

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency



## Annual Report for 2019-20



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# Letters of Transmittal



*Lori Carr  
Minister Responsible  
for the Saskatchewan  
Public Safety Agency*

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020.

The report highlights Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's provision and support of public safety services in the province as the agency works to safeguard and protect the people, property and resources of Saskatchewan. It includes the agency's obligation to report on Sask911 activities and the official actions of the Fire Commissioner.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to increased accountability, to honouring its commitments, and to managing expenditures responsibly on behalf of Saskatchewan people.

We will continue to build on these achievements in the year ahead as we deliver on Governments commitments to the people of Saskatchewan.



Lori Carr  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency



*Marlo Pritchard  
President of the  
Saskatchewan Public  
Safety Agency and  
Fire Commissioner*

The Honourable Lori Carr  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020.

I want to thank our staff for their dedication and hard work as we continue to strengthen our delivery of a seamless provincial response to emergency and public safety issues as a new agency.

The agency's report was prepared under my direction and in accordance with the government's system of planning, measuring and reporting.

I acknowledge responsibility for this report and assure that the information contained herein is accurate, complete and reliable. I further acknowledge responsibility for the financial administration and management control of the agency.



Marlo Pritchard  
President of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency and Fire Commissioner

# Agency Overview

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is a Treasury Board Crown corporation created in November 2017 to streamline public safety services in Saskatchewan and put Government in a better position to meet future emergency service needs. The purpose of the agency was established in *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act, 2019*, which came into effect July 7, 2019.

The agency's **mandate** is to *provide or support public safety services for and with the people, municipalities, Indigenous people, public safety service providers and the Government of Saskatchewan*. For Saskatchewan communities and citizens, the creation of the agency means a more seamless provincial response to emergencies and public safety issues. In 2019-20, agency's mandate was expanded and now includes: Sask911, SaskAlert, the civic addressing registry, wildfire management and emergency management and fire safety. This expansion meets government's ongoing commitment to provide excellence, by exploring new, innovative ways of providing programs and services to the public.

As Saskatchewan's provincial public safety organization, the agency is responsible for both emergency management and response. The agency works in partnership with municipalities and First Nation communities to improve the safety of Saskatchewan residents.

The agency provides Saskatchewan communities, fire departments and emergency management organizations with programs and services that protect people, property and the environment from fire and other emergencies; build local community resilience and capacity to respond to emergencies; and enhance public safety across the province. This includes coordinating overall provincial emergency planning, training and response operations for the safety of Saskatchewan residents through:

- Wildfire management, mitigation and containment.
- Maintaining the Provincial Emergency Management Plan for the provision of necessary services during an emergency and the procedures for responding to an emergency.
- Providing emergency management training to municipal officials, ministries, agencies, Crowns and other stakeholders.
- Upon request, reviewing provincial ministry, Crown and agency emergency response plans and/or business continuity plans to identify critical interdependencies from an enterprise-wide perspective.
- Helping local governments and communities build their capacity to respond to emergencies through planning and training.
- Providing direct and immediate support and advice to local officials during an emergency event.
- Activating the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PECC), the centralized hub from which the Government of Saskatchewan directs and coordinates the operational response across provincial ministries, Crowns and agencies.
- Managing and maintaining public safety technology, emergency communications and dispatching programs, including Sask911, the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN) and SaskAlert.
- Delivering public education initiatives to increase awareness of public safety issues.
- Performing fire safety investigations and compliance.

The agency is focused on achieving its **vision** to enhance, support and integrate public safety in Saskatchewan by providing:

- High quality service, access to a larger pool of expertise and enhanced training opportunities.
- Opportunities for innovative partnerships for response.
- A single point of contact for a broad range of services.

- Increased coordination of long-term planning efforts to ensure Saskatchewan is prepared for large-scale emergency events and mitigating risks that can contribute to severity/impact.
- Access to affordable technology.
- Access to affordable up-to-date emergency communications technology that is supported by the agency's PECC.

In so doing, the agency will fulfill its **mission to safeguard and protect the people, property and resources of Saskatchewan through partnerships, coordinated planning, education, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery.**

### Legislation

The agency derives its mandate, responsibilities and authority from a number of Acts and regulations under those Acts. The agency is responsible for:

- *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act, 2019*
- *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Regulations*
- *The Emergency 911 System Act*
- *The Public Safety Answering Point Regulations, 2011*
- *The Emergency Planning Act*
- *The Emergency Services Telecommunication Program Regulations*
- *The Fire Safety Act*
- *The Fire Safety Regulations*
- *The Wildfire Act*
- *The Wildfire Regulations*

### Reporting Responsibility

As a single agency, the SPSA, by statute, has responsibility and obligations to report annually on:

- Progress made on the agency's operational plan in accordance with *The Executive Administration Act*. The agency's programs and services that were previously provided by the Ministry of Government Relations and the Ministry of Environment.
- The activities of the Fire Commissioner, as well as, the extent of fire losses in the province. The Commissioner, in accordance with *The Fire Safety Act* and *The Saskatchewan Fire Code Regulations*, provides communities, fire departments and emergency service organizations with leadership, as well as information and education programs and services that protect people, property and the environment from the effects of fire and other emergency events.
- Its activities in relation to Sask911, in accordance with *The Emergency 911 System Act* and *The Executive Government Administration Act*. The Sask911 system refers to the province-wide emergency telephone service that connects a person dialing the telephone digits 911 to emergency service providers through a public safety answering point and includes the province-wide radio communication network to be used by emergency service providers, also known as the PPSTN.

### Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Utilization

The 2019-20 full-time equivalent utilization for the agency was 408 FTEs.

# Progress in 2019-20

## 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

## Agency Goal

Safe, resilient communities prepared for disasters and emergencies

## Strategy

Reduce the impact of emergencies by increasing community preparedness

## Key Actions and Results

### Strengthen community emergency planning efforts

- In Saskatchewan, *The Emergency Planning Act* requires municipalities to establish emergency preparedness plans, which help Saskatchewan communities respond to emergencies in a timely, efficient and coordinated manner. These plans:
  - Enable agencies to locate resources that emergency operations require to inform citizens of danger, how to avoid danger and quickly arrange assistance when needed.
  - Reduce the human and financial impacts of emergencies.
  - Support the recovery process.
- In 2019-20, the agency continued to work with local authorities to assess and prioritize risks, and develop standardized emergency preparedness plans to support: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The agency held a training session at the 2020 Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Convention to support community emergency plan development. As a result, 40 community leaders who attended the session developed their all-hazard plans to take back to their communities for finalization, testing and implementation.

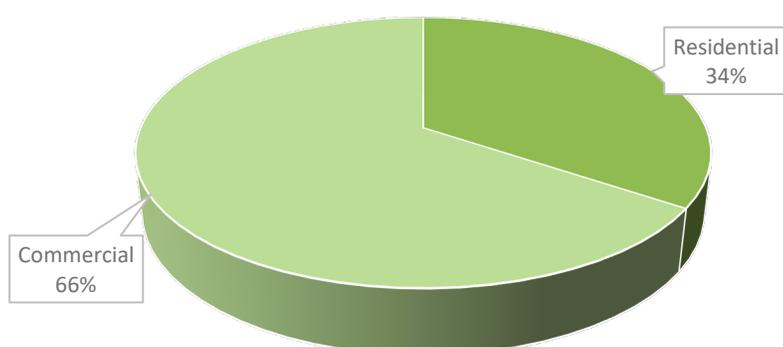
### Develop wildfire community preparedness plans for all at-risk communities

- In 2019-20, the agency continued to develop wildfire community preparedness plans for at-risk communities by completing 11 new pre-plans. The preparedness plans:
  - Assess the risk of wildfire to communities.
  - Enable communities to identify hazards and vulnerable areas/populations with higher risks, and prioritize efforts to address these risks well in advance of potential wildfire impacts to the area.
  - Help with wildfire suppression delivery when communities are threatened by wildfire.
- The agency actively worked with communities to address the threat of wildfire and build capacity for local response. Activities were aimed at engaging and supporting communities to take steps on their own to understand and manage their wildfire risk.
- As an active participant in the FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program, the agency provided funding for at-risk communities to receive a \$500 grant for community wildfire preparedness initiatives. For example, the agency provided formal support along with Indigenous Services Canada to a grant application made by the Prince Albert Grand Council First Nations Emergency Management Office to gather and distribute donated fire fighting equipment to Saskatchewan First Nations.

