

RM 220 Administrator

From: Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities <communications@sarm.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 2:05 PM
To: RM 220 Administrator
Subject: Rural Sheaf: August 2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



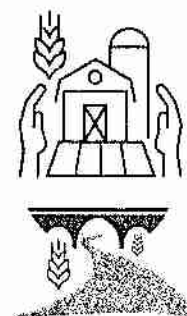
August-2021

Federal Election...Don't forget to ask!

With the Federal Election right around the corner (**September 20, 2021**), SARM wanted to share some of the asks that we will be promoting to the candidates this federal election. We hope that those living in rural Saskatchewan won't forget to ask some key questions to ensure rural needs are highlighted to improve quality of life, ensure rural communities remain vibrant, and support economic development and growth in Saskatchewan.



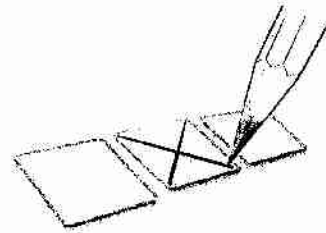
ASK ABOUT:
Broadband Access
Carbon Tax + Offsets
Rural Infrastructure Funding
Better Agriculture Safety Nets



Deadlines

Federal Election: Check out your voting options

To vote in the upcoming Federal Election, you must be a Canadian citizen, be at least 18 years old on election day, and prove your identity and address.



Elections Canada is asking people to plan early. During a pandemic, things can take a bit more time. Make a plan and choose the voting option that works best for you.

You can vote almost any time; on election day (Sept. 20th), on advanced polling days, by mail, or at any Elections Canada Office. If you are interested in participating by mail, fill out an application before Tuesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.

For more details, please contact Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 or see the following links:



Order your 2022 SARM Calendar

We are busy preparing calendars for 2022. Calendars will be mailed to RM offices.

- The survey below must be completed and submitted by **September 15th** in order to receive calendars for 2022. We will not be accepting orders outside of the survey.

Please also note that your RM will be invoiced by SARM for any additional calendars requested in this survey as well as the shipping costs for all calendars (including free copies).



Rural Municipal Administrator Scholarship - Apply by October 15

The application intake for the 2021 Rural Municipal Administration Scholarship Program is currently underway. This program is for students enrolled in the Local Government Authority (LGA) Certificate Program at the University of Regina.

Three scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded annually, paid at the end of the completed semester. Selection is based on academic achievement, demonstrated interest in administration as a career in rural Saskatchewan, contributions to and knowledge of rural Saskatchewan, and other criteria.

Applications must be received in the SARM office no later than **October 15, 2021**.



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Invasive Plant Control Program (CAP-IPCP)

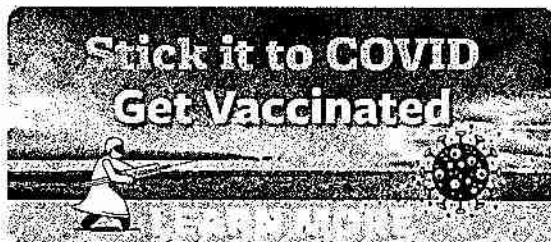
RMs, FNBs, and Producers/Stakeholders can apply for rebates of up to 50% of the cost of approved herbicides used to treat prohibited & select noxious weeds through the CAP-IPCP.

Reach out to the **Plant Health Officer (PHO)** in your division for assistance with claim forms and all supplemental documents required to be eligible for rebates. Submit to **SARM** by claim deadline **October 31**.

For additional information, including CAP-IPCP claim forms and supplemental documents please visit:



Resources



Find current/upcoming COVID19 immunization clinics - both booked and pop-up clinics. Information is regularly updated, so check to ensure a clinic is still active before travelling.



Applications must be received in the SARM office no later than **October 15, 2021**.

Targeted Sector Support Initiative Cost-Shared Grants

The Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative is a portion of Municipal Revenue Sharing (\$1.5 million per fiscal year) that provides cost-shared grants (up to 75 per cent on eligible costs) to municipalities partnering to strengthen their core municipal responsibilities through projects focused on regional co-operation, capacity building, good governance, and the priorities set by the TSS Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North), and the Ministry of Government Relations.

