

RM 220 Administrator

From: SARM Policy <sarm@sarm.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 10:02 AM
To: RM 220 Administrator
Subject: Weekly Policy Bulletin

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The Weekly Policy Bulletin

29-3-2022

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Reminders

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:

[View ATF Webinar Presentation](#)

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.

[View Applicant FAQs](#)

For more information or for any inquiries, contact:

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

[Learn More / Apply](#)

Employment Standards 2022-23 Training Webinar Schedule

Looking for some opportunities to learn more...

The Employment Standards Branch's series of free webinars cover various employment standards topics such as: Employment Standards overview, protections for foreign workers, tips for taking the Young Worker Readiness Certificate course, employment leaves, what you need to know about employing youth, understanding when overtime is payable, understanding layoffs and ending employment, COVID-19 and the Saskatchewan Employment Act and many others.

Please visit their **Training Page** to review the webinar schedule, register, and/or view recordings of previous webinars.

The Employment Standards Branch also provides customized webinars for interested employers and groups. A minimum of 20 attendees is required.

If you or your members have any questions, please give the Employer Services team a call at 1-833-354-6914, or email saskjobs@gov.sk.ca.

[Learn More](#)

Information



\$880,000 in funding for the Digital Literacy for Job Seekers Program

saskatchewan.ca

SaskJobs 

Saskatchewan Announces Funding of \$880,000 for Digital Literacy for Job Seekers

The Government of Saskatchewan released a news article on March 22, 2022 outlining an investment in the digital literacy for the Job Seekers Initiative, the article is set out below:

[On March 22, 2022], the Government of Saskatchewan announced an investment of \$880,000 for the Digital Literacy for Job Seekers Initiative. The funding supports individuals to develop the foundational digital skills they need to secure employment.

"As digital technology continues to transform every aspect of our lives and economy, having basic digital literacy skills is becoming increasingly important," Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "The Digital Literacy for Job Seekers Initiative helps individuals with limited experience acquire the digital skills they need to enter and compete in our labour market."

The Saskatchewan Growth Plan for 2020 to 2030 identifies technology as a catalyst for growth. This initiative supports more Saskatchewan people to acquire the basic digital skills and knowledge they need to secure financial self-sufficiency and participate in our provincial economy.

Job seekers will complete an assessment to determine their individualized learning needs and will be trained on:

- Basic digital literacy skills and use of digital devices;
- Developing skills to support job search efforts such as:
 - Resume and cover letter writing;
 - Developing a portfolio; and
 - On-line job search.

The digital literacy program is funded through the Canada-Saskatchewan Labour Market Transfer Agreements. To be eligible, individuals must be legally entitled to work in Saskatchewan, at least 16 years of age, unemployed or underemployed and seeking employment.

For more information on the program and eligibility, contact SaskJobs Career Services directly at 1-833-613-0485 or careerservices@gov.sk.ca.

For more information, contact:

Robin Speer
Immigration and Career Training
Regina
Phone: 306-519-5006
Email: robin.speer@gov.sk.ca

View Full News Release

Protect Your Elm Trees: Do Not Prune from April 1 to August 31

The Government of Saskatchewan released a news article on March 25, 2022 outlining the annual ban on pruning elm trees in Saskatchewan, the article is set out below:

The annual ban on pruning elm trees in Saskatchewan begins April 1 and runs until August 31. It is illegal to prune elm trees during this time to help stop the spread of Dutch elm disease (DED).

As the weather warms, the tiny elm bark beetles that spread DED become more active. Fresh cuts on trees can attract the insects, making an infection more likely.

The beetles breed in dead and dying elm wood, so pruning your trees before or after the ban period helps reduce beetle populations. This will also help keep your trees healthy and better able to resist disease. You can remove an elm tree

during the ban period, but it's important to dispose of all elm wood promptly and properly. To confirm the designated disposal site in your area, contact your local municipality.

Incorrect pruning can damage your trees and spread diseases. Check the qualifications of anyone you hire to prune your trees. In Saskatchewan, those who prune elm trees commercially must complete a recognized training program or be under the supervision of someone who is properly trained.

To prevent the spread of DED, as well as other insects and diseases, it is illegal to use, transport, store or sell elm firewood. Regulations also restrict the use, transport, storage and sale of elm logs.

For more information, contact your local municipality or the Ministry of Environment Inquiry Centre at 1-800-567-4224, or visit saskatchewan.ca/forestry.

For more information, contact:

Val Nicholson
Environment
Prince Albert
Phone: 306-953-2459
Email: Val.Nicholson@gov.sk.ca
Cell: 306-981-5645

[View Full News Release](#)

Saskatchewan Announces \$300,000 in Funding for Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence

The Government of Saskatchewan released a news article on March 28, 2022 outlining an investment in Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resources Centre of Excellence, the article is set out below:

[On March 28, 2022], the Government of Saskatchewan announced \$300,000 in funding for the Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence (COE) to support two projects to help advance the Growth Plan goal of growing Indigenous participation in the province's natural resource sector.

"The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the important role Indigenous organizations will play as we continue to work toward growing Indigenous participation in the resource sector and this funding represents a step toward that important goal which will help drive economic growth," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Our government appreciates the valuable support the Centre of Excellence has provided as we continue to work collaboratively to achieve that goal."

The first of the two projects will be a comprehensive study to identify the current level and types of Indigenous participation in Saskatchewan's resource sector, including through ownership of resource companies, equity ownership in projects, procurement, supply chains and direct and indirect employment. The second project will identify specific opportunities for Indigenous communities and companies to own or participate in projects associated with critical minerals.

