



Regulatory Modernization Red Tape Reduction Annual Report 2022-2023



Table of Contents

Letter of Transmittal1

From the Chair of the Red Tape Reduction Committee2

Accountable Government.....3

Enhancing Customer Service5

Building a Modern Regulatory Framework18

Expanding Online Tools and Solutions31

Regulatory Alignment Across Jurisdictions.....47

Help Cut Red Tape Webpage53

Conclusion.....55

Letters of Transmittal



The Honourable Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export
Development

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Regulatory Modernization Red Tape Reduction Annual Report for the Ministry of Trade and Export Development for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy H.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development



Jodi Banks
Deputy Minister of Trade and
Export Development

The Honourable Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Regulatory Modernization Red Tape Reduction Annual Report for the Ministry of Trade and Export Development for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Banks", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jodi Banks
Deputy Minister of Trade and Export Development

From the Chair of the Red Tape Reduction Committee

As the Chair of The Government of Saskatchewan's Red Tape Reduction Committee (RTRC), I am pleased to present the 2022-23 Regulatory Modernization Red Tape Reduction Annual Report. The report highlights Saskatchewan's ongoing efforts to eliminate unnecessary compliance requirements for businesses and residents, streamline processes, and reduce barriers across government agencies.

Saskatchewan remains the only province in Canada with an active Cabinet committee dedicated to red tape reduction, leading regulatory reviews of all business-related regulations on an ongoing basis. Saskatchewan is also the only province to report net savings for our regulatory efforts. For the fiscal year 2022-23, the RTRC reviewed over 38 regulations and approximately 2,480 compliance requirements. This work resulted in 79 actions and recommendations to improve the reviewed regulations or its related policies.

It is also encouraging to see the level of engagement on Saskatchewan's Help Cut Red Tape webpage, with 5,457 visits in 2022-23 and 22 issues with actionable items. This shows that citizens and businesses are interested in participating in the red tape reduction process and are willing to contribute to the government's efforts to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens.

Once again, Saskatchewan is proud to report positive savings for 2022-23. The collective efforts of all Ministries, Agencies and Crowns resulted in red tape savings of approximately \$26.8 million over the next 10 years, adding to more than \$668.5 million in cumulative red tape savings reported since we began using Saskatchewan's Direct Cost Estimator in 2015.



Saskatchewan's economy remains strong as one of Canada's top provinces leading economic growth. Now more than ever, the prioritization of red tape reduction in Saskatchewan will help us promote a business-friendly environment, stimulate innovation, and enhance the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Don McMorris". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Don" and the last name "McMorris" clearly visible.

The Honourable Don McMorris
Chair of the Red Tape Reduction Committee

Accountable Government

The fiscal year 2022-23 marks the sixth year Saskatchewan has tracked net savings for all regulatory and policy changes made during a fiscal year. Savings achieved during the 2022-23 fiscal year were estimated to surpass \$26.8 million over the next 10 years*, and the cost of new regulations was estimated at \$23.0 million over the same 10 years. In 2022-23, Saskatchewan achieved net savings of approximately \$3.9 million (net savings are defined as the cost of regulatory amendments after savings of regulatory amendments have been accounted for).

As of 2022-23, Saskatchewan has reported more than \$668.5 million in cumulative, forecasted red tape savings over the next 10 years. These savings are significant and will support our growing economy and demonstrates the commitment of all ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations toward reducing the government's red tape footprint in Saskatchewan.

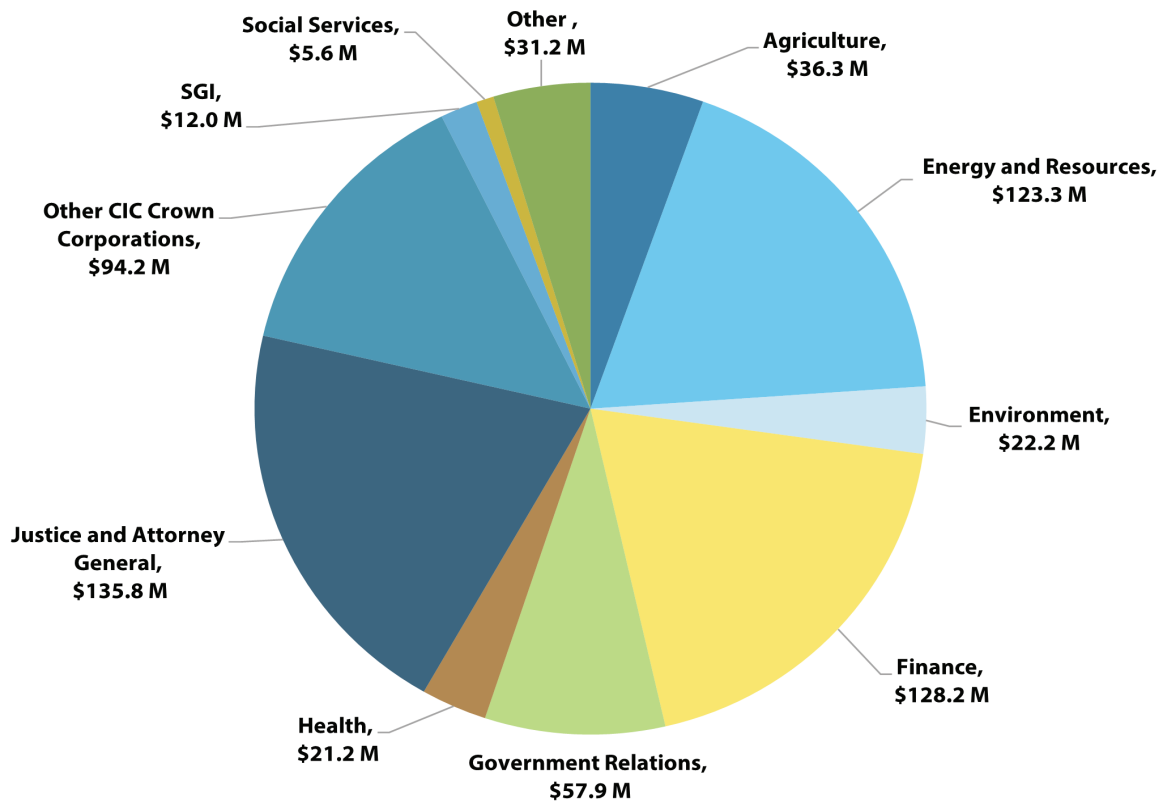
The number of business-related regulations decreased from 260 to 254 in 2022-23. Saskatchewan continues to update the count on all compliance requirements residing in 254 business-related regulations and associated policies, allowing the province to better target future red tape reduction efforts.

Since 2014, Cabinet's Red Tape Reduction Committee has reviewed thousands of regulatory requirements through the regulatory review process. This regulatory review process is the only one of its kind in Canada. In 2022-23, approximately 2,480 compliance requirements were reviewed.

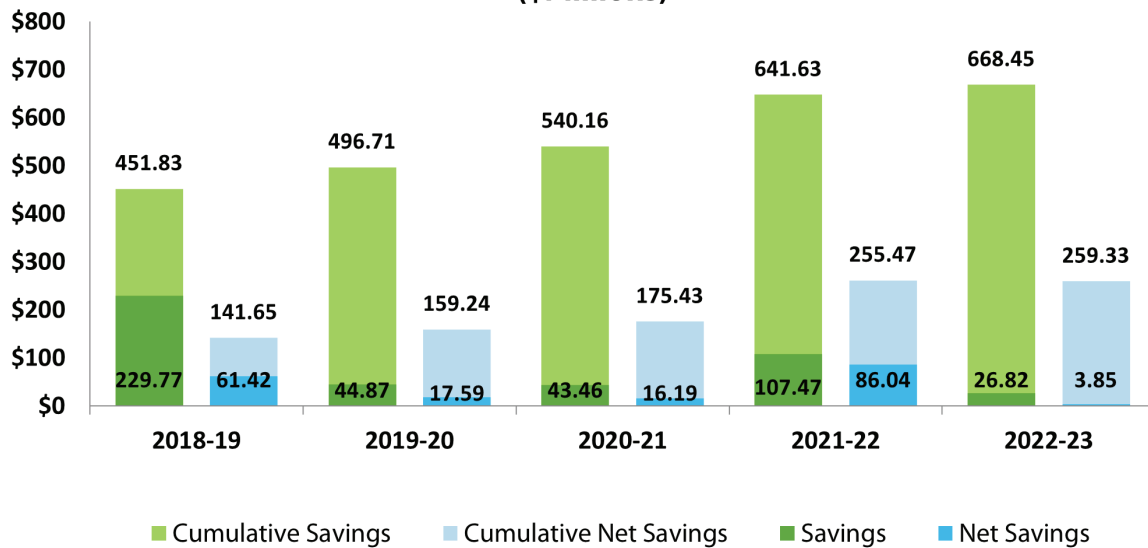
Businesses and citizens have also contributed to the reduction of red tape. The Help Cut Red Tape webpage on [saskatchewan.ca](https://saskatchewan.ca/help-cut-red-tape) continues to be useful in identifying red tape concerns.

Since the Direct Cost Estimator became mandatory for all regulatory amendments in 2017, ministries, agencies and Crowns have provided estimated savings generated from regulatory changes and improvements. The following graphs show a breakdown of the cumulative forecasted savings over the next 10 years.

Savings by Ministries, Agencies and Crowns (\$Millions)



Regulatory Amendments Estimated Cost Savings (\$Millions)



*Estimation over a 10-year period

Source: Regulatory Modernization Unit, Ministry of Trade and Export Development
Last Updated March 31st, 2023

Notes:

* The savings identified in this section are estimates intended to represent the effect of the change to stakeholders over a 10-year period. The estimates are based on the best available information (e.g., Statistics Canada data) and include the application of conservative assumptions for the future (including the application of inflation and net present value to the analysis). They are not intended to represent actual current or projected future savings.

Total savings are calculated at a point in time over a 10-year period to allow for consistency in reporting. For example, a reduction of fees for a stakeholder amounting to \$100,000 in year one will translate into an approximate savings of \$1 million over 10 years (not accounting for inflation and the discount value of a dollar).

Total savings include estimated savings for regulation change, program review and continuous improvement initiatives.

Enhancing Customer Service

The Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to a client-centred approach to service delivery considers the needs and expectations of citizens, businesses, and industry. It then incorporates these considerations into our programs and services. Continuous improvement in this area ensures the work of the public service remains relevant, meets the needs of Saskatchewan people, and contributes to the growth of the province.

Modernizing service delivery includes identifying barriers that make it more difficult for clients to access government services. It entails providing easy access to information, streamlining government processes, and enhancing services, such as:

- Simplifying and using plain language in government documents.
- Adopting a single-entry and contact point for approvals and client information.
- Providing clear and direct information through policies and regulations.

It also means eliminating processes that are redundant, unnecessary, overly complex, and reducing application processing and wait times.

The following pages highlight some of the initiatives that were implemented in 2022-23 to enhance customer service.



Ministry of Energy and Resources

The Subsurface Mineral Conservation Regulations

In 2022-23, the Ministry of Energy and Resources (ER) conducted a regulatory review of The Subsurface Mineral Conservation Regulations (SMCR) aiming to reduce red tape for businesses.

The review identified unclear rules regarding notification of proposed well locations that are within proximity of existing mineral development operations. It also identified a benefit of consolidating similar regulatory requirements for well data into one regulation for ease of use.

Currently, well provisions are situated across two regulations: SMCR and The Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations (OGCR). Together, they regulate the drilling of wells near subsurface mineral dispositions and the confidentiality period for well information submitted with respect to the Prairie Evaporite Formation.

The ministry is committed to reducing red tape for businesses and, as a result, is looking into moving the provisions for well data confidentiality periods into one regulation — The OGCR. It will also update its public communications and electronic administration system to clearly communicate regulatory requirements during the well application process.

These actions will reduce red tape for businesses as well as operational risks for existing mining operations.

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan (FCAA)

Amendments to Self-Certified Investor Prospectus Exemption

The exemption is a financing tool that originally only referred to distributions by an issuer. This resulted in the exemption not being available to a wider audience, for example, an existing security holder. FCAA revised the exemption to refer to sellers generally, thereby making it available to a wider audience.

The exemption originally imposed investment limits on Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). An SPV relying on the exemption to make an investment would be subject to an investment limit in the aggregate of not more than \$10,000 per issuer per calendar year and not more than \$30,000 across all issuers per calendar year.

The exemption is now expanded so that a Qualifying SPV will not be subject to investment limits when it makes an investment. This expansion was done based on the understanding that the use of an SPV to facilitate investment in small businesses is a common practice for early-stage investments. It is an initiative which will facilitate capital raising.

Ministry of Government Relations

Streamlining Grant Agreement Finalization Processes

Ministry of Government Relations is improving efficiency and customer satisfaction in the financial administration of its three grants funds: the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund, First Nations and Métis Sponsorships, and Community Partnership Projects.