## Review and strengthen the SPSA's public safety compliance and investigation role

- The agency's mandate expanded in 2019-20 to include Emergency Management & Fire Safety in July 2019 and Wildfire Management in November 2019. Through its mandate, the agency ensures compliance with emergency management, planning and regulations to keep Saskatchewan citizens safe.
- *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act*, proclaimed in July 2019, gives the agency authority to ensure compliance with emergency and safety plans in the province. In addition, *The Fire Safety Act*, requires municipalities to investigate and report the origin, cause, and circumstances of every fire that occurs within their jurisdiction. Investigations may also be undertaken by the agency when the fire is of interest to the Fire Commissioner, in cases of wild fires, when death results, or when fires are suspicious. Fire Investigators are available to investigate or assist local authorities in conducting a fire investigation.
- In 2019-20, a total of 953 fires were reported to the agency, with 463 of these fires impacting residential (34 per cent) and commercial (66 per cent) structures. Further information on the origin, cause, circumstance and associated financial loss as a result of these fires is available in Appendix A.

**Fires Reported: Residential and Commercial Structures 2019-20**



- Agency staff investigated 62 structural fires of interest in 2019-20, the majority of which occurred in single family dwellings.

## Performance Measures

### Percentage of communities with a standardized and ratified emergency preparedness plan (*Prairie Resilience Strategy*)

- Standardized emergency preparedness plans help Saskatchewan communities respond to emergencies in a timely, efficient and coordinated manner.
- In 2018-19, a survey was conducted to understand the number of communities with standardized plans. The survey was sent to every community in Saskatchewan. Of over 700 communities invited to be surveyed, only 290 responded, of which 238 (82 per cent) indicated having an emergency preparedness plan.

### Number of wildfire community pre-plans completed for "at-risk" northern communities (*Prairie Resilience Strategy*)

- This measures the number of "at-risk" communities in Saskatchewan's wildland-urban interface that have community preparedness plans. These communities are rated as being at moderate- to high-risk of wildfire.
- Eighty-six communities in Saskatchewan's wildland-urban interface area are at-risk of wildfires. Between 2010 and March 31, 2020, pre-plans have been completed for 56 at-risk communities (65 per cent). The

target is to complete pre-plans for all at-risk communities by 2030. In 2019-20, 11 new pre-plans were completed for at-risk communities.

Number of communities with wildfire community risk assessment	104
Total number of communities identified as being at-risk (moderate and high)	86
Number of communities with operational pre-plans (as of March 31,2020)	56 (65 per cent)
Remaining number of operational pre-plans needed	30 (35 per cent)

## Strategy

Prevent and mitigate emergencies through planning and partnerships

## Key Actions and Results

### Review and update the Provincial Emergency Plan with other ministries, Crowns and agencies

- In 2019-20, significant progress was made by the agency in updating the Provincial Emergency Plan. The plan establishes the comprehensive Government of Saskatchewan-wide framework for planning for, and responding to, emergencies or disasters that require an integrated and coordinated provincial response.
- The plan also establishes the agency's role as the coordinating agency for emergency management in Saskatchewan. In this role, the agency facilitates the activities of other ministries, Crowns and agencies that may serve as lead or support for emergency management.
- The updated plan incorporates the following:
  - Outlines an all-hazards methodology compatible with the Incident Command System.
  - Includes an overview of Saskatchewan's emergency management governance structure.
  - Provides emergency management guidance to ministries, agencies and Crowns.
  - Describes roles and responsibilities of ministries, Crowns and agencies during an emergency response.
  - Describes the relationship between the Government of Saskatchewan and municipal emergency responders, including the role of local authorities and municipal Emergency Operations Centres.

### Deliver fuel management (fire hazard mitigation) projects to protect northern communities and provincial parks

- Vegetation and wildfire fuel management projects enhance the effectiveness of wildfire suppression efforts when communities are threatened by wildfire. In 2019-20, the agency conducted seven community wildfire mitigation projects at the following locations:
  - Peter Pond Road – Prince Albert west
  - Kristi Lake – Prince Albert north
  - Lower Fishing Lake
  - Candle Lake
  - Ramsey Bay at Weyakwin Lake
  - Lac la Plonge subdivision
  - Little Bear Lake
- This work entails thinning softwood forest stands and removal of slash and deadfall to reduce the amount of fuel that is available for a wildfire to burn.
- As a result of these mitigation projects, 86 at-risk communities are building capacity to prepare for and protect themselves from the threat of catastrophic wildfire impacts.
- The agency collaborates with SaskPower, the New North and Northern Municipal Services to ensure these projects effectively address the mitigation needs within at-risk jurisdictions.

- A partnership with First Nations and Indigenous Services Canada since 2015 has resulted in mitigation work now completed in most First Nation communities. It is being used as a template for Canada wide mitigation programs funded by the federal *First Nation Emergency Management Mitigation* program, which began in 2019.

## Performance Measures

### Saskatchewan’s total Crown land with wildfire fuel management work completed (*Prairie Resilience Strategy*)

Wildfire mitigation projects, including fuel management, reduce the intensity of fire and provide an anchor point for suppression efforts. Between 2000 and March 31, 2020, fuel management was completed for 978 hectares of Crown land in the provincial forest, which includes 75.4 hectares of treated land in 2019-20. The current target is to complete the mitigation work for an additional 1,270 hectares of Crown land by 2028. The historical target was to complete at least three Community Mitigation Projects (fuel management) per year. The metric has been increased dramatically through funding secured from the federal government’s Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), which commenced in 2019-20.

The Saskatchewan Community Wildfire Risk Assessment identifies all Crown land locations requiring fuel management projects, as well as priority for project completion. With the 2028 target to complete mitigation work for an additional 1,270 hectares of Crown land, the total land area covered by the wildfire mitigation projects will be 2,248 hectares.

Timeframe	Land Size (Hectares)	Target Date	Status
2000-2020	978	March 31, 2020	Completed
2020-2028	1,270	March 31, 2028	Ongoing

# Progress in 2019-20 SPSA

## Government Goals



## Agency Goal

Public safety services in Saskatchewan are integrated

## Strategy

Deliver seamless public safety services

## Key Actions and Results

### Activate the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) to provide assistance to communities when needed

- All levels of government in Saskatchewan have a legislated responsibility to respond to emergencies.
  - Local governments provide the first level of response beyond the individual. Where local capacity is not sufficient to provide adequate response, provincial resources are deployed. This may involve the opening of a Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC), which is coordinated by the agency.
  - The PEOC brings together key people from agencies and organizations to form a unified structure to share information, coordinate and deploy assistance to communities in need.
- In 2019-20, the PEOC was activated in response to three events:
  - **Biggar Grass Fire** — In April 2019, SPSA coordinated a response to a grass fire burning in the rural municipality of Biggar. The fire reached 12,000 acres, impacted crown lands and burned four miles from the Town of Biggar. Seven fire departments attended to the scene. There were two callouts for the Single Engine Aircraft Tanker (SEAT) by the RM of Biggar to support response efforts.
  - **Pikangikum, Ontario evacuees** — Due to an extreme wildfire situation in northeast Ontario in July 2019, the province of Ontario was at near-capacity to accommodate evacuees. The agency was pleased to offer the Province of Ontario assistance and support by receiving 424 residents from Pikangikum. The agency worked with its partners and stakeholders who provided resources and expertise to this emergency response including: the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, the Yorkton Tribal Council, the Prince Albert Council, the City of Regina, the University of Regina, the Regina International Airport, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, and government ministries, agencies and Crowns.
  - **COVID-19** — On March 18, 2020, a Declaration of State of Emergency was ordered throughout the province of Saskatchewan to address the COVID-19 public health emergency. In response to this unprecedented event, the SPSA activated the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC). The PEOC coordinated information, requests for assistance, supported the health sector response to the pandemic, and centralized the Province of Saskatchewan's response to non-health issues. In addition, during the pandemic, Emergency Services Officers (ESOs) provided support to communities and local authorities to

plan for emergencies, organize local emergency operations centres and act as liaisons between local officials, first responders and the government.

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

- In 2019, the application of provincial wildfire management strategies resulted in a successful season:
  - There were no human fatalities.
  - All threatened communities were protected.
  - No major public infrastructure burned.
- Wildfire events in the 2019 season was significantly below the 10-year average in terms of total number of wildfires and total area burned (see Appendix A). The province recorded the lowest number of wildfires in a single season over the past 35 years.
- At the end of the 2019 wildfire season, there were:
  - 243 wildfires
  - 171 were human-caused (70 per cent) and 72 were lightning-caused (30 per cent)
  - the total area burned was approximately 47,737 hectares (see Appendix A)

**Fire Causes: Human vs. Non-human (lightning) 2010 - 2019**



- With fewer wildfire events through most of the season, Saskatchewan was able to send mutual aid assistance to wildfire partners in Alberta, Alaska, Ontario, Manitoba, Yukon, Australia and the Department of National Defence. A total of 173 fire management personnel and 18 aircrafts (with crew) were deployed.
- The agency continued partnerships with the Prince Albert Grand Council and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations to strengthen wildfire management operations in areas including:
  - Types and requirements for different firefighting crews, such as number of people per Type 3 firefighting crew, overnight camping on fire lines and use of Type 3 firefighters to help fight low-intensity fires.
  - Contracts with 22 northern community crews and 58 First Nation crews that provide fire suppression and first response to wildfires on, or close to, applicable reserves and northern municipalities.
  - Development of the national Type 2 Wildland Firefighter Program.

