

# Ministry of Environment



## Annual Report for 2018-19

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# Letters of Transmittal



*The Honourable  
Dustin Duncan  
Minister of  
Environment*

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

The undersigned is pleased to present the Ministry of Environment Annual Report for the period ending in March 31, 2019.

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, and am pleased to report on the commitments made in the Ministry of Environment Plan for 2018-19.

This report tells the stories and strategies of how we manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment. In 2018-19, we continued to manage and reduce waste through multiple initiatives, developed a Climate Resilience Measurement Framework and components of the *Prairie Resilience* climate change strategy and published *The State of the Environment: A Focus on Forests*, to name only a few of the year's important accomplishments.

These accomplishments demonstrate our mandate to manage the province's diverse landscapes and promote the sustainable use of our natural resources in a manner that supports a healthy environment, a growing economy and strong, vibrant communities. We achieved these goals while supporting the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to deliver on its promises, be accountable and to responsibly and efficiently manage expenditures.

Our ultimate goal is to achieve a healthy, resilient environment that contributes to the well-being of the province, its people and its future.

Dustin Duncan  
Minister of Environment

The Honourable Dustin Duncan,  
Minister of Environment

Dear Minister Duncan:



*Lin Gallagher  
Deputy Minister  
of Environment*

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

The ministry's annual report was prepared under my direction in accordance with the government's system of planning, measuring and reporting. I am ultimately responsible for the financial administration and management control of the ministry. All key actions and associated implications contained in this report are, to the best of my knowledge, complete, accurate and reliable.

Lin Gallagher  
Deputy Minister of Environment

# Introduction

This annual report for the Ministry of Environment presents the organization's results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. It provides results of publicly committed strategies, key actions and performance measures identified in the *Ministry of Environment Plan for 2018-19*. It also reflects progress toward commitments from the Government Direction for 2018-19, the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond*, throne speeches and the ministry's mandate.

The annual report demonstrates the ministry's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public.

## Alignment with Government's Direction

The ministry's activities in 2018-19 align with Saskatchewan's vision and four goals:

### 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**

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of Saskatchewan's four goals and work towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

# Ministry Overview

The purpose of the ministry is established in *The Ministry of Environment Regulations, 2007*. A complete list of legislation assigned to the Minister of Environment can be found in Appendix B and at [saskatchewan.ca/environment](https://saskatchewan.ca/environment).

VISION	MISSION	MANDATE
We will manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment for the well-being of the province, its people and its future.	The Ministry of Environment provides science-based solutions, compliance and mitigation measures aimed at protecting the environment, safeguarding communities and helping to ensure balanced economic growth and a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents.	The Ministry of Environment's role is to manage the health of Saskatchewan's environment in a respectful, responsible and enforceable manner that balances growth with sustainable development through objective, transparent and informed decision-making and stewardship.

## The Ministry of Environment's mandate is supported by three core lines of business:

1. Environmental protection, which includes wildfire management, the handling of hazardous materials, responding to spills, air quality monitoring, environmental assessment, landfills and solid waste management.
2. Resource management and compliance, which manages the province's fish, wildlife, lands and forests, and includes the compliance and field services team of conservation officers.
3. Climate change and adaptation, which includes integrated land use planning, legislation and policy.

These three pillars of service delivery support the government's goals by ensuring the responsible management of our natural resources and the protection of our province's people. They also contribute individually and collectively to the province's Growth Plan by providing goals and guidance for responsible and sustainable development.

# Progress in 2018-19

## Government Goals



**Strategic priority:** protecting Saskatchewan's environment

**Ministry Goal:** a clean and safe environment for communities

### Strategy

Ensure all communities have solid waste management solutions that address the challenges of growth

### Key Actions and Results

**Implement a solid waste management strategy in collaboration with the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, partners and stakeholders**

An independent Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was established in June 2018. The committee delivered recommendations to the Minister regarding the draft solid waste management strategy and the *Municipal Refuse Management Regulations* (MRMR). These recommendations will help the province reduce, divert and manage solid waste and inform the red tape review of the MRMR and finalization of the strategy.

**Increase participation in the Multi-Material Recycling Program**

A new payment model for municipalities was implemented on January 1, 2019, which increases the per-household payments to municipalities from \$11.75 to \$15.00 for collectors who provide depot services, and to \$25.00 per household for those that provide curbside service. The increase may serve as an incentive for municipalities to sign on to the program.

**Support implementation of the new agricultural plastics recycling program**

In 2018, the Government of Saskatchewan approved a new recycling program for agricultural plastics – the first of its kind in Canada. The program is funded through the environmental handling fees on grain bags which came into effect November 1, 2018. CleanFARMS, a not-for-profit industry stewardship organization, runs the program and has established 32 collection sites.

**Develop and implement a household hazardous waste program**

Based on feedback from public consultations, the ministry is developing regulations to support the implementation of a province-wide program for the responsible disposal of household hazardous waste.

**Continue stakeholder engagement and education to ensure communities with landfills avoid the risk of contamination by complying with regulations**

The ministry continued to engage on landfill regulations and contamination with communities across the province, with a focus on working more closely with northern communities.

## Strategy

Minimize and respond to risks to human health and safety

## Key Actions and Results

### **Blend conservation officer capability and authorizations with other enforcement agencies as part of the new provincial Protection and Response Team to address public safety in rural communities and on highways**

The ministry employs 141 conservation officers who have been appointed, authorized and trained to respond to service calls as part of the Protection and Response Team. The enhanced visibility and presence of conservation officers is helping to reduce crime in rural Saskatchewan and improve public safety. Between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019, officers responded to 731 calls, issuing 427 charges and warnings.

