Ministry of Government Relations









2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Letters of Transmittal	2
Introduction	4
Alignment with Government's Direction	4
Ministry Overview	5
Will listly Overview	
Progress in 2012-13	6
2012-13 Financial Overview	26
For More Information	21
Appendices	32
Legislation and Regulations	32
Organizational Chart	
Urganizational Chart	35

Letters of Transmittal



Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013.

The Ministry's report reflects our government's commitment to increased transparency and accountability and to responsible management of public expenditures. Through the programs and initiatives of the Ministry, we continued to deliver on our government's vision and goals.

The Ministry of Government Relations was established in May 2012. Our first year was one of transition and accomplishment: in working with the municipal sector to provide infrastructure and revenue-sharing support; in fulfilling government's obligations under the Gaming Framework Agreement and the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement; in establishing the Office of the Provincial Interlocutor for First Nations and Métis Relations; and in delivering effective public safety programs.

Jim Reiter

Minister of Government Relations

Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Letters of Transmittal



The Honourable Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

On behalf of Ministry staff, I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013.

As Deputy Minister of Government Relations and Deputy Minister of First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs, I acknowledge the responsibility of my office for the accuracy and reliability of the information that is contained in the Ministry of Government Relations Annual Report for 2012-13.

Al Hilton

Deputy Minister of Government Relations

Deputy Minister of First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Introduction

Effective May 25, 2012, the Ministry of Government Relations was created, bringing together the former Ministry of Municipal Affairs, various components of the former Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations, and the Public Safety component of the former Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

This Annual Report for the Ministry of Government Relations presents results regarding activities related to public commitments made for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013, as well as other key accomplishments.

Results are provided on publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in the 2012-13 Plans of the three former Ministries. The Report demonstrates progress made on Government commitments published in *Government Direction for 2012-13: Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage,* Ministers Mandate letters, and throne speeches.

The Annual Report demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency, and accountability to the public.

Alignment with Government's Direction

The Ministry's activities in 2012-13 align with Government's vision and four goals:

Our Government's Vision

A strong and growing Saskatchewan, the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Government's Goals

- Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people.
- Improving our quality of life.
- · Making life affordable.
- Delivering responsive and responsible government.

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

Ministry Overview

Following the May 2012 reorganization by the Government of Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Government Relations' **mandate** is:

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

The organizational structure has been changed to align with our new mandate. The Ministry is organized into two divisions and three branches. In addition, the Office of the Provincial Interlocutor for First Nations and Métis Relations has been created. The two divisions and three branches are:

- Corporate Services and Public Safety Division;
- Municipal Relations and Northern Engagement Division;
- Policy and Program Services Branch;
- · Lands and Consultation Branch; and,
- Communications Branch.

The Ministry of Government Relations' total 2012-13 full-time equivalent (FTE) utilization was 302.3, representing a variance of 71.6 FTEs above the budget of 230.7 FTEs. The variance is the result of term staff that were hired within the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program to help process claims.

The Ministry has locations across the province and staff are located in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, La Ronge and Buffalo Narrows.

Progress in 2012-13

Municipal Relations

Strategy - Engage municipalities in increasing capacity for economic development

Key Actions & Results

Collaborate with other ministries and the municipal sector to identify barriers and options to improve economic outcomes, e.g. review of subdivision regulations, Municipal Sector Strategic Plan

- The Municipal Sector Strategic Plan (MSSP) City Table met in December 2012 and February 2013. Priority projects under the MSSP are progressing and/or complete, such as the Municipal Revenue Sharing Pools Review and Long-Term Infrastructure initiative.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Environment on the Parallel Growth Policy to accommodate new subdivision development concurrently with 33 municipalities that need to upgrade their sewer or water systems.
- Contributed to planning of the 2012 Housing Planning and Development Summit with the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and other partners.
- Participated with the City of Regina and partners in planning for the 2012 National Infrastructure Summit.
- Participated in a working group with officials from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) to conduct a review of the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program. Program changes will be in effect for 2013-14.
- Amendments to The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act, and The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010 introduced in the 2012-13 legislative session enable inter-municipal business licensing arrangements among municipalities, including those in other provincial jurisdictions.
- Amendments to The Municipalities Act and The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010 were introduced in 2012-13 to allow permits to serve in multiple municipalities for overweight vehicles.

Implement recommendations of the review of Saskatchewan Municipal Board processes related to municipal boundary alterations

 Amendments to The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act, The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010, and The Municipal Board Act were introduced in fall 2012, passed in spring 2013, and are now in effect. These amendments will ensure municipalities attempt mediation to resolve disputes and improve/expedite processes when disputed applications go to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board (SMB) for adjudication/decision.

Act on recommendations of the review related to tax loss compensation in municipal boundary alterations

The Ministry's research paper on this topic, which
presented information on annexations in Saskatchewan
and other jurisdictions but did not make any
recommendations, was circulated for comment and
information to the municipal sector.

Manage the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative to support the provincial growth agenda

- This is an ongoing initiative until 2016-17. Payments
 continue to be made on projects approved during the
 four years of program approvals. The Ministry completed
 the fourth and final Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth
 Initiative application intake on September 30, 2010.
 A recreation intake at that time also resulted in three
 approved projects.
- In total, \$213 million in borrowing was approved for interest subsidy payments, supporting 112 projects in 82 municipalities. The projects approved will contribute to the development of 2,599 residential lots, as well as 10 commercial lot projects, two industrial lot projects, 47 off-site projects and three recreation projects to support growth. 76 municipalities have received subsidies totaling \$16,598,571.

Strategy - Champion and support effective community planning

Key Actions & Results

Work with the municipal sector and other provincial ministries and agencies to explore methods and sources to encourage regional planning for land use, infrastructure investment and economic development

- Assisted the Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP), including a regional planning conference held November 2012.
- Provided eight planning workshops in October to promote good planning practices, infrastructure needs, servicing agreements and regional collaboration.
- Approved two new planning districts.

Share best practices arising from the Planning for Growth program, a collaborative initiative to enhance regional planning capacity and establish best practices to facilitate sustainable growth and development across the province

 The Ministry continued to monitor the progress of Planning for Growth projects through regular status

- updates. Three projects were completed. Most projects will be completed in 2013-14. In collaboration with the Ministry, participating municipalities share best practices and lessons learned from projects.
- Planning for Growth North continued to work with partners to update and develop Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws in northern communities.
 Since program inception in 2010, ten plans have been adopted or are in the final stages of adoption, nine municipalities are in the process of having plans drafted, six municipalities have passed resolutions in anticipation of undertaking plan development, and five are expected to pass resolutions in the near future.

Provide guidance to municipalities identified as high growth areas regarding planning and development practices to expedite investment in housing, commercial and industrial development

• Completed a Planning Handbook to help guide municipalities with planning decisions consistent with *The Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations*.

Collaborate with the municipal sector to identify needs and approaches to improve municipal planning capacity

- Continued work with MCDP to build inter-municipal planning capacity.
- GR is leading the establishment of a multi-ministry Rapid Growth Community Team with intentions to pilot the Team's implementation in the Jansen-Humboldt region.

Strategy - Assist municipalities in addressing infrastructure needs to support growth

Key Actions & Results

Collaborate with provinces/territories and the federal government to develop a long term infrastructure plan and funding program

- Federal, provincial and territorial discussions occurred in July and August 2012. GR focused on conveying the Saskatchewan Advantage and how continued investment in municipal infrastructure such as roads, water, wastewater, buildings etc. is necessary to support growth.
- The 2013 federal budget announced the new Building Canada Fund and Community Improvement Fund.

Continue working with the municipal sector to review and design program options for a long-term, predictable and sustainable capital infrastructure program specific to Saskatchewan

- Through the Long-term Infrastructure (LTI) initiative, GR worked with the municipal sector to complete the development of options regarding a long-term approach towards municipal infrastructure.
- Research and consultations were completed as of March 31, 2013, in two areas: Best Practices for Optimizing Investment and Alternative Financing Methods.
- The Ministry worked with partners to assist northern communities in the operation and maintenance of their water and sewer systems.
- The Ministry's State of Northern Infrastructure Report was used in determining/identifying infrastructure requirements in northern Saskatchewan as part of the LTI project.
- In 2012, the Ministry completed work to improve data consistency, automate summary analyses and enhance user functionality of the Northern Municipal Asset Viewer, an online asset management application developed for the province and northern municipalities.

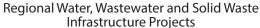
Facilitate orderly and efficient management of infrastructure programs to enable effective investments primarily for water, wastewater, solid waste, recreation, and local roads

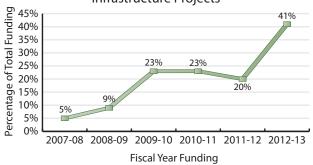
- Municipal infrastructure investments proceeded orderly and efficiently in 2012-13. At March 31, 2013, \$97.8 million in capital investment was expensed through the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component, Building Canada Fund – Major Infrastructure Component, Provincial-Territorial Base Fund, Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Provincial-Municipal Support Program, Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative, Transit Assistance for Persons with Disabilities, and the federal Gas Tax Program.
- Phase III of northern municipal water and sewer projects was achieved. In 2012-13, total expenditures under the northern water and sewer program were \$13.47 million.
- The current five year Northern Capital Grant (NCG) program ended on March 31, 2013, and to date has approved \$6.69 million amongst the northern municipalities with \$5.43 million being paid for recreational facilities, municipal equipment and buildings, and road building.
- The Northern Residential Subdivision Development Program has approved the Creighton construction project. Overall proposed project costs are \$1.5 million for 15 lots.

