

Business Plan

2025-26

Ministry of Energy and Resources

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Colleen Young
Minister of Energy and Resources*

I am pleased to present the 2025-26 Business Plan for the Ministry of Energy and Resources. Budget 2025-26 positions Saskatchewan as a leader in energy and resource development. We continue to be a trusted and reliable supplier with a focus on leading the way in new programs for sustainable and responsible natural resource development.

Saskatchewan continues to demonstrate how strong policies, programs and incentives, coupled with transparent regulations and a commitment to supporting and learning from our industry and community partners, can create an economic environment ripe for growth and sustainability.

Saskatchewan leads on the global stage in uranium and potash production and is an emerging producer of helium, lithium, copper and zinc. Overall, the province has occurrences of 27 of the 34 critical minerals on Canada's list. The 2025-26 Business Plan will support the growth and diversification of the province's natural resources as a secure and sustainable global supplier. This includes advancing geoscience research through the Public Geoscience Initiative, launching new data for stakeholders, and leveraging technical expertise to help the industry achieve its goals. Additionally, forestry remains northern Saskatchewan's second-largest industry, further contributing to the province's economy.

Oil and gas remain a major contributor to Saskatchewan's economy and are key to ensuring the prosperity of our province. In 2025-26, the ministry will continue to advance priorities for carbon capture, utilization and storage, and enhanced oil recovery. To aid our goals of increasing oil production, this year we will launch the Low Productivity and Reactivation Oil Well Program to support new capital investment in qualifying low-producing and inactive oil wells. The ministry is committed to continuing efforts to support business investment in the province's oil and gas sector.

Energy and Resources continues to focus on regulatory excellence to maintain a reliable and competitive regulatory environment. This year we will pursue initiatives that contribute to sustained public confidence in industry regulation, strengthen client service and deliver efficient and effective regulatory programs. This involves modernizing business processes, including the enhancement of the reporting platform known to industry as the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS). Through the Incident Reporting Enhancement Project and Pipeline Licence Multi-Substance project, we will improve oil and gas industry reporting requirements in support of regulatory oversight and risk management.

The following pages outline a detailed plan for 2025-26 that focuses on fiscally and environmentally responsible resource development. This plan will result in growth for the resource and energy sectors and local communities across the province and will contribute to the delivery of 2030 Growth Plan commitments.

2025-26 Budget Highlights

1	Promote the increase of oil production in Saskatchewan through the implementation of the Low Productivity and Reactivation Oil Wells Program to support industry in restarting suspended oil wells or increasing capital investment in low-producing oil wells. \$1 million (M) in one-time capital funding will be targeted to enhance the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) to support the program.
2	\$350,000 in second-year funding to continue the Public Geoscience Initiative to support exploration for critical minerals as outlined in the Critical Mineral Strategy.
3	\$1.6M in capital investment for IRIS enhancements that includes \$958,000 for the Incident Reporting Enhancement Project and \$632,000 for the Pipeline Licence Multi-Substance project. These investments will improve industry reporting requirements in support of regulatory oversight, risk mitigation and safety efforts.
4	Renew the Oil Infrastructure Investment Program (OIIP) to support expanded market access for Saskatchewan oil and to support carbon dioxide (CO ₂) pipeline infrastructure.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan's Vision

“...to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.”

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

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

All organizations will report on progress in their 2025-26 annual reports.

Ministry of Energy and Resources Overview

Mandate

The Ministry of Energy and Resources develops, coordinates, and implements policies and programs to promote the growth and responsible development of Saskatchewan's natural resource industries. The ministry operates as the primary regulatory authority for the oil and gas industry and ensures competitive royalty systems, regulations and policies for all natural resource sectors. The ministry also plays an important role in promoting Saskatchewan's diverse resource potential to investors around the world.

Mission

To advance responsible resource development.

Vision

Saskatchewan is the best place in Canada to develop natural resources.

Goal 1: Grow Natural Resource Exploration and Development

Growth in resource development is a key component in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth, 2020-2030. As outlined in the Growth Plan, Saskatchewan's natural resource industries are instrumental to the province's overall economic growth. The oil and gas industry is a major contributor to Saskatchewan's economy and will continue to meet worldwide energy demands for decades to come. Saskatchewan is also a global leader in the uranium and potash markets, an emerging producer of helium, lithium, copper and zinc, and has occurrences of 27 minerals identified in Canada's critical minerals list. In addition, forestry is northern Saskatchewan's second largest industry and is a significant contributor to the province's economy. The Ministry of Energy and Resources is committed to ensuring sustainable and responsible growth across all of Saskatchewan's natural resource sectors.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Analyze and enhance competitiveness.

