



Regulatory Modernization

Red Tape Reduction Annual Report

2025-26



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Letters of Transmittal



Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Regulatory Modernization Red Tape Reduction Annual Report for the Ministry of Trade and Export Development for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Kaeding".

The Honourable Warren Kaeding
Minister of Trade and Export Development



The Honourable Warren Kaeding
Minister of Trade and Export Development

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Regulatory Modernization Red Tape Reduction Annual Report for the Ministry of Trade and Export Development for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RBourgoin".

Richelle Bourgoin
Deputy Minister of Trade and Export Development

From the Chair of the Red Tape Reduction Committee

As the Government of Saskatchewan's Red Tape Reduction Committee (RTRC) Chair, I am pleased to present the 2025-26 Regulatory Modernization Red Tape Reduction Annual Report. This report highlights our continued progress in reducing regulatory burden, improving service delivery and supporting businesses and communities across the province.

The RTRC provides direction to ministries, agencies and Crown corporations, ensuring efforts are co-ordinated and aligned with government priorities. Through this approach, we are addressing barriers not only within regulations, but across the broader regulatory system, including policies, standards and processes. This approach emphasizes high-impact, cross-government priorities that significantly affect investment and service delivery, while continuing to address day-to-day irritants that matter to businesses and residents.

In 2025-26, Saskatchewan continued to move beyond one-off regulatory changes toward broader improvements in how government services are delivered. This included cross-government work to simplify approvals, clarify roles between regulators, reduce duplication and make processes easier for businesses, municipalities and residents to navigate.

This work has saved businesses over \$732 million since 2014, with approximately \$11.6 million in net savings achieved in 2025-26 alone. In 2025-26, *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act* was introduced to reduce compliance costs and duplicate regulatory requirements for goods and services sold across provinces. By addressing barriers beyond provincial borders, Saskatchewan is strengthening market access, improving competitiveness and increasing opportunity.

All of this allows Saskatchewan to continue delivering on its commitment to achieve \$10 million to \$20 million in annual red tape savings.

Feedback and engagement remain critical components of our success in red tape reduction. The Help Cut Red Tape webpage continues to provide residents and businesses with a direct channel to suggest improvements. In 2025-26, the website received 20 submissions and more than 2,500 visits, leading to feedback that helps inform practical, on-the-ground improvements.



Looking ahead, we are excited to build on the strong foundation established over the past decade. Through collaboration, accountability and a clear focus on outcomes, Saskatchewan will remain a leader on this front and be the best place to invest and do business.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Schmalz'.

The Honourable Eric Schmalz
Chair of the Red Tape Reduction Committee

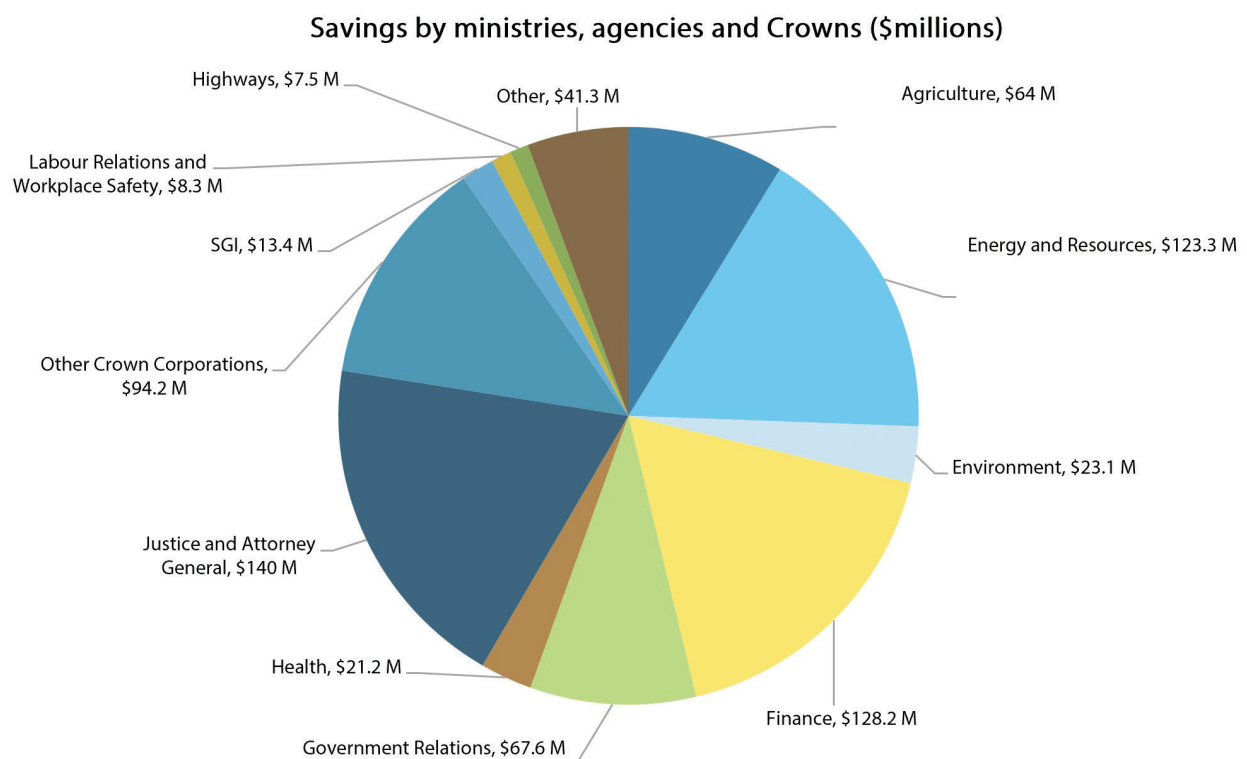
Accountable Government

Red tape reduction across Saskatchewan is delivered through co-ordinated, cross-government initiatives and targeted, ministry-led actions. Where regulatory barriers span multiple ministries, agencies or Crown corporations, coordination helps align efforts and improve service delivery. In other cases, ministries act independently to implement practical, program-specific improvements. Together, these efforts make government services faster, clearer and easier to navigate, while maintaining strong protections for public safety and trust.

