

# Ministry of Government Relations



Plan for 2020-21

# Table of Contents

Statement from the Minister ..... 1

Response to Government Direction..... 2

Operational Plan .....3

Highlights .....7

Financial Summary.....8

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable  
Lori Carr*

*Minister of Government  
Relations and Minister  
Responsible for First  
Nations, Métis and  
Northern Affairs*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Government Relations Plan for 2020-21.

Government Direction and Budget 2020-21 is focused on growth for a better quality of life – fostering a strong economy, creating strong communities and strong families – and Building a Strong Saskatchewan.

The Ministry is committed to working collaboratively with federal, municipal and Indigenous stakeholders to ensure Saskatchewan's communities are supported for the next decade of growth.

Our strategies and key actions continue to be aimed at building strong communities by enhancing municipal governance, increasing local capacity and supporting regional planning efforts to ensure sustainable public services. The Ministry will also continue to improve the safety and quality of life for all Saskatchewan families through the promotion of safe buildings, improving emergency preparedness, and assisting communities through disaster recovery efforts.

In the coming year, the Ministry will support economic growth by reducing trade barriers by working with our provincial and territorial counterparts to align building and construction standards. We will also play a role in assisting those communities affected by the federally-mandated phase out of coal-fired electricity by supporting the transition to new economic development opportunities.

We will continue to encourage engagement and collaboration between First Nations, Métis people and all levels of government to facilitate Indigenous participation in the economy. The Ministry will continue to invest in Indigenous and northern communities by supporting community-level initiatives and continuing to negotiate Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements.

The Ministry will report on progress made towards these key actions in our 2020-21 Annual Report.

# Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Building a Strong Saskatchewan*. Investing in strong communities and strong families creates opportunities for a better quality of life for the people of our province. Maintaining a strong economy will enable us to build upon the past decade of growth and continue to provide the services, jobs and infrastructure that meets Saskatchewan's needs.

## 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."*



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

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

All organizations will report on progress in their 2020-21 annual reports.

# Operational Plan

## Mandate Statement

The Ministry is responsible for municipal relations, public safety, and First Nations, Métis and northern affairs, and the Provincial Capital Commission. The Ministry engages a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to: plan for and respond to the opportunities and challenges of growth; provide leadership and direction so that integrated public services are available to communities and their residents; and support responsible governments.

## Government Goals



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

## Ministry Goal

Communities are effectively governed and prepared to manage growth.

## Strategy

Enhance regional and municipal governance and planning to manage public services and economic opportunities and challenges.

### Key Actions

- Complete subdivision reviews to facilitate economic growth and development.
- Update municipal acts to better protect municipal employees, strengthen ministerial authority, enhance local governance and accountability, and improve efficiency for local administrations.
- Partner with municipal associations to enhance municipalities' regional cooperation and governance through the Targeted Sector Support Initiative funded through the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program.

## Strategy

Leverage federal funding and provide funding to support provincial, municipal, and First Nations and Métis interests.

### Key Actions

- Support programs, projects and initiatives directed at good governance, legislative compliance and increased inter-municipal and regional co-operation.
- Administer the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to support shared provincial, municipal, and Indigenous interests.
- Ensure that provincially administered grants to municipalities meet program requirements.
- Assist Estevan, Coronach and surrounding areas transition to new economic development opportunities for workers affected by the federally-mandated phase out of coal-fired electricity.

## Strategy

Work with local governments to improve community sustainability.

### Key Actions

- Deliver advisory services to assist municipalities in meeting their legislated responsibilities.
- Support municipalities in developing, implementing and enhancing asset management plans.
- Work with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and sector associations to increase local capacity and to support regional planning efforts.



## Strategy

Ensure a fair and effective property tax regime.

### Key Actions

- Amend legislation to balance municipal and industry interests as it relates to road maintenance agreements.
- Support the 2021 property tax revaluation, including establishing percentages of value and property classes and continuing to improve public understanding of the property tax system.
- Work with the municipal sector to renew the approach to the first level of property assessment appeals.

