relationships, how to respond to colleagues experiencing interpersonal violence and abuse, and how to refer victims to community support networks, all in an effort to improve workplace health and safety.

"The workplace can be a place of safety and support for individuals experiencing intimate partner violence if employers and co-workers know how to have effective conversations, and supportive policies are in place," PATHS Executive Director Jo-Anne Dusel said. "This course will provide information and concrete tools for workplaces to reduce the harmful impacts of abuse on survivors and contribute to workplace safety."

The online workshop includes information on legislated workplace leave for victims of interpersonal violence and abuse, as well as suggested policies and procedures for workplaces to adopt. The course is anticipated to launch online in the fall 2022.

For more information, contact:

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2022 Crop Insurance Enrolment Deadline Extended to April 14, 2022

On March 14, 2022, the Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit released a news article outlining an extension of the deadline for enrolment in the Crop Insurance program, the article is set out below:

[On March 14, 2022], Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced the 2022 Crop Insurance enrolment deadline is extended to April 14, 2022. Due to logistical challenges because of the ongoing supply-chain issues posed by the pandemic, there was a delay in the delivery of the 2022 Crop Insurance packages to producers' addresses. These challenges occurred after the packages left the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) on February 25, 2022.

"Prairie producers continue to inspire us with their resiliency and ability to rise to the challenges of the past year," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "Risk management programs like crop insurance are essential to help producers prepare for the future, and we want to ensure they have the time they need to make decisions that are right for their business."

"We want to ensure producers have additional time to review their operation's risk management plans for the upcoming growing season," said Marit. "SCIC offers a full suite of programs to support producers, including Crop Insurance. We understand the challenges the Saskatchewan agriculture industry is currently facing, and I encourage producers to take the time now to review all Crop Insurance options and select features best suited for their operation."

As of March 10, 2022, the 2022 Crop Insurance packages were circulated and distributed to producers' addresses. Producers can anticipate receiving their packages in their mailboxes within the next few days.

SCIC staff are available to assist producers with their Crop Insurance endorsement and coverage details. Producers can also access and modify their Crop Insurance details directly through SCIC's online Crop Insurance portal, CropConnect. Producers must select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes by April 14, 2022, or coverage will remain the same as the previous year.

For more information, contact a local SCIC office, email customer.service@scic.ca, or call 1-888-935-0000.

Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-territorial Business Risk Management program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Under Crop Insurance, premiums for most programs are shared 40 per cent by participating producers, 36 per cent by the Government of Canada and 24 per cent by the Government of Saskatchewan. Administrative expenses are fully funded by governments, 60 per cent by Canada and 40 per cent by Saskatchewan.

For more information, contact:

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Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC)
Melville
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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Media Relations
Ottawa
Phone: 613-773-7972

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Province to Invest \$262 Million to Benefit Municipalities

The Government of Saskatchewan released a news article on March 16, 2022 outlining its plan to invest \$262 Million to the benefit of the Municipalities, the article is set out below:

[On March 16, 2022], Premier Scott Moe announced more than \$262 million of provincial funding will be invested for the overall Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) Program in 2022-23 to benefit Saskatchewan municipalities and support their priorities.

"This annual and predictable provincial revenue allows local decision makers the flexibility to address the needs that matter most to their municipalities," Moe said. "This unconditional provincial funding helps lay the foundation for stronger communities and a stronger Saskatchewan."

Total funding for 2022-23 for MRS represents a more than 106 per cent increase from the 2007-08 provincial fiscal year. The average annual overall provincial funding for this municipal program for the previous five years from 2017-18 to 2021-22 is more than \$260 million.

The annual provincial funding is based on three quarters of one point of the provincial sales tax revenue collected from two years prior.

As in previous years, the Targeted Sector Support Initiative will receive a \$1.5 million investment from the total MRS Program. Co-managed by the provincial government and municipal partners, the initiative invests in municipal projects advancing priority areas, such as good governance, regional planning, and inter-community collaboration.

Following this announcement, more than \$3.7 billion in provincial funding will have been allocated to support municipalities across Saskatchewan through the MRS program from 2007-08 to 2022-23. When the provincial budget is released, more details will be available.

For more information, contact:

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Saskatchewan Introduces Enhanced Measures to Control Feral Pigs

The Government of Saskatchewan released a news article on March 16, 2022 outlining its steps to enhance measures to control feral pigs, the article is set out below:

The Government of Saskatchewan is taking steps today to proactively enhance and broaden the regulation, monitoring and control of wild boar and feral pigs in the province.

The Ministry of Agriculture is developing regulations for licensing existing commercial wild boar farms and imposing a moratorium on any new farms. Regulations for wild boar/feral pigs will also be developed under *The Pest Control Act*, which would specify the various monitoring and control efforts as well as public obligations to report.

Additionally, annual funding for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) Feral Wild Boar Control Program for surveillance and eradication efforts in the province is being doubled to \$200,000.

"Increasing feral pig surveillance and eradication efforts, along with declaring them a regulated pest, are proactive measures to help ensure the health of both the agriculture industry and the natural environment in Saskatchewan," Agriculture Minister David Maritz said. "These are substantial steps that improve risk management and protect the resilience and security of our agriculture industry, which is a critical component of our provincial economy."

Feral pigs are invasive and established within localized regions of the province, including agricultural production areas, and represent a significant problem due to damage caused to hay and crop land and to natural areas, as well as their potential to spread invasive plant species. They also harass livestock and wildlife, and are potential reservoirs for livestock diseases such as African swine fever, a federally reportable disease that is not yet present in North America but is a serious threat to the Canadian pork industry.

