

Business Plan

2024-25

Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Paul Merriman
Minister Corrections, Policing and Public Safety*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety's business plan for 2024-25.

This plan focuses on how we will continue to support Saskatchewan's Growth Plan by promoting safe communities, safe facilities and supporting our workforce to deliver on government's goals.

We are taking steps to further enhance public safety and bolster law enforcement across the province through our ongoing development of the Saskatchewan Marshals Service. The Ministry has also committed to partnering with the Regina and Saskatoon police services to fund community safety officers to help address public safety issues as part of the Provincial Approach to Homelessness.

We will establish a new Saskatchewan Highway Patrol Canine Unit that will focus on the detection and seizure of contraband, such as unstamped tobacco and/or controlled substances. This unit will assist with roadside inspections and other investigations being conducted by the Saskatchewan Highway Patrol to better address illegal trafficking in our province.

For 2024-25, the Ministry will partner with First Nations to establish and expand public safety services where it is most effective. Through the extension of the First Nations Community Safety Officer Pilot Program, we will provide additional uniform presence in communities. We will also continue to support and partner with the Prince Albert Grand Council to determine the feasibility of additional public safety services for those communities.

The construction of the Provincial Remand Centre in Saskatoon is continuing, and staffing will begin this year. We will continue to work with partners to ensure the successful reintegration of offenders back into our communities. Our partnerships with community and Indigenous organizations will be essential in helping us meet the needs of Saskatchewan people.

The Ministry will use targeted recruitment, training, and wellness initiatives to ensure our workforce remains engaged to keep Saskatchewan people and communities safe. These initiatives will ensure Saskatchewan remains safe and secure for its citizens to live, work, and raise a family.

2024-25 Budget Highlights

1	\$228.1 million to fund RCMP operations in the province through the Provincial Police Services Agreement and \$21.6 million for the RCMP's First Nations Policing Program.
2	\$23.1 million for 160 municipal police positions, including 17 Combined Traffic Services positions funded by SGI and other public safety initiatives through the Municipal Police Grants Program.
3	\$7M to continue implementation of the Saskatchewan Marshals Service to provide an enhanced, proactive, and specialized police presence throughout rural and remote areas of the province.
4	\$3.45M to provide security services through a third-party service provider for the Complex Emergency Needs Shelters. The facilities will provide 24-hour shelter for clients who are intoxicated and exhibiting behaviors that may be a danger to themselves or a danger or disturbance to the public.
5	\$1.06M to extend the First Nations Community Safety Officer Pilot program which provides high priority/low risk community safety services and an additional uniform presence in communities.
6	\$400K to fund Regina and Saskatoon Police Services for Community Safety Officers as part of the Provincial Approach to Homelessness.
7	\$197K to establish a new Saskatchewan Highway Patrol Canine Unit. The unit will focus on the detection and seizure of contraband, such as unstamped tobacco and/or controlled substances.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan's Vision

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

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

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

All organizations will report on progress in their 2024-25 annual reports.

Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety Overview

Mandate

The Ministry provides supervision and rehabilitation services for adult and young offenders, promotes appropriate and effective policing, and supports community and public safety services throughout Saskatchewan.

Mission

The Ministry delivers programs and services to help ensure safe communities, safe facilities, and a safe and engaged workforce.

Vision

All people in Saskatchewan live in safe communities.

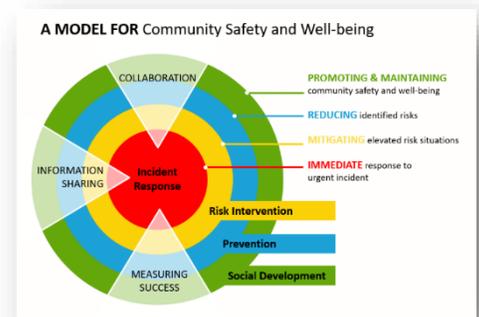
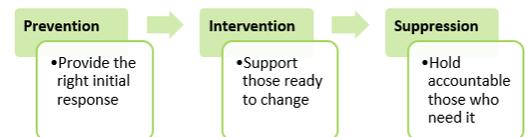
The model for community safety and well-being is realized through collaborative partnerships among communities, service delivery partners, and governments.

The aim is to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging and the opportunity to participate, and where individuals and families can have the best quality of life, with a focus on education, health, economic participation, and social and cultural expression.