## Ministry Goal

A team that understands, embraces, and demonstrates our commitment to excellence.

## Strategy

Ministry programs and services meet client needs.

### Key Actions

- Improve information sharing with municipal governments, citizens and industry through a citizen-municipal-ministry digital interface.
- Amend *The Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations* to better link agricultural priorities with municipal decisions.
- Repeal and replace *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* with *The Construction Codes Act*.
- Distribute gaming revenues as prescribed in *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* and the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement.
- Govern and provide municipal services to northerners living in the unorganized areas in the north by acting as Council for the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.

## Performance Measures

### Percentage of the population living in municipalities with official community plans

Official community plans set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipalities' economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support recreational opportunities, and address community interests.

### Number of sites approved with conditions to prevent unsafe development

Requiring subdivision developments to have proper disaster mitigation standards in place before sites are approved will limit impacts from potential disasters, such as slope instability and flooding.





## Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

### Ministry Goal

Safer communities that are better prepared for disasters and emergencies.

### Strategy

Improve and promote provincial and local emergency preparedness, risk mitigation, and recovery.

#### Key Actions

- Advocate for the continued support of disaster mitigation projects under federal/provincial infrastructure programs.
- Provide financial assistance to residents, municipalities and other entities through the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program.

### Strategy

Promote the construction, renovation, and safe operation of buildings, facilities and equipment in compliance with codes and standards.

#### Key Actions

- Align building and construction standards between jurisdictions in concert with provincial and territorial counterparts to reduce trade barriers.
- Transfer gas, electrical licensing and inspection, and plumbing inspection to the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan.
- Modernize technical safety legislation and regulations to better reflect the delivery of services.

## Performance Measures

#### Percentage of the population covered by building bylaws

Building bylaws help to ensure people live and work in safe buildings. Ongoing efforts by the ministry, as well as inter-ministry and agency co-ordination, will increase the implementation by municipalities of building bylaws approved under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.

### Ministry Goal

First Nations and Métis residents fully share in Saskatchewan's benefits and opportunities, and Treaty and Aboriginal rights are respected.

### Strategy

Encourage and support engagement and collaboration between First Nations, Métis people and all levels of government to advance mutually beneficial priorities.



## Key Actions

- Invest in community-level First Nations and Métis projects to build strong communities.
- Sponsor First Nations and Métis community events that promote intercultural understanding and reconciliation.
- Build and support partnerships between government, industry, agencies and First Nations and Métis communities which support community wellness and vitality in the north.
- Strengthen Government of Saskatchewan's engagement with First Nations and Métis residents and representative organizations.

## Strategy

Coordinate and support government-wide implementation of the Duty to Consult policy, Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements, and facilitate other agreements.

## Key Actions

- Negotiate new Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements with Canada and First Nations.
- Build awareness of the province's legal obligations related to Treaty Land Entitlement and Duty to Consult.

## Performance Measures

### Number of projects supported through the First Nations and Métis Community Engagement Project Fund

The fund supports First Nations, Métis communities, agencies or non-profit organizations for qualifying projects that promote safe communities, strong families, student achievement, and/or economic growth. The number of approved projects demonstrates the level of community participation in building local capacity through innovation and partnerships.

### Number of events supported through First Nations and Métis Sponsorships

These sponsorships are provided to First Nations and Métis community organizations or non-profit organizations to assist with public events that benefit Indigenous people in the areas of education, employment, professional development, cultural celebrations, or in the honouring of elders, knowledge keepers and veterans. The number of events sponsored indicates the level of support provided to improve community wellness and advance reconciliation.

### Number of grants provided under the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund

First Nation and Métis communities that have received a notification from government that the Duty to Consult has been triggered may apply to the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund. The number of grants provided under this fund reflects the level of participation of First Nations and Métis communities in the consultation process regarding development and other initiatives that may adversely affect the exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal rights, and traditional uses.