This approach is delivering measurable benefits. Saskatchewan's red tape reduction efforts have saved businesses more than \$732 million to date by reducing unnecessary paperwork, streamlining approvals and eliminating outdated requirements. This has helped save businesses real time and money that they can reinvest into hiring, innovation and serving their customers.

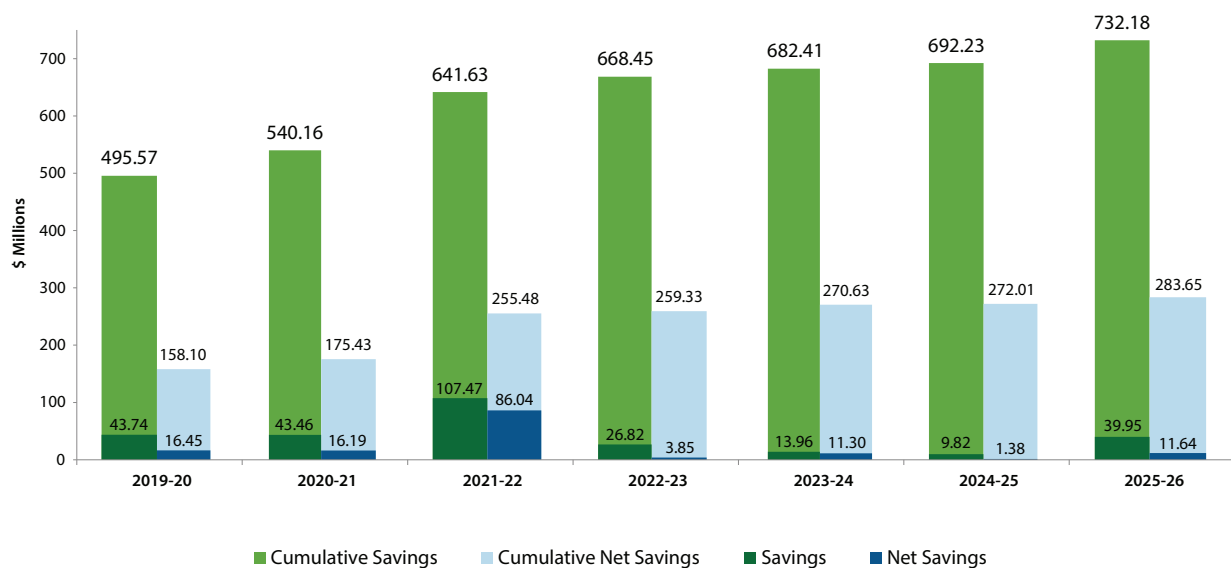
These efforts also support tools like BizPaL, a Canada-wide digital service that helps simplify the process of starting and operating a business. Saskatchewan plays an ongoing role in BizPaL by helping centralize access to permits, licenses and regulatory requirements across jurisdictions, making regulatory information more accessible and easier to navigate for entrepreneurs.

Looking ahead, Saskatchewan's red tape reduction work will continue to focus on practical improvements to service delivery and address more complex regulatory barriers that require co-ordinated, cross-government solutions. While significant progress has been made, the government remains committed to continuous improvement and modernizing regulations to better meet the needs of residents, communities and the economy.





Regulatory amendments estimated cost savings (\$millions)



*Estimation over 10 year period

Source: Regulatory Modernization Unit, Ministry of Trade and Export Development
Last Updated: March 31, 2026

Notes:

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

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

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

Cross organization red tape reduction initiatives

Saskatchewan is taking a broader approach to red tape reduction by improving how government programs, services and regulatory processes work together. This work is intended to improve outcomes for citizens and businesses by addressing barriers in complex government systems.

Co-ordinated approach for drinking water and wastewater

Management of drinking water and wastewater is shared among multiple ministries and agencies. This can create duplication and make processes harder for clients to navigate. To improve this, three memorandums of understanding (MOU) were developed between: Water Security Agency (WSA) and the Ministry of Agriculture; WSA and the Ministry of Environment; and WSA and the Ministry of Health. Amendments to *The Waterworks and Sewage Works Regulations* and *The Health Hazard Regulations* were also completed to provide WSA with full regulatory authority for small sized pipelines. This approach helped clients navigate regulatory processes, enhance customer service and clarify roles and responsibilities.

Streamlined compliance for domestic and livestock wastewater

WSA and the Ministry of Agriculture collaborated to establish an MOU to clarify the regulatory process for lagoon systems used for domestic waste and liquid manure from intensive livestock operations. The update formally established the Ministry of Agriculture as the sole point of contact for the client and formalizes existing processes between WSA and the Ministry of Agriculture in the application of relevant regulations, technical standards and ongoing monitoring for compliance. This has streamlined and simplified the client experience. It has also expedited the regulatory process while ensuring required environmental protection practices are in place.

Modernizing environmental regulation to reduce duplication and delays

The MOU between the Ministry of Environment and the WSA is intended to reduce regulatory burden, improve transparency, and streamline processes. It also supports efforts between the two organizations to resolve issues efficiently and avoid duplication of work.