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

- Launch the Low Productivity and Reactivation Oil Well Program to support new capital investment in qualifying low-producing and inactive oil wells to increase oil production.
- Support and diversify critical minerals development to position Saskatchewan as a globally leading, secure and sustainable supplier through Saskatchewan's Critical Mineral Strategy.
- Support Indigenous engagement and participation opportunities in the natural resources sector.
- Address competitiveness barriers and seek opportunities to support the growth of Saskatchewan's forestry sector.
- Advocate for Saskatchewan's rights and interests in natural resource development.
- Implement changes to the OIIP through the program's renewal to continue supporting expanded market access for Saskatchewan oil and the development of CO₂ pipeline infrastructure.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Create a policy environment that advances the innovative development and diversification of the natural resource sector.

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

- Advance Saskatchewan's strategic priorities for carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) and continue to support business investment into the sector.
- Continue to implement Saskatchewan's Subsurface Brine Minerals Development framework.
- Advance options to enable access to subsurface land for resource exploration and development projects of public interest.

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

Attract investment through accessible, high-calibre data, geoscience information and effective stakeholder engagement.

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

- Through the Public Geoscience Initiative, advance new geoscience research projects to support exploration for critical minerals.
- Launch the ministry's comprehensive geoscience data management system that improves access to high-quality data for stakeholders.
- Promote and support Saskatchewan's competitive natural resource investment position through a growing presence at industry events, increased direct stakeholder engagement, targeted marketing, and stronger international partnerships.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Saskatchewan Forest Products Sales

- Increase the value of Saskatchewan forest products sales to \$2.2 billion by 2030, with an annual value of Saskatchewan forest product sales of \$1.3 billion in 2025-26.

Saskatchewan Potash Sales

- Increase the annual value of potash sales to \$9 billion by 2030, with annual sales of \$8.4B in 2025-26.

Saskatchewan Uranium Sales

- Increase the annual value of uranium sales to \$2 billion by 2030, with annual sales of \$3.1B in 2025-26.

Saskatchewan Oil Production

- Increase oil production to 600,000 barrels per day by 2030, with a target of 460,000 barrels per day in 2025-26.

Saskatchewan Helium Production

- Increase helium production to 5.5 million cubic meters in 2025-26.

Fraser Institute Global Petroleum Survey Policy Perception Index

- Achieve number one Canadian ranking in the Fraser Institute Canada-US Energy Sector Competitiveness Survey in 2025.

Fraser Institute Survey of Mining Companies' Investment Attraction Index

- Achieve top three world ranking in the Fraser Institute Survey of Mining Companies' investment attractiveness index in 2025.

Goal 2: Pursue Regulatory Excellence in Support of Resource Development

Industry needs clear and predictable regulations to guide long-term decisions and financial commitments. Many resource development projects are large-scale, multi-year, and multi-billion-dollar investments. A rapidly changing regulatory environment challenges investment decisions and can negatively impact Saskatchewan's competitiveness. The Ministry of Energy and Resources will continue to achieve regulatory excellence in support of the Growth Plan commitments, to support responsible resource development and to attract investment and maintain a competitive regulatory environment.

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

Apply a results-based approach to the development and delivery of regulatory programs.

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

- Ensure emissions management programming remains practical and cost-effective for industry and is based on relevant research and data specific to Saskatchewan oil and gas operations.
- Initiate improvements to the provincial Seismic Exploration Program to streamline processes and procedures to meet the needs of industry exploration activities.
- Continue to reduce the prospects of new orphan oil and gas infrastructure.

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

Pursue initiatives that contribute to sustained public confidence in industry regulation, strengthened client service and the delivery of efficient and effective regulatory programs.

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

- Build upon strong relationships with industry to clarify regulatory expectations, support regulatory services delivery and enhance operational practices at the field level.
- Continue to monitor and maintain the sites administered under the Institutional Control Program.
- Provide oversight of the remediation of the abandoned Gunnar and satellite mine sites [Clean-up of Abandoned Northern Sites (CLEANS) Program].
- Analyze the existing regulatory framework to ensure legislation can address future needs of non-hydrocarbon resource production activities.
- Enhance compliance management practices to improve efficiency, transparency and consistency in decision-making processes.
- Enhance the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) to improve regulatory oversight, industry reporting and risk mitigation.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Reduction of GHG Emissions

- Maintain or further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from reported flaring and venting of gas produced in association with oil from the previous year.

