

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



10-11

ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT

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**Note:** An electronic copy of this document is available online at: [environment.gov.sk.ca](http://environment.gov.sk.ca)

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# Letters of Transmittal



His Honour, the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart  
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to managing its expenditures responsibly and this report has been prepared with a focus on accountability and transparency in keeping with Government's direction. The 2010-11 Annual Report documents progress made over the past fiscal year on delivering Government's promises to the people of Saskatchewan, including taking steps to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and services to ensure the best use of public funds.

The Ministry of Environment is committed to providing public service excellence in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources. This is accomplished while supporting Government's broader vision to secure Saskatchewan's position as an economic leader and land of opportunity.

As part of ensuring the province is ready to meet the challenges of economic and population growth, the ministry is in the process of moving to a new regulatory model. This change will facilitate increased attention on high-risk industrial activities, increase options for industry to achieve environmental outcomes and harmonize environmental policies across government.

In support of the new model three key pieces of legislation were amended this year, The Environmental Management and Protection Act, The Forest Resources Management Act and The Environmental Assessment Act and a new act, The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act was also passed. All four pieces of legislation are expected to be proclaimed in 2012 once enabling sections of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code are completed.

Substantive progress has been made on developing the province's new Environmental Code. The code is a clear, concise statement of objectives, recommended practices and alternatives. A Code Development Committee, comprised of individuals with a broad range of environmental knowledge and expertise, was established to provide guidance on the content of the code and supporting materials.

The strategies and key actions that the Ministry of Environment will undertake in the next year to support the government's direction, vision and goals are described in the Plan for 2011-12. I look forward to reporting on the ministry's progress in meeting its plan in the 2011-12 Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Duncan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dustin Duncan  
Minister of Environment

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## Letters of Transmittal



To Minister Dustin Duncan  
Ministry of Environment

Dear Sir:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011. I acknowledge responsibility for this report and declare that the information contained within the report is accurate, complete and reliable. I further acknowledge responsibility for the financial administration and management control of the Ministry of Environment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Quarshie', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Quarshie  
Deputy Minister

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## Introduction

This annual report presents the ministry's activities and results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011. It reports to the public and elected officials on public commitments made and other key accomplishments of the ministry.

With the release of the Ministry Plan for 2010-11, these results are provided on the publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in the Plan. This report also demonstrates progress made on Government commitments as stated in the Government Direction for 2010-11, the Minister's Mandate letter, throne speeches, and other commitments.

The 2010-11 Annual Report sets the stage for the 2012-13 planning and budgeting process by providing an opportunity to assess the accomplishments, results, lessons learned, and identifying how to build on past successes for the benefit of Saskatchewan people.

## Alignment with Government's Direction

The Ministry of Environment's activities in 2010-11 align with Government's vision and three goals.

### Our Government's Vision

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

### Government's Goals

- Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan People, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.
- Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.
- Keep Government's Promises and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of Government's three goals and work towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

To support the goal of Growth, the ministry continues to make progress on delivering a results-based model for environmental regulation in Saskatchewan that will improve protection of the environment, while promoting innovative new tools in environmental management. Several key pieces of enabling legislation were modernized and introduced in the fall 2009 legislative session and passed by the legislature in spring 2010. Development of the Environment Code is also moving forward. In support of the new environmental management model, the ministry has completed the organizational structure implementation as identified on April 1, 2010.

Progress has been made on managing sustainable use of natural resources to increase economic benefits, which support the Government's goal of Growth. For example, the ministry continued to lead the land use planning process to inform development and resource allocation decisions, supported Aboriginal participation in natural resource development, and revamped the Environmental Assessment process to be more efficient, consistent, responsive and results-based. The ministry has also supported forest industry revitalization and natural resource based tourism. Performance measures such as the number of hectares of Crown Land under Integrated Land Use Plans and the number of hunting and angling licences sold demonstrate our progress towards this goal.

The government's goal of Security is supported by the ministry in a number of strategies. First, the ministry has made progress on preventing and reducing the risks to the health of people and the environment. Progress on this is demonstrated through such measures as the air quality index, drinking water quality compliance and the percentage of waste recycled. The ministry also continues to maintain healthy air, land, water and ecosystems that support native biological diversity. The measure

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of the percentage of land protected as part of the Representative Areas Network demonstrates the ministry's performance in relation to its goal. The Ministry of Environment is also continuing to lead government's efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and support the delivery of the province's Go Green plan.

The Ministry of Environment has also made progress in support of the final government goal of Keeping Promises. The ministry enhanced cooperation among intergovernmental agencies in environmental and resource management by working with various federal and provincial agencies to minimize duplication and maximize co-operation in environmental regulation and also worked cooperatively with First Nations and Métis people in environmental and resource management. Progress was also made on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the ministry's programs and services so as to ensure the best use of public funds.

## Ministry Overview

The mandate of the Ministry of Environment is to work with Saskatchewan stakeholders to protect our water, air and natural resources to achieve a high environmental standard and to support sustainable development in the usage of these resources. The ministry guides government efforts to help Saskatchewan people and communities Go Green and to meet provincial greenhouse gas emission targets.

The ministry's operations can be divided into the following key lines of business:

**Environmental Assessment** manages the government's environmental impact assessment process to ensure that development proposals are planned in an environmentally responsible manner and that the public has an opportunity to understand the potential impacts associated with a development and express their concerns.

**Climate Change** leads the development of the provincial Go Green Fund efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support water conservation, and enable biodiversity initiatives. It is responsible for supporting the government-wide climate change program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the province.

**Industrial** develops and manages environmental protection components of the following: mining operations; industrial and commercial operations; hazardous materials spills and environmental emergencies; impacted (contaminated) sites; and hazardous substances and waste dangerous goods storage facilities.

**Municipal** develops and delivers: drinking water programs; wastewater programs; solid waste programs; waste minimization, recycling and stewardship program oversight; Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment standards workgroup participation; federal, provincial, territorial and international agreements and forums participation; limited surface water quality monitoring and aquatic nuisance control; and environmental information services for both Municipal and Industrial branches. It also provides financial support to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to manage and protect source water quality and SARCAN (for the Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System).

**Technical Resources** provides leadership and support on complex environmental issues, including expert advice, training and assistance throughout the ministry; coordination of federal - provincial research and standards development. It also leads the development of the Environmental Code to ensure that there are no material adverse effects and that it fosters innovation with a clear goal of environmental protection.

**Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity** provides programs to ensure that sustainable fish and wildlife populations, biological diversity and healthy ecosystems remain available for the recreational, social and economic benefit of Saskatchewan people. The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund receives a portion of the revenue from hunting, trapping and angling licence sales to secure ecologically-important fish and wildlife habitat and promote resource education and endangered species programming.

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**Compliance and Field Services** develops and delivers province-wide compliance and field enforcement programs, based on the ministry's compliance strategy and risk assessment, to protect the environment and manage natural resource use. This compliance strategy emphasizes elements of education and awareness and a significant part of the program work is in building a collaborative approach to compliance. It maintains a hazardous spill emergency response unit and an enforcement call centre and also provides compliance and field services in provincial parks to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport on a cost-recovery basis.

**Lands** develops and administers programs for the management of Crown resource land to maintain a healthy eco-system, in balance with land use. It issues permits and leases for petroleum and mineral exploration and development, wild rice production, building cabins, operating outfitting camps and peat harvesting. It implements integrated land use plans on Crown lands and responds to Treaty Land Entitlement and specific land claims involving Crown land.

**Wildfire Management** plans and delivers risk-informed forest fire management activities, including detection, preparedness and suppression. It maintains an aerial firefighting fleet, a radio communications network and meteorological services and provides for recoverable costs incurred while assisting other jurisdictions with fire suppression. It conducts public wildfire awareness, risk mitigation and educational programs.

**Forest Service** develops and administers policies and programs to deliver an ecosystem-based approach to managing provincial forests. It allocates forest resources to promote sustainable forest industry development, monitors forest health and administers forest inventory and renewal programs.

**Aboriginal Relations** provides leadership, coordination and integration of the Ministry of Environment's Aboriginal programs enabling the ministry, First Nations and Métis peoples, stakeholders and the public to work co-operatively towards common goals and assist the government in meeting its legal obligations and the interests of Aboriginal people.

**Central Management and Services** provides executive direction and centrally-managed services in the areas of finance, information management, communications, planning and other operational services, including accommodations required for the delivery of the ministry's mandate. It also provides financial and administrative services to the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport on a cost-recovery basis.

**Strategic Planning and Performance Improvement Branch** provides planning, risk and performance analysis as well as training coordination for the ministry. This includes strategic plan development, risk analysis and management, business continuity planning, and coordination of occupational health and safety programs. The branch is also responsible for oversight of the Results-Based Reform implementation program.

The ministry has 19 pieces of legislation and associated regulations. Some of the legislation designed to ensure sustainable development and effective pollution prevention and resource management throughout the province includes: The Environmental Assessment Act; The Environmental Management and Protection Act; The Forest Resources Management Act; The Prairie and Forest Fires Act; The Wildlife Act; The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan); and The Provincial Lands Act. As the ministry moves towards a results-based regulatory model, a number of these acts and associated regulations are being revised.

The ministry maintains 52 field offices located in communities throughout the province and delivers a broad range of programs. In 2010-11, the Ministry of Environment's Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) allocation was 998.4. The actual FTE utilization for 2010-11 was 957.3, a variance of 41.1 FTEs. The variance between budgeted and actual was mainly due to vacancies associated with difficulties in recruiting qualified candidates, delays in staffing vacant positions, and other vacancies being held as part of finalizing the ministry's new organizational structure.

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## Progress in 2010–11

*The Ministry of Environment supports the Government's goal to Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan People, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.*

The ministry has developed two strategies to guide our work towards achievement of this goal.

### **Deliver effective results-based environmental regulation**

#### **Results**

##### **Complete review of environmental and natural resources legislation.**

- To support the new results-based approach, several key pieces of enabling legislation were modernized and introduced in the fall 2009 legislative session and passed by the legislature in spring 2010. This included: The Environmental Assessment Act; The Forest Resources Management Act; The Environmental Management and Protection Act; and The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act.

The new or amended versions of these acts have been passed but have not yet been proclaimed, so they do not yet have the force of law. Once initial sections of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code are completed, the new legislative framework will be brought into effect. The Saskatchewan Environmental Code will be a legally binding, enforceable set of requirements to be followed by anyone conducting activities regulated by any of the acts that reference the code. The code is a key feature of the new results-based model and is being developed collaboratively, bringing together experts with extensive knowledge in environmental protection, law and governance.

The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2010 was introduced in the legislature in the fall of 2010. The act received Royal Assent on May 18, 2011 and came into force upon assent. The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2009 and The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2009 both received Royal Assent in the spring of 2010 but are not yet in force. Discussions and negotiations with other ministries and stakeholders continue with respect to the proclamation and timing of these legislative items. (2009 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

##### **Implement program changes required by proclamation of The Environmental Assessment Act, The Forest Resources Management Act, and The Environmental Management and Protection Act.**

- Program changes continue but cannot be fully implemented until amendments to the applicable legislation have been proclaimed. For amendments to The Environmental Assessment Act and The Forest Resources Management Act, work will continue in 2011-12 on finalizing guidance documents needed internally and externally to permit efficient implementation of the new amendments. (2009 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

##### **Continue consultations with targeted stakeholder groups such as business organizations, academics, environmental non-government organizations, municipal and industry representatives and with First Nations, on legislative amendments, and development of the Environmental Code.**

- Meetings with industry, stakeholders and various organizations are ongoing. Development of the Environmental Code will continue into 2011-12. An interim Code Development Committee, made up of representatives of external stakeholder groups, has been established to advise on and guide the development of code content and supporting materials. The committee provides industry, environmental organizations and communities the opportunity to contribute directly to the development of the code. In addition, seven Content Committees, made up of stakeholder representatives and government staff, have been created to work on the actual drafting of code chapters. The ministry serves as a Secretariat for the Code Development Committee and



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provides coordination and administrative support for the Content Committees. More information on the Code is available on the ministry website: [www.environment.gov.sk.ca](http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca) (2009 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Implement new divisional and branch organizational structures including the Client Service Office, in support of the new environmental management model.**

- The ministry has completed the organizational structure implementation as identified on April 1, 2010 and continues to work on staffing necessary positions. The new structure will help realign the organization to the new results-based regulatory model and help in the creation of a high performance organization. In support of this change, a learning and development plan has been implemented as part of the overall ministry engagement strategy. Progress on this is reported later in this report. (2009 Throne Speech)

**Implement information technology (IT) initiatives to support the new environmental management model including streamlined external and internal access to information such as:**