The MOU establishes the Ministry of Environment as the primary regulatory authority for mining and industrial facilities under a one window approach, providing industry with a clear and consistent point of contact for permitting and compliance related to waterworks, sewage works, shoreline alterations and aquatic nuisance control. This consolidated approach simplifies regulatory interactions and improves predictability for regulated entities.

WSA is formally designated as the technical authority responsible for specialized reviews related to design, construction and operations. This clear separation between technical review and regulatory decision making eliminates overlapping assessments, reduces delays and ensures decisions are informed by appropriate expertise.

The MOU also formalizes co-ordinated approaches to compliance audits, and discharge and discovery reporting, replacing informal or outdated practices. These measures reduce multiple inspections and clarify lead roles, resulting in more efficient and timely responses.

Irrigation development

Saskatchewan's climate is appealing for irrigation development, as moisture is the main limitation to agriculture in most areas of the province. Those areas with semi-arid climates are restricted in the types of crops that can be grown and the number of livestock that can be supported per unit of land. Irrigation has been used in the province as a tool to diversify the rural economy and to stabilize crop production. Developing an irrigation project can be complex because multiple ministries and agencies are involved. Since 2020, Saskatchewan has experienced significant growth in irrigation development, with over 100,000 acres of new development. This rapid growth has placed resource pressures on government regulatory processes, impacting response time for producers, highlighting the need for increased efficiency.

To reduce red tape in irrigation development, WSA and the ministries of Agriculture, Environment, and Parks, Culture and Sport are collaborating to improve cross-government communication and identify opportunities to streamline regulatory requirements.

Streamlined environmental permitting for low-risk activities

SaskPower and the Ministry of Environment Lands Branch have successfully developed a collaborative relationship to streamline permitting for routine, low-risk maintenance and construction activities that reduces administrative burden and prioritizes focus on higher risk activities. The Lands Branch has implemented standardized, results based permit conditions, replacing prescriptive requirements with a more flexible, outcome focused approach that maintains environmental protection while improving delivery. An expanded environmental protection plan, Crown land and right of way reforms, and progress toward omnibus easements, is positioning SaskPower to support growing maintenance and capital workloads without proportional increases in cost or regulatory burden.

Ministry of Advanced Education

Modernizing T4A and Canada Revenue Agency reporting processes

The Ministry of Advanced Education is responsible for issuing T4A tax slips to students and transmitting tax information, including amended and cancelled slips, to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Some of this work still relied on a manual, paper based process involving extensive spreadsheet data entry, printing, and mailing. This resulted in significant staff effort, avoidable costs, reliance on external mail delivery timelines, and elevated risks related to data accuracy and student privacy.

For the 2025 taxation year, the ministry modernized this process. All T4A tax slips are now securely generated and delivered through students' online portal accounts. Tax data is also electronically transmitted to the CRA. As a result, the ministry significantly reduced administrative workload, eliminated printing and mailing requirements, and minimized operational and privacy risks. Students now benefit from faster, more reliable access to their tax information through secure digital channels, improving service delivery and user experience.

Ministry of Agriculture

Establishment of the sales and leasing team

The establishment of the sales and leasing team represents a significant advancement in reducing red tape, improving decision consistency, and strengthening client service across the Crown Land Management Branch and broader Government of Saskatchewan. Historically, lessee sales responsibilities for vacant Crown land were managed by 17 different land management specialists, creating variability in decision-making, duplication of effort and inconsistent client experiences. Crown land sales require a high degree of technical knowledge, including the ability to interpret appraisal reports, assess land value, and apply a range of complex and intersecting legislation and policy. By introducing dedicated leasing and sales specialists, the ministry is ensuring decisions are accurate, defensible and consistent. This, in turn, has reduced rework, minimized delays and eliminated unnecessary process steps for clients. This model has also enabled the ministry to establish clear service standards and provide consistent points of contact, significantly improving transparency and predictability for applicants. Internally, the team has built strong, collaborative relationships with partner ministries and agencies, allowing for better coordination of sales checks, while actively identifying and removing process inefficiencies across government.

The Animal Protection Act legislation update

Animal welfare and enforcement policies in Canada have been evolving in response to global changes in animal welfare expectations, including growing international trade requirements and increased public awareness. There is a greater requirement for clarity in *The Animal Protection Act*, along with improved public transparency around enforcement.

Sustainability and economic social governance policies of companies and international trade partners require higher standards of animal welfare for producers to market animals and animal products. In response, amendments to the act were introduced to strengthen animal welfare protections, enhance transparency in enforcement and public accountability, while helping government adapt to evolving animal welfare requirements.



The amendments modernize the province's animal protection legislation by improving enforcement mechanisms and strengthening provisions related to education and oversight. They also provide the flexibility needed to respond to future changes in animal welfare requirements and enforcement practices while balancing regulation with efficient use of resources.

Permitting process improvements

This initiative modernized the tender permitting process by reducing administrative burden and improving service delivery for permit applicants. Feedback from internal stakeholders and process users informed targeted improvements, including an earlier start to permitting, streamlined documentation, clearer communications and updated guidance materials to better support clients.

A key enhancement was the consolidation of the Tender Permit Application and Permit Agreement into a single form. This change eliminated the need for additional signatures after tender award, reducing delays and simplifying the process for successful bidders.

The initiative was delivered through cross functional collaboration and ongoing engagement to ensure alignment, transparency and consistent application of the updated process. Training and follow-up communications supported effective implementation and reinforced shared understanding across the organization.

