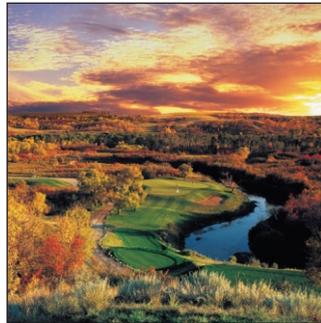


Ministry of Environment



Annual Report for 2017-18

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Letters of Transmittal



*The Honourable
Dustin Duncan
Minister of
Environment*

His Honour, the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, and am pleased to report on the commitments made in the Ministry of Environment Plan for 2017-18.

This report tells the stories and strategies of how we manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment. In 2017-18, we continued our province's successful invasive species prevention efforts, introduced new recycling opportunities, and launched a climate change strategy, to name only a few of the year's important accomplishments.

These accomplishments demonstrate our mandate to manage our province's diverse landscapes and promote the sustainable use of our natural resources in a manner that supports a healthy environment, a growing economy and strong, vibrant communities. We achieve these goals while supporting the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to deliver on its promises, be accountable, and responsibly and efficiently manage expenditures.

Our ultimate goal is to contribute to the well-being of the province, its people and its future.

Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment

The Honourable Dustin Duncan,
Minister of Environment

Dear Minister Duncan:



*Lin Gallagher
Deputy Minister
of Environment*

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018.

The Ministry's annual report was prepared under my direction in accordance with the government's system of planning, measuring and reporting. I am ultimately responsible for the financial administration and management control of the Ministry. All key actions and associated implications contained in this report are, to the best of my knowledge, complete, accurate and reliable.

Lin Gallagher
Deputy Minister of Environment

Introduction

This annual report for the Ministry of Environment presents the Ministry's progress for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018. It describes achievements on key priorities identified in the Ministry of Environment Plan for 2017-18. It also reflects progress toward commitments from the government direction for 2017-18, the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond*, throne speeches and the Ministry mandate.

The annual report demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public.

Alignment with Government's Direction

The Ministry's activities in 2017-18 align with Saskatchewan's vision and four goals:

Saskatchewan's Vision

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

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of government's four goals and work toward a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Ministry Overview

| MISSION | VISION | MANDATE |
|---|---|--|
| <p>The Ministry of Environment provides science-based solutions, compliance and mitigation measures aimed at protecting the environment, safeguarding communities and helping to ensure balanced economic growth and a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents.</p> | <p>We will manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment for the well-being of the province, its people and its future.</p> | <p>The Ministry of Environment's role is to manage the health of Saskatchewan's environment in a respectful, responsible and enforceable manner that balances growth with sustainable development through objective, transparent and informed decision-making and stewardship.</p> |

The Ministry of Environment's mandate is supported by three core lines of business:

- Environmental protection, which includes wildfire management, the handling of hazardous materials, responding to spills, air quality monitoring, environmental assessment, landfills and solid waste management.
- Resource management and compliance, which manages the province's fish, wildlife, lands and forests, and includes the compliance and field services team – conservation officers.
- Climate change and adaptation, which includes integrated land use planning, legislation and policy.

These three pillars of service delivery support government's goals by ensuring the responsible management of our natural resources and the protection of our province's people. They also contribute individually and collectively to the province's Growth Plan by providing guidelines, goal lines and guidance for responsible and sustainable development.

Progress in 2017-18

Government Goals



How does the Ministry of Environment support the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*?

The Ministry works with stakeholders, First Nations, Métis and the public to ensure communities can thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

Ministry Goal

A clean and safe environment for communities

Strategy

Define a provincial vision for improving solid waste management.

Key Actions and Results

> Engage the public, including First Nations and Métis communities, on defining a vision for improving waste management.

Public feedback invited on solid waste management strategy

The Ministry's goals for waste management are to provide a clean and safe environment for communities, and to reduce risk and harm from environmental contamination. The Ministry is working with internal and external stakeholders, including First Nations and Métis communities, to improve solid waste management practices and outcomes by developing a provincial solid waste management strategy and providing assistance to communities to achieve compliance. Internal and external stakeholders were engaged in a discussion paper to determine what measures and priorities should be addressed in a provincial strategy.

The results are available on saskatchewan.ca.

> Expand recycling programs, regulations and policies.

New agricultural plastics recycling program announced

Saskatchewan passed *The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations* for grain bag recycling in July 2016, becoming the first province in Canada with a regulated agricultural plastics program. Cleanfarms, a non-profit environmental steward, officially launched the program in the spring of 2018. Cleanfarms will use funding from the Ministry of Agriculture for the program launch and collection of legacy material in 2018 until the onset of the full program in 2019.

Exploring options for safe disposal of household hazardous waste

The Ministry conducted an online survey with industry stakeholders and the public from October to December 2017 on a proposed household hazardous waste (HHW) recycling and responsible disposal program. The Ministry asked participants for feedback on a potential program that would result in effective and safe HHW management. Survey respondents indicated support for household hazardous waste regulation and provided ideas for consideration regarding material inclusion and program logistics. This input will be considered in the development of a solid waste management strategy for the province.

Increase participation in the Multi-Material Recycling Program

Saskatchewan's Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP) is a cost-sharing program between businesses and municipalities to provide for the collection and recycling of household packaging and paper materials. MMRP now includes 487 participating municipalities, representing 86 per cent of the population. Under MMRP, businesses and organizations that distribute packaged goods and printed paper to households in the province share responsibility for the cost of recycling these materials and compensate municipalities on a per capita basis for recycling.

- > Promote landfill compliance through continued education and engaging the stakeholder-driven Solid Waste Advisory Team.

Paper and packaging make up 40 per cent of household waste in Saskatchewan

Education and awareness efforts increased to help communities manage landfills responsibly

Solid waste management is a challenging issue, given that Saskatchewan has significantly more landfills per capita than any other jurisdiction in Canada, with many needing improvement. The Ministry is working with stakeholders to improve solid waste management by developing a solid waste management strategy and working with communities on opportunities to achieve compliance. The Ministry continues to be flexible in working with individual municipalities to comply with *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations*, which have been in effect since 1986. Priority attention is given to those facilities that pose a greater risk to the public or the environment.

Strategy

Safeguard human health and safety from risks such as air pollution and wildfire.

Key Actions and Results

- > Deploy the mobile air monitoring lab for special investigations in specific locations as needed.

Where there is a need and a road, the mobile lab can monitor air quality

As part of safeguarding citizens from air pollution, the Ministry of Environment tracks and reports on air quality. The Saskatchewan Air Monitoring Laboratory (SAML) is a mobile lab equipped similarly to a permanent air monitoring station. The mobile lab allows continuous sampling in locations where permanent stations do not exist. Ambient air quality can be monitored anywhere in the province that is accessible by road. The mobile lab enhances the provincial air monitoring program by sampling a broader range of sites, conducting special surveys at locations with air quality issues and supporting emergency situations where air quality is a concern.

- > Deliver wildfire education and awareness to protect people and property and to increase awareness of how wildfire can be used as a sound ecological management tool.

Prevention awareness helps reduce wildfires

There are only two causes of wildfire: lightning strikes and people. Human-caused wildfires are preventable. The Ministry delivered wildfire awareness across 80 communities through media interviews, classroom presentations, educational materials and FireSmart community assessments. Partnerships with agencies and educational institutions are also used to increase wildfire awareness. For example, this year, University of Saskatchewan students in the Renewable Resource Management program partnered with the Ministry to develop recommendations for community wildfire risk assessment processes.



Performance Measures

Air Quality

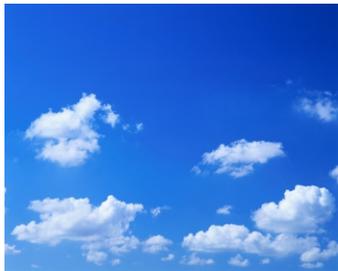
Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is good or excellent 95 per cent of the time in six major centres: Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swift Current, Buffalo Narrows and Estevan*.

**In September 2017, a monitoring station was brought online in Estevan. The performance measure has been updated to reflect this additional location.*

Air quality is good for Saskatchewan residents

The AQHI was developed through a national process and is used across the country. It uses a scale that helps the public understand what outdoor air quality means to their health. It is especially useful for those most at risk: children, seniors and people with diabetes, heart and lung disease. The AQHI is calculated using a formula based on ozone, nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter as pollutants.

Air quality in Saskatchewan is good or excellent most of the year.