Relevant updates will include removing the double signature of the ministry official from grant agreements and letters of offer. Customers (i.e., Indigenous organizations, communities, and other eligible applicants) will be impacted positively by this change. It will mean streamlined grant agreement signing processes, which will consist of one less exchange of agreement documents with the ministry in the agreement signing stage.

This change will also improve the efficiency of administrative support professionals in their tasks related to this financial administration process. The updated and streamlined grant documents will be introduced in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Ministry of Government Relations

More Accessible Assessment Appeals

In recent years, the Ministry of Government Relations has heard concerns from the stakeholders that the assessment appeal process does not meet the needs of ratepayers or the system as a whole. A lack of confidence in the property assessment appeal system is a concern. Property values are the base for \$2.3 billion in property taxes collected by municipalities annually, as well as approximately \$800 million in provincial education property tax.

In 2019, Government Relations launched a multi-year initiative led by a steering committee of municipal and assessment stakeholders and ministry officials to improve the property assessment appeals system. As of 2023, all key components of the initiative are implemented, including:

- A new online training program for board of revision members and secretaries;
- Regulatory requirements for all boards of revision to be certified to hear property assessment appeals starting with the 2023 taxation year;
- A centralized board of revision option for municipalities unable to appoint their own local board of revision; and
- A more accessible, simplified appeal process.

As of March 2023, 226 individuals have completed the online training program, and 20 boards of revision have been certified, including several district boards and private service providers who serve many municipalities in the province. The certification process is completely online and continues to be available into 2023 as municipalities open their assessment rolls and appoint a board of revision. To help municipalities, information about board certification, the training program, and the list of certified boards of revision is available on saskatchewan.ca. The ministry has also established an Office of the Registrar using existing resources to oversee training and certification processes.

To assist municipalities with having a certified board of revision, a centralized board was established using a third-party service provider. Using the centralized board of revision is optional and the default option for municipalities unable or unwilling to appoint a certified board when the assessment roll is open. This will ensure all property owners have access to the first level of property assessment appeals.

To make the assessment appeal process more accessible for appellants, the thresholds for simplified appeals for non-residential properties were adjusted to allow more property owners to choose the simplified appeal process, which is less formal and allows an appeal to be decided by a single-person panel. The simplified appeal process remains optional, and an appellant may still decide to have a

three-member board hearing. All residential property owners may continue to choose the simplified process. To assist municipalities and citizens with the assessment appeals process, the Ministry of Government Relations has several guides and a recorded webinar available at saskatchewan.ca.

These improvements will enhance the quality of assessment appeal services, improve access to and awareness of different board of revision options for Saskatchewan ratepayers and property owners, and provide more options for municipalities to meet legislated requirements.

Ministry of Government Relations

Clearing Minor Variances

In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Government Relations is responsible for monitoring and analyzing the annual education property tax (EPT) returns filed by municipalities regarding EPT collection and payment and for reconciling budgeted amounts with actual collection and payment to the Government of Saskatchewan.

The annual reconciliation process of clearing EPT collection payment exceptions of \$500 and below in the Tax Administration and Compliance System (TACS) is time-consuming and may require several months, even a year, to be resolved. Therefore, as part of its commitment to continuously improve operational processes, the Ministry of Government Relations is working with the Ministry of Finance to allow TACS to clear the variances of \$500 and below. Notably, there are typically 300 municipalities with variances of which 50-55 per cent are \$500 or below, amounting to less than \$80,000 out of a total EPT levy that is now almost \$800 million annually. The initiative will reduce the time staff spend on variances by approximately two weeks per year, reducing annual administrative costs.

The Direct Cost Estimator shows internal administrative savings to both ministries. Government Relations will save administrative costs of around \$3,500 annually. The Direct Cost Estimator to clear variances is estimated at \$4,000 annually, and the percentage of variances of 500 and below is 89 per cent. The Ministry of Finance is also expected to save \$4,000 in administrative costs when the process is fully implemented in 2024. Although the financial impact is small, implementation will allow property tax analysts the opportunity to focus on higher-priority tasks related to EPT collection and reporting.

Ministry of Health

Final Clinical Placement Bursary and Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive

Saskatchewan has developed a four-point Health Human Resources Action Plan that accelerates efforts to attract and retain health care workers. Saskatchewan is rolling out multiple initiatives guided by this action plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care providers to address the current challenges and build a stronger, more sustainable healthcare workforce. As part of this plan, Saskatchewan is ramping up efforts and timelines to attract and welcome health care professionals from within the province, across Canada, and abroad. The province is also increasing awareness of programs currently available for Saskatchewan students and residents interested in pursuing a health care career.

The Ministry of Health's Final Clinical Placement Bursary and Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive programs are part of the actions under Incentives the Government of Saskatchewan is taking to attract and retain healthcare workers, especially in rural and remote locations.

The Final Clinical Placement Bursary provides \$2,000 to nursing and allied health profession students who will be in their final clinical placement for hard-to-recruit occupations with a Return-in-Service commitment of one year with a publicly funded employer in a rural and remote location.

The Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive provides an incentive of up to \$50,000 for individuals hired into nine high-priority classifications in 52 rural and remote communities. The incentive is a one-time incentive allocated over three years to new permanent full-time employees of the Saskatchewan Health Authority or an Affiliate.

To remain competitive, Saskatchewan will ensure incentives are attracting and retaining the best healthcare workforce in Canada. Both the Final Clinical Placement Bursary and Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive are available online through a fillable form, making it easier and simpler for applicants to apply to the programs. The Ministry of Health will notify the applicants of the outcome by email within three to six weeks. The program information and link to the forms can be accessed via the one-stop-shop Health Human Resources (HHR) website saskatchewan.ca/HHR, launched in 2022/23.

Ministry of Health

Healthcare Recruitment and Retention Navigation Supports

As part of the Health Human Resources Action Plan to address staffing shortages and support a steady supply of healthcare workers into the future, the Government of Saskatchewan has a target to recruit 850 international healthcare workers.

Getting ready to move to another country can be quite overwhelming as many steps are necessary to work in Saskatchewan as an internationally educated healthcare professional (IEHP). The Ministry of Health's healthcare recruitment and retention navigation team, comprised of two navigators and one navigator lead, has been in place since November of 2022 to provide one-on-one support to IEHPs and their families moving into healthcare positions, settlement, and orientation to ensure a successful transition to Saskatchewan.

The navigator team:

- Responded to close to 3,200 inquiries from November 2022 to March 2023;
- Engaged with about 400 candidates during the second recruitment mission over five days in the Philippines in March of 2023; and,
- Registered over 650 views on its website in the first two weeks since its launch on March 8, 2023.

saskatchewan.ca

Saskatchewan 

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training

The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act and Regulations

The Government of Saskatchewan has made it easier for newcomers to enter the job market in regulated occupations. The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act and Regulations set maximum timelines for assessment and registration decisions and reduce the administrative burden associated with the credential recognition process to ensure new residents can begin working sooner in their professions. These changes apply to all regulated occupations in Saskatchewan, including professional engineers, registered nurses, teachers, and plumbers. This legislation limits any duplication and unnecessary requirements that Canadian-certified and internationally trained applicants often face when seeking licensure in Saskatchewan.

The legislation ensures that they receive transparent, objective, timely, impartial, and procedurally fair decisions on assessment and registration applications. The legislation also sets out the fastest maximum timelines for assessment and registration decisions in Canada. These changes significantly reduce the time and administrative burden associated with the credential recognition process, which enables skilled workers to fill jobs aligned with their training and experience faster.

The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Regulations

ensure Sofia gets an assessment decision
within 50 days.



Regulatory bodies now have 50 business days to assess an internationally trained applicant's training, experience, and qualifications and indicate if they are qualified to work in Saskatchewan or what additional steps they need to take to become qualified. Regulatory bodies have 20 business days to make a registration decision on individuals who have already demonstrated their competence, including those that are certified in another province or territory.

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training has also established The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Office. The role of the Office is to continuously review regulatory bodies' registration practices to ensure they are compliant with the legislation and to identify other ways that they can be improved. Regulatory bodies will continue to be independent in setting the standards of practice necessary to protect the public, but now the Government of Saskatchewan will have a mechanism to reduce unnecessary red tape in occupational registration practices and ensure the province is a destination of choice for skilled labour.

The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Regulations

help Raffi enter the labour force faster.



Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Cannabis Red Tap Reduction

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) regularly reviews its rules and regulations and consults with stakeholders to identify areas where changes could be made to reduce red tape while also maintaining public safety.

Through SLGA's commitment to continuous improvement and reducing red tape, several changes have been implemented, including:

- Implementing risk-based inspection guidelines for cannabis permittees resulting in more efficient allocation of resources to higher-risk areas.
- Publishing a list of registered cannabis suppliers and permitted wholesalers (along with previously published permitted retailers) on slga.com and in multiple formats for industry ease of access.
- Streamlining compliance activity follow-up processes to reduce time-lapse and improve effectiveness.
- Developing and implementing a process to ensure timely permit and registration renewals and annual fee collection.
- Revising and publishing the cannabis regulatory policy manual on SLGA's website.
- Publishing a list of frequently asked questions for cannabis reporting.
- Developing and implementing the cannabis sanction publishing policy.
- Developing and establishing a more efficient and effective process for issuing sanctions, documenting CannaSell compliance rates, and ensuring timely renewals and collection of annual fees.

The changes have increased business flexibility while improving convenience for consumers. SLGA remains committed to continuing to review its policies and regulations to create a business environment that balances business flexibility, consumer convenience and public safety.

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority

Liquor Red Tape Reduction

Through SLGA's commitment to continuous improvement and reducing red tape, 18 policy changes have been implemented, including:

- Increasing the types of applicants, including retail store permits, eligible for interim permitting.
- Increasing flexibility for golf courses in the sale of liquor.
- Delicensing lounge and tavern endorsements on restaurant permits for occasional events with minors
- Allowing public conveyance and home delivery permittees to change location without reapplying for a permit.
- Allowing restaurants to sell off-sale through a takeout window.
- Allowing Public Conveyances (limousines) to keep alcohol in a secure safe/locker/fridge at a commercial storage location over which they do not have possession.
- Allowing U-Brew/U-Vin customers to bring their ingredients (e.g., fruit) to make their alcohol.
- Extending SUP-Theatre category to art galleries.
- Allowing Retail store permittees (RSP) to use a third-party warehouse to store alcohol with approval from SLGA.
- Allowing full drinks at General Trade Show – Display Booth.
- Allowing RSPs to get an SOP (Special Occasion Permit) for a public event at an off-site location to sell full-size servings.
- Allowing airplanes that go across the provincial border to not obtain a permit in SK unless they intend to purchase alcohol in Saskatchewan.
- Allowing the use of kits or packaged wort for a Type 2 manufacturing permit.
- Allowing Special Use – Theatre/Concert permittees to sell alcohol prior to the start of an event and after the end of the event as long as the sale, service, and consumption of beverage alcohol are event-driven.
- Allowing SOPs to be issued for certain events where the majority of participants are minors.
- Allowing alcohol and groceries to be advertised on the same website, but they cannot go into the same “cart.”
- Craft producers that are unable to produce consistent Alcohol by Volume (ABV) from batch to batch due to high sugar content no longer have to seek approval for every batch. Instead, they retain the ABV testing should it be required by SLGA in the future. This allows them to get their product to market quicker while still providing the correct ABV to the consumer.

The changes have increased business flexibility while improving convenience for consumers. SLGA remains committed to continuing to review its policies and regulations to create a business environment that balances business flexibility, consumer convenience, and public safety.

SaskEnergy

Shermco Joint Line Locating Contract with Other Crowns

A joint line locating contract allows Shermco to perform line locating services on behalf of SaskEnergy, SaskPower and SaskTel, rather than each company incurring individual costs performing work on the same piece of land. By contracting Shermco to complete line locates on behalf of the three Crowns (currently about 55 per cent of the 150,000 yearly total,) the cost to perform the locate is split between SaskEnergy, SaskTel and SaskPower.

Shermco offers a vast resource pool able to provide locating services across the entire province. Additionally, they have training and onboarding processes that are well developed and defined, as well as key performance indicator and data tracking that is clear and meaningful.

SaskPower

Distribution Construction Charge Rebate Policy

Saskatchewan's landscape, from an infrastructure perspective, can be relatively challenging, featuring a widely spread-out population that all require reliable access to utilities.

Connecting new customers to SaskPower's distribution network, especially in rural areas, sometimes requires new power lines and other pieces of infrastructure to be constructed, incurring added costs for new customers.

Last year, SaskPower launched the Distribution Construction Rebate Policy, which was aimed at offsetting construction costs for new services by capitalizing on infrastructure built to service other customers. When a new customer connects service, needing new infrastructure to facilitate the connection, the customer is charged a basic construction fee for the new power lines that SaskPower builds. Since power infrastructure can be used to service future customers, the Distribution Construction Rebate Policy provides an opportunity for the customer to have a portion of their investment rebated back to them should another customer connect service in the same geographic area, using the new power line within a certain time frame.

