

# Ministry of Government Relations



## Plan for 2021-22

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# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Don McMorris*

*Minister of Government Relations  
Minister Responsible for First  
Nations, Métis, and Northern  
Affairs  
Minister Responsible for the  
Provincial Capital Commission*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Government Relations Operational Plan for 2021-22.

Government Direction and Budget 2021-22 is focused on protecting Saskatchewan people through the remainder of the pandemic, building the infrastructure that a strong economy needs, and growing Saskatchewan to help ensure a strong economic recovery.

The ministry is committed to working with federal, municipal, and Indigenous stakeholders to improve the quality of life for all people in Saskatchewan. Many of our objectives for 2021-22 reflect those in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan, which will ensure a strong Saskatchewan today, tomorrow, and for years to come.

As we continue to work together to meet the challenges of COVID-19, the ministry will support our province's economy by providing infrastructure funds to municipalities. This will create jobs for Saskatchewan residents while helping local governments better serve their citizens through key infrastructure projects.

We will continue working with municipalities and municipal associations to improve local governance across Saskatchewan. In 2021-22, municipalities will be asked to declare their eligibility, based on legislative requirements, to receive their Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant. The ministry will support municipal officials in meeting these requirements to ensure they receive the funds they need while also promoting accountability and transparency.

Throughout the coming year, the ministry will continue to support First Nations and Métis people and work to facilitate Indigenous participation in Saskatchewan's economy. This includes providing emergency support to First Nations and Métis organizations that receive funding from casino profits, promoting collaboration among neighbouring communities and municipalities and continuing Treaty land entitlement negotiations.

The ministry will report on progress made toward these key actions in our 2021-22 Annual Report.

# Response to Government Direction

Protect. Build. Grow. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to protecting Saskatchewan people through the rest of the pandemic as life returns to normal and our economy grows. Investing in infrastructure like hospitals, schools, and highways will help build a strong economy and create jobs for strong families, strong communities, and a better quality of life.

## 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."*



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2021-22 annual reports.

# Operational Plan

## Mandate Statement

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

## Mission Statement

Government Relations is dedicated to working with our stakeholders to support and invest in municipal, First Nations, and Métis communities through the effective and efficient delivery of programs and services aimed at fostering good governance, a strong economy, respecting Treaty and Aboriginal rights, and resident safety.

## Government Goals



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

## Ministry Goal

Citizens live in safe and well-governed communities.

## Ministry Goal

Our partnerships deliver on shared goals.

## Ministry Goal

First Nations and Métis fully share in Saskatchewan's benefits and opportunities.

## Strategy

Invest in evolving government and community priorities.

## Key Actions

- Administer municipal infrastructure investments provided through provincial, federal and federal-provincial programs, including the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant Program, Gas Tax Program and Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program.
- Support municipalities to make progress on their asset management plans through the renewed Gas Tax Program.
- Partner with municipal associations to administer the Targeted Sector Support Initiative, which provides a portion of municipal revenue sharing to support programs, projects and initiatives directed at good governance, legislative compliance, and increased inter-municipal and regional co-operation.
- Invest in community-level First Nations and Métis projects aimed at building strong communities.
- Sponsor First Nations and Métis community events that promote intercultural understanding and reconciliation.
- Distribute emergency pandemic support to First Nations and Métis organizations that typically receive gaming payments.



## Strategy

Improve legislation, regulations, and policies.

### Key Actions

- Provide policy leadership, analysis, and advice on the impacts of policy or program initiatives on First Nations and Métis people.
- Continue to promote good governance by evaluating and evolving legislation, regulations, and policy regarding local government elections.
- Reduce citizen obstacles in complying with technical safety requirements by completing the transition of plumbing inspection services to the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan.
- Reduce interprovincial barriers to trade by aligning building and construction standards.
- Conduct a red tape review on the consolidation of The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Regulations and The Building and Accessibility Standards Administration Regulations to accompany the proposed *Construction Codes Act*.
- Support the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority in their review of the Gaming Framework Agreement.

## Strategy

Enhance client-centered service delivery.