Per cent of the year that air quality is good or better



Air quality in locations that did not meet the 95 per cent target generally had good air quality. Unusual weather conditions can increase heating and vehicle idling which may have been the cause for the variance.

Recycling

New recycling streams (such as household hazardous waste and agricultural plastics) being brought into regulation.

New recycling streams for the province

The province and its partner, Cleanfarms, launched a new recycling program for agricultural grain bags in March 2018. The implementation of this agricultural plastics recycling program delivers on commitments to establish new recycling programs for waste. The program will start with 21 collection sites operated by Cleanfarms during the 2018 calendar year, with more collection sites expected in 2019.

Wildfires

Reduce values by deploying sprinklers.

Ministry focuses on protection of lives and property for wildfire management

Prevention, education and compliance efforts of the Ministry remain focused on saving the lives and property of Saskatchewan residents from human-caused fires. Human-caused wildfires continue to trend downward.

Protected values at risk, such as infrastructure and property, are measured by the successful deployment of values protection units (VPUs) – sprinklers that spray water onto a structure to protect it from fire. The target is 95 per cent success in protecting values through VPU deployment. The 10-year baseline is currently 98 per cent VPU success.

In 2017, VPU success was 98 per cent for 17 wildfires. With 1,767 VPUs deployed, 36 values were destroyed by fire. Of these, 27 values were determined to have no FireSmart protection.

Fires threatening communities always receive the highest priority.

Value protection works

1,767 **sprinklers deployed** 98% **values saved (where VPUs used)**

Values include vehicles/boats/snow machines, cabins, sheds, heavy equipment and outfitting camps.

Government Goals



How does the Ministry of Environment support the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*?

The Ministry adopts a cumulative effects approach to environmental management by taking into account the combined effects of past, present and future human activities over time on the environment, economy and society in a particular place.

Ministry Goal

Productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes

Strategy

Set direction for long-term landscape management.

Key Actions and Results

> Revise the land use planning approach to better meet current needs and address key landscape sustainability issues.

Work begins on setting a new direction for strategic land use planning on Crown resource lands

The Ministry is exploring a future-oriented and results-based approach to land use planning with a greater emphasis on consistent direction, climate change adaptation, cumulative effects and landscape sustainability.

> Develop cumulative effects modelling tools tailored to Saskatchewan's landscape and priorities.

Ministry trials tool for modelling cumulative impacts on the land

The Ministry is piloting a cumulative effects modelling tool called ALCES Online (A Landscape Cumulative Effects Simulator), to explore landscape scenario modelling. ALCES is a tool to assess the impacts of overlapping and accumulating land uses and climatic change on environmental, social and economic values.

> Develop criteria and clear guidance on land use and resource allocation opportunities.

Regional assessment pilot projects conducted

As part of a new approach to landscape planning, the Ministry is conducting regional assessment pilot projects to explore different approaches to developing indicators, establishing landscape management objectives, evaluating risk and exploring mitigation opportunities.

> Ensure a consistent approach to reclaiming roads and trails in the north.

Building consistency for reclaiming roads and trails in north

A consistent approach to the reclamation of roads and trails is essential as the province experiences increased economic activity and access to goods and services in the north. The goal is to reduce occurrences of fragmented landscapes that negatively impact wildlife populations, and to manage the cumulative impacts of roads and trails in provincial forests. A set of consistent standards that can be applied to all industries will encourage a common and unified approach to managing roads and trails on Crown land. Preliminary work has been done by the Ministry to gather information through an interjurisdictional review on reclamation standards.

Landscape modelling balances the needs of our environment, communities and economy.

- > Enable the completion of five new and revised forest management plans.

Two forest management plans completed

Forest management plans set the long-term strategic direction for forest resource management on licensed areas, ensuring the sustainability of Saskatchewan's forests for future generations. On September 5, 2017, the new Forest Management Planning Standard under the Saskatchewan Environmental Code came into effect. On March 28, 2018, the Ministry approved completion of two forest management plans (FMP)—the Sakaw PA FMP and the Tolko FMP. Another three FMPs are in development.

Strategy

Monitor, evaluate and report on the condition of our natural resources.

Key Actions and Results

- > Define indicators of landscape health with targets to support future assessment.

Research into landscape health indicators

The Ministry released the draft Climate Resilience Measurement Framework for public discussion in February 2018. The management of natural systems determines ecosystem resilience to climate change as well as the ecological goods and services derived from them (e.g. food, fuel, water, air purification, carbon storage, and maintenance of wildlife habitat). The Ministry continues to work on refining measures and establishing specific targets for landscape health indicators.

- > Report on measures for sustainable forestry for the 2019 State of the Forest Report.

Preparing to deliver forestry report by March 2019

Saskatchewan reports comprehensively on the state of provincial forests every 10 years, and on the state of the environment every two years. This ongoing evaluation identifies trends, assesses the effectiveness of current actions and informs future forest management decisions. The next State of the Forest Report will be published in 2019.

- > Enhance and manage ongoing State of the Environment reporting.

Environment reporting evolving

The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 calls for the tabling of the State of the Environment Report every two years. In 2019, the State of the Forest Report will serve as the provincial State of the Environment Report. The Ministry is evaluating client needs and modern publication options for both the State of the Environment Report and the State of the Forest Report.

- > Refine fisheries assessment and sampling protocols.

Plans to implement in 2018-19

The Ministry is assessing protocols in order to standardize assessments in accordance with the most current science and fisheries management best practices. This is an ongoing process and will continue through 2018-19.

> Continue long-term monitoring of invasive and native insect and disease disturbance on Crown land.

Increased efforts to tackle aquatic invasive species

Efforts to keep aquatic invasive species (AIS) out of the province include increased watercraft inspections and education and awareness campaigns to help protect our surface water resources and aquatic habitats. The Ministry has drafted an AIS strategy and a provincial task force has been established to develop an early detection and rapid response plan.

Increasing efforts to keep mountain pine beetle out of province

A mountain pine beetle outbreak in British Columbia and Alberta poses a significant threat to Saskatchewan's pine forests. So far, surveys have detected no mountain pine beetles in Saskatchewan's northwestern pine forests. Surveillance will continue along the Saskatchewan-Alberta border, including expanded monitoring on the Saskatchewan side of the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range. An Alberta-Saskatchewan agreement to work together on mountain pine beetle management builds on long-standing co-operation on forest insects and diseases. This agreement has been renewed for another three years.

Emerald ash borer designated new invasive species

Ash trees grow naturally in some areas in the eastern part of Saskatchewan's provincial forest. Ash is also a popular shade tree, forming a major part of the urban forest in many cities and towns. To ensure protection against forest insect and disease threats in Saskatchewan's forests, the Government of Saskatchewan designated the emerald ash borer as an insect pest. Establishing legislative and regulatory controls is an essential first step in a strategic approach to restrict or slow the spread of exotic pest threats. The emerald ash borer is mainly spread by people transporting wood, prompting a restriction on transportation of firewood and other wood products from infested areas.

Citizen-science tool for invasive species management efforts

The Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre continues to gather, interpret and distribute standardized information on the ecological status of provincial wild species and communities. It administers *iMapInvasives*, a platform for open data exchange and communication concerning regional invasive species documentation and management efforts.



Prevent Invasive Species

Zebra mussels

Flowering rush

Eurasian water milfoil

Spiny water flea

saskatchewan.ca/tip
TIP LINE: 1-800-667-7561 | SaskTel Cell #5555

Government of Saskatchewan

Strategy

Maintain the productive capacity of the province's natural resources.

Key Actions and Results

> Complete the Boreal Plain range plans and 2016 caribou population data.

Public feedback received on draft woodland caribou range plan

The boreal population of woodland caribou is listed as threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. Woodland caribou range planning is important to effectively manage the woodland caribou population and guide conservation efforts for woodland caribou survival. The Ministry of Environment continues to work collaboratively with Environment and Climate Change Canada on the management of woodland caribou. A draft range plan for SK2 central, one of five woodland caribou conservation units, was completed and posted for public review on October 30, 2017. The draft plan is currently undergoing revision based on comments received during the public review period.

- > Implement the long-range game management plan.