Ministry Goals



Pillars



Ministry Goal: Safe Communities, Safe Facilities, Safe and Engaged Workforce

Our goal is to create and maintain safe and secure communities in Saskatchewan. We understand public safety is of the utmost importance, and that is why we are committed to providing targeted prevention, intervention, and suppression initiatives. We will strive to collaborate and work in partnership with stakeholders to ensure community safety and well-being. We are always reviewing and evolving our services to ensure we provide effective and appropriate policing. We continue to modernize our correctional system to ensure communities, staff and offenders are safe.

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

Evolve public safety and protective services for today and into the future.

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

- Begin to operationalize the Saskatchewan Marshals Service in anticipation of its launch in 2026, to ensure its ability to provide enhanced, proactive, and specialized policing throughout the province. The Marshals Service will engage with First Nations and communities regarding partnership opportunities to address high-impact and high-risk crime. Once launched the Marshals Service will deter criminal activity in rural and remote areas and provide emergency and specialized enforcement upon request.
- Improve the Saskatchewan Highway Patrol's ability to detect concealed contraband, including unstamped tobacco and controlled substances by adding a specially trained Canine Unit.
- Support community safety officers that will foster positive relationships with individuals in communities to address critical mental health and addiction issues as part of the Provincial Approach to Homelessness.
- Fund the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA), a Treasury Board Crown that provides public safety services including fire safety training, investigation, emergency planning, response, recovery and emergency communications. *
 - Begin to invest in the replacement of four land-based airtanker aircraft that play an important role in protecting communities.

**The SPSA oversees its own planning and reporting. More information is available at the SPSA website.*

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

Partner with community and Indigenous organizations to provide pathways from the criminal justice system.

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

- Collaborate with the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) and Public Safety Canada to advance the design and delivery of a feasibility study for a self-administered police service. Through community engagement and research, the final report will be a comprehensive plan for a community-oriented policing model for the PAGC. It will ensure the appropriate level of funding is recommended for successful implementation.
- Support First Nations renegotiating their Community Tripartite Agreements (CTA) by increasing awareness and efficacy of the federally funded and provincially administered Community Consultative Groups. These groups are the formal mechanism for First Nations with signed CTAs and the RCMP to collaborate on the community's public safety needs and priorities.

- Support increased demand for First Nations community safety officers by building on the success of the pilot project in resolving high-priority/low-risk services that require a uniformed presence.
- Continue partnering with Saskatoon Tribal Council on the *īkwēskīcik iskwēwak* (ah-gwee-ski-chick isk-way-wuk) program that provides female offenders with safe and successful reintegration back into communities.
- Reduce violence by helping gang affiliated individuals exit that life and successfully establish their own autonomy.
- Continue to build on partnerships with Indigenous organizations to support prevention, restorative justice, and reintegration programs.
- Enhance cultural programming and reintegration services delivered by and for First Nations people at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre Urban Camp through a formal partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council.
- Support the development of two Complex Needs Emergency Shelters that will provide an alternative safe location for police to bring an individual who is intoxicated or presents a danger to themselves or the public and connect them to supports.

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

Focus on correctional services fundamentals.

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

- Adopt a mobile phone app for Judicial Interim Release (also known as bail) clients to report remotely, allowing Community Corrections staff to manage the increasing number of Judicial Interim Release clients.
- Evaluate implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Global Positioning System program in partnership with the University of Regina.
- Enhance videoconferencing to support remote court appearances and reduce transport and supervision costs.
- Continue to work in partnership with SaskBuilds and Procurement on the new Saskatoon Remand Centre scheduled to open in 2025.
- Partner with the Ministry of Health to introduce a standardized approach to treating inmates assessed with an opioid use disorder.
- Expand delivery of the Stop Abuse for Everyone program to include the three largest adult male custody facilities in the province.

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

Recruit, train and retain employees.

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

- Improve support for physical and psychological wellness in the workplace by adopting recommendations from the Employee Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan.
- Pilot and evaluate recruitment and staffing models for vacancies, positions with high turnover, and in locations that are hard to staff.
- Deliver effective, targeted training that sets new recruits up for success and ensures civilian and enforcement staff are confident in the safety of their workplace.
- Pilot a different approach to screening potential correctional officers that measures their overall well-being.
- Increase training capacity to support custody services employees in safely and effectively responding to an evolving and complex offender population.

Performance Measures - *What success looks like:*

Offender programming

Measure: Increase the number of inmates who received addictions supports.

Rationale: The Ministry is committed to providing supports to reintegrate offenders. A high percentage of offenders face addiction issues.