- **implementing the application processing and permissions management system;**
- **upgrading the overall Environmental Management System; and**
- **planning for the overarching initiative that provides the framework for managing the compliance assurance mandate within the ministry's results-based regulatory business model.**
- Information management and technology is one of the cornerstones of the ministry's move to a results-based model. The ministry initiated the Information Management (IM) Transformation Project to enhance information management and technology capabilities and capacity. Work on the Application Processing and Permission Management (APPM) project, which will provide clients and proponents with the ability to submit their applications to the ministry on line, has been started. Fujitsu has been awarded this contract and is currently onsite working towards implementation. Work on upgrading the overall Environmental Management System will continue into 2011-12. Initial investigation of information exchange standards has been started and main project activities will begin 2011-12.
- The Compliance and Enforcement Management component of the IM transformation project will begin in 2011-12, though work completed in 2010-11 set up some of the systems infrastructure and preceding systems required to establish the framework. (2009 Throne Speech)

**Manage sustainable use of natural resources to increase economic benefits**

**Results**

**Lead land use planning to inform development and resource allocation decisions that are supported by diverse stakeholders and user groups by:**

- **initiating a review of the Province's land use planning/stewardship policies;**
- **initiating development of an implementation plan for the Regional Environmental Study of the Great Sand Hills;**
- **developing modeling tools and sharing the information gathered to date with other ministries, First Nations, Métis, as well as users and interests towards the development of a Northwest Sustainable Development Strategy;**
- **initiating the final review of the Pinehouse Dipper and Fort à la Corne plans;**
- **submitting the Buffalo Pound plan for review and approval; and,**
- **ongoing implementation of the Pasquia Porcupine, Amisk-Atik, La Ronge, Misinipiy, Prince Albert Model Forest, Manitou Sand Hills, and Nisbet land use plans.**
- The ministry continues to lead land use planning to inform development and resource allocation decisions that are supported by diverse stakeholders and user groups. Currently there are 7.3 million hectares of Crown resource lands in Saskatchewan under land use plans, with an additional seven million hectares undergoing the planning process. The ministry will review planning and stewardship activities as part of the review of Cumulative Effects Management under the results-based regulatory model in the future. Two new positions have been created

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in the reorganization that will provide leadership in cumulative effects management and lead the review of the Province's land use planning/stewardship policies. The staffing process for these positions is underway.

A final report on the Northwest Sustainable Development Strategy is being prepared and will be made available to the public once finalized.

Ongoing implementation activities for land use plans are occurring. The Misinipiy and Nisbet land use plans did not get approved in 2010-11; however, approval is expected this year. Once approved, implementation will proceed. (2007 Throne Speech, 2007 and 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Facilitate land acquisition by Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations.**

- The ministry continues to facilitate land acquisitions by Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations and those First Nations with Specific Claim agreements. Between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011, the ministry responded and provided environmental comments on 160 private land and Crown land selections. This information is used by the Ministry of Environment and other ministries in their determination of whether lands are available. (2010 Mandate Letter)

**Continue to identify, protect, and manage sites within the provincial Representative Areas Network.**

- The ministry continued to identify, protect and manage sites within the provincial Representative Areas Network. There are 5.96 million hectares (approximately nine per cent of the province) in the Representative Areas Network and the ministry continues to work to designate additional terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The Misinipiy and Nisbet Forest integrated land use plans identify sites for designation as representative areas. It is anticipated that these plans will be approved in 2011-12. Other sites under consideration with community discussion include Cree Lake and sites in the Pinehouse-Dipper Land Use Plan and the Great Sand Hills areas. (2007 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Develop and implement an automated Crown Land Administration and Management System to manage, track, and map land use.**

- The Crown Land Administration and Management System has been rolled into the ministry-wide information technology (IT) initiatives in support of the new environmental management model. Progress of this initiative is reported on page 9. (2010 Mandate Letter)

**Support Aboriginal participation in natural resource development such as encouraging several First Nations entities working with other assignees of the Prince Albert Forest Management Agreement to form a business partnership.**

- In October 2010, the Prince Albert Forest Management Agreement (FMA) was assigned to a new company called Sakâw Askiy Forest Management Incorporated (Sakâw). Sakâw is a unique partnership of six forest companies with Saskatchewan operations (one of which is First Nation owned) and two First Nations partners, all with allocations from the Prince Albert FMA area. The entity was formed with the intention of assuming the FMA and management responsibility for the area, through an assignment agreement. The Sakâw partners each received a volume allocation from the Prince Albert FMA.
- Policy on triggers for implementing Duty to Consult in the Environmental Assessment and Lands process is under development and current practices are being adjusted to conform to the new Consultation Policy Framework, the ministry's own Duty to Consult Guidelines and experience in the Environmental Assessment process. (2010 Mandate Letter, 2010 Throne Speech)

**Develop and implement a risk based, provincial Compliance Plan that supports the results-based regulatory framework and focuses compliance, assurance and monitoring on areas of highest priority within the ministry mandate.**

- A Compliance Framework was approved in May 2011. Work will begin in 2011-12 on development of the ministry's Compliance and Enforcement Plan, which will form the basis and guidance to branches for establishment of the branch specific and ministry's annual compliance plans. The first such branch specific frameworks have been developed by the Forest Service

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Branch's Compliance Unit and the Compliance and Field Services Branch. (2010 Mandate Letter)

**Enhance the facilitation of orderly and sustainable industry growth in the oil/gas/mineral exploration sectors by on-line permitting, conducting environmental reviews, and approving surface access to mineral and petroleum projects where appropriate.**

- In 2010-11, there was a significant increase in oil and gas exploration. In this period there were 9550 reviews compared to 5326 in 2009-10 for oil and gas. There were also 135 mineral exploration projects and 361 linear development projects. On-line permitting will help the ministry deliver better service to its clients. This is being addressed in the ministry wide information technology (IT) initiatives in support of the new environmental management model. (2010 Mandate Letter)

**Support forest industry revitalization by:**

- **utilizing new forest inventories to support reallocation of forest resources;**
- **collaborating with Energy and Resources to explore reconfiguring Forest Management Agreements and boundaries to support a redeveloped forest industry;**
- **analyzing forest inventories for biomass availability in support of the biofuel industry;**
- **protecting the commercial forest from insects and diseases; and,**
- **ensuring renewal of harvested areas within the provincial forests.**
- The Ministry of Environment has made progress in supporting forest industry revitalization in 2010-11 in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Resources. The boundaries of the Forest Management Agreements (FMA) will not be changing. The assignment of the Pasquia Porcupine FMA to Edgewood Forest Products and Weyerhaeuser was completed in October 2009. As outlined above, the Assignment and Amending Agreements for the Prince Albert FMA were signed in October 2010 with Sakâw Askiy Forest Management Inc (Sakâw).

The ministry completed an analysis of forest inventories to assess biomass availability in support of the biofuel industry in the province. The analysis revealed that there are approximately 1.5 million dry metric tonnes/year of accrued biomass available within the 11 timber supply zones in the commercial forest area of the province. These estimates have been revised from the numbers reported in 2009-10. A detailed explanation is available in the Timber Supply Zone map.

([http://gisweb1.serm.gov.sk.ca/publicweb/Map\\_Gallery/Administrative/pdf/Timber\\_Supply\\_Map\\_36x48.pdf](http://gisweb1.serm.gov.sk.ca/publicweb/Map_Gallery/Administrative/pdf/Timber_Supply_Map_36x48.pdf))

The benefits of cogeneration for the forest industry were also evaluated in addition to wood waste for ethanol production. Some of the benefits identified included: making use of a wood waste product that presents disposal issues such as toxic leachates, fire hazard and lost land productivity; reducing the operational cost of electricity for the wood manufacturing industry; and use of a renewable resource instead of petroleum products, which has the potential to qualify as a carbon emission reduction activity in some carbon trading schemes.

The ministry continues its efforts to protect the commercial forest from insects and diseases. Spruce budworm monitoring activities have been completed and the surveys were analyzed during the winter to predict next year's defoliation intensity. Aerial surveillance of insect and disease disturbances (including spruce budworm) has been completed for the provincial forest from the Alberta to Manitoba borders and north to the Churchill River.

In 2010, 10,000 ha were aerially sprayed with a biological insecticide to control spruce budworm in severely defoliated commercial forest around the Hudson Bay area.

Mountain pine beetle aerial surveys and ground-truthing activities have been completed on pine stands within the northern commercial forest and in the Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park. To date, no mountain pine beetles have been detected in the northern boreal forest of Saskatchewan; however, in the Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park, 136 trees have been marked for removal by the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. Ministry staff

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attended a federal-provincial mountain pine beetle workshop to review the current risk assessment of mountain pine beetle spread and the risks to the boreal forest.

The Ministry of Environment continues to work towards the renewal of harvested areas within the provincial forests. Over the past 15 years, the government has planted approximately 23,000 ha of not sufficiently regenerated (NSR) ground and tended approximately 19,000 ha of forest in the Pasquia-Porcupine FMA. The government has surveyed 225,000 ha of harvested land that pre-dated the establishment of the FMA. Based on the survey results, many stands have been reclassified as productive and are considered sufficiently regenerated. Government renewal in the Pasquia-Porcupine is near completion, with 2,500 ha of NSR land remaining to be planted. (2007 and 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Support natural resource based tourism by implementing an automated hunting and fishing license system.**

- Consultation with vendors and analysis of the results was completed to support the development of a business case for a new automated hunting and angling licence sales system. This work will continue into 2011-12. (2010 Mandate Letter)

***Measurement Results***

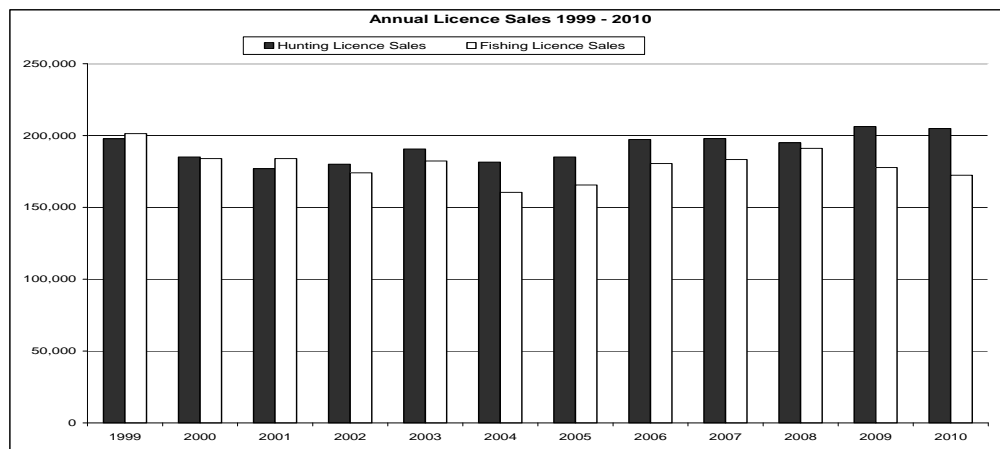
**Number of Hectares of Crown Land under Integrated Land Use Plans**

Integrated land use planning is an ecosystem-based tool that links the environment, the community and the economy in ways that help ensure the sustainability of resources. The completion of plans enables the ministry to manage the subject land area with certainty as to acceptable activities and levels of protection and conservation; this activity aligns with the ministry's strategy to manage sustainable use of natural resources to increase economic benefits. The unification of the varied interests through the planning process requires time, commitment, a high-level of participation, and financial resources, but results in more efficient, supported resource management decision-making over the long term.

The total area of Crown land under integrated land use plans remained at 7,267,700 hectares from 2004-05 to 2010-11 (Source: Lands Branch). While no new plans were approved in recent years, advances have been made in the Misinipiy, Nisbet and Buffalo Pound land use planning processes. As these new land use plans are approved, this number will increase.

**Number of Hunting and Angling Licences Sold**

Hunting and angling are of social, cultural, and economic importance in the province. Licence sales are tracked annually and serve both as an indicator of short- and long-term interest in these activities and as an indication of the importance of hunting and fishing as significant contributors to the economic health of the province. Measuring the number of licences sold helps to determine the priority areas for population assessments and to manage competing interests of users. As such, this measure aligns with the ministry's strategy to manage sustainable use of natural resources to increase economic benefits.



Source: Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch

The ministry has experienced high levels of participation in angling and hunting activities by members of the public over the last number of years, which supports continued focus on conservation management of our wildlife and fisheries resources.

In 2010, the number of hunting licences sold was 204,898, a decrease of less than one per cent over 2009 sales. The drop in hunting licence sales was primarily a result of a decrease in interest for antlerless white-tailed deer and antlerless mule deer licences.

Also in 2010, the number of fishing licences that were sold was 172,389, which was a decrease of approximately three per cent. Saskatchewan resident and Canadian resident licence sales experienced a slight drop. The reason for this is unknown, but small fluctuations in licence sales commonly occur from year to year.