Game Management Plan implemented

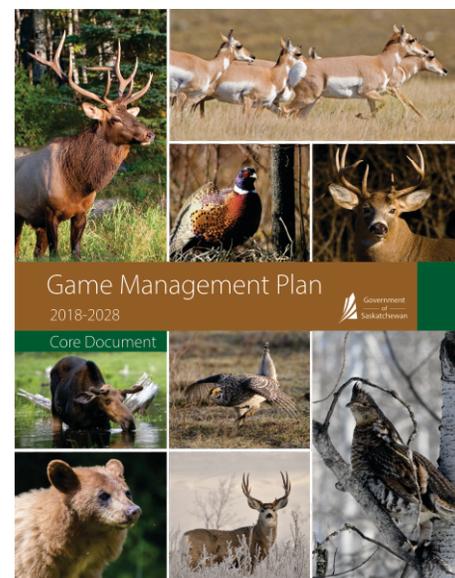
The Ministry finalized the Game Management Plan in 2017-18. Saskatchewan's Game Management Plan will provide science-based guidance for wild game species management in the province. The plan offers a strategic approach for the conservation of wildlife and important habitats based upon actions that can be delivered during the next 10 years.

- > Contribute provincial survey results to the national angling report on sport fishing.

Provincial sport fishing data to be included in federal report

Provincial sport fishing data is provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for inclusion in a national report. The Ministry will prepare a summary once the national report has been released. The survey is conducted every five years.

- > Work with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation on improving the fish hatchery to ensure lakes continue to be stocked.



Upgrades and modern equipment at fish culture station

The Ministry stocks fish in many waters throughout the province to manage fish populations for the benefit of Saskatchewan's fisheries resource users. Saskatchewan Wildlife Assets Management Inc. (SWAM), a subsidiary of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF), has initiated a multi-year capital works program for the replacement of aging infrastructure at the province's Fish Culture Station. Responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Fort Qu'Appelle Fish Culture Station was transferred to SWAM in 2014, with the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund continuing to cover 100 per cent of the station's operating costs.

Performance Measures

Public Engagement

Increase public/stakeholder participation in Ministry surveys, events and monitoring efforts.

The Ministry engages with a wide variety of stakeholders including citizens, industries, academics, non-government organizations and First Nations and Métis communities to solicit feedback on programs, services and policies. Public engagement informs decision-making and ensures that programs and services are considerate of stakeholders' needs and interests.

Public engaged in climate change strategy implementation

The Ministry continues to engage with the public to inform the design and implementation of *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*. Engagement sessions were held in February and March 2018, including six plenary sessions in Saskatoon and Regina with 78 organizations represented by 112 individuals. Twenty-eight bi-lateral meetings with industry and trade associations, including meetings with energy companies in Calgary, were held. Submissions from a variety of interests were considered for the strategy.

Public feedback received on solid waste management discussion paper

The Ministry used multiple methods to engage stakeholders on solid waste management planning in 2017-18, including in-person workshops, webinars, online surveys and written submissions. The Ministry considered information from 157 participants.

Clients provide information to inform and monitor species distributions

HABISask is a province-wide spatial data and mapping service for the Government of Saskatchewan, individuals, Indigenous organizations and communities and businesses. As of March 31, 2018, 256 species-distribution models have been completed for a variety of high- and low-priority species. These models use local data gathered through and by the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre (SKDC) to create provincial border-to-border predictive maps of biodiversity (e.g., birds, mammals, plants and insects). Some SKDC data is obtained from Ministry clients who apply for species detection survey permits and academic research permits.

Percentage of forest renewal following timber harvest
 Sufficiently regenerated area status to increase from previous year.

Forest renewal remains steady

Forest companies are required to ensure the areas they harvest are renewed; the Government of Saskatchewan routinely checks on industry reforestation efforts. Companies must follow the standard outlined in Saskatchewan's Environmental Code, which includes conducting a survey between four and seven years after harvest, and again between eight and 14 years. If regeneration is found to be lacking, the company must develop a plan to fix the problem.

Approximately 95 per cent of forest land harvested in Saskatchewan has been successfully regenerated. This success rate varies across forest management agreement areas.

Reclamation of roads and trails

Number of new roads and trails being approved with appropriate reclamation requirements.

Standardizing road and trail permit requirements

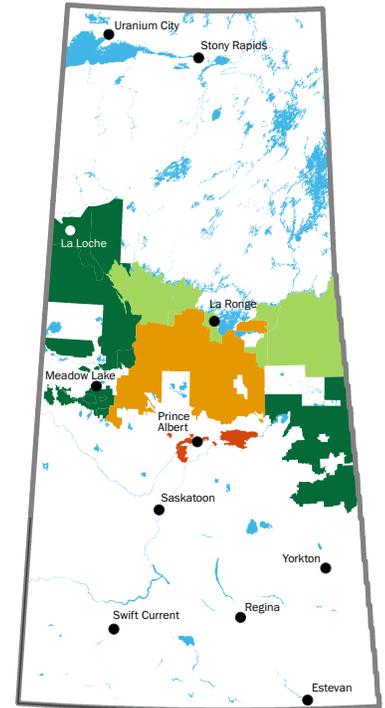
The Ministry issues a variety of road and trail permits for different purposes. It is working toward ensuring permits for roads and trails all have the same reclamation requirements. By establishing consistent expectations at the permitting stage, there will be a shared understanding of the permit conditions.

Reports on the status of:

- woodland caribou herd population in Saskatchewan;
- fish and wildlife populations;
- land use and planning processes;
- invasive alien species; and
- species at risk in Saskatchewan.

The Ministry has a variety of reporting processes that provide insight to the health of species, landscapes or forests. Some reports contribute to larger national or international projects as in the case of Canada's woodland caribou, which has been listed as a threatened species. Ongoing population research on the status of Saskatchewan's fish and wildlife is essential for determining annual hunting and angling allocations.

Forest management areas by regeneration percentage



- 99% or more regenerated
- 95% - 98% or more regenerated
- 89% - 94% or more regenerated
- 67% regenerated

Approximately 95 per cent of forest land harvested in Saskatchewan has been successfully regenerated.

Government Goals



How does the Ministry of Environment support the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*?

The Ministry provides regulatory certainty through recognized standards for informed decision-making, which promote responsive and efficient regulations for a sustainable, competitive and diverse economy.

Ministry Goal

Increased regulatory certainty and transparency for improved accountability

Strategy

Introduce new regulatory tools and approaches to increase clients' options for meeting obligations.

Key Actions and Results

> Strengthen processes and policies that support environmental assessment reviews, including public engagement.

Stakeholders engaged in environmental assessment reviews

Environmental assessment is a regulatory process for large-scale and higher-risk development in Canada and Saskatchewan. The federal government is reviewing federal environmental assessment (EA) processes associated with *The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*. The Ministry of Environment continues to lead the province's review of proposed changes to federal environmental assessment requirements.

Ministry officials have engaged with key stakeholders and provincial government officials to ensure Saskatchewan interests are considered in four federal environmental legislative reviews for *The Fisheries Act*, *Navigation Protection Act*, *National Energy Board Act*, and *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

> Work with Code Advisory Committee on developing new Environmental Code chapters.

New code chapters in development

The Saskatchewan Environmental Code is an approach to environmental protection and resource management that emphasizes outcomes, provides regulatory clarity and fosters innovation. The code allows proponents to develop alternative solutions while ensuring compliance with applicable Acts and regulations. Code Advisory Committee members have been approved to develop content and recommendations on new and amended chapters. Amendments to the Hydrostatic Testing chapter have been approved by the committee. Work has begun on the Forest Inventory and Wildland-Urban Interface chapters. All three are expected to be ready by April 2019.

> Update the Crown resource land regulations to modernize, improve efficiency and harmonize with similar regulations administered by Ministry of Agriculture.

Progress on streamlining Crown resource land regulations

The Ministry administers 37.7 million hectares of Crown resource lands in central and northern Saskatchewan, with some small holdings in southern Saskatchewan. The Ministry is modernizing and improving the efficiency of Crown land administration in the province. An online survey on land authorization policies and processes was completed on December 31, 2017. Survey results informed recommendations for the review to be implemented in 2018-19. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, relevant regulations are being reviewed for opportunities to harmonize. Work continues on the development of a government-wide integrated Crown land management system (eCLMS) to manage all lands, including vacant Crown lands, with completion expected in 2019.

Strategy

Build a shared understanding of the physical environment risks, compliance obligations, enforcement activities, measures and results.

Key Actions and Results

- > Implement a public engagement pilot project related to environmental assessments.

Public engagement pilot project started

In 2017-18, the implementation of a public engagement pilot project with Canada Golden Fortune Potash Corporation on the proposed Broadview Project potash mine commenced. As part of the pilot project, the Ministry engaged the two rural municipalities (RMs) and attended RM council meetings to present information about the environmental assessment process. The Ministry also attended open house meetings for the project throughout 2017-18.

