

# Business Plan

2026-27

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Alana Ross  
Minister of Parks, Culture, and Sport  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs*

It is my pleasure to present the 2026-27 Annual Business Plan for the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport.

Over the last year the ministry has refreshed its mission and goals, refocusing on our contribution to health and wellness. Through outdoor activities, community-based sports and recreation programs, and investments in our cultural capital, our programs strengthen communities and help people live better, healthier lives.

That commitment to wellbeing continues in this plan which outlines our strategic priorities, key initiatives, and performance objectives for the year ahead. Through stable funding and new capital investments we will continue to deliver services that support the well-being of people, families, and communities throughout the province. Key highlights include:

- A \$15 million capital investment to support our provincial park system’s continued ability to deliver high-quality services to visitors across the province, including \$2.5 million to replace and restore infrastructure that was lost to wildfires last year.
- Doubling the Active Families Benefit to \$8 million – a program that helps families with the cost of their kids’ sports, arts and cultural activities. Government increased the benefit from \$150 to \$300 per child, and up to \$400 for children with disabilities, and raised the income threshold to \$120,000 making the benefit available to more families in the province.
- Continued funding of \$10 million for the Feature Film & Television Production Grant, which provides funds to productions that shoot in Saskatchewan; the grant attracts investment and boosts employment opportunities in the sector.
- A \$16.5 million capital investment to modernize the Royal Saskatchewan Museum’s Research, Exhibits, and Collections Centre in Regina so that researchers can continue to safeguard and study important artifacts, fossils and our natural history.

I would like to thank the dedicated employees of the Ministry of Parks Culture and Sport for their expertise and commitment to public service. Their efforts are essential to achieving the objectives set out in this plan. Together, we will continue to build a strong and prosperous Saskatchewan.

# 2026-27 Budget Highlights

<b>1</b>	This year the Royal Saskatchewan Museum will receive \$16.5 million to modernize the Research, Exhibits and Collections Centre in Regina. The upgraded facility will allow the provincial museum to design new exhibits, expand its collections and enhance their research capabilities. Work that transitions into the displays and attractions that are enjoyed by more than 115,000 visitors each year.
<b>2</b>	Continued investments in strong, safe communities will continue through the new School Playground Equipment Grant, which offers parent councils up to \$50,000 in matched funding to build or update playgrounds on school property.
<b>3</b>	An additional \$4 million will be invested this year to double the Active Families Benefit, which was increased in 2025 to help families save money on their children's art, culture, sport and recreational activities. Families earning up to \$120,000 per year can receive up to \$300 per child, or up to \$400 for children with a disability, when they file their taxes.
<b>4</b>	With an additional \$2.5 million for park infrastructure, visitors to Saskatchewan provincial parks will continue to benefit from new and updated facilities with a focus on replacing infrastructure lost to wildfires. In total, \$15 million will be invested in 2026-27, adding to the \$206 million that has been invested in parks over the last decade.

# 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 2026-27 Annual Reports.

## Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport Overview

### Overview

The ministry's strategic focus is on quality of life and economic growth. The ministry works with diverse groups and communities to enhance the province's cultural, artistic, recreational and social life; to promote excellence in arts, culture, heritage and sport; and to represent the interests of the province's French-language population. The ministry manages and enhances Saskatchewan's provincial parks system and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, conserves ecosystems and cultural resources, and provides recreational and interpretative opportunities for park and museum visitors.

### Mission

Connecting citizens and visitors with nature, culture and recreation.

## Goal 1: Offer Valued Experiences for Citizens and Visitors

Invest in programs, services and partnerships to provide engaging and educational experiences that are accessible and welcoming for everyone living in and visiting Saskatchewan.

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

Create experiences that engage, educate and delight.

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

- Improve the visitor experience by focusing on customer satisfaction.
- Deliver the Capital Plan to improve infrastructure.
- Create and deliver new experiences in Saskatchewan provincial parks and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (including the T. Rex Discovery Centre) that connect citizens and visitors to nature, culture and recreation.
- Maintain and improve the integrated campground management system, providing a stable experience and high user satisfaction.

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

Create community through places and experiences that are accessible, affordable and help people connect.

