

Ministry of Government Relations



Plan for 2013-14



PLAN FOR 2013-14

Statement from the Minister



I am pleased to present the Ministry of Government Relations' Plan for 2013-14. The Government's Direction and Budget for 2013-14 are built on the principle of *Balanced Growth*, supporting an ongoing focus on sound economic growth and shared prosperity.

Government Relations works with a diverse range of partners to build safe and vibrant communities that can effectively respond to the challenges of growth, promote economic opportunity, and enhance the quality of life for our residents. Our focus is on sustaining and advancing growth opportunities by maintaining strong government to government relationships, improving outcomes for First Nations and Métis people, and ensuring communities have the proper infrastructure and supports to deliver quality services.

Government Relations will report on progress made toward this Plan in the 2013-14 Annual Report.

The Honourable Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations

Response to Government Direction

The government remains committed to further establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, work and raise a family.

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond identifies principles, goals and actions to ensure Saskatchewan continues to benefit from the opportunities and meet the challenges of a growing province. Keeping government's focus on *Balanced Growth*, the plan outlines the key activities that the Government of Saskatchewan will undertake in pursuit of sustained, disciplined growth and a better Saskatchewan.

Government's Vision

"...a strong and growing Saskatchewan, 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**

**Improving our
quality of life**

**Making life
more affordable**

**Delivering responsive
and responsible
government**

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to focus on achieving greater success in the delivery of government services. *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* provides the enabling strategies and actions that the Government of Saskatchewan will undertake to build a strong and growing Saskatchewan. The 2013-14 budget theme of *Balanced Growth* reflects the government's commitment to achieving the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress and results achieved in their 2013-14 annual reports. This honours government's commitment to keep its promises and ensures greater transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

MISSION, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Mission Statement

With responsibility for municipal relations, public safety, and First Nations, Métis and northern affairs, the Ministry works with a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to effectively plan for and respond to the opportunities and challenges presented by economic growth; to enhance the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people; and to promote community safety.

Strategy

Build relationships and develop partnerships with and between municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities, and industry that advance the Government's Growth Agenda

Key Actions

- ⇒ Work with the municipal sector and Canada on a long-term, predictable and sustainable approach to infrastructure by:
 - ✦ ensuring existing programs are concluded effectively and efficiently;
 - ✦ designing new programs for 2014 and beyond; and,
 - ✦ identifying categories of priority and/or strategic infrastructure investments for the future.
- ⇒ Develop and implement strategies and activities designed to increase the municipal sector's ability to undertake regional planning, with a particular focus on areas around the province's larger centres.
- ⇒ Work with other ministries, agencies and select communities to design and implement an improved government response to assist areas experiencing rapid growth.
- ⇒ Support dialogue and partnerships in northern resource development decisions.
- ⇒ Negotiate and administer mine surface lease agreements to enable and encourage maximum training, employment, and business opportunities for Northerners.
- ⇒ Undertake a public safety reform project to develop and maintain a modern, effective regulatory system that will:
 - ✦ ensure timely adoption of codes and standards, such as the National Building Code and the National Fire Code;
 - ✦ align and simplify legislation and regulations pertaining to public safety; and,
 - ✦ advance a new training curriculum and inter-jurisdictional qualifications acceptance process for building officials to meet demands of owners and industry.
- ⇒ Work with First Nations, Métis and stakeholders to advance shared policy objectives and practical arrangements that improve outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.
- ⇒ Facilitate consistent implementation of the *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework* to ensure duty to consult objectives and obligations are met and First Nation and Métis relationships are strengthened.
- ⇒ Ensure the efficient implementation of provincial obligations under the First Nations Gaming Framework Agreement and the agreement with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.



Photo Credit: Enterprise Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Mosaic Belle Plaine site

Strategy

Be an enabling partner in building safe, healthy and vibrant communities

Key Actions

- ⇒ Ensure a robust Provincial Emergency Plan that addresses all emergencies and an effective Provincial Emergency Operations Centre.
- ⇒ Manage provincial resources to support municipalities facing emergency situations through the delivery of preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery initiatives that complement local and regional capabilities.
- ⇒ Support greater public safety in Saskatchewan communities by reviewing municipal emergency plans against established criteria and advising on potential improvements.
- ⇒ Maintain and improve provincial emergency communications systems, such as the Sask911 system and the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network, including technology enhancements to improve portable radio coverage and network resiliency.
- ⇒ Provide an effective disaster financial assistance program to meet critical needs of those impacted by natural and other disasters.
- ⇒ Improve home security for seniors.
- ⇒ Work with the municipal sector and its associations to:
 - ✦ increase the quality and quantity of asset management resources and training available to the sector; and,
 - ✦ develop and deliver, as appropriate, training opportunities and resources related to community planning, leadership and other topics where a mutual priority is identified.
- ⇒ Coordinate the implementation of Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Specific Claims Agreements and lead negotiations of TLE claims with Canada and First Nations.
- ⇒ Identify opportunities to work with the federal government on initiatives related to improving social and economic outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.
- ⇒ Work with ministries to engage First Nations and Métis and provide policy advice on integrated solutions across priority areas of the Saskatchewan Children and Youth Agenda.