- > Keep wildfire prevention and forestry in the public eye via educational tools and programs.

The public is becoming “FireSmart”

In 2017-18, there were a variety of education and awareness initiatives presented to audiences in 80 communities across the province. These included presentations to teachers, the public and academic institutions.

- > Monitor client feedback regarding the State of the Environment Report's new online format.

State of Environment Report now online

In 2017-18, the Ministry released the State of Environment Report in a new online format. Regular monitoring of feedback enables the Ministry to continue developing the report to provide the highest possible value for the public. The State of the Environment Report provides accessible and comprehensive information to improve public understanding of the environment and is released every two years.

- > Clarify policies and procedures for Crown land administration and project reviews to improve client service.

Work continues on improved and efficient Crown land administration

The Ministry's goal is to efficiently administer public lands in the province. Discussions have been held with government partners regarding improving processes and service to industry clients as well as improving environmental protection plans for activities in and near surface waters.

- > Deliver compliance and enforcement programs to mitigate risks to the environment and public safety.

Conservation officers part of new Protection and Response Team

The creation of a provincial Protection and Response Team (PRT) to reduce crime in rural Saskatchewan was announced in August 2017, for implementation in 2018. The PRT will improve police response to emergency calls, improve enforcement in rural areas of the province and increase public safety. With the implementation of the PRT, 141 conservation officers will contribute to the initiative. As members of the Protection and Response Team, the role of conservation officers will be expanded to include offences under statutes where they would not otherwise have legislatively specified authority.

Fifty per cent of Saskatchewan wildfires are preventable because they are due to human activity.

Strategy

Develop climate change strategies that balance Saskatchewan's environmental and economic objectives consistent with Saskatchewan's White Paper on Climate Change.

Key Actions and Results

- > Continue to develop a Saskatchewan-focused framework to manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in a low-cost and effective manner.

Climate change strategy released

To support the province's new climate change strategy, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* and *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases (General and Electricity Producer) Regulations* came into force on January 1, 2018. Work commenced on draft greenhouse gas reporting regulations. Progress continues on amending *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*. Implementation of regulations to support *Prairie Resilience* is scheduled for January 1, 2019.

- > Engage with the Government of Canada to advance Saskatchewan interests under emerging national GHG mitigation program and management standards.

Saskatchewan engages on greenhouse gases

The Government of Saskatchewan has publicly expressed its opposition to the introduction of a carbon tax for the province, despite federal government pressures.

In February 2018, a letter was sent to the federal government confirming Saskatchewan's opposition to a carbon tax and that the province will not be signing the Pan-Canadian Framework. At the same time, the Ministry continues to promote Saskatchewan's plan and demonstrate how the province's actions show Saskatchewan's commitment to addressing climate change in a meaningful way without a carbon tax.

- > Engage with the Government of Canada and other provinces to develop a Western Canada adaptation strategy.

Multiple partners, sectors and jurisdictions combining efforts

The Ministry participates in multiple federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) meetings on emissions, GHG reporting and projections, offset projects, zero-emission vehicles, greening government, emissions-intensive trade exposure, as well as multiple sector-specific working groups on the proposed federal, output-based standards.



Performance Measures

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

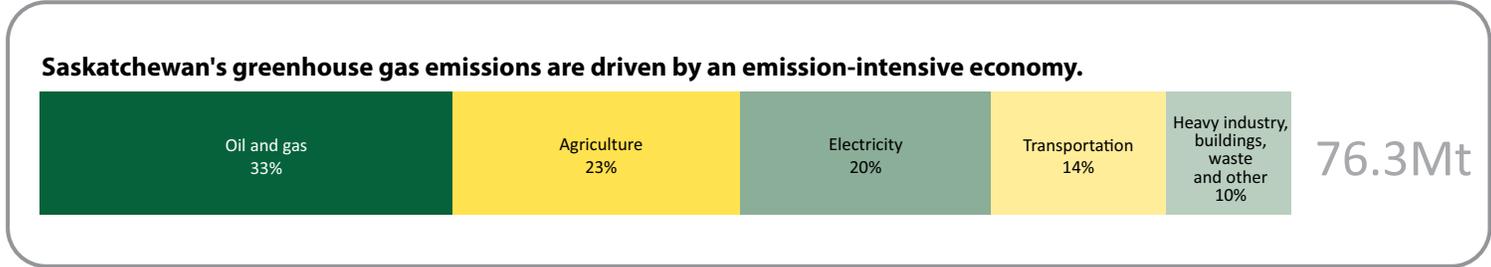
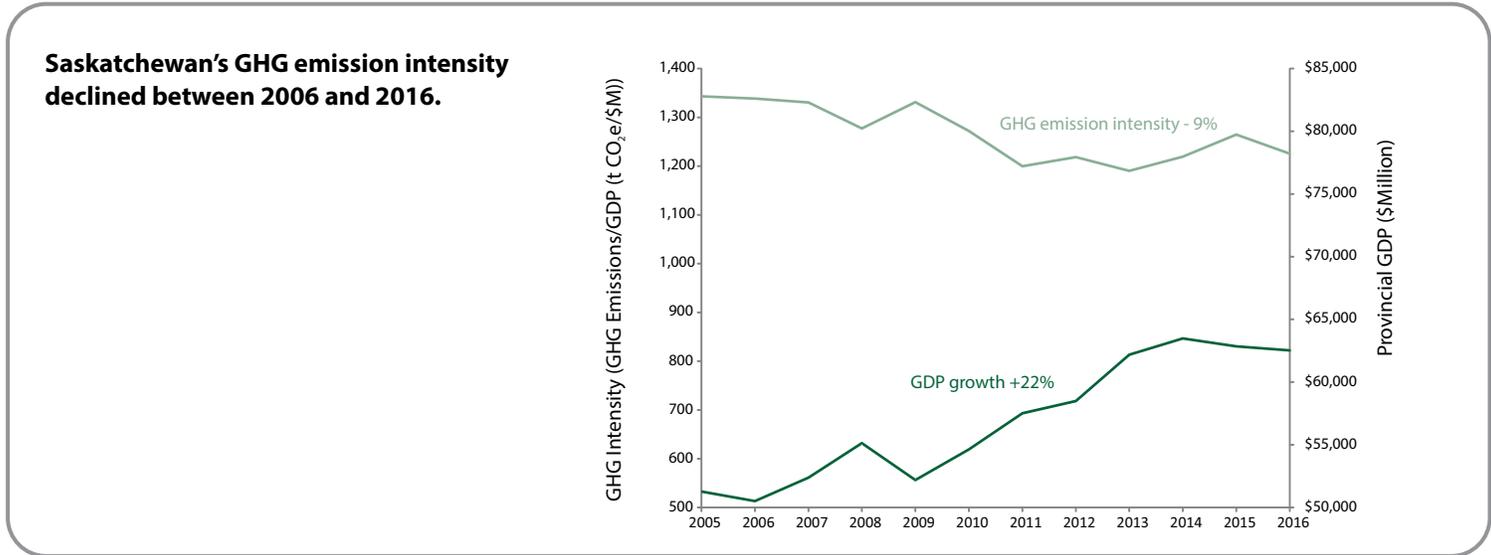
Trends in total greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan and by sector.

The decline in greenhouse gas emission intensity for Saskatchewan

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to be committed to action on climate change. The province has demonstrated its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through investments in innovative technology. Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions are largely driven by an economy that is emissions-intensive from oil and gas, agriculture, and transportation sector activities.

There were 43 large industrial facilities reporting more than 50,000 tonnes of GHG emissions in 2016, up from 40 facilities in 2015.

In 2016, Saskatchewan's GHG emissions were 76.3 Mt (megatonnes). Saskatchewan's GHG emission intensity declined by nine per cent between 2006 and 2016. This is a result of productivity improvements and increased energy efficiencies. The 2016 National Inventory Report (NIR) submitted by Environment and Climate Change Canada to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change indicates that Saskatchewan's emission intensity continues to decline.



Results-Based Regulations

Progress on new or revised results-based regulations, code chapters, standards, programs and policies.

New code chapters on the way for the Saskatchewan Environmental Code

The Ministry is developing two new code chapters and an amendment to an existing chapter for the second edition of the code: Forest Inventory Chapter, Wildland-Urban Interface Chapter and an amended Hydrostatic Testing Chapter.