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

- Implement actions under the Government of Saskatchewan Accessibility Plan 2024-2027 including an accessibility review of two provincial parks and the development of a new webpage that provides more information about accessible activities, accommodations and other features at park locations.
- Expand access to provincial park programming by delivering engaging virtual learning opportunities to Saskatchewan youth and classrooms.
- Expand on Camp-Easy equipped camping program in Saskatchewan parks, designed to reduce barriers to camping related to lack of experience, camping gear and discomfort.
- Promote participation in sport, culture and recreation community activities to increase wellbeing through targeted investments in Saskatchewan Veterans Service Club Support Program; Community Rink Affordability Grant; and the School Playground Equipment Grant and Active Families Benefit.

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

Develop partnerships that enhance our programs and services and drive for sustainable growth.

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

- Continue to grow the French-language Service Centre to provide single public access to websites, services and programs of the Government of Saskatchewan in French.

- Support community investments through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, the Community Initiatives Fund, and agency partners to continue to deliver access to quality sports, culture, recreation and physical programs and services.
- Strategically invest in arts, culture and heritage organizations across Saskatchewan.
- Continue to grow key partnerships with stakeholders and community organizations that advance visitor wellbeing in park, outdoor recreation and experiential offerings.
- Work with the private sector to facilitate renewal, expansion and development of new business offerings in parks.

## **Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

### **Visitor Satisfaction**

- Increase or maintain satisfaction with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and Saskatchewan Provincial Parks.
  - Target (Royal Saskatchewan Museum): 90% satisfaction rate in 2026-2027.
  - Target (Saskatchewan provincial parks): 90% satisfaction rate in 2026-2027.

### **Visitation**

- Increase or maintain the number of visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and Saskatchewan Provincial Parks.
  - Target (Royal Saskatchewan Museum): Increase the number of visitors to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum to 120,000 in 2026-2027.
  - Target (Saskatchewan provincial parks): Maintain 930,000 entry day permit days in Saskatchewan provincial parks in 2026-2027.

### **Youth Participation**

- Maintain youth participation rates in interpretive and educational programming at historic parks, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the T. Rex Discovery Centre.
  - Target (Royal Saskatchewan Museum): 40% of total participants for both locations in 2026-2027.
  - Target (Saskatchewan provincial parks): 60% of participants in interpretive and educational programming at Saskatchewan provincial parks in 2026-2027.

### **Participation in Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs**

- Total participation in sport, culture and recreation programs delivered by ministry partners including Saskatchewan Lotteries, Community Initiatives Fund, Western Development Museum, Saskatchewan Science Centre and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.
  - Target: 1.5 million participants in sport, culture and recreation programs in 2026-2027.

### **Number of Businesses in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks**

- Total number of businesses operating within provincial parks, including long-term leased businesses (e.g., rental accommodations, stores, etc.) and one-year, experienced-based businesses (e.g., guided tours, lessons, etc.).
  - Target: Exceed the 2025-2026 baseline of 167 businesses by using visitor feedback to guide new business opportunities that meet visitor needs.

## Goal 2: Protect and Promote our Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage

Through public education, responsible stewardship and targeted conservation efforts, we will safeguard our natural ecosystems and cultural heritage for the benefit, enjoyment and use of present and future generations. As part of this commitment, relationships with Indigenous peoples, communities and businesses will be strengthened through meaningful engagement and collaboration. Indigenous knowledge and perspectives will help inform our work and support the protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage.

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

Continually enhance our stewardship, conservation and protection activities.

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

- Maintain and improve the ecological integrity of our parks by completing priority ecosystem management activities, applying evidence-based information in all decisions, and strengthening ecosystem health scores through proactive stewardship and targeted monitoring.
- Protect and conserve our natural ecosystems through proactive stewardship, monitoring and evidence-based management.
- Promote and enhance awareness of conservation by delivering ongoing communication, collaboration, partnerships and research initiatives within the ministry, government and external partners.
- Increase awareness of resource conservation to encourage visitor stewardship and appreciation of park ecosystems through educational and public programming.
- Connect youth and the public to Saskatchewan's rich history in provincial historic parks and preserve records and artifacts entrusted to the ministry.
- Conduct and facilitate scientific research at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and promote discoveries made by Royal Saskatchewan researchers.
- Collaborate with SaskBuilds and Procurement to ensure a successful construction project that safely houses, protects, and preserves the province's natural history and Indigenous heritage collections.
- Work with property owners, municipalities and other partners to identify, research, protect and physically conserve significant historic places.
- Increase sector and citizen understanding and use of heritage conservation processes.