**Implement and evaluate a cost-sharing pilot program to help municipalities effectively use and manage the cost of the Single Engine Aircraft Tanker (SEAT) resource for grassfires in southern and central Saskatchewan**

- The SEAT pilot program became operational in April 2019. SEAT is a training program for agricultural aerial applicator pilots on how to safely respond, when requested, to a wildfire in the southern, non-forested grasslands of the province.
- The program was developed to supply firefighting services with a quick action aerial attack method to help control rapidly moving grassland wildfires.
- Municipalities have the ability to hire and use SEAT aircraft to reduce the risk of fire to property and human life. In addition, SPSA developed a policy to share the cost of using the SEAT resource, when applicable, to ensure it is used effectively and to help municipalities manage the associated costs.
- Since SEAT’s inception, there have been three activations by rural municipalities. The program will continue to be piloted during the 2020 fire season and evaluated for future use.

**Consolidate public safety programs within the SPSA**

- In 2019-20, agency’s mandate was expanded and announced publicly in January 2019. It now includes: Sask911, SaskAlert, the civic addressing registry, wildfire management, and emergency management and fire safety. This expansion meets government’s ongoing commitment to provide excellence, by exploring new and innovative ways of providing programs and services to the public.
- The integration of these public safety functions into the agency leads to greater co-ordination, a clearer reporting structure, and a more seamless provincial response to emergency and public safety issues in Saskatchewan.

**Strategy**

Enhance technology supports for public safety service providers and citizens

**Key Actions and Results**

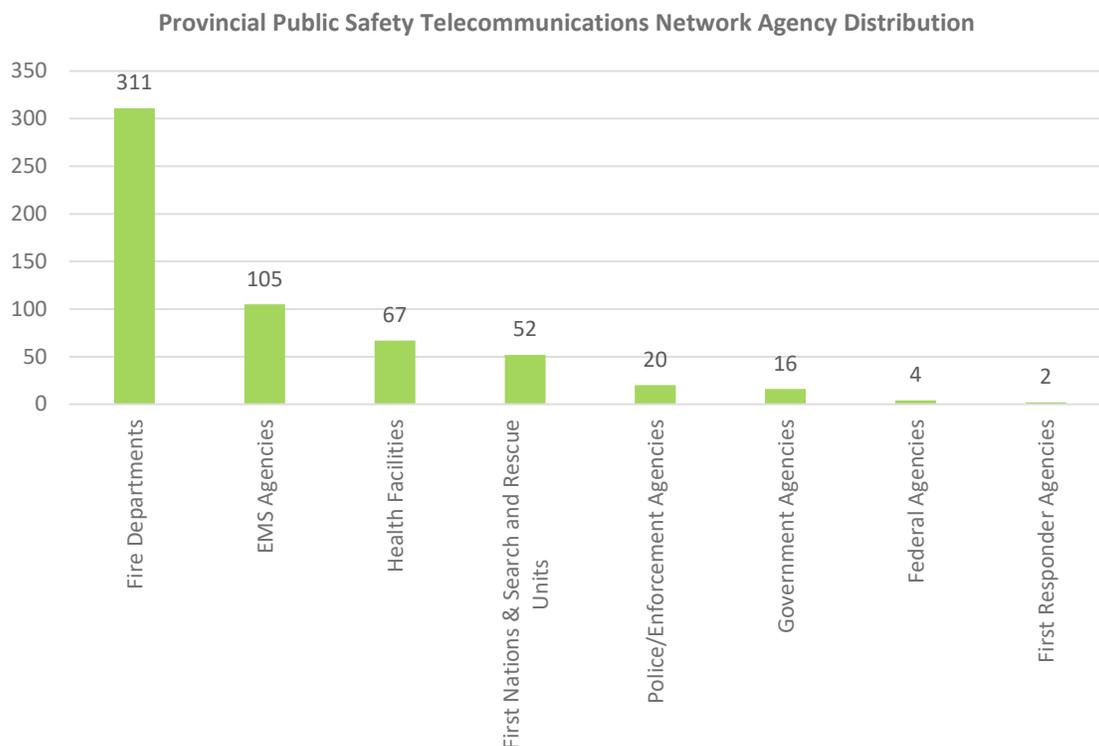
**Increase community participation in the enhanced SaskAlert program**

- The agency has developed the Provincial Public Alerting Program (SaskAlert) to inform Saskatchewan residents about imminent emergencies that could be harmful to life and safety.
- Provincial ministries, agencies and Crowns, and local jurisdictions (e.g., urban/rural municipalities and First Nation communities), are authorized to actively participate in public alerting and generate emergency alerts within their mandated areas of responsibility.
- In 2019-20:
  - A program review was completed and a new user friendly and cost effective model was introduced, making it easier for organizations to participate. This new model allows organizations to issue an alert either through a request to the SPSA or by creating their own.
  - A total of 447 emergency events were covered by 4,805 alerts, updates and cancellations issued through SaskAlert. Of the 447 alerts issued, 22 alerts were issued as high level Broadcast Immediate and 425 were issued as advisory alerts.

Event Type	Alert Issuing Agency	Number of Alerts
Weather Related Events	Environment Canada	354
Non-weather Related	Crowns, agencies, ministries and municipal jurisdictions	93
<b>Total</b>		<b>447</b>

### Strengthen the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN)

- The agency operates the PPSTN, with the RCMP and SaskPower, as part of Saskatchewan’s Emergency 911 System. It enables public safety and public service agencies to access the network, on a cost recovery basis, and ensures effective communication between emergency responders.



- In 2019-20, the following work was completed to strengthen the network:
  - Three new tower sites were installed in Hague, Norquay, and Ahtahkakoop. The total number of provincial sites is now 288.
  - Twenty-five sites were upgraded with backup battery enhancements to increase resiliency during power outages.
  - Seventy-two interoperability training sessions were conducted for 1,631 public safety officials across multiple agencies that use the network.

### Administer the provincial Sask911 system while developing plans for the NextGen Sask911 (NG911) roll out

- Sask911 is a co-operative program between the province, municipalities, and a not-for-profit corporation contracted by the SPSA to maintain a province-wide enhanced 911 call-taking system available to 99 per cent of the population.
- There are three Public Safety Answering Points for the Sask911 system in Saskatchewan: Regina (serving the City of Regina); Saskatoon (serving the City of Saskatoon); and Prince Albert (serving the rest of the province). In 2019-20, the program responded to 441,423 calls.

2019-20 Calls Answered by Public Safety Answering Points	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Regina	83,917	89,294	103,958
Saskatoon	99,675	101,311	115,682
Prince Albert	194,215	197,123	221,783
<b>Total</b>	<b>377,807</b>	<b>387,728</b>	<b>441,423</b>

- NG911 is the expected future state for the Sask911 system. It is a multi-year, multi-phase project to establish new infrastructure, technology, protocols and governance for 911 delivery and processing.
- In 2019-20, the agency participated in NG911 working group and governance committee meetings; provided updates to Public Safety Answering Point agencies; and worked with SaskTel on provincial planning efforts needed to support this national project.

#### **Upgrade and consolidate the provincial Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and the Civic Addressing Registry (CAR)**

- The Civic Addressing Registry (CAR) is a standardized, consistent system of recording property access points to ensure fire, ambulance and police services can accurately and consistently find persons in critical need of assistance.
- This project creates an address database used by Sask911 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software, which allows 911 call-takers and secondary agencies to effectively route emergency response units to incidents in Saskatchewan. The registry contains 452,000 addresses and access entry points.
- In 2019-20, the CAR function was integrated into the SPSA, and a significant IT upgrade to the hosting and web application environment to sustain functionality and quality was completed to enhance the system.
- In 2019-20, mobile CAD technology was implemented for 15 fire and enforcement agencies, which represents 200 users. Ministry of Environment (Conservation Officers), Ministry of Highways (Saskatchewan Highway Patrol), Prince Albert and Moose Jaw Fire Services are actively using the systems.

