

RM 220 Administrator

From: Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities <communications@sarm.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 2:00 PM
To: RM 220 Administrator
Subject: Rural Sheaf: January 2022



January 2022

It's a Happy New Year at SARM – See what we are doing for you in 2022

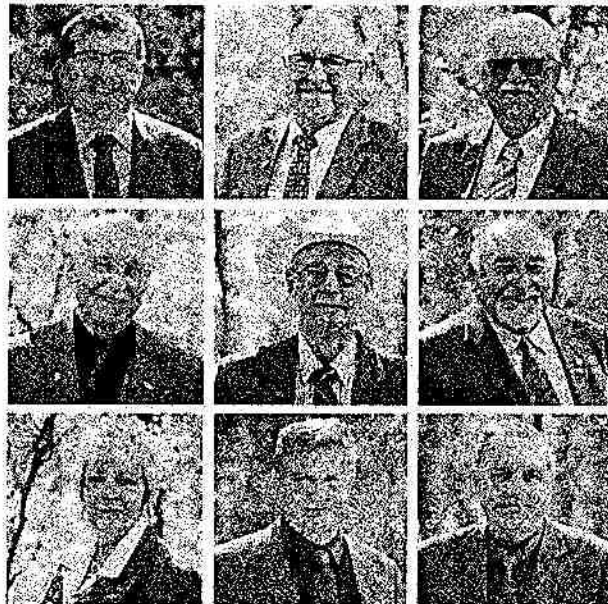
A new year is the apt time to let RMs know exactly how SARM is there for them.

We spruced up our website in 2021, grew our staff, and learned how to connect virtually with RMs and other stakeholders. Below is an overview of who is who, the best ways to reach us, and how to stay in touch in 2022.

Our Board

SARM's 2022 board is ready.

Reach out if your RM is having an AGM, or ratepayer Meeting, and you want to hear from your SARM Director virtually, or in-person, in a COVID safe manner.



Meet the Board

Our Team



In 2021 SARM's staff grew in all the right places to better meet member needs. Check the website for who does what and how to reach out if you need.



SARM.ca

What's New

We strive to keep our members informed about developments and important information by sharing information and posting publications.



**ANNUAL
REPORTS**



**RURAL
COUNCILLOR**



**ANNUAL
REPORTS**

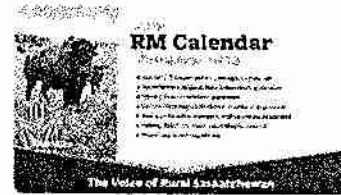


Our Website

Visit **SARM.ca** for information on Advocacy, Services, Programs, Events, and a multitude of resources. Keep your eye on the *What's New* section for the topics that are keeping SARM busy.



**Lieutenant Governor's
Award for
Outstanding Service
to Rural Saskatchewan
Nomination Deadline:
January 31, 2022**



Our Twitter

Follow us on twitter [@SARM_Voice](https://twitter.com/SARM_Voice) for up to date information on topics pertinent to RMs.



Our Webinars

SARM offers webinars for members. Not only can you participate in these live, but you can also have them as a resource to view again when it's convenient. Past topics have included:

- Fire Bans and Emergency Preparedness
- Municipal Safety Manual
- Civic Addressing
- Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities
- Tendering and Procurement Best Practices
- Mental Wellness in Agriculture – Fostering Resiliency
- Nuclear Power in Saskatchewan
- Principles for Positive Employment Relations
- And more



Future Topics

Let us know what you would like to hear about in 2022!

Please complete our short survey to provide your input on a variety of potential webinar topics.



**Apply for Tourism Saskatchewan's
Diversification and New Market Program
– January 5-February 9, 2022**



Tourism Saskatchewan's *Diversification and New Market Program* will be open for applications from **January 5-February 9, 2022**. The program helps established operators to diversify and expand product offerings and be more resilient during challenging times.

Three streams of funding are available:

New Market(s) – attracts new markets for currently operating tourism business infrastructure

- Maximum funding per application is \$20,000
- Minimum equity investment by the applicant is 30 per cent of total project budget

Seasonal Usage Expansion – assists businesses with expanding seasonal usage of both current and new tourism infrastructure

- Maximum funding per application is \$20,000
- Minimum equity investment by the applicant is 30 per cent of total project budget

New Experiential Product Development – assists in the creation of new experiential product(s) for established tourism businesses

- Maximum funding per application is \$30,000
- Minimum equity investment by the applicant is 30 per cent of total project budget

Application period: January 5-February 9, 2022

Program information and FAQs are available at [Business.TourismSaskatchewan.com](https://business.tourismsaskatchewan.com).
For more information, contact Darcy Acton at 306-933-7493, darcy.acton@tourismsask.com
or Denise Stroeder at 306-787-2825, denise.stroeder@tourismsask.com.