### **Build community wildfire resilience by developing community wildfire pre-plans for all at-risk communities**

Since 2010, and up to March 31, 2019, the ministry has completed preparedness plans for 48 at-risk communities (56 per cent). In 2018-19, plans were completed in the communities of Hudson Bay and Cumberland House.

### **Contain wildfires occurring within wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas to minimize impacts on people and property**

There were 416 wildfires over the 2018 season with large early-season fires near Prince Albert, Southend and Meadow Lake. Although the number of wildfires and total area burned in 2018 are below the 10-year average, the majority occurred within wildland-urban interface areas, driving suppression efforts.

### **Work with the ministries of Agriculture and Health to identify and monitor risks to human health and to manage emerging diseases through the One Health program**

The One Health working group was established to take an integrated approach to disease risks impacting domestic animals, humans and wildlife. A wildlife health specialist was hired to support the wildlife health program. Chronic wasting disease management continues to be a priority focus.

### **Enhance the monitoring and reporting of Saskatchewan's air quality to the public through the Canada-wide Air Quality Management System**

The federal government funded the installation of four new air quality monitoring stations to improve air monitoring and data collection in Saskatchewan. The Buffalo Narrows monitoring station is now officially part of the National Air Pollution Surveillance Program, bringing the total number of national monitoring stations in Saskatchewan to six. The ministry worked with the federal government to replace Saskatchewan's mobile air monitoring trailer, which will be operational in 2019.

## Performance Measures

### **Number of communities participating in the Multi-Material Recycling Program**

There are 481 municipalities, regional waste authorities and First Nations communities currently participating in the Multi-Material Recycling Program, representing 86 per cent of the province's population.

### **Percentage of landfills monitoring landfill groundwater**

The 2018-19 target for sites compliant with groundwater monitoring was 40 per cent. This target was exceeded, with 44 per cent of sites achieving compliance with groundwater monitoring in 2018-19.

### **Percentage of wildland-urban interface communities with fuel management programs and wildfire community pre-plans**

As of March 31, 2019, 48 at-risk communities (56 per cent) have completed wildfire community pre-plans. The target is to complete wildfire community pre-plans for all 86 at-risk communities by 2030.

## Government Goals



**Strategic priority:** advancing Saskatchewan's natural resource strengths

**Ministry Goal:** productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes

### Strategy

Co-design programs and policies to protect the province's biodiversity

### Key Actions and Results

#### **Develop and implement an invasive species and insect and disease management framework**

The ministry is developing a framework for an integrated approach to mitigating and managing invasive species, insects and disease. The ministry also continues to partner with the Government of Alberta on efforts to control the spread of mountain pine beetle. An aquatic invasive species (AIS) co-ordinator was hired to prevent the introduction of AIS through comprehensive monitoring and early detection.

#### **Incorporate climate change adaptation considerations into planning, modelling and decision-making**

The known and projected effects of climate change were incorporated into planning and decision-making through cumulative effects modelling and analysis. The ministry continued developing analytical approaches to inform planning and decision-making for climate change adaptation, cumulative effects management and resilience strategies for the province.

#### **Implement a holistic, issue-focused land use planning framework by 2020**

The ministry conducted a review of its Crown land use planning activities and is exploring an approach that can more effectively address complex land use and climate change challenges.

#### **Implement a new game management plan and initiate a habitat management plan**

The Upland Game Bird Management Plan was released in 2019. Work, including extensive engagement with stakeholders, continues on a 20-year habitat management plan that identifies priority conservation areas.

#### **Participate in the development and implementation of an enterprise Crown land management system**

The ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Parks, Culture and Sport continued to collaborate on the design and implementation of an enterprise Crown Land Management System – a centrally accessible system for information management related to Crown resource lands resources in Saskatchewan.



## Strategy

Monitor and manage biodiversity and landscape health

## Key Actions and Results

### Develop a landscape health assessment framework

Landscape health indicators were incorporated into initiatives such as the Climate Resilience Measurement Framework and the State of the Environment report.

### Develop a risk framework for species-at-risk

Saskatchewan negotiated a draft conservation agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada, outlining commitments to assure sustainable woodland caribou populations in Saskatchewan. In addition, the Woodland Caribou SK2 Central Range Plan was completed.

### Complete a grassland habitat inventory to provide updated land cover and eco-site information

Field work was completed on more than 90 sites that provide a representation of native and tame pastures in southeastern Saskatchewan. An app for data collection was developed and satellite imagery was used to analyze land cover starting with the South of the Divide area as a pilot project.


### Develop and apply cumulative effects modelling tools tailored to Saskatchewan's landscape priorities

The ministry continued developing a new approach for cumulative effects analysis which integrates policy analysis with landscape scenario modelling. This approach aims to provide a greater understanding of potential risks and future options and should help inform decision-making.

## Performance Measures

### Road/trail kilometres approved with reforestation requirements

As a condition of their operating plans, forest licensees are required to reclaim forestry road access associated with forest harvest activities by returning road surfaces to their original or near-original state. The kilometres of forestry road access (class 1, 2 and 3 roads) constructed and reclaimed annually is used as base information for future road construction and reclamation activity reporting.

