

MUNICIPAL Update

March 22, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22

SHA Virtual Town Hall

March 23

Webinar: Managing Your Waste

See all [upcoming events](#).

Send Us Your Theme Suggestion

The Convention 2021 theme, *Stronger Together*, was a success. Now we're looking for the next great idea to set the tone for 2022. If you have a theme idea, please email it to events@munisask.ca. We greatly value your suggestions, and read every one. Plus, if you submit a theme idea, you will be entered to win a prize.

Submit your theme idea by **May 14**.



Share Your Thoughts on the Saskatchewan Municipal Peer Network

The Saskatchewan Municipal Peer Network advisory committee would like to hear from you. Whether or not you've heard of the Municipal Peer Network or used its services, municipal leaders are encouraged to complete this short survey.

The purpose of the survey is to determine municipal leaders' awareness and/or the effectiveness of the Municipal Peer Network's dispute resolution service.

**Provide your feedback by
April 2**



Managing Your Waste

The Household Waste Battery Program

Compost Site Guideline Update

Solid Waste Management Strategy



Help Divert Waste From Your Landfill

Household battery recycling, composting guidelines, and Saskatchewan's Solid Waste Management Strategy. On **March 23 at 10:00 a.m.**, join us to learn more about these three waste management topics in the webinar *Managing Your Waste*. This webinar is part of our Express Webinar Series, where multiple presenters share information on multiple topics and there is more time for your questions.

New Battery Recycling Program

In January 2021, the Saskatchewan Government approved a new battery recycling program. Learn more about the new program, including how to participate.

Composting Guidelines

About 50 per cent of waste that ends up in the landfill is organic. Composting is an integral part of waste reduction in the province. Discover ways to improve your municipal waste management by diverting organic waste.

Solid Waste Management Strategy

In 2020, the province released the Saskatchewan Waste Management Strategy. Hear what the strategy means for municipalities and ask the Ministry of Environment your waste management questions.

[Register for the webinar](#)

Event Insight

Along with webinars, Municipalities of Saskatchewan is planning a number of other events in 2021, including a workshop on dispute resolution and workplace harassment.

What time of day works best for you to attend Municipalities of Saskatchewan events?

Mornings work best.

Select

I prefer afternoons.

Select

I prefer evenings.

Select

Municipalities of Saskatchewan's events, such as webinars and workshops, are usually held between Monday and Friday.

Would you prefer more events be held on weekends?

Yes, I would prefer more weekend events.

Select

No, I prefer events being held between Monday and Friday.

Select

Webinars are fine on weekdays but I would prefer longer events on weekends.

Select



New Asset Management Training for Smaller Municipalities

Asset Management Saskatchewan has launched a new asset management training course designed for municipalities with populations of 1,000 people or less.

Learning Path to Asset Management Readiness provides a high level overview of the asset management context, hits all the basics, and covers the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Asset Management Readiness Scale.

[Click the video to learn more.](#)

Regulatory Changes to Road Maintenance Agreements

The Government of Saskatchewan recently approved amendments to *The Municipalities Regulations* related to road maintenance agreements (RMAs).

Key changes include:

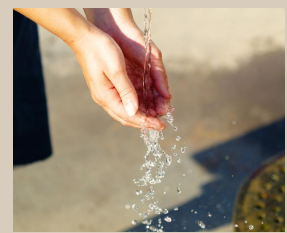
- Clarifying the definition of a bulk haul and who RMAs are to be applied to;
- Establishing a new rate structure based on verifiable data to replace the minimum and maximum rate ranges with a single per tonne per KM rate;
- Applying the new rate structure to regions based on Area Transportation Planning Committees;
- Determining that RMA rates may be updated with refreshed data every two years; and
- Outlining the terms for cancellation and suspension of agreements.

These changes will come into effect **January 1, 2022**.

Download a copy of the amended ***Municipalities Regulations***.



Learn About the Changes to *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Regulations*



Gas Tax Fund Outcome Report Reminder

The Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement

The Ministry of Government Relations is hosting a webinar on **March 25** from **2:00 to 3:00 pm.** to provide further details on recent amendments to *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Regulations, 2017*, and allow participants to ask questions. A copy of the amended regulations can be downloaded [here](#).

The presentation will focus on the areas with major changes that came into effect on January 1, 2021:

1. Potash mines exiting tax sharing;
2. New mines to be calculated as separate areas;
3. Existing mines to be calculated as separate areas in 2026; and
4. Components of one producing mine are counted together.

[Register online.](#)

The event will also be recorded and can be viewed later by registered participants.

If you have any immediate questions, contact property.tax@gov.sk.ca.

requires municipalities participating in the Gas Tax program (GTF) to submit an Outcomes Report form on completed projects. This information is collected, assembled and provided to Canada by the Ministry of Government Relations.

On February 16, an email was sent to those municipalities that reported a GTF project as being "Complete" on their 2019 Municipal Annual Expenditure Report (MAER). The email contained a link and password to complete online reporting for the outcomes on each completed project. Submitting the outcomes report concludes the reporting requirements for the project.

The due date to complete and submit the report was March 5.

If your municipality reported a project as "Complete" when you submitted your 2019 MAER last year and you have not received an email, please check your SPAM folder, and if not found there, contact program administration at gastaxprogram@gov.sk.ca or 1-306-787-8912 immediately.



New Name for Building Standards and Licensing Branch

Effective **April 1**, the Building Standards and Licensing Branch in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations will change its name to the **Building and Technical Standards Branch (BTS)**.

The name is designed to better reflect the role the branch plays in promoting growth and safety in the construction, maintenance, and operation of buildings and facilities as well as reflect recent changes to provincial licence, permit, and inspection services.