The rebate amount is based on a shared cost of a shared line principle. In early 2023, SaskPower extended the eligibility window for customers to receive this rebate from 5 to 10 years, improving customer and increasing opportunity for more construction charges to be offset.

Increasing the eligibility window means that there is a longer period of time where a customer could recover some of their costs if SaskPower connects new services in the same geographic area. The Distribution Construction Rebate Policy is especially valuable to rural customers who may require several kilometres of power lines in areas where new connections are not as frequent as in urban centres, sometimes incurring high connection costs.

SaskPower

Project Expeditor

Saskatchewan offers a wide variety of opportunities for economic development with its competitive business environment. The Government of Saskatchewan and its Crown Corporations are committed to growth that works for everyone through increased economic progress, ultimately generating opportunity in Saskatchewan.

Through the efforts of the Ministry of Trade and Export Development and at the request of Crown Investments Corporation, SaskPower has dedicated resources to help streamline service requests for prospective clients by way of a Project Expeditor. This resource works closely with the new customer, determining needs and establishing a path forward, from the idea-phase all the way to the commissioning of the new project, bringing value and an improved customer experience. The Project Expeditor is a customer-focused, single point of contact dedicated to organizing and collaborating on the delivery of Crown-supplied utilities in an efficient and dynamic way.

The Project Expeditor can also help integrate Crown corporations, provincial government agencies, and municipal agencies into the client's execution plan to ensure a seamless, unified, and collaborative relationship. Through this approach, clients have direct access and support from subject matter experts to address the unique needs of their business.

The Project Expeditor service offers a first-class experience for new and potential customers that can only be achieved through close collaboration between municipalities, Commercial and Treasury Board Crown Corporations, and Government Ministries.

SaskTel

Self-Install for New Traditional maxTV Customers

As a growing trend among customers, self-serve and self-install is a focus for SaskTel, where we continue to look for new opportunities for services that are conducive to this model. SaskTel added new traditional maxTV customers (who are served over fibre) to our self-install program so that customers can install their service on their own versus requiring a SaskTel install. The self-install process enhances customer experience by allowing customers to receive equipment sooner and install it when it is most convenient for them, so they do not have to wait for an appointment for installation. It also improves SaskTel's efficiency by not sending a truck with a technician to the customer's premises.

Infrastructure can be used to service future customers, the Distribution Construction Rebate Policy provides an opportunity for the customer to have a portion of their investment rebated back to them should another customer connect service in the same geographic area, using the new power line within a certain time frame.

The rebate amount is based on a shared cost of a shared line principle. In early 2023, SaskPower extended the eligibility window for customers to receive this rebate from 5 to 10 years, improving customer opportunity for more construction charges to be offset.

SaskTel

Smart Community

Through SaskTel's Innovation Program, SaskTel works in partnership with local tech companies and directly with communities to understand challenges and problems the community wants to solve. Saskatchewan communities identified water loss as a major issue. One community identified they were only billing for 70 per cent of the water they purchased from SaskWater. Using sensors, asset management, and data analytics, SaskTel's partnered water management solution helped pinpoint where water loss was occurring and which infrastructure needed replacing, leading to reduced repair costs. The solution can then be leveraged for additional smart community use cases very cost effectively – such as fleet, smart waste management, asset management etc.

SaskTel

Saskatchewan Highways & Kvale

Ministry of Highways was looking for a fleet management solution. SaskTel, in partnership with Kvale, identified an opportunity for the Ministry of Highways to leverage existing systems by delivering open data to existing tools rather than a new fleet management solution, saving the ministry money.

SaskTel

Supporting Innovation Across Government

SaskTel has invested heavily in an innovation framework and programming that is proving valuable in supporting both SaskTel's growth, as well as Saskatchewan's Growth Plan. SaskTel has been working with several other innovation teams across government to share learning and grow our collective capacity. SaskTel will be an innovation leader by:

- Helping government, industry, and the tech community overcome infrastructure, data and cost barriers;
- Supporting the discovery, testing, validation, and scaling of new innovations, and
- Helping to shape policy that will achieve the Saskatchewan Growth Plan objectives.

Ministry of Trade and Export Development

BizPaL.ca (SK)- Plain Language Initiative

BizPaL.ca is a collaborative effort from all provinces, territories and the Government of Canada. It aims to assist individuals or businesses in starting their own business by providing them with a one-stop site to obtain information on the necessary licenses and permits needed in Saskatchewan. The BizPaL site offers access to nearly three-quarters of all municipal permits and licenses, as well as all provincial and federal permits.

The BizPaL platform has implemented the Plain Language Initiative to simplify the process for business owners to understand the necessary permits and forms needed. Previously, the descriptions and prerequisites for municipal permits used complex words, making it difficult for business owners to understand when they needed a specific permit and how to obtain it. The goal of this initiative is to use simpler language, shorter sentences and be more direct in requesting information from business owners.

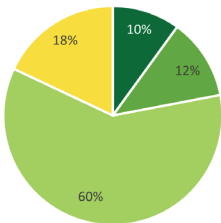
To measure the effectiveness of these improvements, the Flesch Reading Ease and Flesch-Kincaid Grade level scales are used. The target is to achieve a reading ease grade between 60 and 70 and a Flesch-Kincaid Grade level between 6 and 10. Prior to the initiative, 83 per cent of descriptions and 60 per cent of prerequisites did not meet these targets. After the plain language initiative, most of the descriptions and prerequisites achieved the readability target.

Plain Language - SK Municipal Prerequisites

Grade Level Before Audit

- 10 per cent on-target
- 60 per cent off target

English Flesch-Kincaid
Grade Level Score Prerequisites
July 21/21

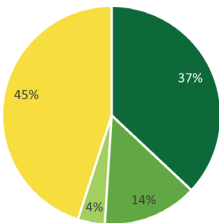


■ On Target (Grade 6-8) ■ Fair (Grade 9-10) ■ Off Target (Grade 11 and Up) ■ No Text

Grade Level After Audit

- 37 per cent on-target
- 4 per cent off target

English Flesch-Kincaid
Grade Level Score Prerequisites
Dec 21/22



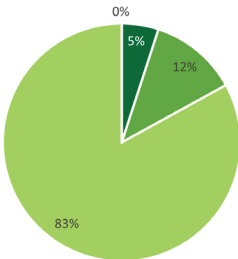
■ On Target (Grade 6-8) ■ Fair (Grade 9-10) ■ Off Target (Grade 11 and Up) ■ No Text

Plain Language - SK Municipal Description

Grade Level Before Audit

- 10 per cent on-target
- 60 per cent off target

English Flesch-Kincaid
Grade Level Score Description
July 21/21

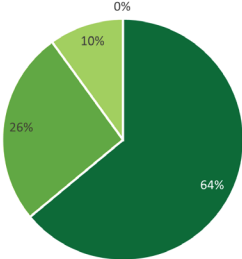


■ On Target (Grade 6-8) ■ Fair (Grade 9-10) ■ Off Target (Grade 11 and Up) ■ No Text

Grade Level After Audit

- 37 per cent on-target
- 4 per cent off target

English Flesch-Kincaid
Grade Level Score Description
Dec 21/22



■ On Target (Grade 6-8) ■ Fair (Grade 9-10) ■ Off Target (Grade 11 and Up) ■ No Text

The next step is to take a closer look at the provincial data to improve its readability. This work will commence in 2023. The ministry checks and updates the information regularly and works with the National BizPaL Office to make the program better for business owners and citizens of Saskatchewan.

Water Security Agency

Irrigation Development: Single Point of Contact

The irrigation development process in Saskatchewan can be a frustrating and complex experience for clients. With multiple units to navigate within the Water Security Agency (WSA) and other government agencies, clients often find themselves having to communicate with multiple WSA employees for a single project. This lack of clarity and continuity has resulted in some private irrigation development projects being delayed as clients struggle to obtain the necessary information and guidance to move forward.

In response to these challenges, WSA has taken steps to improve the irrigation development process for clients. One of the most significant changes has been the designation of an Agrologist position as the primary point of contact for clients. This individual is responsible for working closely with clients and communicating across various WSA units and other government agencies to ensure the efficient completion of irrigation development projects.

The Agrologist plays a key role in coordinating internal processes required to evaluate and issue permits for a project. This includes requesting hydrology reports, obtaining information to support applications for a water rights license/approval to operate, securing aquatic habitat protection permits, and any other project-specific requirements. By coordinating these processes and serving as a central point of contact for clients, the Agrologist helps to ensure that all necessary information is gathered and shared in a timely and efficient manner.

To initiate the process, the Agrologist sends out an introductory email to the client, outlining the information required and explaining the next steps. This approach helps to provide clients with a clear understanding of the process and what is required of them, while also establishing a clear line of communication between the client and WSA. The designation of an Agrologist as the primary point of contact for clients and the coordination of internal processes are important steps in streamlining the irrigation development process in Saskatchewan. By providing a single point of contact for clients and improving communication among stakeholders, WSA is better equipped to support the needs of clients and make a potentially complicated process more user-friendly.

This initiative has been well received by clients, who appreciate having a clear point of contact and a streamlined process. They no longer have to navigate multiple units within WSA or other government agencies, which saves them time and frustration. In addition, improved communication among stakeholders has led to fewer delays and a more efficient process overall.

This initiative has also helped to improve employee morale within WSA. With a clear point of contact and streamlined process, employees can focus on their specific areas of expertise rather than being pulled in multiple directions to communicate with clients. This has led to a more efficient and productive work environment, which benefits both employees and clients.

Overall, the designation of an Agrologist as the primary point of contact for clients and the coordination of internal processes are important steps in improving the irrigation development process in Saskatchewan. By working closely with clients and improving communication among stakeholders, WSA is better equipped to support the needs of clients and ensure the efficient completion of irrigation development projects.

Building a Modern Regulatory Framework

Governments have traditionally relied on prescriptive, command and control regulations to mitigate potentially harmful actions or consequences. Modern and flexible regulatory approaches are now being used to achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives in a more effective and efficient manner.

Having an effective and modern regulatory framework offers more flexibility for businesses to comply in a way that helps them capitalize on their competitive advantages. Regulatory flexibility creates incentives and multiple pathways to regulatory compliance with a focus on outcomes. An outcome-based approach to regulation enables business and industry to develop innovative solutions to complex problems. Solutions can be arrived at quicker and more efficiently without delays tied to regulatory reviews and amendments by government.

Modern regulations promote government transparency, accountability, and fairness. They also require government to carefully consider feedback from stakeholders and incorporate that feedback into decisions at all levels. Resolving public concerns requires consideration of various alternatives, such as incentive-based solutions rather than an immediate default to more government regulation. Problems are risk assessed to determine if they need to be acted on by government. Limited government resources are directed to areas where regulatory non-compliance is reoccurring or where there is a significant risk to the public.

The following pages highlight initiatives the Government of Saskatchewan has implemented to support the adoption of a modern and flexible regulatory framework.



Ministry of Advanced Education

Workforce Development Funding for Non-Post Secondary Learners

In 2022-23, Advanced Education, in collaboration with Immigration and Career Training, worked to implement a new funding model for the delivery of disability-related support for learners attending Adult Basic Education, General Education Development, and Skills Training and Apprentices programs.

Since 2018-19, the ministry's Student Service Centre has been processing individual grant applications for students with disabilities in these programs. In the new and improved model, Advanced Education is providing block funding to educational institutions to support students with disabilities.

Effective April 1, 2023, these learners are eligible to receive funding directly from their institution. Eligible learners, with the assistance of disability advisors at their institution, no longer need to apply individually.

The reporting requirement for institutions is minimal. Funding can be distributed to learners more quickly, enabling students with disabilities to access the supports they need to be successful earlier in their studies. Additionally, institutions now have the flexibility to directly support their learners and create rules and procedures that best fit their institutions' realities.

Ministry of Agriculture

Agriculture Operations Holding Ponds Policy

The Ministry of Agriculture's Livestock Agricultural Operations Unit regulates intensive livestock operations (ILOs) under the *Agricultural Operations Act*. Part of the act's mandate is to ensure protection of surface and groundwater from pollution by ILOs. One of the mitigative measures used to regulate ILOs is the use of holding ponds to contain surface water runoff from outdoor cattle pens and solid manure piles. Until August 2022, an internal policy that required cattle ILOs to construct a holding pond was used because the act did not stipulate the conditions under which an ILO would require a holding pond. This internal policy was developed to mitigate risks to the environment, especially surface and groundwater. However, the Agricultural Operations unit received a lot of feedback from producers on the restrictive nature of this policy in cases in which they were unnecessary or more than what was required to mitigate risk to the environment. The unit decided to take action and reduce the red tape by developing a new holding ponds policy which defines requirements for containing surface runoff in a holding pond from solid manure storage areas and outdoor pens. These requirements took into consideration the need to allow producers to continue to operate while achieving a balance of environmental protection, producer profitability and undue regulatory burden and still meeting the act's mandate of surface and groundwater protection. Not only did the new policy provide consistency in the services provided to producers, but it also allowed them to save up to \$100,000. This policy also considers each operational site as unique and hence requires mitigation measures based on the actual/potential risk.