Hydrostatic Testing Chapter amendments have been drafted and reviewed by the committee. The development of the Wildland-Urban Interface Chapter and Forest Inventory Chapter has begun. These chapters will be drafted and approved in 2018-19 and are expected to be in force by spring 2019.

Compliance Rates

Compliance trends in wildlife, fisheries and environmental laws.

Conservation officers work with public to increase awareness and encourage compliance

The Ministry tracks the number of times conservation officers make contact with citizens in the field and determines what percentage are in compliance with wildlife, fishing and environmental laws. Conservation officers made more than 56,917 contacts with the public in 2017-18. As a result, 4,509 warnings were issued and 1,230 charges were laid for non-compliant activities.

| | Contacts | Warnings | Charges |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| 2016-17 | 67,616 | 5,407 | 1,356 |
| 2015-16 | 67,000 | 6,267 | 1,486 |
| 2014-15 | 68,437 | 5,476 | 1,328 |

Government Goals



How does the Ministry of Environment support the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*?

The Ministry promotes and regulates responsible development and industrial activity, including protection of the environment through management of industrial sites and compliance activities.

Ministry Goal

Reduced risk and harm from environmental contamination

Strategy

Respond effectively to contamination incidents and minimize impacts.

Key Actions and Results

> Make progress on addressing the provincial auditor's recommendations on contaminated sites, liabilities, landfills and industrial wastewater.

Significant progress on provincial auditor's recommendations

The Ministry has fully addressed all outstanding recommendations referenced in the 2015 report from the provincial auditor on industrial wastewater systems. The provincial auditor's 2017 Report – Volume 2 explains how the Ministry has implemented the four outstanding recommendations to regulate industrial wastewater systems, and no additional actions are required.

In 2017, the provincial auditor acknowledged that the Ministry had implemented two of three outstanding recommendations and partially implemented the remaining recommendation to review and enter legacy site information, site priority ratings and National Classification System for Contaminated Sites ratings into the Client Relations Impacted Sites Information System.

In 2017 the provincial auditor acknowledged that six of nine landfill recommendations have been implemented. Work continues on the three remaining recommendations:

- develop a comprehensive landfill guidance document;
- amend operating permits for all high-risk landfills to ensure they require appropriate groundwater monitoring; and
- perform landfill inspections in accordance with established frequency requirements.

> Work with Husky Energy on continued follow-up regarding remediation of its 2016 spill and conduct a lessons learned event to improve future emergency response to spills.

Stakeholder engagement, monitoring and reporting continue on the 2016 oil spill

The Ministry continues to oversee Husky Energy's clean-up and assessment of the North Saskatchewan River as a result of a pipeline spill in July 2016. Ongoing monitoring and assessments will identify and address any remaining impacts. In 2017, more than 950 km of shoreline was surveyed, 54 corrective action plans developed and executed and more than 6.5 km of shoreline cleaned. The majority of physical recovery and clean-up activities have since been completed. Water monitoring and reporting continued throughout 2017 to ensure the protection of potable water sources for potentially impacted communities. The Ministry of Environment conducted a lessons learned event with the former Ministry of the Economy to increase clarity of the roles and responsibilities between government agencies on upstream oil and gas spills. Reducing the risk of harm and contamination of the environment from events such as oil spills is a priority for the government.

Also, there is ongoing co-operation between Husky and the Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence (COE) to address concerns regarding environmental impacts to the North Saskatchewan River. A workshop was completed with multiple

stakeholders including the ministries of Environment, Health and Agriculture, Water Security Agency, COE and Husky. The March 2018 workshop covered summary findings, a residual oil and human and ecological risk assessment, and plan for 2018 activities. The Ministry will continue to review results of monitoring activities, and the 2017 activities will continue in 2018.

- > Co-chair the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Environmental Emergencies Working Group to improve provincial and territorial co-operation in response to spills.

Province co-chairs Environmental Emergencies Working Group

Saskatchewan and Manitoba are co-chairs of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Environmental Emergencies Working Group. The goal of the working group is to develop a national, consistent approach to environmental emergencies with practices that can be adopted by all provinces and territories. The Environmental Planning and Protection Committee approved an action plan in November 2017. The plan will develop an environmental emergencies glossary to identify common definitions for terms used in emergency management related to environmental emergencies.

- > Develop criteria for Impacted Sites Fund investments.

Internal policy to guide allocation of the fund

Work is ongoing to establish a process for allocating funds from the Impacted Sites Fund to municipalities for the redevelopment of orphaned or abandoned sites. The fund will use a risk-based assessment system that allows screening and comparison of applications for an objective review to help inform decision-making.

- > Commence clean-up of contaminated Crown land to reduce provincial financial liabilities related to contaminated sites.

Sites removed from environmental liabilities list

The 2017-18 provincial budget allocated \$1.67 million for the remediation of eight abandoned sites and three wildfire management fuel storage sites. Responsible parties were subsequently identified for five of the abandoned sites. The remaining three have been removed from the environmental liabilities list based on final site assessments confirming they are no longer impacted sites. Remediation and site assessments were completed on the fuel storage sites. Additional monitoring and final corrective action plans will be vetted in 2018.

- > Develop financial assurance guidance for regulated industrial sites.

Draft guidance prepared on financial assurance

The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 (EMPA) requires decommissioning and reclamation plans and financial assurances from all regulated industrial waste works facilities including petroleum refineries and upgraders. Financial assurance for active industrial and mining facilities ensures that economic development proceeds in an environmentally responsible and sustainable fashion. In 2017-18, the Ministry drafted guidelines, in consultation with industry, on decommissioning and reclamation plans. Of 126 facilities that require financial assurances, 67 have them in place. Of 50 mining sites, 48 have financial assurances in place. The Ministry target is to have financial assurances complete for all regulated industrial waste works plans by January 1, 2020. Facilities are required to have approved financial assurances in place by January 1, 2020.

By helping municipalities pay for cleaning up abandoned contaminated sites, they will be available for redevelopment.

Strategy

Increase client knowledge of contamination, its impact on the environment and compliance obligations.

Key Actions and Results

- > Implement the impacted sites database and support implementation of code chapters on impacted sites.

Work begins on a public registry for monitoring risks of impacted sites

The Ministry is developing a public registry of impacted sites to communicate how impacted sites in the province are monitored and managed. The National Classification System for Contaminated Sites (NCSCS) is a method for evaluating contaminated sites and monitoring risks. The Ministry evaluated a number of cases using the NCSCS and classified six impacted sites as Category 1, meaning they are a high priority for action. The Ministry is satisfied the six sites are stable, and of no immediate threat to human health or safety.

- > Improve the provincial risk profile through continued auditing of selected sites and industries.

Compliance audit program on track

A review of the compliance audit program was completed in 2017-18 with recommendations to address audit communications, service delivery, and resourcing intended to continually improve the program.

The Ministry completed 18 audits in 2017-18, which found 203 instances of non-compliance. Of those: 78 per cent did not pose a significant threat to human health, safety or the environment; 20 per cent posed a non-immediate threat to human health, safety or the environment; and two per cent posed an immediate threat, requiring immediate corrective action. For 2017-18, 87 per cent of corrective actions have been resolved, which is above the target of 75 per cent.

- > Increase public reporting of enforcement activities.

Reporting of enforcement actions published in the annual report

In 2017-18, the Ministry issued notices of non-compliance to five industrial sites regarding their industrial wastewater systems. Enforcement actions to correct the situation included issuing letters of non-compliance with permit conditions. Environmental protection officers continue to follow-up with the permit holders to ensure the issues are resolved.

Environmental compliance audits were done on 18 sites and 87 per cent of the resulting corrective actions have now been addressed.

Performance Measures

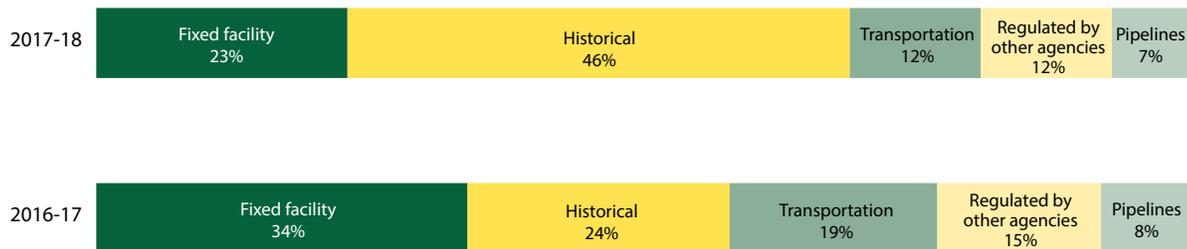
Reportable Spills

Increase compliance with the submission of written spill reports required from responsible parties.