Performance Measure & Results

Regional water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure projects

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





Source: Government Relations – Municipal Infrastructure and Finance

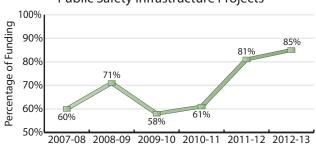
Significant funding in 2009-10 to 2012-13 has been committed to regional infrastructure. Clean water is essential for a high quality of life in our province. In order to provide necessary funding to achieve this, the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to provide funding for several important regional projects under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component in 2013-14.

Performance Measure & Results

Public environmental and safety projects

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

Public Safety Infrastructure Projects



Fiscal Year Funding

Source: Government Relations – Municipal Infrastructure and Finance

The percentage of funding in both 2009-10 and 2010-11 was previously recorded as 60%. These percentages have been adjusted due to several factors, including project savings and withdrawals.

In 2012-13, the percentage of funding for public safety projects was the highest level in the past eight years. This high percentage is the result of a focus on public safety projects under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component and the completion of many of the sport/culture/recreation/local roadway projects from 2009-10 to 2012-13.

Encourage municipalities to use servicing agreements and development levies to fund and achieve sustainable infrastructure investment

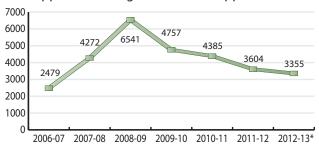
 Through the Integrated Subdivision Approval Program, the Ministry reviewed municipal/developer servicing agreements to ensure adequate infrastructure arrangements were in place to service the 1,164 subdivision applications GR approved for 3,355 new commercial, industrial and residential lots. Ongoing advice to municipalities to use servicing agreements and recover infrastructure upgrade costs through servicing agreements was encouraged for all multi-parcel applications.

Performance Measure & Results

Number of sites approved through subdivision approval process

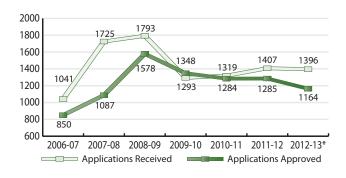
The subdivision of land is a key step for investment in economic growth as it precedes actual development. The following charts display the subdivision applications processed and the resulting sites approved from April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013, and for the previous six years:





Source: Government Relations - Community Planning

Number of subdivision applications received and approved



Source: Government Relations - Community Planning

Facilitating subdivisions supports the provincial objective for a prosperous economy. The elevated trend for lot development in the past five years represents significant investment in land and property within the province and places demands for new infrastructure to service the sites created.

Through the Integrated Subdivision Approval Program, GR reviewed the municipal/developer servicing agreements to ensure adequate infrastructure arrangements were in place to service the 1164 subdivision applications GR approved for 3355 new commercial, industrial and residential lots.

Engage municipalities in increasing their capacity to manage municipal infrastructure:

- » continue to work with municipal partners to develop training opportunities, resources and best practices to improve asset management and long-term financial planning;
 - The Ministry continued participation in, and support of, the Saskatchewan Municipal Asset Management working group in providing education and resources to Saskatchewan municipalities.
 - Several videos were produced which highlight federalprovincial investments in municipal infrastructure through various financial assistance programs.
- To further strengthen municipal Tangible Capital Asset (TCA) schedules in 2012, GR provided northern municipalities with TCA Replacement templates and engaged SaskWater to work with them to ensure the integrity of captured data.
- GR, in collaboration with the Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) Management Board, SaskWater and Associated Engineering Ltd., developed and recently upgraded a Northern Asset Management System (AMS) for northern municipalities. The updated AMS helps northern municipalities more easily identify the current state of their infrastructure and where best to spend infrastructure dollars. The AMS also improves government's understanding of northern municipal infrastructure funding needs and costs.
- » continue research with rural municipalities to track and report on road maintenance costs and loss of road life related to heavy hauls and road maintenance agreements.
- The multi-year research study regarding road maintenance and loss of road life compensation rates continued. The Ministry continued efforts to increase the participation by RMs and provided support to those already engaged.
- Following the Minister's announcement at the March 2013 SARM convention, GR advanced regulatory amendments for an inflationary increase to the road maintenance and loss of road life rates.

^{*} Please note that the figures reported above may fluctuate slightly between reporting periods due to minor corrections in the database for decisions.

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Strategy - Enable municipalities to achieve vibrant, safe, healthy communities

Key Actions & Results

Maintain our Government's commitment to provide unconditional funding to the sector through the Municipal Revenue Sharing program in an amount equal to one full point of the Provincial Sales Tax, based on Public Accounts

• The commitment was continued in 2012-13, providing a total of \$237.4 million to municipalities.

Complete our Government's commitment to review how municipal revenue sharing grants are allocated to the cities, urban, rural and northern funding pools

- A working group to undertake the review was formed in February 2012 by officials from GR, the City Mayors' Caucus, SUMA, SARM and New North.
- The review was completed with the new allocations announced in conjunction with the tabling of the 2013-14 provincial budget. Of the \$264.4 million to be provided in 2013-14 through revenue sharing, \$126.8 million is allocated to the cities, \$43.2 million to towns, villages and resort villages, \$74.7 million to rural municipalities and \$19.7 million to northern communities. Funding is provided based on the new pool allocations:

Cities	47.945%
Towns/Villages/Resort Villages	16.345%
Rural Municipalities	28.254%
Northern	7.456%

Encourage municipal policy and development decisions that promote community health and safety

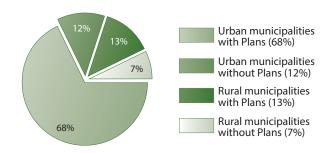
 Completed the handbook on The Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations to incorporate health and safety policies for building sustainable communities within municipal planning documents – Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws.

Performance Measure & Results

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

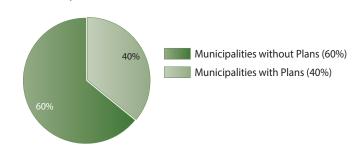
The Planning and Development Act, 2007 provides municipalities the authority to adopt Official Community Plans (OCPs). These plans set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipalities' economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support

recreational opportunities, and address community interests. The following charts represent all municipalities within Saskatchewan, including northern municipalities.



Source: Government Relations - Community Planning

Percentage of municipalities with or without Official Community Plans



Source: Government Relations - Community Planning

Since 2007, the economy in Saskatchewan has experienced significant growth, furthering the need to respond to increasing demands for residential and commercial lots, expanded infrastructure, and servicing to support community expectations and needs.

As the first pie chart displays, the majority of Saskatchewan's population lives in communities that have adopted OCPs (81%).

Providing support to municipalities in the facilitation of development and to help reduce potential risks, the Ministry:

- clarifies and coordinates provincial priorities for land use and development through the Statements of Provincial Interest;
- promotes the development of OCPs and zoning bylaws including coordination with municipal infrastructure funding projects;
- reviews and approves municipal planning and zoning bylaws to ensure consistency with legislation and provincial interests;
- forges links with other ministries to incorporate municipal land use planning objectives into their initiatives;

- facilitates the development of local capacity through education and training;
- · develops consultation processes; and,
- fosters relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

Promote use of the Ministry's new self-assessment tool by municipal governments to improve their long-term sustainability

- GR, along with sector partners, developed the Municipal Government Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool to help municipalities assess the strengths of municipal operations and identify opportunities for improvement.
- The Self-Assessment Tool and related Sustainability
 Tool Kit were launched and the Ministry participated
 in various promotional activities aimed at the sector.
 The Ministry continues to evaluate opportunities for
 promotion of the Sustainability Tool. It was expanded
 with additional content to assist municipalities in
 addressing sustainability issues identified by use of
 the tool.

Strategy - Support strategic and innovative improvements in the governance and administrative capacity of Saskatchewan's municipal sector

Key Actions & Results

Identify, evaluate and initiate strategic and innovative improvements to Saskatchewan's local government system:

- » work with municipalities to ensure the smooth implementation of four- year terms of office and new voter ID requirements under The Local Government Election Act;
- In preparation for the changes to legislation surrounding municipal elections, municipal advisors conducted training for election officials in ten locations around the province.
- Provided election workshops to train Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers.
- Assisted municipalities in developing bylaws for criminal record checks for municipal election candidates.
- When requested, additional training was provided in northern municipalities, and the Ministry assisted with delivering training on voter ID requirements in northern Saskatchewan.
- Information and communication resources were provided by the Ministry to municipalities, election officials and voters, such as posters and "mailers".

- Packages were sent to facility administrators advising of procedures/forms to help facilitate voting.
- A follow up survey was sent to all municipalities in March 2013 requesting feedback on 2012 municipal election experiences and suggestions for potential amendments to *The Local Government Election Act* in advance of 2016 elections.
- » provide regional opportunities for municipal collaboration and sharing of limited resources to facilitate and service new growth through amendments to The Planning and Development Act, 2007. Proposed changes will provide greater flexibility for planning districts to establish regional plans;
- Initiated amendments to The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to provide the province with ability to establish regional planning authorities in city/rural municipal growth regions.
- The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2012 was enacted with new flexible mechanisms for voluntary inter-municipal collaboration. Presentations on the changes were provided to the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA), and the Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan's annual conferences.
- » undertake consultations and introduce amendments to The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act, and The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010;
 - Consultations with the municipal sector and other stakeholders were undertaken during spring and summer 2012. Amendments developed for the three Acts were introduced in the fall 2012 legislative session with municipal sector support, and are now in effect after being passed in the spring 2013 legislative session.
- Amendments to municipal Acts were introduced in 2012-13 to improve annexation processes and enable inter-municipal business licensing and common issuance of overweight permits. They also address a number of sector requests to keep the legislation current.
- » initiate additional training workshops and other capacitybuilding initiatives for northern municipal administrators as identified in the Northern Municipal Trust Account Needs Assessment.
 - An ongoing initiative, the Ministry delivered workshops at end of November 2012 to administrators, clerks and newly elected councils in northern Saskatchewan, and delivered a Municipal Leadership Development Program Module.