Updating *The Agricultural Operations Regulations*

An amendment to *The Agricultural Operations Regulations* was necessary to balance the regulatory burden on small livestock operations of less than 300 animals, while ensuring that water resources remain protected. All intensive livestock operations are required to ensure surface and ground water resources are not impacted, but smaller operations may not require provincial approval if sufficient mitigation measures are in place. The amendment also updated distances to surface water and ground water wells not controlled by the operator to be consistent, resulting in greater clarity for producers in determining if approval is required. This has reduced burden on small livestock operations and the ability for the ministry to better allocate resources to more complex operations with higher potential risk factors.



Ministry of Education

Data dashboard for school divisions

A data dashboard was developed to provide school divisions and ministry staff with streamlined access to timely and consolidated education data in an intuitive, user-friendly format. The dashboard provides an opportunity for a school division to compare its information to provincial data as well as complete internal school division comparisons such as yearly, demographic or school to school.

Wages portal and grant processing improvement

The wages portal was implemented to streamline how facilities submit information required for grant payments. The portal includes pre-populated fields, allowing facilities to update only what has changed and replaces manual submissions with a centralized digital system. The improvement has significantly reduced reporting burden for facilities, improved data accuracy, accelerated processing timelines and ensured more reliable payments to facilities. Overall, the portal removes redundant reporting requirements and provides a more efficient, user-friendly system for stakeholders.

Ministry of Energy and Resources

The reclaimed industrial sites regulations

Regulatory changes implemented in June 2025 improved community engagement requirements for properties entering Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program by requiring companies to fund community engagement when a site enters the program. This change reflects feedback from industry and communities who asked for clearer, more consistent information about site status, long-term monitoring and land use considerations.

Companies are now responsible for supporting engagement with local communities earlier in the process and in a consistent way across all sites.

As a result, communities have better access to clear, site-specific information, including:

- The status of reclaimed industrial sites;
- Anticipated long-term monitoring and maintenance activities; and
- Any applicable land use considerations.

These improvements help communities better understand their environment, increase confidence in regulatory oversight and support activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering near former industrial sites.

Overall, the changes improve regulatory clarity, reduce the risk of misinformation, and support trust in government oversight and industry closure practices while maintaining strong environmental and public safety outcomes.

Ministry of Environment

Species detection application form modernization

The Ministry of Environment streamlined the Species Detection Survey permitting process to better support clients and address rising application volumes. Species detection permits authorize

proponents to conduct surveys to detect rare and sensitive species and habitats. Survey results inform project siting and mitigation planning, helping avoid or minimize impacts to species of conservation concern. The previous application process relied on manually completed PDF forms submitted by email, which could be time-consuming to complete and often led to delays when information was incomplete or inconsistent.

In 2026, the ministry launched a new online Species Detection Application Form designed to provide a clearer and more accessible application experience. The form uses a structured, user-friendly interface that guides applicants through requirements and helps ensure complete submissions. It is accessible on desktop and mobile devices, allowing clients to apply from the field or office. The updated system supports more efficient review processes, enabling faster decisions for straightforward applications while maintaining appropriate oversight. Overall, the improvements make the permitting process more predictable, accessible, and responsive for clients, while continuing to support the protection of wild species and habitat.

Bat Eviction Policy clarification

The ministry recently updated the Bat Eviction Policy. This policy outlines procedures regarding the eviction and removal of bats from human-occupied buildings in Saskatchewan. This policy is targeted at the public, building owners and operators, nuisance wildlife control companies and government staff. When bats pose a health or safety risk to people, or pose a significant impediment to building use, eviction or removal measures may be necessary. A bat eviction permit is required and can be obtained free of charge from the Ministry of Environment by contacting the Inquiry Centre.

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

Canadian Securities Administrators reducing regulatory burden

As part of the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA), the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan collaborated with other provincial and territorial securities regulators to make it easier and more cost-effective for businesses to grow and access capital in Canada through several initiatives this year, including:

- A Co-ordinated Blanket Order 51-933 *Exemptions to Permit Semi-Annual Reporting for Certain Venture Issuers*, which allows eligible venture issuers to file semi annual financial reports, exempting them from first and third quarter filings. This pilot project, which launched on March 19, 2026, supports the competitiveness of Canadian capital markets by making financial reporting more efficient and cost effective for smaller venture issuers while maintaining investor protection.
- The expansion of capital raising options for listed issuers through a Co-ordinated Blanket Order 45-935 *Exemptions from Certain Conditions of the Listed Issuer Financing Exemption*. Implemented on May 14, 2025, the Co-ordinated Blanket Order further supports the competitiveness of Canada's capital markets and enables listed issuers to raise capital more efficiently and cost effectively.
- The delegation of authority for processing registration applications to the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization (CIRO). This eliminates a duplicate regulatory review process between CIRO and CSA jurisdictions for investment and mutual fund dealers, resulting in a consistent and harmonized approach to registration for dealers across Canada.

Ministry of Government Relations

Burning derelict buildings

Derelict buildings pose a danger to communities and the people who live in them. Allowing municipalities to destroy derelict buildings that the municipality already owns through burning provides communities with additional options to address the dangers these buildings pose in a manner which council believes to be appropriate. Changes to the regulations were necessary to allow for exemptions in the National Building Code on how demolitions were to be conducted when a derelict building was burned. These changes were made after consultations with stakeholders and other government ministries and allowed the derelict buildings pilot project, overseen by the Ministry of Environment, to begin on November 1, 2025.

Online access to municipal financial statements

Municipal governments are accountable to their citizens and financial transparency is a key component of that accountability. The Government of Saskatchewan is able to assist municipalities in providing that transparency by publishing their audited financial statements online. Three years of financial statements for every Saskatchewan municipality are now available on saskatchewan.ca. This provides all citizens and other stakeholders with access to the financial picture of their municipality, better allowing them to ask questions and engage in local interests.