First Nations Community Safety Officers

Measure: The funding and support to hire Community Safety Officers in First Nation communities.

Rationale: Growth in the number of First Nations with Community Safety Officers (CSOs) reflects a positive decision to keep their communities safe. When CSOs respond to calls that are low-risk to harm, it enables the RCMP to respond to more calls that are higher-risk.

Judicial Interim Release

Measure: The number of offenders on Judicial Interim Release supervised through the mobile app.

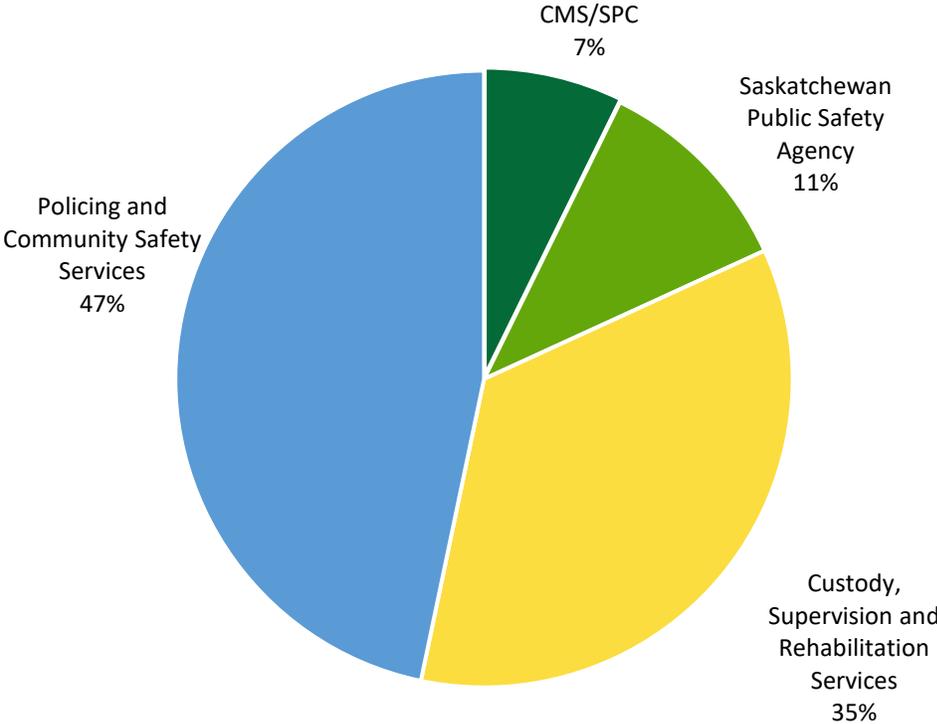
Rationale: The mobile app is an innovative approach to remotely supervising persons on Judicial Interim Release. It will help community corrections staff manage the increasing numbers of persons on Judicial Interim Release.

2024-25 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>Improving pathways from custody to community</p> <p>Explore new and innovative programs and partnerships with Government of Saskatchewan ministries and community-based partners to ensure offenders leaving provincial correctional facilities have the supports they need to successfully reintegrate into communities. These programs and partnerships will include support for addictions and basic necessities, including clothing and identification.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Transforming protective vehicles into mobile offices</p> <p>Provincial Protective Services officers use mobile office technology in their patrol vehicles including tracking and communications equipment. Having in-vehicle access to computers, software applications and communications tools allows officers to do their work from almost anywhere in the province.</p> <p>This year, 50% of all PPS officer vehicles will be equipped with mobile office technology. The goal is to have 100% of the vehicles upgraded next year.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Electronic inmate health records for efficient and effective care</p> <p>In 2024-25 correctional facilities in Saskatchewan will begin using standardized electronic inmate health records across all provincial facilities.</p> <p>By connecting to the electronic health record database, some of the immediate results will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single source of data for patients in correctional facilities; • Higher quality, timeliness, and continuum of patient care; • Improved safety and response time for inmates and staff by having current and thorough records readily accessible; • Less staff time spent on administrative tasks; and • Enhanced security and privacy of the records.

Financial Summary

Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety 2024-25	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services (CMS)	\$50,154
Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency	\$78,414
Saskatchewan Police Commission (SPC)	\$2,103
Custody, Supervision and Rehabilitation Services	\$252,626
Policing and Community Safety Services	\$336,077
Total Appropriation	\$719,374
Less Capital Acquisitions	(\$52,295)
Plus Amortization	\$7,728
Total Expense	\$674,807



Links to More Information

- [Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)