# Highlights

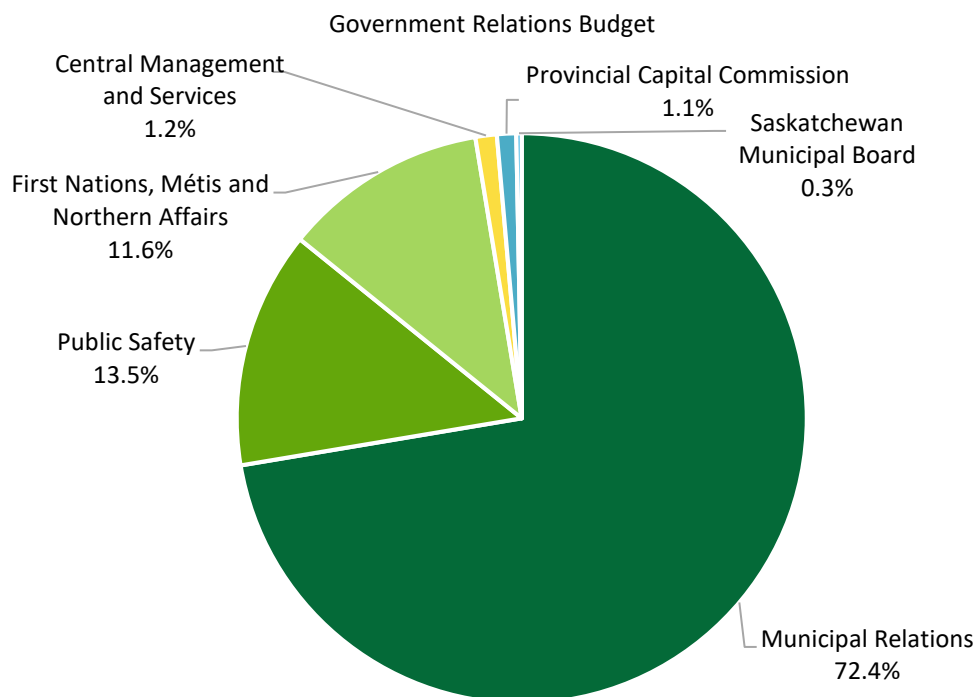
## 2020-21 Budget Highlights:

- \$278.1 million for municipal revenue sharing funding, consisting of:
  - \$178.3 million to urban municipalities;
  - \$79.2 million to rural municipalities; and,
  - \$20.6 million to northern municipalities.
- \$164.2 million for municipal infrastructure programs, consisting of:
  - \$101.6 million to meet project commitments under various infrastructure programs, including:
    - \$56.0 million under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program;
    - \$45.0 million under the New Building Canada Fund; and,
    - \$0.6 million under the Clean Water Wastewater Fund.
  - \$62.6 million in flow-through municipal infrastructure funding provided by the Gas Tax Program.
- \$72.4 million for gaming agreements, consisting of:
  - \$51.0 million for the First Nations Trust, which supports the First Nations Addictions and Rehabilitation Foundation, and distributes funding to First Nations communities in Saskatchewan;
  - \$19.1 million for Community Development Corporations, which support social, economic and business development proposals located in communities surrounding Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority casinos; and,
  - \$2.3 million for the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, which supports Métis economic development.
- \$85.2 million to support the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.
- \$7.2 million to support the Provincial Capital Commission.

# Financial Summary

| Ministry of Government Relations 2020-21 Estimates |  | (in thousands of dollars) |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| Central Management and Services                    |  | \$ 8,010                  |
| Saskatchewan Municipal Board                       |  | \$ 2,014                  |
| Municipal Relations                                |  | \$ 478,327                |
| Public Safety                                      |  | \$ 88,935                 |
| First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs          |  | \$ 76,585                 |
| Provincial Capital Commission                      |  | \$ 7,206                  |
| <b>Total Appropriation</b>                         |  | <b>\$ 661,077</b>         |
| Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment                |  | \$ 130                    |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                               |  | <b>\$ 661,207</b>         |

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>



## For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/government-relations>