Compliance rates remain steady

The Ministry compares yearly rates of compliance with a process required for reportable spills, including the discovery of contamination. The compliance rate for 2017-18 is 92 per cent, a slight decrease from the previous rate of 94 per cent. Citizens report spills by calling the 24-hour Spill Control Centre. The spill line received 842 calls in 2017-18. Of those reports, 287 did not meet thresholds to trigger action and 555 required follow-up action. Of the spills requiring action, 210 were referred to the Ministry of Energy and Resources, Water Security Agency or the Government of Canada.

Reported spills show an increasing awareness of Environmental Code requirements.



The increase in historical spills reflects growing awareness of the Environmental Code chapter on discharge and discovery which sets out the requirements for when such a discovery must be reported.

Contaminated sites

Report on the status of contaminated sites*

*This performance measure has been updated from a report on the status of decommissioned or reclaimed sites, to a report on the risk of contaminated sites. After a site is decommissioned or reclaimed, the understanding is that it is no longer contaminated or impacted.

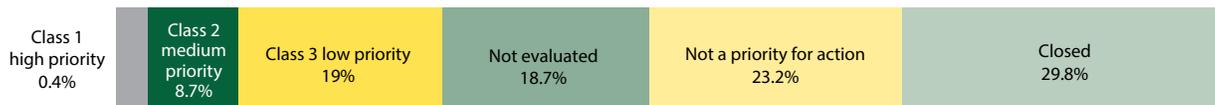
Identifying high-risk sites

The Ministry uses the National Classification System for Contaminated Sites (NCSCS) to identify the level of risk a contaminated site represents to the environment. The Ministry tracks the historical discharge cases and evaluates their risk under the NCSCS to ensure the required follow up is conducted. Six sites (0.4 per cent) have been classified as Class 1, meaning that they are a high priority for action. The 253 cases (18.7 per cent) not evaluated are in the notification stage, meaning they have been reported to the Ministry but the responsible party has yet to assemble all the information to calculate an NCSCS score.

Environmental site assessments completed for landfills

The Ministry is using a risk-based approach to safely manage and remediate contaminated sites such as landfills. Historically, most small landfill sites have never completed an assessment to determine the site conditions, nor have they conducted groundwater monitoring to determine any possible impacts. The risk of environmental impacts from a landfill is not from the amount of garbage but from site conditions and the design and construction of the site. To improve environmental protection measures at operating landfills, assessments were completed on 41 sites of operating and closed landfills that do not have monitoring programs in place. Thirty-three site assessments are in progress. The assessments will help identify impacts that require corrective action plans and will enable groundwater monitoring programs to be implemented.

The Ministry evaluated a number of cases using the NCSCS and classified six (0.4 per cent) impacted sites as Category 1, meaning they are a high priority for action.



Government Goals



How does the Ministry of Environment support the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*?

The Ministry delivers effective programs and activities in an efficient and positive client-focused manner.

Ministry Goal

High client service satisfaction

Strategy

Strengthen partnerships between co-regulators, boards, industry and non-government organizations.

Key Actions and Results

- > Partner with rural and urban municipal leadership and Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation on expanding the community-based model that was successfully piloted to address littering.

Recognition of littering pilot

The Ministry encourages initiatives that promote a clean environment through proper solid waste management. Over the past few years, the public and stakeholders have taken action on the growing problem of unauthorized dumping in Saskatchewan. The Ministry of Environment conducted a compliance pilot in the Prince Albert area called Keep Prince Albert and Area Beautiful from 2015 to 2017, with the goal of reducing litter and unauthorized dumping.

A collaboration to reduce litter and illegal dumping in Prince Albert grows stronger every year with community involvement.

The pilot consisted of a regional forum on reducing unauthorized dumping, enhanced education through an unauthorized dumping reduction campaign, various cleanup initiatives and enforcement activities. The project launched in 2015 and has removed more than 40,000 kilograms of waste from more than 65 illegal dump sites in and around the Nisbet Forest. The Ministry encourages collaborative partnerships between stakeholders to promote a community that works together to clean up our environment.

- > Work with provincial and national enforcement agencies and First Nations to develop and implement a variety of wildlife management policy and regulatory tools.

The province continues to work with First Nations on outfitting

The Ministry remains committed to supporting the participation of First Nations in the development and growth of a sustainable outfitting industry. The province is responsible for regulating outfitting to ensure sustainable wildlife populations can provide benefits to all Saskatchewan residents.

- > Clarify roles and responsibilities in shared service agreements with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport and the Water Security Agency.

Ensuring a one-team approach to delivering services

The Ministry of Environment has shared service agreements and memorandums of understanding with other agencies and ministries that range from providing compliance enforcement to financial management services. Each year, the Ministry reviews a number of these agreements to ensure the services delivered remain appropriate, effective and efficient.

- > Collaborate with ministries of Government Relations and Justice to strengthen government's consistency in meeting its duty to consult obligations.

Collaboration continues on duty to consult

The Ministry of Environment met its legal duty to consult First Nations and Métis communities on activities that may adversely impact their ability to exercise Treaty or Aboriginal rights and traditional uses. The Ministry follows the Government of Saskatchewan's *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework, June 2010* and continues to work with the ministries of Government Relations and Justice on projects that require duty to consult with First Nations and Métis. Ministry employees participated in training offered by Government Relations and Justice on the duty to consult. The Ministry works with First Nations, Métis communities and project proponents to achieve effective consultation processes.

- > Lead the development of a provincial approach to sharing and mapping data.

Progress on sharing and mapping data

Improving public access to geomatics data for decisions related to land use is a key priority for the Ministry as the secretariat for the Provincial Office of Geomatics Coordination (POGC). In 2017-18, the POGC worked with stakeholders to evaluate the potential of using an enterprise geographic information system (eGIS) as a government-wide tool for public access to spatial data. The Ministry completed education and awareness initiatives with both internal and external stakeholders, including the development of training videos, presentations and workshops.

- > Increase and enhance online business services.

Online services enhanced

The focus of the past year was on enhancing the Ministry's existing online services such as permits and business transactions by making them easier for people to navigate and more accessible for mobile users.

Performance Measures

Online business

Increase online business transactions with the goal of reaching 80 per cent of all permits and business transactions completed online by 2020.

Online sales continue to grow for HAL

The Ministry's online Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licence (HAL) system allows clients to submit, review and update their licence applications, check their big game draw status and history and purchase new licences. The total number of hunting and angling licences in Saskatchewan fluctuates year over year, but typically stays between 400,000 and 500,000 issued annually.

Online licence sales are increasing as a percentage of total licence sales each year. A total of 409,600 licence applications were processed in 2017. A drop in overall sales was due to a price increase for all hunting and angling licences in 2017. From 2013-2017, there has been more than a 10 per cent increase in website sales, growing from 28 per cent to 38 per cent of total licence sales. This means that more than a third of total licence sales are now through the HAL website.

Financial Overview 2017-18

The Ministry's approved appropriation for 2017-18 was \$189.6 million which included approved supplementary estimates of \$20.1 million due to the extreme wildfire season. Total 2017-18 expenditures were \$186.8 million, a variance of \$2.8 million from the Ministry's approved estimate. This under-expenditure was due primarily to vacancy and efficiency savings.

The Ministry's budgeted revenue was \$65.0 million for 2017-18. Actual revenue recorded by the Ministry in 2017-18 was \$86.9 million. This variance of \$21.9 million was primarily due to an increase in forestry dues and recoveries of wildfire services export costs.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund and the Impacted Sites Fund. Explanations and financial statements for these funds are found on page 29 and 30 respectively.

In 2017-18, the Ministry's full-time equivalent (FTE) utilization was 863.3.