Reducing the cost of new construction

As part of the adoption of the 2020 editions of construction standards for buildings, Saskatchewan initially adopted tier two energy efficiency standards and was planning to increase to tier three on January 1, 2025. However, analysis showed that Alberta and Manitoba chose to remain at tier one energy efficiency standards for the foreseeable future, which resulted in increased compliance costs for Saskatchewan contractors and building owners due to differences between the construction standards in neighbouring provinces.

Saskatchewan chose to revert to tier one energy efficiency standards and will remain at this level until neighbouring provinces signal they are also raising their energy efficiency standards and that industry has had sufficient time to prepare for this change. While individual design choices have a significant impact on the cost of construction, the harmonizing of construction standards provides additional options to building owners and reduces unnecessary complexity for contractors and designers.



Board of revision online certification process

The Board of Revision Certification Application form was originally developed in 2022 to support a new regulatory mandate requiring all boards of revision to obtain certification from the Office of the Registrar prior to adjudicating property assessment appeals. Following its initial deployment, a series of enhancements were identified through comprehensive stakeholder consultations. Key improvements include expanding the form to support recertification for an already certified board, confirmation of eligibility requirements, and resolving various technical issues to improve user experience and operational efficiency. These updates addressed user concerns and further streamlined the process.

While making the above updates, a further gap was identified, as there was no mechanism for boards of revision to submit updates such as changes to membership or contact information, after certification. Addressing this gap ensures accurate records, maintains effective communication and supports regulatory compliance moving forward. These enhancements improve the overall user experience for boards of revision when submitting certification or recertification applications and provides a mechanism to keep current certification information accurate.

Ministry of Highways

Streamline processing for bridges and culverts

The Ministry of Highways is responsible for the design, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of bridges, large culverts and specialized drainage structures on the provincial highway system. Bridge and culvert work is routine and involves similar construction activities and environmental requirements. Each project previously required an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit. While the permits were approximately 90 per cent identical, each still resulted in a two-to-four-month review period between the ministry and the WSA. Through collaboration with the WSA, standardized environmental protection plans were developed. These plans function as permits by notifying the WSA of upcoming projects while committing the ministry to comply with established environmental conditions. This approach has reduced the approval process to an email submission, allowing both agencies to redirect effort from repetitive permitting to higher value work.

Contractor equipment registration forms

Contractors are required to submit annual equipment registrations to the Ministry of Highways; however, inconsistent submission formats and limited guidance previously resulted in frequent errors, follow-up requests, and resubmissions. The ministry introduced a standardized, automated registration template that incorporates Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association references and clear data requirements. The new process reduces errors, improves consistency and minimizes the need for clarifications between contractors and ministry staff. This improvement is expected to save over 200 hours across 37 contractors and 5,000 assets, while reducing errors, rework and administrative follow-up.

Enhanced procurement processes

The ministry improved its procurement process to address challenges faced by vendors supplying frequently required goods and services. Under the traditional tender model, limited posting periods required vendors to respond quickly, increasing planning effort and disadvantaging smaller or regional suppliers with fewer resources. To address this, the ministry implemented continuous posting

of commonly used goods and services on SaskTenders. This approach provides ongoing visibility into upcoming procurement needs, enabling vendors to plan, price and align capacity more effectively. To further support participation, a clear “how to” guide was developed to help vendors navigate SaskTenders and respond consistently and efficiently. These enhancements have reduced the time and administrative effort required for vendors to prepare bids, improved vendor preparedness and strengthened competition. They have also increased transparency and predictability in procurement, benefiting both industry and ministry staff. This initiative builds on a previous procurement approach and represents a continued focus on process improvement, expanded application, and stronger vendor support—particularly for small and regional suppliers.

Equipment analytics for asset management

The ministry previously assessed equipment replacement needs through manual reviews and qualitative judgment, which limited its ability to consistently quantify replacement savings. To address gaps in legacy systems, a new analytical tool was developed. The tool provides both unit level and aggregate cost, and return on investment analysis, supporting capital allocation, equipment placement and replacement decisions, lease program expansion, and long-term equipment management planning.

Updated tarping requirements for secured loads

The Security of Loads Regulations, 2013, sets out the requirements to ensure loads on a commercial vehicle do not shift, move, or spill onto the road. Stakeholders identified concerns with the requirement to tarp vehicles during snow removal as roads used to transport snow exceed the 80 kilometre per hour speed limit, such as expressways within a city, presenting operational challenges, increased costs and no alternative routes to transport these loads to their snow dump site. The ministry conducted stakeholder consultation using an online survey to gather feedback on the proposed amendment. Effective September 4, 2025, the ministry amended subsection 4.1(3) of regulations to repeal the 80 kilometre per hour speed limit for snow tarping and expand the exemption to include all commercial vehicles.

Equipment rental submission processing times

Equipment rental rate submissions were received by the ministry in varying, unformatted formats, which limited analytical capability and required extensive manual processing. To address this, the ministry developed and introduced a standardized submission format, covering more than 7,500 data lines. The new approach improves data consistency, speeds up analysis review, and internal processing times by an estimated two weeks of full time equivalent effort, significantly shortening approval turnaround times for equipment rental accounts.

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2025

This act was passed in December 2025 and largely came into force at that time. The act repealed 200 outdated acts that no longer served a purpose, some dating back to 1892. The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General identified two public acts that were no longer necessary and 114 private acts related to statutory organizations that have ceased operations or have been continued under a current act. The Ministry of Government Relations found 84 older municipality-related private acts which are no longer relevant.