### Key Actions

- Continue to deliver efficient advisory services that assist municipalities in meeting their legislated responsibilities.
- Introduce the online subdivision application process to efficiently complete subdivision reviews that facilitate economic growth and safe development.
- Govern and provide municipal services to residents living in the north's unorganized areas by acting as local council for the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.
- Build awareness of the province's legal obligations related to Treaty Land Entitlement and Duty to Consult.

## Strategy

Strengthen stakeholder and partner relationships.

### Key Actions

- Negotiate new Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements with Canada and First Nations that support the acquisition of new reserve land.
- Implement newly amended haul rates and other regulatory changes for road maintenance agreements that balance municipal and industry interests.
- Enhance partnerships between government, industry, agencies and First Nations and Métis communities which support community wellness and vitality in the north.
- Strengthen Saskatchewan's engagement with First Nations and Métis residents, and representative organizations.
- Continue to work with our partners to ensure the fairness of the provincial property assessment and tax system by:
  - Supporting the implementation of the 2021 property tax revaluation;
  - Working with the municipal sector to renew the approach to the first level of property assessment appeals; and,
  - Supporting Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency's review of oil and gas assessment methodology.
- Work with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and municipal sector associations to increase local capacity and support regional planning efforts through education.



## Performance Measures

### **Percentage of municipalities that meet eligibility requirements for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant Program**

Municipal revenue sharing support is intended to better municipal services, such as improved transportation, public transit and protective services, and improved citizens' health and safety.

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

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

### **Percentage of the population covered by building bylaws**

Building bylaws help to ensure people live and work in safe buildings. Ongoing efforts by the ministry and inter-ministry and agency co-ordination will increase municipalities' implementation of building bylaws approved under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.

### **Number of acres transferred to reserve status through land claim agreements**

Collaborate with the federal government and First Nations to implement 33 Treaty Land Entitlement and 23 specific claim settlement agreements that allow First Nations to acquire additional reserve land. This measure demonstrates the province's progress towards meeting its commitments under these agreements. Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is also demonstrated through negotiation and implementation of these agreements.





## Government Goals



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

## Ministry Goal

A team that demonstrates our commitment to excellence.

## Strategy

Support a knowledgeable, skilled workforce.

### Key Actions

- Fill gaps in professional skills and competencies.
- Improve promotion and delivery of learning and development opportunities.

## Strategy

Promote a safe, inclusive, and accountable culture.

### Key Actions

- Improve promotion and delivery of opportunities targeted at health, safety, and wellness.
- Improve workplace practices that overcome real and perceived barriers to diversity and inclusion.

## Strategy

Improve and leverage information and technology.

### Key Actions

- Continue to work towards a digital interface to support service delivery and information sharing.
- Improve information management throughout the ministry.

## Performance Measures

### Average of the ministry's employee engagement and values scores

Employee engagement levels and their commitment to Government of Saskatchewan's core values are measured every two years via survey. Measuring our scores over time enables the ministry to identify strengths that can be leveraged and improvement opportunities in both areas.

### Average of the employment targets for designated equity groups

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission provides employment targets for four designated equity groups to which the ministry strives to meet. Improving workforce diversity supports our strategy of a safe, inclusive, and accountable culture.