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

Enhance public knowledge of our work and why it is important to our province.

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

- Increase public interaction with heritage information held by the ministry through enhanced promotion of public-facing databases and publications.

## **Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

### **Area of ecological restoration activities completed annually**

- This measure tracks the total area (e.g., acres/hectares) restored or treated within a fiscal year. Restoration activities may include invasive species treatment, prescribed fires undertaken, grassland area restored, reclamation of previously disturbed sites and trees planted as a few examples.
  - Target: Complete a minimum of 500 hectares of annual conservation and ecological management activities (Rx fire, invasive plant control, tree planting, core risk tree removal, etc.) to support long term ecosystem resilience throughout provincial parks.

### **Provincial heritage resources and collections with conservation plans**

- All heritage resources and collections under the responsibility of the ministry will have an approved plan, strategy, or process to regulate, preserve, manage, or interpret each resource or collection.
  - Target: Faster than expected progress has allowed the original target date of March 31, 2028, to have completed conservation plans for all 56 designated Provincial Heritage Properties to be advanced to March 31, 2027.

## Goal 3: Advance Citizen Wellbeing and Economic Prosperity

With a clear connection between ministry programs to health and wellbeing of Saskatchewan citizens, there is a drive to continually improve existing services and deliver new experiences that contribute to the high quality of life in our province.

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

Establish a clear correlation between our work and the health and wellbeing of Saskatchewan citizens.

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

- Promote Saskatchewan Parks' trail system through enhanced planning and experiences, wayfinding and interpretive signage that connects visitors to the diverse landscapes and trail experiences found in provincial parks.
- Develop partnerships to create, expand, and promote park-based activities that support the health and wellbeing of Saskatchewan citizens.

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

Support Saskatchewan's economic prosperity.

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

- Fully implement the new Heritage Resources Screening online regulatory system.
- Deliver enhanced program and event opportunities in provincial parks that support local tourism, in-park businesses and visitor satisfaction.

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

Work with sector partners to support their long-term sustainability.

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

- Support the Meewasin Valley Authority and the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association to advance their long-term sustainability, enhance public wellbeing and deliver local economic benefits.

### **Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

#### **Park visitor perceptions of impact on physical and mental health**

- Percent of park visitors reporting their visit was important to their physical and mental health.
  - Target: Increase over 25-26 baseline numbers.

**Number of new campsites developed in regional parks**

- Total number of new campsites developed by regional parks as a result of funding provided by the ministry.
  - Target: Add 200 new campsites in 2026-2027.

**Turnaround time for development reviews**

- Average time for Heritage Conservation Branch to complete heritage reviews of development proposals.
  - Target: Complete heritage reviews for all development proposals within an average of 14 days in 2026-2027.

# Government Vision and Goals

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## Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport – Status of Women Office Overview

### Overview

The Status of Women's Office is the sole branch in the Government of Saskatchewan that is responsible for matters related to the status of women. The strategic focus of the Status of Women Office is leading and coordinating the development of policies, programs and other strategic initiatives that support women to live safe, healthy and prosperous lives.

### Mission

Support women and all people to live safe, healthy and prosperous lives.

### Vision

A Saskatchewan where all women and girls are supported to live safe, healthy, and prosperous lives. A leader in all matters that advance the status of women in our province. A team that is passionate about what we do and fosters that passion in everyone.

## Goal 1: Support Women to Help Grow Saskatchewan's Economy

By supporting women to help grow Saskatchewan's economy contributes to a better quality of life for Saskatchewan families and communities. The Status of Women's Office will support achieving this goal by leading and coordinating the development of initiatives that provide opportunities for women and girls in all sectors and industries.

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

Increase women's representation in current and emerging sectors and industries.