#### **Strengthen Provincial Emergency Communication Centre (PECC) enablers and supports**

- The agency's PECC provides dispatch, call-taking and monitoring services to over 360 municipal fire departments and municipal and provincial public safety agencies in the province. In November, 2019, the Prince Albert Police Service transitioned their dispatch services to the provincial centre.
- In 2019-20, the Provincial Enforcement Records Management System (PRISM) went live for initial review. The system will integrate Canadian Police Information Centre data and provide accurate and timely information to frontline officers.

## **Performance Measures**

#### **Number of communities and First Nations participating in the SaskAlert program**

SaskAlert is Government's emergency public alerting program that provides critical information on emergencies in real time. Tracking the number of communities will identify program outreach, impact and room for improvement. The current number of participating communities is approximately 373.

# Progress in 2019-20 SPSA

## 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

## Agency Goal

A high-performing organization committed to excellence

## Strategy

Ensure the SPSA is a centre of excellence, providing programs and services that meet client needs

## Key Actions and Results

### **Develop and implement a business continuity planning strategy for the Government of Saskatchewan's ministries, Crowns and agencies**

- The Government of Saskatchewan must continue to provide essential services during disruptive or emergency events. Through business continuity planning, a proactive system of prevention and recovery can be established to deal with potential threats and ensure critical services are sustained.
- As the result of the December 2018 mass provincial power outage, the SPSA examined the current state of business continuity planning within the Government of Saskatchewan and recommended actions to strengthen the function so that future disruptions to government service delivery could be minimized.
- In 2019-20, the SPSA began developing and implementing a business continuity planning strategy for all government ministries, Crowns and agencies. Through this strategy, as critical services and risks are identified, the Government of Saskatchewan can better understand and plan for emergencies that will require cross-government coordination and response.

### **Provide, review and refresh external stakeholder (e.g., first responder or community partner) accreditation and training needs**

- SPSA provides communities with tools and training to better manage and mitigate any possible incidents in their jurisdictions. Training includes Incident Command System structure training, SaskAlert training, Emergency Plan Development and Emergency Operations Centre coordination training.
- In 2019-20, SPSA:
  - Delivered training courses at the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (SVFFA) fall school. Regretfully, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the spring school was cancelled.
  - Provided Incident Command System 100 training online to 1,096 participants and submitted exams for evaluation.
  - Delivered Incident Command System training levels 200 to 400 to 36 communities and organizations.
  - Delivered Wildland Fire Suppression training in four communities, with over 100 participants.

- Certified 360 firefighters in the province in various National Fire Protection Association standards.
- The agency maintains active relationships with external stakeholders to regularly provide and review accreditation and training needs. This work will continue in 2020-21.

### **Engage with Indigenous community service providers and leaders to build community safety**

- The agency is committed to supporting Indigenous leaders and their efforts to enhance public safety in their jurisdictions. Indigenous communities continue to invest in increasing their capacity to respond to emergencies and mitigate risks.
- The agency actively meets with Indigenous leaders and response agencies to ensure concerns are heard and that the response agency find ways to work closer with those communities. The SPSA employs a large number of Indigenous employees and holds firefighting contracts with tribal councils in the north.
- In 2019, several tribal councils and local Indigenous organizations assisted in Saskatchewan's support of the evacuees from Pikangikum. The event was the first of its kind for the province and a review has cited several areas for improvement.
- In February 2020, the SPSA dedicated a position for Indigenous engagement and design processes to ensure Indigenous community inclusion in planning and program development activities and to support their efforts to become service providers within the provincial response network.
- In 2019-20, the agency met with Indigenous communities and organizations on DMAF programs and projects.

## **Strategy**

Foster a safe, high-performing organization and a positive culture

### **Key Actions and Results**

#### **Develop the SPSA's new shared culture through the coordination and delivery of activities and initiatives**

- As a new agency, the SPSA brings people and functions from different ministries together. This provides an opportunity to build a high-performing organization and a culture that supports employee and organizational success.
- In 2019-20, efforts were undertaken to develop a new shared culture for agency employees welcomed into this new organization. Activities and initiatives included:
  - Developing a new organizational structure, roles and responsibilities.
  - Hosting Leadership forums to develop future state plans.
  - Holding workshops with staff to generate common culture aspirations, ideas and ways to develop and grow.
  - Creating an employee-led Culture Committee to develop values and a work plan to implement.
- The agency will undertake its first employee engagement survey in 2020-21.

#### **Identify and implement actions to promote the objectives of a Mission Zero workforce**

- The agency continues to identify and implement actions to reduce workplace injuries and promote the objectives of a Mission Zero workforce.
- In 2019-20, mandatory safety training was identified for all agency employees and supervisors and included:
  - Incident Reporting
  - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
  - Occupational Health Committee Level 2 (for supervisors)

- Critical Incident Stress Management (for supervisors)
  - Occupational Health and Safety – Supervision and Safety (for supervisors)
- Safety orientation was delivered to all new seasonal employees.
- Daily safety briefings were completed at all 17 fire bases for the 90-day field season (1,530 briefings were documented at these locations and no major deficiencies were found).
- The agency will continue to implement a best practice safety program inclusive of key success elements: employee engagement, worksite hazard analysis, employee involvement (trust, buy-in and sustainability), hazard prevention and controls, meaningful safety and health training, and management commitment (resources and visibility).

#### **Ensure employee training needs are met**

- In 2019-20, the agency:
  - Developed a training calendar for employees.
  - Identified mandatory training that included Substance Use and the Workplace, and Respect in the Workplace, for all employees.
  - Hosted Canadian Interagency National Aerial Ignition Specialist and S-420 Command and General Staff courses.
  - Updated chainsaw training and Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) Crew and Task Force Leader training.
  - Provided 382 courses of technical training. Some of the courses included: New Hire Training; Wildfire Observation and Scene Protection; ICS 200, 300 and 400; Principles of Fire Behaviour; Chainsaw Levels 1 and 2 and Recertification; Heavy Equipment Branch Director; CIFFC Wildfire Crew Leader; Intermediate Fire Behaviour; Hover Emplane/Deplane; and Aviation Fuel Testing.
- In addition, all agency staff have been encouraged to attain the ICS 100 level of Incident Command System training.

## **Performance Measure**

### **Workforce safety**

An important measure of a safe work environment is the number of injuries occurring in the workplace. The workforce injury rate aims to monitor and reduce the number of injuries sustained by employees that may or may not result in the loss of work time as reported through injury claims.

In 2019, the agency's workforce injury rate was five per cent. The agency engages in regular workplace inspections, with 90 per cent of workplaces inspected in 2019-20.

# Appendix A

## 2019-20 Fire and Wildfire Statistics

### 1. Fire Statistics — Saskatchewan Fire Losses

The agency maintains data regarding the origin, cause, circumstance and all reported fire losses in the province. The information from fire reports is used nationally, provincially and locally to assist in the development of fire safety products, training curriculum for firefighters and targeted education programs for the public. It is also used to improve fire and building codes. This information also supports inquiries from provincial and federal government ministries and departments, fire services, media, insurance personnel, police and other interested parties.

In 2019-20, a total of 953 fires were reported to the agency, with 463 of these fires impacting residential (34 per cent) and industrial/commercial (66 per cent) structures. Information regarding these fires is outlined in the tables below.

#### A. Industrial/Commercial & Residential Property Losses (over \$500,000)



#### B. Residential Fires by Ignition Source

Cause	Number of Fires Reported
Undetermined	64
Heat from powered equipment, other	15
Hot or smoldering object, other	14

Arcing	13
Heat source: other	12
Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment	7
Cigarette	7
Spark, ember or flame from operating equipment	5
Candle	4
Explosive, fireworks, other	3
Incendiary device	2
Lightning	2
Match	1
Multiple heat sources including multiple ignitions	1
Flame/torch used for lighting	1
Cigarette lighter	1
Heat spread from another fire, other	1
Chemical reaction	1
Heat from undetermined smoking material	1
Heat from direct flame, convection currents	1
Radiated heat from another fire	1
Heat from other open flame or smoking materials	1
Backfire from internal combustion engine	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>

### C. Industrial/Commercial Fires by Ignition Source

Cause	Number of Fires Reported
Undetermined	166
Heat from powered equipment, other	35
Heat source: other	21
Spark, ember or flame from operating equipment	13
Hot or smoldering object, other	13
Arcing	13
Heat, spark from friction	12
Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment	9
Hot ember or ash	3
Heat spread from another fire, other	3
Chemical, natural heat source, other	3
Heat from direct flame, convection currents	3
Molten, hot material	2
Cigarette	2
Heat from other open flame or smoking materials	2
Match	1

Flame/torch used for lighting	1
Cigarette lighter	1
Flying brand, ember or spark	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>

