

Annual Report

2023-24

Ministry of Government Relations

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Letters of Transmittal



The Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Government Relations
and Minister Responsible for
First Nations, Métis and
Northern Affairs

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don McMorris".

Don McMorris
Minister of Government Relations and
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern
Affairs



Laurier Donais
Deputy Minister of
Government Relations and
Deputy Minister for
First Nations, Métis and
Northern Affairs

The Honourable Don McMorris Minister of Government Relations and Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurier Donais".

Laurier Donais
Deputy Minister of Government Relations and
Deputy Minister for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Ministry of Government Relations

Overview

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

The ministry's full-time equivalent (FTE) utilization in 2023-24 was 164.0 FTEs.

Legislation

The Amusement Ride Safety Act
The Assessment Appraisers Act
The Assessment Management Agency Act
The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999
The Border Areas Act
The Cities Act
The City of Lloydminster Act
The Community Planning Profession Act, 2013
The Construction Codes Act
The Education Property Tax Act
The Electrical Inspection Act, 1993
The Electrical Licensing Act
The Flin-Flon Extension of Boundaries Act, 1952
The Gas Inspection Act, 1993
The Gas Licensing Act
The Government Relations Administration Act
The Indian and Native Affairs Act
The Local Government Election Act, 2015
The Local Improvements Act, 1993
The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act

The Métis Act
The Municipal Board Act
The Municipal Expropriation Act
The Municipal Grants Act
The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act
The Municipalities Act
The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010
The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act
The Planning and Development Act, 2007
The Rural Municipal Administrators Act
The Saskatchewan Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (Treaty Land Entitlement) Act
The Tax Enforcement Act
The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act
The Time Act
The Treaty Land Entitlement Implementation Act
The Urban Municipal Administrators Act
The Urban Municipality Act, 1984

View the ministry's 2023-24 Business Plan at www.saskatchewan.ca/government-relations.

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

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

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

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Review municipal legislation and regulations for policy and process improvements that support good local governance, more community collaboration, administrative efficiency and local economic competitiveness including measures that improve the property tax and assessment system and tax fairness.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry put forward 23 guiding documents for approval and posted 11 informational items on legislative, regulatory and policy matters for municipal councils and administrations.
- Develop and distribute information and materials for building owners, industry, municipalities, building officials and other code users to ensure a smooth transition to The Construction Codes Act and adoption of the 2020 building, energy and plumbing codes.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry reviewed and approved 215 building bylaws to ensure compliance with The Construction Codes Act. This is an increase of 25 over last year.
 - There were 43,372 viewer experiences on saskatchewan.ca for information bulletins regarding buildings and technical safety.
 - The ministry presented to 1,580 stakeholders and delivered 27 presentations, workshops and webinars regarding codes, buildings and technical safety.
- Implement a pilot project to test the automation and remote supervision of a boiler plant used in the agricultural sector.
 - Legislative amendments to The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999 along with an agreement with the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan enables the implementation of a pilot project that will allow the Chief Boiler Inspector to issue a temporary permit for a pilot project to test automation and remote supervision of boilers and pressure vessels in limited circumstances.

- Develop the alternative compliance model for building permits and inspections to make it easier for investors to build large projects quickly while maintaining public safety.
 - The development of the Alternative Compliance Model is at 75 per cent completion. This model will allow the proponent to self-certify to the local authority that the construction will comply with construction codes by utilizing the knowledge, skills and expertise of their professional design and construction teams. This will reduce the oversight required by the local authority and their appointed building official.
- Work with industry and the Technical Safety Association of Saskatchewan to modernize and streamline gas and electrical safety legislation and regulations.
 - In 2023-24, ministry officials, in collaboration with the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan and industry officials, began the modernization of four gas and electrical Acts and five regulations. Upon completion, the finished project will provide a better model for industries and citizens.
- Protect people and properties through the Integrated Subdivision Approval Program.
 - The ministry approved 1,744 subdivision sites in 2023-24.
 - The ministry registered 58 interests for flooding or hazard lands in the creation of 474 new lots as part of the subdivision process.