Through training, workshops, pilot projects and other initiatives, continue to work with the municipal sector to enhance professional and administrative capacity

- In 2012-13, the Ministry:
 - prepared and delivered six sessions to 204 rural municipal administrators on providing access to public information under *The Local Authority Freedom* of *Information Act*;
 - provided ten election training sessions to 617 municipal officials;
 - attended and made presentations on general administrative issues at the RMAA and UMAAS conventions in May and June of 2012;
 - worked with SUMA and SARM to develop online resources for attracting administrators and conducting succession planning, with implementation expected for late fall; and,
 - offered twelve planning workshops and provided ongoing advice to municipal administrators and councils.
- In preparation for the 2013 province-wide property tax revaluation, GR worked with the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) to deliver six Assessment and Taxation workshops, and alongside SAMA and the SMB provided training to Board of Revision members in seven locations around the province.
- As a member of the Saskatchewan Municipal Asset Management working group, the Ministry actively supported their work financially as well as through participation in their activities. All material created to raise awareness and encourage asset management practices were made available to the working group to include on their website.
- GR continued to train and support staff in northern municipalities through the delivery of accounting training in partnership with New North and the Northern Local Government Administrators program, developed in conjunction with Northlands College and the University of Regina.

Continue to strengthen relationships with municipal partners through the Municipal Forum and other venues for dialogue

- Ministry officials attended six SARM Division Meetings in June, in various locations across the province. Attended UMAAS and RMAA conventions in May and June of 2012. Attended seven SUMA Regional Meetings in November.
- Attended SARM mid-term and annual conventions, and the SUMA annual convention. In 2012-13, GR engaged with SUMA and SARM on a number of initiatives and committees including: the Municipal Programs and

- Services Steering Committee, the Municipal Revenue Sharing Review Working Group, and the Long-term Infrastructure Initiative Committee.
- Ministry officials attended a Northern Mayors' Roundtable in Prince Albert hosted by New North in September.

Work with the Saskatchewan Assessment Appraisers' Association to update its professional legislation and regulations, and to ensure Government's interjurisdictional commitments respecting labour mobility are met

• Amendments to both *The Assessment Appraisers Act* and *The Assessment Appraiser Regulations* were proclaimed and put in force as of March 15, 2013. This removes identified labour mobility barriers, updates the Act and Regulations to provincial standards, and addresses the Saskatchewan Assessment Appraisers' Association's requests for legislative changes. The Association now needs to update its bylaws in compliance with the amendments.

Act on recommendations of the review of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board to strengthen its ability to carry out its responsibilities relating to local governments

- Amendments were introduced to The Municipal Board
 Act in fall 2012 to improve and streamline processes,
 enhance recruitment of members, and update references
 to Board functions. These have been passed and are
 largely in effect.
- Strengthened working relationship with SMB and identified additional SMB operational opportunities for further review and collaboration.

Strategy - Encourage and facilitate municipal, First Nations, and Métis relationships

Key Actions & Results

Inform municipalities of their duty to consult through municipal bylaw reviews, workshops and informational sessions

 GR provided eight workshops on planning and The Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations which increased awareness of the responsibility for municipalities to consider and incorporate First Nations' interests into planning documents.

Ensure duty to consult obligations are met when developing policy and legislation or approving bylaws and subdivisions

 Completed the Operational Procedures for Consultation with First Nations and Métis Communities for Community Planning in June 2012. Strengthen relationships between municipalities and First Nations and Métis people by facilitating discussions to enhance shared services and stimulate economic development

 Informed and consulted First Nations and Métis communities on four subdivisions and one municipal planning bylaw.

Strategy - Increase municipal financial and operational transparency and accountability

Key Actions & Results

Increase the overall knowledge of financial reporting, compliance requirements, and accountability at the municipal level through workshops, technical guidance and sharing of best practices

- Ongoing support and advice was provided by Ministry staff to municipalities on financial matters.
- Research and financial analysis was provided to assist various joint ministry-sector committees.
- The Ministry completed the first phase of the Municipal Financial Indicators (MFI) project to analyze the financial health of Saskatchewan municipalities by municipal category based on 12 financial indicators. A report summarizing the results of the MFI project was completed outlining a financial overview of towns, villages, resort villages and rural municipalities from 2005 to 2009 inclusive.

Provide advice and counsel to support municipal compliance with Public Sector Accounting Board requirements, legislative requirements and funding agreements

 The Ministry continued to raise awareness and build knowledge regarding non-compliance issues through a variety of approaches, including ongoing and advance communication on pending deadlines and requirements for extensions.

Communicate to Saskatchewan people Government's initiatives and investments in municipalities. Traditional and emerging communications channels will be used to highlight provincial investment in municipal infrastructure projects, capacity building endeavors like the Municipal Government Sustainability Self Assessment Tool and emphasis on best practices including initiatives related to municipal asset management.

- In conjunction with municipal stakeholders, GR developed an introductory guide on asset management.
- The Municipal Information DataPortal (MID) was updated to provide additional links to information on asset

- management in Saskatchewan, other provinces and other countries.
- The Sustainability Tool Kit has been updated with various information related to dealing with sustainability issues identified by use of the Municipal Government Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool.

Educate and raise awareness of roles and responsibilities of municipal elected officials

 Collaborated with SARM and SUMA to deliver Module 1

 "Council Roles and Responsibilities" – of the Municipal Leadership Development Program. 587 municipal officials attended in November 2012.

Complete development of legislative amendments to enable municipalities to designate special service areas as a means to finance and provide extra services to particular parts of municipalities

 Amendments were introduced to The Municipalities Act in fall 2012 to enable "additional service areas" for rural municipalities. These enabling provisions were passed and will come into force on January 1, 2014.

Project assessment and property tax shifts associated with the 2013 revaluation, develop tax policy options, undertake consultations with stakeholders, provide tax policy recommendations to government and implement decisions

- Analysis regarding the 2013 revaluation was completed and an official announcement was made to stakeholders in November.
- The percentages of value for elevators, railway rights of way and pipelines were increased from 75 to 100 percent. This harmonized the percentages of value for the commercial/industrial sector and mitigated some of the tax shifts due to revaluation.
- Government has set an interim limit on mill rate factors for the 2013 taxation year to support the equitable distribution of property taxes set by municipalities among property classes.
- The Ministry will conduct a further review and consult with business stakeholders and the municipal sector to develop a long-term policy for placing limits on mill rate factors to take effect in 2014.
- Mill rate factors do not apply to Education Property Taxes.

Develop options and make recommendations to government to set education property tax mill rates

- New Education Property Tax (EPT) mill rates were announced on budget day, March 20, 2013.
- Legislative amendments to implement the new EPT mill rates have been passed in the legislature.
- For the 2013 taxation year, which is a revaluation year,
 EPT mill rates have been lowered; however, some

property owners may see taxes increase because of greater assessment values. Overall, the changes keep the impact on EPT revenue neutral in terms of revaluation, as government is holding the line on EPT.

- Legislation was passed requiring municipalities to submit monthly, interim and annual EPT returns to GR.
- The monthly, interim and annual EPT returns for municipal reporting of EPT to school divisions and the Ministries of Education and GR were redesigned.
- GR met with tax roll software vendors to implement changes to discounts, add an EPT property class, add a tax status class, and embed EPT returns in the tax roll software. Generating EPT returns through the tax roll software is anticipated to reduce the number of errors on the returns and increase the submission rate of returns.
- The Ministry also prepared fact sheets, frequently asked questions and detailed instructions on completing the EPT returns and posted this information and the redesigned forms on GR's website.
- Significant EPT shifts within the commercial/ industrial property class were projected to occur from implementation of the 2013 revaluation due to significant differences in the growth in assessment values. To help alleviate these shifts, the commercial/ industrial tiers for the EPT were eliminated and the commercial/industrial property class was separated into two classes. This helped to adjust the balance of EPT raised within the commercial/industrial property class, mitigated shifts from revaluation and eliminated a perceived disincentive to grow businesses.

Strategy - Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Ministry's programs and services

Key Actions & Results

Utilize Lean value-stream mapping events and other tools to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Ministry processes

- Revisions have been made to policies and procedures regarding deadlines and processes for quarterly NMTA financial reports, improving timeliness and accuracy.
- The Ministry continued to maintain and report on past Lean value stream mapping events. For example, one past event focused on improving the management of federal-provincial infrastructure programming. The 2009-10 baseline for federal-provincial program payment processing was 28.6 days, and 60 percent of claims were processed in 24.4 days (target set). At March 31, 2013, claims were processed in an average of 21.1 days, and 72 percent of all claims were processed by the 24.4 day target.

Develop internal Ministry Lean capacity to assist improvement efforts and ensure a long-term Lean culture is fully developed and sustained

 The Ministry has focused on building internal Lean capacity in the past year. Numerous staff members have received Lean training offered by the Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry staff are applying the Lean methodology to everyday tasks.

Develop an updated automated municipal financial information reporting system in consultation with stakeholders

• Work with stakeholders on the next phase of the system project is planned to commence in the near future.

Implement results from the review of the management of municipal tax exemptions, abatements, discounts, and penalties in relation to education property tax

 Amendments were made to end the application of property tax incentives (discounts) to EPTs. This came into effect on January 1, 2013.

Provide municipal government access to the Ministry's Property Assessment and Taxation Mapping and Analysis Program (PATMAP), a tool to examine tax shifts from local tax tools and municipal boundary alterations

 The software upgrade for the Geographic Information Systems component of PATMAP progressed. When the upgrades are complete and have been tested, access will be possible.