Allocation of the Ministry's actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram:

| | (in thousands of dollars) | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2016-17 actual expenditures | 2017-18 original estimates | 2017-18 revised estimates | 2017-18 actual expenditures | 2017-18 variance |
| Subvote | | | | | |
| Central Management and Services (EN01) | | | | | |
| Minister's Salary | 51 | 49 | 49 | 51 | 2 |
| Executive Management | 1,708 | 1,726 | 1,726 | 1,569 | (157) |
| Central Services | 11,401 | 11,428 | 11,428 | 10,379 | (1,049) |
| Accommodation Services | 5,046 | 5,180 | 5,180 | 4,945 | (235) |
| Subvote Total | 18,206 | 18,383 | 18,383 | 16,944 | (1,439) ¹ |
| Climate Change and Adaptation (EN06) | | | | | |
| Climate Change | 1,721 | 2,635 | 2,635 | 1,657 | (978) |
| Cumulative Impacts and Science | - | 1,336 | 1,336 | 1,332 | (4) |
| Subvote Total | 1,721 | 3,971 | 3,971 | 2,989 | (982) ¹ |
| Fish, Wildlife and Lands (EN07) | | | | | |
| Fish, Wildlife and Lands Program | 10,067 | 8,853 | 8,853 | 8,297 | (556) |
| Fish and Wildlife Development Fund | 3,900 | 4,590 | 4,590 | 4,994 | 404 |
| Subvote Total | 13,967 | 13,443 | 13,443 | 13,291 | (152) ¹ |
| Compliance and Field Services (EN08) | | | | | |
| Subvote Total | 17,431 | 17,332 | 17,332 | 17,514 | 182 ² |
| Environmental Protection (EN11) | | | | | |
| Environmental Protection Program | 4,727 | 5,226 | 5,226 | 4,715 | (511) |
| Environmental Assessment and Stewardship | 1,160 | 1,480 | 1,480 | 1,549 | 69 |
| Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System | 24,039 | 26,565 | 26,565 | 26,566 | 1 |
| Remediation of Contaminated Sites | 2,341 | 1,670 | 1,670 | 631 | (1,039) |
| Business Transformation | 4,902 | 5,614 | 5,614 | 5,601 | (13) |
| Subvote Total | 37,169 | 40,555 | 40,555 | 39,062 | (1,493) ³ |
| Forest Service (EN09) | | | | | |
| Forest Programs | 6,094 | 6,801 | 6,801 | 5,812 | (989) |
| Reforestation | 1,342 | 300 | 300 | 221 | (79) |
| Insect and Disease Control | 1,081 | 1,246 | 1,246 | 1,431 | 185 |
| Subvote Total | 8,517 | 8,347 | 8,347 | 7,464 | (883) ¹ |
| Wildfire Management (EN10) | | | | | |
| Forest Fire Operations | 52,238 | 52,362 | 71,142 | 72,945 | 1,803 |
| Recoverable Fire Suppression Operations | 2,164 | 1,700 | 3,000 | 3,332 | 332 |
| Forest Fire Capital Projects | 19,593 | 13,472 | 13,472 | 13,288 | (184) |
| Subvote Total | 73,995 | 67,534 | 87,614 | 89,565 | 1,951 ⁴ |
| Total Appropriation | 171,006 | 169,565 | 189,645 | 186,829 | (2,816) |
| Capital Assets Acquisitions | (21,273) | (16,417) | (16,417) | (15,345) | 1,072 |
| Capital Assets Amortization | 9,718 | 12,822 | 12,822 | 11,305 | (1,517) |
| Non-spending Control Items | 2,630 | (1,670) | (1,670) | (1,329) | 341 |
| Total Expense | 162,081 | 164,300 | 184,380 | 181,460 | (2,920) |

Explanation of major variances:

- (1) Vacancy and efficiency savings.
- (2) Increase to emergency communications agreement and equipment requirements.
- (3) Fewer contaminated sites were remediated than anticipated.
- (4) Over-expenditure due to extreme fire season.

Actual funding provided to third parties in 2017-18:

| 2017-18 Third Party Funding | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Amount (\$000s) | Recipient | Purpose |
| 26,565 | Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres | Operation of beverage container collection and recycling |
| 107 | Saskatchewan Commission of Professional Outfitters | 2017-18 agreement for the implementation of industry-led outfitting commission |
| 70 | Town of Kamsack | Contaminated site remediation |
| 50 | Cleanfarms Inc. | Design plan for agriculture plastics programming |
| 41 | University of Saskatchewan | Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre - disease research |
| 30 | University of Saskatchewan | Woodland caribou research |
| 20 | University of Manitoba | Woodland caribou research |
| 19 | FRI Research | Membership - FGrOW, Western Boreal Growth and Yield Association |
| 15 | FP Innovations | Membership - Wildland Fire Operations Research |
| 13 | Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Secretariat | Operation of Canadian Council of Forest Ministers |
| 10 | Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board | Operation of Caribou Management Agreement |
| 17 | Aggregate of grants under \$5,000 | Grants ranging from \$200 to \$5,000: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Chapter of the Wildlife Society (0.2) • RCMP Veterans' Association Regina Division (0.5) • Canadian Institute of Forestry (4.0) • Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan (0.7) • Ducks Unlimited (Canada) (1.3) • Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers (5.0) • Wildlife Habitat Canada (4.0) • Nature Saskatchewan (0.9) |
| 26,957 | Total grants | |

Revenues

The majority of the revenue collected by the Ministry of Environment relates to environmental handling charges, hunting and angling licence fees, forestry fees and dues and receipts from other governments for recoverable fire suppression costs. These revenues are collected on behalf of the government and all revenue collected is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

The Ministry's budgeted revenue for 2017-18 was \$65.0 million; actual revenue recorded was \$86.9 million. This \$21.9 million variance was primarily due to an increase in forestry dues and a recovery of wildfire export costs.

| Description of revenue | 2017-18 budget (\$000s) | 2017-18 actual (\$000s) | 2017-18 variance (\$000s) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Own-source revenue | | | |
| Other licences and permits | 21,220 | 37,052 | 15,832 ¹ |
| Sales, services and service fees | 27,387 | 27,374 | (13) |
| Interest, premiums, discount and exchange | 34 | 85 | 51 ² |
| Transfers from other governments | 1,700 | 7,253 | 5,553 ³ |
| Other revenue | 10,664 | 10,279 | (385) |
| Transfers from the federal government | 3,960 | 4,784 | 824 ⁴ |
| Total revenue items | 64,965 | 86,827 | 21,862 |
| Non-revenue items | | 48 | 48 |
| Total revenue items | 64,965 | 86,875 | 21,910 |

Explanation of variances:

- (1) Increase due to a spike in forestry dues as a result of high commodity prices and high demand.
- (2) Interest on accounts receivable was higher than anticipated.
- (3) Increase due to wildfire cost recovery for exports of aircraft, personnel and equipment.
- (4) Increased agreement revenue due to costs of the extended wildfire season.

Other

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) is a special purpose fund established under *The Natural Resources Act*. The Ministry uses the fund to support habitat protection and management throughout the province. Revenues are transferred to the FWDF based on an amount equivalent to 30 per cent of habitat licence certificates and hunting, angling and trapping licence fees collected by the province. The FWDF also receives seven per cent of Crown land sales. Expenditures relate to habitat protection through the purchase of habitat, and management and enhancement of habitat.

The following table provides a summary of the budgeted and unaudited results of the FWDF for 2017-18.

Audited financial statements are available at www.gov.sk.ca/finance in the publications section.

| (Based on unaudited figures) | 2017-18 budget (\$000s) | 2017-18 actual (\$000s) | 2017-18 variance (\$000s) | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Revenue | 5,171 | 6,216 | 1,045 | 1 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Fish enhancement projects | 1,498 | 1,654 | 156 | 2 |
| Wildlife habitat projects | 1,350 | 1,892 | 542 | 3 |
| Grants in lieu of taxes | 310 | 365 | 55 | 4 |
| Total expenses | 3,158 | 3,911 | 753 | |
| Excess of revenue over expenses | 2,013 | 2,305 | 292 | |

Explanation of variances:

(1) The result of higher licence and Crown land sales.

(2) Increase in contractual services related to fish hatchery upgrades and communications related to aquatic invasive species.

(3) Increase in grants, land securement costs and wildlife signage.

(4) Increase due to reassessment year.

Impacted Sites Fund

The Impacted Sites Fund was established on April 2, 2015, by *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*. The fund receives all revenue from fines and administrative penalties imposed in accordance with the Act. Other revenues may include gifts, donations, grants or money appropriated by the legislature. The Act permits expenditures from the fund to reclaim, restore and remedy orphaned environmentally impacted sites and to pay the expenses of administering the fund.

