

# Ministry of Government Relations



## Plan for 2019-20

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# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable  
Warren Kaeding*

*Minister of Government  
Relations and Minister  
Responsible for First Nations,  
Métis and Northern Affairs*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Government Relations Plan for 2019-20.

The plan sets out the strategic goals and objectives for the year ahead. It is also designed to assist our clients, partners and stakeholders along a path to building stronger, safer communities across the province.

Our ministry is committed to reporting our progress in meeting the objectives outlined in this document. We will provide a more detailed accounting of those efforts in the ministry's 2019-20 Annual Report.

Since 2007, Saskatchewan has enjoyed record levels of economic growth, infrastructure spending along with increases to our population. But the downturn in our resource industries has presented the province with fiscal challenges.

Government Direction and Budget for 2019-20 is focused on *The Right Balance* for Saskatchewan. We're returning to a balanced budget with sound fiscal management while keeping taxes low, supporting economic growth and ensuring quality government programs and services for people and businesses in Saskatchewan.

We will work with our partners to achieve that goal as we maintain the financial foundation for strong future growth in our communities. We need to plan today to ensure prosperity for tomorrow.

The Ministry of Government Relations works collaboratively with government partners at the federal, municipal and community levels. Through teamwork and a shared vision, we help those we serve realize the opportunities of growth and address growth's challenges. Together, our governments are helping enhance the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

# Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to having *The Right Balance*. We will continue to carefully manage spending and focus on government priorities, such as competitive taxes, investments in economic growth and providing program and services that meet the needs of Saskatchewan people and businesses.

Saskatchewan's Vision

*"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."*

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2019-20 annual reports.

# Operational Plan

## Mandate Statement

The ministry is responsible for municipal relations, public safety, and First Nations, Métis and northern affairs. The ministry engages a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to: plan for and respond to the opportunities and challenges of growth; provide leadership and direction so that integrated public services are available to communities and their residents; and support responsible governments.

## Government Goals



## Ministry Goal

Communities are effectively governed and prepared to manage growth

## Strategy

Enhance regional and municipal governance and planning to manage public services and economic opportunities and challenges

### Key Actions

- Increase the quality and quantity of regional planning efforts through targeted incentives and educational/training resources
- Complete subdivision reviews in a timely manner to facilitate economic growth and development, and meet health and safety needs

## Strategy

Leverage federal funding and provide funding to support provincial, municipal, and First Nations and Métis interests

### Key Actions

- Work with Indigenous Services Canada, municipalities and First Nations to identify and facilitate joint planning and development of community infrastructure
- Provide increased Municipal Revenue Sharing based on a program review and consultation with the municipal sector to ensure a new predictable, sustainable, and transparent formula
- Begin implementing the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to support shared provincial, municipal, and Indigenous interests
- Ensure that provincial grants to municipalities meet program requirements
- Provide increased Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities capital program funding to support additional vehicle purchases each year, and to provide improved accessibility to those who need it



## Strategy

Work with local governments to improve community sustainability

### Key Actions

- Assist municipalities in meeting their legislated responsibilities by delivering Advisory Services using up-to-date, reliable tools and channels
- Work with the municipal and administrator associations to develop plans, resources and training to increase the quantity and quality of asset management at the municipal level
- Work with municipal and land use planning associations to develop resources and training to increase the quality and quantity of regional and municipal official community plans and bylaws
- Work with justice ministries and the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority to support and enable the development of community alcohol management strategies in northern communities

## Strategy

Ensure a fair and effective property tax regime

### Key Actions

- Implement recommendations from the municipal review of industry financial contributions to rural municipalities, rural road infrastructure, and accountability to improve the usage of road maintenance agreements
- Support the 2021 property tax revaluation, including establishing percentages of value and property classes, approving the assessment manual, and continuing to improve public understanding of the property tax system
- Provide additional funding to the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency to allow for more property inspections which provides more up-to-date assessment data and promotes property tax fairness for all ratepayers

## Performance Measures

### Percentage of the population living in municipalities with official community plans

Official community plans set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipalities' economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support recreational opportunities, and address community interests.

### Number of sites approved with conditions to prevent unsafe development

Requiring subdivision developments to have proper disaster mitigation standards in place before sites are approved will limit impacts from potential disasters, such as slope instability and flooding.





## Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

## Ministry Goal

Safer communities that are better prepared for disasters and emergencies

### Strategy

Improve and promote provincial and local emergency preparedness, risk mitigation, and recovery

#### Key Actions

- Support the new Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to become fully operational
- Advocate that disaster mitigation projects continue as a priority for support under federal/provincial infrastructure programs
- Provide financial assistance to residents, municipalities and other entities through the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program
- Develop a First Nations and Métis public safety strategy in partnership with Canada and Saskatchewan's Aboriginal peoples to identify their capacity and needs to ensure provincial resources augment current and future programs/services

### Strategy

Promote the construction, renovation, and safe operation of buildings, facilities and equipment in compliance with codes and standards

#### Key Actions

- Implement the direction to transfer gas, electrical licensing and inspection, and plumbing inspection to the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan
- Amend technical and public safety legislation to provide improved options and powers to mandate compliance with legislative and regulatory standards
- Modernize technical safety legislation and regulations to better reflect the delivery of services

## Performance Measure

### Percentage of the population covered by building bylaws

89 per cent of the province's population live in municipalities with building bylaws, which help to ensure people live and work in safe buildings. Ongoing efforts by the ministry, as well as inter-ministry and agency co-ordination, will increase the implementation by municipalities of building bylaws approved under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.