"SARM is encouraged by the ongoing TSS funding and the commitment from the province to deliver it as part of the Municipal Revenue Sharing program. Funding projects through this program will certainly benefit rural Saskatchewan."

- Ray Orb, SARM President

Sharing Resources, Serving Residents: The Town of Willow Bunch received a TSS grant of more than \$14,000 to support a combined asset management review and system update in collaboration with the RM of Willow Bunch.

Supporting Good Governance: The RM of Frenchman Butte received \$13,000 to provide municipal governance training to elected officials in the RM, as well as officials from the following surrounding municipalities: Village of Paradise Hill, Town of St. Walburg, RM of Mervin, and RM of Britannia.

Promoting Regional Collaboration and Safety: The City of Meadow Lake received over \$37,000 to conduct a regional fire and emergency services feasibility study with the neighbouring RM of Meadow Lake and Flying Dust First Nation.

Latest news release (detailing success stories)

- **NR - August 26, 2021**



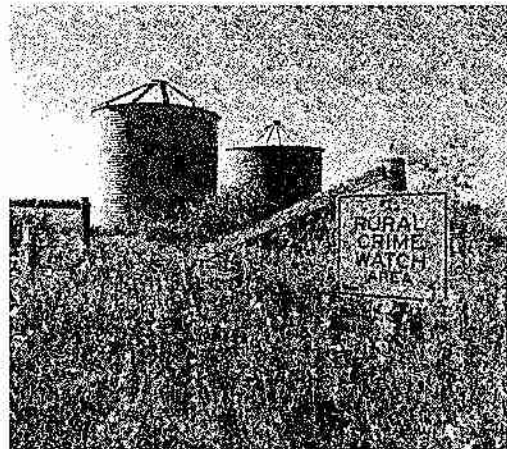
Previous news releases:

- **NR - June 22, 2021**
- **NR - January 25, 2021**
- **NR - August 11, 2020**

Rural Crime Watch

Rural Crime Watch (RCW) is a community driven, community led, police supported crime prevention and reduction collaborative program. The Rural Crime Watch program in Saskatchewan is a partnership between the Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association (includes local RCW boards where they exist), the RCMP, and its authorized Protection and Response Team (PRT).

The RCMP's PRT partners include Saskatchewan Conservation Officer Services and Saskatchewan Highway Patrol. RCW members are volunteers who serve as the 'Eyes and Ears' of their communities and contact the police to report suspicious persons / vehicles.





THE PROVINCIAL TRAFFIC SAFETY FUND GRANT

provides funding to communities for traffic safety projects aimed at making roads safer.



Help us spread the word and encourage your community leaders to apply for funding today!

To apply or learn more, simply email the program administrator at PSEProgram@sgi.sk.ca to request program guideline.

Applicants must represent an Indigenous band or territory or urban or rural municipality.



- In December 2020, **One Arrow First Nation** received \$7,690 to fund the purchase and installation of speed display signs. After applying again in 2021, they've received another \$19,497 from the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant to install solar-powered streetlights in the community.
- After getting public feedback through a traffic safety survey, **Kinistin Sauteaux Nation** applied for a Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant and received \$11,522 to install traffic-calming speed display signs in their community.

Email the program administrator at PSEProgram@sgi.sk.ca or:



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Community Experience Cluster Program



This funding program aims to encourage, support, and facilitate the development of clusters of compelling tourist experiences within Saskatchewan communities and/or destination areas.

(formerly the Destination Experience Development Program)

The Community Experience Cluster Program will be open for applications from September 15th – October 27th, 2021.

These experiences will align with the expectations and demands of key visitor markets. It aims to increase the scope and variety of multi-day comprehensive packages available as a single transaction purchase in the province.

The program is application-based. The maximum funding per applicant is \$20,000. There will be no equity investment required by the applicant for the 2021/2022 application year.





ANNOUNCING ERA's 4th Kids Poster Contest Starting in September!

The ERA is proud to announce their 4th Kid's Poster Contest that will launch this September. We are asking students including Elementary, Junior High, and High Schools, across Canada to use their creative minds for a chance to win a FREE laptop. This competition is designed to not only educate students on the *importance of sustainability and the 3 R's* (Reduce Reuse Recycle), but to bring their vision of an ever-changing environment to paper.



