

# Annual Report for 2022-23

## Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

# Letters of Transmittal

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for Parks, Culture and Sport (PCS) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

This report reflects the government's commitment to continued economic growth and maintaining the high-quality of life we enjoy in Saskatchewan.

The diversity of PCS programs is how we deliver on this commitment. Through connecting people to nature and recreation in our provincial parks, to how we support our cultural diversity, heritage, and francophone language.

We aid veterans and communities, protect our province's biodiversity, encourage film and television projects and support sport and recreation opportunities with our partners. Our two well-known destinations, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the T.rex Discovery Centre in Eastend, continue to delight visitors throughout the year by helping us better understand ourselves and our natural world.

Through the Status of Women Office (SWO), we also help further women's participation in the economy and work to end gender-based violence.

Our provincial parks are beloved by residents and visitors alike and continue to be a year-round destination. Thousands of people visit our parks each year to camp, spend a day at the lake, hike, bike or participate in the many recreational activities and interpretative programs that are offered.

While government's ongoing investment in each of these areas is key, it is strong partnerships and dedicated employees that make our work possible, and I am thankful to them all for their continued commitment to our province and its people.

It is an honour to make these programs and services available to the Saskatchewan people and to present this report which outlines the progress made on PCS initiatives outlined in the 2022-23 Business Plan.



The Honourable Laura Ross  
Minister of Parks, Culture  
and Sport;  
Minister Responsible for the  
Status of Women

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Ross'.

Laura Ross  
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Dear Minister Ross:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of Parks, Culture and Sport (PCS) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

The ministry helps all citizens and visitors connect with nature, culture and recreation, three things that are essential to individual wellbeing, a prosperous economy, and a healthy, welcoming province.

In 2022-23, we continued to invest in our provincial park system, updating and adding infrastructure, improving accessibility, and protecting these public lands for all to enjoy. The results can be seen in the high number of visitors who travel to our Parks for day trips and camping excursions.

The Royal Saskatchewan Museum continues to see an increase in visitors, a credit to the staff and researchers who develop the amazing exhibits.



Twyla MacDougall  
Deputy Minister of Parks,  
Culture and Sport

Governments' commitment to sports, culture, and recreation continues through lottery funding. There are grant programs that include the Veteran's Support Program and the Community Rink Affordability Grant. Support for our growing film and television industry continues through Creative Saskatchewan.

Partnerships that have been developed through the Status of Women Office have helped us introduce hundreds of young women to careers in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. As well as to support the Women Breaking Barriers conference and launch 'Face the Issue', a campaign to help end gender-based violence.

More French language pages were added to Saskatchewan.ca, making government information accessible to a wider audience. Our Heritage Branch has made it easier for the public to access heritage data through a new interactive web portal that displays all provincial and municipal designated heritage sites, as well as Geographic Names.

I join Minister Ross in thanking our remarkable staff and partners in helping us provide these services to the people of Saskatchewan. The programs and services we provide create a better province for us all.

I acknowledge responsibility for PCS's financial administration and reporting and ensure the information contained within this report is complete, accurate and reliable.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Twyla MacDougall".

Twyla MacDougall  
Deputy Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

# Ministry Overview

## Our Mandate

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

## Our Mission Statement

Contribute to Saskatchewan's high quality of life, instill pride, and enhance economic growth through management of the Saskatchewan provincial parks system and RSM; the provision of arts, culture, recreation, sport, and tourism opportunities; access to French-language services; and through stewardship of provincial heritage resources.

## Service Delivery System

The ministry's actual Full-time Equivalent (FTE) utilization was 449.3.

The ministry participates in several federal/provincial/territorial initiatives related to parks, culture, French language, heritage, recreation, sport and the status of women. This involvement encourages knowledge exchange, informs policy and program development and partnerships with other jurisdictions and other government agencies.

The strategic lines of business within PCS are organized into two divisions, Parks and Stewardship.

The ministry is also home to the Status of Women Office.

The ministry's one-year operational plan for 2022-23 can be found at:

<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/117223>

## Progress on Goal 1: Provide high quality visitor experiences

Ongoing enhancements to programs, services and infrastructure in provincial parks and the RSM are necessary to build compelling and meaningful experiences that inspire new and repeat visitation. These spaces are vital contributors to tourism and the economy, bringing significant tourist spending to communities around the province. They support strong communities and strong families by providing accessible spaces for people to socially connect, relax and revitalize, enjoy healthful recreation and learn about the province's natural and cultural history. All of which have a profound effect on the physical and emotional well-being of citizens.

### Strategy:

Offer programs and services that are relevant to citizens.