Ministry of Agriculture

The 2023 Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program Regulations

In 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture undertook the process of writing the 2023 Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program Regulations. These new regulations are similar to past regulations that were in place to support the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) and the Irrigation Development Programs. While it was required to have the regulations in place to access the Saskatchewan Agricultural Stabilization Fund, it provided the ministry with the opportunity to improve the regulations by removing over-prescriptive portions of the regulations and transferring them to policy. These policies effectively provide our clients with the details that make the program more transparent to both ministry and industry stakeholders. Additionally, it allows the ministry to provide timely responses to the changing needs of the agriculture industry and significant operational, environmental or market challenges. Previous regulations that the FRWIP fell under were overly prescriptive and, as such, did not allow effective responses to challenges that the agricultural sector faced. Past FRWIP programs have required numerous regulation amendments causing delays in making changes to the program. These changes throughout the many framework agreements have been inevitable to ensure both ministry and stakeholder needs were being met.

The new regulations replaced the 2018 regulations and were required to make use of the supports to develop secure and sustainable water sources for agricultural use to grow the livestock industry, encourage rural economic activity, mitigate the impacts of drought, and improve public safety by protecting existing water supplies from contamination.

The FRWIP has been in place since the second five-year federal-provincial agreement (Growing Forward 1), which was launched in 2008. The FRWIP consistently experiences high uptake and has been described as one of the flagship programs in our federal/provincial framework agreements. Over the last 15 years and three framework agreements, the Ministry of Agriculture has had over 16,000 applications and invested over \$86 million in FRWIP projects. To ensure that programming is client-centered, the ministry held numerous consultations with the farmers and ranchers across the province regarding the program. Farmers and ranchers have wholeheartedly supported the continuation of FRWIP.

Ministry of Energy and Resources

Enhancements to Measurement Requirements for Oil and Gas Operations Directive

Among the recent updates made to the directive for Measurement Requirements for Oil and Gas Operations (Directive PNG017), the Ministry of Energy and Resources introduced an exception for gas-oil ratio (GOR) testing frequency.

The directive previously required GOR testing for new non-heavy oil wells to be conducted at some point within the first year of the on-production date of the well and annually thereafter. However, due to findings from gas volume audits and measurement field inspections, ER felt the need to update this requirement to ensure more accurate gas data from a well-defined reduced frequency testing obligation.

In response, ER introduced an exception from annual GOR testing frequency for existing non-heavy oil wells without the need of an application to ER. If specific criteria are met, the annual testing frequency will be reduced to once every three years. This change stems from industry's demonstration that, in some cases, annual GOR testing has little to no benefit and invokes a cost for

the licensee without a regulatory benefit. For some licensees, the annual cost of GOR tests of existing wells will be offset by the new exception criteria.

The Measurement Requirements for Oil and Gas Operations Directive includes measurement and reporting requirements that are applicable to well and facility operations including oil, gas, and other industries that are regulated by the Ministry of Energy and Resources.

For more information on qualifying criteria, please visit:
<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/105418>

Ministry of Environment

Development of the Saskatchewan's Environmental Code Transfer Station Chapter

In January 2020, the Ministry of Environment released Saskatchewan's Solid Waste Management Strategy. Its vision was to reduce and manage solid waste going to landfills using a practical, sustainable, and integrated waste management system that protects the environment and promotes economic development and innovation.

To move towards this vision, the strategy had six goals, including:

- Providing a modern, efficient, and effective regulatory system for waste disposal and management; and,
- Fostering innovative and sustainable solutions to manage waste.

Along with landfills, recycling programs, and composting, the strategy also included the use of transfer stations. In 2020, there were 207 transfer stations across the province to temporarily store waste and diverted material for transportation to regional landfills or recycling facilities.

During the Red Tape Review of The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations, stakeholders identified red tape irritants for transfer stations and the permits or approval process for operations and emergency response plans.

The ministry committed to developing a transfer station chapter as part of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. This chapter came into force on March 17, 2023. The chapter applies to people who own, plan to own or plan to expand a waste transfer station. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that transfer stations are sited, designed, constructed, operated, and closed in a manner that is safe for the public and ensures environmental protection.

"The Direct Cost Estimator showed that using a code chapter rather than permits to regulate transfer stations could save stakeholders and government approximately \$123,600 over 10 years." - Ministry of Environment

Prior to the development of the code chapter, transfer stations were managed through permits. Changing to a code chapter and moving documents online has streamlined the process of managing a transfer station. The code chapter also allows the owner the opportunity to put forward innovative alternative methods to managing waste.

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

Changes to the Policy Regarding Individual Variable Insurance Contracts Filings

Life insurance companies were required to file copies of the documents related to the individual variable insurance contracts (also known as IVICs or segregated fund insurance contracts) and promotional material. An internal review of the policy determined that this material could be requested as needed as opposed to requiring mandatory annual or more frequent filing.

With the change, life insurers will no longer be required to file copies of their segregated fund contracts and promotional material when changes are made. Instead, these documents will be requested when needed. The change will reduce administrative burden on impacted stakeholders.

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

Modernization of NI 33-109 Registration Information

The targeted amendments to securities legislation National Instrument 33-109 Registration Information (NI 33-109), including its related forms (the Registration Forms), came into force June 6, 2022, and were harmonized across all jurisdictions in Canada. NI 33-109 governs the process of registering and reporting for both firms and individuals. This process provides essential information about registration applicants, helping to evaluate their suitability to deal or advise in securities.

The targeted amendments to National Instrument 33-109 Registration Information reduce the regulatory burden on registered firms and registered individuals by modernizing registration information requirements, clarifying outside activity reporting, and updating filing deadlines while allowing regulators to receive complete and accurate information.

Ministry of Government Relations

Improving The Local Improvements Act, 1993

The Local Improvements Act, 1993 has not been significantly amended since 2000. The act is now updated to streamline the approval process to make local improvements a more attractive and accessible option to fund targeted infrastructure projects for municipalities and property owners.

Local improvements are one method for a municipality to fund infrastructure projects such as roads, sidewalks, and water and sewer infrastructure. Local improvements are funded partially by the municipality and partially through a levy on the affected property owners (properties surrounding the improvement). A local improvement can either be initiated by the municipal council or by property owners and can be halted by a successful petition from the majority of affected property owners. An additional option allows council to initiate a local improvement that is “deemed desirable and in the interest of a part of a municipality to pursue,” where affected property owners cannot petition against it.

The Saskatchewan Municipal Board (SMB) was required to approve all local improvements, regardless of whether they were initiated by property owners or council. Approval was required before the municipal council passed a bylaw which property owners could then petition against. This meant the SMB might approve a local improvement that was ultimately petitioned against by property owners. This made the approval process inefficient, cumbersome, and potentially futile, as indicated by respondents to a Ministry of Government Relations survey.

A stakeholder survey was sent to municipalities, school divisions and the SMB to identify ways to improve the approval process for local improvements. The amendments introduced in the fall of 2022 aim to address many issues identified by respondents, including streamlining the approval process and updating wording to allow for electronic notices and communication.

A key recommendation of the survey was to make the approval process less burdensome and, in some cases, remove it entirely. The Act is now amended to remove SMB approval in cases when property owners initiate a local improvement or when property owners can petition against a local improvement initiated by council. SMB approval is unnecessary when the ability to petition upholds public accountability and ensures property owners' involvement in the decision-making process.

The SMB retains the power to approve a local improvement when property owners cannot petition against the local improvement bylaw to ensure third-party review when property owners face a levy on property taxes without their agreement. SMB oversight, in this instance, includes approval of local improvement reports with the taxes without their agreement. SMB oversight, in this instance, includes approval of local improvement reports with the option to conduct a hearing. Municipalities will be required to provide evidence of consultations as part of a local improvement report. This ensures impacted property owners are consulted prior to council submitting the local improvement to the SMB.

An additional red tape reduction measure is removing the requirement in the Act for SMB approval regarding financing arrangements. When a municipality needs to borrow to finance a local improvement, that process already requires SMB approval through other legislation so it is no longer duplicated in this act.

Other minor adjustments provide more flexibility for electronic communications (email) for petitioning for/against a local improvement and providing notice to property owners. Provisions for public notice and petition requirements are now aligned with other municipal legislation.

"The Saskatchewan Municipal Board supports the amendments to provide an alternative mechanism permitting municipalities to approve local improvement projects without seeking board approval in every case." - *Saskatchewan Municipal Board*

Modernization of The Local Improvements Act, 1993 will streamline, improve, and add flexibility to this method of financing local infrastructure projects while continuing to protect property owner interests and reducing red tape for the SMB and municipalities.

Ministry of Government Relations

Local Election Act Efficiencies

The *Local Government Election Act, 2015* establishes the framework for how municipalities and school divisions conduct elections of their councils and boards.

The Ministry of Government Relations regularly reviews the Act in the period between local elections to keep it current. After the 2020 local elections, the ministry conducted a survey of local governments (municipalities and school boards) that identified several potential areas to address, including:

- No ability for a local government to postpone an election due to inclement weather or a local emergency;
- Lack of authority for local returning officers to establish polling places and utilize electronic voters lists and records; and,
- Lack of clarity on information-sharing with provincial and federal electoral bodies.

The ministry worked with stakeholders to understand these challenges and developed amendments addressing four main themes:

1. Flexibility and Authority of Returning Officers

Returning officers are local officials who have a wide range of duties related to the oversight of elections. However, many decisions had to be made at the local level by the council. Moving forward, some of the responsibilities to make local decisions will shift from a council or school board to a returning officer to make it more efficient to conduct elections and remove the appearance of political interference. The additional authority given to returning officers includes:

- Authority to determine polling areas and polling locations;
- Authority to establish polling places in hospitals or personal care facilities;
- Greater discretion on homebound voting for voters who are unable to attend a polling place because of a disability or limited mobility; and,
- Authority to temporarily postpone an election if there is an emergency or inclement weather.

2. Voters Lists and Electronic Record-Keeping

Voters lists can be an effective tool in conducting elections. A local government can enter into information-sharing agreements with provincial or federal bodies (e.g., Elections Saskatchewan) to prepare or update a voter registry or a voters list. Allowing the sharing of voter information will make it easier for local governments to develop and maintain a voter registry and to use a voters list.

Returning officers will also be able to use electronic versions of voter registries, voters lists, and forms. Voters can then apply online to change their information.

3. Voter Accessibility

Amendments will make it easier for people to vote by:

- Requiring all municipalities to establish at least one advance poll;
- Adding flexibility for homebound voting and voting in hospitals and personal care facilities; and,
- Clarifying that any voter in line when a polling place closes is entitled to vote.

4. Efficiency and Process Improvements

Ministry staff worked closely with stakeholders to enhance the efficiency of legislation and to address any process gaps observed by local governments.

One change to enhance efficiency is having fewer prescribed forms. Current wording requires specific forms to be used in specific situations. This can limit the ability of a municipality to adapt forms for electronic use or use electronic records (e.g., voters lists). The ministry will publish templates of these forms on its website for local governments that continue to use them.

Additional improvements include requiring candidates to provide contact information with their nominations and allowing a local government to extend the nomination deadline and resolve a tied vote with a by-election.

Overall, changes to the Act will make it easier for people to vote, streamline administration of elections and make it easier and more efficient for local governments to conduct them.

Ministry of Highways

The Vehicle Weight and Dimension Amendment Regulations

In 2022, through amendments to the regulations, the ministry introduced a new commercial vehicle configuration for auto carriers.

It is important to recognize that The Vehicle Weight and Dimension Regulations, 2010, attempt to balance two constant and conflicting public policy objectives. The first objective is the need to protect our public highways and the safety of everyone on them from the danger of overweight and over-dimension vehicles. The second objective, which conflicts with the first, is the reality that larger vehicles with heavier loads are more efficient and economical than smaller, lighter vehicles. Completing the equation are several constantly changing variables, including the size and configuration of vehicles; changes to standardized equipment due to changes in environmental and safety standards; traffic pattern shifts; the need to harmonize with neighbouring jurisdictions; and highway construction materials and techniques.

As much as possible, the regulations and the 2022 amendments stay within the boundaries of the policy framework described above. The goal of the amendments is to rebalance the two public policy objectives.

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As much as possible, the regulations and the 2022 amendments stay within the boundaries of the policy framework described above. The goal of the amendments is to rebalance the two public policy objectives considering developments in vehicle configuration, traffic patterns, regulatory changes in neighbouring jurisdictions and highway construction materials and techniques. In recent years,

another goal has been to simplify the regulation to provide greater clarity and understanding. One of the mechanisms used was to include diagrams of trucks and truck configurations with weight and dimension tables for each vehicle type.

To minimize inconsistencies in the interprovincial movement of commercial vehicles, as a baseline, the regulation adopts national standards for the weight and dimension limits of heavy vehicles.