Forest resource roads constructed or reclaimed up to March 31, 2017, in the commercial forest		
	Road Class	Length (km)
	Class 1: forest resource road	872
	Class 2: improved bush road	3,496
	Class 3: bush road	23,890

Note: the most current data available for this measure is as of March 31, 2017

### Percentage of forests renewed successfully following timber harvest

The forest industry is on track to maintain a sustainable forest industry based on the results of establishment surveys, with successful regeneration of approximately 95 per cent of harvested forest land.

### Forest age classification in the commercial forest zone

Forest management in Saskatchewan aims to emulate natural disturbance. By emulating natural disturbance, the natural range of ecosystems should be maintained, resulting in a more resilient system. More information can be found in the State of the Environment 2019: A Focus on Forests available at [saskatchewan.ca](http://saskatchewan.ca)

## Government Goals



**Strategic priority:** organizational improvement and innovation

**Ministry Goal:** comprehensive, clear and transparent regulation

### Strategy

Collaboratively design and implement results-based regulatory tools and processes to enhance environmental outcomes

### Key Actions and Results

**Work with the Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee to develop and implement new Code chapters that are based on risk, aligned with strategic priorities and responsive to federal regulatory changes**

The Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee recommended that the ministry move forward with three code chapters (hydrostatic testing, forestry inventory and wildland-urban interface) which will be sent for public review in 2019.

**Review and co-ordinate environmental assessment requirements with the Federal Environmental Assessment Framework to ensure Saskatchewan's unique context is considered**

The ministry collaborated with multiple groups and drafted several submissions to ensure that Saskatchewan's context and perspective is considered at all stages of development of the Federal Government's Bill C-69, which includes the proposed *Impact Assessment Act*.

**Work with provincial and national agencies, First Nations and Métis clients to develop and implement fish and wildlife management policy and regulatory tools**

The ministry engaged with First Nations to find solutions to support a viable and sustainable First Nation outfitting industry. Based on feedback from First Nation outfitters and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the ministry maintained 2017 quotas for export permits for 2018-19.

### Strategy

Improve compliance planning inside and outside of the organization

### Key Actions and Results

**Increase outreach and compliance education for high risks identified in the compliance plan**

Regulations were amended to help prevent aquatic invasive species (AIS) from entering the province. Six mobile watercraft decontamination units were deployed around the province to support the inspection and decontamination program, and 1,255 watercraft were inspected between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019.

**Improve the compliance planning process through evidence-based risk assessments using consistent criteria and engaging with multiple stakeholders**

The Environmental Protection Branch developed and delivered a compliance audit plan for 2018-19. The plan supported the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources by providing a flexible compliance assurance tool for high-risk activities with the desired outcome of voluntary compliance. The Forest Service Branch developed and approved a 2019-20 compliance and enforcement plan that is evidence- and risk-based. This comprehensive plan covers all program areas that regulate forestry throughout the province.

**Implement a new law enforcement records management system with the ministries of Justice, Highways and Infrastructure, Finance, Government Relations and the Global Transportation Hub**

The new records management system was successfully implemented and training was conducted for staff.

# Strategy

Implement commitments in the provincial climate change strategy

## Key Actions and Results

### Create a regulatory framework to manage greenhouse gas emissions

The ministry made significant progress in implementing emissions management commitments in *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*. *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act, 2018* came into effect in December 2018, and provided for output-based performance standards on large industrial emitters. The Act enabled flexible compliance mechanisms, including: meeting the performance standard; earning a best performance credit; purchasing an offset credit; and making a payment into a technology fund.

### Develop the model and measures of resiliency

Saskatchewan's Climate Resilience Measurement Framework was released in November 2018. This government-wide initiative includes 25 key measures to monitor and report on how the province is building resilience to climate change. Government released the first annual report in April 2019, after the 2018-19 reporting period. The ministry will continue to monitor the measures and targets, and facilitate cross-ministry and cross-sector integration.

### Implement reporting and compliance standards for large emitters

*The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases (General and Reporting) Regulations* came into force on September 1, 2018. This new regulation requires facilities emitting more than 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) to report their emissions to the province using the federal greenhouse gas reporting platform.

*The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases (Standards and Compliance) Regulations* and *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases (Baselines, Returns and Verification) Standard* took effect on January 1, 2019. The requirements establish the regulatory framework for a provincial output-based performance standard (OBPS) system on facilities emitting more than 25,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. Facilities emitting more than 10,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year can opt-in to the OBPS program. By the end of 2018-19, more than 60 facilities had registered in the OBPS program and are subject to the compliance regulations.

### Review carbon sequestration methodologies

Saskatchewan worked with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment federal/provincial/territorial working group to develop information, provide guidance and share best practices on carbon sequestration methods. A summary report was prepared in March 2019.

## Performance Measures

### Provincial emissions intensity levels

From 2007-2017, emissions intensity decreased by eight per cent, while GDP growth was 16 per cent. More information can be found in the 2019 Climate Resilience Report available at [saskatchewan.ca/climate-change](https://saskatchewan.ca/climate-change).

Saskatchewan greenhouse gas intensity versus gross domestic product



Source: ECCC NIR 1990, 2017, 2019; Statistics Canada

## 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

**Strategic priority:** protecting Saskatchewan's environment

**Ministry Goal:** reduced risk and harm from adverse environmental impacts

### Strategy

Use a risk-based approach to ensure impacted sites are safely managed/remediated

### Key Actions and Results

#### **Establish an overall contaminated sites inventory ranked according to risk**

An inventory of contaminated sites was developed and is ranked using the national contaminated sites classification score. Historical sites have been added to the database in response to recommendations from the provincial auditor.