Supporting a Colleague Mental Health as a First Responder

Maintaining mental health can be a challenge in the best of times. Ongoing stressful situations can significantly amplify mental health issues. Working to serve others during the pandemic has intensely magnified mental health challenges for many public safety personnel (PSP), including paramedics, border services officers, police, 911 communicators/dispatch, correctional workers, and firefighters among others.

PSPNET



Signs of mental health struggles can include:

- Withdrawal from the group;
- Decrease in productivity;
- Difficulties relaxing;

- Regularly low mood, frequent pessimistic comments;
- Increased sensitivity to stimuli (e.g., light, odours, sounds);
- Lack of interest in work, colleagues, or pleasant activities outside of work;
- Difficulties concentrating and thinking;
- Illusions, suspicion, or paranoia;
- Abnormal or unusual behaviour;
- Reports of lost sleep, too much sleep, or fatigue;
- Reports of low or increased appetite;
- Changes in personal hygiene, particularly reductions in hygiene; and
- Suicidal thoughts, comments, or behaviour.

Burnett said friends and colleagues can assist struggling PSP by:

- reminding them that talking can be helpful;
- listening to them without solutioning;
- asking how you can help;
- asking hard questions if warranted i.e. "are you having thoughts of suicide?";
- reminding them you are there; and
- encouraging them to seek professional help.

Burnett urges all PSP struggling with depression, anxiety, or posttraumatic stress, to contact PSPNET. She also urges PSP looking to keep themselves healthy to apply for the program. PSPNET is an internet-delivered mental health support program. It is **free, confidential**, and **does not require a referral or a diagnosis**, eliminating the need to advise employers or colleagues of your participation in the program.

In addition, there are **no wait times** to access services. The program combines online learning modules with weekly email or telephone support.

If you are, or know of, a current or former PSP, who is experiencing symptoms such as depression, anxiety, or posttraumatic stress, please encourage them to access the program by visiting www.pspnet.ca or calling 306-337-7233 or 1-833-317-7233.



Farm Stress Line
SASKATCHEWAN

If you are experiencing symptoms of stress, help is available 24/7.

Farm Stress Line
1-800-667-4442

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP MCS *Mental Health Centre of Saskatchewan* Saskatchewan Canada

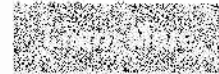
Stress on the farm

Rural families deserve credit for working hard to meet the 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. Many Saskatchewan farm families have off-farm income, which, in turn, may result in additional pressure which can lead to fatigue and burnout.

Farmers and ranchers who endure high levels of stress may find that it has negatively affected their health and has reduced their quality of life. High stress can compromise personal safety and affect family relationships.

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.



SCA's Feed and Forage Wanted and For Sale

The Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association (SCA) has set up a Facebook buy and sell page hoping that it helps agriculture producers that have feed for sale, or are looking for feed, to connect by posting their needs on the page.

SARM wanted to support this effort by sharing the link with our members. Please share it with producers you know that might need help during this far-reaching drought.



Rural Integrated Roads for Growth

Application Intake for the 2022-2023 Rural Integrated Road for Growth Program (RIRG)

Applications for the Road Construction Program and the Bridge and Large Diameter Culvert Initiative remains open for the 2022-2023 Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) Program. The application intake closes October 29, 2021.

All previously ranked and eligible project applications will be added to the 2022-2023 intake for consideration.

Applications will be completed using the digital forms that can be found on the RIRG section of SARM's website at <https://sarm.ca/programs/rirg>. For full details on the eligibility of projects, please see the RIRG Policy Manual.

Projects located on roadways with a Rural Road Classification of Class 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be eligible to apply and it shall be **mandatory** that all projects be built to the standards described in the RIRG Policy Manual.

Projects are to be engineered and shall be designed and constructed to the applicable requirements and standards described in the RIRG Policy Manual.

Procurement following the New West Partnership Trade Agreement is mandatory. Thresholds for the public procurement for engineering is \$75,000 and for construction is \$200,000.