Projected Costs (Savings): Regulatory Review of the VWDR

The Vehicle Weight and Dimension Regulations Summary Sheet		Average Annual Cost				Discounted Cost (Net Present Value)			
		Financial	Operating	Admin	Total	Financial	Operating	Admin	Total
Stakeholder	Type								
AutoCarriers	External	(5.3)	-	(6.5)	(11.9)	(53.4)	-	(65.3)	(118.7)
SGL	Internal	-	-	(1.9)	(1.5)	-	-	(14.7)	(14.7)
MoH	Internal	-	-	(1.5)	(1.5)	-	-	(14.7)	(14.7)
Total Internal		-	-	(2.9)	(2.9)	-	-	(29.3)	(29.3)
Total External Costs		(5.3)	-	(6.5)	(11.9)	(53.4)	-	(66.3)	(118.7)
Overall Total		(5.3)	-	(9.5)	(14.8)	(53.4)	-	(94.6)	(148.0)

*Note: All values are in thousands (\$000's)
Time Period: 10 Year(s)

In addition to weight and dimension limits, the regulation prescribes some of the requirements for moving loads or vehicles exceeding the maximum legal dimensions set in regulation such as when an over-dimension sign is required, when red flags are needed to mark an over length or over width load, and what an escort vehicle looks like. The regulation also contains the list of all primary weight provincial highways, restricted provincial highways and bridges, and the start and end dates of the winter weight season.

Policy changes to the regulations are necessary under the ministry's efforts to harmonize commercial vehicle regulations regionally and nationally to improve efficiency for industry. It also supports our commitment to harmonize regulations through the New West Partnership as well as the National Task Force on Vehicle Weights and Dimension Policy. The majority of the amendments to the regulations are a result of industry-driven initiatives.

Because the changes are aimed at large vehicles, the general public would not normally recognize these amendments as changes as they are intended to improve the operating environment of commercial vehicles and do not change the perception of what an allowable vehicle is. These regulations are reviewed annually as industry continues to evolve and innovate to move people and goods more efficiently.

Ministry of Highways

Auto Recyclers Business License

The Ministry of Highways continually looks to ensure legislation is meaningful, current, and targeted amendments. The ministry modernizes and simplifies legislation by removing or revising dated, irrelevant, and confusing language and provisions.

The auto recycler's business license and fees issued by the ministry were an outdated provision that was no longer relevant after Saskatchewan's traffic statutes were consolidated.

Projected Savings to Impacted Stakeholders - Auto Recycling Licensing Fees

The Highway and Transportation Act Amendment Regulations, 2022 Summary Sheet		Average Annual Cost				Discounted Cost (Net Present Value)			
		Financial	Operating	Admin	Total	Financial	Operating	Admin	Total
Stakeholder	Type								
Auto wreckers licensee holders	External	(1.2)	-	-	(1.2)	(12.0)	-	-	(118.7)
Ministry of Highways	Internal	-	-	(0.0)	(0.0)	-	-	(0.4)	(14.7)
Total Internal		-	-	(0.0)	(0.0)	-	-	(0.4)	(0.4)
Total External Costs		(1.2)	-	-	(1.2)	(12.0)	-	-	(12.0)
Overall Total		(1.2)	-	(0.0)	(1.2)	(12.0)	-	(0.4)	(12.4)

*Note: All values are in thousands (\$000's)
Time Period: 10 Year(s)

Many provisions from the former *Highway Traffic Act* were incorporated into *The Highways and Transportation Act* and related regulations, while others formed the new *Traffic Safety Act*/regulations.

The provisions of the Act assigned the administration of the auto recycler business license and fee to the Highway Traffic Board, again at a time when the scope of duties and authority of the board were broader than today. Over time, administration of the license was assumed by the ministry.

The provisions found in the Act and related regulation resulted in an unnecessary financial and administrative burden for stakeholders and business licensing redundancy as the auto recycler industry is already subject to a range of local and provincial government registration and licensing fees.

This initiative was one small step in regulatory improvements for this complex industry; auto recyclers are now free of this licensing requirement.

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Streamlining and Modernization of Business Legislation

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General brought into force new legislation and regulations that modernized laws for business and non-profit corporations in the province. This modernization was done to reflect current business practices, replace outdated rules and language, reduce red tape, and create efficiencies for corporations by emphasizing the use of modern technology.

Changes were made to both *The Business Corporations Act, 2021* and *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2022*, and their supporting regulations to ensure more consistency in legislation, policy, and processes between different business legislation. Consistency between different business-related legislation will make it easier to do business by ensuring the processes are in place for multiple types of businesses.

The requirement for at least 25 per cent of directors to be Canadian residents was removed to bring Saskatchewan in line with most other Canadian jurisdictions.

Reducing the need to provide notices to or serve the Registrar of Corporations when corporations are dealing solely with internal business matters will save time and money.

Allowing the use of Indigenous names and expanding the characters in the Corporate Registry system to accommodate those names will expand on the current ability to use English or French names. This makes Saskatchewan one of the leaders in Canada, as most Corporate Registries have not had an opportunity to make this improvement.

The number of times corporations needed to go to court was reduced to improve access to justice and make it easier for businesses to operate in Saskatchewan. This will also save corporations time and money when obtaining court orders. Examples include:

- For both business and non-profit corporations, a representative of the corporation will no longer need to go to court to call a meeting for the sole purpose of electing new directors when all the directors have resigned or been removed from a corporation.
- For a non-profit corporation, a corporation will no longer need to obtain a court order to amend its activities in its articles. Previously, Saskatchewan was the only jurisdiction in Canada that required charitable organizations to seek prior approval from the Court of King's Bench before adding, changing, or removing restrictions on their own activities through their articles. Prior approval of the court was redundant and costly because the reason a charitable corporation would amend its activities was that Canada Revenue Agency instructed them to make the amendment prior to granting them charitable status.

Stakeholders expressed a strong interest in legislation allowing the use of electronic technology. The ability to sign a security certificate or send a notice of shareholder meetings electronically will enable corporations to keep a full electronic minute book, allowing them to keep better records.

The modernization of these acts and regulations will allow Saskatchewan businesses and non-profit corporations to conduct their business activities in a more efficient and effective manner, making it easier for them to contribute to the provincial economy.

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

Creative Saskatchewan Regulatory Changes

The Government of Saskatchewan proudly supports the film and television production industry through Creative Saskatchewan's Feature Film and Television Production Grant Program. In March 2022, the Government of Saskatchewan increased its funding for the grant from \$2 million to \$10 million. The grant program was provided an additional \$7.5 million in October 2022, to help grow the labour force, increase tourism, and support the arts and cultural sectors alongside so many other important industries.

To ensure timely approval of applications for funding, the threshold requiring Cabinet approval for the Feature Film and Television Production Grant Program was increased from \$600,000 to \$5 million. Through this regulatory change, the Government of Saskatchewan was able to ensure that film and television projects wanting to film in Saskatchewan were able to apply for funding without waiting for unnecessary, additional approvals from government.

It is estimated that the Government of Saskatchewan was able to secure a cost savings of approximately \$24,000 in the 2022-23 fiscal year by implementing this regulatory change, as it resulted in lower administrative costs for both the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport as well as Creative Saskatchewan.

SaskEnergy

Damage Excavation Prevention Act

By implementing *The Damage Excavation Prevention Act*, SaskEnergy is taking the lead in developing a consistent industry-standard time frame for line locates. The implementation of a single piece of legislation that standardizes line locate response times reduces red tape, provides clarity, and consistency.

In addition, by creating legislation dedicated to the concept of excavation damage prevention, the province would have a placeholder where future laws pertaining to excavation safety, damage prevention, and best practices can reside. For example, provisions respecting mandatory one-call requirements are expected to be added to this new legislation in the future, similar to what is contained in Alberta's *Damage Prevention Act*.

SaskEnergy

Crown Collaboration/Utility Corridor Initiative

Multiple utility services were being requested for a large customer planning development north of Regina. Through Crown Collaboration efforts, it was identified that SaskWater and TransGas were required to run infrastructure in similar areas. This created an opportunity to share a common utility corridor, minimizing the impact on affected lands and stakeholders while providing superior long-term operability.

Considerable efforts were undertaken by TransGas and SaskWater to evaluate the possibility of sharing a common utility corridor and what methods of joint land acquisition may exist. While there were areas where SaskWater elected a shorter route than TransGas, there was a portion on the east side of the project where the two utilities aligned. The further collaboration took place between SaskWater and TransGas, which led to the following:

- Sharing IOPs and CAD files;
- Sharing geotechnical borehole work and preliminary drawings for HDD crossings;
- Sharing environmental studies around an area with known containments;
- SaskWater addressing a water well issue benefitting both companies;
- TransGas addressing certain telecom infrastructure that will benefit both companies;
- Joint land acquisition for both SaskWater and TransGas pipelines through the area where the utilities parallel;
- Successfully reducing easement widths by locating the utilities adjacent to each other and using right-of-way space of the other for reduced temporary workspace requirements;
- Joint survey work where the routes parallel reducing related costs.

As the projects remain in the development phase, further opportunities for collaboration and cost saving are continually being sought and evaluated.

Ministry of Social Services

The Residential Services Regulations

The *Residential Services Act, 2019* and the new Residential Services Regulations came into force on January 1, 2023, to ensure effective licensing of residential facilities for the people who rely on them for their safety and well-being.

The act expands appropriate options for out-of-home care placements by streamlining the licensing process for organizations, which will help them adjust to changing service delivery needs. The new regulations replace The Residential-service Facilities Regulations and The Private-service Home Regulations. Changes in the new regulations include:

- The establishment of the “categories of care.” These categories of care clearly define which facilities shall be licensed;
- Clear requirements for criminal record checks and confidentiality statements;
- Provisions to enhance resident privacy;
- The duty to report suspected child abuse;
- Consistency and ease in licensing and monitoring;
- Updated and modernized requirements and language; and
- Improved procedural fairness for applicants and operators by including the right of review and transparency in decision-making.

Expanding Online Tools and Solutions

Technological improvements and high-speed internet connectivity are becoming more accessible and easier to use for businesses and residents each year. Saskatchewan ministries, agencies and Crown corporations are continuing to innovate and adopt web-based platforms to improve access to information, broaden their reach and expand services to clients.

The expansion of online tools and solutions has enabled the provincial government to improve regulatory services and response times by making it easier and faster to submit applications and seek approvals. There is an overall reduction in administrative time for both government and the client. Technology has also provided clients with the ability to submit applications day or night, at times convenient for them.

The Government of Saskatchewan has implemented the following initiatives to further expand online regulatory tools, solutions, and technologies.



Ministry of Advanced Education

The Private Vocational School Regulations, 2022

In 2022-23, the Ministry of Advanced Education modernized and improved The Private Vocational Schools Regulations, 2022, to enable a more efficient way for institutions to respond to the needs of students, particularly in the way they access programs. These changes have enabled private vocational schools to offer online-only programs.

Private vocational schools can now deliver online programs, which increases their ability to compete with other institutions offering online programming, provides access to alternative sources of revenue, improves their ability to ensure business continuity, and allows them to mitigate potential financial risks (e.g., pandemic) in the rapidly changing post-secondary sector.

In addition, private vocational schools now have greater flexibility to offer programs to students who have accessibility issues, move frequently and/or to students who live in rural and remote communities. These enhancements support private vocational school programs delivered across the province to meet a standard of quality and enable these post-secondary institutions to be more responsive to students' needs.

Ministry of Agriculture

Transition of Market Trends and RM Yields applications to the saskatchewan.ca Dashboard

The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to ensuring producers have access to the information they need to make informed business decisions. Part of this work includes the utilization of public-facing applications to allow individuals to access the specific market and production information they require. The RM Yields application provides details on production of individual crops, within each rural municipality, going back decades in some cases. The Market Trends application provides a one-stop resource of current and historic pricing and financial information across the sector. Both applications have existed in some form since the earliest web presence for the ministry, and both were beginning to show their age.

The applications were built in legacy software, no longer supported, and difficult to navigate. Outputs were static tables displayed on a webpage or Excel file downloads. Public engagement outside of dedicated, long-term users was low. The information was also difficult to find online, buried deep into the saskatchewan.ca website. Staff time spent updating these was also extensive. From consolidating and analyzing data from numerous sources, multiple uploads to multiple nested worksheets, and responding to inquiries from the public, multiple staff members were committing significant time to keep these projects running.

Transition to the dashboard placed these applications in a modern environment. Our information is now housed in a much more visible and interactive environment, which enables users to not only see raw results and downloads, but also interact and visualize the information right within the application. Uploads of data can now be completed through a simple one-step process, by one FTE. Approximately eight hours of admin and analyst staff time per week has been saved as a result of this change. Our placement on the dashboard has also given more visibility to these products and allows users to easily see them in the context of other economic indicators for the province. This relatively minor change to the delivery medium has produced efficiency improvements not only for internal staff, but the public as well.