### Key Actions:

- Work with the private sector to facilitate renewal, expansion, and development of new recreational services in parks.
  - In 2022-23, the ministry tendered and/or awarded several new experiences in provincial parks including:
    - Seven new recreation/experience-based offerings for visitors to try at several park locations.
      - Swimming lessons at Echo Valley, Katepwa, Candle Lake, Saskatchewan Landing, Blackstrap and Rowan's Ravine Provincial Parks, as well as Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.
      - Guided Nature Walks at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.
      - Long-term seasonal camping at Elbow Harbour Recreational Site.
      - Food/beverage at Candle Lake Provincial Park.
      - Equipped camping experience at The Battlefords Provincial Park.
      - Paragliding at Blackstrap Provincial Park.
      - Sailing lessons at Elbow Harbour Recreation Site, and Danielson and Douglas Provincial Parks.
    - Two new locations for inflatable water parks at Candle Lake and Meadow Lake Provincial Parks, for a total of seven inflatable water parks in the province.
    - Marina at Danielson Provincial Park.
    - Campground expansion at Bronson Forest Recreation Site.
    - Rental accommodations at five park locations.
      - Meadow Lake Provincial Park – Lake Time Rentals.
      - Good Spirit Provincial Park – Mistik Resort.
      - Buffalo Pound Provincial Park – Buffalo Pound Eco Lodge.
      - Meadow Lake Provincial Park – Waters Edge Eco Lodge Tipi Village.
      - Blackstrap Provincial Park – Blackstrap Glamping Resort.
    - Café within the new visitor centre at Buffalo Pound Provincial Park.
- Maintain natural landscapes and create safe public spaces within core areas of provincial parks.
  - Over 15,000 trees were planted in provincial park core areas.
  - \$234,000 was invested across 21 provincial parks to remove hazardous trees.

- Promote provincial parks as year-round destinations and encourage use through targeted winter programming and recreational opportunities.
  - 2022-23 is the fifth consecutive winter that Saskatchewan provincial parks offers winter events or recreation opportunities to visitors. Activities offered included:
    - Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, tobogganing, skating, ice fishing, fat-tire bike trails, candle-lit skis, crokicurl, picnicking and winter hikes. Food services were also available at some locations.
    - Guided interpretive programming was offered at most locations and included guided snowshoe hikes, astronomy programming and learn to Nordic ski.
  - The ministry continued working with the private sector to provide new winter experience offerings.
    - E-bikes at Pike Lake Provincial Park.
    - Kicksledding and laser tag at Duck Mountain Provincial Park.
    - Sauna and wellness experience at Pike Lake Provincial Park.
    - Partnership with Engelheim Tours provided tours to Echo Valley and Buffalo Pound Provincial Parks.
- Conduct citizen research to expand and improve programs and services and attract new people to the parks.
  - Visitor surveys were completed throughout the summer season, allowing the ministry to make in-season adjustments, and at the end of the season to inform decision-making on future programs and services. Visitors were also surveyed throughout the winter season to inform future marketing and winter offerings.
- Implement the RSM four-year rolling exhibit and programming plan.
  - Developed new school programming for grades six to eight, to compliment the new HOME (Life in the Anthropocene) gallery.
  - Implemented a redesign and renovation of the RSM lobby to enable better visitor flow and experience, and to increase security.
  - Summer Film Series “The Dino Hunters” was hosted in the auditorium throughout the summer months.
  - The Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) Solstice Speaker Series was held in June, September, December and March.
  - Monthly Traditional Knowledge Keeper program delivered Indigenous teachings and worldview activities.
  - Introduced public programming in the SaskTel Learning Lab during school breaks.
  - New Tylosaurus skeleton mount was installed at the T.rex Discovery Centre (TRDC).
  - New weekly thematic rotating displays were showcased at the TRDC.

### **Strategy:**

Invest in infrastructure to meet client demands.

### **Key Actions:**

- Investment of \$9 million to maintain and renew park infrastructure to reduce the total infrastructure deficit.
  - Several park capital improvements were completed in 2022-23 through the base capital program. Highlights include:
    - Phase one of potable water treatment and distribution system at Moose Mountain Provincial Park, in partnership with the Village of Kenosee.
    - Expansion and upgrade of potable water services to campgrounds at Saskatchewan Landing, Meadow Lake, and Candle Lake Provincial Parks.

- Upgrades to the sewage lagoon near Lac Des Isles in Meadow Lake Provincial Park.
- Upgrades to an existing trailer sewage disposal site and related sewage lift station at Echo Valley Provincial Park to improve service and functionality.
- Major upgrades to the existing boat launch at Douglas Provincial Park to improve access to Lake Diefenbaker during fluctuating water levels.
- Major road improvements throughout The Battlefords Provincial Park in collaboration with the Ministry of Highways.
- Replacement of the fire truck storage building at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.
- Construction of a new equipment storage building at Buffalo Pound Provincial Park.
- Investment of \$3.5 million to expand park infrastructure to respond to growing park visitor demands for camping, recreational and cultural opportunities.
  - A top-up of \$400,000 was received from the Commercial Revolving Fund (CRF) budget to help with increased costs, bringing the total investment to \$3.9 million.
  - This funding provided new facilities to meet park visitor needs with a focus on enhanced day-use facilities, improved services and access, increase camping capacity, and replacement of aging structures. Highlights include:
    - Construction and landscaping on four new day-use area pavilions at Pike Lake, Blackstrap, Buffalo Pound and Echo Valley Provincial Parks to provide improved services for large or multi-group activities.
    - Construction of two new service centres at Saskatchewan Landing's Bison Hollow Campground and Duck Mountain's Poplar Campground.
    - Second phase of Pine Hill Campground at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park including campsite development, roads, and infrastructure systems.
    - First phase development of a new 40-site full-service campground loop at Waterhen Lake in Meadow Lake Provincial Park.
    - Campground electrical expansion to Aspen group campground at Moose Mountain Provincial Park and to 33 sites at Greenwater Lake Provincial Park's group campground.
    - Replacement of the Fisher Creek pedestrian bridge at Candle Lake Provincial Park to improve safety and visitor accessibility.
    - First phase of redevelopments at the Regina Beach Recreation Site, including improvements to visitor safety and accessibility, connection of spaces, overall functionality, and aesthetics.
    - Replacement of a wooden playground structure at Meadow Lake Provincial Park's Sandy Beach Campground to meet current code requirements and enhance user safety.
    - Park trail development and improvements at multiple locations including Buffalo Pound, Candle Lake, Lac La Ronge and Makwa Lake Provincial Parks.