Implement an online payment system for the Subdivision On-Line Applications (SOLA)

• The Ministry continued the development of a business plan for a new SOLA platform.

Expand the data and information available to the Ministry, other ministries and municipalities through the Municipal Information Dataportal

 MID was updated to provide additional links to information on asset management, 2011 census results, financial information, community growth and development and various other subject matter of interest related to municipalities.

Public Safety

Strategy - Enhance Saskatchewan's capacity in emergency management, building and fire safety

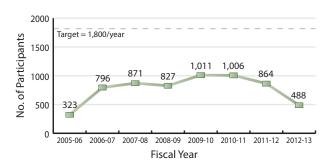
Key Actions & Results

Manage provincial resources in supporting municipalities facing emergency situations through the delivery of training initiatives to increase local and regional preparedness

- Support to municipalities in emergency management
 was ongoing in 2012-13. There is a heightened
 awareness at all levels around the need for effective
 emergency management practices as a result of
 flooding events in 2011 and wildland fires in 2012. Local
 governments generally became increasingly better
 prepared, more knowledgeable about emergency
 management protocols and more engaged in working
 directly with their residents.
- Prior to March 31, 2013, training sessions were held in Warman, Melfort, Rosthern, Shellbrook, Wynyard, Melville, Fort Qu'Appelle and Stoughton to increase communities' level of preparedness for 2013 spring flooding. Each session was attended by approximately 60 urban, rural and First Nations officials.
- Coordinated provincial resources through the Emergency Operations Centre for:
 - June severe weather and widespread power outage in the northwest and central portions of the province;
 - overland flooding at James Smith First Nation; and,
 - numerous wild land fires around North Battleford and southwestern Saskatchewan.
- Completed a Lessons Learned report: June 2013
 Severe Storms and Power Outage and discussed the recommendations with the Provincial Emergency
 Operations Advisory Committee for implementation by their respective ministries, crowns and agencies.

Performance Measure & Results

Number of individuals participating in the Emergency Management Training Program



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

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

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

The cancellation of federal funding for the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program has had a significant impact on training offered in 2012-13. The Province will continue to look for ways to support local governments in their efforts to improve their levels of emergency preparedness.

Implement interoperable radio communications across jurisdictions and disciplines for the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunication Network (PPSTN) to ensure emergency service and public safety personnel responding to emergency events have the ability to communicate with each other

- The PPSTN has 8,000 radios active on the system including the RCMP, SaskPower, and GR. In addition to these, approximately 238 active radios are installed at repeater sites for monitoring and system testing. There are also over 120 dispatch consoles on the system.
- Work continued in 2012-13 to maintain the resilience, reliability and security of the system, bridge service gaps and manage the infrastructure lifecycle.

- Technical interoperability has been established between the PPSTN and systems in Saskatoon, Regina and Swift Current and interoperability work is ongoing with Estevan, the provinces of Alberta and Manitoba and the state of Montana.
- PPSTN interoperable radio channel names have been standardized, and delivery of joint agency radio and interoperability training is ongoing.

Advance a new training curriculum for building officials and establish an implementation plan in order to meet the demands of owners and industry in a growing province

 The Building and Accessibility Standards Appeal Board has reviewed the training curriculum and is developing recommendations to address the challenges that have been identified.

Provide an effective disaster financial assistance program, capable of identifying and responding to the critical needs of individuals, communities and others facing the impact of natural and other disasters.

- In 2012, there were 154 communities designated for assistance under the program and 935 claims received.
 441 payments were made on 2012 claims and forty percent of the 2012 claims were closed.
- In addition to managing new 2012 claims, the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) continued to assist claimants with outstanding 2010 and 2011 claims and processed 7,000 payments on these claims.
- To enhance customer awareness and preparedness, GR expanded the PDAP website, developed fact sheets, and improved information packages and other communication tools designed to better prepare individuals, families and communities.
- Additional support and an ongoing training initiative for local PDAP coordinators has been introduced on a number of First Nations reserves to further promote community capacity and resiliency.
- Program guidelines have been reviewed and updated where required to provide clarity and consistency in the management of claims.

Continue discussions with federal and provincial stakeholders promoting a systematic review and update of disaster cost-recovery rates

- Research was completed on the Manitoba and Alberta reimbursement rates applied to municipal owned equipment during disasters. It was concluded that these rates exceed the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements guidelines.
- Throughout 2012-13, discussions on disaster costrecovery rates evolved to emphasize the importance of

investment in mitigative measures and not just response and recovery rates.

Enhance communication with stakeholders through the development of code information materials for owners, industry, consumers and small business owners through print, web and social media

 Newsletters, advisories, bulletins and guidance documents were prepared and updated. Code adoption workshops were delivered in six cities outside of Saskatoon and Regina and presentations were made to the Saskatchewan Building Officials Association and other groups.

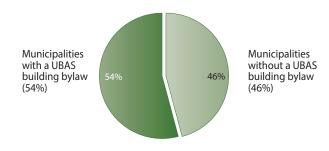
Work towards adoption of the 2010 National Building Code and the 2010 National Fire Code for Saskatchewan

• Work on code adoption continued in 2012-13.

Performance Measure & Results

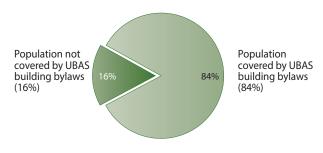
Percentage of municipalities with a building bylaw pursuant to *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* (UBAS)

These measures demonstrate municipal leadership in providing public safety through the adoption of building bylaws pursuant to *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* (UBAS) and enforcement of building standards that promote construction of safe buildings.



Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Building Standards

Percentage of population covered by UBAS Act building bylaws



Source: Ministry of Government Relations - Building Standards

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

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

This measure demonstrates municipal leadership in providing public safety through the adoption of building bylaws pursuant to *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* (UBAS) and enforcement of building standards that promote safe construction of buildings. As of March 31, 2013, 54% of municipalities had UBAS approved building bylaws in place, while 46% of municipalities were without a UBAS building bylaw pursuant to the Act. Municipalities with building bylaws in place represent 84% of the province's population (based on the 2011 Census), not including reserve populations. Inspections on reserves where the National Building Code is utilized are conducted by First Nations building officials.

Ongoing and developing efforts and initiatives by the Ministry, as well as inter-ministry and agency co-ordination, will increase the implementation of UBAS building bylaws by municipalities.

Participate in discussions toward the development of effective Western Canadian partnerships in matters of emergency preparedness and response

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in place to facilitate emergency management assistance across provinces. Under the MOU, GR provided a Command and Rapid Response Team to assist British Columbia with technical advice, installation of 18,000 feet of HESCO flood barriers, and five sandbagging machines during flooding events in 2012.
- GR participated in national and international committees, such as the Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region.

Support provincial ministries, agencies, and Crown corporations in emergency management preparedness and training:

- » complete the inter-ministerial update of the Provincial Emergency Plan and the Protocol for Declaration of a State of Provincial Emergency;
- » examine options and develop a pilot program for a public alerting system for the province;
- » implement a new provincial data management system for fire and emergency statistics collection to assist in identifying gaps in service related to municipal emergency response capacity; and,
- » continue to improve emergency preparedness and resiliency among critical infrastructure owners and operators through work with the advisory network of owners, operators and industry partners.
 - The Provincial Emergency Plan was updated and a plan has been developed to undertake a Public Alerting pilot.
- Implementation of the new Fire Incident Reporting System is near completion. Four communities (Fort Qu'Appelle, Balgonie, Warman, and the city of Prince Albert) have been chosen to take part in a pilot project and testing has begun.
- Recent emergencies have highlighted the importance of preparedness and resiliency amongst critical infrastructure owners and operators. A multi-year strategic plan was developed for discussion with the Critical Infrastructure Advisory Network (CIAN).
- CIAN has received very strong support from all Crowns and several federal agencies, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and from the private sector, particularly in mining and energy.

Delivery of the Seniors Home Security Initiative to provide free home security assessments and home safety devices to low-income seniors and seniors who have been victims of break-ins or home invasions

- The Seniors Home Security program was implemented province-wide October 2012.
- In 2012-13, 132 applications were received and 114 were approved and processed.

Undertake an enterprise approach to responding to largescale emergencies. Work with the Ministry of Environment to identify overlap and gaps in the work each ministry performs in responding to emergencies.

- Enterprise-wide discussions have been completed and joint training opportunities are being pursued with other ministries, along with a commitment for joint assistance with future legislative drafting.
- Emergency Services officers attended a Forest Fire Investigation course, and Rapid Response Team members have attended wildfire training.

Strategy - Maintain public safety through the administration of gas and electrical licensing and the continued oversight of a balanced legislative framework for boilers, pressure vessels, elevators and amusement rides

Key Actions & Results

Administer gas and electrical licensing programs

- The Ministry continued to administer gas and electrical licensing programs. In 2012-13, approximately
 9,600 electrical licenses and 4,400 gas licenses were maintained within the licensing system in Saskatchewan.
- Review of regulatory provisions was initiated and will continue in the next fiscal year.

With the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan (TSASK), provide effective oversight of the safety agreement with TSASK, the agency responsible for the licensing and inspection of boilers, pressure vessels, elevators, and amusement rides

- Throughout 2012-13 GR provided oversight of the Safety Standards Agreement with TSASK.
- The Ministry and TSASK officials initiated a review of the Safety Standards Agreement.

Work with Enterprise Saskatchewan and other partners on an alternative service delivery model for services

• Identification and analysis of alternative service delivery models was completed in 2012-13.