#### **Enhance scorecard for tracking National Classification System for Contaminated Sites information to monitor change in compliance**

The National Classification System for Contaminated Sites (NCSCS) is a scorecard used to rank contaminated sites, from those that are low-priority for action to those that are high-priority and require action to address existing concerns. In 2018-19, improvements were made to data entry, validation review and presentation for reporting purposes, as well as removing historic data to provide a clearer picture of current-year information. Work continued with stakeholders to enhance education and awareness regarding compliance processes under the Saskatchewan Environmental Code.

#### **Develop a provincial forest mitigation framework for industry and the conservation community to avoid, minimize and offset adverse effects**

The ministry engaged industry, environment groups and relevant federal and provincial government agencies on draft standards and principles for fish and wildlife habitat mitigation in early 2018-19. This stakeholder feedback is being incorporated into a draft framework that will articulate ministry expectations for habitat mitigation across Saskatchewan, including the boreal forest.

### Strategy

Increase client knowledge of contamination, its impact and compliance obligation

### Key Actions and Results

#### **Establish environmental compliance management systems with industrial clients including a scorecard for tracking information and monitoring change in risk at sites**

The environmental compliance management system was established for all high- and extreme-risk sites. This includes a performance summary to assist in monitoring change in risks at sites and prioritize compliance and education activities. Along with this, an environmental scorecard was developed which will track air quality approvals, decommissioning and reclamation plans and financial assurance for all industrial sites.

#### **Establish site conditions based on results of site assessments conducted by municipalities at all operating landfills**

The ministry continued to require and collect environmental site assessments for all operating landfills, including those that are new or expanding. For new and renewed operating approvals the ministry required groundwater monitoring, and for closed landfills the ministry required site assessments and closure plans.

#### **Conduct compliance audits and report progress on corrective actions**

There were 24 audits completed in 2018-19, with 213 total findings. Findings are identified based on the threat that non-compliance poses to human health, safety or the environment. In 2018-19, there were 172 Type I findings (do not pose a significant threat), 33

Type II (non-immediate threat), three Type III (immediate threat requiring immediate correction) and 10 audit advisories. Ministry staff continue to follow up and provide support to audited facilities.

### Develop financial assurance guidance for regulated sites

The ministry released The Guidelines for Decommissioning and Reclamation of Industrial Waste Works – EPB 605 on April 24, 2018, and ministry staff continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure the guidelines are met. The guidelines require industrial operations that need an industrial waste works permit to submit financial assurance (i.e. to cover decommissioning and reclamation costs in the event of insolvency of industrial operations in the province) to the ministry by January 1, 2020.

## Strategy

Anticipate contamination incidents and minimize impacts

## Key Actions and Results

### Ensure permit conditions of high-risk projects are met and appropriate mitigation measures are in place

Sites identified as high-risk are inspected annually and sites identified as extreme-risk are inspected twice per year. In 2018-19, there were 64 inspections completed at high- and extreme-risk facilities as of March 31, 2019.

### Establish a provincial air quality data management system that integrates industry and stakeholder data

A web application for air quality data management has been installed and is being tested by the ministry. This application is provided to provinces and territories from the National Air Pollution Surveillance program for public reporting of air quality. The Canada-Wide Air Quality Management System requires the province to have a minimum of 75 per cent of collected data available screened according to its quality assurance/quality control procedures, which was achieved.

## Performance Measures

### Percentage of landfills (operating and closed) with environmental site assessments

As of March 31, 2019, 21 per cent of operating landfills and six per cent of closed landfills have completed environmental site assessments. The target for 2018-19 was a 20 per cent increase from the 2017-18 numbers of 11 per cent operating and 3 per cent closed, which was achieved.

### Percentage of contaminated sites with National Classification Systems for Contaminated Sites ratings

There are currently 1,032 sites with a National Classification System for Contaminated Sites (NCSCS) score recorded. Of these sites, six (0.6 per cent) have been identified as being high-priority and in need of immediate mitigation. The majority of sites that have been rated (51.1 per cent) have been identified as low-priority or not a priority for action.

### Percentage of facilities compliant with financial assurance requirements

There are currently 196 assigned facilities (mines and industrial sites) with 129 of these sites identified as having to submit financial assurance requirements. As of March 31, 2019, 53 per cent have a financial assurance in place.

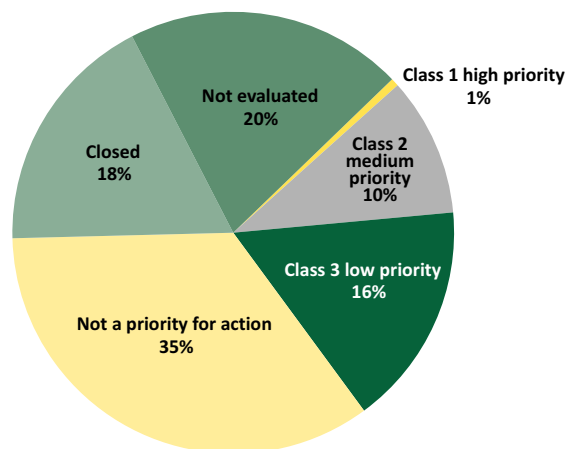
### Percentage of corrective actions addressed at audited facilities

In 2018-19, 24 audits were completed with a total of 213 findings. Of the corrective actions that were identified, 52 per cent have been completed.