## Performance Measure Results:

### Satisfaction with Saskatchewan provincial park visits

Measure Target: More than 85 per cent of visitors to Saskatchewan provincial parks are satisfied with their visit in 2022-23

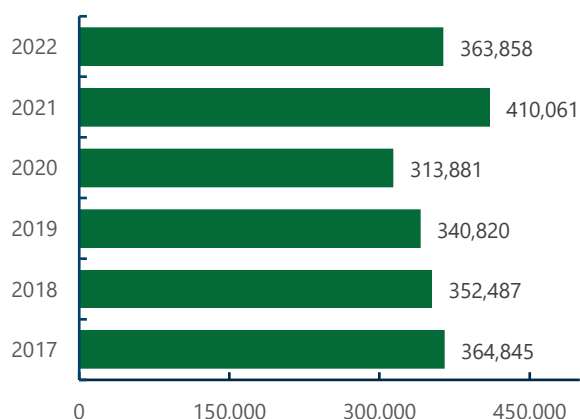
- 93 per cent of visitors were satisfied with their visit in 2022, which exceeded the target.



### Number of camping permit nights in Saskatchewan provincial parks

Measure Target: More than 410,000 camping permit nights sold in provincial parks in 2022-23

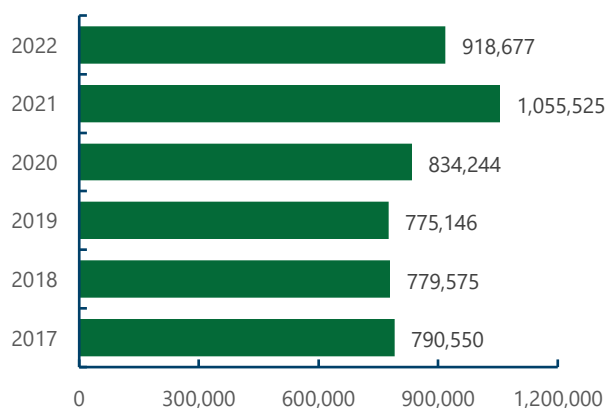
- 363,858 camping permit nights sold in provincial parks in 2022-23. While the target was not achieved, camping permit nights are still higher than the 5-year average.



### Number of entry permit days in Saskatchewan provincial parks

Measure Target: 1 million entry permit days issued in provincial parks in 2022-23

- There was a total of 918,677 entry days this past year. Entry permit days continue to be strong with the second highest result on record, just missing the all-time high of 1.06 million in 2021-22.



### Number of visitors to the RSM



Measure Target: 100,000 visitors to the RSM by March 31, 2023 (targets for visitation have been modified to reflect the ongoing pandemic recovery)

- There were 119,000 visitors to the RSM in 2022-23, which exceeded the target.



#### **Number of visitors to the TRDC**

Measure Target: 10,000 visitors to the TRDC by March 31, 2023 (targets for visitation have been modified to reflect the ongoing pandemic recovery)

- The TRDC had 9177 visitors in 2022-23.



## Progress on Goal 2: Protect Saskatchewan's park lands and heritage

The ministry invests in provincial parks and the RSM. These investments ensure Saskatchewan's historic resources and cultural artifacts are preserved and available for research and education purposes.

### Strategy:

Improve preservation, conservation and management of heritage collections, data, and resources.

### Key Actions:

- Manage heritage data through maintenance of the Provincial Property Designation Program and provincial heritage databases.
  - Designation of Lower Hudson House Provincial Heritage Property (PHP) was announced in August 2022.
  - Plaques unveiled at public ceremonies for the Veregin Grain Elevator and Prince Albert Immigration Hall PHPs.
  - Produced one new PHP plaque and five replacement PHP plaques.
  - PHP Short List and Engagement List for PHP candidates updated.
  - Updated Statement of Significance for the McNaughton Stores, Regina Land Titles Building, Saskatoon Land Titles Building and Battleford Land Registry Office PHPs.
  - Improved quality of data and the public access.
    - The Heritage Conservation Branch (HCB) conducted field inspections of a sample of Sites of Special Nature to verify location, and update condition completed as part of the ongoing validation of data in the Provincial Archaeological Inventory.
    - A new interactive web portal to access geographic name and designated heritage property information was launched.
- Planning and implementation of the Heritage Conservation Branch Online Client Service Initiative.
  - Vendor selected through a request for proposal (RFP) process, Statement of Work and contract were signed off.
  - Build and execution of the Online Client Service Initiative commenced in 2022-23 and will continue throughout 2023-24.
  - A project management resource acquired to support implementation.
  - Detailed planning and scheduling completed.
  - Initiated development of requirements, use-case documentation, and workflow process.
- Develop options for enhanced preservation and management of the RSM's expanding research and heritage collections.
  - Renewal options for the RSM Research, Exhibits, and Collections Facility were developed in partnership with SaskBuilds and Procurement to identify options to permanently house the research, collections, and exhibit development support team of the RSM. A go forward plan is anticipated in 2023-24.