Continue to implement the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) project to upgrade the 9-1-1 system, in order to improve service level tracking, increase accuracy and security of information and enable receiving of texts, images and video from smart phones. (Government Direction for 2012-13: Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage)

 Testing of the telephone system required to implement NG911 was initiated. Once complete, NG911 upgrades will be implemented in the three major Public Safety Answering Points, located in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert.

Strategy - Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Ministry's programs and services

Key Actions & Results

Review and update, as necessary, Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) policy, regulatory and guideline documents

 Program regulations are reviewed on an ongoing basis, with the next formal review scheduled for fall 2013.

Continue to improve documentation and record management regarding PDAP in support of provincial and federal audit processes

- A new file storage and retrieval system was developed to provide more efficient and effective flow of claimant files.
- Process improvements, such as detailed checklists, were developed to ensure full documentation is provided for audit purposes.
- Staff training and other improvements were undertaken to provide a more consistent and effective documentation system.

Ensure that the right to privacy of all clients is upheld through Ministry policies, and practices including ongoing awareness and information sessions regarding security, privacy, access, and records management

 Orientation of new employees includes introduction to privacy issues, and on-going training is provided to all program staff to ensure a clear understanding of privacy legislation and their responsibilities.

First Nations and Métis Engagement

Strategy - Provide government oversight for effective consultation and accommodation, policy and participation

Key Actions & Results

Provide advice and guidance to ministries on implementation of the Government's Consultation Policy Framework

- Saskatchewan's First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework (CPF) was released in June 2010. In 2012-13, GR continued to provide leadership, policy advice and training to government ministries, agencies and Crowns to ensure the consistent implementation of the CPF. GR also managed the Consultation Participation Fund to support First Nations and Métis communities to consult with the provincial government where a duty to consult is required.
- GR continued to work collaboratively with the ministries of Justice and Environment to develop and deliver workshops on the duty to consult to government ministries, agencies and Crown corporations. These workshops help to build internal capacity for the consistent implementation of the CPF.
- Joint presentations with the Ministry of Justice on the CPF were provided to the Ministries of Parks, Culture and Sport and Social Services.

Effectively manage the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund to ensure duty to consult objectives and obligations are met and First Nations and Métis relationships are strengthened

 Improvements made in 2012-13 to the fund criteria and overall grant processes, along with the introduction of a fast track grant option, have facilitated consultations with First Nations and Métis communities. It has also helped to inform government's decision making within notification timelines.

Performance Measure & Results

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

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

incurred by First Nations and Métis communities involved in government consultations.

Funding supports decision making and assists government in fulfilling its legal obligation to consult with First Nations and Métis in advance of decisions or actions which have the potential to adversely affect Treaty or Aboriginal rights to hunt, trap, fish for food, and carry out traditional uses. Eight grants were approved in 2012-13.

Work with consulting ministries, agencies, and stakeholders in developing and/or implementing:

» consultation and accommodation operational procedures;

 Worked with the ministries of Environment and Justice to design and deliver a workshop on developing operational procedures to guide government staff in understanding roles and responsibilities in assessing the duty to consult and managing consultation processes.

» proponent guidelines;

 Developed a draft Proponent Handbook – Engagement with First Nations and Métis Communities to provide guidance to proponents on voluntary engagement prior to the submission of a project proposal; facilitated engagement sessions with industry, municipal stakeholders, First Nations and Métis representatives, and ministries, agencies and Crown corporations during November 2012; and reported back on "What we Heard" in March 2013.

» an evaluation process in 2013-14, on the Consultation Policy Framework and its implementation.

Established a working group with the Ministry
of Environment and began discussions on the
development of an evaluation tool to review the
content of the Consultation Policy Framework and its
implementation.

Strategy - Advance economic development for First Nations, Métis and Northern people

Key Actions & Results

Work with other ministries and agencies to support the development of strategic policy to enhance the participation of First Nations, Métis and Northerners in provincial economic growth

 Under the Northern Development Ministers' Forum, GR led senior officials' research on the scope and effects of growing numbers of project-based impact benefit agreements being negotiated between major resource development interests and local (largely Aboriginal) communities across Canada.

As a result of Government of Saskatchewan restructuring in May 2012, the Ministry of Economy assumed lead responsibility for the following actions. Progress in 2012-13 is provided in their Annual Report:

- Assist northern businesses and non-profit organizations by providing Northern Development Fund (NDF) loans and grants
- Support entrepreneurship, business development and community economic development in the north
- Explore potential initiatives to support community planning, collaboration and project prioritization
- Build capacity and foster collaborative relationships and partnering among Northern stakeholders
- Continue to conduct analysis of the northern economy to benchmark progress and identify opportunities for growth.
- Continue sponsorship and participation in the Conference Board of Canada's Centre for the North project, to support its national research initiatives in the project's three priority areas: (1) thriving communities; (2) economic development; and, (3) sovereignty and security
- Explore mechanisms that support business and industry competitiveness to fulfill the development of the "Strong Economy" pillar of the Northern Action Plan

Support the Saskatchewan commercial fishing industry to transition from a monopoly marketing agreement with Canada to an open, competitive market, including its exploration and implementation of alternative models that will broaden processing and marketing options for their catches

 All Saskatchewan co-op commercial fisheries that previously shipped to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) under the 1969-2012 monopoly contracted, for 2012, to ship their landings to FFMC. With Saskatchewan Cooperative Fisheries Ltd.'s recent decision to not build a fish processing plant in Prince Albert, GR has referred inquiries on new opportunities in the sector to well-positioned fisheries co-ops or individual producers in the industry.

Strengthen Northerners' awareness and understanding of northern mining, energy and other resource projects, to increase their support for such industrial developments, and their related employment and investment opportunities

Initiated research, through the Community Vitality
Monitoring Partnership Process, on the socioeconomic
effects of uranium mining in northern Saskatchewan
since the mid-1990s. The final report was released in
March 2013 and presentations to key interest groups
were initiated.

- Updated Northern Saskatchewan content for the website of the Northern Development Ministers Forum, an initiative of 11 jurisdictions across Canada.
- Presented an overview of Saskatchewan's regulatory framework for mines on northern Crown land to representatives of the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee (NSEQC).
- Presented an overview of the socioeconomic commitments reflected in northern mine surface lease agreements (and the related results) to the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, and the Northern Labour Market Committee.
- Participated in fall 2012 tour of northern communities
 with uranium mining companies and federal regulators;
 explained GR's role in regulating mining industry,
 highlighting two programs: the NSEQC, and northern
 mine surface lease agreements.

Negotiate and administer mine surface lease agreements to encourage maximum training, employment and business opportunities for Northerners

- Drafted the inaugural annual report summarizing the socioeconomic benefits for Northerners from northern mining operations for 2011, as reported to GR by the companies. Report was widely distributed in fall 2012 and is available on the Ministry website.
- Working collaboratively with the Ministry of Environment and industry, developed an amended mine surface lease agreement for the La Ronge Gold Property in March 2013 to accommodate an expanded mine site and to update content.

Facilitate consideration of Northerners' perspectives in decisions concerning resource developments in the north

 GR regularly reviews and comments on a range of northern project proposals each year. In 2012-13, these included: Saskatchewan's draft 25-year water plan; a draft Public Consultation Program for the Island Falls Transmission Line Reinforcement Project; and the draft Environmental Impact Statements for the Key Lake Extension and the Millennium Project.

Facilitate power generation partnership opportunities for First Nations and Métis organizations (2010 Mandate Letter)

 Assisted SaskPower in the development of the First Nations Power Authority of Saskatchewan (FNPA). The FNPA is a not-for-profit entity created to facilitate the development of First Nations-led power projects with SaskPower and promote First Nations participation in procurement opportunities with SaskPower.

Strategy - Strengthen the investment framework to encourage and support northern industry

Key Actions & Results

Deliver the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee (NSEQC) program to support communities' discussions and to strengthen their sharing of information and inputs into government and industry decisions concerning northern uranium exploration activities and mine developments

In 2012-13 seven mine site tours were completed, two
all-Environmental Quality Committee meetings held, and
two site-specific workshops were held with industry. The
NSEQC published its annual report to communities, and
delegates received seven newsletters. NSEQC four-page
updates were published in five issues of Opportunity
North, an independent magazine distributed free to
residents of the Northern Saskatchewan Administrative
District that reports on the activities of a broad range of
northern resource industries.

In partnership with other regulatory, developmental, and industrial partners, better co-ordinate and streamline decision-making frameworks and information flows supporting northern mining projects

 Maintained an up-to-date flowchart of all federal/ provincial environmental regulatory processes surrounding mining developments on northern provincial Crown lands. The flowchart identified key steps for government approvals and public input, and provided contact information on key regulators. The flowchart is intended to support the ministries of Economy and Environment executive officials in their discussions with federal counterparts on framework streamlining opportunities, and to help Northerners better understand the process.

Strategy - Foster economic and social development through the Gaming Agreements

Key Actions & Results

Manage the Province's obligations under the First Nations Gaming Agreement with respect to the First Nations Trust and Community Development Corporations

 Payments to the First Nations Trust (FNT) and the Community Development Corporations (CDCs) are used for economic and social development purposes in all First Nation communities in Saskatchewan. In addition, non-First Nation charitable groups in the communities where the casinos are located benefit from these proceeds.

- Distributed \$60.12 million to the FNT, representing 25 percent of the estimated net profits of the two casinos operated by the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation (SGC) and 50 percent of the estimated net profits of the six on-reserve casinos operated by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA).
- Distributed \$22.38 million to four CDCs, representing 25 percent of the estimated net profits earned by the onreserve casinos.
- The FNT and CDCs are required to provide GR with the following accountability reports: annual report, management letter, response to management letter, list of grant recipients, and auditor's letter of compliance.
 - Reviewed by the Ministry, all 2011-12 reports were found to be in compliance with the Gaming Framework Agreement. Reports for 2012-13 are due September 30, 2013.