Ministry of Agriculture

Transition of Market Trends and RM Yields applications to the saskatchewan.ca Dashboard

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Ministry of Agriculture

2022 Claims Modernization

The 2022 crop year experienced mix conditions across the province. As a result, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) recognized the additional time and effort required to complete claims and inspections. Focusing on the producers and its commitment to continuous improvement, SCIC continued to modernize its claims processes – giving staff tools and techniques to ensure efficiency and timely completion of claims.

When a crop does not produce as expected, producers rely on Crop Insurance payments to support their operations. SCIC recognized the producers' need for additional cash flow. In 2022, following the success of last year's pilot, SCIC expanded its use of advance payments - paying a 50 per cent advance on all eligible claims. These advance payments provided additional cash relief for producers. This also allowed SCIC's appropriate follow-through with its verification techniques (for example: using a producer's sales tickets to verify production). As a result of permanently implementing this process, over 97 per cent of claims provided cash flow to producers by December 31, 2022.

To improve the processing time of claims, SCIC conducted a pilot program – integrating satellite imagery into the claims process. Satellite imagery provides a historical repository of daily images. This allowed SCIC to assess damage and make claim decisions, eliminating the need to be at a particular place, at a particular time. Using the historical repository, SCIC was able to monitor damage; verify crop staging and crop establishment; confirm seeding and harvesting dates; and compare field maturity to the area. SCIC adjusters made more informed claim decisions, with fewer on farm visits to monitor ongoing damage. The pilot showed satellite imagery was particularly helpful when processing gopher damage claims, estimating a saving of approximately \$200 per claim.

SCIC recognizes the importance of continuous improvement to ensure processes are designed to support Saskatchewan producers. Whereas 2021 efforts ensured timely claim payments, the 2022 initiative focused on the efficiency of adjusting resources through innovative processes and technology.

Ministry of Energy and Resources

The Financial Security and Site Closure Regulations

Effective January 1, 2023, a set of new and amended regulations - The Financial Security and Site Closure Regulations (FSSCR) and The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Regulations (OGCAR), introduced changes and improvements that modernize and strengthen the Ministry of Energy and Resources' liability management framework.

The FSSCR and OGCAR both feature provisions, enhancements and amendments to liability-related rules and programs intended to reduce the prospect of new orphan oil and gas infrastructure in the future.

Key to the FSSCR is the introduction of the Inactive Liability Reduction Program (ILRP), Proportional Risk Transfer (PRT) assessments and also an enhancement to the current licensee liability rating (LLR) program – the Enhanced LLR Program.

Through these initiatives, ER's liability management framework is strengthened by ensuring that licensees are able to retire their inactive oil and gas infrastructure in a timely manner and that security deposits are collected, maintained and continue to be sufficient to protect the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Orphan Fund (SOGOF).

Other changes brought by the regulations also reduce red tape, including:

- Repeal of references in The Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations, 2012 (OGCR) and redundant sections on "Appeal of Security Deposits" and "Liability Reduction";
- Migration of all provisions related to ER's oil and gas liability management framework from the OGCR into a central location (the FSSCR); and,
- Elimination of the \$10,000 deposit requirement from licensees to the SOGOF.

ER is also committed to improving client service. It built functionality into the Integrated Resource Management System (IRIS) to support programming and administration of the FSSCR initiatives. More information about these initiatives can be found at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/oil-and-gas/liability-management>

The change also allows ER to reduce the time it takes to review and approve well abandonment applications in IRIS. This allows ER to focus resources where they are needed and will prevent industry from incurring undue costs due to unnecessary wait periods.

Ministry of Energy and Resources

Routine/Non-Routine Abandonment Project

In March 2023, the Ministry of Energy and Resources welcomed new enhancements to the existing Routine/Non-Routine Abandonment Authorization process in its Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS).

In June of 2019, Directive PNG015: Well Abandonment Requirements was amended to allow a risk-based approach for industry to develop their technical abandonment programs for wells. Industry could submit a well abandonment application and based on the company's own assessment, the application could either be routinely approved or require a non-routine technical review. The initiative created a structured well abandonment application, and this latest IRIS enhancement was a further build-out to allow IRIS to assess the criteria automatically.

Under the improved authorization process, IRIS industry users submitting a well abandonment application will answer a set of disclosure questions, provide other relevant information, and upon submission, IRIS will make an automatic determination if the application is routine or non-routine. Routine applications will be approved immediately and issued a system-generated abandonment authorization, while non-routine applications will be reviewed further by ER staff.

The change also allows ER to reduce the time it takes to review and approve well abandonment applications in IRIS. This allows ER to focus resources where they are needed and will prevent industry from incurring undue costs due to unnecessary wait periods.

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

Consumer Disputes Online Dispute Resolution Project (CDODR)

The former dispute resolution model for consumers and businesses was an inefficient process that resulted in significantly more time, effort, and cost incurred by the parties involved due to its manual nature. Parties to a dispute typically do not know at the outset what their respective legal rights and obligations are.

CDODR aims to transform consumer dispute resolution through the implementation of online dispute resolution tools to make it more effective, simpler, and faster while providing fair and accessible justice for all consumers. Consumers and businesses will see reduced time and money spent on disputes, and greater rates of successful dispute resolution. The new online solution includes a Legal Guided Pathway (LGP) and an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) component:

The pathway provides information to consumers and businesses specific to their area of dispute and ensures an understanding of their respective rights, responsibilities, and obligations. It also provides template letters for consumers to raise their dispute with the business and make it easy for consumers to quickly populate and download the letter which they can then email or mail to the business.

The ODR suite guides the consumer and business through a system-led online party-to-party negotiation, provides a platform for mediation services and documents resolutions reached through the negotiation process or mediation.

The new CDODR is being delivered within the context of the larger e-Justice Program. If parties cannot resolve their dispute through party-to-party negotiation, resolution proposals will be facilitated by the FCAA staff and, if warranted, by an independent mediator.

Ministry of Finance

Tax Information Automatic Online Feedback Surveys

Tax policies and regulations change over time, which can affect the way Saskatchewan business owners collect, report, and pay consumption taxes. Updates to bulletins and information notices are completed on a priority basis in response to changes in legislation, clarify language, and keep up with evolving technology. Business owners and tax clients who have concerns or questions about updated online content are now able to send real time feedback to the Tax Information & Compliance Branch within the Ministry of Finance through automatic online feedback surveys.

Because of this innovation, in addition to traditional mechanisms to provide input, every electronic information bulletin includes a survey for readers to provide immediate feedback on the content posted online. By gathering feedback from business owners and tax clients in real time, we can identify specific pain points within the tax information and bulletin notices and take the necessary steps to address them and continuously improve. Clear and current tax publications ensure that businesses have access to up-to-date information when they need it so that they can easily meet their tax obligations. Not only is the feedback helpful with reducing rep tape for businesses, but it also provides us with valuable insights to inform decision making around future tax policy changes so that we can better meet the needs of Saskatchewan businesses.

Ministry of Health

Creation of the Health Human Resources website and email

Saskatchewan has developed a four-point Health Human Resources Action Plan that accelerates efforts to attract and retain healthcare workers. Saskatchewan is rolling out multiple initiatives guided by this action plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain healthcare providers to address the current challenges and build a stronger, more sustainable healthcare workforce.

The Action Plan has multiple initiatives to appeal to a broad range of health professionals both within Saskatchewan and Canada and outside of the country. It was important to ensure easy access, navigation, and ability to promote to a large and diverse audience. As part of the Health Human Resources Action Plan, the Ministry of Health has created a one-stop shop HHR website saskatchewan.ca/HHR to provide information and online services related to working in the health sector in Saskatchewan from training/education, incentives, support programs, navigation services, and employment. In addition to the website, there is also one email, hhr@health.gov.sk.ca for all inquiries related to Health Human Resources, including incentive packages application and navigation service booking.

Ministry of Highways

Highway Hotline App

In November 2022, a revised Saskatchewan's Highway Hotline mobile app was launched and received positive feedback from drivers across the province. With over 10,000 downloads in the first 24 hours, the new app helps thousands plan their routes with a cleaner look and more features. The mobile app users can check updates to road construction, expanded route planning, weather events, surface conditions, status of ferries, and much more. Operating the provincial highway network involves the delivery of a wide range of services, including providing better customer service.

Easy-to-access roadway information and maps will make it easier for motorists to plan their daily commute or extended travel with a new, free Highway Hotline mobile app for their smartphones available online at Google Play and the Apple Store.

The Highway Hotline mobile app is designed to assist drivers with route planning before driving; using any electronic handheld device while driving is prohibited under Saskatchewan's distracted-driving law. Through enhancements to the Highway Hotline, the government is empowering Saskatchewan drivers with up-to-date, accessible, and intuitive information at their fingertips to help them stay safe on the roads through the winter months and busy construction season. As one of the initiatives outlined in the Saskatchewan Growth Plan, this is another way we're making vital programs and services more convenient, more reliable, and more accessible.

The Highway Hotline began nearly 50 years ago as a phone-based service that provided information about road conditions. Today, the hotline receives roughly 6.5 million online visits annually. The winter of 2021/22 was impacted by several intense storms, the hotline set a record, with nearly 13 million hits.

It has evolved into a phone and web-based service that shares information about highway conditions, road closures, construction zones, ferries, and border crossings. Maps and information are updated at least three times per day. During winter storms, updates are made the moment they're received.

"As Saskatchewan's trusted advocate on road user safety, we encourage drivers to check the Saskatchewan Highway Hotline for updates on road conditions...It's important to adapt our driving behaviour to the current weather and road conditions, and to rely on resources such as the Saskatchewan Highway Hotline to help keep all road users safe." - CAA Saskatchewan Director of Corporate Communications Christine Niemczyk

The hotline features a network of more than 40 cameras on Saskatchewan highways and airports. The cameras provide real time, current images of weather and highway conditions, which can help travelers make informed decisions about their safety.

In addition to the Highway Hotline, the ministry has more than 300 snowplows deployed across the province that are available to respond to snow and ice on provincial highways 24 hours per day.

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Expanding Recalculation Services to include the administrative calculation of support

In 2018 Regulations were passed creating the Saskatchewan Child Support Recalculation Service and a scheme for the recalculation of child support orders. The service allows parties to a court order to apply for recalculation of child support payable without returning to court for a new order. In 2020 these Regulations were amended to include the recalculation of child support agreements entered into voluntarily between the parties.

The Family Maintenance Amendment Regulations, 2022 further expanded the scope of decisions that may be recalculated to include support orders made by an arbitrator, administrative calculation decisions from other Canadian jurisdictions, and recalculation determinations from other Canadian jurisdictions. These amendments also allowed for the recalculation of child support orders where the child is over 18, or there is a shared custody agreement, as long as the support amount was determined in accordance with the child support table amounts.

The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022 moves the framework of the recalculation provisions to the act and also allows for the administrative calculation of support payments. If the criteria in the act are met, including that no existing order or agreement for support is in place, the calculation service will administratively determine the amount of support payable. This calculated amount can be filed with the court and enforced like a court order. This expansion improves access to justice for Saskatchewan residents to obtain support orders without requiring a costly court application.

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Remote Witnessing and Electronic Wills

During the COVID-19 emergency period, a need was identified for the remote witnessing and commissioning of certain legal documents. Regulations were passed to permit lawyers to use electronic means to remotely witness wills and powers of attorney, as well as commission other documents.

The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2022 and *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2022 (No.2.)*, which came into force on July 1, 2022, made the remote witnessing provisions permanent in each of *The Wills Act, 1996*, *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2015*, *The Powers of Attorney Act, 2002* and *The Electronic Information and Documents Act, 2000*.

Remote witnessing improves access to legal services—especially in remote communities—by permitting witnessing and commissioning of certain documents without the need for travel or in-person attendance. This change was welcomed by the legal community and the public.

The success of these provisions led to the introduction of *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022* which includes provisions for the creation of a valid electronic will in Saskatchewan. Like the remote witnessing provisions, electronic wills permit the creation of a will entirely through electronic means, increasing accessibility for potential testators. This act will come into force on order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

Developers' Online Screening Tool

The Heritage Conservation Branch's (HCB) Developers' Online Screening Tool (DOST) was significantly upgraded in 2022 to move from the DOST Mark I text-based app using coarse-grained heritage sensitivity mapping to the DOST Mark II Geographic Information Systems-based app with refined heritage sensitivity mapping. The DOST is used by developers for heritage screening to determine if their project may have heritage concerns under *The Heritage Property Act, 1980*. The tool was text-based relying on the manual input of each quarter section location impacted by the developer's project. For large-scale projects, this was a long and laborious task resulting in multiple documents for each project. Developers were often frustrated with the time required to input their development project locations and requested a tool that was more user-friendly, faster, and visual. The refined heritage sensitivity mapping has 20 per cent less land coded Heritage Sensitive, resulting in an increase in immediate heritage clearances and a reduction in the amount of projects submitted to HCB. The process of screening projects for heritage concerns within a GIS-based platform is quicker and more efficient for developers.