Beaver Control Program (CAP-BCP)

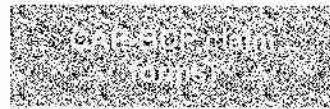
RMs and First Nation Bands that operate a humane beaver management program between **February 16, 2021 and February 15, 2022**; and who follow the minimum level of service determined by the 2021-22 CAP-BCP may be eligible for a cost-shared payment through this program.

Reach out to the Plant Health Officer (PHO) in your division for assistance with claim forms and supplemental documents required to be eligible for rebates.

Submit to **SARM** by claim deadline:



February 15, 2022.



Community Better Challenge June 1 – 30, 2022

The Community Better Challenge is a month-long physical activity challenge that brings communities together with physical activity and sports participation. Now more than ever, community members are looking for an opportunity to reconnect with each other and re-engage with their community.

The annual challenge is open to all communities and individuals, ultimately recognizing **Canada's Most Active Community** and awarding the local municipality \$100,000 to support local physical activity initiatives. Secondary prizes for the Most Active Community in each province and territory will also be awarded up to \$15,000.

Grant application dates Jan 17-Feb 21, 2022

To support you, ParticipACTION has created a micro-grant program. Municipalities, community organizations, schools, sports clubs, and workplaces can **apply between January 17 and February 21** to receive up to \$1,500 to support activities that get your community active.

In addition to the regular grant funds available, we are thrilled to announce that Sport Canada has provided an additional \$60,000 to support **multi-sport projects that exclusively engage women and girls** through the Gender Equity Fund.



Traffic Safety Fund (TSF) Grant

The Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant program enables projects to reduce traffic collisions, injuries and fatalities in communities across Saskatchewan. Approved projects are eligible to

receive up to \$100,000 per location in funding for infrastructure projects or on equipment and community outreach programs to help improve traffic safety.

Some examples of priority areas of focus include:

- Impaired driving (alcohol, drugs)
- Distracted driving (cellphone, fatigue)
- Occupant protection (seatbelts, car seats)
- Speed management (excluding camera equipment for photo speed enforcement programs)
- Vulnerable road users (pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists)
- Intersection safety (crosswalks, lights, signage)

Who can apply

Applicants representing Indigenous lands or territories and urban or rural municipalities are encouraged to apply with their traffic safety initiatives.

How to apply

Calls for new applications are open twice a year:

- January through March
- July through September

Request guidelines and additional information from the PSE Program Administrator by emailing PSEProgram@sgi.sk.ca or calling 1-844-855-2744, extension 6042.



Resources

Board of Revision Training and Certification Update

SARM continues to work with the Ministry of Government Relations on the Board of Revision Renewal Initiative to strengthen and support the property assessment appeal system. SARM has two representatives that serve on the steering committee, which leads this change and recently achieved significant progress.

Changes to Municipal Regulations

The provincial government recently **amended three municipal regulations**. Municipalities need to be aware of the following changes:

- Requirement for all boards of revision to be certified to hear appeals **starting with the 2023 taxation year**.

- All board of revision members and secretaries must complete online training before the board can apply for certification.
- The Office of the Registrar has been established to certify all boards of revision.

Changes have not been made to the council's authority to appoint a board of revision. Municipalities may decide to appoint their own board of revision, establish or join a district board, or contract a private board. In each instance, beginning with the 2023 taxation year, the appointed board must be certified.

Mandatory Board of Revision Training

The mandatory online training is offered by the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS). A 50 per cent discount is being provided to the first 150 registrants using the code BOR2022 when registering. The discount is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. When the spots are filled, the code will expire. To register or learn more about the training program, visit the JSGS *Board of Revision (BoR) Training Program* website.

The application process for board certification will open in June 2022. Details on how to apply for certification will be communicated by the Ministry of Government Relations in the coming months. For more information, visit [Saskatchewan.ca](https://saskatchewan.ca)'s section on *Property Assessment Appeals*.