Manage the Province's obligations under the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act and the agreement between the Province and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) with respect to the Métis Development Fund

Distributed \$3.55 million to the Clarence Campeau
Development Fund (CCDF) representing their estimated
share of 25 percent of the Saskatchewan Gaming
Corporation net profits. The payment is designed to
support business and community development and
management skills for Métis-owned businesses and
entrepreneurs.

Participate with the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) in a 2012 review of the Gaming Framework Agreement

 The five year review of the Gaming Framework Agreement (GFA) between the province and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) was completed.

Strategy - Improve the well-being of northern Saskatchewan residents

Key Actions & Results

Provide support and work in partnership with northern municipal, First Nations and Métis leaders through a Northern Leaders Table to build a Northern Action Plan by establishing goals and identifying and implementing northern priorities

- GR worked with New North, Northern Leaders, and northern stakeholder groups to identify potential initiatives that could address priority northern challenges and opportunities.
- The new municipal revenue sharing allocation provided an 18.6 percent increase to northern municipalities.

Support the activities of three northern social development coordinators who are working with communities to build capacity and respond to opportunities

• GR provided support, through New North, for three northern social development coordinators in 2012-13.

Support the Pinehouse Social Development Project as an example of community development that can be used as a model for positive growth and change

- Benchmarks and indicators to measure social change for the Pinehouse Project in 2012-13 were developed. GR officials also met with the Mayor of Pinehouse and an official from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to discuss federal support for youth initiatives through its Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth funding.
- A draft indicators report was developed.

Strategy - Work to improve the well-being of First Nations and Métis children

Key Actions & Results

Conclude negotiations on behalf of the Government with Canada and the FSIN on joint implementation of Jordan's Principle

 Saskatchewan's negotiating team is led by GR, and includes representatives from the ministries of Health, Social Services and Education. Negotiations were temporarily suspended in June, 2012. Although negotiations were not active since June 2012, the parties have successfully developed practical arrangements to avoid a Jordan's Principle case in Saskatchewan.

Lead and/or facilitate First Nations and Métis engagement with government and provide policy advice on integrated solutions across the four priority areas that comprise the Saskatchewan Children and Youth Agenda including supporting:

- » the Ministry of Social Services in First Nations and Métis engagement in the development and implementation of a Child Welfare Transformation Strategy;
- » the Ministry of Health in the development and implementation of an Autism Spectrum Disorder/Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Strategy;

- » the Ministry of Justice (formerly the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing) in the development and implementation of Saskatchewan's Police and Partners Strategy to build safer communities and reduce violent crime; and,
- » the Ministries of Advanced Education (formerly the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration), Economy and Education in the Government's overall approach to eliminating the education and employment gaps for First Nations and Métis people including efforts related to the Joint Task Force (JTF) with the FSIN on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes in Saskatchewan.
 - GR continued, through 2012-13, to participate with, and provide support to, its ministry partners on all the various components of the Children and Youth Agenda. With the objective of improving outcomes for First Nations and Métis children and youth, much of GR's focus was participating in inter-ministry work in support of the Joint Task Force established in partnership with the FSIN.

Work to support First Nations and Métis engagement in preparations for the 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Regina. The NAIG is a major opportunity to promote participation in sport, Aboriginal cultures and tourism in Saskatchewan.

• Work continued through 2012-13.

Strategy - Fulfill the Province's land claim obligations to Canada for First Nations

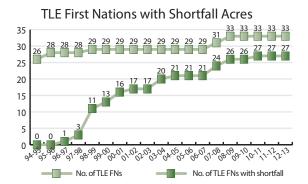
Key Actions & Results

Oversee and coordinate the implementation of Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Specific Claims Agreements

- GR continued to support and worked to fulfill government's obligations with respect to TLE and Specific Claims Agreements. This included the coordination and implementation of the agreements across government, and addressing implementation issues with First Nations, the federal government and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations through the TLE Joint Technical Working Group. A TLE Workshop was held which succeeded in bringing the parties together to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- Coordinated the reviews of 106 new selection requests totaling 297,000 acres.
- Participated in planning with FSIN and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the TLE Framework Agreement that was held on September 25, 2012.

Performance Measure & Results

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) First Nations that have acquired their shortfall acres



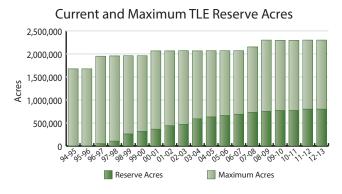
Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

GR works with its TLE partners to fulfill provincial obligations with respect to Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE). Shortfall acres are the minimum amount of acres each TLE First Nation is required to acquire and transfer to reserve status before the outstanding treaty land obligation is met.

This chart shows the number of TLE First Nations who have transferred their shortfall acres to reserve status in relation to the total number of TLE First Nations. As of March 31, 2013, 33 First Nations have signed TLE agreements with Canada and Saskatchewan. Of those, 27 have succeeded in transferring their shortfall acres to reserve status.

Performance Measure & Results

TLE reserve acres transferred in relation to the maximum number of acres available for transfer



Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

GR works with its TLE partners to fulfill provincial obligations with respect to Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) The TLE

agreements set out the maximum amount of acres that may be transferred to reserve status for each TLE First Nation. The acquisition and transfer of land to reserve status will be completed once the maximum acreage has been reached by each TLE First Nation.

This chart shows the progress of TLE reserve creation compared to the maximum acreage available for transfer to reserve status under the current 33 TLE agreements. As of March 31, 2013, a total of 809,302 acres, or about one third of the maximum acres (2.3 million acres), have been transferred to reserve status.

Lead negotiations of TLE claims with Canada and First Nations

 GR continued to lead provincial involvement in negotiations modeled on the TLE Framework Agreement between Canada, Saskatchewan and four First Nations: Ahtahkakoop First Nation, Big Island Lake Cree Nation, Mistawasis First Nation and Sakimay First Nations.

Work collaboratively with other ministries and Crown corporations to develop policy and address First Nations' land matters as they arise

 GR provided policy leadership and worked collaboratively with other ministries on First Nation land claim matters as they arose throughout 2012-13.

Strategy - Develop new and strengthen existing partnerships with First Nations, Métis and Northern people, and the federal government to address social and economic issues and opportunities

Key Actions & Results

Support and manage the Bilateral Protocol with the FSIN

 Discussions occurred between FSIN and government officials around the future of the Bilateral Protocol.

Support and manage the Bilateral Process with the MNS and the tripartite initiatives with the MNS and Canada

- GR officials attended quarterly meetings with Canada and the MNS under the tripartite process.
- GR officials attended quarterly meetings with the MNS under the Bilateral Process. The development of Métis youth was a key goal of the work. GR officials supported a Provincial Métis Youth conference which was held in Saskatoon in March, 2013. The Conference led to the development of Provincial Métis Youth Council which is now incorporated and has developed its own

bylaws and action plan aimed at strengthening youth political development and abilities to take advantage of educational and employment opportunities.

Explore opportunities for partnerships with First Nations and Tribal Councils

- GR and the Whitecap Dakota First Nation (WDFN)
 established a Joint Task Group to explore the
 potential for partnerships in areas of mutual interest.
 An arrangement was concluded to have WFDN's
 band bylaws adjudicated in the provincial court
 and discussions occurred around other potential
 partnerships.
- Continued to monitor federal self-government related initiatives.

Bring together provincial, territorial and federal ministers with northern development mandates to discuss northern issues at the Northern Development Ministers' Forum (NDMF) in fall 2012

- The planned September 2012 NDMF was postponed due to a number of ministers' inability to attend.
 Saskatchewan and Alberta agreed to jointly host the NMDF in September 2013 in Fort McMurray, AB, and planning was ongoing throughout 2012-13.
- GR chaired the Senior Officials Working Group (SOWG)

 a standing committee supporting the planning and delivery of the annual NDMFs, and hosted the SOWG in Toronto in February 2013 to begin planning and preparations for the 2013 NDMF.
- GR officials also continued to lead research with other jurisdictions on one of three projects to be reported on at the fall 2013 Forum.

Lead inter-ministry work on urban Aboriginal issues by working with federal and municipal officials on the delivery of the federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy in three urban centers – Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert

 The federal government extended its Urban Aboriginal Strategy to March 2014. GR continued to provide policy advice to government ministries regarding opportunities in partnership with the Urban Aboriginal Strategy.

Work toward completing an internal provincial government review of self-government policy and the Province's role at the Office of the Treaty Commissioner's Treaty Table

• Work continued throughout 2012-13.

Lead and/or facilitate government engagement with First Nations, Métis and industry on matters of interest to all parties, such as economic benefit sharing and environmental stewardship when appropriate

 Officials from GR and other ministries continued to explore collaborative methods to address matters such as environmental stewardship, economic and employment opportunities.

* Due to government reorganization and the creation of the Office of the Provincial Interlocutor for First Nations and Métis Relations, GR did not implement a survey developed by the former Ministry in response to the below performance measure from the First Nations and Métis Relations 2012-13 Strategic Plan: GR's contribution to provincial policies and initiatives that have an impact on First Nations, Métis and Northern people

Continue to lead the completion of negotiations with the MNS on a Métis Harvesting Agreement, in partnership with the Ministries of Environment and Justice

• GR continued to lead the negotiations through 2012-13.