Photo Credit: Ministry of Environment

Strategy

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Ministry programs and services

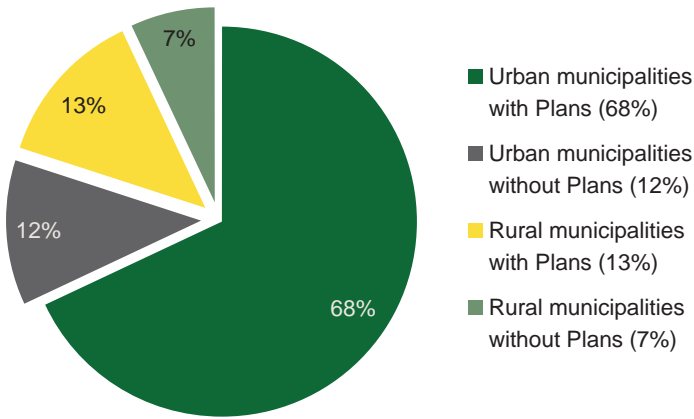
Key Actions

- ⇒ Sustain a culture of continuous improvement through the development of Lean capacity and the utilization of Lean tools to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Ministry processes. Examples in 2013-14 include:
 - ⇒ updating and modernizing the legislation and regulations pertaining to public safety;
 - ⇒ improving timeliness of federal cost–recovery submissions to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Program and maximize potential cost recoveries; and,
 - ⇒ streamlining information sharing for government ministries, agencies, and Crowns on municipal and public safety information as well as the duty to consult and related processes.
- ⇒ Continue implementation of Saskatchewan Municipal Board review component findings and recommendations in consultation with the Board and the municipal sector.
- ⇒ Ensure our legislation, regulations, and policies align with our commitment to be effective partners in supporting growth and enhancing the quality of life for Saskatchewan people.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Measure

Percentage of the population living in municipalities with or without Official Community Plans

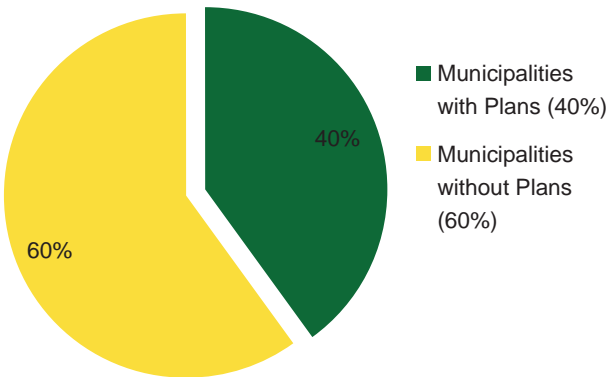


	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Urban Municipalities with Plans	63%	66%	68%	68%
Urban Municipalities without Plans	18%	15%	13%	12%
Rural Municipalities with Plans	12%	12%	12%	13%
Rural Municipalities without Plans	7%	7%	7%	7%

Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Community Planning

Measure

Percentage of municipalities with or without Official Community Plans



	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Percentage of Municipalities with Plans	36%	38%	40%	40%
Percentage of Municipalities without Plans	64%	62%	60%	60%

Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Community Planning



Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, City of Bridges

Measure Description

Planning is voluntary in Saskatchewan, meaning municipalities can choose whether or not to adopt an Official Community Plan (OCP). As depicted in the tables presented, 40% of Saskatchewan's municipalities, covering 81% of the province's population, have chosen to adopt an OCP. This represents a 4% increase in the percentage of municipalities with an OCP and a 6% increase in the percentage of the population living in a municipality with an OCP from 2009-10. These figures have increased as larger urban municipalities and rural municipalities experiencing rapid growth are recognizing the need to plan and manage their growth through an OCP.

Municipalities without an OCP have not established a plan for growth and community sustainability, or the authority to facilitate new development opportunities to achieve cost effective and efficient services for community residents and new land development. Economic growth in Saskatchewan has amplified the need for capable municipalities to implement OCPs in order to respond to increasing demands for residential and commercial lots, expanded infrastructure, and servicing to support community expectations and needs.

OCPs set out municipal policies to create certainty and consistency in community development for residents and businesses. These policies include the community's direction for current and future economic development, housing availability, recreational services, provision of public works, management of environmentally sensitive lands, and source water protection. These policies also reduce the many risks or costs associated with development by setting out direction for the efficient use of infrastructure and the avoidance of natural hazards, such as flooding or slope instability.