Inactive Liability Reduction

- Reduce industry inactive liabilities in 2025.

Goal 3: Achieve Strategic and Operational Excellence

Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan is focused on building a strong economy, including growing Saskatchewan’s natural resource advantage and improving competitiveness across its resource sectors. To achieve this, the Ministry of Energy and Resources strives for strategic and operational excellence, ensuring it remains responsive, adaptable and effective in meeting client needs. The ministry will provide timely client services and develop new services and supports as needed.

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

Support a safe, inclusive and engaged workforce.

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

- Promote a positive workplace culture by providing learning and development opportunities that promote engagement and inclusivity for all employees.
- Take action to ensure the workplace is physically and psychologically safe and free from hazards and harm.

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

Continuously improve operational performance, client service delivery and financial management.

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

- Ensure projects and innovative solutions improve the client’s experience and solve business needs.
- Support better decisions by using business intelligence and other ministry tools to manage data and information.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Service Desk Inquiries

- Percentage of ER Service Desk inquiries responded to within the established resolution time, with a target of 95 per cent for 2025-26.

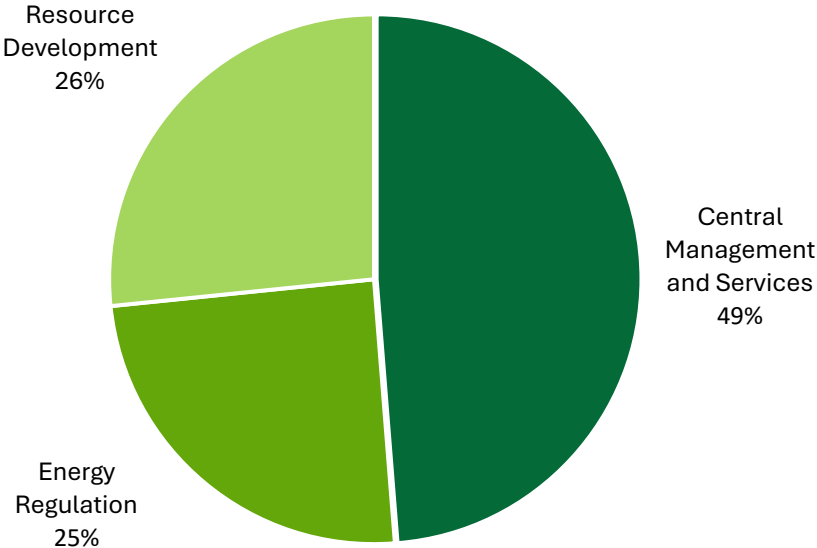
2025-26 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

1	<p>IRIS Enhancements to Support Priority Capital Projects Approach: Continuous Improvement Description: These initiatives will enhance system capabilities within IRIS to support the Incident Reporting Enhancement Project and the Pipeline Licence Multi-Substance project. These projects will allow more timely reporting on remediation and reclamation activities, provide notification to impacted parties, provide information on spills (type, volume of substance, and estimated area of impact) as well as expand pipeline reporting. Expected Outcomes: Enhancements will more adequately assess risks and liabilities associated with incidents and will provide more accurate system-based tracking of incidents to ensure regulatory oversight and timely mitigation and safety efforts.</p>
2	<p>High Water-Cut Oil Well Program Approach: Program Review Description: The High Water-Cut Oil Well Program offers a royalty reduction for wells producing large volumes of water after a qualifying investment is made. The program recognizes the increased operating costs associated with water management to extend the producing lives of the high water cut wells. As the program expires in 2025-26, a program review will be undertaken. Expected Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued alignment to Government goals;• Stakeholder needs are met;• Intended outcomes are met; and• Program efficiency and effectiveness. <p>Specific outcomes will be identified when the Program Review is conducted in early 2025-26.</p>

Financial Summary

Ministry of Energy and Resources 2025-26 Estimates (\$ 56.494 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management Services	\$26,583
Energy Regulation	\$13,440
Resource Development	\$14,517
Total Appropriation	\$54,540
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(\$2,666)
Capital Asset Amortization	\$4,620
Total Expense	\$56,494

Ministry of Energy and Resources Budget by Division
\$56.494 million



Links to More Information

- [Ministry of Energy and Resources](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)