**Strategy:**

Improve the health of provincial park ecosystems and cultural resources.

**Key Actions:**

- Improve our understanding of the state and condition of park ecosystems through ecosystem planning and implementation of a database to monitor ecosystem health and integrity.
  - Seven of twelve Natural Environment Parks have an Ecosystem Based Management Plan that help guide effective ecosystem management.
  - Park Ecosystem Database has been developed to improve our understanding of ecosystem health at provincial parks. Ecosystem data has been consolidated and offers greater analysis capacity and efficiency.
- Improve the quality of ecosystem integrity through active management measures such as tree planting, invasive species treatment and forest harvesting.
  - Over 54,000 hectares of park ecosystem was treated using active management measures.
  - Forest renewal was undertaken at Meadow Lake and Duck Mountain Provincial Parks.
  - PCS used an integrated control program, which supports ecosystem health of the grassland areas in parks, through grassland health assessments, grazing management, biocontrol, herbicide application, grassland restoration and wildland fire.
  - PCS has increased its prescribed burning capacity in order to incorporate prescribed burning as a routine ecosystem treatment.

## Performance Measure Results:

### Average HCB response time for development project applications

Measure Target: Achieve 21 days for HCB to respond to development project applications by March 31, 2023.

- Average 35.3 days for HCB to respond to development project applications. Response times are up largely due to an increase in the number of development submissions received. The response time is projected to decrease when the Online Client Service Initiative project goes live.



### Number of provincial parks managed by ecosystem-based management plans

Measure Target: Seven of the 12 natural environment provincial parks are managed by ecosystem-based management plans by March 31, 2023.

- Seven natural environment parks being managed by Ecosystem Based Management Plan in 2022-23. In 2022-23, one additional Ecosystem Based Management Plan was completed.



## Progress on Goal 3: Connect citizens to culture, French language, heritage, science, sport, recreation, and nature

The ministry provides direction, programming and supports partner organizations to offer programs to reduce barriers and increase access to sport, culture, heritage, and recreation programs in all geographic areas of the province. These programs contribute to building stronger families and vibrant communities in which to live, work and play.

### Strategy:

Increase engagement, inclusion, access, and economic opportunities.

### Key Actions:

- Deliver on platform commitments including: investing \$1.5 million to deliver the Saskatchewan Veteran Service Club Support Program, \$1.7 million for the Community Rink Affordability Grant and \$4 million for the Active Families Benefit.
  - The Saskatchewan Veterans Service Club Support Program was fully subscribed with 87 grants provided to eligible recipients.
  - 581 ice surfaces were approved for 378 skating and 203 curling rinks for \$1.45 million through the Community Rink Affordability Grant.
  - Active Families Benefit had 3,750 claims in the 2021 taxation year totaling \$881,000. This program was impacted by the pandemic; therefore, claims were lower than projected.
- Strategically invest \$27.639 million in arts, culture, and heritage opportunities with sector partners including Creative Saskatchewan, SK Arts, Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, Western Development Museum, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, and Saskatchewan Science Centre.
  - The ministry invested \$17.5 million in Creative Saskatchewan to support production filming in various communities across Saskatchewan.
    - This funding is estimated to have a total Saskatchewan spend of \$46.2 million and a total economic output of \$85.9 million and over 390 jobs.
    - A few highlighted productions include Guardians of the North, Our Big Punjabi Family, ZARQA (Season 2), Alone (Season 10), and A Cowboys Christmas.
  - SK Arts received \$6.61 million in funding to enrich community well-being, diversity and prosperity through the arts.
  - Support of \$145,000 was provided to Museums Association of Saskatchewan to deliver the Technology Microgrant for Community Museums Program and to leverage federal funding for the delivery of Artsvest throughout Saskatchewan with a focus on rural and remote locations.
  - The ministry provided \$80,000 to promote physical activity in partnership with ParticipACTION, SaskOutdoors and the Coaches Association of Saskatchewan.
  - Provided support to the 50th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Winter Games held February 2023 in Regina.
  - Through Sask Sport's athletic development programing, the ministry enabled athletes to attend both Canada Summer and Winter Games in 2022-23, which led to 32 medals for

Team Sask.