Providing support to municipalities in their development and to help manage land use and risk, the Ministry:

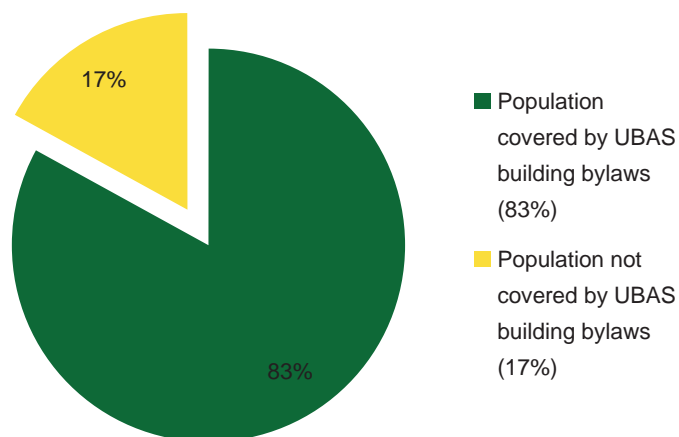
- ⇒ clarifies and coordinates provincial priorities for land use and development through the Statements of Provincial Interest;
- ⇒ forges links with other ministries to incorporate municipal land use planning objectives into their initiatives;
- ⇒ reviews and approves municipal planning and zoning bylaws to ensure consistency with legislation and provincial interests;
- ⇒ promotes the development of OCPs and zoning bylaws when ranking municipal infrastructure funding projects;
- ⇒ facilitates the development of local capacity through education and training;
- ⇒ develops consultation processes; and,
- ⇒ fosters relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.



Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Greg Huszar Photography, Over the Hill Orchards

Measure

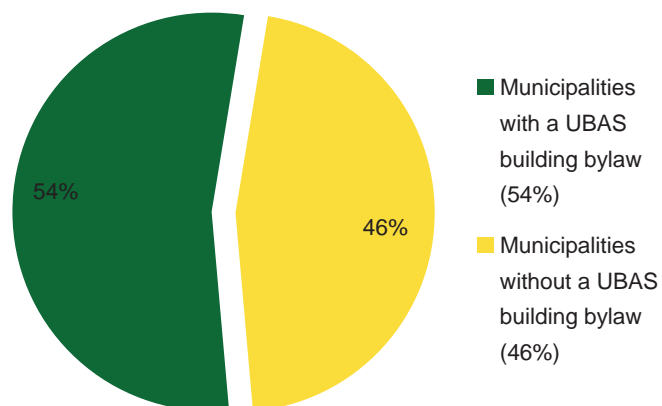
Percentage of population covered by *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* (UBAS) building bylaws



Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Building Standards

Measure

Percentage of municipalities with a building bylaw pursuant to UBAS



Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Building Standards



Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Greg Huszar Photography, Jones Peak, near Eastend

Measure Description

Government Relations undertakes significant inter-ministry and agency coordination to facilitate the incorporation of government priorities and interests within local government. This coordination includes:

- ⇒ safeguarding public health and safety;
- ⇒ ensuring the integrity of public infrastructure;
- ⇒ preserving natural, cultural, and archaeological resources;
- ⇒ protecting the environment, including water; and,
- ⇒ encouraging the sustainable development of communities.

This measure demonstrates municipal leadership in providing public safety through the adoption of building bylaws pursuant to *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* (UBAS) and enforcement of building standards that promote construction of safe buildings. As of March 1, 2013, 425 (54%) municipalities had UBAS approved building bylaws in place, while 361 of 786 (46%) municipalities were without a UBAS building bylaw pursuant to the Act. Municipalities with building bylaws in place represent 83% of the province's population (based on the 2011 Census), not including reserve populations. Inspections on reserves where the National Building Code is utilized are conducted by First Nations building officials.