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

- Identify strategic opportunities that will help enable women to enter and advance their careers in all areas in the economy.
- Leverage opportunities with strategic partners to expand existing programs and services that enable greater participation in the economy.
- Identify and support opportunities for women and girls that help advance their leadership in Saskatchewan.

### **Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

#### **Women's participation in the economy**

- Target: Develop recommendations that support women's increased representation in Saskatchewan's economy by March 31, 2027.
- Target: Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to identify programs and services that support women's leadership and greater participation in Saskatchewan's economy by March 31, 2027.

## Goal 2: Support Women's Health and Wellbeing

Supporting women's health and wellbeing contributes to a better quality of life for Saskatchewan families and communities. The Status of Women's Office will support this goal by coordinating initiatives that provide opportunities for women and girls that support access to programs and services that increase their overall health and wellbeing.

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

Work with partners to identify initiatives and opportunities that support positive health and wellness for women and girls.

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

- Lead and provide oversight on the Shoppers Menstrual Equity Program in Saskatchewan.
- Identify initiatives that support women's access to programs and services to improve their health and well-being.

### **Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

#### **Implementation of the Shopper's Foundation for Women's Health**

- Target: Ensure the allotment of products designated for Saskatchewan reach the individuals in schools, shelters and transition houses by March 31, 2027.
- Target: Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to identify programs and services that support women's health and wellbeing by March 31, 2027.

## Goal 3: Prevent Interpersonal Violence and Abuse in Saskatchewan

Preventing interpersonal violence and abuse in Saskatchewan supports strong families and stronger communities. The Status of Women will support achieving this goal by leading and coordinating initiatives that strengthen the prevention of interpersonal violence.

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

Lead and coordinate initiatives that increase women's safety, security and wellbeing.

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

- Lead Saskatchewan's implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to End Gender-based Violence (GBV).
- Lead and coordinate strategic initiatives that target prevention, intervention and accountability to reduce interpersonal violence and abuse across Saskatchewan.
- Lead ministry actions for the NAP to End GBV and the Pathway Forward to support the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People.

### **Performance Measures:** *What success looks like*

#### **Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence**

- Target: Lead and provide oversight of Saskatchewan's implementation of the national action plan to end violence by March 31, 2027.

#### **Interpersonal violence and abuse prevention initiatives**

- Target: Lead and coordinate strategic initiatives that address interpersonal violence and abuse guided by Saskatchewan's Pillars: *Prevention, Intervention and Accountability*.
- Target: Implement grant funding designated for Saskatchewan Status of Women Office under the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence by March 31, 2027.