### Rate of Compliance with Environmental Laws and Regulations

Sector	Compliance Rate			Field Contacts			Warnings			Charges Laid		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Wildlife	87%	88%	91%	17204	12439	14363	1,230	1210	1055	440	289	267
Fisheries	83%	81%	90%	22913	19050	20730	2378	1950	1691	572	482	449
Environmental	69%	65%	62%	743	671	744	163	192	265	42	52	23
Land Management	83%	80%	90%	374	219	193	45	43	19	3	2	0
Mineral Exploration	93%	87%	86%	212	23	76	15	2	11	0	1	0
Forestry	94%	75%	82%	3270	78	94	207	21	10	3	0	7

Source: Ministry of Environment, Compliance and Field Services Branch

Compliance with environmental laws and regulations is critical to ensuring that all people within the province are held to the same standards for their use and enjoyment of the province's natural resources and to ensure our resources are available for future generations.

The Ministry of Environment has a full suite of compliance tools to encourage the community at large to act in accordance with requirements established by law. The compliance assurance model used by the ministry has three key components:

- Education and awareness activities that inform the public, stakeholders and industry on requirements and expectations. Education and awareness tools include brochures, posters, advertisements and press releases. Significant effort is invested in working with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, resort communities and the public at large to

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- increase understanding and awareness of the environmental impact and damage associated with unauthorized shoreline alterations.
- Compliance assurance activities occur through permit and lease conditions, performance bonds and other economic instruments. Inspections are used to detect non-compliance at an early stage so that it can be corrected with minimal impact. The new results-based regulatory model will enhance these activities by developing standards, best practices and an Environmental Code to guide the public, resource users, stakeholders and industry.
  - Enforcement activities can include surveillance, special investigations and intelligence analysis. Actions to address violations can range from arrests, seizures, court orders and prosecution to the use of alternative measures and innovative sentencing.

***The Ministry of Environment supports the Government's goal to Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.***

The ministry has developed four strategies to guide our work towards achievement of this goal.

***Prevent and reduce risks to the health of people and the environment***

***Results***

**Complete phase 2 of the aerial fleet renewal plan and construction of remaining fire observation towers and other infrastructure projects.**

- Components remaining from the first two phases of the aerial fleet renewal plan relate to the conversion of four CL215 aircraft to CL215Ts, which is being done to improve the safety, reliability and effectiveness of the fleet. The supplier has completed the conversion of the first of four aircraft and the second aircraft conversion is scheduled to begin in May 2011, with the remaining aircraft expected to be completed by 2014.

The redevelopment of the provincial fire observation tower network which began in 2001 has been completed. In 2010-11, 42 fire towers were in operation; 41 of which were newly constructed at a cost of \$5.1M and one that was maintained from the original network.

Work also continues on a number of other capital projects. The work on Cypress Hills Fire Base (Phase1) is nearing completion. Also, the sewer and water installation work at Buffalo Narrows Bunkhouse is nearing completion and Phase Two of the Ile-a-la-Crosse Fire Base was finalized. (2010 Mandate Letter)

**Work with local governments, northern residents, and stakeholders and provide education and support to enable them to understand, and take responsibility to protect themselves from, the risks of wildfires.**

- The ministry continued work on a number of initiatives to work with stakeholders and provide education. Some of the highlights from 2010-11 include:
  - Work with the Saskatchewan Outfitting Association to explore opportunities to proactively protect outfitting infrastructure;
  - New development wildfire assessments were conducted and recommendations made;
  - Wildfire pre-plans were developed for three communities: Timber Bay, the Northern Hamlet of Weyakwin and the Weyakwin Lake - Ramsey Bay Subdivision;
  - Through the partnership with the Prince Albert Grand Council, Wildfire Community Education and Community Wildfire Protection projects were carried out in 24 communities including Air Ronge, Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Descherm Lake, Pelican Lake First Nations, Nesslin Lake, Stanley Mission - Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Pelican Narrows, Napatak, Weyakwin and Whelan Bay;
  - Continuation of the Smokey Bear Program to educate youth and adults on the danger and the value of wildfire;
  - The Nisbet Fire Case Study report is complete. A post-fire media tour was held in August 2010 and a presentation and field tour on the Nisbet Fire were held for the Saskatchewan Forestry Association in September 2010; and

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- The Junior Forest Ranger Program was held in nine communities with 93 graduates. (2010 Mandate Letter)
  - The Ministry of Environment is also working with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing to explore the use of Single Engine Air Tankers in southern Saskatchewan to complement the provincial aerial firefighting fleet. Preliminary discussions between the ministries to share/exchange information and expertise were initiated and the Ministry of Environment released a public tender on May 31, 2011 to obtain a third-party consultant to assess this issue. (2010 Mandate Letter)

**Work with federal and other provincial and territorial governments on advancing air quality management across the nation.**

- The ministry continued to actively participate in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). The CCME met in October 2010 to discuss the national Comprehensive Air Management System (CAMS). At that time, the Ministers endorsed the CAMS Framework and agreed to a 2013 implementation date. CAMS is designed to address the challenges of air quality management, including cross-jurisdictional issues, and deliver a Canada-wide approach that provides flexibility to deal with regional differences in air quality issues while, at the same time, ensuring a level of consistency so that Canadians can be assured of good air quality outcomes.

The ministry is working on reviewing the potential environmental and economic impacts of CAMS on Saskatchewan. As part of the CAMS file, the ministry also participated on Base-level Industry Emission Requirements (BLIERS) working groups for the electricity, oil sands, petroleum refining and upstream oil and gas sectors, along with the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards working group.

**Implement the Province's airshed management program and manage a regional air quality monitoring network in southeast Saskatchewan.**

- The ministry continued to work in partnership with the Southeast Saskatchewan Airshed Association (SESAA) to implement the province's airshed management program and manage a regional air quality monitoring network in southeast Saskatchewan. SESAA continues to operate in a financially viable manner. The Saskatoon-Lloydminster Airshed Association held stakeholder consultations in March 2011 and work to expand the airshed management program will continue into 2011-12.

As part of the Air Quality Management System of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Saskatchewan is the lead on preparing an Air Zone Guidance Document for delineating air zones in provinces and territories. This document is due in September 2011.

**Work with communities to ensure safe drinking water; water and wastewater infrastructure capacity and capability; and maintenance of high-level of drinking water quality standards compliance by:**

- **monitoring and following-up on drinking water quality testing results to ensure compliance with standards;**
- **working with affected communities to ensure the assessment of wastewater effluent is conducted in a timely manner;**
- **working with ministries and agencies to advance water and wastewater related infrastructure planning and improvements; and**
- **working with waterworks owners to evaluate waterworks infrastructure through the second round of waterworks system assessments.**
- The Ministry of Environment works in partnership with the ministries of Health, Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, Regional Health Authorities, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, and SaskWater to improve Saskatchewan's drinking water supplies and source waters. The results of water quality of various agencies are presented in the annual State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan. Information on drinking water quality and wastewater management and compliance activities is available on the SaskH2O website at [www.saskH2O.ca](http://www.saskH2O.ca).

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Monitoring and responding to drinking water quality testing results continued to ensure compliance with standards. Standby support is in place 24/7 to address emergencies and water/wastewater infrastructure upsets. In 2010-11, 886 waterworks inspections and 527 sewage works inspections were completed.

A project to aid small to medium-sized communities in completing wastewater system assessments was planned during 2010-11. Arrangements for collection and analysis of effluent samples were established. Samples for the characterization of treated wastewater effluent were only collected from the City of Weyburn by the end of the fiscal year, as most of the province was still encountering winter conditions and spring effluent releases had generally not begun. Larger centres are being asked to conduct their own wastewater characterizations by means of permit conditions. Further wastewater effluent characterization monitoring is planned for spring and fall 2011.

The ministry completed work with the ministries of Municipal Affairs and Health to develop policies and protocols for onsite wastewater disposal. Engineering staff from the Ministry of Environment supported Municipal Affairs in grant program decision-making and also provided advice on water and wastewater projects. The Municipal Branch participated with the ministries of Health and Municipal Affairs and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to conduct stakeholder consultations on a consultant's review of Saskatchewan's Interim Guidance Document for Assessing Subdivisions (where onsite waste water treatment and disposal systems are proposed). The Municipal Branch worked to see the introduction of the first Submerged Growth Attached Reactor wastewater treatment system in the province, designed to produce good quality effluent with low residual ammonia. This system was installed late in the fiscal year and results are not yet available.

The Ministry of Environment worked with waterworks owners to evaluate waterworks infrastructure by preparing guidelines and facts sheets on round two of Waterworks System Assessments (WSAs). Regulatory revisions in 2007 have reduced the number of WSAs to be completed, particularly for small waterworks and pipeline systems. Field staff continued to advance completion of WSAs through discussion with waterworks owners. (2007 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Encourage the development or use of regional water or wastewater infrastructure to make more effective use of funding.**

- Activity is ongoing through general regulatory implementation and by providing assistance to municipalities in relation to projects and Municipal Affairs on grant funding decisions. The ministry provides advice on the types of improvements that may better serve the needs of the municipality in relation to water or wastewater projects while meeting the regulatory requirements. The Municipal Branch provided comments to Municipal Affairs on 16 grant applications for the Canada-Saskatchewan Building Canada Fund during the 2010-11 fiscal year and developed guidance for water and wastewater systems at subdivisions (Municipal Affairs lead). Successful projects included water pipelines (Dundurn Rural Water Utility, RM of Meota) and new regional wastewater lagoons (Wakaw Lake). Work with Municipal Affairs continues to examine buffer zone distances associated with sewage treatment works, which will influence decisions related to potential application of regional systems.

**Work with communities to achieve health and toxicity, radiological and pesticide related water quality standards to achieve December 2010 upgrade requirements as stated in The Water Regulations.**

- Work is under way to promote full compliance with drinking water quality standards by regulated waterworks owners. The ministry is working with the ministries of Municipal Affairs and Health and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to ensure coordinated activities and support. The ministry is tracking compliance with standards and working with communities to achieve compliance. As of March 31, 2011, there were 89 community waterworks that had yet to achieve chemical-health and turbidity related standards. Seventy-three of these community waterworks have commenced planning or construction of system upgrades to meet standards. An additional nine systems may resolve issues through water treatment system optimization. The remaining seven communities have not yet identified plans for resolving their issues. The



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ministry will continue to work with them to identify possible solutions (2007 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Continue safe drinking water related programming delivery including water and wastewater system inspections; reviewing waterworks related projects; and responding to drinking water related emergencies which may be a threat to public health.**

- Inspections, operational permitting, construction permitting and emergency/upset response are all being actively addressed on a priority basis. During the year, 355 Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories and seven Emergency Boil Water Orders were issued for regulated waterworks. The ministry is also acting to assist and cooperate with other ministries and agencies such as Municipal Affairs, Health, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and regional watershed protection groups to improve water protection efforts. (2007 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Expand solid waste management and recycling programs by implementing the provincial strategy for municipal solid waste management and a Multi-Material Recycling Program.**

- Work continues on the development of a provincial strategy for municipal solid waste management. The Multi-Material Recycling Program regulations are in the drafting phase; however, passage of the regulations is not anticipated until 2012. The ministry is in formal consultation with the newspaper industry for their financial participation in the program. The ministry hired a consultant to ascertain the type and amount of recyclable waste plastics generated on Saskatchewan farms. The consultant has interviewed a number of manufacturers, retailers, distributors and farmers and will present recommendations for consideration on how to proceed with the capture of this material. Environmental Codes of Practice for Landfills and Transfer Stations have been developed with the assistance of a committee made up with representatives from industry, municipalities, academia, environmental non-governmental organizations and other provincial government ministries. (2010 Mandate Letter, 2010 Throne Speech)

**Work with the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment to research and develop innovative solutions to packaging of goods.**

- The ministry continues to participate in the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Task Group that is performing this work. Through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), a Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR was ratified in 2009, which committed the provinces to working towards the development of recycling programs that target a specific list of priority products. Currently, the Environmental Planning and Protection Committee of CCME is in the process of developing a potential packaging reduction plan for the jurisdictions' consideration.

**Develop and implement a cumulative effects program to minimize risk exposure to multiple emission sources.**

- The two new positions created in the reorganization that will lead the review of the province's land use planning/stewardship policies will also be responsible for cumulative effects. The ministry initiated discussions in early 2010 with the University of Saskatchewan to conduct a literature review and a jurisdictional comparison regarding cumulative effects management. A literature review and initial information gathering for a jurisdictional review were conducted and a draft report was submitted to the ministry in March 2011. Work will continue in 2011-12 to review the information collected and identify any gaps. A final report will be available in 2011-12.

**Work with Corrections, Public Safety and Policing to manage the migration from the Fleetnet system to the public safety telecommunications system.**

- The Fleetnet system has served as the platform for provincial public safety telecommunications since the mid-1990s and approximately 140 Ministry of Environment staff rely on this system for field dispatch and safe delivery of field inspection and compliance programs throughout the province. The Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing has been identified as the lead provincial ministry for managing the migration of public safety and public service users into the new system. Installation of new radios in ministry vehicles is now complete.