- Support community investments through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund and the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) to strengthen the capacity of communities to deliver quality sports, culture, recreation, physical activity and community development programs and services.
  - The Lotteries marketing and distribution agreements were successfully renewed, continuing lotteries as a dedicated fundraiser for the sport, culture, and recreation sectors.
  - In 2022-23, approximately \$69 million was distributed through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, helping support over 12,000 sport, culture, and recreation organizations and 600,000 participants across the province.
  - The CIF approved 471 community development grants for community-based projects and programs across Saskatchewan, totaling \$5.87 million.
- Work with federal, provincial, and territorial partners to advance sport, physical activity, culture, and recreation initiatives, including support for the implementation of the Common Vision for Physical Activity and the Framework for Recreation, as well as the renewal of the Canada Sport Policy.
  - The ministry participated on several federal/provincial/territorial committees and communities of practice related to topics such as safe sport, concussions, women and girls in sport and cultural statistics, research, and data.
  - Supported the importance of multiculturalism in Saskatchewan through a funding partnership with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan to implement an Anti-Racism: Recognize it. Reject it! Campaign.
- Enhance delivery of French language support services including translation service to ministries, Crown corporations and agencies, and provide citizens with a single window to access French language services of the Government of Saskatchewan.
  - In 2022-23, 439,000 words were translated by the Francophone Affairs Branch's translation service, including the website of the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan and new help kits for self-representing litigants.
  - The French-language services centre responded to 726 inquiries, an increase of 48 per cent over the preceding year.
  - Two webinar sessions were offered to French-speaking employees of the Government of Saskatchewan, one on addressing linguistic insecurity and the other one on Fransaskois history.
- Attract new visitors to the provincial parks and the RSM through new and targeted initiatives, such as recreational, educational, and cultural programs, services, and events.
  - New program guides were designed and delivered for each region at the time of reservation launch.
  - New reservation system functions were added including campsite favourites, campsite comparison and streamlined seasonal workflow.
  - Six new insulated Camp Easy yurts were purchased and installed at Black Strap, Buffalo Pound, Greenwater, and Duck Mountain Provincial Parks.
  - Self-use Discovery Packs and rec packs were developed and available in parks across the province, and theme days were a new initiative held every Saturday.
  - The RSM's HOME: Life in the Anthropocene held its grand opening in April 2022. The exhibit is available in French, Cree, and English.
  - The partnership between the Friends of the RSM and SGI was renewed to support the continued delivery of the Solstice Speaker Series. An average of 165 people attended each of the four sessions.

- The Traditional Knowledge Keepers series included a rug hooking workshop, quill beading and a beading workshop for teachers. The series also included a tour of the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Collection.
- Numerous event days were held at the RSM including Dinovember, Science of Snowflakes, “I Heart It” February teaching about animal hearts, Earth Month guest speakers, and a Ukrainian Day to welcome newcomers from Ukraine.
- An Indigenous Curator was hired at the RSM to connect Indigenous communities throughout the province to build relationships, share the collection and gain insight, and provide council on stewardship.

**Strategy:**

Increase knowledge and awareness.

**Key Actions:**

- Support Wanuskewin Heritage Park’s application to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
  - The ministry has taken several steps to support Wanuskewin Heritage Park in the world heritage designation process, including legislative changes, protection of Crown land, supplementary funding, and various in-kind support.
  - The Government of Saskatchewan continued to work with Wanuskewin Heritage Park to explore opportunities to leverage government resources and provide in-kind support where applicable.
- Provide heritage regulatory and capacity-building services to assist property owners, land developers and communities.
  - Four online heritage training workshops and three webinars were presented by the Heritage Conservation Branch (HCB) to over 300 participants and viewers.
  - HCB responded to numerous requests for conservation advice relating to archaeological sites, municipal and provincial heritage properties, and other heritage places.
  - Revised and updated the Instructions for Using the Developers Online Screening Tool were posted on the HCB website.
- Expand engagement with Indigenous communities to increase the inclusiveness of the Saskatchewan Geographic Names Program.
  - The ministry met with the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre for an update on recent naming activities and to seek further advice for effective engagement with First Nations regarding nomination and recognition of traditional place names.
  - Ten Tribal Councils were invited by the ministry to discuss geographic naming matters.
- Conduct and facilitate scientific research at the RSM and promote discoveries made by RSM researchers.
  - RSM researchers co-authored 12 publications in peer-reviewed journals in 2022-23. Some highlights are:
    - Dr. Ryan McKellar published his Palaeontology discoveries that included work on fossil insects, turtles, crocodiles, and dinosaur skin from the Cretaceous period.
    - Dr. Glenn Sutter published on Human Ecology, including how his Songs for Nature program connects people to nature.
    - Dr. Cory Sheffield published on native bees of Canada.
    - Conservator Victoria Kablys published on how the RSM rehoused the Indigenous ethnology collections to improve accessibility to the collection’s visitors.
    - Dr. Ryan Fisher published on Sharp-tailed Grouse, highlighting critical areas of the province where this bird can continue to thrive.

- RSM researchers engaged in several field expeditions in Saskatchewan in 2022-23.
  - RSM palaeontologist collected parts of two Triceratops skeletons in the East Block of Grasslands National Park.
  - RSM biologists searched for species of bee that hasn't been observed in Saskatchewan since the 1960s.
  - RSM biologists used radio-transmitters to study Great Horned Owls in Southwest Saskatchewan.
  - RSM biologists used wildlife cameras to study urban wildlife in Regina.
- Use the Saskatchewaner program to build awareness of ministry programs, events, and stakeholder engagements through its social channels.
  - The Saskatchewaner is a joint initiative between Tourism Saskatchewan and PCS. The role was recently transitioned to a permanent FTE and continues to support and promote ministry programs.