The SCIC and the Ministry of Agriculture work closely with the public, producer associations like Sask Pork, and rural municipalities to monitor and deal with feral pigs in the province. This issue is among various areas of mutual interest and cooperation between the province and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) which recently

requested a collaborative, long-term solution to the wild boar/feral pigs issue in Saskatchewan.

All wild boar/feral pig sightings should be reported immediately by contacting a local SCIC office or calling 1-888-935-0000 (toll-free).

For more information, contact:

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Changes to Fees and Charges in 2022-23

The Government of Saskatchewan released a news article on March 18, 2022 outlining changes to fees and charges in 2022-23, the article is set out below:

Certain fees and charges paid in Saskatchewan will change in 2022-23 to better reflect the cost of related provincial services.

The changes are forecast to generate about \$2.7 million in additional revenue in 2022-23.

The attached summary lists the changes and provides contact information for each ministry or agency.

For more information, contact:

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Finance
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Cell: 306-536-1185

To review the changes to the fees and charges and to view the full article, please click the links below:

[Review Changes to Fees & Charges](#)

[View Full Article](#)

Public Awareness Campaign Encourages Firearms Safety in Saskatchewan

The Government of Saskatchewan released a news article on March 21, 2022 outlining its public awareness campaign which is encouraging firearms safety throughout Saskatchewan, the article is set out below:

The Saskatchewan Firearms Office has launched a public awareness campaign to promote firearms safety in the province.

"Education is key when it comes to licensing and the safe operation of firearms in the province," Corrections, Policing and Public Safety Minister Christine Tell said. "We look forward to working with Saskatchewan firearms owners to promote firearms safety in communities across Saskatchewan."

The campaign promotes safe practices when using and storing firearms to help prevent accidents and mitigate loss or theft. The ads will appear on social media platforms, radio, TV and in community newspapers to encourage firearm safety. The campaign also focuses on the next generation of firearms owners and encourages passing down knowledge about safe handling practices to children and grandchildren.

"Firearms safety starts with you," Chief Firearms Officer Robert Freberg said. "I encourage firearms owners across the province to lead by example and teach the next generation how to be safe when using and storing firearms and ammunition."

Safety tips when handling a firearm include:

- Learn the basic characteristics of the firearm you are using including how to load, handle and store the firearm safely;
- Never point a firearm at anyone or anything you don't want to shoot;
- Ensure firearms are unloaded at all times when stored;
- Lock the firearms in a cabinet or safe or attach a secure locking device, such as a trigger lock or cable lock to ensure the firearm cannot be fired;
- Store ammunition separately or lock it up and always use the correct ammunition for your firearm; and
- Make sure unauthorized individuals do not have access to the keys or combination lock used to secure your firearm unless they are permitted and licensed.

Many responsible firearms owners in Saskatchewan enjoy hunting or travelling to other destinations that require them to relocate with their firearms. It is important to make suitable arrangements with your accommodations provider to secure your firearms upon arrival. When stopping at restaurants or gas stations along the way, park in a location where

your vehicle can easily be observed by you or others. The responsibility belongs to licensed owners to unload, secure and place firearms out of sight.

In 2021, Saskatchewan transitioned oversight of the province's firearms program from the federal government to the province with the appointment of its first provincially appointed Chief Firearms Officer. The office now administers the *Firearms Act* in Saskatchewan, which includes jurisdiction over the licensing, storage, transportation and carrying of firearms.

For more information, contact:

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Resources

Crop Planning Guide & Crop Protection Guide 2022

The Ministry of Agriculture recently released both the Crop Planning Guide and Crop Protection Guide for 2022.

Crop Planning Guide 2022:

<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/115925/formats/131838/download>

Crop Protection Guide 2022:

<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/77706/formats/87089/download>

For more information, contact:

Agriculture Knowledge Centre
Toll Free Number: 1-866-457-2377
Agriculture Knowledge Centre
Phone 866-457-2377

Environmentally Impacted Sites – Sask GeoHub

The Ministry of Environment plans to publish a Geographic Information System (GIS) data set, illustrating environmentally impacted sites in the province in a map format. This GIS data set will be launched on the government website, also known as the GeoHub (<https://geohub.saskatchewan.ca/>), by the end of March 2022.

The online map will show basic information for the impacted sites, including:

- Case identification number;
- Location;
- Contaminant(s) of concern; and
- Status of the site (categories include notification, assessment, corrective actions, closure or Notice of Site Condition).

To review Questions and Answers surrounding the Sask GeoHub and Environmentally Impacted Site, please click the link below:



Active Transportation Fund Update

The deadline for applications for both the planning and capital funding streams of the Active Transportation Fund is fast approaching - applications will be accepted through the ***Applicant Portal*** until **March 31, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. EST**. Applications from eligible Indigenous recipients will be accepted on an ongoing basis.

In case you were unable to attend a information webinar, we have included a copy of the webinar deck. To view the ATF Webinar Deck, click the link below:



All information shared during the webinars is also available in the ***Applicant Guide***, on the ***website*** or in the ***Step-by-Step Guides***.

The Active Transportation Fund team has developed a list of Frequently Ask Questions. To view the FAQs for Applicants, click the link below.



For more information or for any inquiries, contact:

The Active Transportation Fund Team
ATF-FTA@infoc.gc.ca

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(306) 757-3577 | sarm@sarm.ca | www.sarm.ca

SARM

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