



## Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Environment's 2011-12 Annual Report Highlights, identifying the Ministry's most significant results in support of Government's vision and goals and reporting on how the Ministry contributed to the

*Government Direction for 2011: The Saskatchewan Advantage.*

Effective environmental management is essential to maintaining the quality of life in Saskatchewan and to ensuring continued opportunities for development. The outcomes achieved by the Ministry in 2011-12 will help protect Saskatchewan's environment and maintain the sustainable use of natural resources for economic and social benefits.

For more information please see the Ministry's 2011-12 Annual Report.

*The Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff  
Minister of Environment*

### 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.



## Ministry of Environment 2011-12 Annual Report Highlights

### The Saskatchewan Advantage



Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

## Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Environment works with our partners in protecting the environment and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources using a results-based approach to achieve high environmental standards.

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; water quantity and quality management; and control of potential impacts of contaminated sites, hazardous substances, landfills and other sources of pollution.

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.

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 coordinates federal-provincial research and standards development.



For more information on the Ministry, see  
[www.environment.gov.sk.ca](http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca)  
or call 1-800-567-4224





## The Saskatchewan Environmental Code

Substantive progress has been made in the development of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, a key component of Government's new results-based approach to environmental regulation in Saskatchewan. The code, the first of its kind in Canada, describes the acceptable environmental outcomes and standards for particular activities, with more attention on high-risk areas and improved client service.

The development of the initial draft of the code resulted from an unprecedented level of involvement, leadership and collaboration. More than 200 individuals from industry, professional associations, federal and provincial government agencies, environmental organizations, municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities and academia contributed their valuable time and expertise on various committees. These included the Code Development Committee, the Qualified Persons Advisory Committee and six Code Content Committees that drafted the 19 code chapters for public review.

The draft of the first edition of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code went through public review in early 2012. The Ministry has begun drafting the final version. Approval of the code will allow the proclamation of new and updated legislation and the adoption and implementation of the code, expected in 2012.

More information on the code, public meetings and information sessions with First Nations and Métis representatives is available on the Ministry website.



## Financial Summary

2011-12 Budget (000s)	2011-12 Actual (000s)	Variance (000s)
\$180,539	\$200,169	\$19,630*

Actual FTEs: 943.7

\*Variance reflects the additional funding provided for flood relief activities.

# VISION

*A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.*

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

## Our 2011-12 Significant Achievements

### **Sustaining Economic Growth...**

In support of delivering effective results-based environmental regulation, the Ministry completed the *Compliance Management Framework*, a risk-based provincial compliance plan that focuses compliance assurance and monitoring on areas of highest priority.

A multi-year agreement was established with the Government of Alberta to co-operate in mountain pine beetle management and to prevent or significantly slow the eastern spread into Saskatchewan. To date, no mountain pine beetles have been detected in the northern boreal forest.

### **Securing Saskatchewan...**

The province's second air zone, the Western Yellowhead Air Management Zone in the Lloydminster-Saskatoon region, was legally incorporated in February 2012. An initial six-month passive monitoring program was completed and a continuous air monitoring station was set up in North Battleford.

SARCAN Recycling and the Ministry successfully negotiated a four-year contract to continue operating beverage container collection and recycling. As of April 2011, SARCAN had recycled five billion containers.

The Boreal Watershed Initiative was established to assess and maintain the ecological integrity of Saskatchewan's northern watersheds. The Ministry of Environment is working with partners to better understand the sensitivity of the northern boreal forest and to identify sustainable management practices in the region.

The Government of Saskatchewan provided close to \$13 million of Go Green funding to a number of new and continuing projects that address the fund's priority areas of recycling, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, water conservation, biodiversity, and education and awareness.

### **Keeping Promises...**

A work plan was finalized with Métis Nation-Saskatchewan for the development of the Métis Environmental Resource Management Committee to engage Métis people in environmental and resource management activities of the Ministry.

The Client Service Office launched the Ministry 1-800 line in March 2012 to deliver one-stop support to clients who access Ministry services.

The Ministry participated in a number of Lean events identifying areas for improvement that are already resulting in savings in administrative and processing costs and reduced turn-around times for issuing approvals.