It is recommended by the RIRG Program that the Municipality engage the services of an Engineering Consultant to provide an engineered estimate of the total project to ensure accurate costs.

Approximately \$14 million in Ministry of Highways stimulus funding is to be allocated to Road Construction Projects and approximately \$12.5 million in funding is available for the Bridge and Large Diameter Culvert initiative in 2022-23.

Maximum grant funding for each project is determined from the estimated project costs submitted by the Municipality on the project application. All grants provided by the RIRG are 50% of eligible costs up to maximum of \$500,000.



Insurance & Benefits



Homewood Health

Homewood Health is an important partner of SARM. As our chosen service provider for the Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP), Homewood Health can provide assistance to our members employees, and their families on a vast variety of life topics, including financial matters, relationship issues, health and wellness questions, career coaching, and retirement planning, just to name a few. Homewood Health also offers a wide range of short one-hour to half day seminars on wide variety of personal and professional development topics. All of these resources are available at no charge to participating members and are only a call or click away at homeweb.ca.



Cyber Security Awareness Training

Cyber attacks are unfortunately happening more and more around the world, including right here in Saskatchewan.

SARM wants to assist its members in being proactive at guarding their operations against such risks by providing an opportunity to participate in cyber awareness training.

SARM has partnered with the team at Curricula to offer online Security Awareness Training to our members as well as to the SARM Board of Directors and staff.

This informative, fun, and engaging program contains short, animated episodes where you follow characters on their adventures through life and experiencing how a cyber attack could happen to you. The training covers topics such as Social Engineering Fraud, Wifi Security, Ransomware, Phishing, and creating strong passwords – just to name a few.



The training program launched January 1st, 2021 and is available through SARM until December 31st, 2021. The cost is \$25.00 person. This cost entitles participants to a subscription to the training through the end of 2021, which includes twenty-two 10-minute modules plus any new modules that may be released throughout the year. More than 115 learners from RM's have signed up already.

Ready to start your RM's security awareness journey? Simply provide the name(s) and email addresses for those individuals interested in participating and we will send the access link to get started!

Please email Lisa Shordee, Insurance Program Administrator at property@sarm.ca for more information and to enroll in this training opportunity.

SARM Disability Benefits Ending Special Coverage for COVID-19 Isolation Claims

Please be advised that effective September 1, 2021, SARM Disability Benefits will no longer cover COVID-19 isolation claims. This coverage came into effect in March 2020 as a way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan. With widespread vaccine availability for everyone ages 12 and over, recent changes to Public Health rules for self-isolation, and the continued existence of federal assistance programs such as the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit, the need for this Initiative has passed.

If an employee is COVID-19 positive and meets the Plan's definition of disability through symptomatic illness or hospitalization, this could be an eligible disability claim, subject to the standard assessment of submitted medical information (i.e. Employer Statement, Employee Statement and Attending Physician Statement).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:
Jodi Hughes at 306-761-3727 or jhughes@sarm.ca



Trading Services



Program Spotlight



**SARM is pleased to announce
the new Food Services program
as part of its offerings to members**

Serving you the very best.

Good food and shared dining experiences bring people together. Partnering with Sysco, one of the largest food distribution companies in Canada, Canoe is proud to provide food services to members across Canada. The program gives your organization access to a huge catalogue of produce, custom cut meats, and dairy, all delivered directly to you.



Current Tenders

– closing date is September 1, 2021 – RFP090121

– closing date is September 15, 2021 – RFP091521

– closing date is September 30, 2021 – RFP09302

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Municipal Leadership
Development Program

The Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) is a series of modules developed exclusively for elected and appointed municipal leaders in Saskatchewan. Mayors, Reeves, Councillors, and municipal staff are able to benefit from this program that is designed to strengthen local government leadership.

****Dates are subject to change.
Spaces are limited – register today!***



**Public Relations and Communications for
Municipalities (Virtual)**

October 19 and 20
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals
(Virtual)**

October 20 and 21
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace
(Virtual)**

October 27 and 28
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM

**Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities
(Virtual)**

October 27 and 28
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Community and Land Use Planning (Online)

<https://www.southeastcollege.org/courses/mldp-community-and-land-use-planning/>

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



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