



Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure's 2011-12 Annual Report Highlights.

In 2011-12, our Government continued to build upon the Saskatchewan Advantage

by partnering with the federal Government, urban and rural municipalities, and communities across the province to invest in Saskatchewan's infrastructure.

We continue to move forward by providing a safe and reliable highway system through prioritized maintenance and repaving, the rehabilitation of bridges and culverts, and a new focus on the future needs of a growing province.

Our Government will continue to build upon our record of historic investments. Since 2008-09 our Government has invested \$2.4 billion into our province's provincial highway network, improved over 6,000 km of provincial highways, expanded primary weight networks by more than 50 per cent and repaired or replaced 243 bridges and culverts.

Our Government has also, and will continue to, reinvest 100 per cent of all on-road fuel tax revenues back into repairing our highways.

As we move forward on these and other priorities, our Government will remain committed to maintaining and growing the Saskatchewan Advantage.

The Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is to optimize the role of transportation as it relates to the economic and social development of Saskatchewan.



Trans-Canada Highway 1 between Moose Jaw and Regina was named "Saskatchewan's Highway of Heroes" in November 2011 as a permanent tribute to Canadian Forces personnel from Saskatchewan who have lost their lives in service to our country.

For more information on the Ministry, see www.highways.gov.sk.ca or call 306-787-4800



Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure

2011-12 Annual Report Highlights

The Saskatchewan Advantage



Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

Ministry Overview

The Ministry manages and provides for the future development of an integrated provincial transportation system. These infrastructure investments are guided by strategic policy and incorporate operating and maintenance practices which promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

Saskatchewan's road network consists of 26,097 km of highways, including 10,329 km of asphalt concrete pavements, 4,423 km of granular pavements, 5,304 km of thin membrane surface (TMS) highways, 5,762 km of gravel highways and 279 km of ice roads.

In 2011-12, the Ministry had 1,364 employees stationed in 98 Saskatchewan communities. Responsibilities for carrying out the Ministry's mandate are distributed among the Ministry's three divisions and the Communications Branch.

Planning and Policy Division provides for planning and policy development, as well as ensuring a modern and competitive regulatory framework for transportation. Ministry Services and Standards Division provides budgeting, programming, technical standards oversight, financial reporting, quality management systems and geographical information systems to the Ministry. Regional Services Division manages all design and construction activities for preservation and capital projects, as well as operational and maintenance programs. Communications Branch is responsible for strategic communications, education and awareness programs aimed at promoting public and highway worker safety.



Road construction takes big equipment to get the job done.

Spring Runoff and Flooding Damages Highways

In 2011-12 the Ministry faced many challenges. It began with a snow-filled cold winter of 2010-11 which kept crews busy with a large amount of winter maintenance activity dealing with snow storms that continued into the spring. That snow contributed to a hectic spring filled with emergency flooding issues. Spring and summer rains causing flooding also contributed to emergency road closures and repairs.

The Ministry's operations and on-road delivery were significantly affected by the exceptional year of high levels of spring run-off that caused extensive flooding and high water tables across a large area of the province. The Ministry received an additional \$59.0 million above its budget estimate to repair provincial highways damaged by flooding and high water tables.

Throughout the 2011 construction season more than 120 sections of highway had to be closed at various times due to high water related issues including damaged pavement, washed out bridges and culverts, landslides and mudslides.

Ministry staff worked with stakeholders to ensure safe access to communities, that detours were maintained and flood related repairs were completed efficiently and safely under tight timelines.



Construction of the Trans-Canada Highway 1-Lewvan Drive Interchange at Regina in 2011.



Crews paint lines by hand on Highway 4 near Swift Current in the summer of 2011.

Financial Summary

2011-12 Budget (000s)	2011-12 Actual (000s)	Variance (000s)
\$686,406	\$628,598	\$57,808

Actual FTEs: 1,392.5

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....

Invested in multi-year transportation infrastructure projects including the West Regina Bypass Stage 1 and 2, the Yorkton Truck Route, Highway 11 twinning and the completion of the Highway 1 and Lewvan Interchange.

Invested in an integrated strategic rural highway system by completing 78 km of upgrades through the Rural Highway Strategy.

Approximately \$7.2 million was invested in Urban Highway Connectors.

The Ministry invested \$45.8 million in the North for operations, maintenance and construction of northern roads and airports.

In 2011-12 the Ministry increased its investments from \$500,000 to \$700,000 in the Community Airport Partnership program and the Shortline Railway Sustainability Program (SRSP).

- By March 31, 2012 the Ministry invested \$682,789 in 11 airport projects.
- In 2011-12 the provincial funding for the SRSP was provided by the Ministry to the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation to administer to the shortline companies.

Securing Saskatchewan...

In 2011-12 the Ministry completed 20 bridge replacements and two bridge rehabilitations, as well as the repaving of 329 km of highway throughout the province.

The Ministry replaced 123 culverts, of which 104 were flood related.

The Ministry upgraded Highway Hotline services to be more user-friendly and accessible for travellers, including: introducing a mobile website for Smartphones, utilizing Twitter and upgrading the Hotline's internet map.

Keeping Promises...

The Ministry generated \$55.2 million in revenue for the Province from the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure's agreements with the federal government in 2011-12.



A truck paints lines on Highway 3 near Hudson Bay during the summer of 2011.