### Environmental compliance management system scores for high-risk industrial sites

Of 196 industrial facilities identified, 59 are classified as high- or extreme-risk under the environmental compliance management system. On the environmental scorecard used to track all industrial sites, 99 facilities require air quality approvals, 133 facilities require decommissioning and reclamation plans and 129 facilities require financial assurance as of March 31, 2019. It is expected that these requirements will be completed by December 31, 2019.

NCSCS score distribution of impacted sites



## Government Goals



**Strategic priority:** engaged high-performing employees

**Ministry Goal:** a high-performing organization committed to excellence

### Strategy

Strengthen a shared understanding of service needs and expectation with stakeholders and partners

### Key Actions and Results

#### **Build capacity in the ministry to design and deliver service standards for public-facing programs**

A service standards toolkit was developed for staff as well as an inventory of service standards for high-volume programs with more than 1,000 clients.

#### **Develop guidance for staff to better engage with First Nations and Métis communities**

The ministry developed and piloted an Indigenous engagement workshop exploring general engagement practices and ministry-specific considerations. To date, 159 staff have participated in mandatory awareness training. Also, a KAIROS Blanket exercise was offered to employees in Prince Albert and Regina.

### Strategy

Increase public access to information and services

### Key Actions and Results

#### **Enhance online geomatics access and tools for public and business**

A Geomatics Services Unit was established to provide consistent standards for spatial data storage and to support data delivery to industry and the public. The ministry works collaboratively with the Provincial Office of Geomatics Co-ordination and government-wide working groups to advance priority projects and initiatives through the enterprise Geographic Information System (eGIS) platform. Planning is underway to develop an ArcGIS hub and portal to further improve the accessibility of government spatial data.

#### **Examine opportunities to increase online business services**

Work continued on the development, data migration and implementation of the enterprise Crown Land Management System. This initiative will provide access and services to external clients on services and transactions related to Crown lands.

### Strategy

Build a positive culture that drives high performance through strong leadership, diversity and engagement

### Key Actions and Results

#### **Develop targets and actions for increasing employee engagement**

The ministry's Innovation and Culture Committee has developed a work plan that is based on the results of an employee engagement survey. The committee held meetings with staff throughout the province focusing on four priority areas: learning and development, recognition, innovation and communication.

### **Develop targets and actions to maintain corporate knowledge through mentoring, succession and hiring practices**

Maintaining corporate knowledge has been supported through specific recruitments for identified positions and lateral movement and term opportunities to cross-train staff. Succession plans are being developed and implemented that reflect position-specific learning and development needs to meet the required competencies of branch positions. The ministry participates in corporate talent management initiatives to support retention and development, and job-shadowing opportunities are provided to staff. The ministry has also launched an internal mentorship program that provides senior leaders and employees the opportunity to learn from each other.

## **Strategy**

Provide a safe and flexible workplace for staff

## **Key Actions and Results**

### **Identify and implement actions to reduce workplace injuries (by 12.5 per cent annually or 50 per cent over four years)**

The ministry injury rate was 3.99 per cent as of December 31, 2018, representing a decrease of 16.2 per cent from the previous year. 100 per cent of reported incidents are audited to ensure the ministry can learn from the best practice of establishing corrective actions. Ninety-five per cent of all ministry staff have completed incident reporting training. The ministry engages in regular workplace inspections, with 96 per cent of workplaces inspected in 2018-19.

### **Develop a mental health and well-being plan to enhance mental health awareness**

A healthy workplace strategic plan was developed to achieve a psychologically healthy workplace, active and visible leadership, health and safety system excellence and going home injury free. To date, 39 ministry staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid and 93 staff have completed mental health awareness training. Substance use policy training and respect in the workplace training are now mandatory for all staff.

## **Strategy**

Develop and maintain a collaborative culture of accountability and continuous improvement

## **Key Actions and Results**

### **Refine ministry performance measures**

A performance measures working group was established with members from across the ministry. The group produced a suite of indicators and performance measures that better reflect the ministry's progress to achieving its vision. The group continues to refine and develop these measures.

### **Refine processes for accountability and transparency**

A new approach to the ministry's four-year strategic plan improves the integration of budgeting and planning. The more agile and detailed picture of future pressures and opportunities will improve a one-team approach to strategic planning.

## **Performance Measures**

### **Number of business transactions completed online (hunting and angling licences)**

In 2018-19, the ministry sold 400,449 hunting and angling licences (including convenience packs). Of these, 161,533 licences (40 per cent) were sold through 130,310 online transactions.

### **Percentage of clients satisfied with front-line programs and services**

The ministry continues to work on developing measures to track client satisfaction with front-line programs and services.



# Financial Overview 2018-19

The ministry's approved appropriation for 2018-19 was \$183.0 million, which included approved supplementary estimates of \$20.2 million due to wildfire season pressures and \$3.3 million to address the clean-up of abandoned scrap tires at Assiniboia. Total 2018-19 expenditures were \$181.5 million, a variance of \$1.5 million from the ministry's approved estimate. This under-expenditure was due primarily to vacancy and efficiency savings.

The ministry's budgeted revenue was \$79.5 million for 2018-19. Actual revenue recorded by the ministry in 2018-19 was \$103.1 million. The variance of \$23.6 million was primarily due to an increase in forestry dues and recovery of wildfire export costs.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund and the Impacted Sites Fund. Explanations and financial statements for these funds are found on pages 18 and 19, respectively.