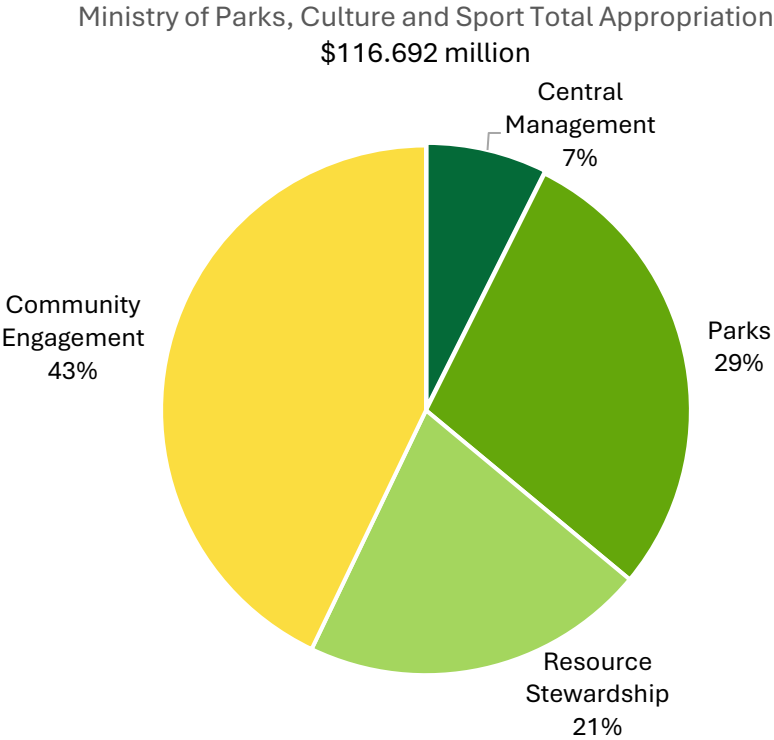
# 2026-27 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Heritage Resources Screening (Online Client Services Initiative)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Problem/Opportunity:</b> The Heritage Conservation Branch launched an online digital heritage regulatory system, known as Heritage Resources Screening, in February 2026. The primary aim of Heritage Resources Screening (built under the Online Client Services Initiative) is to cut red tape to reduce industry client heritage approval wait times and costs (estimated at \$12 million per year). The new system includes an integrated, user-friendly online interface that guides clients through streamlined heritage screening, submission, review and approval processes. The opportunity is to widely promote Heritage Resources Screening to clients so that its benefits can be fully realized.</li> <li>• <b>Improvement work/approach:</b> The Heritage Conservation Branch will promote the use of Heritage Resources Screening and provide demonstrations and workshops on its use to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Land developers and their agents who screen development and infrastructure project proposals that involve ground disturbing activities and submit those projects located in heritage sensitive areas for heritage review.</li> <li>○ In addition, there is a wide range of government authorities, including municipalities, ministries and Crown Corporations that screen development and infrastructure projects and submit those located in heritage sensitive areas for heritage review, or forward projects from their clients for review.</li> <li>○ Another group of stakeholders are private sector archaeological and paleontological consulting companies that conduct Heritage Resources Impact Assessments on behalf of industry clients.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Desired outcome:</b> Heritage Resources Screening will become a familiar tool to industry clients and regularly used to screen development projects for heritage concerns well in advance of critical construction deadlines. Success will be measured in the number of development projects that receive automatic heritage clearance at the screening stage and in the average number of days taken for the Heritage Conservation Branch to process heritage reviews.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Saskatchewan’s Implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, Expansion of the Following Their Voices Program through the Ministry of Education (enhancement)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Problem/Opportunity:</b> Following Their Voices (FTV) is a made-in-Saskatchewan education initiative aimed at improving First Nations, Métis and Inuit student outcomes, including supporting prosocial behaviour as a holistic approach to promote increased graduation rates. It partners with provincial and First Nation school communities to provide training and support to increase student engagement. Initially, schools receive significant support, which decreases over time as they gain independence. FTV has successfully improved student engagement and achievement, with notable increases in credit attainment and graduation rates since 2014-15. The initiative expanded to 39 schools, involving 752 staff members and 36,335 students, including 14,081 self-declared</li> </ul>

	<p>Indigenous students. A partnership with Indigenous Services Canada supported its implementation in 11 First Nation schools during 2018-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improvement work/approach: The initiative is based on research conducted with a group of Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis students, their parents, their teachers, and in-school administrators. This group of people indicated strong relationships, well-managed learning environments and engaging interactions between teachers and students are important to increasing students' ability to achieve success. Ongoing engagement, advice, and guidance from a broad representation of Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Elders and Knowledge Keepers representing all the Indigenous language groups in the province is critical to the initiative. This initiative, led by the Ministry of Education, is supported with off-set federal funding through Saskatchewan's implementation plan of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.</li><li>• Desired outcome: Enhancing and expanding this initiative will increase interpersonal violence and abuse prevention efforts by helping more Saskatchewan First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students to develop the skills to build and recognize healthy relationships, broaden their social awareness, and build their self-management skills and overall supports to improve educational and future employment outcomes, ultimately contributing to the overall health and wellbeing of Saskatchewan citizens.</li></ul>
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# Financial Summary

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport 2026-27 Estimates (\$93,115 million)		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$8,621
Parks		\$33,422
Resource Stewardship		\$24,598
Community Engagement		\$50,051
<b>Total Appropriation</b>		<b>\$116,692</b>
Less Capital Asset Acquisitions		(\$31,654)
Plus Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment		\$8,077
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$93,115</b>



### Links to more information

- [Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport](#)
- [Status of Women Office](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and reporting](#)