The Office of Public Registry Administration conducted extensive research to ensure that these repeals have no substantive impact on stakeholders or government, and relevant municipalities were informed of the proposed repeals. Repealing obsolete private acts reduces the risk that inactive organizations still listed as statutory corporations could be used by fraudsters as fronts for illegal activities. It also supports the use of modern incorporation structures under the *The Business Corporations Act* and *The Non-profit Corporations Act*, rather than incorporation by private act.

The Co-operatives Act, 2025 (bilingual) and The Co-operatives Consequential Amendments Act, 2025

The acts were introduced in fall 2025 and will come into force on Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The new *Co-operatives Act, 2025* will repeal and replace *The Co-operatives Act, 1996* and *The New Generation Co-operatives Act* with a single, modernized co-operative act.

Updates in the new act are largely based on modernizations and enhancements in *The Business Corporations Act, 2021* and *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2022*. These updates include clarifying rules around the use of electronic technologies, reducing red tape by removing the registrar from business-related matters and applications, simplifying the liquidation and dissolution procedure, and removing existing rules that require at least 25 per cent of directors to be Canadian residents.

The Miscellaneous Statutes (Public Registries Enhancement) Amendment Act, 2024 and The Miscellaneous Statutes (Public Registries Enhancement) Amendment Act, 2024 (No. 2) bilingual

These acts were passed in spring 2025 and will come into force on Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The two acts will implement legislative amendments across 12 acts related to various public registries to enhance registry operation and eliminate obsolete registration requirements.

The amendments will allow registrars to accept documents signed using digital signatures in appropriate circumstances to enhance registry security and integrity, and offer increased stakeholder convenience. The amendments will update regulation-making authority to better address requests for large volumes of information in the Corporate Registry, Register of Co-operatives, Register of Credit Unions, Land Surveys Directory and Personal Property Registry, based on existing authorities under *The Land Titles Act, 2000*.



The Defamation Act

This act was introduced in fall 2025 and will come into force on Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The new act will repeal and replace *The Libel and Slander Act* with a new modern act. The new act removes all references to newspapers to eliminate arbitrary distinctions between newspapers and other types of media sources and publishers.

The new act does not include the requirement for the registrar of corporations to maintain a “register of newspapers.” The register of newspapers is an antiquated register that is no longer necessary to obtain information required to bring an action in defamation. Once in force, there will be no additional registration requirements for newspaper publishers.

Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety

Review of employment standards provisions

On January 1, 2026, amendments to the employment standards provision of *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* came into force. The extensive consultations identified changes to modernize the legislation to address today’s workplace as well as reduce regulatory burden. Key outcomes of the review include:

1. Reduction of red tape by consolidating three regulations into one easy to use document;
2. Increased flexibility for employers and reduced administrative burden to address changing needs of the workplace while still ensuring worker protections. This includes:
 - a. Decreasing the minimum threshold for when an employer must provide a group termination notice;
 - b. Changing the definition of a day providing employers the option to define a day as a calendar day or continue using the existing definition however they see fit for their operations; and
 - c. No longer requiring permit requests under certain conditions.
3. Reduction of physician workload by limiting when employers can request sick notes.

Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan

Video lottery terminal program negative invoice electronic fund transfers initiative

The province’s video lottery terminal (VLT) program is managed by Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan, which owns the network of 4,200 VLT machines installed at more than 560 privately-owned licensed taverns and restaurant lounges across the province. The VLT program is operated by the Western Canada Lottery Corporation (WCLC), headquartered in Saskatoon.

A VLT site typically collects more money through the machines than they pay out in prizes. Occasionally VLT sites pay out more in prizes than they collect, which prompts the program to offer payment to sites to ensure they have sufficient funds available for future prize payouts. Previously, this was accomplished by printed cheques that had to be mailed or couriered to each site. Beginning in 2025, Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan worked with WCLC to implement electronic fund transfers (EFTs) for this circumstance. A total of 534 EFTs were completed in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Not only was this better for the environment, and faster and more convenient for the site owners, it also saved VLT program about \$6,000 annually in mailing and courier expenses.

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

Online client services initiative

The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport built the online Heritage Resources Screening (HRS) system to streamline the heritage regulatory process. Launched in early 2026, it speeds up the heritage review process for development projects and saves industry time and money. The benefits include:

- An integrated user-friendly online interface to guide clients through streamlined heritage screening and submission processes and self-service features;
- Refined heritage sensitivity modelling and GIS pre-screening tool to increase immediate heritage clearances and reduce unnecessary submissions for heritage reviews;
- Online development submission and permit application portals that speed up heritage reviews, allow real-time tracking of project approval status and eliminate manual database input;
- Application self-assessment features to speed up development submission and permit report reviews;
- Remote heritage data access to greatly reduce inquiries while speeding up client reporting; and
- Robust analytics and reporting capability to ensure continuous improvement of client service delivery.

SaskEnergy

Crossing permit application forms enhancement (TransGas, SaskEnergy and Many Islands Pipelines Ltd.)

SaskEnergy's crossing permit application forms did not consistently capture all the information required by the corporate crossings department. As a result, staff typically spent approximately 20 additional minutes per application working with applicants to obtain the necessary details, which contributed to processing delays and affected project timelines for contractors. By introducing a more complete permit application, SaskEnergy was able to reduce delays, improve relationships with contractors and help projects proceed on schedule. Eliminating approximately 20 minutes of additional handling per application results in a savings of \$50,000 annually.

