



Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment's 2012-13 Annual Report Highlights that showcase the Ministry's most significant accomplishments to support the Government of Saskatchewan's vision and

goals, and to deliver on our commitments as outlined in the *Government Direction for 2012-13: Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage*.

The outcomes achieved in 2012-13 reflect the Ministry's ongoing commitment to protecting the environment and to ensuring continued opportunities for economic growth. The Ministry continued its work on a results-based approach to environmental regulation, known as Results-Based Regulation (RBR) to improve protection of the environment and to promote innovative tools for environmental management.

The Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Environment

Ministry Mission Statement:
The Ministry of Environment provides public service excellence in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources to enhance economic and social benefits.



For more information please see the Ministry's 2012-13 Annual Report.



Government
of
Saskatchewan

Ministry of Environment
2012-13 Annual Report Highlights

The Saskatchewan Advantage



Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

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.

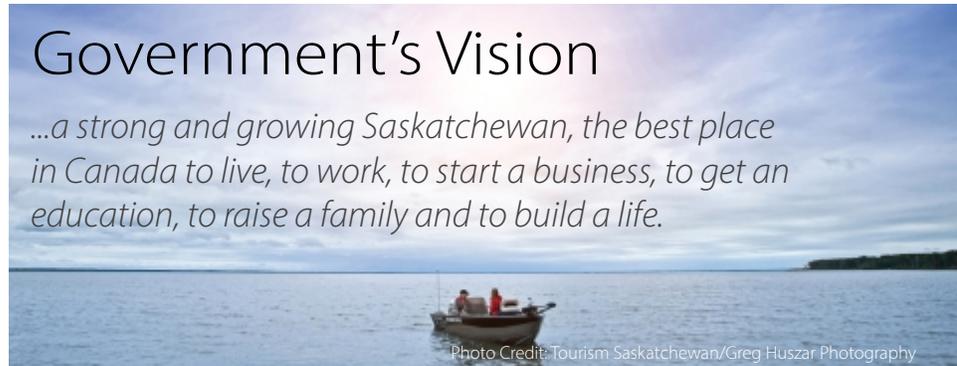


Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

Ministry Overview

The mandate of the Ministry of Environment is to work with our partners in protecting our water, air and natural resources to achieve a high environmental standard and to support sustainable development in the use of these resources.

The Ministry is responsible for preventing pollution of air, water and land in the Province, delivered through activities such as: co-ordinating the environmental assessment program; air quality monitoring; control of potential impacts of contaminated sites, hazardous substances, landfills and other sources of pollution; and in collaboration with the Water Security Agency, water quantity and quality management. The Ministry also promotes the stewardship of natural resources, including wild plants and animals throughout the Province. Key responsibilities are the management of provincial forests, wildfire, Crown land and fish and wildlife populations.

The Ministry manages our Province's diverse landscapes and our renewable natural resources in a manner that supports a healthy environment, a growing economy and strong, vibrant communities.

In its role as administrator of the provincial Go Green Fund, the Ministry oversees the development of a diversity of projects in support of the fund's objectives. The Ministry is also responsible for supporting the government-wide climate change program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Province.

The Ministry provides expert advice, analysis, training and technical support on complex environmental issues and co-ordinates federal-provincial research and standards development.

The Ministry's Wildfire Management Branch plans and delivers risk-informed forest fire management activities including detection, preparedness, suppression and protection of values at risk. It maintains an aerial firefighting fleet, a radio communications network and meteorological services. In 2012, there were no community evacuations, no fatalities and no major infrastructure burned in the Province of Saskatchewan.

The Ministry also provides support to wildfire agencies nationally and internationally. Through leadership and dedicated service, more than 90 Ministry staff in 2012-13 provided assistance in suppression of dangerous and damaging wildfire by supplying personnel and equipment through an exchange of expertise and resources. This assistance was above and beyond providing the core work at home in controlling and extinguishing wildfires within the Province of Saskatchewan.

International engagement is part of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the far-reaching effects of the team's work benefits the Province as a whole.

The branch is party to a number of reciprocal fire protection agreements in a number of national and international jurisdictions including the United States, Australia and New Zealand and provides resource support through exports of people and equipment. In 2012-13, a total of 87 Wildfire Management staff assisted other wildfire jurisdictions with wildfire management efforts. Saskatchewan wildfire resources and expertise assisted directly with protecting people, homes, businesses and resources from wildfire threat during the most intense wildfire activity.

Saskatchewan provided resources to Canadian jurisdictions including Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec, and to U.S. jurisdictions including Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota. Wildfire Management staff assisted other agencies outside of reciprocal agreements in fulfilling their mandates and/or in utilizing Saskatchewan wildfire expertise for operational or training delivery. These exchanges enhance relationships between wildfire agencies and governments/jurisdictions and assist in ensuring future relationships in times of need.



Our 2012-13 Significant Achievements

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

To deliver effective RBR, *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act, 2010* was proclaimed. The amendments support the Government's growth plan by increasing legal certainty for project developers, promoting greater efficiencies in the environmental assessment process while ensuring adequate environmental safeguards to protect the environment and maintain public health.

Substantive progress has been made in the development of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code (the Code), a key component of RBR, with the first edition of the Code having gone through an unprecedented level of stakeholder involvement, consultation and leadership in 2012. Proclamation of the first edition of the Code is targeted for 2013.

Improving our quality of life

To maintain healthy air, land, water and ecosystems that support and improve the quality of life, the Ministry continued to work on preventing and reducing the risks to the health of people and the environment through a continued commitment to assessing and improving environmental performance. This includes protection and renewal of Saskatchewan's forests, protection of source water through treatment and management of wastewater, monitoring of industrial facilities and compliance programs and protection of air quality, demonstrated through measures such as the Air Quality Index.

Work continues on the Boreal Watershed Initiative to assess and maintain the ecological integrity of Saskatchewan's northern watersheds. Baseline studies in strategic or sensitive areas are underway to enable monitoring of this vast and relatively remote landscape and to establish environmental thresholds.

Making life more affordable

The Ministry is leading the Government's efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change through the provincial Go Green Fund that provides funding to promote research, demonstration and adoption of low carbon technologies. Since its inception, nearly 4.5 billion litres of water have been saved from the Provincial Toilet Replacement Program, nearly 50,000 tonnes of GHGs reduced from the Energy Efficiency for New Homes Rebate Program, and approximately 1.3 million litres of water saved through the Ground Effect Environmental Industrial Wastewater Treatment Project. Impacts on the environment have been minimized through a commitment to waste minimization and indicate shared responsibility for environmental stewardship. With the approval of *The Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Regulations*, the Government has set the foundation for a province-wide Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP).

Delivering responsive and responsible Government

The Ministry is reviewing its core programs to ensure the best use of public funds by streamlining processes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its programs and services.

The launch of the new Ministry website in September 2012 has been designed to provide better client service by organizing information to meet the needs of various clients. The Ministry continues to develop and update the website to improve access to information and provide online applications for clients.

Financial Summary

2012-13 Budget (000s)	2012-13 Actual (000s)	Variance (000s)
\$178,282	\$169,101	\$(9,181)

Actual FTEs: 892