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

Improve municipal transparency and accountability.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support municipal administration and governance by helping municipalities meet their legislated responsibilities.
 - The ministry monitors municipal compliance with six basic legislative requirements through its compliance monitoring framework.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry recorded 1,353 attendees at the ministry conducted education and training sessions.
 - The ministry responded to 5,338 inquiries on municipal advisory services.
 - The ministry presented seven community planning educational sessions to discuss flooding, appeals, zoning amendments and general planning inquiries.
- Monitor three newly established initiatives: the Assessment Appeals Registrar, board of revision training and certification, and centralized board of revision to achieve fairer, consistent and effective property assessment appeal hearings.
 - Established an Assessment Appeals Registrar to improve proficiency at the first level of appeal. The Registrar achieved an 87 per cent participant registration and completion rate for Board of Revision training, and more than 97 per cent of municipalities are served by a Certified Board of Revision.

- Engage stakeholders to develop meaningful and appropriate municipal public accounts requirements.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry held 16 stakeholder perspective/engagement events on these and other legislative and regulatory requirements and improvements.
- Review program requirements compliance for provincially administered community grants.
 - The ministry oversees the annual eligibility requirements for municipalities to receive their unconditional Municipal Revenue Sharing grants. Annually, municipalities report their compliance with the eligibility requirements to the ministry by completing an online Declaration of Eligibility form. Ninety-eight point four (98.4) per cent of municipalities were eligible to receive Municipal Revenue Sharing.
- Train the municipal sector on public sector accounting standards for 2023-24.
 - The 2023 Financial Statements template, Municipal Accounting Manual and Municipal Audit Guidelines were updated to reflect the new accounting standards effective in 2023. In addition, an information sheet and guide on the new accounting standards have been developed to better assist municipalities and their auditors. All documents were sent to municipalities and municipal auditors and are available at saskatchewan.ca.
- Review *The Subdivision Regulations, 2014* for improvements to facilitate economic growth in Saskatchewan.
 - The ministry held two in-person consultation sessions with stakeholders to discuss *The Subdivision Regulations, 2014*.
 - The ministry presented the results of this review to the Red Tape Reduction Committee.

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

Improve essential community infrastructure, services and strategies to attract investment.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Administer community infrastructure investments through government programs such as the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Canada Community-Building Fund and Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program.
 - The ministry has expensed grant funding to municipalities under several federal, provincial, and federal-provincial programs. This includes approximately \$67.5 million through the Canada Community-Building Fund, more than \$3.2 million in operating payments under the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities program, nearly \$297.1 million in Municipal Revenue Sharing and more than \$170 million paid to projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- Allocate \$1.5 million in the Targeted Sector Support Initiative with municipal associations to encourage inter-community collaboration, help build capacity, and promote good governance.
 - In 2023-24, \$1.5 million was provided to municipalities and their partners to support projects involving 137 partnering Saskatchewan communities.