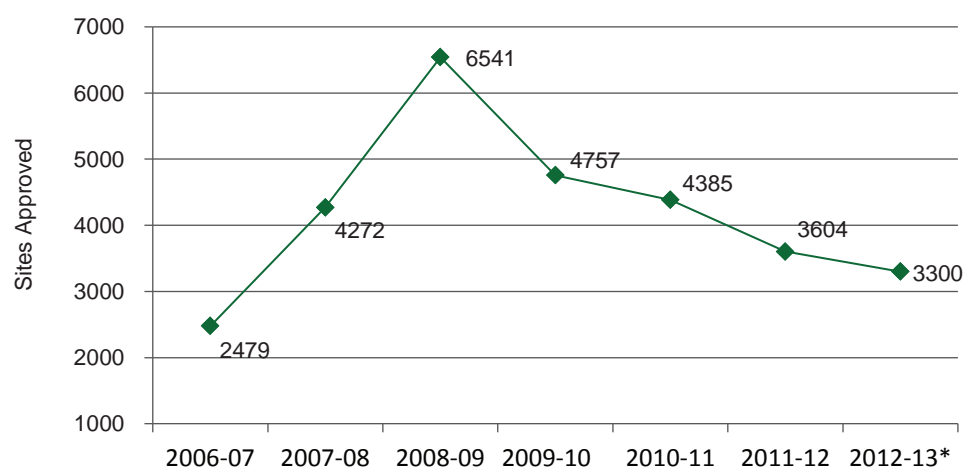
Ongoing and developing efforts and initiatives by the Ministry, as well as inter-ministry and agency co-ordination, will increase the implementation of UBAS building bylaws by municipalities. Inter-jurisdictional planning provides a means of building municipal planning capacity and developing Official Community Plans and building bylaws. Government Relations is working with municipalities to enhance inter-jurisdictional opportunities through the Municipal Capacity Development Program and assisting communities interested in working together through district planning initiatives.



Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, Broadway Bridge

Measure

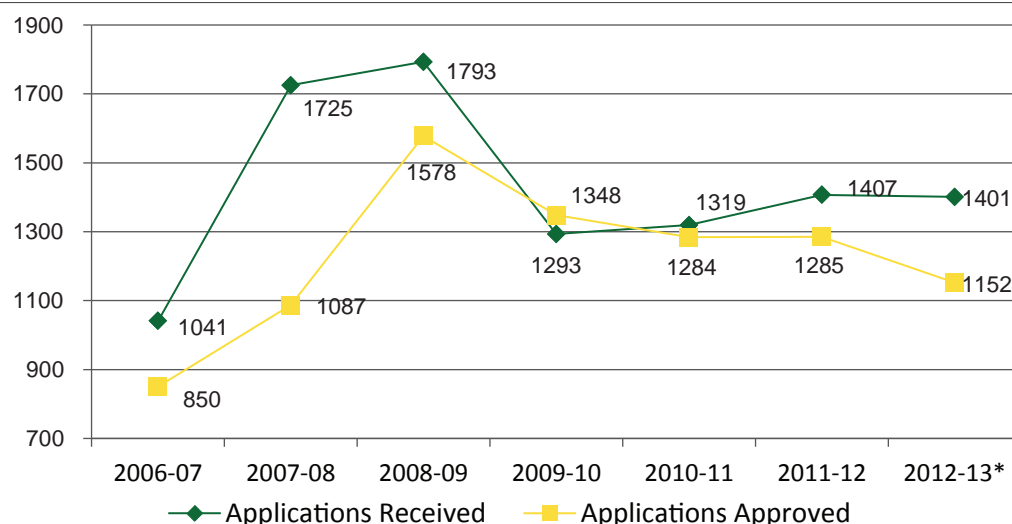
Number of sites approved through subdivision approval process



Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Community Planning

Measure

Number of subdivision applications received and approved



*Estimate as of March 1, 2013. Please note that the figures reported above may fluctuate slightly between reporting periods due to minor corrections in the database for decisions

Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Community Planning



Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, photo by Paul Austring, Duck Mountain

Measure Description

The subdivision approval process ensures site suitability and appropriate servicing of the intended residential, commercial, and industrial development. The subdivision of land is a key step for investment in economic growth as it is one of the first steps in the development process. Using integrated community development approaches, Government Relations reviews applications to subdivide land to ensure compliance with federal, provincial, and municipal regulations and provides direction and assistance to municipalities and developers.

In 2012-13, Government Relations is projected to receive 1,401 subdivision applications and approve 1,152 applications, resulting in the creation of 3,300 sites. Projections for 2013-14 indicate sustained high levels, though a slight decrease is expected as backlogs continue to be reduced and demand for new subdivisions has slightly declined.

Facilitating subdivisions supports the province's objective for a prosperous economy. The elevated trend for lot development in the past several years represents significant investment in land and property within the province and places demands for new infrastructure to service the sites created. In order to advance provincial priorities for land development, including promoting economic development, supporting social and cultural development, and establishing sustainable and viable communities, Government Relations has developed several initiatives to accelerate the review and approval of subdivisions:

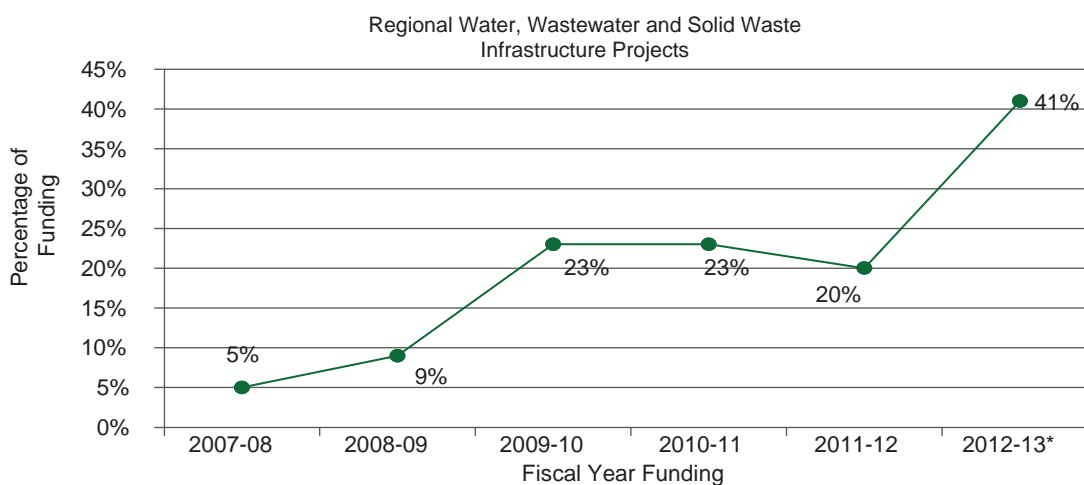
- ⇒ through utilization of Lean process improvement methodology, several improvements for the subdivision review and approval process were identified in 2010. These initiatives, and further improvements developed through Lean, will continue to be implemented and monitored in 2013-14 as the Ministry strives to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of this important process; and,
- ⇒ the implementation of the Subdivision On-Line Application, an electronic method for processing applications, has improved the speed and efficiency of subdivision application reviews and decisions.



Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Greg Huszar Photography, Elbow Marina

Measure

Percentage of funding provided to communities under 100,000 for regional water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure through major federal-provincial cost-shared infrastructure programs (as a percentage of total funding)



Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Municipal Infrastructure and Finance
 *Estimate as of March 1, 2013

Measure Description

This measure is significant to the Ministry and government as regional solutions often provide an effective and efficient solution to local issues surrounding limited financial resources, increasing municipal infrastructure deficits, and environmental/health disaster risks. This measure tracks the amount of federal/provincial program funding that is provided to communities with populations fewer than 100,000 for regional water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure as a percentage of total funding provided under those categories.

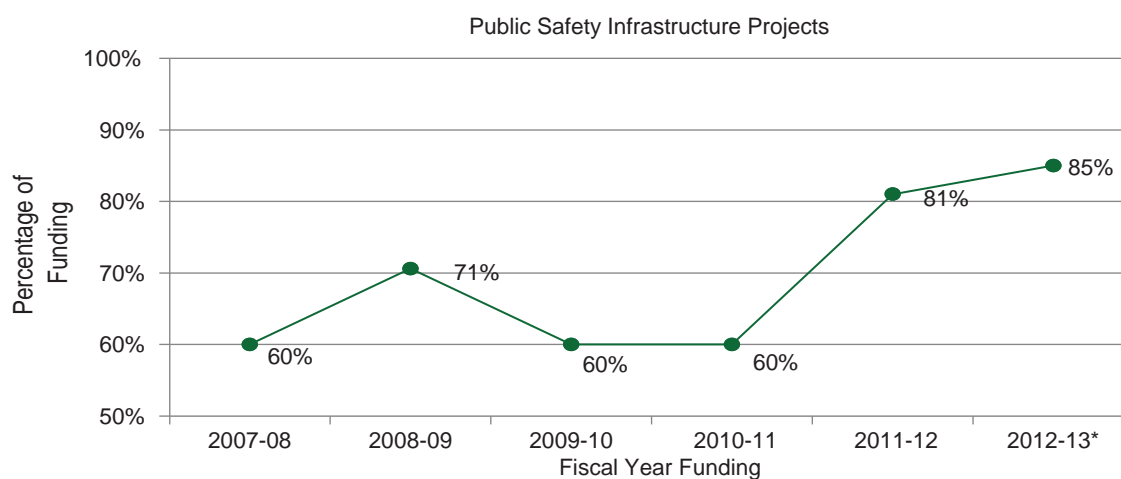
Over the past four years, significant funding has been committed to regional infrastructure, with the percentage of regional system funding reaching its highest point in 2012-13. Clean water is essential for a high quality of life. In order to provide necessary funding to achieve this, the Province will continue to provide funding for several important regional projects under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component in 2013-14.



Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Devona Hill Photography, Rolling Pines Golf and Country Resort

Measure

Proportion of infrastructure investment provided for public environmental and safety projects (water, wastewater, and solid waste projects) through federal-provincial cost-shared programs (as a percentage of total funding)



Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Municipal Infrastructure and Finance

*Estimate as of March 1, 2013

Measure Description

Government investments in health and safety related infrastructure projects promote a better quality of life for Saskatchewan residents and mitigate environmental/health risks. This measure tracks the proportion of federal/provincial cost-shared program funding provided for water, wastewater, and solid waste projects as a percentage of total funding provided.

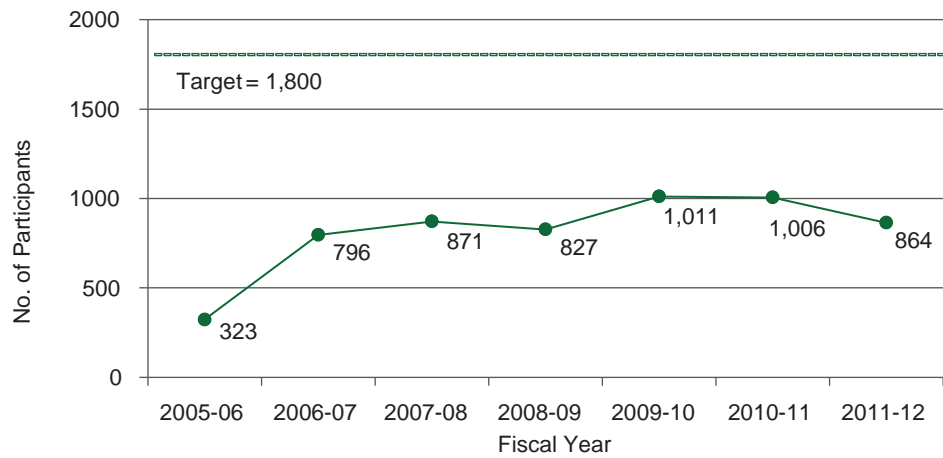
Total federal/provincial funding has significantly increased in the past several years. A significant portion of total funding was cash-flowed to public safety projects in 2011-12, and in 2012-13 the percentage of funding for public safety projects will be at its highest level in eight years. This high percentage in 2012-13 is the result of a focus on public safety projects under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component.



Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Greg Huszar Photography, Dock Jumpers

Measure

Number of individuals participating in the Emergency Management Training Program



Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Emergency Management and Fire Safety

Measure Description

The Emergency Management Training Program provides training in the core essentials of an Emergency Management Framework through courses such as Basic Emergency Management, Emergency Operations Centre, Evacuation Contingency Planning, and Emergency Public Information.

There is a direct relationship between the number of participants and the level of preparedness at the community level. Municipalities that invest in training and developing their emergency management programs improve overall public safety, are better prepared to respond to disasters within their community, reduce damage to properties and critical infrastructure, and enhance protection of the environment.

The Ministry has a moderate level of influence over this measure as it is a demand-driven system. The Ministry not only establishes targets, it encourages participation, provides training at no cost to the participant, and makes it accessible by delivering the training program to the regions. Ultimately, it is the municipalities that decide on the amount of training they wish to invest in.

Since the program's inception, the number of trained participants has increased from 318 participants in 2004-05 to 1,006 participants in 2010-11, and tapered slightly to 864 in 2011-12. Given the surge in participants over the two previous years, the Ministry is not surprised that a slight drop has been experienced, and is generally satisfied by the upward trend. Best efforts will continue to ensure that new municipal officials receive emergency management training, through the use of regional Emergency Services Officers and the direct contact they provide between the Ministry and Saskatchewan communities.



Photo Credit: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, photo by Jim Kroshius, Katepwa Weir

Measure

Number of grants approved through the Consultation Participation Fund for First Nations and Métis organizations

Fiscal Year	Amount	# of Applications Supported
2012-13*	\$0.1M	7
2011-12	\$0.3M	4
2010-11	\$1.7M	16
2009-10	\$0.4M	12
2008-09	\$2.0M	39
2007-08	\$1.1M	20

Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Consultation Branch
 *Estimate as of March 1, 2013. Please note starting in 2013-14 a new method to report on data is utilized. Data from 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10 have been adjusted for comparative purposes.

Measure Description

Consistent with government’s *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework*, the *First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund* (Fund) provides assistance to First Nations and Métis communities to participate in consultations with government on project specific activities where a duty to consult is triggered. The Fund was established to offset costs incurred by First Nations and Métis communities involved in government consultations.