In 2018-19, the ministry's full-time equivalent (FTE) utilization was 854, which is a decrease of 9.3 FTEs from 2017-18 due to fewer extensions related to wildfire fighting activities in 2018-19.



## Allocation of the ministry's actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram

	(in thousands of dollars)				
	2017-18 actual expenditures	2018-19 original estimates	2018-19 revised estimates	2018-19 actual expenditures	2018-19 variance
<b>Subvote</b>					
<b>Central Management and Services (EN01)</b>					
Minister's Salary	51	49	49	52	3
Executive Management	1,569	1,673	1,673	1,775	102
Central Services	10,379	10,350	10,350	10,274	-76
Accommodation Services	4,945	5,444	5,444	4,980	-464
<b>Subvote total</b>	<b>16,944</b>	<b>17,516</b>	<b>17,516</b>	<b>17,081</b>	<b>-435</b> <sup>1</sup>
<b>Climate Change and Adaptation (EN06)</b>					
Climate Change	1,657	2,044	2,044	1,610	-434
Cumulative Impacts and Science	1,332	1,208	1,208	1,162	-46
<b>Subvote total</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>-480</b> <sup>2</sup>
<b>Fish, Wildlife and Lands (EN07)</b>					
Fish, Wildlife and Lands Program	8,297	8,493	8,493	8,826	333
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	4,994	4,610	4,610	4,971	361
<b>Subvote total</b>	<b>13,291</b>	<b>13,103</b>	<b>13,103</b>	<b>13,797</b>	<b>694</b>
<b>Compliance and Field Services (EN08)</b>	<b>17,514</b>	<b>19,367</b>	<b>19,367</b>	<b>20,528</b>	<b>1161</b> <sup>5</sup>
<b>Environmental Protection (EN11)</b>					
Environmental Protection Program	4,715	5,265	5,265	5,367	102
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship	1,549	1,475	4,775	4,570	-205
Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System	26,566	24,765	24,765	24,766	1
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	631	45	45	36	-9
Business Support Services	5601	5,579	5,579	4,732	-847
<b>Subvote total</b>	<b>39,062</b>	<b>37,129</b>	<b>40,429</b>	<b>39,471</b>	<b>-958</b> <sup>2</sup>
<b>Forest Service (EN09)</b>					
Forest Programs	5,812	6,555	6,555	6,075	-480
Reforestation	221	0	0	0	0
Insect and Disease Control	1,431	1,246	1,246	1,713	467
<b>Subvote total</b>	<b>7,464</b>	<b>7,801</b>	<b>7,801</b>	<b>7,788</b>	<b>-13</b> <sup>6</sup>
<b>Wildfire Management (EN10)</b>					
Forest Fire Operations	72,945	52,724	69,674	67,736	-1938
Recoverable Fire Suppression Operations	3,332	1,700	4,975	4,946	-29
Forest Fire Capital Projects	13,288	6,945	6,945	7,414	469
<b>Subvote total</b>	<b>89,565</b>	<b>61,369</b>	<b>81,594</b>	<b>80,096</b>	<b>-1,498</b> <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total appropriation</b>	<b>186,829</b>	<b>159,537</b>	<b>183,062</b>	<b>181,533</b>	<b>-1,529</b>
<b>Capital assets acquisitions</b>	<b>-15,345</b>	<b>-10,145</b>	<b>-10,145</b>	<b>-9,656</b>	<b>489</b>
<b>Capital assets amortization</b>	<b>11,305</b>	<b>12,923</b>	<b>12,923</b>	<b>11,260</b>	<b>-1663</b>
<b>Non-spending control items</b>	<b>-1,329</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1322</b>
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>181,460</b>	<b>162,270</b>	<b>185,795</b>	<b>184,414</b>	<b>-1,381</b>

### Explanation of major variances:

1. Capital project delay.
2. Savings in contractual services.
3. Project expenditures offset by new federal funding.
4. Increased grant as a result of higher hunting and angling revenue.
5. Increased equipment and training costs.
6. Additional contract expenses offset with vacancy savings.

## Funding provided to third parties in 2018-19

Amount (\$000s)	Recipient	Purpose
24,766	Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres	Operation of beverage container collection and recycling
3,300	Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan	Cleanup of abandoned tires
180	Saskatchewan Commission of Professional Outfitters	2018-19 agreement for the implementation of industry-led outfitting commission
26	Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Secretariat	Operation of Canadian Council of Forest Ministers
25	Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	Operation of Caribou Management Agreement
25	University of Saskatchewan	Woodland caribou research
20	FRI Research	Membership – Forest Growth Organization of Western Canada, Western Boreal Growth and Yield Association
15	FPIInnovations	Membership - Wildland Fire Operations Research
20	Aggregate of grants under \$5,000	Grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Institute of Forestry (\$3,500)</li> <li>• Partners in Protection (\$2,400)</li> <li>• Prairie Robotics Inc. (\$5,000)</li> <li>• RCMP Veterans' Association Regina Division (\$500)</li> <li>• Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers (\$5,000)</li> <li>• Wildlife Habitat Canada (\$4,000)</li> </ul>
<b>Total grants</b>		
<b>\$28,377</b>		

## Revenues

The majority of the revenue collected by the Ministry of Environment relates to environmental handling charges, hunting and angling licence fees, forestry fees and dues, and receipts from other governments for recoverable fire suppression costs. These revenues are collected on behalf of the government and all revenue collected is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

The ministry's budgeted revenue for 2018-19 was \$79.5 million; actual revenue recorded was \$103.0 million. This \$23.5 million variance was primarily due to an increase in forestry dues and recovery of wildfire export costs.