The Branch continues to be responsible for:

- the development, adoption, and



Growing Canada's Forests Program

The **Growing Canada's Forests (GCF) program** is the Government of Canada's response to its commitment to plant an additional two billion trees by 2030.

The federal government is seeking Requests for Information (RFI) from potential **future participants** interested in implementing or contributing to large-scale single or multiple-year tree planting projects. RFIs are being accepted until **May 27**.

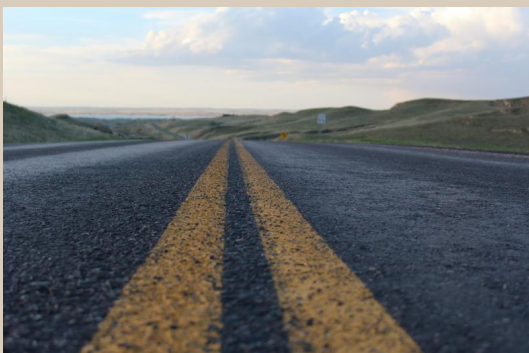
They are also accepting Expressions of Interests (EOI) from experienced organizations for **early start projects** to

implementation of construction codes; and

- the legislative, regulatory, and policy oversight of all technical safety programs assigned to TSASK and the Ministry of Government Relations.

implement new tree planting projects or add to existing tree planting projects for the fast approaching 2021 growing season. EOs are being accepted until **March 25**.

Neither this Request for Information nor this Expression of Interest is a Request for Proposals (RFP).



Spring Road Bans in Effect

Spring road bans are now in effect across southern Saskatchewan and will also be in effect in many rural municipalities in this area. Updates on the status of bans in other regions will be made available through the Highway Hotline and social media.

Spring road bans are used to protect roads and infrastructure during the thawing period when roads are in their most vulnerable state. They work by reducing allowable weights on RM roads and secondary weight highways by 10 to 15 per cent. Typically, road bans happen in late March or early April after winter weight restrictions have been lifted.

All current weight restrictions are available at www.saskatchewan.ca/truckingweights or on the Highway Hotline.



Alert: Zebra Mussels Found in Aquarium Moss Ball Products

Zebra mussels have been found in moss/algal ball products for aquariums or water gardens sold in western Canada, including in Saskatchewan, after **January 1**. These products are often sold as Marimo Moss Balls and are a popular ornamental plant kept with betta fish.

Zebra mussels pose a serious threat to Saskatchewan waterways, so it's critical to properly dispose of any of these products you have in your possession.

The zebra mussels found on moss balls in Saskatchewan have been tiny, about the size of grain of sand, and often found inside the moss ball itself, so it's nearly impossible to detect them by a simple visual inspection. Because moss balls sold in Saskatchewan come from the same source, it's best to be safe, assume that zebra mussels are present, and dispose of the products safely. [Learn more](#).

COVID-19 UPDATE

Saskatchewan Health Authority Virtual Town Hall

Today at 3:00 p.m., the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is hosting another COVID-19 virtual town hall designed for stakeholders, including municipal leaders. In this town hall, attendees will receive a brief update on epidemiological trends and the province's pandemic response followed by a facilitated panel discussion with SHA leaders.

To join this online event hosted by the SHA:

1. Go to <https://skhealth.webex.com/skhealth/j.php?MTID=e32f1283614a8cd89fca6fa38dd580aeb>

2. Enter the event password: This event requires registration. After your registration has been approved, you will receive instructions for joining the event.

3. Click "Join Now".

4. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen to join the teleconference.

Read the latest update from the SHA

Special Vaccination Leave Introduced

The Government of Saskatchewan has amended *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* to allow for **paid time off from work for an employee to get vaccinated for COVID-19**.

The new section 6-22.1, Special Vaccination Leave, establishes that during the pandemic:

- Workers are entitled to three consecutive hours leave during work hours to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Workers are entitled to more than three consecutive hours if the employer determines the circumstances warrant a longer break from work.
- Workers do not lose any pay or other benefits while receiving a COVID-19 vaccination.

Special Vaccination Leave is similar to provisions allowing residents to vote during a general election.

The new regulation came into force **March 18**.

Advocacy Update

Meetings with Saskatchewan's Cabinet Ministers

In December, Municipalities of Saskatchewan's Executive Committee met with members of Saskatchewan's provincial cabinet to discuss issues important to Saskatchewan's hometowns, including RCMP policing costs and prompt payment legislation. We are working to schedule meetings with other ministers as well as Premier Scott Moe this spring to talk about other matters important to our members.

Municipal-Indigenous Partnerships

Municipalities of Saskatchewan recognizes the important role municipal governments play in promoting reconciliation.

We have recently created a new section on our website, entitled "Municipal-Indigenous Partnerships." The purpose of this page is two-fold: to provide our members with some additional resources and information that may help with reconciliation efforts, and to highlight projects that have come out of partnerships between our members and Indigenous communities throughout the province.

If you have a project you'd like to highlight, please contact us at munisask@munisask.ca with the details.

The new page can be found here at www.munisask.ca.

CLASSIFIEDS AND GRANTS



Classifieds

Positions Available:

- Town of Sintaluta: *Chief Administrative Officer* (April 15)

For Sale:

- *Transit Vehicle*

Have a position to fill or an item to sell? [Submit your ad](#) on our website.

Find the latest listings by visiting the [Classifieds](#) section of our website, under the Programs and Services tab.



Grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- SGI *Traffic Safety Fund Grant* (March 31)
- Community Initiative Funds *Community Grant Program* (April 1)
- Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program *Green Stream – Landfill Decommissioning* (Applications accepted until funding fully allocated)

For a full listing of grants, check the [Grants](#) section of our website under the Resources tab.

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