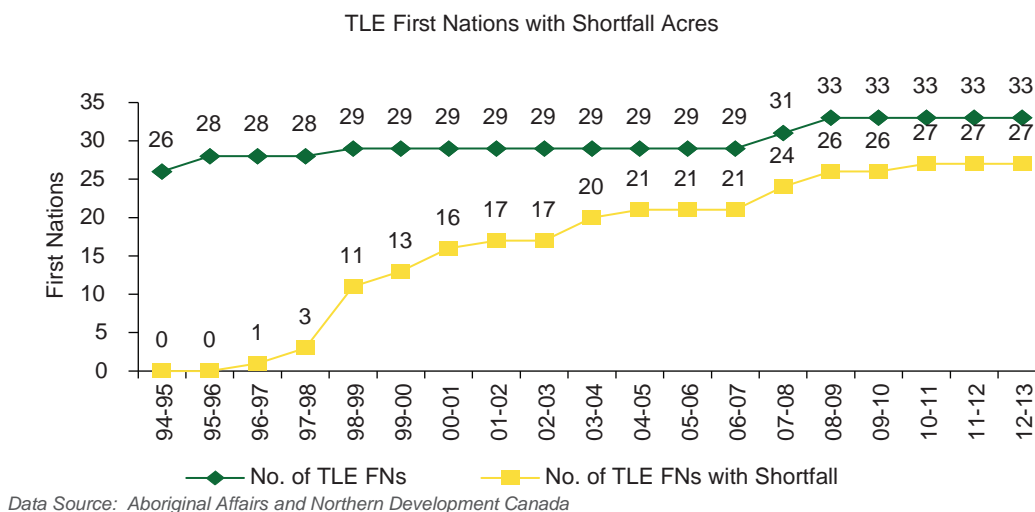
Funding supports informed decision making and assists government in fulfilling its legal obligation to consult with First Nations and Métis communities in advance of decisions or actions that have the potential to adversely affect Treaty or Aboriginal rights to hunt, trap, fish, and carry out traditional uses. This measure aligns with the Ministry’s strategy to build relationships and develop partnerships with and between municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities, and industry that contribute to Government’s Plan for Growth.



Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Hans-Gerhard Pfaff, Saskatchewan Legislative Building

Measure

Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations that have achieved their shortfall acres



Measure Description

Government Relations ensures that the provincial obligations with Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) agreements are met. The shortfall acres are the minimum amount of acres each TLE First Nation must acquire and transfer to reserve status before the outstanding treaty land obligation is met.

This chart shows the number of TLE First Nations who have transferred their shortfall acres to reserve status in relation to the total number of TLE First Nations. As of March 1, 2013, 33 First Nations have signed TLE Settlement Agreements with Canada and Saskatchewan. Of those, 27 have acquired their shortfall acres.

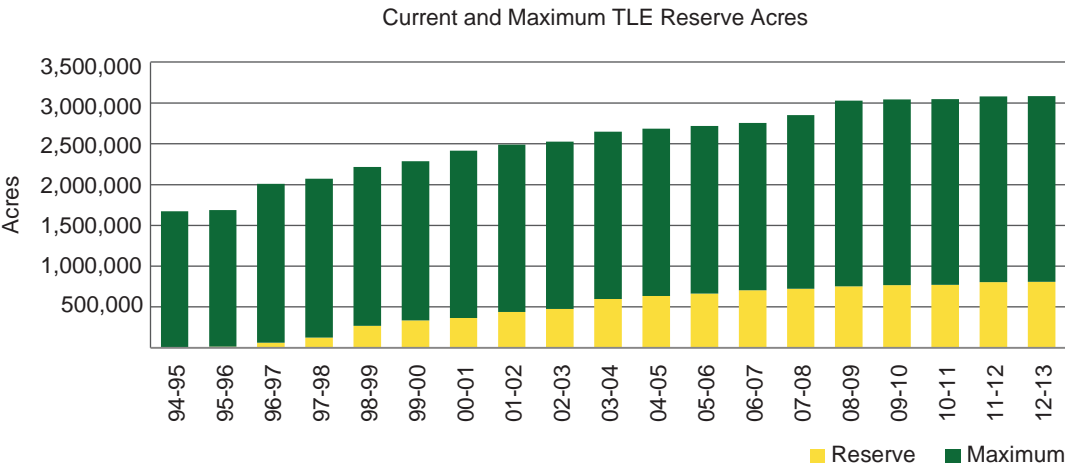
Progress on this measure is a key indicator of the Ministry's success in meeting the provincial obligations related to TLE and contributing to the acquisition of shortfall acres by all TLE First Nations.



Photo Credit, Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, photo by Paul Austring, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stanley Mission, Lac La Ronge Provincial Park

Measure

Treaty Land Entitlement reserve acres transferred in relation to the maximum number of acres available for transfer



Data Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Measure Description

Government Relations ensures that the provincial obligations with respect to Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) are met. Equity acres are the maximum amount of acres each TLE First Nation may acquire and transfer to reserve status. Once all TLE First Nations have acquired their equity acres, there will be no further reserve creation under the TLE agreements. However, TLE First Nations are not obligated to acquire their equity acres.