**Strategy:**

Support the capacity and accountability of government-funded organizations.

**Key Actions:**

- Provide governance training options for appointees to third party boards, and support expertise sharing and communities of practices with third parties.
  - The ministry continued to build governance expertise among agencies and subsidized training opportunities. In 2022-23 the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School Public Sector Governance Program was completed by 12 board members.



## Performance Measure Results:

### Percentage of inquiries responded to by the French-language Services Centre

Measure Target: 100 per cent of inquiries made to the French-language Services Centre will be responded to within 48 hours.

- 100 per cent of inquiries were responded to within 48 hours in 2022-23.



### Number of projects supported through the Saskatchewan Veteran Service Club Support Program

Measure Target: Support at least 65 projects by March 31, 2023.

- A total of 87 grants were provided to support projects and operations through the program.



### Number of ice surfaces supported through the Community Rink Affordability Grant

Measure Target: 600 ice surfaces supported by March 31, 2023.

- 581 ice surfaces were supported, totalling \$1,452,500.



### Percentage of Agency board members and senior staff trained per year in public sector governance

Measure Target: 50 per cent of eligible board members trained in public service governance by March 31, 2023.

- In 2022-23, 32 of the 53 eligible agency board members and staff, or 60 per cent, have completed the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Sector Governance Program.



## Status of Women Office

### Mandate

The Status of Women Office (SWO) is the sole branch in government that reports on the status of women. The SWO acts as a catalyst within government to raise awareness of issues affecting women to ensure gender considerations are integrated into government-policy making, legislation and program development.

### Mission Statement

Contribute to enhancing Saskatchewan's economic growth and high quality of life by identifying and addressing issues affecting women through research and facilitation of partnerships across government and throughout communities.

## Progress on Goal: Increase women's economic prosperity and eliminate interpersonal violence and abuse in Saskatchewan

Supporting women's economic engagement contributes to increased economic growth and competitiveness for the Saskatchewan economy. The SWO supports this goal through collaboration across government and with community partners to address barriers and increase women's participation in the economy. To secure safe communities and a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people, the SWO contributes to the goal of eliminating interpersonal violence and abuse through collaborative partnerships focused on the reduction and prevention of gender-based violence.

### Strategy:

The SWO does not deliver programs and services to Saskatchewan residents. Instead, the SWO works within government and with partners across the province to identify and address topics affecting women.

#### Key Actions:

- Work with internal and external stakeholder to ensure topics affecting women are considered in government decision-making.
  - The SWO Represented Saskatchewan at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FTP) forum for Ministers responsible for the Status of Women wherein issues, barriers and opportunities are identified to support the advancement of women.
  - The SWO worked across the Government of Saskatchewan and engaged with provincial stakeholders to ensure that Saskatchewan's unique needs were considered in the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
  - The SWO endorsed the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence on behalf of Saskatchewan in November 2022.
- Conduct research and identify priority areas of concern for Saskatchewan women.
  - The SWO supported community-based organizations across the province to deliver

programs and services that prioritize prevention of interpersonal violence and abuse. This included:

- Programming through the Moose Jaw Transition House that addressed prevention and education regarding gender-based violence.
- A Women's Wellness Conference presented by the Piwapan Women Centre in La Ronge which focused on building a sense of safety and community. Sessions were offered on self-care and personal safety for women and youth, as well as a session on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls that incorporated the wellness wheel and the four aspects of the medicine wheel.
- An initiative through Hope Restored Canada that increased awareness of the signs of sexual exploitation and trafficking through education on the dangers, signs and things to be aware of regarding human and sex trafficking.
- Focus on awareness activities in targeted areas such as interpersonal violence and abuse, women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and women entrepreneurs.
  - Increasing women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) includes providing mentoring opportunities for young women and girls to explore their options for entering these fields. To help facilitate this, the SWO sponsored the Saskatchewan Science Centre 2023 Girls in STEAM Conference. This conference, which was delivered online to over 1,800 participants in 30+ communities across the province, provided girls with information, encouragement, and opportunities to seek out careers in non-traditional sectors.
  - The SWO sponsored the 2023 Women Breaking Barriers conference in Regina. This event enabled women from across Saskatchewan to attend the event in person or through a live stream connection in multiple communities. This interactive event brought many women together who participated in a full day of presentations, workshops, and mentoring aimed to support women in their capacity to grow the economy, gain financial independence and increase their participation in leadership roles.
  - Research and development of phase three of the Face the Issue Campaign was executed this past year. Phase three will target young adults with a particular focus on men and boys between the ages of 18-24. The focus will be on reducing interpersonal violence and abuse by promoting healthy, respectful, and non-violent relationships by discouraging social norms that support violence. The expected launch date for this campaign is Fall 2023.

