

Business Plan

2022-23

MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Saskatchewan! 

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 Business Plan for 2022-23.

Our ministry is committed to working with our partners at the federal, municipal and community level to improve the quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents.

In 2022-23, we will focus on building a better Saskatchewan. Many of our key actions for this year aim to strengthen our economy and communities across the province.

This includes investing in essential infrastructure projects to stimulate local economies and supporting communities through Municipal Revenue Sharing, which align with goals outlined in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan.

Government Relations will continue to support initiatives that promote good governance and municipal transparency, and review key pieces of legislation that guide our municipal partners.

The ministry will also continue investing in First Nations and Métis communities. We will resume gaming payments affected by casino closures due to the pandemic, and we will provide additional funding for economic, social and cultural projects led by Indigenous organizations.

By working together, we will strengthen and protect Saskatchewan for all who live and work in our great province.

The ministry will report on progress made toward these key actions in our 2022-23 Annual Report.

2022-23 Budget Highlights

1	\$262.6 million for unconditional grants to municipalities through the Municipal Revenue Sharing program. This fulfills the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to develop a predictable and sustainable revenue stream for municipalities.
2	\$267.1 million to support community infrastructure projects through federal-provincial and federal-only programs. These projects grow our economy and improve quality of life for Saskatchewan residents.
3	\$61.5 million that resumes gaming grant payments to First Nations and Métis organizations to support Indigenous-led social and economic initiatives in Saskatchewan.
4	\$800 thousand to support community-led Indigenous projects, including \$400 thousand to address issues raised in the National Action Plan for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
5	\$400 thousand for the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund to support First Nation and Métis communities to meaningfully engage in consultations arising from the duty to consult.

Response to Government Direction

Saskatchewan is back on track. The Government of Saskatchewan is protecting and strengthening our province, carefully managing spending while investing in priority programs and services and into a strong and growing economy. Government is helping build a better Saskatchewan, investing in needed infrastructure – hospitals, schools, highways and municipal and crown capital projects.

Saskatchewan's financial picture is improving, with a fiscal plan to return the budget to balance. The resurgent economy helps ensure the services, programs and infrastructure Saskatchewan people value are sustainable today and into the future. Saskatchewan is back on track.

Saskatchewan's Vision

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

>> Government Goals

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 2022-23 annual reports.

Mandate

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

Government Relations is dedicated to working with our partners and 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 promoting resident safety.

Goal 1: Citizens live in safe and well-governed communities

Strong local governments lead to strong communities. Municipalities are on the front lines of Saskatchewan communities, and their work and decisions are closely connected to the high quality of life enjoyed by many in our province. Government Relations works to support local governments with investments and tools to serve their residents, stimulate the local economy, and partner with neighbouring communities, which leads to a vibrant and healthy Saskatchewan for all.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Draft effective legislation, regulations, codes, standards, and frameworks that define and support municipal decisions and responsibilities.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Review select municipal legislation and regulations for potential policy and process improvements, as well as measures to support more community collaboration, efficiency and economic competitiveness.
- Develop and distribute information and materials for building owners, industry, municipalities, building officials and other code users to ensure a smooth transition to *The Construction Codes Act*.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Improve municipal transparency and accountability.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Deliver municipal advisory and community planning services to assist municipalities in meeting their legislated responsibilities.
- Create the Assessment Appeals Registrar and facilitate board of revision training and certification ahead of the 2023 property tax year to ensure fair, consistent and effective property assessment appeal hearings.
- Engage stakeholders to develop meaningful and appropriate municipal public accounts requirements.
- Review compliance of program requirements for provincially administered grants to municipalities.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Improve essential community infrastructure and services.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Administer community infrastructure investments through provincial, federal and provincial-federal programs, including the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Canada Community-Building Fund (previously Gas Tax Fund) and Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program.
- Invest \$1.5 million in the Targeted Sector Support Initiative in partnership with municipal associations to encourage inter-community collaboration, help build capacity and promote good governance.
- Govern and provide municipal services to northerners living in the unorganized areas in the north by acting as Council for the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.
- Review and approve community planning bylaws and subdivisions to support critical infrastructure and services.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

- Percentage of municipalities that meet eligibility requirements for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant Program.
- Percentage of municipalities that comply with key governance and safety-related requirements.
- Number of approved and completed infrastructure projects.

Goal 2: First Nations and Métis fully share in Saskatchewan's benefits and opportunities

Indigenous peoples are a vital part of our society. It is important they fully share in the benefits and opportunities that are available in our Province. Government Relations works toward this goal by building strong partnerships with First Nations and Métis communities, organizations and other partners. This includes inviting First Nations and Métis engagement in our policies and programs, supporting First Nation and Métis community leaders, and continuing to honour our commitments on their rights and priorities.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Engage First Nations and Métis communities and Government partners to improve policies and programs.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Engage leaders of First Nation and Métis communities, organizations and industry for suggestions to improve the First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework.
- Support the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority in the five year review of the Gaming Framework Agreement.
- Connect northern communities to the mining industry through the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee, and through employment and business initiatives.
- Support and advise ministries on Indigenous issues and approaches.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Respond to priorities identified by First Nations and Métis community leaders.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Invest \$800 thousand for the First Nations and Métis Sponsorships and Community Engagement Projects fund, with \$400 thousand in grants dedicated to projects focusing on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Support the Embracing Life Initiative to address suicide through several northern initiatives such as training for youth leadership, highlighting northern success stories, and providing tools to strengthen resilience and mental health.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Honour Government's commitments.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Invest \$400 thousand in the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund to provide financial assistance for First Nation and Métis communities to meaningfully engage in consultations arising from the duty to consult.
- Resume gaming payments based on the Gaming Framework Agreement and *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act*, which had been affected by casino closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Negotiate new and implement existing Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements with Canada and First Nations that support the acquisition of new reserve land.