This chart shows the amount of land transferred to reserve status (TLE reserve acres) compared to the allowed maximum from the time the first TLE reserve was created in 1994 under the *Saskatchewan TLE Framework Agreement*. The current 33 TLE First Nations are able to transfer a maximum of 2.3 million acres to reserve status. As of March 1, 2013, 809,302.24 acres, or about one third of the maximum acres, have transferred to reserve status.

Progress on the number of acres transferred to reserve status is a key indicator of the Ministry’s success in meeting provincial obligations with TLE and the reserve creation process. This measure also shows the overall progress made in creating reserve land under the TLE agreements.

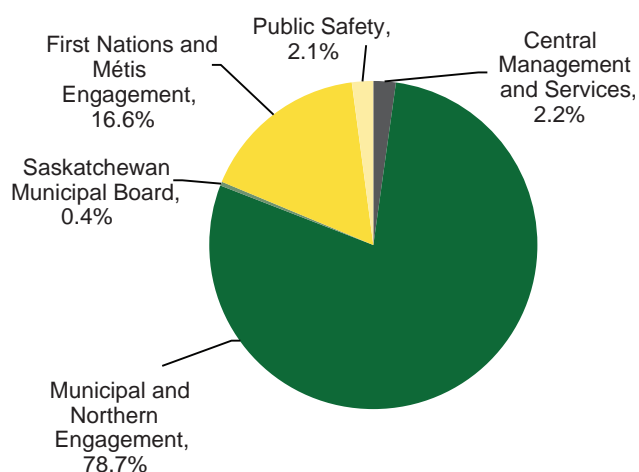
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2013-14 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	10,590
First Nations and Métis Engagement	79,383
Municipal and Northern Engagement	375,514
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	1,746
Public Safety	9,807
Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network	---
Total Appropriation	477,040
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(2,160)
Capital Asset Amortization	2,429
Total Expense	477,309

FTE Staff Complement	223.1
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For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2013-14>

Ministry Spending by Subvote



Ministry Spending by Classification

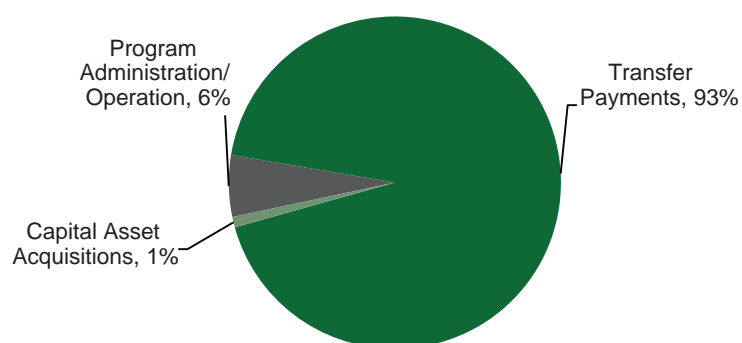




Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, David Buckley, Canoeing, MacFarlane River

Highlights

The following are key announcements from the Ministry of Government Relations' 2013-14 Budget:

- ⇒ Municipal revenue sharing funding rises to a record level of \$264.4 million. This represents a \$27.0 million increase from 2012-13, consisting of the following:
 - ✦ \$170.0 million to urban municipalities;
 - ✦ \$74.7 million to rural municipalities; and,
 - ✦ \$19.7 million to northern municipalities.
- ⇒ In addition, \$77.0 million is provided for municipal infrastructure programs, consisting of:
 - ✦ \$15.6M to meet project commitments under various federal-provincial infrastructure programs;
 - ✦ \$56.1M in flow-through municipal infrastructure funding provided by the Gas Tax Program; and,
 - ✦ \$5.3M to meet program commitments under the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative.
- ⇒ In Public Safety programs, the Budget provides:
 - ✦ \$2.7 million for Provincial Disaster Assistance Program claims and operations;
 - ✦ \$1.0 million in new funding to provide capacity for a Provincial Emergency Response; and,
 - ✦ \$2.2 million, a \$760,000 increase, for the provincial contribution to capital upgrades as a partner in the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network.
- ⇒ For partnerships with First Nations, the Budget provides:
 - ✦ \$73.6M, a \$6.1 million increase based on casino profit forecasts, for gaming agreement transfers will foster development in First Nation and Métis communities in Saskatchewan.

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca> for more information on the Ministry's programs and services. For additional information about Government Relations, or to provide feedback about our 2013-14 Plan or performance results, please contact us at (306) 798-6093.

Front Page Photo Credits



Canola and flax fields
Photographer, Charles Melnick



Biking, Narrows Hills Provincial
Park
Greg Huszar Photography



Over the Hill Orchards
Greg Huszar Photography



Saskatchewan Legislative
Building
Greg Huszar Photography