## Performance Measure Results:

**Economic prosperity:** These performance measures capture the economic participation of women in Saskatchewan.

Performance indicators include:

### The employment rate of Saskatchewan women

- As of March 31, 2023, the employment rate of women in Saskatchewan, aged 15 years and older, was 60.3 per cent. This is above the national average of 58.9 per cent and second highest among provinces and territories in Canada.



### The average weekly earnings of Saskatchewan women

- The average weekly earnings of Saskatchewan women, over the age of 15 years, across all industries as reported by Statistics Canada in January 2023, increased by 2.8 per cent over the previous year.



### The employment rate of Saskatchewan Indigenous women

- The employment rate of Saskatchewan Indigenous women, aged 15 and older, was reported by Statistics Canada in January 2023 as 57.5 per cent, which is 3.3 per cent higher than the previous year.



## Interpersonal Violence and Abuse: Engagement on the Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Public Awareness Campaign

Measure Target: 2,500 engagements and 4 million video views on social channels

- As of March 31, 2023, there were 1,700 engagements and 2.5 million views.



# Financial Summary

The ministry's appropriation for 2022-23 was \$83.588 million. Including a non-appropriated expense adjustment of \$6.383 million (less capital asset acquisitions of \$11.565 million), PCS's total approved expense for 2022-23 was \$77.556 million.

Total 2022-23 actual expenses were \$87.818 million, a variance of \$10.262 million from the expense estimate.

The ministry's budgeted revenue for the 2022-23 fiscal year was \$8.33 million. The 2022-23 actual revenue was \$9.255 million, a variance of \$925 thousand from the revenue estimate.

The ministry's actual FTE utilization was 449.3.

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

## Expense Summary

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 10 per cent.

### Expense Actuals

| Subvote/ Subprogram                    | (in thousands of dollars) |                     |                   |                     |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
|  | 2021-22<br>Actual         | 2022-23<br>Estimate | 2022-23<br>Actual | 2022-23<br>Variance |
| <b>Central Management and Services</b> | <b>9,285</b>              | <b>9,753</b>        | <b>9,916</b>      | <b>163</b>          |
| Executive Management                   | 718                       | 880                 | 806               | (74)                |
| Central Services                       | 3,831                     | 4,000               | 4,267             | 267                 |
| Status of Women                        | 400                       | 375                 | 384               | 9                   |
| Accommodation Services                 | 4,282                     | 4,445               | 4,403             | (42)                |
| Minister's Salary (Statutory)          | 54                        | 53                  | 56                | 3                   |
| <b>Parks</b>                           | <b>32,284</b>             | <b>26,430</b>       | <b>26,430</b>     | <b>-</b>            |
| Provincial Park Programs               | 4,962                     | 4,838               | 4,545             | (293)               |
| Parks Capital Projects                 | 17,343                    | 10,725              | 11,122            | 397                 |
| Parks Preventative Maintenance         | 1,766                     | 1,807               | 1,837             | 30                  |
| Regional Parks                         | 600                       | 600                 | 600               | -                   |
| Urban Parks                            | 500                       | 500                 | 500               | -                   |
| Commercial Revolving Fund - Subsidy    | 7,113                     | 7,960               | 7,826             | (134)               |
| <b>Resource Stewardship</b>            | <b>7,189</b>              | <b>7,866</b>        | <b>7,148</b>      | <b>(718)</b>        |
| Operational Support                    | 2,596                     | 2,992               | 2,622             | (370) <sup>1</sup>  |

|   |                 |                 |                 |                        |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Francophone Affairs                                       | 634             | 719             | 709             | (10)                   |
| Support for Provincial Heritage and Culture               | 873             | 897             | 801             | (96) <sup>2</sup>      |
| Royal Saskatchewan Museum                                 | 3,086           | 3,258           | 3,016           | (242)                  |
| <b>Community Engagement</b>                               | <b>30,972</b>   | <b>39,539</b>   | <b>49,845</b>   | <b>10,306</b>          |
| Community Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs          | 3,063           | 3,200           | 3,032           | (168)                  |
| Active Families Benefit                                   | 4,000           | 4,000           | 4,000           | -                      |
| Heritage Institutions and Saskatchewan Science Centre     | 5,635           | 5,415           | 5,415           | -                      |
| Community Initiatives Fund                                | -               | 4,700           | 7,674           | 2,974 <sup>3</sup>     |
| Saskatchewan Arts Board                                   | 6,610           | 6,610           | 6,610           | -                      |
| Emergency Pandemic Support for Community Initiatives Fund | *4,000          | -               | -               | -                      |
| Creative Saskatchewan                                     | 7,314           | 15,314          | 22,814          | 7,500 <sup>4</sup>     |
| Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation                          | 350             | 300             | 300             | -                      |
| <b>Total Appropriation</b>                                | <b>79,730</b>   | <b>83,588</b>   | <b>93,339</b>   | <b>9,751</b>           |
| <b>Other Non-Expense Appropriation</b>                    | <b>-</b>        | <b>(850)</b>    | <b>(636)</b>    | <b>214<sup>5</sup></b> |
| <b>Capital Asset Acquisitions</b>                         | <b>(17,487)</b> | <b>(11,565)</b> | <b>(11,127)</b> | <b>438</b>             |
| <b>Capital Asset Amortization</b>                         | <b>6,093</b>    | <b>6,383</b>    | <b>6,242</b>    | <b>(141)</b>           |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                                      | <b>68,336</b>   | <b>77,556</b>   | <b>87,818</b>   | <b>10,262</b>          |

**Notes:**

1. Variance due to vacancy management and delayed staffing, miscellaneous operating savings, and delays in capital project progress.
2. Variance due to uncommitted discretionary or deferred funding requests.
3. Variance due to special warrant.
4. Variance due to supplementary funding.
5. Variance due to Asset Retirement Obligation being recognized at actual vs. Estimate.