The Business Development and Leasing Unit with the Parks Division of the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport has reported that they have seen a reduction of 50 per cent of their projects requiring submission for heritage review since the launch of the new tool.

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority

New online reporting system

SLGA continues to implement changes to internal policies and procedures to create efficiency and effectiveness for employees and customers.

- Feedback from focus groups resulted in numerous improvements, including simplified language on the SLGA website and improved website navigation.
- The number of retail liquor store permittees in Saskatchewan communities is based on the population size. The 2021 provincial census data was downloaded into SLGA's IT solution to automate the process of determining the number of allowable retail liquor stores in any given community. Previously, this was manually calculated and very cumbersome.
- SLGA introduced a Horse Racing module into the division's IT solution and provided training to Horse Racing Branch Staff. This allowed Horse Racing Staff to benefit from the capabilities of an IT solution (storage of data, reporting) that was not accessible before, affecting both time and security.
- SLGA collects payments for permittee sanctions. Client Services Branch simplified the process for documenting and collecting sanction fees directly within the division's regulatory software. This automated the previously manual process of storing sanction documentation and now allows for a complete and accurate historical permittee report.

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority

Online Booking System

SLGA's liquor distribution centre ships approximately 2.8M cases annually, averaging approximately 125 in and outbound trucks each week. Before March 9, 2023, SLGA scheduled dock appointments for carriers. This process increased administrative time for employees because someone always had to be available to answer calls and emails and book and cancel appointments. SLGA also incurred higher freight costs.

On March 9, 2023, SLGA implemented a new dock scheduling software called Opendock. This software allows SLGA to create efficiencies, saving money and time, by having carriers schedule their dock appointments through Opendock. This will result in:

- **Lower Freight Costs** - Decrease detention fees with appointments and reduce rates by making it easier for drivers to pick up and deliver products;
- **Reduced Labor Costs** - Free up warehouse staff with fewer inbound calls and e-mails by letting carriers schedule online;
- **Improved Visibility** - Manage warehouse with real-time status updates and dock appointment data that can be shared across the enterprise;
- **Records Management** – Keeping a list of URLs, usernames, and passwords for every shipper will no longer be required;
- **Ease for Drivers** - Confirmation e-mails with the appointment date, time, address, check-in instructions, and warehouse contact information;
- **Quick and Convenient** – Increase efficiency by scheduling appointments online without making a phone call or waiting for e-mail responses.

SaskEnergy

Cultural Knowledge document drafted by Indigenous Engagement

Culture is a collective and comprehensive understanding of traditions, ceremonies, languages, values, beliefs, arts, achievements and social institutions of a particular nation, people, or social group. The information in the handbook serves as a general guide to the protocols and methodologies of First Nations and Metis people. Following appropriate guidance from respected Elders and Knowledge Keepers in these matters is paramount. Indigenous protocols should not be undertaken without proper guidance from respected Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

There is diversity among Indigenous cultures in Saskatchewan. Not all First Nations have the same protocols, culture, and ceremonial practices. Therefore, Elders and Knowledge Keepers should be consulted for appropriate protocols.

As part of SaskEnergy's commitment to the truth and reconciliation process, the Indigenous Engagement department prepared a cultural handbook to document First Nation and Metis protocols for SaskEnergy employees.

SaskEnergy

IFS Line Locating Software

SaskEnergy joined a Crown collaborative Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain a new Field Service Management software as the existing software reached its end of life in 2023. With all three Crowns selecting IFS as their new solution, SaskEnergy was able to obtain bulk discounts on user licenses saving roughly \$300,000 per year over the three-year contract.

The main function of the software is to auto-schedule routine work to field staff using a sophisticated AI algorithm that weighs various inputs and constraints to achieve the best possible schedule. This AI system uses the inputs as defined by SaskEnergy to perform billions of iterations every day to achieve the final schedule for the field employee. The built-in reporting tools, dashboards, and visibility allow SaskEnergy employees to make the best possible decisions for the business.

The new solution provides several benefits over the existing software, including:

- More configuration, allowing SaskEnergy to adapt the software to our business and realize higher benefits;
- An enhanced workload forecasting and planning tool that allows SaskEnergy to observe trends using historical data to ensure the right staff are in the right location at the right time to meet customers' needs;
- A configurable dashboard that provides near real time metrics into how the business is operating on the desired time scale. This will allow SaskEnergy to track key metrics and find ways to improve;
- Built-in simulations for business situations where users can test actual scenarios and determine any changes required to meet a desired outcome; and
- Enhanced customer experience options allowing SaskEnergy to continue providing customers with the service they expect.

SaskTel

Visual Remote Assistance Tool

A Visual Remote Assistance Tool was added to SaskTel's Technical Support area in April 2022 to enhance the trouble shooting process. Through an application, the tool adds a video component to the trouble shooting process, so SaskTel Technical Support Specialists can see exactly what the customer is seeing in their home through the camera on their smartphone. This tool can provide cost savings to SaskTel by not sending a truck to the customer's premises as well as creates a better customer experience by resolving troubles faster (minutes vs days) since the customer doesn't have to wait for an appointment.

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SaskTel

Contact Centre Bots

SaskTel introduced several automated bots to our contact centre in the 2022-23 fiscal year:

- Voicemail Password Reset Bot
- Callback Authentication Bot
- Balance Inquiry Bot
- Appointment Information Bot
- SaskTel Virtual Assistant (Chatbot on sasktel.com)

Bots automate high-volume, low-value transactions which frees up Specialists to handle high-value, customer interactions, allowing them to maximize the use of their time. In addition, automated bots enhance the customer experience by saving time for customers by assisting them in the channel of their choice and providing an easier access to service as the customer does not have to wait to speak with a Specialist.

SaskTel

Smart Agriculture

To support the Saskatchewan Growth Plan in the agricultural industry, SaskTel is leading innovation to support the research and development for the adoption of made-in-Saskatchewan Ag Tech solutions. SaskTel, in partnership with Innovation Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, are collaborating to identify the needs and challenges of Ag Tech adoption with the discovery, testing, validation, and scaling of new innovations for the agriculture industry. Using networks, sensors, and data analytics, innovation is underway to prove and validate data and solutions such as a single view for livestock operations management, making data accessible and to improve farm decision making.

Saskatchewan Government Insurance

eInspections

On May 16, 2022, SGI's process for entering vehicle inspection certificates turned digital, creating efficiencies for customers, inspection stations and SGI. Before the eInspections project was implemented, the process for vehicle inspection certificates was onerous and inefficient.

When a customer had their vehicle inspected, the inspection station filled out a manual certificate and then provided copies to the customer, sent copies to SGI by mail, and kept copies for their own records. The customer would then take their copy to a motor license issuer to register the vehicle. Inspection certificates were typically received by SGI within two weeks of completion but could take several months to be entered into the system due to limited administrative resources. SGI staff had to scan the inspection certificate, interpret the handwritten data and then enter it into the system. If a mechanic's handwriting was hard to read, the SGI employee would need to follow up with them for clarification. SGI processes about 120,000 inspections each year.

The new process allows inspection stations to input inspection data directly into the Auto Fund's online application, reducing time and effort while increasing speed and accuracy. Customers no longer have to take a paper inspection certificate to an issuer's office once an inspection is completed. Once the inspection station inputs the information into the Auto Fund's system, any statuses preventing registration or deeming the vehicle unsafe are removed automatically. Another benefit is that if there is an issue or a need to supply information from an old inspection, both SGI and the inspection station are able to find that inspection quicker and provide it to the customer as needed. Transitioning to an electronic process also enhances carrier and vehicle safety in the province by providing traffic officers with immediate online access to vehicle inspection data, allowing them to identify unsafe vehicles without delay.

The reduction in staffing, mailing, and other administrative costs through the new process results in annual savings of about \$161,000. The project started as a pilot in May 2022 with a select number of inspection stations. A staggered rollout to all 980 certified inspection stations took place between July and September 2022.

While the eInspection project has only been fully rolled out for just over six months, SGI's inspection partners have already expressed that this change has allowed their business to be more efficient and more productive, while also allowing them to better serve their customers. A survey was sent to inspection stations three weeks after their implementation date.

Saskatchewan Government Insurance

Translation services for driver exams

In an effort to reduce barriers for new Canadians trying to obtain a Class 1 driver's licence, SGI added translation functionality to its Test Drive online testing system that allows drivers taking written tests to translate the tests into their preferred language. More than 70 languages are available.

The translation functionality is available for all classes of written driver test but was initially introduced in response to the high demand for drivers with a Class 1 licence (used for semis).

Road tests for all classes of licenses are still conducted in English, which is consistent with the practice in the rest of Canada.

Ministry of Social Services

Missing Youth Saskatchewan Application

The Missing Youth Saskatchewan Application is a new automated, easy-to-use app that is available across the province to group homes providing care to children and youth. The Missing Youth Saskatchewan Application was built through coordination between EGADZ, Saskatoon Police Service and the Ministry of Social Services.

The application is an expansion of the EGADZ risk assessment that has been in use for five years and shown success in lowering the number of youths that are reported missing to police and sharing information on youth that may be at risk in the community. It supports youth engagement and youth speaking openly and honestly with their support including group home staff, police, and ministry workers. Created for youth by youth the risk assessment is a comprehensive set of questions to identify the youth's current risk when they are not returning home.

The assessment prompts staff to identify what heightens and lowers the risk to determine if the youth needs to be reported missing to the police or if they are simply not returning home but are still safe. The assessment will automatically generate risk from high to low, however staff can alter this and add additional comments for risk factors. By only reporting youth who are at risk as missing the police will then have more resources to focus on the youth that are missing and at risk. The assessment also holds the agency and staff accountable for ensuring they have taken the proper measures in engaging with the youth both before and after the youth has been reported missing. All organizations will have the ability to run reports allowing each organization to see how completion of the risk assessments is lowering the number of youths being reported missing.

Ministry of Social Services

SAID Online Application Process

The Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program gives individuals with significant and enduring disabilities access to long-term income support, a greater choice of services, and opportunities to participate in their community.

In February 2023, the Ministry of Social Services introduced an online application through saskatchewan.ca for individuals applying to the SAID program. The new online application process is more client-friendly and has fewer steps during the intake process, which allows the ministry to process applications and connect clients to their benefits and services more quickly.

Before the online application process was introduced, the SAID program's screening could be completed over the phone, but all applications were completed in person on a paper application form and required an in-person meeting at a regional Social Services office within five days of submitting the application.

Online applications can now be submitted 24 hours per day, seven days per week at a time that is best for the applicant. Applying online or over the phone takes approximately 30 minutes and no longer requires an in-person meeting. This saves clients time, including those who live in rural areas or who need support to visit a Social Services office. Clients can also upload documents or update their personal information online rather than in person, and they can sign up to receive text message alerts from the ministry regarding their file.

This enhanced process improves the service the ministry provides to clients. It also improves accessibility for people with disabilities and supports the intent of new accessibility legislation to prevent and remove accessibility barriers.

Regulatory Alignment Across Jurisdictions

In an increasingly globalized marketplace, Saskatchewan businesses are operating across domestic and international borders with increased frequency. Regulations that are out of step with other jurisdictions can be frustrating to businesses that must comply with multiple sets of regulations that can be repetitive or in conflict. The Government of Saskatchewan is working to streamline regulations with municipal, provincial, and federal jurisdictions to facilitate the movement of goods and services across borders and reduce burdens to the provider or consumer.

Saskatchewan is an active participant in the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT), which was established through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. The RCT aims to reconcile regulations that are considered an impediment to business in the areas of trade, labour, and innovation.

The following initiatives have been implemented by ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations to improve inter-jurisdictional alignment.



Ministry of Education

The Education Amendment Regulations, 2022



The Government of Saskatchewan made amendments to The Education Regulations to ensure that all Ukrainian school aged students arriving through the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) Program receive tuition-free Kindergarten to Grade 12 education.

Providing tuition-free education for these students is an essential step to ensuring these newcomers are able to settle in the province.

Since September 2022, hundreds of students from Ukraine enrolled through the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) Program have registered in Saskatchewan schools.

The CUAET program was specifically established to support Ukrainians and family members fleeing the ongoing war. This new program offers Ukrainians and their family members free, extended temporary status and allows people to work, study and stay in Canada for up to three years if they continue to meet the criteria of the CUAET program.