Continue to support the Ministry of Health in its negotiations with First Nations and Health Canada on the first Ten Year Health Plan which is part of implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on First Nations Health and Well-Being

 Provided policy advice to the Ministry of Health on the implementation of its Memorandum of Understanding.

Continue to support the Ministry of Justice in preventing violence against Aboriginal women and girls and in improving the services needed in situations of violence

- Continued to work collaboratively with many agencies to reduce family violence in Saskatchewan communities.
- Continued to work with other ministries and agencies on the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons; initiatives included planning the declaration of May 5 – 11, 2013 as Missing Persons Week.

Strategy - Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Ministry's programs and services

Key Actions & Results

Implement an inter-ministry database to facilitate effective and efficient consultations

 Progress was made on the development of a SharePoint site to share information across ministries, agencies and Crown corporations to improve the coordination and effectiveness of consultations and funding processes.

Improve efficiencies within the Ministry through the use of Lean principles and methodologies

• GR reviewed the Consultation Participation Fund and approval processes and made improvements to streamline grant agreements, reduce processing time and introduced a fast track application option for grants up to \$10,000.

2012-13 Financial Overview

Financial Results

Actual appropriated expenditures were \$591.7 million, representing an increase of \$114.5 million over the restated Government Relations appropriation budget of \$477.2 million. This increase is primarily attributable to:

- higher than anticipated claim and program administration costs for the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (\$110.1 million);
- higher than anticipated casino profits resulting in increased gaming agreement payments (\$18.6 million);
- spring flooding preparation and response costs (\$2.3 million);
- funding provided to the town of Kindersley to assist with construction of a multi-use facility (\$3.4 million);

partially offset by:

- infrastructure projects progressing slower than anticipated and projects coming in under budget (\$15.8 million);
- fewer applications received under the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund and actual payments less than originally anticipated (\$1.1 million); and,
- net savings across the Ministry, primarily due to restructuring efficiencies and expenditure restraint efforts (\$3.0 million).

Supplementary funding was provided to Government Relations to address pressures within the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program, gaming agreements and Emergency Management and Fire Safety. Overall, as a result of internal under expenditures, \$6.6 million or 1.1 percent of available funding was not utilized.

The 2012-13 revenue budget was \$98.3 million. Actual revenue was \$179.6 million, representing an increase of \$81.3 million over budget. This is primarily attributable to the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program due to higher than anticipated cost recovery from the federal government and for refunds to the General Revenue Fund where actual claim settlements were lower than estimated account payables.

The 2012-13 FTE budget is 230.7, which is net of a (7.0) FTE reduction assigned in-year from the 2012-13 unallocated balance. The variance to budget number of 71.6 compares 2012-13 actual FTEs to 2012-13 final FTE budget. The variance is the result of term staff that were hired within the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program to help process claims

Summary of Expenditures

The following table summarizes budgeted versus actual expenses by subvote and subprogram based upon internal reorganization completed in 2012-13. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 5% and \$100,000.

Subvote/Subprogram	In thousands of dollars	2012 12			
Subvote/Subprogram Budget Actual Over/(Under) Note Central Management and Services 10,951 10,272 (679) Minister's Salary 94 54 (40) Executive Management 1,787 1,314 (473) 1 1 Central Services 6,231 6,005 (26) 1 Central Services 2,839 2,899 60 </th <th>III triousarius oi dollars</th> <th>2012-13</th> <th>2012 12</th> <th>Varianco</th> <th></th>	III triousarius oi dollars	2012-13	2012 12	Varianco	
Central Management and Services 10,951 10,272 (679) Minister's Salary 94 54 (40) Executive Management 1,787 1,314 (473) 1 Central Services 6,231 6,005 (226) Accommodations Services 2,839 2,899 (60) First Nations and Métis Engagement 75,019 91,154 16,135 First Nations and Métis Relations 3,219 2,547 (672) 2 Treaty Land Entitlement 1,200 71 (1,129) 4 Mist Sevelopment Fund 3,288 3,553 265 5 First Nations Gaming Agreements 64,191 82,501 18,310 6 Municipal And Northern Engagement 380,745 367,692 (13,053) Urban Revenue Sharing 151,935 151,794 (141) Rural Revenue Sharing 16618 6,984 139 Northern Revenue Sharing 16,188 16,618 - Provincial/Territorial Base Fund 9,008 8,503	Subvote/Subprogram				Note
Minister's Salary					
Executive Management					
Central Services 6,231 6,005 (226) Accommodations Services 2,839 2,899 60 First Nations and Métis Engagement 75,019 91,154 16,135 First Nations and Métis Relations 3,219 2,547 (672) 2 Treaty Land Entitlement 3,121 2,482 (639) 3 First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund 1,200 71 (1,129) 4 Métis Development Fund 3,288 3,553 265 5 First Nations Gaming Agreements 380,745 367,692 (13,053) 1 Municipal and Northern Engagement 380,745 367,692 (13,053) 1 Urban Revenue Sharing 68,845 68,894 139 1 Northern Revenue Sharing 16,618 16,618 1 1 Provincial/Territorial Base Fund 9,508 8,503 (1,005) 7 Building Canada Fund - Major Infrastructure Component 4,192 4,192 - Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund 2,00	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				1
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First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund 1,200 71 (1,129) 4 Métits Development Fund 3,288 3,553 265 5 First Nations Gaming Agreements 64,191 82,501 18,310 6 Municipal and Northern Engagement 380,745 367,692 (13,053) 1 Urban Revenue Sharing 151,935 151,794 (141) 1 Rural Revenue Sharing 16,618 16,618 - Provincial/Territorial Base Fund 9,508 8,503 (1,005) 7 Building Canada Fund - Major Infrastructure Component 4,192 4,192 - Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund 2,007 439 (1,568) 8 Building Canada Fund - Communities Component 32,742 19,553 (13,189) 9 Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative 6,053 5,706 (347) 10 Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program 3,212 3,212 3,212 2,21 - Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes 12,300 12,4					
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Urban Revenue Sharing 151,935 151,794 (141) Rural Revenue Sharing 68,845 68,844 139 Northern Revenue Sharing 16,618 16,618 − Provincial/Territorial Base Fund 9,508 8,503 (1,005) 7 Building Canada Fund − Major Infrastructure Component 4,192 4,192 − Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund 2,007 439 (1,568) 8 Building Canada Fund − Communities Component 32,742 19,553 (13,189) 9 Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative 6,053 5,706 (347) 10 Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program 3,212 3,212 − Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes 12,300 12,421 121 Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency 9,565 9,565 − Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 1 Provincial Municipal Board 1,407 1,360	Municipal and Northern Engagement	380,745	367,692	(13,053)	
Rural Revenue Sharing 68,845 68,984 139 Northern Revenue Sharing 16,618 16,618 - Provincial/Territorial Base Fund 9,508 8,503 (1,005) 7 Building Canada Fund - Major Infrastructure Component 4,192 4,192 - Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund 2,007 439 (1,568) 8 Building Canada Fund - Communities Component 32,742 19,553 (13,189) 9 Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative 6,053 5,706 (347) 10 Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program 3,212 3,212 - Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes 12,300 12,421 121 Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency 9,565 9,565 - Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Support - 3,721 5,989					
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Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund 2,007 439 (1,568) 8 Building Canada Fund - Communities Component 32,742 19,553 (13,189) 9 Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative 6,053 5,706 (347) 10 Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program 3,212 3,212 - Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes 12,300 12,421 121 Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency 9,565 9,565 - Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 12 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications	Provincial/Territorial Base Fund	9,508	8,503	(1,005)	7
Building Canada Fund - Communities Component 32,742 19,553 (13,189) 9 Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative 6,053 5,706 (347) 10 Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program 3,212 3,212 - Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes 12,300 12,421 121 Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency 9,565 9,565 - Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 78 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications <t< td=""><td>Building Canada Fund – Major Infrastructure Component</td><td>4,192</td><td>4,192</td><td>_</td><td></td></t<>	Building Canada Fund – Major Infrastructure Component	4,192	4,192	_	
Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative 6,053 5,706 (347) 10 Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program 3,212 3,212 - Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes 12,300 12,421 121 Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency 9,565 9,565 - Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 477,175 591,670 114,495 Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 <td>Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund</td> <td>2,007</td> <td>439</td> <td>(1,568)</td> <td>8</td>	Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund	2,007	439	(1,568)	8
Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program 3,212 3,212 - Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes 12,300 12,421 121 Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency 9,565 9,565 - Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16		32,742	19,553	(13,189)	9
Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes 12,300 12,421 121 Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency 9,565 9,565 - Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 78 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 <td>Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative</td> <td>6,053</td> <td>5,706</td> <td>(347)</td> <td>10</td>	Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative	6,053	5,706	(347)	10
Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency 9,565 9,565 - Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 78 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 <td>Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program</td> <td>3,212</td> <td>3,212</td> <td>_</td> <td></td>	Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program	3,212	3,212	_	
Municipal and Northern Relations 7,713 7,172 (541) 11 Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) 1 Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 12,139 12,139 12,139 1 1 1,239 1,230 1,231 1,239 1,248 1,339 1,4 1,4 1,439 1,4 1,409 1,4 1,2,744 110,094 1,5 1,4 1,2,744 110,094 1,5 1,4	Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes	12,300	12,421	121	
Gas Tax Program 56,055 56,133 78 Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 2 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency	9,565	9,565	_	
Provincial Municipal Support - 3,400 3,400 12 Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	·	7,713	7,172	(541)	11
Saskatchewan Municipal Board 1,407 1,360 (47) Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	<u> </u>	56,055		78	
Public Safety 9,053 121,192 112,139 Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Provincial Municipal Support		3,400	3,400	12
Emergency Management and Fire Safety 3,721 5,989 2,268 13 Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Saskatchewan Municipal Board	1,407	1,360	(47)	
Building Standards and Licensing 1,282 1,143 (139) 14 Provincial Disaster Assistance Program 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Public Safety	9,053	121,192	112,139	
Provincial Disaster Assistance Program Public Safety Telecommunications 2,650 112,744 110,094 15 15 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions Capital Asset Amortization (1,400) (1,315) 85 (440) 16 85 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705) -	Emergency Management and Fire Safety	3,721	5,989	2,268	13
Public Safety Telecommunications 1,400 1,316 (84) Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	3	1,282	1,143	(139)	14
Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network - - - - Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Provincial Disaster Assistance Program	2,650	112,744	110,094	15
Total Appropriation 477,175 591,670 114,495 Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Public Safety Telecommunications	1,400	1,316	(84)	
Capital Asset Acquisitions (1,400) (1,315) 85 Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network	_	-	_	
Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Total Appropriation	477,175	591,670	114,495	
Capital Asset Amortization 2,724 2,284 (440) 16 Total Expense 478,499 592,639 114,140 Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Capital Asset Acquisitions	(1,400)	(1,315)	85	
Supplementary Funding 120,705 - (120,705)	Capital Asset Amortization	2,724	2,284	(440)	16
	Total Expense	478,499	592,639	114,140	
TOTAL 599,204 592,639 (6,565)	Supplementary Funding	120,705		(120,705)	
	TOTAL	599,204	592,639	(6,565)	