\* This total was incorrectly stated in the 2021-22 Annual Report as \$5,000.

# Revenue Statement

## Revenue Summary

The ministry's actual revenue for the 2022-23 fiscal year was \$9.225 million. The 2022-23 budgeted revenue was \$8.330 million, resulting in a \$925 thousand variance of actual from budget.

The ministry collects revenue relating to the lottery license fee, rental of the Soundstage and fees from hosting various mixed martial arts events. The ministry also receives funding from the Federal Government under a Federal-Provincial Sport Bilateral Agreement, a French-language Services Agreement, and may receive funding through application for eligible federal programming. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the ministry's 2022-23 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Variance explanations are provided for all variances greater than \$100,000.

## Revenue

| Revenue Category                | (in thousands of dollars) |                     |                   |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
|                                 | 2021-22<br>Actual         | 2022-23<br>Estimate | 2022-23<br>Actual | 2022-23<br>Variance |
| Other Own-source Revenue        |                           |                     |                   |                     |
| Other Fees and Charges          | 6,815                     | 6,342               | 7,250             | 908 <sup>1</sup>    |
| Miscellaneous                   | 54                        | 50                  | 62                | 12                  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                 | <b>6,869</b>              | <b>6,392</b>        | <b>7,312</b>      | <b>920</b>          |
| Transfer from the Federal Gov't | 1,237                     | 1,938               | 1,943             | 5                   |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>            | <b>8,106</b>              | <b>8,330</b>        | <b>9,255</b>      | <b>925</b>          |

### Notes:

1. Return to more statistical jackpot roll patterns has led to lottery sales being higher than anticipated.

# Revolving Funds

## Commercial Revolving Fund

The Commercial Revolving Fund (CRF) is the financing mechanism for collection and distribution of funds used in the operation of Saskatchewan's provincial parks, recreation sites and historic parks. The purpose of this revolving fund is to pay for activities required to support the management, development, and promotion of provincial parks. The CRF receives revenue from a variety of activities that take place within provincial parks and recreation sites, such as camping, entry gate permits, cottage lot leases, leased commercial facilities (stores, marinas, cabin rentals, etc.), resource use activities and other miscellaneous items. Expenditures within the CRF contribute to the operation of the provincial park system and are made to ensure safe public enjoyment of provincial parks and recreation sites.

The CRF operates under the authority of Section 18 of *The Natural Resources Act* and is administered by the ministry. The CRF contains and records the direct operating revenues and expenditures associated with delivering the parks program.

The following table outlines summary information on budgeted and unaudited results for 2022-23 related to the operation of the fund. Audited financial statements will be available at:

<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/115256>

| Based on unaudited figures for 2022-23                      |                   |                           |                   |                          |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Revenue Category  | 2021-22<br>Actual | (in thousands of dollars) |                   | 2022-23 Variance         |
|   |                   | 2022-23<br>Estimate       | 2022-23<br>Actual |                          |
| <b>Revenue</b>  | 27,492            | 22,159                    | 22,513            | 354 <sup>1</sup>         |
| <b>Expenses</b>   |                   |                           |                   |                          |
| Salaries  | 18,178            | 17,619                    | 18,615            | 996 <sup>1</sup>         |
| Operating Expenses  | 15,378            | 12,805                    | 14,798            | 1,993 <sup>2</sup>       |
| Total Expenses  | 33,556            | 30,424                    | 33,413            | 2,989                    |
| <b>Net (Loss) Profit</b>                                    | <b>(6,064)</b>    | <b>(8,285)</b>            | <b>(10,900)</b>   | <b>(2,635)</b>           |
| <b>Subsidy from the General Revenue Fund</b>                | <b>7,113</b>      | <b>7,960</b>              | <b>7,826</b>      | <b>(134)<sup>3</sup></b> |
| <b>Net (Loss) Profit After Subsidy</b>                      | <b>1,049</b>      | <b>(305)</b>              | <b>(3,074)</b>    | <b>(2,769)</b>           |
| <b>Accumulated Operating (Deficit) Surplus, End of Year</b> | <b>2,061</b>      |                           | <b>(1,013)</b>    | <b>1,049<sup>4</sup></b> |

### Notes:

1. Variance due to record breaking park visitation, partially driven by COVID-19 pandemic influencing residents to travel locally, in addition to higher-than-expected forestry revenue
2. Variance due to additional staff and contractual services required to meet the demands of record visitation and COVID-19.
3. Variance due to a partial reallocation of the Subsidy to the Capital program to offset pressures associated with inflationary increases in materials, labour and freight.
4. Variance in the Accumulated Operating Surplus due to the net impact of annual revenue and expense.