# Highlights

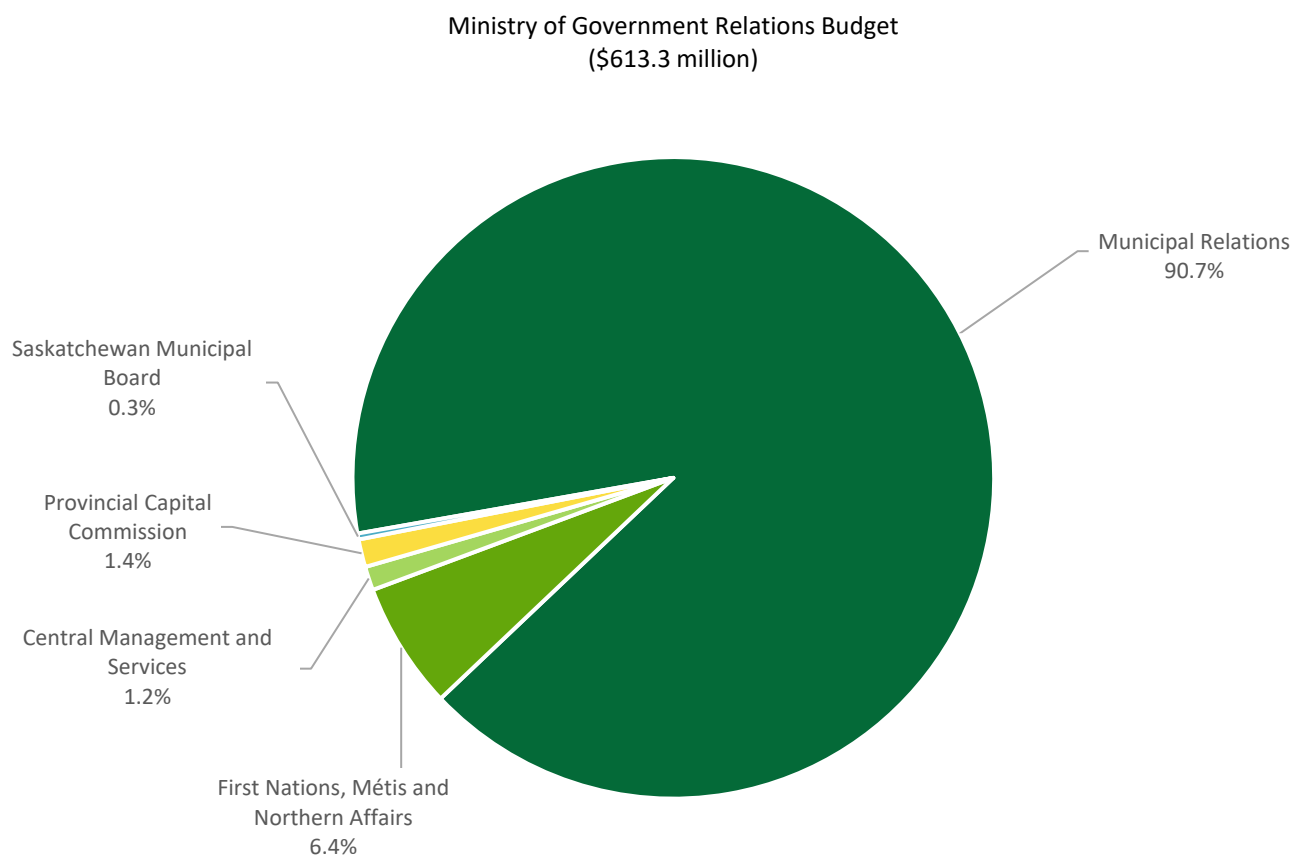
## 2021-22 Budget Highlights:

- \$275.7 million for municipal revenue sharing funding, consisting of:
  - \$176.7 million to urban municipalities;
  - \$78.6 million to rural municipalities; and,
  - \$20.4 million to northern municipalities.
- \$244.6 million for municipal infrastructure programs, consisting of:
  - \$173.6 million to meet project commitments under infrastructure programs, including:
    - \$123.9 million under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program; and,
    - \$49.7 million under the New Building Canada Fund.
  - \$69.5 million in flow-through municipal infrastructure funding provided by the Gas Tax Program.
  - \$0.8 million for Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities.
  - \$0.7 million for Communities in Transition under Rural Revenue Sharing.
- \$35.0 million for emergency pandemic support to First Nations and Métis organizations.
- \$7.9 million to support the Provincial Capital Commission.
- \$0.7 million to support the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts.

# Financial Summary

Ministry of Government Relations 2021-22 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$7,596
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	\$1,888
Municipal Relations	\$556,025
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs	\$39,173
Provincial Capital Commission	\$8,597
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$613,279</b>
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$70
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$613,349</b>

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



## For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/governmentrelations>