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

Canadian Securities Administration (CSA) Regulatory Burden Reduction Initiative

As part of the CSA Regulatory Burden Reduction Initiative, FCAA participated in five projects that resulted in or will result in regulatory amendments that reduce burden. The initiative included work on the following projects:

- 1) CSA Alternative Offering Systems Project** – CSA Notice of Amendments to National Instrument 45-106 Prospectus Exemptions to introduce the Listed Issuer Financing Exemption: On September 8, 2022, the CSA published for implementation amendments that introduce a new prospectus exemption, the Listed Issuer Financing Exemption, which will make it easier and less costly for listed reporting issuers to raise capital for offerings under \$10 million in a 12-month period. The amendments became effective on November 21, 2022, by way of a General Ruling Order.
- 2) CSA Primary Business Project** – CSA Notice of Changes to Companion Policy 41-101CP to National Instrument 41-101 General Prospectus Requirements related to Financial Statement Requirements: On April 14, 2022, the CSA published for implementation changes to its guidance on prospectus disclosure requirements. The changes provide reporting issuers with a more harmonized approach in the interpretation of the Primary Business requirements relating to the historical financial information required to be included in an IPO prospectus. The guidance became effective on the date that it was published.
- 3) CSA Offering Memorandum Project** – CSA Notice of Amendments to National Instrument 45-106 Prospectus Exemptions and Changes to Companion Policy 45-106CP Prospectus Exemptions relating to the Offering Memorandum Prospectus Exemption: On December 8, 2022, the CSA published for implementation amendments related to the Offering Memorandum Prospectus Exemption. The amendments set out new disclosure requirements for issuers that are engaged in “real estate activities” and issuers that are “collective investment vehicles.” This CSA project was not actually included as part of the Regulatory Burden Reduction project but has been included here for that purpose. In addition, the amendments clarify and streamline certain disclosure requirements. The amendments became effective on March 8, 2023, by way of a General Ruling Order.
- 4) CSA Access Equals Delivery Project** – CSA Notice and Request for Comment Proposed Amendments and Proposed Changes to Implement an Access Equals Delivery model for Non-Investment Fund Reporting Issuers: On April 7, 2022, the CSA published for comment proposed amendments and change to implement an Access Equals Delivery model for non-investment fund reporting issuers. The proposed amendments will reduce regulatory burden on reporting issuers by allowing these entities to share their prospectus and continuous disclosures with security holders electronically. This will reduce the costs associated with the printing and mailing of documents. The comment period closed on July 6, 2022, and CSA staff are currently in the process of reviewing the comments received.
- 5) CSA Access Equals Delivery Project** – CSA Notice and Request for Comment Proposed Amendments and Proposed Changes to Implement an Access-Based Model for Investment Fund Reporting Issuers: On October 6, 2022, the CSA published for comment proposed amendments and changes to implement an Access Equals Delivery model for investment fund reporting issuers. The proposed amendments will reduce regulatory burden on investment fund reporting issuers by allowing these entities to share their continuous disclosures with security holders electronically. This will reduce costs associated with the printing and mailing of documents. The comment period closed December 26, 2022, and CSA staff are currently in the process of reviewing the comments received.

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

Amendments to The Insurance Regulations

The Insurance Regulations were amended in 2022 to reduce the base capital that reciprocal insurance exchanges are required to maintain to be licensed, from \$3,000,000 to \$50,000. This amendment aligns the base capital requirements in Saskatchewan with the requirements in other provinces, putting Saskatchewan-based reciprocal insurance exchanges on an even footing with extra-provincial reciprocal insurance exchanges.

The change also frees up capital for Saskatchewan-based reciprocal insurance exchanges so that capital can be used in other ways. Consumers will continue to be protected as these reciprocal insurance exchanges will still be subject to other prudential standards, such as maintaining adequate reserve and guarantee funds to ensure they have enough capital on hand to respond to the risks they are insuring.

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

New Self-Regulatory Organization Framework

Effective January 1, 2023, a new self-regulatory organization (New SRO) has been implemented, which combines the functions of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC) and the Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada (MFDA). Additionally, a new investor protection fund (New IPF) has been established that is separate from the new SRO. The SRO has been approved by FCAA and the other 12 jurisdictions in Canada (together the Canadian Securities Administrators or CSA).

Having a single self-regulatory organization is expected to:

- Deliver value for investors, regardless of where they live, how many assets they have or their level of investing sophistication;
- Foster an innovative and competitive industry to ensure there are investment opportunities and value propositions for existing and evolving Canadian investor needs;
- Make it easier for dealers and their advisors to serve Canadians, regardless of region, firm size, or business model;
- Reduce duplicative regulatory burden and complexity, particularly for those running separate IIROC and MFDA platforms, as well as those in Québec; and,
- Reduce barriers for current single-platform dealers looking to expand their business models.

"This process was open, collaborative, and respectful, and resulted in overall agreement to the legislative updates to the Lloydminster Charter that ensured its modernization and harmonization with the MGA and Cities Act. The City would like to express its gratitude and thanks to the provinces for their support and assistance throughout this process."-Doug Rodwell, Lloydminster City Clerk

Ministry of Government Relations

Lloydminster Charter Renewal

In December 2022, The Lloydminster Charter was updated for the first time since 2013. *The City of Lloydminster Act (Saskatchewan)* and *The City of Lloydminster Act (Alberta)* provide that the charter governs matters of administration and governance of the city and the operation of the city's public and separate school divisions.

It was important to update the charter since the City of Lloydminster had been operating under a charter that had not been in alignment with applicable legislation of both provinces for some time. The Lloydminster Charter needed to be aligned with recent changes to *The Cities Act (Saskatchewan)* and *The Municipal Government Act (Alberta)*. Misalignment with municipal legislation resulted in challenges for the city and often necessitated workaround policies and procedures for Lloydminster.

Key Saskatchewan revisions to the charter included adding Saskatchewan provisions relating to code of ethics for council, conflict of interest, disqualification, code of conduct, protection from reprisal for municipal employees, authority for environmental improvements and inter-municipal business licensing, and updating education property tax references.

Key Alberta revisions to the charter included adding Alberta provisions relating to mandatory councillor orientation training, financial administration, petitioning, public participation, regional services commissions, and inter-municipal collaboration frameworks.

The City of Lloydminster also had a number of requests based on its own priorities. Changes to the charter addressed the city's concerns relating to approval processes for stormwater work, alignment with Alberta's assessment and taxation provisions, petitioning, bylaws related to parental leave, and advertising by electronic means.

Officials from the Ministry of Government Relations (Saskatchewan) and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Alberta) worked closely over a year and a half to draft the changes, in consultation with a number of other ministries in both provinces. Officials and drafters from both sides of the border faced several challenges in finalizing this unique document which must be approved as a complementary Order in Council in both provinces.

Several consultation sessions were held with the City of Lloydminster during 2022, and the city administration was very supportive and responsive throughout the amendment process.

The revised Charter was approved in both Alberta and Saskatchewan in December 2022 and came into force on January 1, 2023.

SaskPower

Memorandum and Collaboration with Ministry of Environment for Vegetation Management

Maintaining reliability of the electrical grid requires many different initiatives, one of which being vegetation management. Vegetation accounts for a significant number of outages each year and maintaining necessary clearances between vegetation and power infrastructure is critical.

SaskPower continues to work with provincial officials to reduce red tape associated with permitting requirements for routine, low risk maintenance work on existing SaskPower rights-of-ways. Streamlining the permit requirements for this work will enable SaskPower to work quicker and with a more streamlined permitting process to reduce risks associated with wildfires and outages caused by vegetation.

SaskPower has made significant progress in reducing unnecessary permits for power infrastructure maintenance work on Crown Agricultural and Private land (2018 to present) while maintaining safe operations; however, getting similar allowances on Crown Resource Land has been challenging.

In January 2022, the provincial Ministry of Justice completed a review of *The Power Corporation Act* and *The Forest Resource Management Act*, two pieces of legislation that guide utility maintenance. The Ministry of Justice also considered the Government of Saskatchewan Consultation Policy Framework regarding permitting requirements on Crown Resource Land.

As a result, it was identified that there could be opportunities to streamline permitting requirements for low risk and/or routine maintenance activities on established SaskPower rights-of-ways.

In October 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted by SaskPower for review by the Ministry of Environment that proposed an approach to reduce permitting requirements for routine maintenance on unoccupied Crown Resource Land.

The outcome would reduce red tape by reducing permit requirements while ensuring environmental impacts are minimized, and Indigenous communication and collaboration are maintained.

SaskPower is currently waiting for a response/further direction related to this red tape reduction; however, efforts will continue on this important action in 2023-24.

Help Cut Red Tape Website

Saskatchewan's Help Cut Red Tape webpage has been an essential tool for identifying red tape irritants. As a citizen-centered platform, the webpage has connected with stakeholders on their concerns. The webpage, featured on saskatchewan.ca, received 22 submissions and over 5,457 visits during the 2022-23 fiscal year. Since its successful launch in January 2019, the webpage has garnered over 15,285 visits and a total of 152 submissions. The website offers an always-on way to report on red tape irritants encountered in the province, provides information on red tape, and links to all previous Regulatory Modernization Annual Reports published by Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's Handling of Irritants

The Help Cut Red Tape webpage is administered by the Ministry of Trade and Export Development. Every submission received through the page is carefully examined to determine the following:

- Whether the issue raised should be considered red tape;
- Whether the issue raised is within provincial jurisdiction; and
- The entity responsible for the administration of the mandatory compliance requirement in question.

Not all submissions result in changes, such as those that do not relate to a regulation or specific process, those that are outside of provincial control or that relate to taxation or budget issues. Individual concerns are forwarded to the ministry or agency responsible for the concern raised, who then corresponds directly with the individual to provide assistance. This approach enhances collaboration and transparency within government to act as one team and provide a client-centred approach.

If the concern relates to another government entity (i.e., federal or municipal) the proponent is notified of this, and the ministry makes every effort to inform the appropriate entity of the concern for their consideration.

Update Breakdown of 2022-23 Submissions

Issues with Red Tape Items		Issues with No Red Tape Items	
Individual concerns resolved	19	Individual concerns resolved	-
Outside of Provincial Control	2	Outside of Provincial Control	1
Outside of Initiative Scope		Outside of Initiative Scope	-
Resulted in revisions of policy, regulation, or procedure (change in progress)		Resulted in revisions to policy, regulation, or procedure (change in progress)	
In examination*	0	In examination*	0
Issues resolved 2022-23	21	Issues resolved 2022-23	1
Total	21	Total	1
Carryovers since 2020 -21	5		-
In examination*	3**		-
Issues resolved (carryovers)	2		-
Total Issues resolved in 2022-23	27		-

*Issues in examination are those where the entity responsible has yet to implement the proposed resolution.

** 20 Submissions concerning the WCB have been consolidated into one actionable item as it pertains to the same matter.

In 2022-23, a total of 22 Red Tape Reduction concerns were submitted by the public and addressed by the Government of Saskatchewan. These submissions were addressed across various ministries, focusing on enhancing client service and promoting a business-friendly environment. The government's commitment to economic growth and operational efficiency led to the successful resolution of these submissions, benefiting businesses and citizens in Saskatchewan.

Open submissions that are in the examination phase include:

- Process to Change and Observe Statutory Holidays for Non-unionized Employers
- Regulation of Individual Pension Plan
- Worker's Compensation Funding Agreement

Resolved submissions in 2022-23 encompassed the following areas:

Immigration and Workforce:

- Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program Job Approval Process
- Immigration Rules and Processes Simplification

Environmental Regulations:

- Qualified Persons in Source Air Quality
- Clarity in Food Safety Regulations
- Streamlined Forest Operation Standard-Reporting and Submission

Administrative Procedures:

- Inefficiencies with Electronic Filing Process for PST
- Improved Project Bidding System
- Simplified 50/50 Raffle Permit process
- Streamlined Subsurface Operation Tenure Documents and Well Status
- Enhanced Geographic Spatial Area for Lease Space and Well Licenses
- Simplified Approval Process for Multiple Parties Requesting Same Land

Regulatory Approvals:

- Deep Disposal Formations
- Regulatory Approvals Related to Formation and Allowable Substances
- Streamlined Waste Disposal vs. Standard Disposal Applications
- Feedback on Subsurface Mineral Conservation Regulations

Others:

- Building Codes for Personal Housing
- *Non-Profit Corporations Act* – Chartered Professional Accountant Requirements
- Addressing Delays to Heritage Impact Assessment Reviews
- Improvements to ISC Submissions

For further details, please visit the Help Cut Red Tape webpage:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/help-cut-red-tape>

Conclusion

Saskatchewan recognizes the crucial role of regulations in fostering a stable business environment while promoting innovation, protecting citizens and the environment. As our economy continues to grow, it is crucial to focus on reducing unnecessary burdens that impede this growth.

In the next 10 years, Saskatchewan will continue to fulfill its promise of reviewing business-related regulations, including expanding into sector-based approaches to address industry-specific concerns while maintaining effective, efficient, and relevant regulations. This involves a commitment to assessing the impact of regulations and reporting the savings achieved from red tape reduction initiatives.

As co-leader of the BizPaL Service for Regulators Initiative, Saskatchewan will be helping regulators compare jurisdictional compliance requirements, further streamlining processes. This approach will help regulators save businesses time and costs while improving compliance across Canada.

While regulations play a crucial role, it is important to distinguish between necessary regulations and red tape. Our goal is to eliminate red tape, not deregulate.

Saskatchewan remains committed under the Saskatchewan Growth Plan to promoting red tape reduction and fostering growth and prosperity in the province. By working collaboratively, we can achieve a regulatory environment that benefits all Saskatchewan citizens.