	2018-19 budget	2018-19 actual	Variance	
Description of revenue	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	
<b>Own-source revenue</b>				
Investment incomes	30	528	498	<sup>1</sup>
Other fees and charges	63,134	68,373	5,239	<sup>2</sup>
Miscellaneous	12,314	28,813	16,499	<sup>3</sup>
Transfers from the federal government	4,021	5,365	1,344	<sup>4</sup>
<b>Total revenue items</b>	<b>79,499</b>	<b>103,079</b>	<b>23,580</b>	

### Explanation of variances:

1. Interest on accounts receivable was higher than anticipated.
2. Increased forestry dues as a result of high commodity prices and demand.
3. Increased wildfire cost recovery for exports of aircraft, personnel and equipment and an increase of bottle deposit revenue collected due to vendor error in prior years.
4. Increased agreement revenue related to wildfire suppression activities and federal grants for species at risk.

## Other

### Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) is a special purpose fund established under The Natural Resources Act. The ministry uses the fund to support habitat protection and management throughout the province. Revenues are transferred to the FWDF based on an amount equivalent to 30 per cent of habitat licence certificates and hunting, angling and trapping licence fees collected by the province, less \$180,000 which is allocated for other grants. The FWDF also receives seven per cent of Crown land sales. Expenditures relate to habitat protection through the purchase, management and enhancement of habitat.

The following table provides a summary of the budgeted and unaudited results of the FWDF for 2018-19.

Audited financial statements will be available at [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca) under the Ministry of Finance public accounts section.

<b>(Based on unaudited figures)</b>			
	<b>2018-19 budget (\$000s)</b>	<b>2018-19 actual (\$000s)</b>	<b>Variance (\$000s)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>5,035</b>	<b>5,801</b>	<b>766</b> <sup>1</sup>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Fish enhancement projects	1,944	1,835	-109 <sup>2</sup>
Wildlife habitat projects	2,448	2,838	390 <sup>3</sup>
Grants in lieu of taxes	330	361	31 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,722</b>	<b>5,034</b>	<b>312</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>454</b>

#### Explanation of variances:

1. Increase of revenue from crown land sales and hunting and angling licence sales
2. Decrease in expenses for fish enhancement agreement and aquatic invasive species
3. Increase in grants and land securement expenses
4. Grants in lieu of taxes were higher than anticipated

## Impacted Sites Fund

The Impacted Sites Fund was established on April 2, 2015 by the *Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*. The fund receives all revenue from fines and administrative penalties imposed in accordance with the Act. Other revenues may include gifts, donations, grants or moneys appropriated by the legislature. The Act permits expenditures from the fund to reclaim, restore and remedy orphaned environmentally impacted sites and to pay the expenses of administering the fund.

The following table provides a summary of the budgeted and unaudited results of the fund for 2018-19.

<b>(Based on unaudited figures)</b>	<b>2018-19 budget</b>	<b>2018-19 actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>(\$000s)</b>	<b>(\$000s)</b>	<b>(\$000s)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	75	48	-27
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Contracts	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-
Total expenses	-	-	-
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>-27</b>

### Explanation of variances:

No expense budget was submitted for the fund as no expenses were anticipated.

# For More Information

The Ministry of Environment welcomes your comments and questions.

[centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca)