Rural Municipal Administrators' Association (RMAA) Convention



An error was made on the SARM 2022 Calendars, the date for the RMAA convention is **Monday, May 16 to Thursday, May 19** (not as shown). Apologizes for any confusion this has caused. The *SARM Online Calendar* has been updated to reflect the correct dates.



COVID-19 continues to impact every community in Saskatchewan. From prevention and safety to testing and vaccination, every resident, business and organization plays a part in helping to manage and move past the pandemic.



**Saskatchewan
Health Authority**

In order to assist communities, businesses and organizations with managing the pandemic, the Saskatchewan Health Authority has designed a "Community Champions Toolkit". The toolkit contains self-service tools for addressing common communications needs related to

COVID-19 vaccines and immunization. These resources will help provide valuable information and guidance necessary for managing COVID-19 at the local level.

It is hoped that providing a centralized set of resources will help mitigate misinformation and assist communities to implement consistent practices and communication.

Please use the link or QR Barcode to access the Community Champions Toolkit.



Insurance & Benefits

Cyber Insurance update

Cyber insurance continues to be a line of coverage that is increasingly important to obtain for all businesses, whether in the private or public sectors. As most of the RMs are aware, SARM was unable to renew the Cyber Insurance Program for the members this year with favorable terms. Why did this occur, you may ask? This article explains what happened during the renewal and describes SARM's response to this ever-changing environment.

The last three years have been quite active for insurance companies that provide cyber insurance. There has been an increase in claim incidents resulting in large payouts. In the first half of 2021, global ransomware attacks increased by 151% when compared with the first half of 2020. This year has also been marked by the highest ransoms and the highest payouts. In Canada, the estimated average cost of a data breach, a compromise that includes but is not limited to ransomware, is \$6.35M CAD.*Within our own province, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming is currently dealing with a cyber-attack that happened Christmas Day and has resulted in a complete shutdown of their complete network. In November 2020, Saskatchewan Polytechnic sustained a cyberattack and it took three months to restore most of their systems. There also have been attacks with the City of Saskatoon and the City of Humboldt which became public knowledge.

As a result of the increased losses, there have been several insurance companies that stopped writing this line of cover. Those that have remained have decreased the amount of cover they will provide, reduced what they will cover, and dramatically increased premiums. SARM's own cyber policy saw a decrease in coverage from \$3 million to \$750,000, plus an increase in premium.

Market Impact on Renewal

With the increased losses, the insurer requested more information about the training RM staff receive on cyber risks, what type of controls are in place for system security, how these controls are updated, and how backups dealt with if a breach occurred resulting the RM having to rebuild a system. Unfortunately, the data received in response to these questions indicated that RMs are a very high-risk group. The terms offered by the insurer reflected that. The terms were so poor that the broker, AON, and I agreed not to present this offer to the participants as the cost was extremely high with very little cover offered. The broker also approached other markets with no success.

Changes Required to Obtain Coverage

There are five areas that will greatly affect the ability to get a program in place for 2023.

1. *Adding Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) into the key systems of all RMs. The discussions with the municipalities always falls back to Munisoft and what they can do for them. Munisoft is only one specific application on which MFA can be used. The insurer advised MFA also needs to be on email, network access, and all other programs that are utilized, such as Microsoft products.*
2. *Cyber Security Training – Very few members are doing cyber security training across the RM (Council and employees) even though SARM has access to an affordable training program.*
3. *End Point Protection Software – This is a specialized program that prevents ransomware attacks. It would appear that no RM has this, though some of them have a virus software program, which is quite different.*
4. *Installing critical and high security patches across all their systems – It was truly surprising how many RMs surveyed answered “no” to this question, which sets off all kinds of alarm bells with the insurers. The patches eliminate security risks, and not doing this makes them a very easy target for cyber attacks. Installing critical and high security patches should be a very simple matter of updating all security and patches as they are available within 24-48 hours or setting it up as an automatic update.*
5. *Having backups and testing those backup systems—It is surprising that many RMs have a backup system (stored away from the network) but it appears that none have ever truly tested the backup to ensure it works.*

SARM's Action Plan to Assist RMs

The first aspect is education. Insurers are looking to verify employees have cyber awareness training. Currently, SARM offers cyber awareness training utilizing Curricula. This is an affordable training platform that makes the student aware of how cyber breaches occur. The cost of this training is \$25/person. At the beginning of 2022, SARM renewed and invoiced all the RMs that signed up for this training in 2021 as part of the RMs' continuous training on an annual basis. The training is fun, interactive, and very informative. There currently are 27 sessions, each session takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. I encourage the RM administration to contact Lisa Shordee at SARM (property@sarm.ca) to sign up for this training.