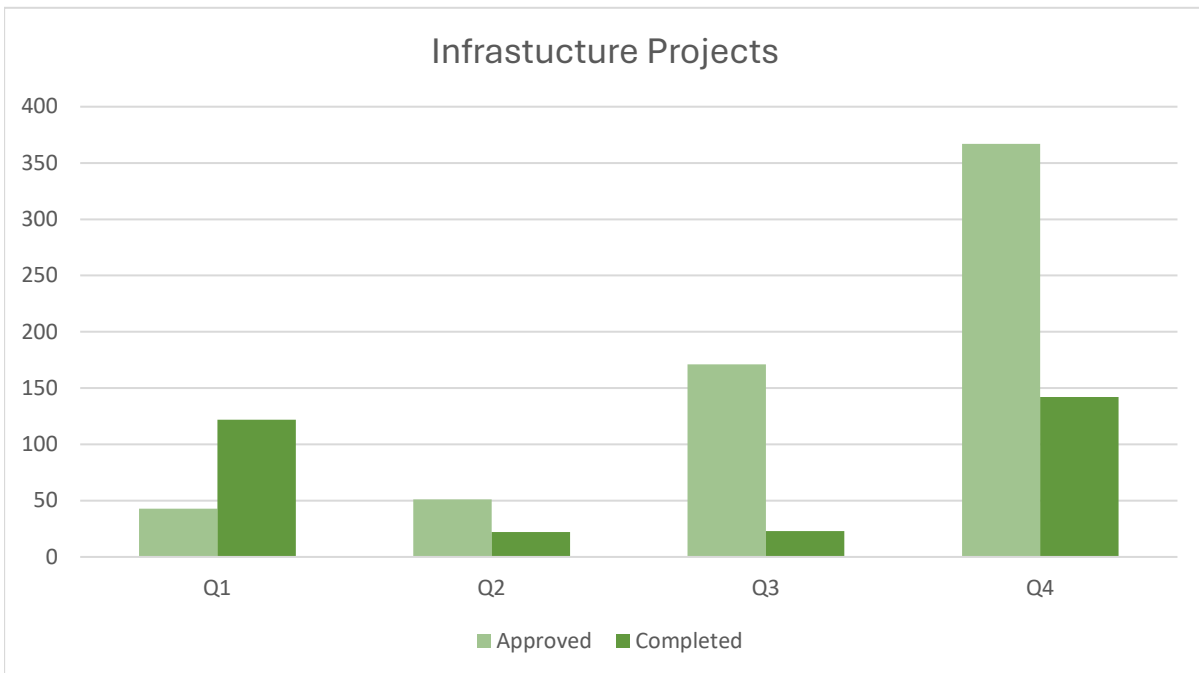
- Govern and provide municipal services to northerners living in the unorganized areas in the north by acting as Council for the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.
 - The Northern Engagement Unit and Northern Municipal Services Branch work with partners to ensure that the Government of Saskatchewan is aware of the challenges and opportunities faced by northern communities, as well as their perspectives regarding government initiatives and policies.
 - The ministry supports northern infrastructure projects through programs such as Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) programs including the Northern Water and Sewer Program and the Northern Capital Grant Program.
 - In 2023, \$34.6 million was expensed through NMTA to support the Northern Capital Grant Program and operational core services.
 - The ministry manages the delivery costs of core services such as administration, water and sewer operations, transportation and landfills through Northern Municipal Revenue Sharing.
- Review and approve community planning bylaws and subdivisions to support critical infrastructure and services.
 - The ministry approved 46 new official community plans and zoning bylaws.
 - The ministry approved 67 official community plan amendments, 149 rural municipality zoning bylaw amendments, and filed 147 urban zoning bylaw amendments.
 - This supports the growth management strategy for municipalities, essential in managing future growth and development of the community.
- Support the creation of municipal districts and other forms of voluntary municipal restructuring.
 - Currently, there is one municipal district application before the ministry being reviewed.
 - The ministry assisted with four restructurings in 2023-24:
 - The incorporation of one resort village;
 - The restructuring of one village into the surrounding RM;
 - The removal of ‘hamlet’ status in one community; and
 - The establishment of one Special Service Area in an RM.
- Negotiate with federal partners the renewal of infrastructure funding programs.
 - Saskatchewan and the federal government have started negotiations to renew the Canada Community Building Fund Administrative Agreement for the next ten years, from 2024 to 2034.
- Strengthen regional planning by supporting existing municipalities through education and training materials and encourage continued intermunicipal cooperation and partnerships.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry recorded 1,353 attendees at the educational and training sessions. The majority of this training is targeted to municipal administrators to assist municipalities in meeting their legislative responsibilities and to understand the role of Saskatchewan municipalities.
- Review the Northern Capital Grants program to improve discretionary capital funding support for northern municipalities.
 - *The Northern Municipalities Regulations* were amended in 2023 to extend the program to 2028 and expand eligible expenditures. The ministry implemented

revisions to the grant program policy and guidelines to deliver the renewed program.

Performance Measure Results:

Government and community priorities

- Number of approved community infrastructure projects supported this year by ministry-administered grant programs.
 - In 2023-24, 632 infrastructure projects were approved (43 in Q1, 51 in Q2, 171 in Q3 and 367 in Q4).
- Number of completed community infrastructure projects supported this year by ministry-administered grant programs.
 - 309 community infrastructure projects were completed in 2023-24 (122 in Q1, 22 in Q2, 23 in Q3 and 142 in Q4).