Removal of witnessing air tests

Air testing of newly installed or repaired natural gas lines is a required safety measure. SaskEnergy eliminated the requirement to witness contractors performing these tests, which has reduced contractor wait times, as well as the travel and administrative coordination associated with scheduling the tests. This resulted in faster project progression and fewer scheduling impacts on contractors, while maintaining the same high level of safety in the air testing process. The removal of witnessing air testing also freed up field time, allowing SaskEnergy employees more time for additional safety and operational work. Approximately 3,000 on-site inspections are removed annually by this change, which results in about \$450,000 in annual savings.

Encroachment enhancements

Each year SaskEnergy typically responds to around 9,000 encroachment checks but only finds about 500 high-risk encroachments. By adding additional pre-screening questions in the application form, SaskEnergy can better identify which encroachments are high-risk and require an assessment.

The pre-screening is expected to reduce on-site inspections by at least 45 per cent, avoiding approximately \$600,000 in annual costs. The customer selling their home still receives the benefit of understanding the status of their encroachment, but time can be saved in the process if it's determined at the pre-screening stage that an in-person assessment by SaskEnergy isn't required.

SaskTel

Generative artificial intelligence customer and specialist assist bots

In 2025-26, SaskTel implemented four generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) bots: two for customer sales and support on sasktel.com, and two internal sales and support specialist assistants that allow both customers and specialists to ask questions and receive answers on product and service information using natural language. This project elevates digital-first interactions, reduces customer friction, and enhances both customer satisfaction and employee confidence in artificial intelligence (AI) solutions. This project demonstrates SaskTel's commitment to continued innovation, leveraging AI to simplify and automate the business, driving speed, efficiency, quality and reliability. It also contributes to their commitment to invest in their people by developing a workforce with a digital/AI skillset. Benefits of this GenAI bot implementation include a combination of salary expense reduction and headcount avoidance due to call deflection as the bots provide the ability to expand the chat channel without adding incremental headcount. This project lays the groundwork for future GenAI bot initiatives at SaskTel, with additional bot implementations planned throughout 2026-27 and beyond.

mySASKTEL enhancements

SaskTel's online self-serve portal, mySASKTEL, is designed to let customers securely manage their accounts, view their bills, and make changes anytime, anywhere. With updates made to the portal in 2025-26, the customer experience is clearer and more user-friendly than ever before. Previously, customers had to download and view their bill through a PDF. Now there's a new digital bill summary where customers can see a non-PDF version of their wireless bill along with all the key billing information, including prorating charges, with plain-language explanations that displays directly on the page in a clean, easy-to-read format that works on any device.

In addition to this bill display, changes were made to bill payment notifications and more credit card visibility. The improvements to the portal were driven by customer insights, feedback and the need for enhanced functionality to ensure they had the account information they needed. SaskTel plans to extend this bill summary capability to wireline customers as soon as possible.



Saskatchewan Government Insurance

School bus operator testing requirement changes

The requirement for school bus drivers to complete mandatory re-testing every five years has been removed from *The Driver Licensing and Suspension Regulations*. With 98 per cent of drivers successfully completing their knowledge, vision and road tests, this was identified as more of an administrative hurdle than a safety or competency measure. Drivers are still required to maintain their mandatory medical requirements. This change is intended to keep more school bus drivers in the industry, be more efficient and cut costs of re-testing.

Approximately 500 road tests and 450 knowledge tests are completed annually, saving drivers and school divisions \$58,750 in fees and about \$37,500 in fuel and maintenance costs associated with providing buses for road tests. With school bus road tests currently subsidized by about \$70 per test, Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) will save roughly \$35,000 annually. Any savings for SGI benefit customers as the Auto Fund operates on a break-even basis over time. This change also aligns Saskatchewan with other Canadian jurisdictions. While most require periodic medical examinations, no other jurisdiction mandates regular re-testing.

Mobile mounted service rigs requirement changes

Changes to *The Driver Licensing and Suspension Amendment Regulations, 2025* harmonized Saskatchewan's standards for service rig drivers with those of Alberta. Key changes include:

- Canadian Association of Energy Contractors regulating training requirements instead of SGI;
- Service rig drivers no longer need a special licence endorsement or to submit paperwork or medical exams to SGI; and
- Drivers with a full (non-graduated driver's licence) Class 5 licences can operate service rigs by carrying a valid industry training certificate, which reduces paperwork and delays while keeping safety standards in place.

These changes streamline processes and reduce administrative burdens for drivers, employers and industry. They also build upon the progress the two jurisdictions have already made after the 2019 MOU was signed to help remove provincial barriers to the movement of service rigs. Canadian Association of Energy Contractors members and SGI experience savings of approximately \$3,000 annually.

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority

Regulatory red tape reduction

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority is committed to reducing red tape for businesses involved in the sale and manufacturing of liquor by modernizing and streamlining policy, processes and regulations for customers.

Key initiatives focused on red tape reduction include:

- Modernized processes by establishing online applications and renewal options for liquor permits;
- Greater flexibility for service practices in licensed establishments;
- Updated requirements for special occasion permits that maintain safety while providing greater flexibility for event organizers;
- Production thresholds were increased in support of local craft producers; and
- Markup rates for most beer production levels were reduced to better accommodate small and medium-sized breweries as they grow.

Tourism Saskatchewan

Streamlining customer service delivery

Tourism Saskatchewan streamlined its customer service model by consolidating separate visitor services and industry listing functions into a single customer service unit. Previously, managed by separate teams, these functions required multiple handoffs and duplicated oversight, increasing administrative complexity and slowing response times.

The integrated model created a single intake and service pathway, improving coordination, service consistency and responsiveness, particularly during peak tourism periods. It also reduced workflow complexity and aligned resources more effectively across seasonal demand. As a result, Tourism Saskatchewan achieved \$193,000 in ongoing cost savings while improving service delivery and reducing internal administrative burden.