#### D. Total Reported Fires by Incident Type

Cause	Number of Fires Reported
Building fire	215
Grass fire	137
Passenger vehicle fire	106
Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire	96
Cooking fire, confined to container	65
Outside rubbish fire, other	32
Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	28
Road freight or transport vehicle fire	28
Fires in structures other than in a building	27
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	26
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	25
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	23
Natural vegetation fire, other	21
Special outside fire, other	16
Outside equipment fire	16
Forest, woods or wildland fire	13
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	13
Cultivated vegetation, crop fire, other	10
Cultivated grain or crop fire	8
Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence	7
Chimney or flue fire	6
Fire in motorhome, camper, recreational vehicle	6
Rail vehicle fire	6
Garbage dump or sanitary landfill fire	6
Outside storage fire	5
Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	4
Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire	3
Incinerator overload or malfunction	2
Fire in mobile propeller used as a fixed structure	1
Self-propelled motor home or recreational fix	1
Outside mailbox fire	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>953</b>

## 2. Wildfire Statistics

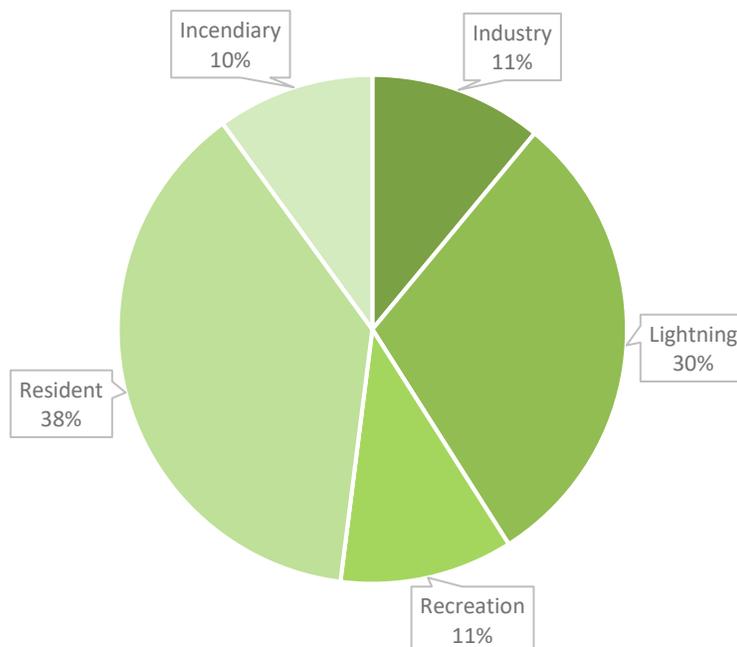
The Wildfire Statistics provide a summary of the 2019 wildfire season.

In 2019 there were 243 wildfires 171 were human-caused (70 per cent) and 72 were lightning caused (30 per cent). The ten-year average was 421 wildfires (57 per cent human-caused and 43 per cent lightning-caused). Total area burned is 47,737 hectares compared to 118,984.3 hectares for 2018. The ten-year average is 554,939 hectares. Information regarding the 2019 wildfires and historical trends are outlined in the tables below.

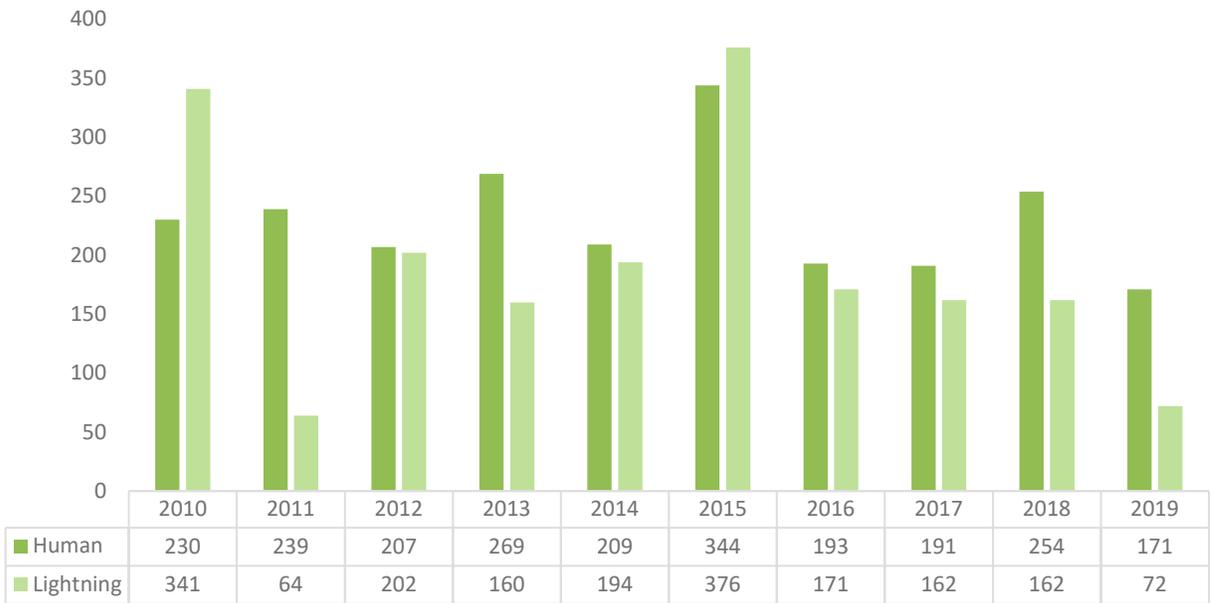
### A. Number of Wildfires by Year 2010-2019