The following table provides a summary of the budgeted and unaudited results of the fund for 2017-18.

| (Based on unaudited figures) | 2017-18 budget | 2017-18 actual | 2017-18 variance |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | (\$000s) | (\$000s) | (\$000s) |
| Revenue | - | 59 | 59 |
| Expenses: | | | |
| Contracts | - | - | - |
| Grants | - | - | - |
| Total expenses | - | - | - |
| Excess of revenue over expenses | - | 59 | 59 |

Explanation of variances:

No budget was submitted for the fund as no expenses were anticipated.

For More Information

The Ministry of Environment welcomes your comments and questions.

centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca

Toll-free in North America 1-800-567-4224

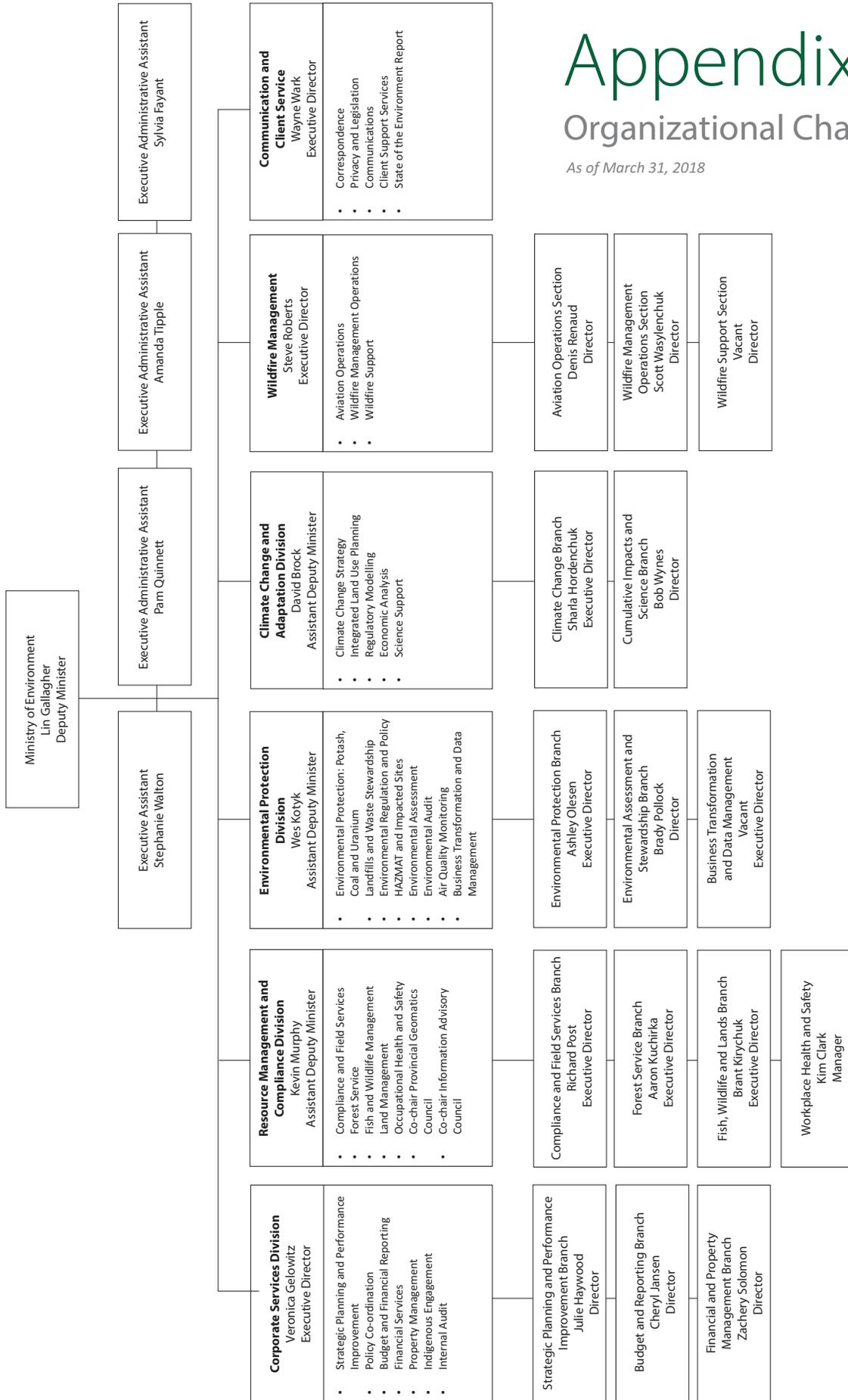
3211 Albert Street, REGINA, SK S4S 5W6

This annual report is also available electronically at saskatchewan.ca/environment.

Appendix A

Organizational Chart

As of March 31, 2018



Appendix B

Administered Legislation 2017-18

The Ministry derives its mandate, responsibilities and authority from a number of Acts and regulations under those Acts.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister of Environment are:

- *The Conservation Easements Act*
- *The Ecological Reserves Act*
- *The Environmental Assessment Act*
- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*
- *The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994*
- *The Forestry Professions Act*
- *The Forest Resources Management Act*
- *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*
- *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* (portions of the Act were proclaimed and in force as of January 1, 2018)
- *The Natural Resources Act (subject to OC 208/96)*
- *The Protection of the Wild Ponies of the Bronson Forest Act*
- *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*
- *The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act*
- *The Water Appeal Board Act* (the last appeals were heard in 2017-18 as this authority now lies under The Water Security Agency Act)
- *The Wildfire Act*
- *The Wildlife Act, 1998*
- *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*

Appendix C

Legislated Agencies, Boards and Committees

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

- Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement states, "The continued well-being of these herds requires co-ordinated management, goodwill and co-operation amongst governments and the traditional users of these caribou." It also recognizes, "a special relationship exists between the traditional user and the caribou, worth more than \$15 million annually in subsistence value alone."
- This board is a co-operative recommending body comprised of Indigenous and government representatives from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Government of Canada.

Fisheries Advisory Committee

- This committee represents non-government organizations and stakeholders and provides recommendations to the Ministry on matters pertaining to fish management.
- Committee members are appointed by the Minister annually.

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund Advisory Council

- The council will make recommendations to the Minister of Environment on matters respecting the annual work plan and expenditures from the fund.
- A focus will be on fish and wildlife habitat acquisition/management and species management.

Wildlife Advisory Committee

- This committee provides stakeholder perspective and advice to the Ministry on matters pertaining to wildlife management.
- Committee members represent major stakeholders, including recreational hunters, landowners, outfitters, tourism interests, ranchers, trappers and conservation organizations.
- Committee members are appointed by the Minister annually.

Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals

- The association maintains professional accountability and ensures the competence of Saskatchewan forestry professionals for the public's benefit.
- It promotes professionalism by focusing on its members' knowledge, skills and competencies.

Water Appeal Board

- This board hears appeals from the decisions of the Water Security Agency made pursuant to the drainage complaint process in *The Water Security Agency Act*.
- 2017-18 was the last year appeals were heard by the Water Appeal Board. The appeal process now falls under *The Water Security Agency Act*.

Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee

- Established under the authority of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*
- The advisory committee acts as a formal forum for exchanging ideas, overseeing the development of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code and providing advice and guidance on the content of the code and supporting materials.
- The advisory committee members widely represent industry and stakeholders. They are appointed by an Order in Council for a three-year term.

Appendix D

Publications Released by the Ministry

For the period of April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

Climate Change

- Climate Change Backgrounder
- Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy

Compliance and Enforcement

- Conservation Officer Backgrounder
- Become a Conservation Officer
- Report Illegal Dumping

Environment

- 2016-17 Ministry of Environment Annual Report
- 2016-17 Ministry of Environment Plan

Environmental Assessment

- Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Process

Fishing

- 2017 Fish Facts
- 2017 Stocked Waters Guide
- 2018 Anglers' Guide
- 2018 Anglers' Guide – French

Hunting

- 2017 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide
- 2017 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide – French
- 2017 Spring Bear Supplement
- 2017 Snow Goose Supplement
- 2017 Saskatchewan Resident Big Game Draw Overview
- 2017 Canadian Resident White-tailed Deer Draw Overview
- 2017 Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licence (HAL) System Fact Sheet
- Winter Weather Watcher Program Resource Booklet
- Aboriginal Treaty Rights to Hunt and Fish Guide

Land/Protection

- Crown Conservation Easement FAQs Factsheet

Recycling

- Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

Trapping

- Saskatchewan Wild Fur Harvest and Cash Values 2017-18

Wildfire Management

- 2017 Saskatchewan Pilot's Handbook
- 2018 Wildfire Safety Calendar
- FireSmart Homeowner's Manual

Wildlife

- Game Management Plan