Toll-free in North America 1-800-567-4224

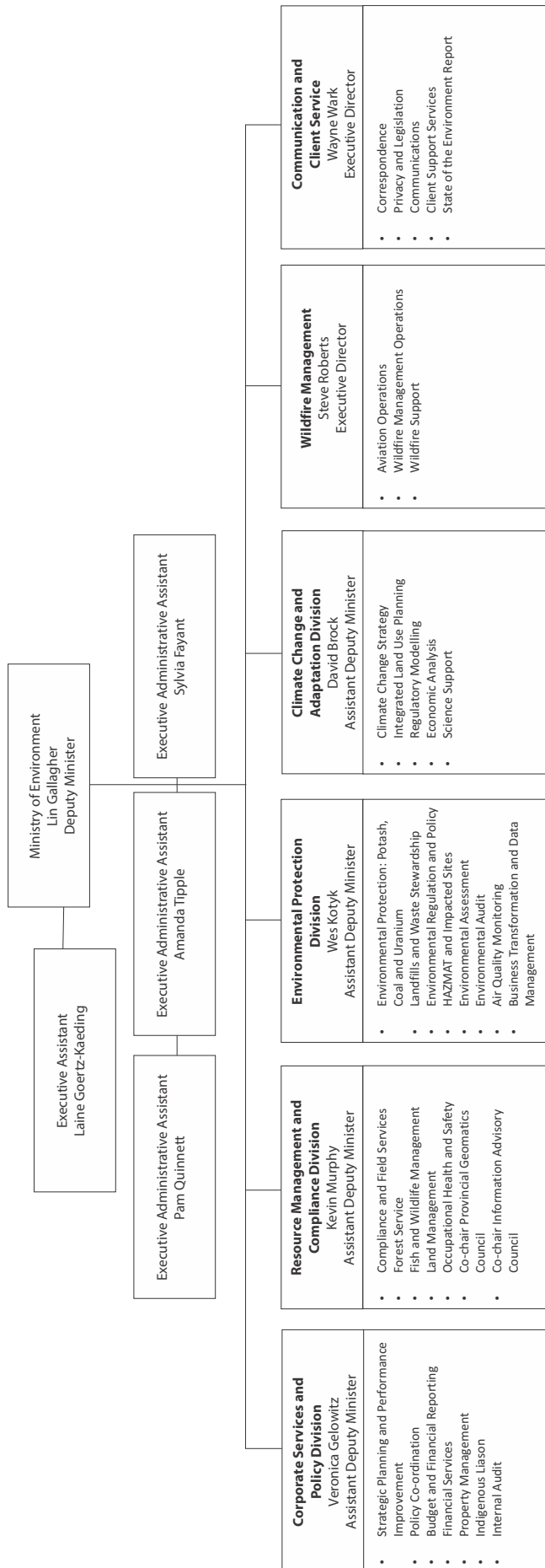
3211 Albert Street, Regina, SK S4S 5W6

This annual report is also available electronically at [saskatchewan.ca/environment](http://saskatchewan.ca/environment).

# Appendix A

## Organizational Chart

As of March 31, 2019



# Appendix B

## Administered legislation 2018-19

The ministry derives its mandate, responsibilities and authority from a number of Acts and regulations under those Acts.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister of Environment are:

- *The Conservation Easements Act*
- *The Ecological Reserves Act*
- *The Environmental Assessment Act*
- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*
- *The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994*
- *The Forestry Professions Act*
- *The Forest Resources Management Act*
- *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*
- *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*
- *The Natural Resources Act*
- *The Protection of the Wild Ponies of the Bronson Forest Act*
- *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*
- *The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act*
- *The Water Appeal Board Act* - the last appeals were heard in 2017-18 as this authority now lies under *The Water Security Agency Act*. *The Water Appeal Board Act* is in the process of being repealed.
- *The Wildfire Act*
- *The Wildlife Act, 1998*
- *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*



# Appendix C

## Legislated agencies, boards and committees

### **Beverly-Quamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board**

- The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement states, "The continued well-being of these herds requires co-ordinated management, goodwill and co-operation amongst governments and the traditional users of these caribou." It also recognizes, "a special relationship exists between the traditional user and the caribou, worth more than \$15 million annually in subsistence value alone."
- This board is a recommending body comprising Indigenous and government representatives from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the North West Territories, Nunavut and the Government of Canada.

### **Fisheries Advisory Committee**

- This committee represents non-government organizations and stakeholders and provides recommendations to the ministry on matters pertaining to fish management.
- Committee members are appointed by the Minister of Environment annually.

### **Fish and Wildlife Development Fund Advisory Council**

- The council will make recommendations to the Minister of Environment on matters respecting an annual work plan and expenditures from the fund.
- The council's focus is on fish and wildlife habitat acquisition/management and species management.

### **Wildlife Advisory Committee**

- This committee provides stakeholder perspective and advice to the ministry on matters pertaining to wildlife management.
- Committee members represent major stakeholders, including recreational hunters, landowners, outfitters, tourism interests, ranchers, trappers and conservation organizations.
- Committee members are appointed by the Minister of Environment annually.

### **Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals**

- The association maintains professional accountability and ensures the competence of Saskatchewan forestry professionals for the public's benefit.
- It promotes professionalism by focusing on its members' knowledge, skills and competencies.

### **Water Appeal Board**

- 2017-18 was the last year appeals were heard by the board. The appeal process now falls under *The Water Security Agency Act*.
- *The Water Appeal Board Act* is in the process of being repealed as it is no longer required.

### **Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee**

- Established under the authority of the *Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*.
- The advisory committee acts as a formal forum for exchanging ideas, overseeing the development of the Code and providing advice and guidance on the content of the Code and supporting materials.
- The advisory committee members represent a wide diversity of industry and stakeholders. They are appointed by the Minister of Environment annually.

# Appendix D

## Publications released by the ministry

For the period of April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

### **Climate Change**

- Climate Change Resilience Measurement Framework
- Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gasses Standard
- Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gasses Baselines Standard
- Economic Modeling to Support the Development of Climate Change Regulations

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

- Conservation Officer Backgrounder
- Become a Conservation Officer
- Conduct of a Conservation Officer

### **Environment**

- 2017-18 Ministry of Environment Annual Report
- 2019-20 Ministry of Environment Plan

### **Fishing**

- 2018 Fish Facts
- 2018 Stocked Waters Guide
- 2019 Anglers' Guide
- 2019 Anglers' Guide – French
- Zebra Mussels Colouring Book

### **Forests**

- State of the Environment 2019: A Focus on Forests

### **Hunting**

- 2018 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide
- 2018 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide – French
- 2018 Spring Bear Supplement
- 2018 Snow Goose Supplement
- 2018 Saskatchewan Resident Big Game Draw Overview
- 2018 Canadian Resident White-tailed Deer Draw Overview
- Aboriginal Treaty Rights to Hunt and Fish Guide

### **Trapping**

- Saskatchewan Wild Fur Harvest and Cash Values 2017-18

### **Wildfire Management**

- 2018 Saskatchewan Pilot's Handbook
- 2019 Wildfire Safety Calendar
- FireSmart Ambassador Booklet
- Wildfire Airspace Brochure

### **Wildlife**

- Upland Game Bird Plan

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