The second aspect is updating your system and implementing MFA. SARM is currently investigating IT services for RMs to assist in this process. Though this work

has just begun, we are hoping to be in a position to offer a preferred vendor with favorable terms to assist RMs in implementing the necessary controls to make their systems more secure in the near future. There will be more to follow on this aspect as the program develops.

Cyber risk is becoming the leading risk concern for private and public operations. The effects can be devastating and expensive when a breach occurs. I encourage SARM's members to begin moving toward making the necessary changes so that a suitable insurance program can be implemented again in the near future. Should you have any questions regarding this subject matter, don't hesitate to contact me at cwarnecke@sarm.ca.

*Government of Canada <https://cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/cyber-threat-bulletin-ransomware-threat-2021>



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Current Tenders

Medical Supply Solutions

– closing date is February 24, 2022 – RFP022422

Fleet Management Services

– closing date is March 1, 2022 – RFP030122

Athletic Surfaces with Installation, Related Equipment, Materials and Services

– closing date is March 10, 2022 – RFP031022

Your Voice

Volunteers needed to connect with students during March 2022!

Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan (AITC-SK) is in need of farmers and agriculture industry workers to volunteer to virtually or personally visit a local school for Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM). Teachers across the province are signing up to receive a classroom visit from someone who works in agriculture, and this could be you!

Students have questions about where their food comes from, you can help answer them!
It's easy to volunteer:

- An hour in the classroom talking food and farming,
- We provide materials and any support needed,
- YOU inspire students to care about where their food comes from!

Share your passion for agriculture and why you love being a part of the industry. Show your pride for producing safe and nutritious ingredients that feed the people in our province and around the world. Help students build a personal connection in their community, someone to go to for accurate information about growing crops and raising animals.

Sign up to connect with a local classroom in March by February 4, 2022.

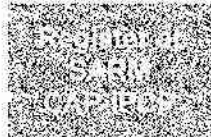
For more information, contact Paige at
paige@aitc.sk.ca or 306.621.2005

Volunteer

Agriculture 
in the Classroom
Connecting Kids and Agriculture



TRAINING



2022 Weed Inspectors & Land Manager Webinars

The SARM Plant Health Officers and Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture have partnered to deliver a series of three, free monthly webinars for Weed Inspectors and Land Managers in the first quarter of 2022.

- **February 16, 2022 at 12PM:** Weeds to Watch For
- **March 23, 2022 at 12PM:** Biocontrol for Invasive Weed Management

Watch the **SARM CAP-IPCP website** for more information and registration on these webinars. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Roszell, Plant Health Officer, SARM Division 4 at 306-852-8328 or lynneroszell@gmail.com.



2022 Pest Control Officer Webinars

The CAP-RCP is hosting a series of free one-hour webinars for Pest Control Officers in the first quarter of 2022. Webinars will be held over lunch (12 – 1 pm) with CECs available where possible. **Registration is required.**

- **February 9:** Feral Pigs in Saskatchewan
- **February 24:** Dealing with Conflict and Difficult Landowners

Watch the **SARM CAP-RCP website** for more information and registration on these webinars. If you have any questions, please contact:

Betty Johnson, Plant Health Officer – SARM Division 3
(306) 315-3925 or bettyjohnson0025@gmail.com



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.

Please note that these sessions are in place of the workshops previously communicated to be held on Monday, March 14th.



Upcoming Winter 2022 modules

Public Relations & Communications for Municipalities

February 23 and 24

Virtual: 9 AM – 12 PM

Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace

February 23 and 24

Virtual: 9 AM – 12:15 PM

Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals

March 2 and 3

Virtual: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities

March 2 and 3

Virtual: 9 AM – 12 PM

Community and Land Use Planning

Online course:

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

Spaces are limited. Dates are subject to change.

#RuralMatters

SARM's Board & the Honourable David Marit



Discussing #RuralMatters

sarm.ca

The SARM Board had great discussions in January 2022 with the Honourable David Marit, Minister of Agriculture and Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, about the importance of working together to grow Saskatchewan's Ag industry.

Hashtags: [#ruralmatters](#) [#agmatters](#) [#skpoli](#) [@david_marit](#)

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