## Other Results

### Integrated Water Management

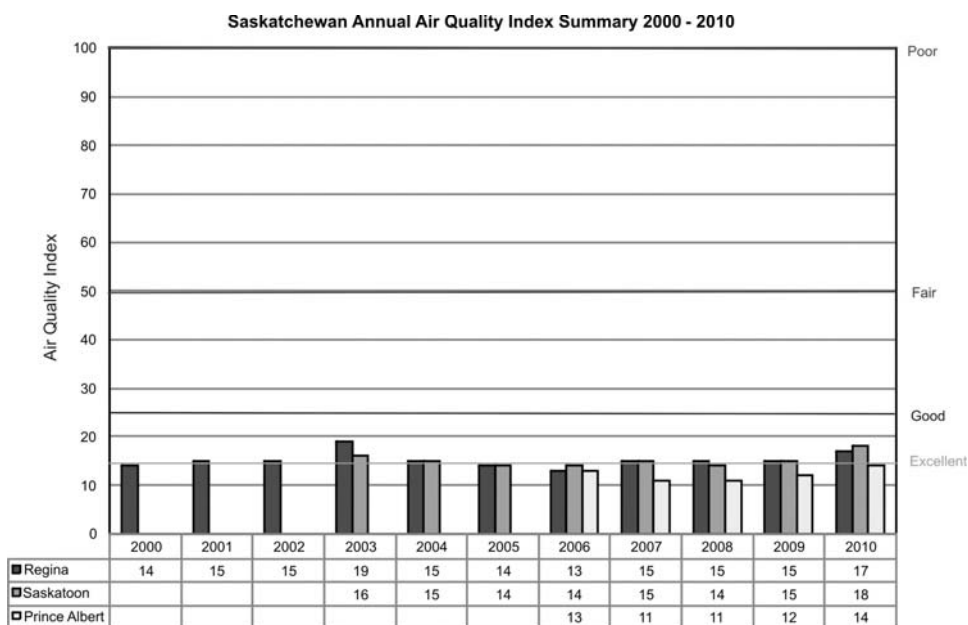
The Ministry of Environment is also working towards implementing a framework for regulation, development and allocation of Saskatchewan's water resources that supports focused, comprehensive and strategic management of water and water-related activity. A full stakeholder engagement and consultation exercise is being undertaken to inform the development of a policy framework. This work will continue into 2011-12. (2010 Mandate Letter)

## Measurement Results

### Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a communication tool designed to describe the general air quality in urban areas by transforming ambient measurements of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and particulates into a single number or descriptive term that represents the measured quality of the air. The index is also used to monitor long-term trends in air quality. Measuring and evaluating urban air quality is an important step in meeting the ministry's objective of ensuring clean air. Maintaining air quality is fully aligned with the ministry's strategy to prevent and reduce risks to the health of people and the environment. This measure is an essential tool to monitor air quality trends and a basis for making rough comparisons of air quality between urban areas.

Saskatchewan's overall approach to managing air quality is through permits to operate issued pursuant to The Clean Air Act and regulations and The Potash Refining Air Emissions Regulations. Air quality regulation occurs through the environmental assessment process, air quality monitoring and reporting from industrial sources, air dispersion modeling, airshed management, comparison with ambient air quality standards, compliance and enforcement, information and research.



Source: Ministry of Environment, Technical Resources Unit (also available online at [www.environment.gov.sk.ca/airqualityindex](http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/airqualityindex))

The Ministry of Environment has established air monitoring stations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, La Loche and Swift Current. The AQI for Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and La Loche has consistently rated as good to excellent and there has been a relatively stable trend in this measure (the AQI for Swift Current will be assessed once sufficient data is available). Forest fire smoke from fires in British Columbia caused very poor air quality for about a day and a half in August 2010 for most of the province, which caused the overall annual index to be slightly higher than usual.

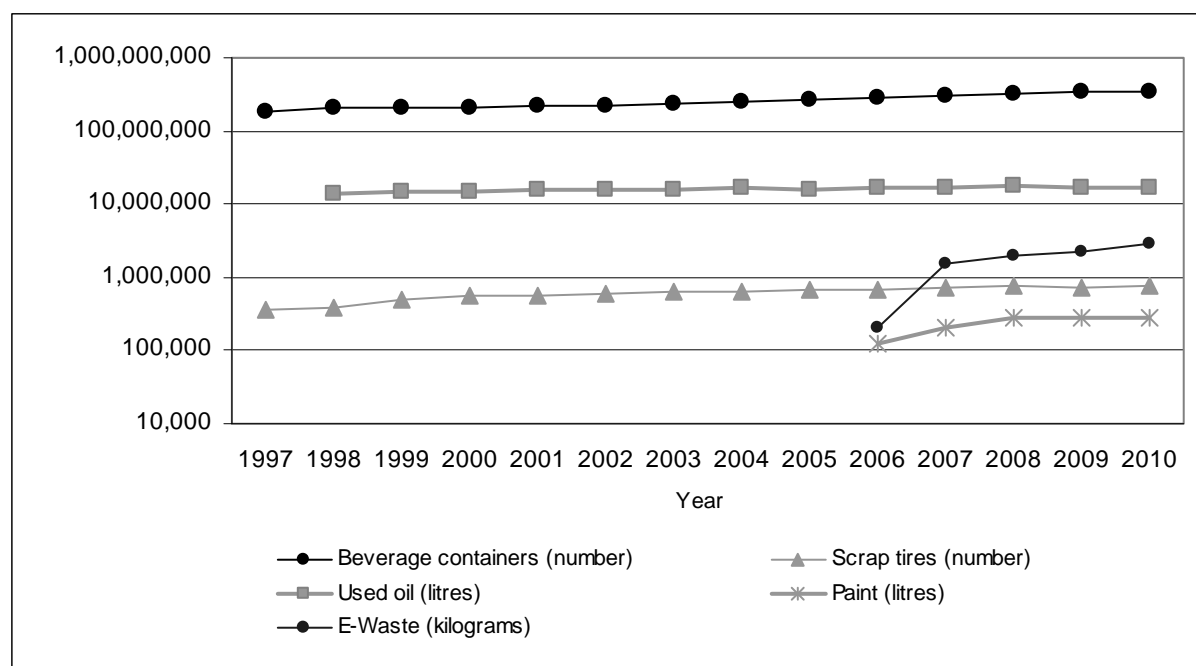
The graph above provides the AQI for those stations that are a part of the National Air Pollution Surveillance Program; however, data for all sites is available on the website listed under the graph.

The ministry will continue using the AQI to rank the province's air quality as a tool in protecting the health of people and the environment from potential degraded air quality.

## Recycling Rates

Recycling is an indicator of public commitment to waste minimization and indicates shared responsibility for environmental stewardship. The ministry administers the enabling regulations for a number of third-party stewardship programs.

Market conditions and public commitment determine the recycling rates; however, in general, the indicator shows that Saskatchewan benefits from good recycling rates and practices. Over 85 per cent of all deposit-paid, ready-to-serve beverage containers sold in Saskatchewan are recycled, the highest return rate of all beverage container programs in Canada. The ministry continues to promote recycling within the province as a means to increase the recycling rates. The expansion of waste electronic products eligible for collection and recycling through The Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Regulations and the ministry's efforts to develop a Multi-Material Recycling Program are expected to increase recycling rates in the future.



Sources: Third party organizations annual reports, Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Program

### Notes:

- Beverage containers, paint and e-waste are based on a fiscal year. The fiscal year 2009-10 is represented by 2010. All other data is based on calendar year. E-waste program began February 1, 2007.
- The numbers that are reported in the 2010-11 Report correct the inconsistencies that were reported in previous year's reports. These numbers will be used as a reference point for future reporting.
- The 2010 number for paint is an estimate as the final numbers were not available at the time of this report.

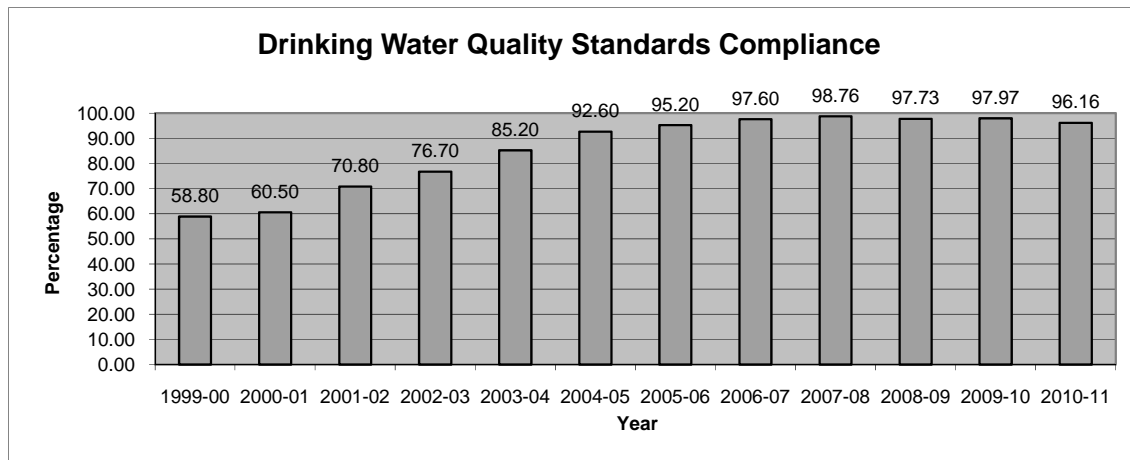
In 2010-11, recycling rates continued to increase slightly for used oil, scrap tires, paint and e-waste. The number of beverage containers recycled in 2010 was approximately three percent less than the previous year. While it is difficult to determine the exact cause for this decrease, the wet and cool weather in spring, summer and early fall may have been a contributing factor that influenced the amount of collection taking place.

Further information on recycling of these materials see:

[www.scraptire.sk.ca](http://www.scraptire.sk.ca)  
[www.sarcsarcan.ca](http://www.sarcsarcan.ca)  
[www.usedoilrecycling.com](http://www.usedoilrecycling.com)  
[www.sweepit.ca](http://www.sweepit.ca)

## Drinking Water Quality Standards Compliance and Quality Satisfaction

The drinking water quality standards compliance indicator is a measure of annual compliance with bacteriological and disinfection standards for municipal waterworks in Saskatchewan. The indicator looks at both the results of bacteriological water quality monitoring and the level of disinfectant present in drinking water and is a good predictor of the safety of drinking water. Compliance with drinking water quality standards for disinfection and bacteriological quality is important as contamination in water supplies can result in significant illness within a short period of time and proper disinfection of drinking water is an important way to ensure safe drinking water and prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases.



Source: Ministry of Environment, Municipal Branch; SEEMS Database

The drinking water quality compliance indicator has been very good for the past few years and has remained relatively stable. Drinking water quality standards compliance declined by approximately 1.8 per cent during 2010-11 at 96.16 per cent in comparison to 97.97 during 2009-10. The reason for this decline is related to an increase in the number of small communities with waterworks that slightly failed to meet the 90 per cent bacterial standards compliance component of the measure and that also failed to submit all required samples. Ministry staff will work with waterworks operators to educate and re-emphasize the importance of meeting bacteriological water quality standards and submitting all required samples as a means to improve in 2011-12 and beyond. However, rates of compliance are still considered high for the 2006-07 to the 2010-11 fiscal years.

## Drinking Water Quality Satisfaction

The Drinking Water Quality Satisfaction indicator is based on the results of annual omnibus polling of Saskatchewan residents on their level of confidence in the quality of their drinking water supply. The measure is the percentage of survey respondents indicating that they are very or somewhat confident in the quality of their tap water. This indicator reflects upon the success of the ministry in advancing safe drinking water at various public drinking water supplies (municipalities, pipelines, large commercial water systems) across the province.

### Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are very or somewhat confident in the quality of their tap water

Dec 2001	May 2003	Mar 2005	Mar 2006	May 2007	Feb 2008	May 2009	Mar 2010	May 2011	Change 2010-2011
72	87	86	87.3	82.6	86.6	89.9	88.7	85.5	↓ 2.2

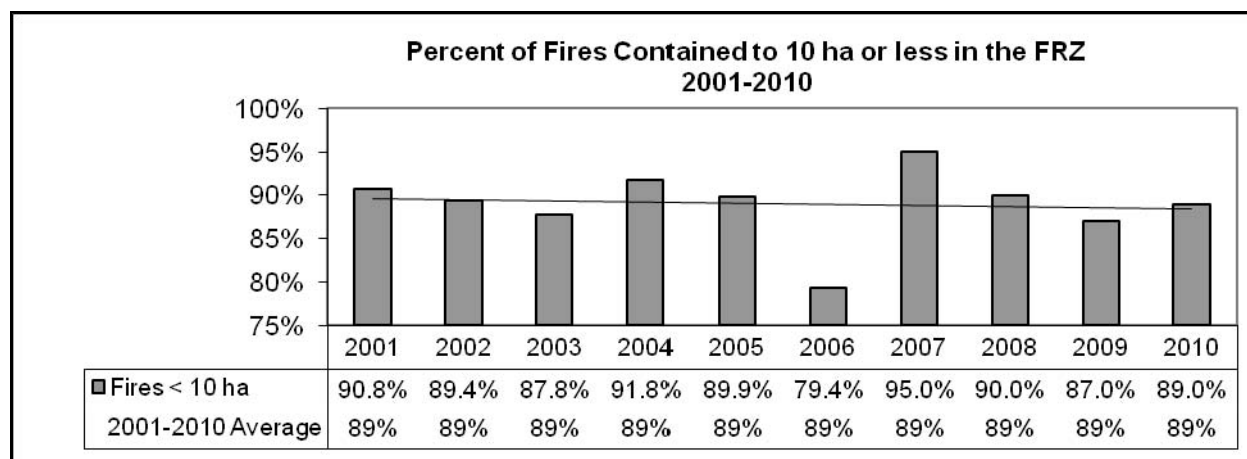
Source: Ministry of Environment Polling Results – May 2011

Based on a May 2011 poll conducted by the Ministry of Environment, 85.5 per cent of people polled strongly agreed or agreed that they are confident in the safety of their own drinking water. These

polling results continue to show a high level of confidence and the 2.2 per cent decrease in 2011 is within a margin of error. The results are 13.5 per cent greater than December 2001, when 72 per cent of people surveyed were very or somewhat confident in the quality of their tap water. In future surveys, the ministry will drill down in the survey questions in order to provide some understanding into the reason that some survey respondents are reporting a decrease in confidence in the quality of their drinking water. Actions such as consumer education efforts, waterworks inspections, implementation of water quality standards, water workshops and consumer notification help build confidence in the safety of drinking water at a relatively high level which has held in the mid to high 80 per cent range since 2003. Ongoing attention to these elements of drinking water protection will help to maintain the high level of public confidence in safety of drinking water in the future.

### Containment of Wildfires in the Full Response Zone to 10 Hectares or Less

The percentage of contained fires is a measure of how well the pre-planning, detection and initial attack components of the firefighting program are working. Containing smaller fires will minimize the number of communities threatened by fire, as well as reduce the area burned and the costs associated with fire suppression. Containment of wildfires to under 10 hectares has a direct positive bearing on the number of escaped wildfires and consequently on the overall cost of suppression.



Source: Ministry of Environment, Wildfire Management Branch

The percentage of fires contained to 10 ha or less in the full response zone in 2010 was 89 per cent, which is in line with the ten-year average of 89 per cent. There were 571 wildfires in 2010. Of those, 330 occurred in the Full Response Zone and 295 of the wildfires in the Full Response Zone were contained to less than 10 hectares. This containment ability relates directly to operational preparedness (placement of resources throughout the Full Response Zone in anticipation of wildfire starts) and the ability to divert resources to suppress new wildfire starts while under pressure to contain large wildfires and successfully protect values at risk.

### Human-Caused Wildfires

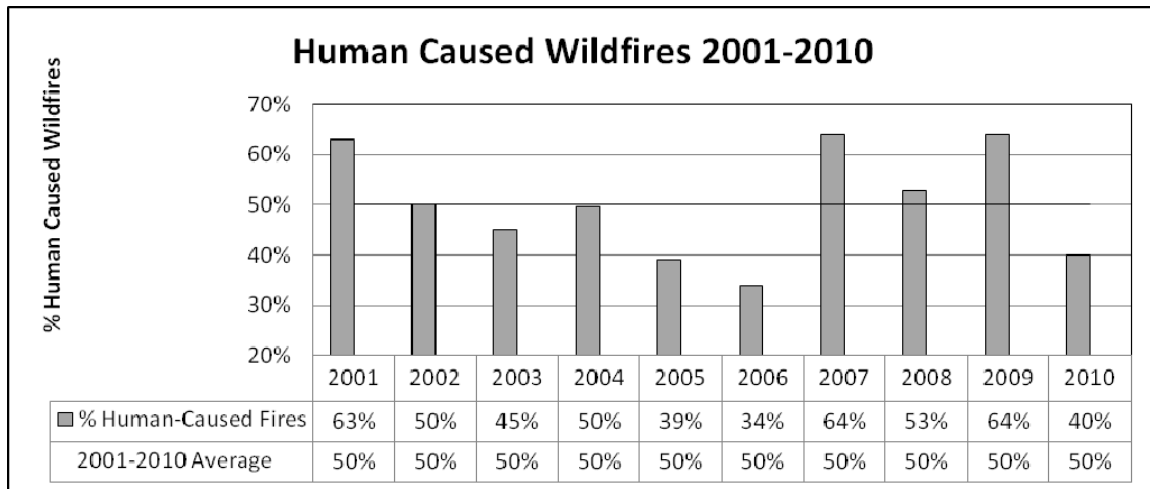
The Ministry of Environment's wildfire education and awareness efforts are designed to reduce the percentage of human-caused wildfires by encouraging individuals to recognize their responsibility for mitigating the risk of wildfire around communities, industrial sites and recreational leases. This is done by providing individuals with the information they need to be aware of the risks of starting a wildfire and to use fire safely. Increasing this awareness is intended to reduce the percentage of human-caused fires, which typically occur closer to communities and resort properties, where more people are located. The ministry has also begun to focus more effort on education in northern communities, leading to better understanding of the impacts of human-caused wildfire.

Historically, the number of human-caused wildfires has been just over 50 per cent of the total number of wildfires actioned in any year. A historical performance measure was to reduce the percentage of human caused wildfires by 5 per cent per year down to a target of 40 per cent per year overall. There

are some recognized challenges with this measure. Presently, human-caused wildfire statistics includes:

- Restarts
- A large percentage of wildfires coded to “unknown” causes
- An inherent difficulty in preventing vehicle and industrial fires

The Wildfire Management branch continues to work towards better information-gathering techniques in order to analyze data and incorporate the results into future planning for reducing human-caused wildfires. The information management system is being reviewed and overhauled in 2011.



Source: Ministry of Environment, Wildfire Management Branch

In 2010, the human-caused wildfire percentage was 40 per cent of all starts in the province. This is 24 per cent below the 2009 result and is the result of a combination of factors, the most significant being the cool, wet spring, which did not allow for human caused fire starts.

### ***Maintain healthy air, land, water, and ecosystems that support native biological diversity***

#### **Results**

##### **Monitor the new provincial fisheries management plan to ensure sustainable resources over the next decade.**

- The Fisheries Management Plan was finalized in 2010 and is available on the ministry website at <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/fisheriesmanagementplan>. The Fisheries Management Plan will help guide the ministry's efforts to help manage our fisheries resource in a way that maintains the traditional and cultural activities we enjoy, while ensuring sustainable economic benefits for everyone in the province.

In 2010-11, progress has been made on several actions from the Fisheries Management Plan including:

- review of the provincial fish stocking program, which provided several options for consideration in developing a fish stocking strategy;
- planning and implementing the 2010 angler survey (responses are still being received; these will be analyzed and reported on in the 2011-12 Annual Report);
- advertisement of proposed changes to anglers' limits in the Anglers' Guide for implementation in 2011; and,
- in cooperation with Saskatchewan Outfitters Association, development of policies for using outfitter quota allocations rather than limiting the number of clients or angler days an outfitter is allowed; the use of harvest quotas by outfitters will allow them greater flexibility in managing their business operations. (2007 Throne Speech, 2007 Mandate Letter)

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**Implement an acid deposition management framework to manage the impacts of acid deposition.**

- Precipitation monitoring stations are being redeployed to strategically cover most of the province in conjunction with federal monitoring stations. Stations will be re-configured to collect data on precipitation, particulate deposition, and wind speed and direction. In June 2011, the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Alberta Environment signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Acidic Deposition Management to collaborate and share information on air modeling techniques and regional plans for emission thresholds.

**Maintain and provide environmental information to support sustainable development and use of natural resources:**

- **in support of results-based regulations, conducting analysis to address needs and gaps in Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) framework and establish a strategic IM plan data management standards; and**
- **providing effective online interface with industry and other resources users, streamlining submission and approval processes.**
- Work in the initial data assessment and gap analysis will continue into 2011-12. Activity in providing effective online options for industry and other resources users and streamlining submission and approval processes is embodied in the Application Processing and Permission Management project that was reported under a previous key action on page 9. Development work on a system to allow the online submission of client applications took place throughout 2010-11, with the expected release of the first version of an online application process in the second half of 2011. As was reported on under a previous key action on page 12, the ministry engaged in consultations with vendors regarding the implementation of an automated hunting and angling licence sales system in 2010-11. (2007 Throne Speech)

**Conduct analysis to address needs and gaps in IM/IT framework to support integrated environmental monitoring.**

- As reported on page 9, work completed in 2010-11 set up some of the systems infrastructure and systems required to establish the Environmental Management Information System project that will start in 2011-12.

**Oversee clean-up of priority contaminated sites by:**

- **continuing to pursue clean up of contaminated sites as they are identified; and**
- **monitoring progress at facilities undergoing remediation including sites in Kamsack, River Landing, and Magnum Oil.**
- The ministry continues to pursue the clean up of contaminated sites as they are identified. Sites are regularly identified through spill reporting and decommissioning activities. The ministry now uses the National Classification System for Contaminated Sites, which will provide the ability to prioritize action for impacted sites.

Industrial Branch is leading the development of a number of chapters of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, including the development of standards to streamline and provide clear guidance on Impacted Sites Management in Saskatchewan, which will support the results-based regulatory changes.

The ministry also continues to monitor progress at facilities that are undergoing remediation activities. The River Landing remediation in Saskatoon is nearing completion. Risk assessment and administrative controls have been implemented. Progress continued on Kamsack and Magnum Oil and risks continue to be managed. Corrective actions at Magnum Oil included cleaning and emptying vessels and tanks and initiating soil reclamation. Remediation progress at the Kamsack site was restricted due to wet weather conditions; however, the ministry monitored activities and worked with the developer on the property subdivision and rezoning approval processes for the reclaimed portions of the property. Planning is underway for further development of a revised action plan for the various impacted parcels at the Prince Albert site. The primary activity at the site in 2010-11 was monitoring by the City of Prince Albert. The ministry worked with the city to initiate development of appropriate administrative controls for the site to facilitate clean up of outstanding areas. The

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ministry also continues to facilitate discussions between the City of Regina and Imperial Oil Refinery to establish a management agreement for the site.

**Secure and eliminate public safety hazards at non-uranium abandoned mine sites.**

- This is an ongoing program where the ministry's main role has shifted to inspecting and monitoring site safety at identified abandoned facilities. Sites where safety provisions have been compromised are evaluated on a risk basis to determine any immediate or future actions. One additional abandoned mine site (the former Athona gold mine site) was inspected and the shaft sealed as a public safety measure.

**Develop and implement a new Biodiversity Action Plan framework that builds on the existing plans and programs and re-engages government partners and external stakeholders.**

- This action has been deferred to 2011-12.

***Measurement Results***

**Number of Hectares in the Representative Areas Network (RAN)**

The Representative Areas Network (RAN) is intended to conserve representative and unique landscapes throughout the 11 ecoregions of the province. The RAN includes designated Crown lands that have been given a level of protection by virtue of legislation and private lands that are managed for biodiversity by agreement. The measure of the number of hectares in the RAN is an indicator of the province's commitment to supporting the protection and retention of native habitat and of long-term ecological health and aligns with the strategy of maintaining healthy ecosystems that support native biological diversity. Establishing protected areas is seen in the international science community as a 'natural solution' and a powerful tool against carbon emissions and possibly climate change. There are challenges in adding a significant number of hectares to the RAN. In agricultural portions of the province, the vast majority of land is privately held and additions to the RAN are achieved in small quantities, while in northern Saskatchewan, even though Crown land dominates, many interests must be considered and weighed to achieve a balance between conservation and economic development.

There are 5.96 million hectares or approximately nine per cent of the province in the RAN (Source: Lands Branch). The number of hectares in the RAN remains unchanged from 2004-2010; however, a number of sites have been identified within integrated land use plans. As these land use plans are approved and recommendations for designation of proposed representative areas are implemented the number of hectares will increase.

***Lead the government's response to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change***

***Results***

**Implement the policy and regulatory framework to create the Office of Climate Change, the Saskatchewan Technology Fund, and the Climate Change Foundation to deliver the provincial climate change plan.**

- The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act was passed on May 20, 2010. Stakeholder consultation on the draft Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Regulations took place during the March – November 2010 period and draft regulations were developed incorporating input from the consultation process.

Application for an Advance Tax Ruling on the tax deductibility of carbon compliance payments to the Technology Fund was made to the Canada Revenue Agency. Supplementary information including revisions to the draft GHG regulations was also provided.

Business plans and by-laws for the Technology Fund and the Climate Change Foundation were developed to finalize the administration and budget requirements for these not-for-profit organizations.