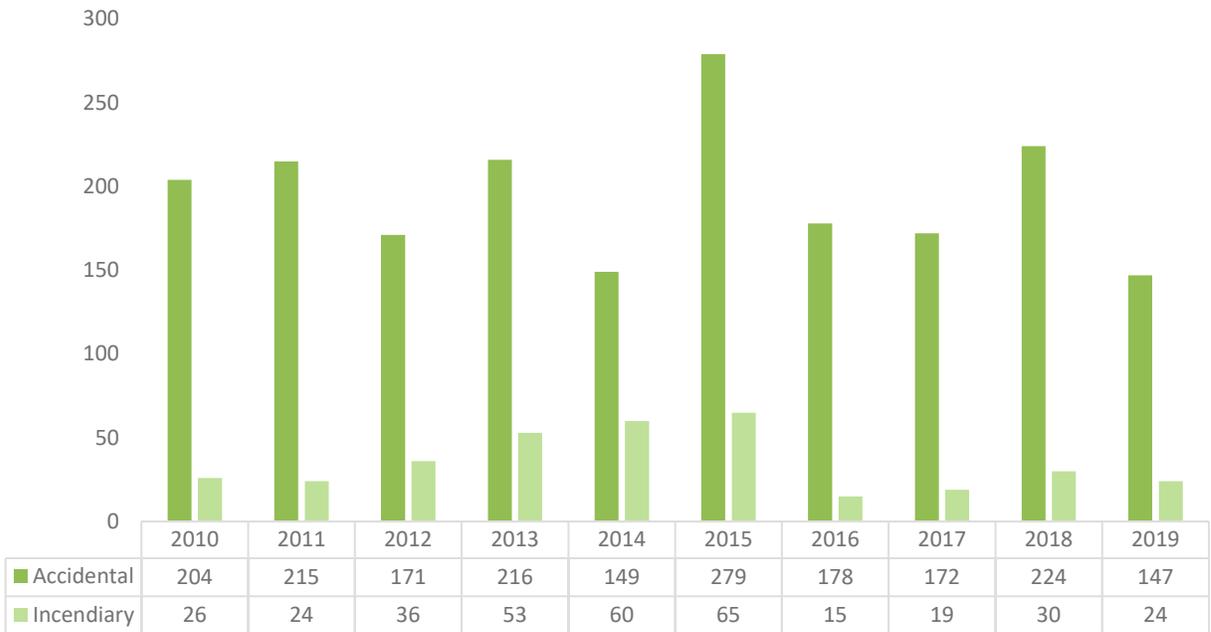
### B. Wildfire Causes — 2019



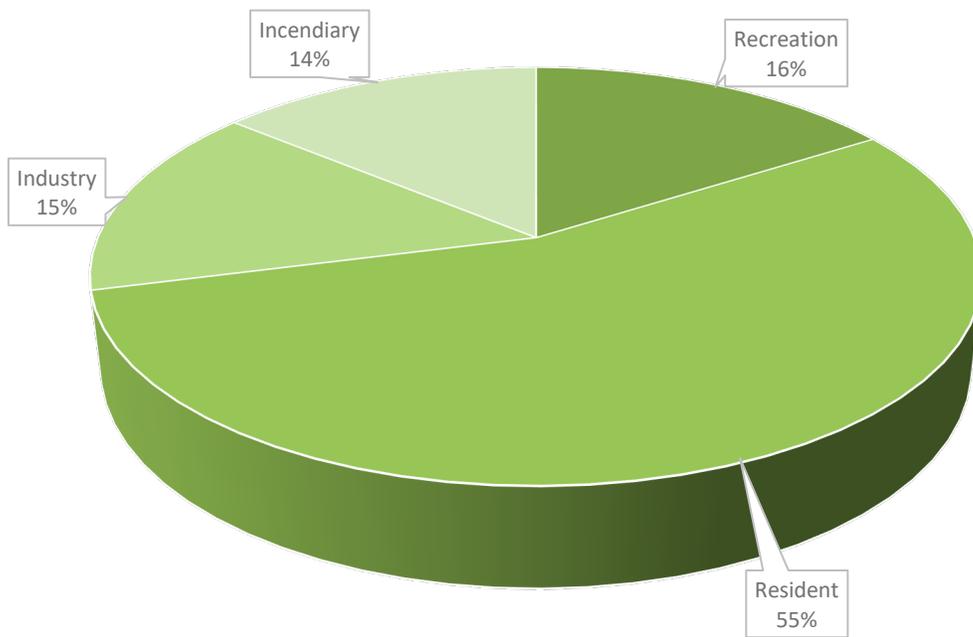
**C. Wildfire Causes: Human versus non-human (lightning) 2010-2019**



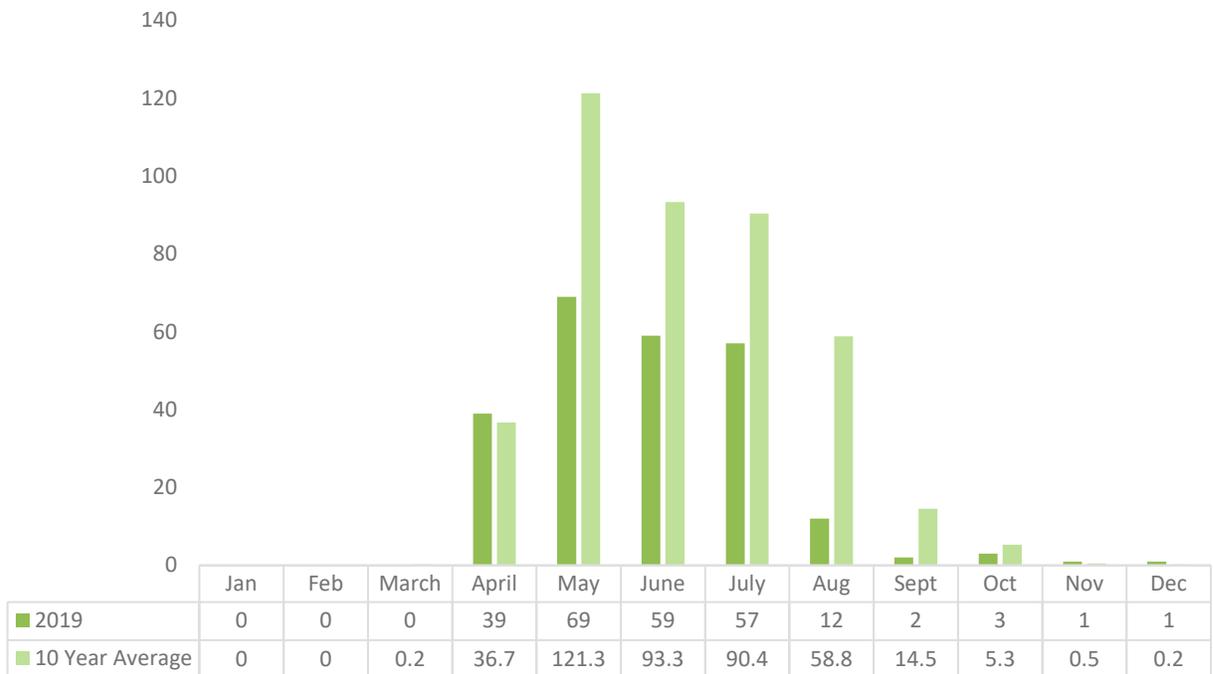
**D. Wildfire by Human Causes 2010-2019**



**E. Wildfire by Human Cause by Type 2019**



**F. 2019 Monthly Wildfire Start Compared to 10 Year Average**



*Appendix B*  
*Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency*  
*2019-20 Financial Statements*  
*(Independent Auditor's Report – See attached)*

Additional financial information can be found in the Government of Saskatchewan Public Accounts located at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/893>.



**SASKATCHEWAN PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**March 31, 2020**

## **MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The accompanying financial statements of Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting policies and making objective judgements and estimates affecting the measurement of transactions.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of financial statements and for the accounting systems from which they are derived, management maintains the necessary system of internal controls designed to provide assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and proper records are maintained.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the performance of management's financial reporting responsibilities and for the approval of these financial statements.

The Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan audited the financial statements; their report follows.



Mark Pritchard  
President



Teresa Florizone  
Vice President, Corporate Services

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020, and the statements of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency as at March 31, 2020, and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards for Treasury Board's approval, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Ferguson".

Regina, Saskatchewan  
July 27, 2020

Judy Ferguson, FCPA, FCA  
Provincial Auditor  
Office of the Provincial Auditor

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2020

(in thousands)

	<u>2020</u>
<b>Financial assets</b>	
Due from General Revenue Fund (Note 10)	\$ 12,300
Accounts receivable	<u>19,338</u>
	<u>31,638</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	7,724
Deferred revenue (Note 9)	<u>256</u>
	<u>7,980</u>
<b>Net financial assets</b>	<u>23,658</u>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>	
Capital assets (Schedule 1)	133,003
Inventory	26,074
Prepaid expenses	<u>44</u>
	<u>159,121</u>
<b>Accumulated surplus (Note 4)</b>	<u><u>\$ 182,779</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets

For the year ended March 31

(in thousands)

	<u>2020</u>
<b>Net financial assets – beginning of year</b>	\$ -
Transfer of net financial assets upon proclamation	12,309
Surplus from active operations	489
Capital asset additions	(1,397)
Amortization	12,558
(Purchase) of prepaid expenses	(44)
(Purchase) of inventory	<u>(257)</u>
<b>Net financial assets – end of year</b>	<u>\$ 23,658</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

For the year ended March 31

(in thousands)	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020</b>
	(Note 13)	
<b>Revenue</b>		
Grants – Province of Saskatchewan		
Operating	\$ 500	\$ 22,954
Capital	-	3,850
Sask911 System Fund (Note 4)	-	6,000
Grants – Government of Canada – DMAF	-	651
Recoverable services	-	5,775
Sask911 System – recoverable services	-	1,217
Interest	-	76
	<u>500</u>	<u>40,523</u>
<b>Expense</b>		
Salaries and benefits	500	9,922
Operating costs	-	11,906
Municipal emergency relief	-	60
Sask911 System Fund	-	5,588
Amortization	-	12,558
	<u>500</u>	<u>40,034</u>
<b>Surplus from active operations</b>	-	489
<b>Transfer of net assets upon proclamation</b>		
Ministry of Environment (Note 3)	-	156,855
Ministry of Government Relations (Note 3)	-	25,435
	<u>-</u>	<u>182,290</u>
<b>Annual surplus and accumulated surplus – end of year (Note 4)</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 182,779</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31

(in thousands)

**2020**

Cash provided by (used in)

### Operating activities

Surplus from active operations	\$ 489
Amortization	12,558
(Increase) in accounts receivable	(4,155)
(Increase) in prepaid expense	(44)
(Increase) in inventory	(257)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,850
Increase in unearned revenue	256
	<u>13,697</u>

### Investing activities

Capital asset additions	<u>(1,397)</u>
-------------------------	----------------

**Increase in cash equivalent** 12,300

**Cash equivalent – beginning of year** -

**Cash equivalent - end of year** \$ 12,300

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

### NOTE 1. Description of operations

On November 16, 2017, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) was established as an entity by Bill 169, *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act, 2019*. The SPSA is a Treasury Board Crown Agency responsible for provincial emergency management, fire safety and wildfire management in the province, and managing Saskatchewan's 911 emergency dispatching services.