Ministry of Trade and Export Development

The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act

The province made significant progress in advancing internal trade by introducing *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act* in October 2025. The legislation reduces interprovincial trade barriers by enabling mutual recognition of goods and services across Canada, streamlining approval processes, and reducing red tape for businesses. These efforts support business competitiveness, save time and resources, and strengthen the provincial economy. Building on this momentum, Saskatchewan advances further internal trade initiatives through continued collaboration with federal, provincial and territorial partners via the Committee on Internal Trade.

Water Security Agency

Request for assistance regarding agricultural drainage

The Request for Assistance (RFA) is a legislated mechanism designed to support landowners being impacted by unapproved agricultural drainage. However, 28 per cent of the RFAs that were received by WSA were nuisance complaints, unrelated to drainage. WSA was required to allocate time and resources investigating all complaints, which delayed timelines for those who submitted legitimate RFAs. Through completion of a regulatory amendment, WSA implemented a refundable \$1,000 fee to file an RFA. The fee has helped shift the compliance process away from interpersonal conflicts and has allowed the agency to allocate its resources to address valid drainage issues. Along with the fee, WSA implemented new processes with prescribed timelines for resolution, so landowners experiencing impacts from drainage know when they can expect resolution. As a result of these changes, the agency is now able to resolve drainage issues quicker than it did previously and has reduced the backlog of RFAs by 46 per cent.

Help Cut Red Tape Webpage

As a citizen-centered platform Saskatchewan's Help Cut Red Tape website provides individuals and businesses with an accessible way to report red tape and contribute to improving government programs and services. Through an online form, users share real-world experiences related to regulations, administrative processes or service delivery, helping government better understand barriers and advance regulatory modernization.

Public engagement with the platform remains strong. In 2025-26, the webpage recorded more than 2,590 visits and received 20 submissions, demonstrating its value as a practical tool for directly involving Saskatchewan residents and businesses in reducing unnecessary regulatory burden.

Feedback submitted through the site has led to tangible improvements. For example, a submission related to a steam assisted gravity drainage project raised questions about whether the development required subdivision approval. The Ministry of Government Relations, working with a municipality, initially determined the project did not meet the definition of a "well site" under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* and therefore required subdivision approval.

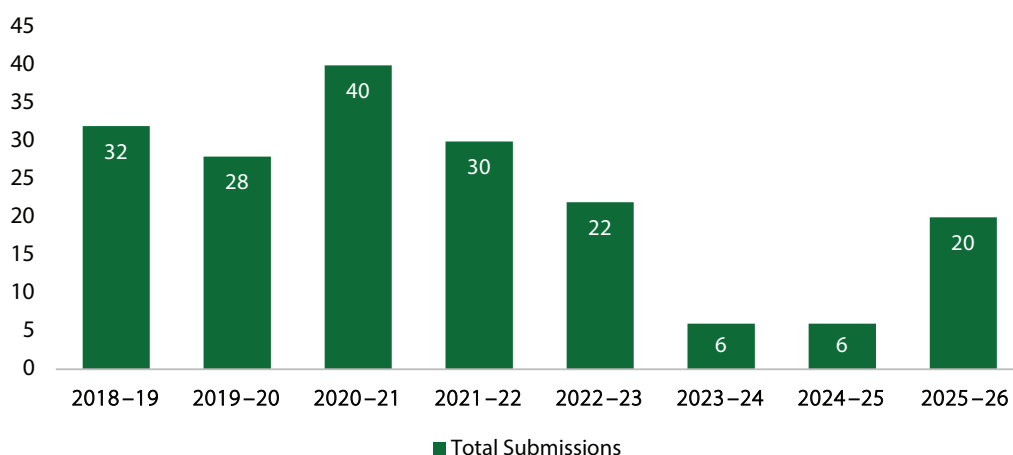
After review, it was confirmed that the existing definition of a "well site" in the act can include this type of development, allowing the lease to be exempt from subdivision approval. The submission also highlighted broader issues related to inconsistent municipal interpretation, limited awareness of existing legislative exemptions and concerns from proponents regarding municipal permitting timelines and requirements.

In response, the ministry has taken steps to improve clarity and consistency by developing educational materials, providing in-person training for municipal councils and administrators, and publishing guidance on [saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca). They are also reviewing the act to further improve clarity and consistency.

By listening to feedback and taking action, Saskatchewan's help cut red tape initiative is delivering practical improvements that make it easier for people, businesses and communities to navigate rules, reduce delays and get things done.

Visit [saskatchewan.ca/help-cut-red-tape](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/help-cut-red-tape) for more information.

Help cut red tape web submissions



Conclusion

Saskatchewan has made significant progress reducing regulatory and administrative burdens, including more than \$732 million in estimated savings since 2014.

The next phase of this work will focus on making government services faster, clearer and easier to navigate by addressing barriers that cut across ministries, agencies and Crown corporations.

Looking ahead, red tape reduction efforts will prioritize improvements to government service delivery while addressing increasingly complex regulatory barriers that require co-ordinated, cross-government solutions. To sustain this momentum, government will continue to emphasize collaboration with ministries, agencies, Crown corporations and external stakeholders to identify emerging issues and opportunities for reform. By taking an outcomes focused approach, Saskatchewan aims to ensure its regulatory framework remains responsive, efficient and aligned with the needs of a modern and growing economy.

Regulatory modernization continues to be a key priority to build on Saskatchewan's competitive advantages and further strengthen its business-friendly environment. This ongoing work supports Saskatchewan's Growth Plan by removing barriers to investment and innovation, enabling businesses of all sizes to grow and compete, which helps ensure a strong, resilient economy.