Explanation of Major Variances:

- 1. Efficiencies realized as a result of Ministry restructuring.
- 2. Expenditure restraint.
- 3. Tax loss compensation requirements are less than budgeted due to the level of reserve land creation activity.
- 4. Fewer applications and payments than anticipated.
- 5. Profits reported by Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation higher than anticipated.
- 6. Profits reported by Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority and Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation higher than anticipated.
- 7. Projects progressing at a slower rate than originally anticipated.
- 8. Some projects withdrawn from program; some completed under budget.
- 9. Projects progressing at a slower rate than originally anticipated; some projects completed under budget.
- 10. Lower interest rates and less borrowing by municipalities than originally anticipated.
- 11. Expenditure restraint.
- 12. Funding provided to the town of Kindersley to assist with construction of a multi-use facility.
- 13. Spring flooding preparation and response costs higher than anticipated.
- 14. Expenditure restraint.
- 15. Costs to provide disaster assistance to claimants significantly higher than anticipated.
- 16. Amortization requirements less than budgeted.

Summary of Revenues

The Ministry's major revenue relates to agreements with the federal government. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the Ministry's 2012-13 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than \$100,000.

In thousands of dollars	2012-13	2012-13	Variance	
Revenue Category	Budget	Actual	Over/(Under)	Note
Other Enterprise and Funds	_	261	261	
Sask911	_	261	261	1
Other Licenses and Permits	504	1,025	521	
Subdivision Fees	500	643	143	2
Licensing Fees	4	382	378	3
Sales, Services and Service Fees	54	66	12	
Debenture Authorization	30	50	20	
Miscellaneous Services	4	3	(1)	
Other Service Fees	20	11	(9)	
Freedom of Information	_	2	2	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	40	23,508	23,468	
Refunds – Previous Year's Expenditures	15	23,417	23,402	4
Casual Revenue	25	91	66	
Other	_	_	_	
Other Federal/Provincial Agreements	97,659	154,746	57,087	
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)	300	_	(300)	5
Gas Tax Program	56,055	56,055	_	
Building Canada Fund – Communities Component	21,617	10,306	(11,311)	6
Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund	806	219	(587)	7
Joint Emergency Preparedness Program	580	172	(408)	8
Disaster Financial Assistance	18,100	87,793	69,693	9
Employability Assistance	201	201		
Total Revenue	98,257	179,606	81,349	

Explanation of Major Variances:

- 1. Reimbursement from Sask911 Fund for costs related to the management and support of the Sask911 system.
- 2. Higher than anticipated subdivision activity.
- 3. Higher than anticipated number of gas and electrical licenses issued.
- 4. Actual Provincial Disaster Assistance Program claim settlements were lower than the estimated accounts payable.
- 5. No claims submitted for 2012-13.
- 6. Lower than anticipated revenue due to project delays caused by weather and contractor availability and projects completed under budget.
- 7. Lower than anticipated program commitments, resulting in a decreased reimbursement from the federal government.
- 8. Final reimbursement of eligible project costs under Joint Emergency Preparedness Program which was eliminated by the federal government in 2012.
- 9. Higher than anticipated federal revenue as a result of 50/50 Flood Mitigation Agreement and increased Provincial Disaster Assistance Program costs.

Financial Accountability Statement

Government Relations is responsible for ensuring:

- public accountability for Government finances entrusted to the Ministry;
- fiscally responsible management of its resources and financial affairs;
- · compliance with existing legislation and regulations;
- systems and controls are in place to safeguard public assets; and,
- appropriate results are reported to the public and the legislature.

There are a number of external controls in place to monitor these responsibilities. They include:

Audited Results – The Provincial Auditor's Office has legislative responsibility to audit the Ministry. Audit conclusions are published in a report to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. If a deficiency is reported by the Provincial Auditor, the Ministry may be called to appear before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature.

Accountable to Legislature – The Ministry's annual budget is detailed in the Saskatchewan Provincial Budget Estimates. The Ministry is called to appear before a Legislative Committee to defend the Ministry's budget estimates.

Public Reporting – Expense and revenue details as they pertain to the Ministry are published in the Ministry's Annual Report, and Public Accounts Volumes 1 and 2.

For More Information

Additional information about the Ministry of Government Relations is available at: http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/. The website includes general and detailed information about the Ministry, its key programs, special studies and legislation for which the Ministry is responsible.

For more information about Government Relations, or to provide feedback about our 2012-13 Annual Report or performance results, please contact us at:

Phone: (306) 798-6093 E-mail: GR-Inquiry@gov.sk.ca

Mailing address: Ministry of Government Relations 1855 Victoria Avenue Regina SK S4P 3T2

Appendix A

Acts and Regulations

The Minister of Government Relations is assigned the administration of the following Acts, except insofar as another minister is assigned the administration of the Act:

- The Amusement Ride Safety Act
 - The Amusement Ride Safety Regulations
- The Assessment Appraisers Act
 - The Assessment Appraisers Regulations
- The Assessment Management Agency Act
 - The Assessment Management Agency Regulations
- The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999
 - The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Regulations
- The Border Areas Act
- The Cities Act
 - The Cities Regulations
- The City of Lloydminster Act
- The Community Planning Profession Act
- The Controverted Municipal Elections Act
- The Cut Knife Reference Act
- The Department of Rural Development Act
 - jointly assigned to the Minister of Government Relations and the Minister of the Economy except with respect to clauses 7(a),
 (d) and (e) and 9(e) which are jointly assigned to the Minister of Government Relations, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of the Economy
- The Department of Urban Affairs Act
 - except clause 7(b) which is assigned to the Minister of Social Services
- The Electrical Licensing Act
 - The Electrical Contractor's Guarantee Bond Regulations, 1988
 - The Electrical Licensing Fees Regulations
 - The Electrical Licensing Exemption Regulations
- The Emergency 911 System Act
 - The Public Safety Answering Point Regulations, 2011
- The Emergency Planning Act
 - The Provincial Disaster Assistance Program Regulations, 2011
- The Emergency Services Telecommunication Program Regulations
- The Fire Prevention Act, 1992
 - The Saskatchewan Fire Code Regulations
 - The Fire Insurance Fees and Reporting Regulations
- The Flin-Flon Extension of Boundaries Act, 1952
- The Gas Licensing Act
 - The Gas Licensing Regulations

- The Local Government Election Act
 - The Local Government Election Regulations, 2006
- The Local Improvements Act, 1993
 - The Local Improvements Forms Regulations, 1991
- The Municipal Board Act
 - The Saskatchewan Municipal Board Fees Regulations
 - The Saskatchewan Municipal Board Member Qualification Regulations, 2003
- The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act;
- The Municipal Development and Loan (Saskatchewan) Act;
- The Municipal Expropriation Act
- The Municipal Grants Act
 - The Municipal Grants Regulations
- The Municipal Industrial Development Corporations Act;
- The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act
 - General Regulations under The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act
- The Municipalities Act
 - The Municipalities Regulations
- The Municipality Improvements Assistance (Saskatchewan) Act;
- The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010
 - The Northern Municipalities Regulations
- The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act
 - The Passenger and Freight Elevator Regulations, 2003
- The Planning and Development Act, 2007
 - The Subdivision Regulations
 - The Dedicated Lands Regulations, 2009
 - The Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations
- The Rural Development Act
 - jointly assigned to the Minister of Government Relations and the Minister of the Economy
- The Rural Municipal Administrators Act
- The Subdivisions Act.
- The Tax Enforcement Act
 - The Tax Enforcement Regulations
- The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act
- The Time Act
 - The Time Act General Regulations
- The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act
 - The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Regulations
 - The Building and Accessibility Standards Administration Regulations
- The Urban Municipal Administrators Act
- The Urban Municipality Act, 1984

The Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs is assigned the administration of the following Acts, except insofar as another minister is assigned the administration of the Act:

- The Indian and Native Affairs Act
 - except clause 7(b) which is jointly assigned to the Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs and the Minister of the Economy
- The Métis Act
- The Northern Affairs Act
 - jointly assigned to the Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs and the Minister of the Economy
- The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act, but only with respect to:
 - Part III.01; and
 - the powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed on the minister and the Minister of Finance pursuant to Part III.1
- The Saskatchewan Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (Treaty Land Entitlement) Act
- The Treaty Land Entitlement Implementation Act

Appendix B

Organizational Chart as of March 31, 2013