Construction safety

- Number of licensed building officials.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry licenced 697 building officials.
- Number of building bylaws reviewed and approved.
 - The ministry reviewed and approved 215 building bylaws.

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

Government Relations works toward this goal by continuing to build and strengthen relationships with First Nation and Métis communities, organizations and other partners, and with provincial ministries, agencies, Crown corporations, federal departments and municipalities. This involves honouring government's commitment by engaging with First Nation and Métis people on areas of mutual interest, within and on government policies and programs.

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

Engage First Nation and Métis communities and government partners to improve policies and programs.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Engage with leaders of First Nation and Métis communities and representative organizations on subjects of mutual interest.
 - The ministry engaged with leadership from First Nation and Métis communities, industry, and municipal organizations in 2022 to revise the *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework*, which went into effect on January 1, 2024. The revised policy strengthens commitment to meaningful engagement with First Nations and Métis communities and supports investment in the province. It focuses on building positive relationships between First Nation and Métis communities, government and proponents.
- Connect northern communities to the mining industry through the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee and employment and business initiatives.
 - The ministry supports engagement to build an understanding of northern resource developments through the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee (NSEQC).
 - In 2023-24, the ministry provided NSEQC services to 22 northern communities, including municipalities and First Nations.
- Support and advise government ministries, Crowns and agencies on Indigenous engagement, priorities and opportunities.
 - The ministry leads a bi-annual update of responsive actions to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action. The ministry coordinates reporting with ministries, Crowns and agencies responsible for specific actions under their respective mandates.
 - In 2023-24, the province responded to 30 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action directed to provinces and an additional 17 Calls to Action of interest to the province.
 - The ministry collaborated with the Ministry of Highways and Office of the Treaty Commissioner to install additional Treaty boundary signs in Estevan,

Moosomin, Lanigan and La Ronge areas in October 2023. The signs were created by a Saskatchewan Indigenous firm in the languages of the First Nation people of the Treaty area.

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

Respond to priorities identified by First Nation and Métis leaders.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Invest in and support initiatives through the First Nation and Métis Sponsorships, First Nations and Métis Community Partnership Projects, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund.
 - The ministry invested more than \$1.2 million in First Nations and Métis Sponsorships and Community Partnership Projects:
 - Through \$400K in matched funding from Women and Gender Equity Canada, the ministry allocated a total of \$800K to 23 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund projects. The fund supports grassroots organizations to address issues raised by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
 - \$422,999 was provided for 27 events through the First Nations and Métis Sponsorships and supported nine projects through Community Partnership Projects.
- Support the Embracing Life Initiative to reduce the risk of suicide through northern initiatives such as training for youth leadership, emphasizing northern success stories and providing tools to strengthen resilience and mental health, such as a suicide prevention mobile app.
 - The ministry provides secretariat support and strategic co-ordination to the Embracing Life Initiative. The focus of the Embracing Life Initiative is community wellness and reducing suicides. The initiative is comprised of multiple human services agencies, youth and youth representatives.
 - Embracing Life launched a suicide prevention app for mobile phones in March 2022 and for 2023-24. It has recorded more than 3,984 downloads (an increase of 311 over last year), reaching 179 Saskatchewan communities and extending its reach to all Canadian provinces and territories. In June 2023, a transformative Embracing Life event in Prince Albert hosted 365 participants from 22 communities, representing front-line staff in health, social services, justice and education, non-profits, youth mentors, community leaders and advocates committed to community wellness and suicide prevention.

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

Honour government's commitments.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Revise the First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework.
 - The revised Consultation Policy Framework was announced in August 2023 and went into effect on January 1, 2024. The ministry worked with ministries, agencies and crowns to implement the revised policy, including updating the

website with revised and new resources. Approximately 314 government officials have been trained on the revised First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework as of March 31, 2024.

- Continue to administer gaming profits based on the Gaming Framework Agreement and applicable legislation.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry paid \$127.6 million to First Nation gaming partners under the Gaming Framework Agreement. Gaming payments to First Nations and Métis organizations support social and economic programs that benefit First Nation and Métis people.
- Negotiate new Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements and lead provincial collaboration with First Nation partners and Canada to implement existing agreements and modernize approaches to improve First Nation land claim acquisition processes to deliver on the province's legal obligations.
 - In 2023-24, 2,631 acres were transferred to reserve status for a total of 888,806 acres transferred to date under Treaty Land Agreements. Reconciliation with Indigenous people is demonstrated through the negotiation and implementation of Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreements, which support First Nation land acquisition of new reserve land under these agreements.