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Comments were provided to Environment Canada regarding the proposed regulatory framework for coal fired electricity generation prior to gazetting. These comments facilitated SaskPower's decision to retrofit Boundary Dam with Carbon Capture and Storage technology. Discussions were also held with Environment Canada to develop a federally administered single window GHG reporting system.

The climate change chapter of the Environmental Code is being jointly developed with industry groups and other interested parties. The Baseline Emissions Level reporting and Measurement Reporting and Verification chapters are expected to be implemented in early 2012.

Guidance documents for compliance mechanisms under the provincial GHG regulations were developed and are under review to provide flexibility for regulated emitters to meet their compliance requirements. These include offset, per-certified investment, emission intensive and trade exposed industry early action and performance agreement credits. (2007, 2008, 2009 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Design and implement the provincial offset system to enable regulated emitters to meet their compliance obligations in a cost-effective manner, and to encourage non-regulated emitters to reduce emissions.**

- Draft offset protocols and guidance documents for establishing the provincial offset system were developed and will be finalized through technical review. Guidance documents for offset project proponents and for establishing offset protocols are being developed, and will be finalized following review by stakeholders. A registry for listing and serializing offset credits has been developed and is subject to approval. (2007, 2008, 2009 Throne Speech, 2010 Mandate Letter)

**Implement a provincial adaptation blueprint in partnership with other ministries, industry groups, and communities that support sustained economic growth through sectoral initiatives that address potential long-term impacts of climate change.**

- The ministry has completed a four year agreement with the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC) to deliver on a number of initiatives that will assist the ministry in the development of a provincial adaptation strategy. These initiatives include documenting scientific studies on the impacts of climate change on the prairies. These studies include:
  - Climate Change Impacts on Canada's Prairie Provinces: A Summary of the State of Knowledge;
  - Climate Change Scenarios for Saskatchewan;
  - Saskatchewan's Natural Capital in a Changing Climate: An Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation; and
  - Protected Areas Policies and Climate Change: the Case of the Prairie Ecozone; Exotic Tree Species as an adaptation option to Climate Change in the Western Boreal Forest.

PARC also assisted the ministry in the development of a draft discussion paper for use in planned public consultations on adaptation issues and the ministry participated in the adaptation forum organized by PARC in Calgary last November called *Living with a Changing Climate*.

A new climate change adaptation website, Saskadapt.ca was launched in June 2010 to provide information about the long-term impacts of climate change and self-assessment tools that could be used by individuals and other interested parties.

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## ***Support the delivery of the province's Go Green plan***

### ***Results***

#### **Administer the Go Green Fund to promote research and development of cost-effective environmental technologies and processes such as:**

- carbon capture and storage;
  - energy efficiency and conservation initiatives;
  - water conservation measures;
  - biodiversity conservation initiatives; and
  - public education and awareness.
- The Go Green Fund promotes the development and implementation of cost effective environmental technologies. Over four years, \$70 million has been committed to the Go Green Fund. In 2010-11, \$16.9 million of the total funding commitment was provided. This funding was allocated as follows: \$2.1 million for the SGI Green Rebate Program; \$4 million for SARCAN capital investments; \$1.8 million to support recycling initiatives; \$1.4 million for programs administered by the Ministry of Energy and Resources; \$2.5 million to support incentive programming; and \$4.9 million in on-going research and development projects such as the Meadow Lake Tribal Council Wood Pellet Heating project.

On December 20, 2010, the Go Green Fund issued an open call for Letters of Intent. Over 120 responses were received. Accepted proposals will receive funding in the 2011-12 fiscal year. In addition to this, two Request for Proposals (RFPs) were released for professional services in the design and review of household water conservation incentive programs and incentive programs for independent renewable energy and power producers. The Go Green Unit provides extension services for an estimated 300 inquiries per year from parties seeking advice on environmental sustainability.

The Ministry of Environment currently manages over 25 Go Green Fund contracts with Saskatchewan businesses, organizations and communities. Some examples of these contracts include:

- The Aqstore project is an integrated carbon capture, transportation, injection and storage project.
- The Energy Efficiency for New Homes Program provides rebates for new homeowners for the construction of a new home that is R-2000 certified, Energy Star® qualified or EnerGuide for New Homes rated at 80 or higher. Since 2007 1,130 homeowners have received a rebate. Three other energy efficiency and conservation programs - Net Metering, Solar Heating Initiative for Today and the Municipal Energy Efficiency Initiative program - were concluded March 31, 2011. A report summarizing the outcomes of these programs will be developed in 2011-12. As a part of the overview of the programs an examination into revised programming options in these areas will also be conducted.
- The Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program provides a \$50 rebate for the replacement of a high volume toilet with a 6 litre or dual flush toilet. This program is administered through the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. In 2010-11, 16,037 toilets have been replaced resulting in over 320 million litres of water conserved and a reduction in CO2 emissions of over 3,231 tonnes as a result of a reduction in energy required at water and wastewater treatment facilities. (2007 and 2008 Throne Speech, 2007 and 2010 Mandate Letter)

#### ***The Ministry of Environment supports the Government's goal to Keep Government's Promises and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.***

The ministry has developed three strategies to guide work towards achievement of this goal.

#### ***Enhance co-operation among intergovernmental agencies in environmental and resource management***

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## Results

**Minimize duplication and maximize federal/provincial co-operation to ensure the environment is protected by continuing effective agreements with agencies and by entering into new agreements with The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada by:**

- **seeking to maximize provincial regulation of uranium mining and milling under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act in Saskatchewan through an administrative agreement with CNSC; and**
- **continuing discussions with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to complete and implement a Canada-Saskatchewan Fish Habitat Memorandum of Understanding to clarify respective roles and responsibilities to avoid duplication in management applications, streamline approval processes, and enhance sharing of information.**
- The ministry worked with the CNSC and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety on finalizing a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) to replace the previous administrative agreement. The draft MOU was completed in November 2010 and currently remains draft as further discussions are required to resolve outstanding items.

Various discussions with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, CNSC and Saskatchewan Intergovernmental Affairs on necessary work, policy and guidelines for environmental assessment cooperation are also taking place.

Discussions have been held with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to implement an enhanced cooperative working relationship to deal with streamlining processes and avoid duplication, as an alternative to a formal MOU.

## ***Work co-operatively with and increase involvement of First Nations and Métis people in environmental and resources management***

### Results

**Develop a ministerial framework that facilitates the implementation of duty to consult, supports partnerships and relationships with First Nations and Métis people and communities, and respects rights of First Nations and Métis, including:**

- **working with First Nations and Métis Relations to establish and implement a framework policy statement for government;**
- **identifying strategic cross-ministry opportunities for capacity-development for First Nations and Métis;**
- **coordinating branch and program specific guidelines for First Nations and Métis consultation across the ministry; and,**
- **evaluating policies that facilitate involvement in the environment assessment and other ministerial processes.**
- The Ministry of Environment is committed to fulfill its duty to consult and accommodate First Nations and Métis when ministry decisions may adversely impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights. In June 2010, the Consultation Policy Framework was released to the public. The Framework outlines the process the government will use to fulfill its obligation to consult with First Nations and Métis communities on decisions or actions that may impact Treaty or Aboriginal rights. It is a fulfillment of a commitment made by the province to develop a consultation policy with input and review from the key groups - First Nations, Métis, industry, municipal sector and others.

The ministry also participated in the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations review and revision of funding criteria guidelines and met with federal counterparts to discuss potential partnerships in capacity development.

An internal working group involving representatives from various branches in the ministry was established to develop Operational Procedures for the ministry implementation of the provincial Consultation Policy. These Operational Procedures were completed in February 2011.

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Policies for implementing the duty to consult in the Environmental Assessment process are under development and current practices are being adjusted to conform to the government's new Consultation Policy Framework, ministry guidelines and experience in the Environmental Assessment process. (2007, 2008, 2009 Throne Speech, 2007 and 2010 Mandate Letter)

***Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the ministry's programs and services so as to ensure the best use of public funds***

**Results**

**Enhance a client focused culture that supports high quality service.**

- The Client Service Office was created on April 1, 2010 with the objective of implementing new proponent client services by March 31, 2011. The office is now 80 per cent operational. The Client Service Office is working with the IM/IT transformation group and program branches to enable online business in the 2011-12.

**In 2010-11, implement a human resource plan to align ministry's workforce, culture and succession management to support the transition to results-based regulations.**

- An Engagement Strategy has been developed for the Ministry of Environment, including learning and development plan, succession management, and leadership development. Items completed to date include:
  - Delivered the Supervisory Development Fundamentals Program modules: Role of the Supervisor, Communications, Coaching, Managing Employees in the Public Service, Performance Management, and Managing Employee Performance - Corrective Discipline.
  - Delivered an overarching Coaching and Change Management training program to 140 managers and supervisors.
  - Completed a talent management inventory for middle management succession by interviewing the Assistant Deputy Ministers and Executive Directors.
  - Identified technical learning needs by functional area to assist in the implementation of results-based regulatory reform.
  - Created a science community of practice to bring together individuals within the Ministry of Environment who have shared interests, knowledge, opportunities and concerns for science.
  - Created a vision statement by engaging employees through Deputy Minister Town Hall meetings and manager discussion with individual branches.
  - Integrated the ministry's desired behaviours (team work, open communications, service excellence, professionalism, results-oriented and innovation) into Out-of-Scope Planning for Success and Work Planning and Review for In-scope Employees.

**Implement a management practice of assessment and continuous improvement to ensure a robust, objective, and multi-year assessment function. In 2010-11 this includes:**

- **conducting a review of the fire management and forest protection program (focused on efficiencies achieved through changes to the fire observation system and aerial fleet renewals) and review of efficiencies expected to be achieved through the implementation of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code specific to aspects of the environmental protection program.**
- Wildfire Management Branch is undertaking a compliance audit of the Aviation Unit for Transport Canada, as well as a core business review for the aviation program. These reviews are in progress and efficiencies expected to be achieved will be used to improve the Saskatchewan Environmental Code.

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## 2010-11 Financial Overview

The 2010-11 approved appropriation was \$185.8 million. Total 2010-11 expenditures (including capital acquisitions) were \$221.8 million, a variance of \$36.0 million from the ministry's approved estimate. This variance is mainly because of additional funding provided to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority for flood relief.

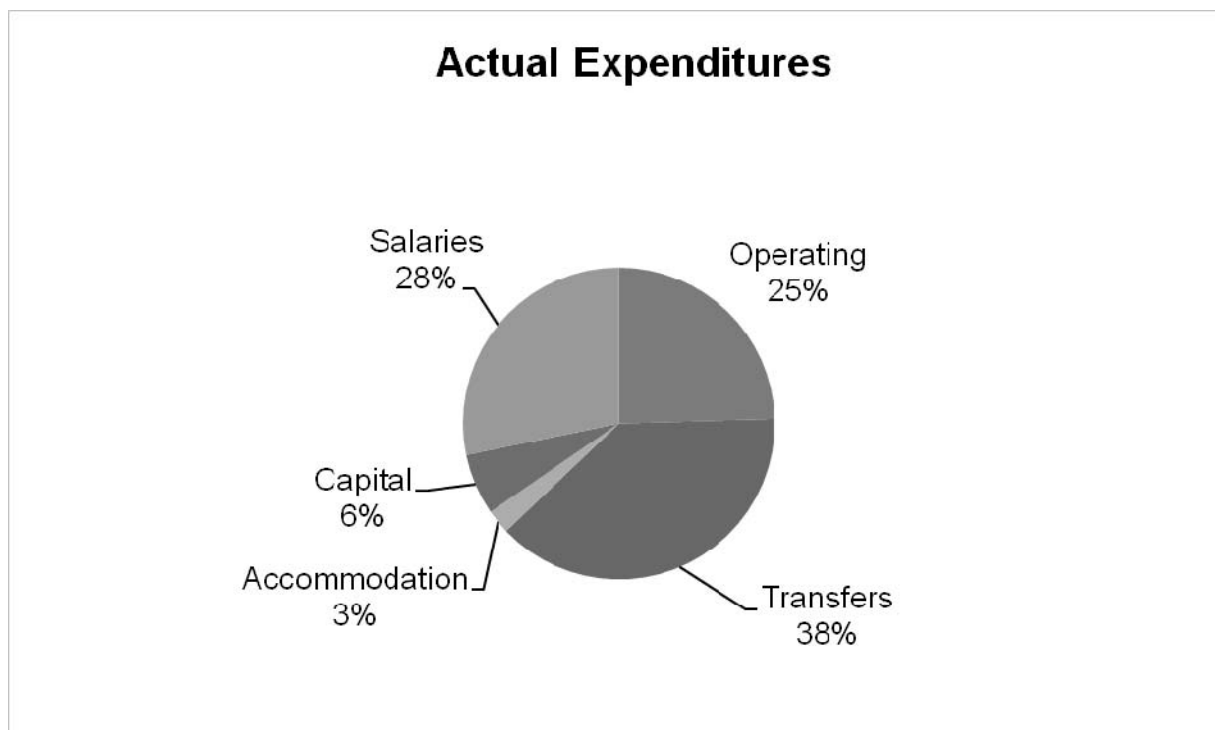
The ministry's budgeted revenue was \$47.9 million for 2010-11. Actual revenue recorded by the ministry was \$51.4 million. This increased revenue is the net effect of an increase in unredeemed bottle deposits, an increase in real property sales, an increase in forest revenues and a decrease in carbon sequestration revenue.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. Explanations and financial statements for the fund are found on pages 35-36.