Performance Measures: What success looks like

- Number of acres transferred to reserve status through land claim agreements.
- Number of grants provided under the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund.
- Amount of funding provided through gaming payments based on the Gaming Framework Agreement and *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act*.
- Number of projects approved for grants under the First Nations and Métis Sponsorships, Community Partnerships Projects, and the fund for addressing issues raised by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Goal 3: The Government Relations team demonstrates the commitment to excellence

A strong public service supports strong Saskatchewan communities. Government Relations works to uphold the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to excellence by promoting innovation and collaboration in our work with partners, working transparently and efficiently, and investing in opportunities to better understand and serve all Saskatchewan citizens.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support learning to work and engage with partners in a changing technology environment.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Co-ordinate learning opportunities across the ministry to increase familiarity with digital tools and fill gaps in professional competencies.
- Continue work on the online subdivision and community planning bylaws application process to efficiently complete subdivision reviews that facilitate economic growth and safe development.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support reconciliation within the Ministry of Government Relations.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Continue to implement the mandatory Four Seasons of Reconciliation and Aboriginal Awareness training for ministry staff to increase understanding of the history and culture of Indigenous communities across Canada.
- Participate in events that honour National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support accountability and the efficient and effective use of government resources.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there in 2022-23*

- Ensure efficient and responsible use of resources.
- Improve information management throughout the ministry.

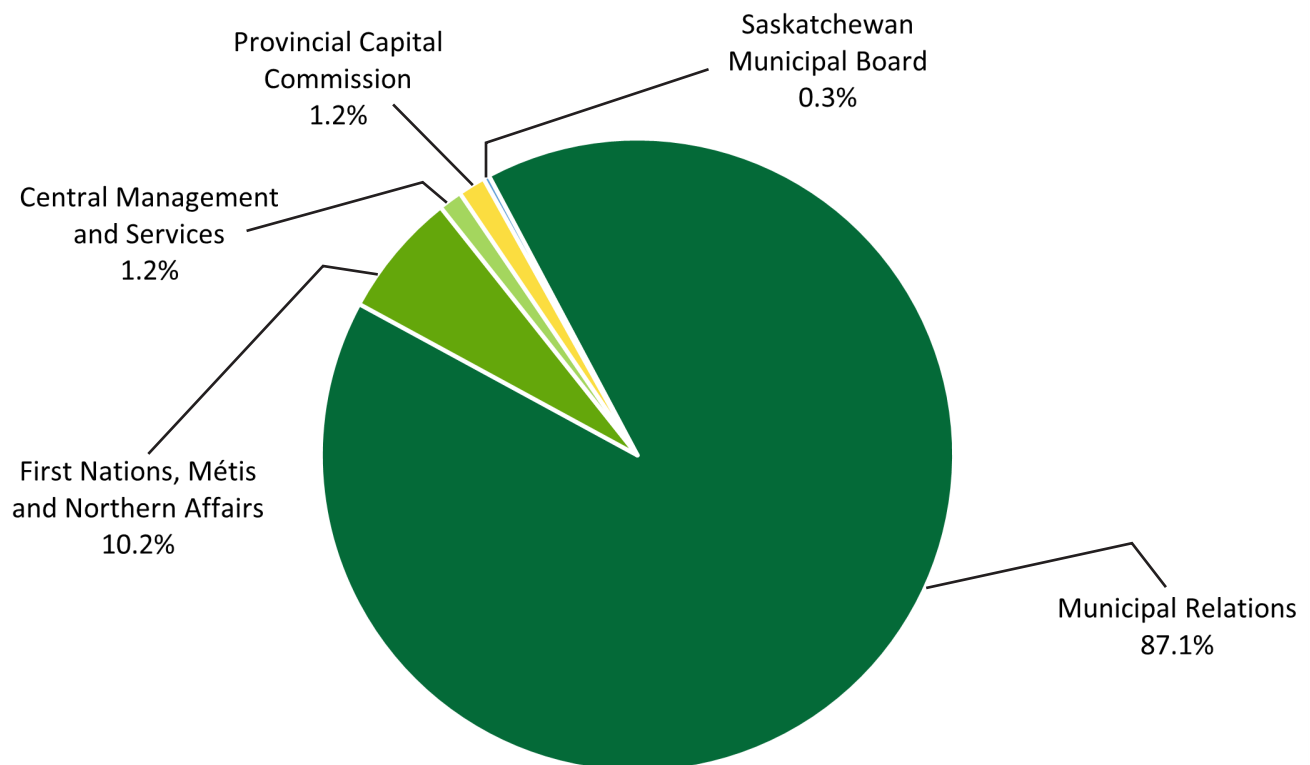
Performance Measures: What success looks like

- Percentage of staff participating in learning and development opportunities.
- Percentage of staff who have undergone the Four Seasons of Reconciliation program.
- Percentage of staff who have undergone the Aboriginal Awareness training.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Government Relations 2022-23 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	7,598
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	1,888
Municipal Relations	566,654
First Nations, Métis, and Northern Affairs	66,235
Provincial Capital Commission	8,054
Total Appropriation	650,429
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	100
Total Expense	650,529

**Ministry of Government Relations Budget
(\$650.5 million)**



Links to More Information

[Ministry of Government Relations](#)

[Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)