Performance Measure Results:

Engage First Nation and Métis communities and government partners to improve policies and programs.

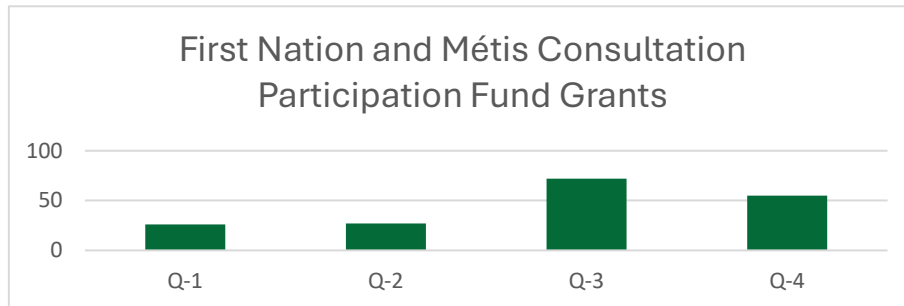
- Number of engagements providing expertise on northern resource management to partners and clients, including community representatives, industry and regulators.
 - The ministry recorded 17 engagements, providing expertise on northern resource management to partners and clients including community representatives, industry and regulators.

Respond to priorities identified by First Nation and Métis leaders.

- Number of approved initiatives for grants under the First Nation and Métis Sponsorships, Community Partnership Projects, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund.
 - 23 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund projects.
 - 27 sponsorships and nine community partnership projects were approved in 2023-24.

Honouring government's commitments

- Number of acres transferred to reserve status to meet land claim agreements obligations.
 - 3,065.14 acres were transferred to reserve status in 2023-24 (2,492.13 in Q1, 159.93 in Q2, and 413.08 in Q3). A total of 888, 806 acres has been transferred to date.
- Number of grants approved under the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund.
 - In 2023-24, more than \$1.5 million in grant funding was provided for 179 grants (26 in Q1, 27 in Q2, 75 in Q3, and 55 in Q4).



- Amount of funding distributed through gaming payments, based on the Gaming Framework Agreement and applicable legislation.
 - The ministry provided a total of \$127.6 million to the First Nations Trust, Community Development Corporations and the Clarence Campeau Development Fund.

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

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

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

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Co-ordinate learning opportunities across the ministry to increase familiarity with digital tools to engage with municipalities and fill gaps in professional competencies.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry implemented Microsoft Planner to streamline processes and ensure a cohesive approach to task management. This includes training staff on using Microsoft Planner for onboarding processes and access and privacy requests.
- Explore technology solutions to streamline program delivery and client communication.
 - In March 2024, the ministry concluded a four-month discovery engagement to review the business processes related to client management and grants administration. The purpose of the evaluation was to enhance program delivery, citizen engagement and outcomes.
 - In January 2024, the ministry completed a project to upgrade the Municipal Revenue Sharing online dashboard. The project moved the previous dashboard to the saskatchewan.ca dashboard and provided more detailed information for the citizens of the province.
- Monitor the online subdivision application process for continuous improvement to promote economic growth and safe development.
 - The ministry began monitoring the number of subdivision applications submitted using the online process.

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

Support continuous improvement of a high-performing team.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Continue to implement the mandatory Indigenous Awareness training for ministry staff to increase understanding of the history and culture of Indigenous communities across Canada.
 - Approximately 50 staff participated in the Indigenous Awareness training to gain knowledge and awareness meant to enhance relationships and the

delivery of services to Indigenous people within the organization and with the public.

- Participate in events that recognize Indigenous commemorative and awareness days including National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
 - The ministry supported employees attending Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day events and other commemorations to learn more and engage with diverse groups.
- Coordinate learning and development opportunities to improve teamwork, collaboration and productivity among ministry staff.
 - The ministry held the first in-person All-Staff Day since the pandemic in June 2023. The theme was "Leadership at all Levels" and provided a learning opportunity on leadership competencies and behaviours.