### Expenditures

The ministry's approved estimates for 2010-11 were \$185.8 million, which included projected capital expenditures of \$16.6 million. The ministry's total approved expense (excluding capital asset acquisitions) for 2010-11 was \$174.3 million, including an amortization expense of \$5.0 million. The total 2010-11 actual expenses were \$213.9 million, a variance of \$39.6 million from estimates.

The following chart illustrates the allocation of the ministry's 2010-11 actual expenditures between the various cost categories.



The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 10 percent.

	2009-10 Actual Expenditures	2010-11 Approved Estimates	2010-11 Actual Expenditures	2010-11 Variance	
Subvote	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	
<b>EN01 Central Management and Services</b>					
Minister's Salary	44	45	45	-	
Executive Management	1,546	1,692	1,452	(240)	1
Central Services	10,429	9,547	9,468	(79)	
Accommodation Services	5,590	5,854	5,554	(300)	
Subvote Total	17,609	17,138	16,519	(619)	
<b>EN06 Climate Change</b>					
Green Initiatives	7,869	11,314	10,481	(833)	
Green Initiatives – SARCAN	-	4,000	4,600	600	2
Climate Change Program	-	1,409	981	(428)	3
Subvote Total	7,869	16,723	16,062	(661)	
<b>EN08 Compliance and Field Services</b>					
Field Operations	12,284	11,047	12,072	1,025	
Compliance and Enforcement	4,795	5,538	5,548	10	
Subvote Total	17,079	16,585	17,620	1,035	
<b>EN09 Forest Services</b>					
Forest Programs	6,592	6,373	5,894	(479)	
Reforestation	4,115	2,950	2,611	(339)	4
Insect and Disease Control	1,134	620	1,137	517	5
Subvote Total	11,841	9,943	9,642	(301)	
<b>EN10 Fire Management and Forest Protection</b>					
Forest Fire Operations	48,810	58,688	56,753	(1,935)	
Recoverable Fire Suppression Operations	2,467	1,400	723	(677)	6
Forest Fire Capital Projects	17,790	11,419	9,196	(2,223)	7
Subvote Total	69,067	71,507	66,672	(4,835)	
<b>EN11 Environmental Protection</b>					
Industrial	3,613	2,866	2,367	(499)	8
Municipal	7,778	4,362	4,153	(209)	
Environmental Audit	-	625	9	(616)	9
Environmental Assessment	1,211	1,233	970	(263)	10
Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System	21,721	17,721	17,721	-	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Operations	1,177	965	965	-	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Water Control	801	561	561	-	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation	3,533	866	866	-	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Water Quality	2,022	2,022	2,022	-	

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority – Flood Relief	-	-	45,015	45,015	11
Subvote Total	41,856	31,221	74,649	43,428	
<b>EN15 Land</b>	3,537	2,778	2,665	(113)	
<b>EN07 Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity</b>					
Fish and Wildlife Program	6,360	5,079	4,848	(231)	
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	3,694	3,804	3,622	(182)	
Subvote Total	10,054	8,883	8,470	(413)	
<b>EN14 Environmental Support</b>					
Policy and Planning	3,068	-	-	-	
Aboriginal Relations	-	855	778	(77)	
Northwest Development Strategy	659	-	-	-	
Strategic Planning and Performance Improvement	-	699	517	(182)	12
Information Management and Geomatics	3,140	5,237	4,965	(272)	
Client Services	-	1,096	716	(380)	13
Technical Resources	637	3,173	2,571	(602)	14
Subvote Total	7,504	11,060	9,547	(1,513)	
<b>Subtotal*</b>	<b>186,416</b>	<b>185,838</b>	<b>221,846</b>	<b>36,008</b>	
<b>Capital Assets Acquisitions</b>	(18,316)	(16,569)	(14,139)	2,430	
<b>Capital Assets Amortization</b>	4,204	5,030	6,188	1,158	15
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>172,304</b>	<b>174,299</b>	<b>213,895</b>	<b>39,596</b>	

\* The 2009-10 amounts have been adjusted to reflect the inclusion of non-spending control items such as prepaid expenses, inventory adjustments and gains/losses on capital asset disposals which were inadvertently omitted from the 2009-10 annual report.

#### Explanation of Variances:

- (1) Vacancy savings and lower than anticipated consulting and polling expenditures.
- (2) One-time payment to SARCAN from Go Green funding.
- (3) Savings related to vacant positions in Climate Change Branch.
- (4) Primarily due to under expenditures on site preparation contracts.
- (5) Expense associated with the purchase and application of BTK pesticide used to spray for spruce budworm as the branch did not originally expect to have to spray in 2010-11.
- (6) Lower than anticipated exporting of fire crews and equipment to other jurisdictions.
- (7) Delay in delivery of converted aircraft as part of the aerial fleet renewal program.
- (8) Primarily due to an internal reallocation of funding to address other ministry pressures but also includes savings associated with vacancies and reduced travel and training.
- (9) Vacancy and operational savings associated with a delay in implementing the environmental audit function in the ministry.
- (10) Net effect of savings associated with vacant positions and increased relocation expenses.
- (11) Additional funding approved for flood mitigation and for a proactive flood damage prevention program in the Waldsea and Fishing Lake areas.
- (12) Net result of an internal reallocation of funding, savings associated with vacant positions and operational under expenditures.
- (13) Vacancy savings due to delays in staffing as well as some operational savings for goods not received by year-end.
- (14) Lower than anticipated operating, contract and results-based regulations training expenses.
- (15) Asset reclassification and depreciation rate changes associated with movement to the MIDAS fixed asset module as well as increased amortization on the CL215 aircraft that was delivered in March 2011.

The following table describes actual funding provided to third parties in 2010-11:

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid (\$000s)
Agency Chiefs Tribal Council Inc.	Operating grant	35
Association of Regional Waste Management Authority	Go Green Fund – Card board and paper recycling program	264
Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	Operating grant	15
Canadian Water and Wastewater Association	Conference support	5
Central Flyway Council Inc.	Operational grant for goose banding and aerial survey work study	5
Ecotech Research Ltd	Go Green Fund - Application of electromagnetic techniques to detect water pipe leaks quickly and economically	19
Fed. of Saskatchewan Indian Nations	Operating grant	49
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	Operating grant – 30 per cent of revenues collected by the province on certain angling and hunting licenses issued	3,622
Foothills Research Institute	Grant for a science network and research collaboration to develop, test, distribute and support tools for establishing policy and practices for forest harvesting	35
Fpinnovations	Grant for research and development in silvicultural operations	13
Fpinnovations	Grant for research and development aimed at wildland fire suppression, protection and management	10
Fur Institute of Canada	Funding for trap research and development program, standard development, trapper education and public information programs	13
Meadow Lake Tribal Council Resource Development	Go Green Fund -Developing a demonstration project to determine the environmental and economic viability of a wood pelleting facility	100
Nature Saskatchewan	Promoting awareness of natural diversity in Saskatchewan	10
Petroleum Technology Research Center	Go Green Fund - Deep Saline Aquifer Carbon Storage Project	1,650
Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative	Go Green Fund – Research on the implications of climate change on the prairies and the development of a provincial adaptation strategy	500
Prairie Conservation Action Plan Office	Operating grant for SK Range and Riparian Health Assessment Framework project	5
Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers	NAWEO grant	10
Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres	Go Green Fund – Card board and paper recycling program	655
Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres	Operating Grant- Beverage container collection and recycling program	17,721
Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres	Go Green Fund – To assist in construction of a new processing facility	4,600



## Revenues

The majority of the revenue collected by the Ministry of Environment relates to environmental handling charges, hunting and angling license fees, forestry fees and dues and receipt from other governments for recoverable fire suppression costs. These revenues are collected on behalf of Government and all revenue collected is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

The ministry's budgeted revenue for 2010-11 was \$47.924 million; actual revenue recorded was \$51.446 million. This variance is the net effect of an increase in unredeemed bottle deposits, an increase in real property sales, an increase in forest revenues and a decrease in carbon sequestration revenue.

<b>Description of Revenue</b>	<b>2010-11 Budget (\$000s)</b>	<b>2010-11 Actual (\$000s)</b>	<b>Variance (\$000s)</b>	
<b>Own-Source Revenue</b>				
Other Licenses and Permits	14,893	15,409	516	
Sales, Services and Service Fees	22,341	23,343	1,002	
Interest, Premiums, Discount and Exchange	40	24	(16)	
Transfers from Other Governments	1,400	1,538	138	
Other Revenue	5,672	7,090	1,418	1
<b>Transfers from the Federal Government</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>3,968</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Revenue Items</b>	<b>47,924</b>	<b>51,372</b>	<b>3,448</b>	
<b>Non-Revenue Items</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Non-Revenue Items</b>	<b>47,924</b>	<b>51,446</b>	<b>3,522</b>	

Explanation of Variances:

- (1) Net result of an increase in unredeemed bottle deposits and lower than anticipated carbon sequestration revenue.
- (2) Net result of increased revenue associated with recoverable fire incidents, increased fire suppression on reserve lands and decreased revenue associated with the transfer of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Program to Saskatchewan Crop Insurance.

## Other

### Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) is a special purpose fund used by the ministry to support habitat protection and management throughout the province. Revenues are transferred to the FWDF based on an amount equivalent to 30 per cent of habitat license certificates and certain hunting, trapping and fishing license fees collected by the province. Basic expenditures relate to habitat protection through the purchase of habitat and management and enhancement of habitat.

The following table outlines summary information on budgeted and unaudited results for 2010-11 relating to the operations of the fund.

Audited financial statements will be available at [www.gov.sk.ca/finance](http://www.gov.sk.ca/finance) under the publications section of their website.

## Fish and Wildlife Development Fund for the period ended March 31, 2011

(based on unaudited figures)			
	2010-11 Budget (\$000s)	2010-11 Actual (\$000s)	Variance (\$000s)
<b>Revenue</b>	3,930	3,820	(110)
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Fish Enhancement Projects	1,950	2,045	95
Wildlife Habitat Projects	1,700	1,256	(444)
Grant in Lieu of Taxes	250	242	(8)
Total Expenses	3,900	3,543	(357)
<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenses</b>	30	277	247

### Explanation of Variances:

- (1) Due to lower than anticipated expenditures on conservation easements offset by additional expenditures associated with an increased number of contractual services agreements.

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## For More Information

The Ministry of Environment welcomes your comments and questions.

