

April 6, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Municipalities of Saskatchewan Appreciates Funding
in 2021-22 Provincial Budget**

As Saskatchewan continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, Municipalities of Saskatchewan appreciates the stable funding for municipalities included in the 2021-22 provincial budget.

“Saskatchewan’s hometowns understand the difficulties of preparing a budget with limited resources,” said Municipalities of Saskatchewan President Rodger Hayward. “We appreciate the province’s investments in municipalities, including the stable funding provided for the 2021-22 year through Municipal Revenue Sharing.”

Municipal Revenue Sharing for the 2021-22 year is set to be approximately \$275 million.

Municipalities of Saskatchewan is appreciative of the investments in the Urban Highway Connector Program and Community Airport Partnership Program, and for the return of the Rink Affordability Grant Program. Municipalities of Saskatchewan has been advocating for the return of the grant that helps hometowns offset the cost of rink operations. An additional \$23.4 million for mental health and addictions programs and services is also welcome.

However, Municipalities of Saskatchewan is disappointed that the provincial government will not be continuing the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP) program for the 2021-22 year. In 2020, the program provided \$150 million to municipalities.

“Strong hometowns are critical to our economy,” said President Hayward. “A made-in-Saskatchewan infrastructure program like MEEP helps our hometowns undertake infrastructure projects that are not only important to their communities, but that also stimulate the economy and encourage local job creation.”

While Municipal Revenue Sharing is staying relatively stable for the 2021-22 year, Municipalities of Saskatchewan is concerned hometowns could be exposed to significant decreases in the next two years as the annual funding is based on three quarters of one point of PST revenue collected from two years prior. Municipalities of Saskatchewan looks forward to future discussions regarding Municipal Revenue Sharing funding.

Residents of Saskatchewan’s hometowns may also be negatively impacted by the increase in education property taxes and believe the additional cost is a municipal increase. The mill rates for education property tax for all public school divisions is set by the province and the education property taxes are just collected by municipalities.

-30-

For more information visit www.munisask.ca, or to arrange an interview please contact:

Sean McKenzie
Director of Advocacy Services
Municipalities of Saskatchewan
Telephone: 306-525-4388
advocacydir@munisask.ca