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

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

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Ensure efficient and responsible use of resources.
 - 92 per cent of staff completed all mandatory training. This is an increase of 29 per cent over last year.
- Improve information management throughout the ministry.
 - In 2023-24, the ministry established and filled a new role for an Information Governance Manager to address the evolving needs of information management and governance.
 - Inaugurated the Information Technology Oversight Committee to inform IT decisions for the ministry.
 - The ministry utilises an intranet to distribute information to staff and maintain up to date information.

Performance Measure Results:

High performing team

- Percentage of staff participating in learning and development opportunities.
 - Established Middle Management Excellence forum to improve management competencies across the ministry.
 - Four ministry staff graduated from the Accelerated Leadership Development Program and two staff are currently enrolled in the program.
- Percentage of staff who have undergone the Indigenous Awareness training.
 - As of March 2023, 80 per cent of ministry staff completed Indigenous Awareness training.
- Increase engagement scores for the ministry's Employee Engagement and Culture Survey.
 - The ministry's Employee Engagement Survey response rate was 87.4 per cent.

Financial Summary

Expense Summary

The 2023-24 appropriation budget was \$795.9 million. Actual expenditure was \$800.9 million. This is a \$5.0 million increase. This increase primarily reflects:

- an increase for First Nations Gaming Agreements and the Métis Development Fund (\$35.2 million);
- an increase for Treaty Land Entitlement accruals (\$1.1 million);
- an increase for the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund (\$1.1 million);
- an increase for the Missing and Murdered Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund (\$0.4 million) due to federal matched funding from Women and Gender Equity Canada; and,
- an increase for initial capital acquisition costs of the Municipal Investment Transformation project (\$0.4 million).

Partially offset by:

- lower than anticipated infrastructure grant payments (\$30.8 million);
- lower than anticipated municipal transfers (\$0.6 million);
- lower than anticipated Tax Loss Compensation Fund transfers (\$0.3 million); and
- net savings across the ministry, primarily due to vacancy management and operating savings (\$1.5 million).

The following table summarizes budgeted versus actual expenses by subvote and subprogram. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than five per cent and \$100,000.

Ministry of Government Relations Expense Actuals

Subvote/Subprogram	2022-23 Actuals (\$000s)	2023-24 Budget (\$000s)	2023-24 Actuals (\$000s)	2023-24 Variance (\$000s)	Notes
Central Management and Services (GR01)	9,130	7,579	7,936	357	
Minister's Salary	53	56	54	(2)	
Executive Management	690	1,009	959	(50)	
Central Services	6,849	5,048	5,302	254	1
Accommodations Services	1,538	1,466	1,621	155	2
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs (GR12)	109,076	97,182	134,482	37,300	
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs	3,985	4,038	4,205	167	

Treaty Land Entitlement	8,585	335	1,192	857	3
First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund	1,271	400	1,535	1,135	4
Métis Development Fund	1,918	1,591	3,203	1,612	5
First Nations Gaming Agreements	80,905	90,818	124,347	33,529	5
Emergency Pandemic Support for First Nations and Métis Organizations	12,412	-	-	-	
Municipal Relations (GR07)	569,680	682,017	650,015	(32,002)	
Urban Revenue Sharing	167,670	190,938	190,231	(707)	
Rural Revenue Sharing	74,961	84,894	85,017	123	
Northern Revenue Sharing	19,386	22,043	21,996	(47)	
New Building Canada Fund	26,967	9,255	10,376	1,121	6
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	164,007	265,101	237,885	(27,216)	7
Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities	3,787	3,787	3,787	-	
Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes					
Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency	13,307	13,800	13,753	(47)	
Municipal Relations	11,388	11,388	11,388	-	
Canada Community-Building Fund	7,278	7,534	6,997	(537)	8
Building and Technical Standards	68,381	72,200	67,516	(4,684)	9
Transit and Housing Support	874	1,077	1,069	(8)	
	11,674	-	-	-	
Saskatchewan Municipal Board (GR06)	1,485	1,886	1,271	(615)	8
Provincial Capital Commission (GR14)	8,054	7,274	7,274	-	
Provincial Capital Commission	7,304	7,274	7,274	-	
Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts	750	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation	697,425	795,938	800,978	5,040	
Less Capital Asset Acquisitions	(227)	-	(477)	(477)	10
Plus Capital Asset Amortization	84	100	91	(9)	
Total Expense	697,282	796,038	800,592	4,554	