We can be contacted by email: [centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca)

phone: Greg Leake at (306)787-5511

or the Ministry of Environment's Inquiry Center, Prince Albert at (306)953-3750

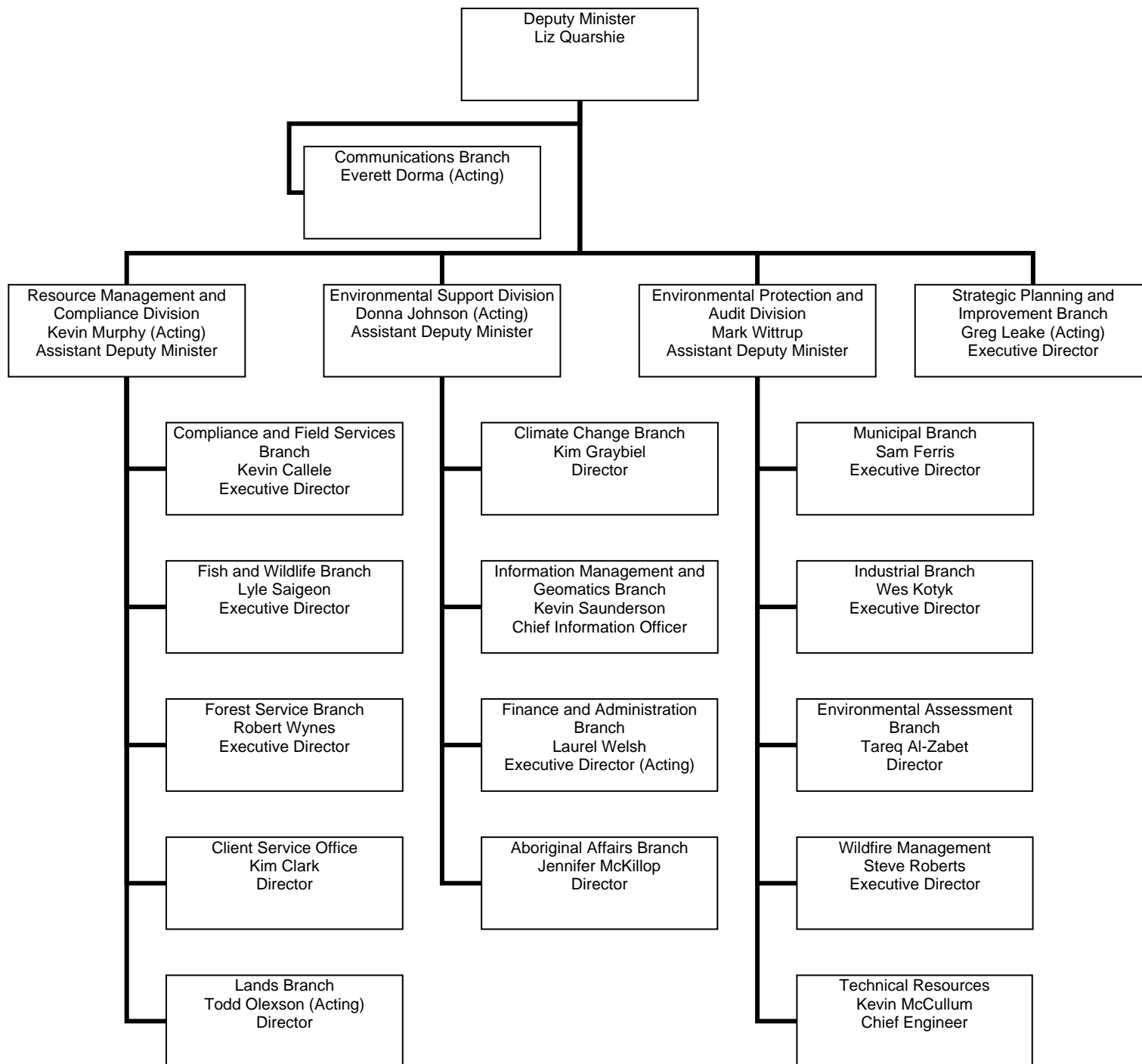
Toll free in Saskatchewan 1-800-567-4224

or mail: 3211 Albert Street, REGINA SK S4S 5W6

Visit our website at [www.environment.gov.sk.ca](http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca)

## Appendix A – Organizational Chart

Ministry of Environment organizational structure as of March 31, 2011.



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## Appendix B – Administered Legislation

The ministry derives its mandate, responsibilities and authority from a number of Acts and regulations under those Acts.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister of Environment are:

- The Clean Air Act protects Saskatchewan's air quality by regulating emissions that originate in the province.
- The Conservation Easements Act encourages private landowners, conservation organizations and governments to protect ecologically sensitive lands and natural areas through voluntary agreements.
- The Ecological Reserves Act protects unique, natural ecosystems and landscape features through the designation of Crown land as ecological reserves.
- The Environmental Assessment Act provides a practical means to ensure that development proceeds with adequate environmental safeguards and in a manner broadly understood by and acceptable to the public through the integrated assessment of environmental impact.
- The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 protects the air, land and water resources of the Province through regulating and controlling potentially harmful activities and substances.
- The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994 enables sustainable management of fisheries resources by affirming provincial ownership of fish, creating a provincial licensing system, and regulating allocation of fish resources, fish marketing, aquaculture, sport fishing and commercial fishing.
- The Forestry Professions Act establishes the Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals, an organization independent of government and industry, responsible for ensuring that its members maintain required standards for competency and conduct.
- The Forest Resources Management Act allows the ministry to implement a framework for sustainable management of Saskatchewan's forest resources.
- The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act recognizes hunting, fishing and trapping as protected activities in accordance with the law in Saskatchewan and designates November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year as Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day.
- The Litter Control Act makes littering an offence and provides for the establishment and administration of a deposit refund system for various beverage containers.
- The Natural Resources Act (subject to OC 208/96) establishes the Province's mandate to manage, protect, conserve and develop renewable resources in a sustainable manner.
- The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982 provides for the prevention, detection and suppression of prairie and forest fires originating in provincial forests, parks and on unoccupied Crown lands. It also governs compensation for conscripted fire fighters and authorizes establishment and regulation of fire bans and burning permit areas.
- The Protection of the Wild Ponies of the Bronson Forest Act provides protection for the wild ponies of the Bronson Forest.
- The Provincial Lands Act creates authority for the management and transfer of Crown lands.
- The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act gives Cabinet the ability to place conditions on the transfer or lease of lands listed in a schedule to this Act.

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- The State of the Environment Report Act provides for public accountability in reporting of environmental conditions and activities through the preparation and release of a State of the Environment Report every two years.
  - The Water Appeal Board Act establishes the Water Appeal Board and enables the board to hear appeals regarding water, sewage and drainage issues.
  - The Wildlife Act, 1998 provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife resources through the issuance and revocation of licences, the prosecution of wildlife offences and the establishment of annual hunting seasons.
  - The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife lands and wildlife by preventing the sale and alteration of certain Crown lands.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Watershed Authority are:

- The Conservation and Development Act
- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005
- The Water Power Act
- The Watershed Associations Act

**New acts that have received Royal Assent but are not yet in force:**

- The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 protects the air, land and water resources of the province through regulating and controlling potentially harmful activities and substances. This Act, once proclaimed, will repeal and replace The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002, The Clean Air Act, The State of the Environment Report Act and The Litter Control Act.
- The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as promoting investments in low-carbon technologies.

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## Appendix C – Key Partners and Stakeholders

The organizations listed below are considered the Ministry of Environment's primary partners/stakeholders because they:

- are provincial in scope;
  - have a significant impact on the environment or natural resources; or
  - are involved in major current issues or maintain a long term relationship with the ministry.
- 
- Aallcann Wood Suppliers Inc.
  - Agency Chiefs Tribal Council
  - Agrium Inc.
  - AREVA Resources Canada Inc.
  - Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan
  - Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan
  - Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals
  - Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs
  - BHP Billiton
  - Cameco Corporation
  - Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors
  - Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
  - Canadian Bankers Association
  - Canadian Cancer Society
  - Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre
  - Canadian Energy Pipeline Association
  - Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
  - Canadian Food Inspection Agency
  - Canadian Forest Service
  - Canadian Heritage River System Board
  - Canadian Institute of Forestry
  - Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
  - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
  - Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
  - Canadian Petroleum Products Institute
  - Canadian Plains Research Center
  - Canadian Standards Association
  - Canoe Saskatchewan
  - Carrier Forest Products Inc.
  - Claude Resources Inc.
  - CleanFarms
  - Communities of Tomorrow
  - Consulting Engineers of Saskatchewan
  - Consumer's Co operative Refineries Ltd.
  - Crop Life Canada
  - Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan
  - Ducks Unlimited Canada
  - Edgewood Forest Products
  - Enbridge Inc.
  - Enterprise Saskatchewan
  - Environment Canada
  - Envirotec Services Inc.
  - ERCO Worldwide
  - Evraz Inc. NA
  - Federated Co-operatives Ltd.
  - Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
  - File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
  - First Nations University of Canada
  - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
  - FPIInnovations-FERIC

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- Golden Band Resources Inc.
  - Green Lake Métis Wood Products Ltd.
  - Health Canada
  - Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting
  - Husky Energy
  - Imperial Oil Ltd.
  - Independent Forest Operators of Saskatchewan
  - Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
  - Interior West Fire Council
  - Iogen Corp.
  - Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership
  - L & M Wood Products Ltd.
  - Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd.
  - Louis Dreyfus Canada Ltd.
  - Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp
  - Meadow Lake OSB Limited Partnership
  - Meadow Lake Tribal Council
  - MeeToos Forest Products Ltd.
  - Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) and MNS Regions
  - Mistik Management Ltd.
  - Moose Jaw Asphalt (Gibsons Energy)
  - Mosaic Co.
  - Natural Resources Canada
  - Nature Conservancy of Canada
  - Nature Saskatchewan
  - New North
  - Noramera Bioenergy Corp.
  - NorSask Forest Products Ltd.
  - Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association
  - Northwest Communities Wood Products Ltd.
  - North West Municipalities Association
  - Northwest Wildland Fire Compact
  - Oilsands Quest Inc.
  - Operator's Certification Board
  - Paper Excellence
  - Parkland Industries Ltd.
  - Parks Canada
  - Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin
  - Potash One
  - Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan
  - Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative
  - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
  - Prairie Mines and Royalty Ltd.
  - Prince Albert Grand Council
  - Product Care Association (Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program)
  - Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan
  - Regina Fish and Game League
  - Richardson Nutrition Holding Ltd.
  - Sakâw Askiy Management Inc
  - Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians
  - Saskatchewan Archaeological Society
  - Saskatchewan Association of Firearm Education
  - Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres
  - Saskatchewan Association of Resource Recovery Corporation
  - Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
  - Saskatchewan Association of Rural Water Pipelines
  - Saskatchewan Black Powder Association
  - Saskatchewan Bowhunters Association
  - Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce



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- Saskatchewan Cooperative Fisheries Ltd.
  - Saskatchewan Eco Network
  - Saskatchewan Environmental Industry and Managers Association
  - Saskatchewan Environmental Society
  - Saskatchewan Falconry Association
  - Saskatchewan Forestry Association
  - Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union
  - Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund Management Corporation
  - Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)
  - Saskatchewan Minerals Inc.
  - Saskatchewan Mining Association
  - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
  - Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources
  - Saskatchewan Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations
  - Saskatchewan Ministry of Health
  - Saskatchewan Ministry of Municipal Affairs
  - Saskatchewan Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
  - Saskatchewan Nature and Ecotourism Association
  - Saskatchewan Outfitters Association
  - Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association
  - Saskatchewan Potash Producers Association
  - Saskatchewan Public Works Association
  - Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Association
  - Saskatchewan Research Council
  - Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation
  - Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association
  - Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association
  - Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
  - Saskatchewan Trappers Association
  - Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
  - Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Program
  - Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council
  - Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board
  - Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association
  - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
  - Saskatchewan Wild Rice Council
  - Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
  - Saskatoon Tribal Council
  - SaskEnergy
  - SaskPower
  - SaskTel
  - SASKTIP Inc.
  - SaskWater
  - Shell Canada
  - Shore Gold Inc.
  - Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
  - Southeast Saskatchewan Airshed Association
  - Southeast Treaty #4 Tribal Council
  - South Saskatchewan Wildlife Association
  - Suncor/Petro-Canada
  - Terra Grain Fuels
  - Tolko Industries Ltd./Meadow Lake OSB
  - Touchwood Agency Tribal Council
  - Tourism Saskatchewan
  - TransCanada Corp.
  - University of Regina
  - University of Saskatchewan
  - Vermette Trucking and Wood Preservers Ltd.
  - Viterra Inc.

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- Wascana Centre Authority
  - Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd., Saskatchewan Division
  - Wildwest Steelhead Corp.
  - Whitemud Resources Inc.
  - Wood Preservation Canada
  - World Wildlife Fund
  - Yara Belle Plaine Inc.
  - Yorkton Tribal Council
  - Zelensky Brothers

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## Appendix D – Publications Released by Ministry

- 2008-09 Ministry of Environment Annual Report
- 2008-09 Status of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan Annual Report
- 2009 Guide de Pêche
- 2009 Saskatchewan State of the Environment Report: State of Saskatchewan's Provincial Forests
- 2009 Stocked Waters Guide
- 2010 Anglers' Guide
- 2011 State of the Environment Report
- Aviation Services "Call When Needed" Agreement 2010
- Best Practices Guide for Open Burning
- Burning Permits for Open Burning: Frequently Asked Questions
- Chronic Wasting Disease: Mule Deer Samples Submitted 2007-09
- Chronic Wasting Disease: White-Tailed Deer Samples Submitted 2007-09
- Conservation Officer Career Fact Sheet
- Crown Resource Land Sale Opportunities: Questions and Answers
- Current Distribution Maps of Chronic Wasting Disease Positive Wild Deer in Saskatchewan: March 2010
- Don't Burn Grain Storage Bags
- Environmental Assessment Status Report – Year End 2009
- Field Guide to the Ecosites of Saskatchewan's Provincial Forests
- Forest Environmental Policy (Revised)
- Health and Environmental Effects of Burning Municipal Solid Waste (Environmental Protection Bulletin EPB 416)
- Hunting and Trapping Licence Sales and Revenue: 2008-09 Final
- Hunting: Frequently Asked Questions
- Ministry of Environment Plan for 2010-11
- SAML: Saskatchewan Air Monitoring Lab
- Saskatchewan Pilot's Handbook: Guide for the Safe Operations of Aircraft 2010
- Saskatchewan Wild Fur Harvest and Cash Values 2008-09
- Summary of the provincial Chronic Wasting Disease Sampling Efforts: 1997-2009
- Towards a Results-Based Environmental Regulatory System for Saskatchewan
- Trout Streams of the Cub Hills