## Ministry Goal

First Nations and Métis residents fully share in Saskatchewan’s benefits and opportunities, and treaty and Aboriginal rights are respected

## Strategy

Encourage and support engagement and collaboration between First Nations, Métis people and all levels of government to advance mutually beneficial priorities

### Key Actions

- Support and contribute to community based reconciliation events and initiatives throughout the province
- Support partnerships between government, industry, agencies and First Nations and Métis communities which contribute to community wellness and vitality in the north
- Administer and deliver services to communities in the Northern Administrative District for the benefit of northern residents
- Strengthen Government of Saskatchewan’s engagement with First Nations and Métis residents and representative organizations

## Strategy

Coordinate and support government-wide implementation of the Duty to Consult policy, Treaty Land Entitlement agreements, and facilitate other agreements

### Key Actions

- Negotiate new Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements with Canada and First Nations
- Develop and implement training sessions to build awareness of the province’s legal obligations related to Treaty Land Entitlement and Duty to Consult

## Performance Measures

### Number of events and projects supported through First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs grants

Supported projects assist in improving the lives of First Nations and Métis residents throughout Saskatchewan by helping to promote safe communities, strong families and improved education and economic development opportunities. Supported events benefit communities by assisting them to hold important public gatherings that help highlight the value of Indigenous cultures and education; recognize youth, elders and veterans; promote cultural understanding; improve community wellness and advance reconciliation.

### Number of grants provided under the First Nations and Métis Consultation Policy Fund

This measure identifies the number of grants and amount of funding provided to support the participation of First Nation and Métis communities in consultations with government where a duty to consult is triggered. More grants reflect a greater level of participation, which facilitates relationships and informs government decisions.



# Highlights

Key announcements from the Ministry of Government Relations' 2019-20 budget include:

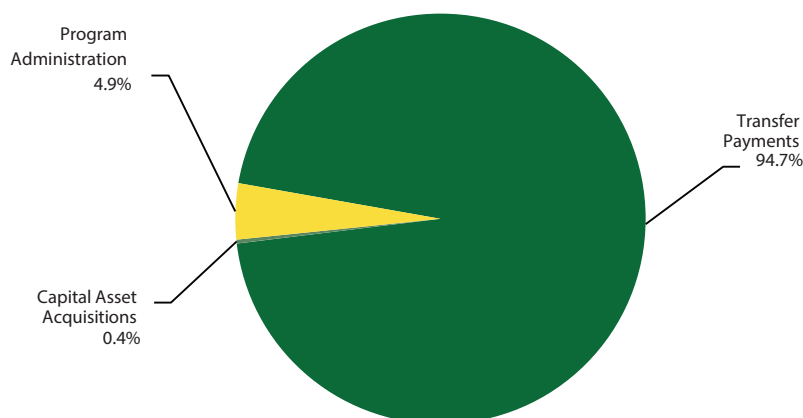
- \$251.6 million for municipal revenue sharing funding, consisting of:
  - \$161.3 million to urban municipalities;
  - \$71.7 million to rural municipalities; and,
  - \$18.6 million to northern municipalities.
- \$228.3 million for municipal infrastructure programs, consisting of:
  - \$163.8 million to meet project commitments under various infrastructure programs, including:
    - \$107.3 million under the New Building Canada Fund;
    - \$50.0 million under the new Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program;
    - \$4.9 million under the Clean Water Wastewater Fund; and,
    - \$1.6 million under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund.
  - \$64.5 million in flow-through municipal infrastructure funding provided by the Gas Tax Program.
- \$72.4 million for gaming agreements, consisting of:
  - \$51.0 million for the First Nations Trust, which supports the First Nations Addictions and Rehabilitation Foundation, and distributes funding to First Nations communities in Saskatchewan;
  - \$18.9 million for Community Development Corporations, which support social, economic and business development proposals located in communities surrounding Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority casinos; and,
  - \$2.5 million for the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, which supports Métis economic development.

# Financial Summary

2019-20 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$8,882
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs	\$76,703
Municipal Relations	\$516,659
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	\$1,985
Public Safety	\$11,901
Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications	---
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$616,130</b>
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(\$2,180)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$3,054
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$617,004</b>

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>.

Ministry Spending by Appropriation Category



## For More Information

Please visit the ministry's website at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/government-relations>.