Notes:

1. Over-expenditure reflecting capital costs for the discovery stage of new software partially offset by vacancy management and miscellaneous operating savings.
2. Over-expenditure reflecting increased accommodation costs.
3. Over-expenditure for Treaty Land Entitlements reflecting adjustments to existing accruals for a contingent liability based on new census data provided by the federal government.
4. Over-expenditure reflecting increased activity of the fund.
5. Over-expenditure reflecting higher actual net casino profits from 2022-23 and higher casino profit forecasts for 2023-24.
6. Over-expenditure reflecting that all projects are approved and progressing quicker than anticipated.
7. Under-expenditure reflecting a small number of large projects not progressing as quickly as anticipated.

8. Vacancy management and miscellaneous operating under-expenditure.
9. Under-expenditure reflecting unspent funds from non-compliant municipalities being carried over into future years.
10. Over-expenditure primarily reflecting capital costs for the discovery stage of new software.

Revenue Summary

The 2023-24 revenue budget was \$886.8 million. Actual revenue was \$876.3 million. This is a \$10.5 million decrease over budget. This decrease is primarily attributed to:

- a decrease of net revenue to reflect decreased expenditures for federal/provincial infrastructure programs (\$15.1 million); and
- a decrease for Education Property Tax (EPT) levy (\$8.1 million).

Partially offset by:

- an increase to reclassify a portion of EPT to grants-in-lieu (\$8.9 million);
- an increase for refunds to the General Revenue Fund, primarily for infrastructure programs where actual amounts were lower than what was accrued in prior years (\$2.9 million);
- an increase to reclassify a portion of EPT revenue for trailer fees (\$0.6 million);
- an increase for Saskatchewan Municipal Board appeal fees (\$0.2 million); and
- an increase to subdivision application fees reflecting increased applications (\$0.1 million).

The ministry's major revenue relates to Education Property Taxes (EPT) and agreements with the federal government. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the ministry's 2023-24 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than \$100,000.

Revenue Summary

Ministry of Government Relations

Revenue Actuals

Revenue Category	2023-24 Budget (\$000s)	2023-24 Actuals (\$000s)	2023-24 Variance (\$000s)	Notes
Property Taxes	671,100	663,031	(8,069)	
Education Property Taxes	671,100	663,031	(8,069)	1
Other Licences and Permits	554	1,246	692	
Subdivision Fees	550	615	65	
Building Official Licencing Fees	4	22	18	
Other Rental and Leases	-	609	609	2
Sales, Services and Service Fees	75	226	151	
Debenture Authorization	40	50	10	
Miscellaneous Services	5	1	(4)	
Other Service Fees	30	167	137	3
Documentation, Searches and Legal Services	-	8	8	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	-	11,773	11,773	
Change in Previous Year's Expenditures	-	2,887	2,887	4
Casual/Other Revenue	-	8,886	8,886	5
Other Federal/Provincial Agreements	215,109	199,991	(15,118)	
Canada Community-Building Fund	68,260	68,260	-	
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	146,027	130,604	(15,423)	6
New Building Canada Fund	822	1,127	305	7
Total Revenue	886,838	876,267	(10,571)	

Notes:

1. Decreased revenue reflecting the reclassification of a portion of Education Property Tax (EPT) revenue for trailer fees and grants-in-lieu partially offset by increased assessment growth.
2. Reclassification of a portion of EPT revenue for trailer fees.
3. Increased Saskatchewan Municipal Board appeal fees.
4. Increased revenue reflecting refunds to the General Revenue Fund primarily for infrastructure programs, where actual amounts were lower than what was accrued in prior years.
5. Reclassification of a portion of EPT revenue to grants-in-lieu.
6. Decreased revenue reflecting projects progressing slower than anticipated.
7. Increased revenue reflecting projects in the Small Communities Fund component proceeding quicker than anticipated.

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