"The First Nations in this province are not anti-resource development, but are rather interested in opportunities for responsible resource development," Vice Chief Heather Bear said. "These projects are an opportunity to highlight how the Nations in this province can contribute to the resource sector, while at the same time, offer meaningful employment to their citizens. It's time for inclusion of First Nations within this industry, and this is a significant step forward in meeting this objective."

The studies will include both First Nation and Métis communities and companies, and will be completed and submitted to the ministry in March of 2023. With the announcement of the new Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation, there will be more opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate as equity owners in natural resource projects.

For more information, contact:

Robin Speer
Trade and Export Development
Regina
Phone: 306-519-5006
Email: robin.speer@gov.sk.ca

[View Full News Release](#)

What's New in the World of Weed Control?

By: Keana Boere, Intern Extension Agrologist, Tisdale

Herbicide-resistant weeds are increasing the pressure for new weed control options. Below are several new innovations in weed control, some of which are still being developed while others are commercially available.

Physical impact mill attachments on combines provide harvest weed seed control. Commercially available models include the Integrated Harrington Seed Destructor, Seed Terminator and the

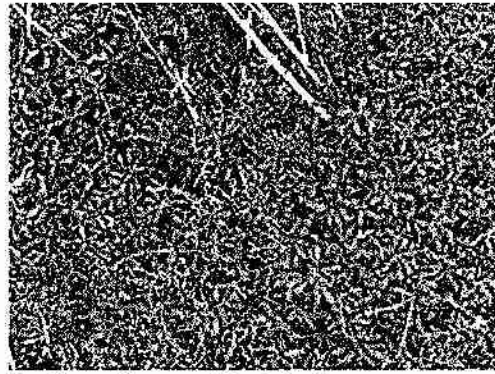
Saskatchewan-produced Redekop Seed Control Unit. Impact mills work by crushing and destroying weed seeds before they exit the combine with chaff and residues. This destruction prevents the seeds from germinating, eliminating them before they become weeds. One limitation with impact mills is that weed seeds need to be retained on the plant until crop harvest so they pass through the impact mill. The impact mill is over 95 per cent effective at destroying weed seeds that enter it.

The X-Steam-inator is a non-selective form of weed control that kills weeds using high temperature steam generated from electricity. This technology is still being evaluated for large-scale field operations, and commercial scale prototypes are currently not available.

Autonomous weeding robots use sensors, cameras, and GPS to move through fields day or night, with no human operation. Lasers, small sprays of herbicide or small spinning blades are used to control weed seedlings. Sensors identify weeds from crops using leaf shapes or leaf reflectance; some can pull GPS data of seeding history to determine if a crop was planted in that exact location or if a weed has emerged. Large-scale use of these robots is still in development stages, but models are available for low-acreage, high-value cropping systems, like vegetable production.

Precision spraying technologies, like Weed-it, increase the efficiency of herbicide applications by only applying herbicide to detected weeds in a field. This reduces the amount of herbicide being used and allows for a more economical application of a diverse herbicide mix. While it could be argued that this technology on its own may only serve to delay herbicide resistance, used in combination with other weed control options it creates another tool in the toolbox. Precision spraying technologies are commercially available with different application modes including spot spray, dual spray and full coverage.

Biological weed control methods have been successfully used for years. Well-known examples involve using natural enemy insects for control of invasive weed



Kochia seedlings contribute to the pressures for new weed control options.

species. Biopesticides are also being developed using natural weed pathogens and phytotoxins. Bioherbicides, biofungicides and bioinsecticides are all being investigated. These products could lead to new modes of action or herbicide selectivity to help with herbicide resistance problems.

RNA Interference technology uses RNA to silence key weed genes. Weeds will either die or become more susceptible to herbicides and other control methods when exposed to RNA. Very specific RNA sequences are used, so specific weed species can be targeted. Traits will need to be developed for a wide variety of weeds to control different species. This idea is still very much in its infancy but will likely be developed into a spray.

More technologies are being researched involving drones and genetic engineering, but their economic feasibility and efficacy varies, so an integrated weed control plan will still be required. There is potential, however, for more integrated control options to become available to producers in the future.

For more information on weed control options, contact your local ***crops extension specialist*** or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

[View Full Article](#)

Resources

Farm Stress Line

As Saskatchewan moves into a busy spring, Agribusiness, Farmers and Ranchers may begin to be faced with factors and challenges that are often beyond their control such as weather, pests, disease, high-input costs, volatile markets and low financial returns at the farm gate. Farmers and Ranchers who endure high levels of stress may find that it can negatively affected not only their health, but their quality of life and relations.

The Farm Stress Line can help by:

- Clarifying the problem or concern and work with you toward a solution;
- Connecting you with the appropriate organization, professional or program that best suits your needs; and/or
- Listening and supporting in a safe, neutral and non-judgmental environment.

Calls to the Farm Stress Line are answered by Mobile Crisis Services, a non-profit, community based agency providing crisis intervention services in Saskatchewan since 1974.

Whether it is information, conflict or crisis, the first step is communication. Call before the problem becomes a crisis. The Farm Stress Line can help if you are managing farm difficulties by providing support for farmers and ranchers.

We respect confidentiality. There is no call display.

Farm Stress Line

Toll Free: 1-800-667-4442

24 hours per day. Seven days per week.

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