SPSA's purpose is to:

- provide support services to public safety service providers and any other persons, agencies or bodies engaged in public safety matters;
- provide for the development, implementation, delivery and operation of emergency management and wildfire management services;
- plan, manage, deliver, coordinate and prioritize emergency management and wildfire management services as needed, including information technology, programs, services, infrastructure and support services;
- identify and advise on issues, opportunities and planning options related to emergencies, emergency management, wildfire management and other public safety services;
- work with the Government of Canada, the government of any other province or territory of Canada, municipalities, Indigenous peoples, industry, the government of any other country or any jurisdiction within that country, and any other persons involved or associated with the objects and purpose of SPSA;
- promote, undertake and coordinate research, data collection, investigations, surveys, studies, programs and activities relating to emergencies, disasters, emergency management and wildfire management services in Saskatchewan;
- keep or cause to be kept records of all emergencies to which a public safety service provider in Saskatchewan responded, including the cause, origin and circumstances of each emergency and other information respecting each response that SPSA considers appropriate;
- acquire, develop, manage or otherwise improve assets and infrastructure as required to deliver emergency management and wildfire management services.

Upon proclamation, emergency services transferred to SPSA on July 7, 2019 and wildfire operations transferred effective November 10, 2019. These financial statements report operating activities from the date of proclamation to the fiscal year end.

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

### NOTE 2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards for provincial reporting entities established by the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Board. These financial statements do not include a Statement of Remeasurement Gains or Losses as the SPSA has no activities that give rise to measurement gains or losses.

#### *Revenue recognition*

Government transfers are recognized as revenue in the period during which the transfer is authorized and eligibility criteria are met, except when and to the extent that the transfer stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability.

Revenue from the sale of goods and services are recognized in the period earned or received.

#### *Contaminated Sites*

Obligations for contaminated sites are recorded net of any expected recoveries as accounts payable and accrued liabilities, using the SPSA's best estimate of the amount required to remediate sites for which the SPSA is responsible for.

#### *Capital assets*

Capital assets owned by the Agency are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided on the straight-line basis over the following periods:

Buildings and land improvements	15 to 50 years
Water Infrastructure	40 years
Heavy equipment	20 years
Operating Equipment	10 years
Aircraft	20 years
Vehicles	10 years
Systems and information technology	10 years
Work in progress	0 years

#### *Use of estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from the estimates.

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

### NOTE 2. Significant accounting policies - continued

#### *Financial instruments – Recognition and measurement*

All financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value. The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount of consideration that would be agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act. The carrying amount of these instruments approximates fair value due to their short-term nature.

#### *Non-financial assets*

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the ordinary course of operations.

### NOTE 3. Restructuring transactions

In 2019, emergency management and wildfire management services and responsibilities were transferred to SPSA. The restructuring of these programs transferred the assets and liabilities of the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network and Emergency Management and Fire Safety Program from the Ministry of Government Relations, and the Wildfire Management Services from the Ministry of Environment, to SPSA.

(in thousands)	Ministry of Environment	Ministry of Government Relations	Total
<b>Transfer</b>			
Net financial assets	\$ 11,401	\$ 908	\$ 12,309
Non-financial assets	145,454	24,527	\$169,981
	<u>\$ 156,855</u>	<u>\$ 25,435</u>	<u>\$182,290</u>

### NOTE 4. Accumulated surplus

The accumulated surplus represents grants received and designated by SPSA for specific purposes. Restricted operating funding totaling \$6.0 million was received for the specific purpose of sustaining the Sask911 System Fund, of which \$412,000 remains. Capital funding received in the previous year is carried forward and designated for the purpose of investing in capital assets.

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

### NOTE 4. Accumulated surplus - continued

Accumulated surplus is designated as follows:

(in thousands)	2020
	<hr/>
Sask911 System Fund (restricted)	\$ 412
Invested in capital assets	133,003
Unrestricted	49,364
	<hr/>
	\$ 182,779
	<hr/> <hr/>

### NOTE 5. Contractual rights

The Agency has contractual rights arising from contracts entered into for the delivery of emergency services communications.

At March 31, 2020, the Agency has the following contractual rights over the next five years:

(in thousands)	Year ended March 31, 2021	\$ 4,770
	2022	4,853
	2023	4,828
	2024	4,817
	2025	3,820
	thereafter	19,069
		<hr/>
		\$ 42,157
		<hr/> <hr/>

### NOTE 6. Contractual obligations

The Agency has entered into a number of multi-year contracts for the delivery of services. These contractual obligations will become liabilities in the future when the terms of the contracts are satisfied. Disclosure relates to the future performance of the contracts.

At March 31, 2020, the Agency has the following contractual commitments over the next five years:

(in thousands)	Year ended March 31, 2021	\$ 23,104
	2022	23,379
	2023	24,197
	2024	11,494
	2025	9,802
	thereafter	30,478
		<hr/>
		\$ 122,454
		<hr/> <hr/>

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

### NOTE 7. Contaminated sites liability

The Agency is liable for site contamination where the contamination of soils exceeds environmental standards. Contamination is assessed by an environmental engineer with an estimated cost of \$240,000.

### NOTE 8. Contingent liabilities

The Agency has an outstanding grievance in which damages have been sought. These matters may give rise to future liabilities. Disclosure of the extent of the potential liability is not provided as disclosure may have an adverse effect on the outcome.

### NOTE 9. Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue is comprised of dispatching service fees received for which services will be delivered after March 31, 2020. These amounts are included in income when the revenue is earned.

### NOTE 10. Related party transactions

Included in these financial statements are revenues and expenditures resulting from routine operating transactions with related parties. These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are recorded at fair value. Restructuring transactions with related parties (note 3) are not included below as they are not a routine transaction and are separately disclosed. The Agency had the following significant transactions with related parties:

(in thousands)	2020
Revenues	\$ 34,054
Expenses	\$ 5,562

At the end of the year, the statement of financial position includes accounts receivable from related parties:

(in thousands)	2020
Ministry of Central Services	\$ 1,000
Ministry of Environment	2,307
Ministry of Finance	100
SaskPower	6,026
	<u>\$ 9,433</u>

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended March 31, 2020

### NOTE 10. Related party transactions - continued

At the end of the year, the statement of financial position includes accounts payable to related parties:

(in thousands)	2020
eHealth Saskatchewan	\$ 21
Ministry of Central Services	4
Ministry of Government Relations	4
Ministry of Social Services	1,329
SaskPower	287
	<u>\$ 1,645</u>

At the end of the year a balance of \$12,300,000 is due from the General Revenue Fund.

### NOTE 11. Financial risk management policy

The Agency is exposed to various risks through financial instruments. The Agency's financial instruments and the nature of the risk which they may be subject to are as per the following descriptions.

#### Credit risk

The Agency determines amounts receivable based on collectability. Credit risk on receivables from related parties and other public sector entities is considered low and no allowances have been made.

#### Liquidity risk

The Agency manages its liquidity risk through monitoring projected and actual cash flows and accounts receivable management. Obligations are managed and settled upon receipt of grants or service revenues.

### NOTE 12. Pension plan

The Agency makes contributions to a defined contribution plan. Payments to the defined contribution plan were \$1,518,049 and are included in salaries and benefits in the Statement of Operations.

### NOTE 13. Budget figures

The budget figures are presented for comparison purposes.

# **Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended March 31, 2020

### **NOTE 14. Guarantees**

In the normal course of business, the Agency enters into agreements that meet the definition of a guarantee. The Agency has entered into agreements that include indemnities in favour of third parties such as confidentiality agreements, engagement letters with consultants, and other various service and purchase agreements. The Agency has not incurred any costs as a result of any such suits, actions, or agreements. The maximum amounts of potential future payment, if any, cannot be reasonably estimated and no amounts have been recorded in the financial statements.

### **NOTE 15. Comparative figures**

Comparative figures are not presented due to this being the first year of operations for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.

### **NOTE 16. Subsequent events**

The COVID-19 pandemic is complex and rapidly evolving. It has caused material disruption to businesses and has resulted in an economic slowdown. The SPSA continues to assess and monitor the impact of COVID-19 on its financial condition. The magnitude and duration of COVID-19 is uncertain and, accordingly, it is difficult to reliably measure the potential impact on the SPSA's financial position and operations.

# Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

## Schedule 1 – Capital assets

(in thousands)

	Land, Buildings & Improvements	Infrastructure	Water Infrastructure	Operating & Heavy Equipment	Vehicles & Aircraft	Systems & Information Technology	Work In Progress	2020 Total
<b>Cost</b>								
Opening Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers on proclamation	11,196	44,184	108	17,248	164,785	5,220	9,768	252,509
Transfer during year	428	-	-	-	-	-	(428)	-
Additions	-	220	-	62	-	-	1,115	1,397
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing Balance	11,624	44,404	108	17,310	164,785	5,220	10,455	253,906
<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>								
Opening Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers on proclamation	3,357	21,890	26	10,222	71,678	1,172	-	108,345
Amortization	328	2,956	3	892	7,895	484	-	12,558
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing Balance	3,685	24,846	29	11,114	79,573	1,656	-	120,903
	\$ 7,939	\$ 19,558	\$ 79	\$ 6,196	\$ 85,212	\$ 3,564	\$ 10,455	\$ 133,003

*Appendix C*  
*Sask911 2019-20 Financial Statements*  
*(Independent Auditor's Report – See attached)*



Financial Statements of  
**SASK911 ACCOUNT**  
For the year ended March 31, 2020

# SaskTel / Sask911 Annual Report

(Fiscal year April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020)

*The Emergency 911 System Act* was proclaimed in 1996 and provided the legislative authority for development and implementation of Provincial Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1) service. The Sask911 system utilizes SaskTel's CRTC regulated Provincial E9-1-1 Service infrastructure for 9-1-1 call routing, and SaskTel's customer billing systems for billing the call taking fee to SaskTel's customers. Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Wireless Service Providers are responsible for billing the call taking fee to their end customers and remitting the fees to SaskTel to deposit into the Sask911 Account.

On June 1, 2017, the CRTC released policy 2017-182, Next-generation 9-1-1 – Modernizing 9-1-1 networks to meet the Public safety needs of Canadians. As telecommunication networks evolve to Internet Protocol (IP) technology, it is expected that 9-1-1 calls will be able to use the enhanced technologies to enable enhanced 9-1-1 call features. Examples of this may include the ability to stream video or send pictures of an accident or send personal medical information to aid emergency responders.

The modernization of the 9-1-1 networks will require co-ordination and collaboration between multiple stakeholders, including federal, provincial, municipal governments, Sask911, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and emergency responder organizations.

SaskTel, as the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), will be responsible to construct, operate and maintain the NG9-1-1 network for Saskatchewan. While the CRTC does not regulate Sask911 or PSAPs, they are asking them for a leadership role in the coordination, funding, development of PSAP standards and public education to prepare PSAPs to transition to NG9-1-1.

## **SaskTel's Goals for Sask911 and Future Direction**

Key areas of activity:

- Establishing and executing work plans to achieve CRTC mandated delivery dates for NG9-1-1 implementation and decommissioning of existing legacy 9-1-1 networks. These delivery dates are defined and directed by CRTC Telecom Regulatory Policy 2017-182 titled "Next Generation 9-1-1 – Modernizing 9-1-1 networks to meet the public safety needs of Canadians"
- Informing Sask911 of evolving NG9-1-1 requirements to assist them with transition and preparation plans to meet National Emergency Number Association (NENA) interconnection and security standards and to ensure NG9-1-1 compliancy
- Continue active participation in discussions impacting the development of the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) framework via the Emergency Services Working Group. These discussions are facilitated through regularly scheduled national task identification forum (TIF forum) meetings which formulate reports and recommendations to the CRTC on various components of the new NG9-1-1 networks to ensure national uniformity across all NG9-1-1 stakeholders.
- Oversee billing, collection, and administrative activities for Sask911 call taking fees which are mandated to be collected and submitted by all telecommunications service providers operating within the province of Saskatchewan.





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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To The Members of the Legislative Assembly, Province of Saskatchewan

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Sask911 Account ("the Account") which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020
  - the statement of operations and net assets for the year then ended
  - the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
  - and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies
- (Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Account as at March 31, 2020, and the results of the operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards (PSAS).

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "*Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Account in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with PSAS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Account's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Account or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

*Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Account's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Account's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Account to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



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- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**KPMG LLP**

Chartered Professional Accountants

Regina, Canada

June 19, 2020

**Sask911 Account**

**Statement of Financial Position**  
As at March 31

	2020	2019
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 5,168,368	\$ 2,989,784
Accounts receivable	1,948,573	1,914,739
Interest receivable	6,147	4,956
	<u>\$ 7,123,088</u>	<u>\$ 4,909,479</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 2,168,622
	<u>\$ 7,123,088</u>	<u>\$ 2,740,857</u>

See accompanying notes.

On behalf of the Account by the manager, SaskTel



Officer



Officer

## Sask911 Account

### Statement of Operations and Net Assets For the year ended March 31

	2020	2019
<b>Revenues</b>		
Sask911 fees - Wireline and Wireless	\$ 14,667,275	\$ 15,090,143
Interest income	87,907	78,656
	<u>14,755,182</u>	<u>15,168,799</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Public safety answering points	8,092,423	11,819,308
Central co-ordination	2,280,528	5,655,948
	<u>10,372,951</u>	<u>17,475,256</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	4,382,231	(2,306,457)
<b>Net financial assets, beginning of year</b>	2,740,857	5,047,314
<b>Net financial assets, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 7,123,088</u>	<u>\$ 2,740,857</u>

See accompanying notes.

**Sask911 Account**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

For the year ended March 31

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	2020	2019
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<b>Cash provided by (used in):</b>		
Operating activities		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 4,382,231	\$ (2,306,457)
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(33,834)	(276,168)
Interest receivable	(1,191)	3,015
Accounts payable	(2,168,622)	16,336
<hr/>		
Increase (decrease) in cash	2,178,584	(2,563,274)
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	2,989,784	5,553,058
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 5,168,368</b>	<b>\$ 2,989,784</b>

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See accompanying notes.

# **SASK911 ACCOUNT**

## **Notes to Financial Statements**

**March 31, 2020**

### **1. STATUS OF THE SASK911 ACCOUNT**

*The Emergency 911 System Act* (Chapter E – 7.3 of the Statutes of Saskatchewan) (“the Act”) provides for the development, implementation and operation of an Emergency 911 system in the Province, known as The Sask911 System.

Section 45.1 of the SaskTel Act established the Sask911 Account (“the Account”). *The Sask911 Fees Regulations, 2003* (Chapter S - 34 Reg 5 as amended by Saskatchewan Regulations 37/2010, 196/2010, 120/2017, and 549/2017), requires all telecommunication operators providing services in Saskatchewan to bill their connected customers prescribed Sask911 fees and to remit these fees to Saskatchewan Telecommunications (“SaskTel”) for deposit into the Account. SaskTel manages the Account.

Section 7 of the Act provides that the Minister responsible directs SaskTel to make payments out of the Account for the purposes of implementing the Act or exercising any of the Minister’s powers.

### **2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting (PSA) standards, issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA).

#### **Revenue recognition**

Wireline and wireless Sask911 fees from Saskatchewan Telecommunications are recorded on the accrual basis. Sask911 fees from other service providers are recorded based on amounts reported by the other service providers for the reporting period.

#### **Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian PSA standards, require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The inherent uncertainty involved in making such estimates and assumptions may impact the actual results reported in future periods.

**SASK911 ACCOUNT**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**March 31, 2020**

**3. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

These financial statements include transactions with related parties. The Fund is related to all Government of Saskatchewan ministries, agencies, boards, and crown corporations under common control of the Government of Saskatchewan (collectively referred to as "related parties"). Included in these financial statements are transactions with various Saskatchewan Crown Corporations, ministries, agencies, boards and commissions subject to common control by the Government of Saskatchewan, non-Crown corporations and enterprises subject to joint control by the Government of Saskatchewan and investee corporations accounted for under the equity method (collectively referred to as "related parties").

Routine operating transactions with related parties were conducted in the normal course of business and were accounted for at the exchange amount. These transactions and amounts outstanding at year end are as follows:

	2020	2019
Expenses	\$ 2,230,987	\$ 4,531,561
Accounts payable	-	1,128,982
Revenues	9,854,611	10,073,341
Accounts receivable	811,490	828,460

In addition, the Sask911 Account pays Saskatchewan Provincial Sales Tax to the Ministry of Finance on all its taxable purchases. Taxes paid are recorded as part of the cost of those purchases.

**4. FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

The carrying amounts of cash, accounts receivable, interest receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value due to the short-term nature of these financial assets and liabilities.

**5. BUDGET**

The Sask911 Account does not have a formal budget prepared and approved and therefore this information is not presented in these financial statements.

# Appendix A: Payee Report

## SUPPLIERS AND OTHER PAYMENTS

Individual payees are reported where the sum of payments to them total at least \$50,000.

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Remuneration (\$)</b>
Brown Communications Group.....	91,083
Canadian Public Safety Operations Organization.....	6,966,422
City of Regina.....	585,468
City of Saskatoon.....	540,533
ESRI Canada.....	283,220
Information Services Corporation.....	201,843
Intergraph Canada Ltd.....	529,782
Minister of Finance.....	673,998
Saskatchewan Research Council.....	60,000
SaskTel.....	1,295,147