

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



10-11

PLAN FOR 2010-11

MINISTRY OF  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS



# MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2010-11

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## Statement from the Minister



I am pleased to present the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' Plan for the upcoming year, which is in alignment with Government's direction for 2010-11.

Saskatchewan is moving ahead and Municipal Affairs is working to develop and maintain a strong relationship with municipal governments. This relationship will facilitate the development of vibrant, safe, self-reliant, and accountable municipalities capable of providing leadership and serving the interests of Saskatchewan communities.

I accept responsibility for furthering Government's commitments while ensuring the Ministry is managed with integrity and professionalism, with a commitment to Government's corporate values and principles. Examining programs and services to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery possible is a key priority for all ministries and an activity that will be reported on as results are achieved.

I will report on the progress made toward this Plan, within the financial parameters provided to my Ministry, in the Ministry's annual report.

*The Honourable Jeremy Harrison  
Minister of Municipal Affairs*

## Response to Government Direction

Ministry Plans for 2010-11 align with Government's **vision for a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing opportunity for a high quality of life for all**. Government's vision, goals, and priorities for the upcoming year are described in the ***Government Direction for 2010-11: Balanced. Forward-Looking. Responsible.***

Government's Plan and Budget for 2010-11 are about finding balance: responsibly managing expenditures, ensuring a solid revenue base, minimizing debt levels, and ensuring everyone can benefit from the province's economic prosperity.

To maintain the province's economic momentum, steps need to be taken to slow the growth in government expenditures. Direction has been provided to ministries to find ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government's programs and services, and to ensure the best use of public funds. Efforts will focus on responsible financial management and innovative solutions to improve services to the public while reducing government's overall footprint.

Similar to the ministry plans presented last year, the Plan for 2010-11 communicates a high-level framework for the Ministry's key activities and identifies how the Ministry works to support Government's goals and priorities.

## Mission Statement

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs facilitates development of vibrant, safe, self-reliant, and accountable municipalities capable of providing leadership and serving the interests of Saskatchewan communities.

# Strategies and Actions

## Government Goal – Economic Growth

Sustain **Economic Growth** for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

### Strategy

### Key 2010-11 Actions

#### Engage municipalities in increasing capacity for economic development

- Provide municipalities with a sustainable revenue source that grows with the economy through the revenue sharing program.
- Enhance the Municipal Sector Strategic Plan to set out long-term directions and a joint work plan for the municipal sector and the province.
- Collaborate with other ministries and the municipal sector to identify barriers and options to improve economic outcomes.
- Increase municipal capacity through programs and services and joint initiatives with the municipal sector.
- Facilitate the subdivision of land for consistency with municipal and provincial priorities, regulations, and interests for economic development.
- Manage the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative (SIGI) to support the provincial growth agenda. SIGI provides interest rate subsidies for up to five years for municipal borrowing, assisting in the development of infrastructure needed to meet the demand for new housing, commercial, and industrial lots.

#### Support effective community planning

- Engage municipalities in land use planning decisions to expedite subdivision and development.
- Update municipal planning legislation and regulations to assist municipalities in managing growth challenges.
- Work with the municipal sector and other provincial ministries and agencies to encourage regional planning for land use, infrastructure investment, and economic development.
- Consult stakeholders on provincial priorities for land use and development.
- Collaborate with the municipal sector to identify and implement opportunities to enhance planning for growth regions.
- Provide education and training materials to municipalities and the development industry to facilitate orderly and beneficial community growth.

#### Assist municipalities in addressing infrastructure needs to support economic growth

- Initiate the development of a municipal infrastructure plan for the Province that includes community and regional sustainability planning.
- Provide capital funding through financial assistance programs to enable effective and efficient investments primarily for water, wastewater, solid waste, recreation, and local roads.
- Encourage municipalities to use servicing agreements and development levies to fund and achieve sustainable infrastructure investment.

## Government Goal – Security

**Secure** Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.

### Strategy

**Enable municipalities to achieve vibrant, safe, healthy communities**

### Key 2010-11 Actions

- Collaborate with other ministries and the municipal sector to identify and address needs for vital services.
- Enhance recreational opportunities in communities.
- Encourage municipal policy and development decisions to promote community health and safety.
- Encourage municipalities to integrate provincial development priorities and interests to achieve sustainable communities.
- Facilitate the subdivision approval process to protect life and property and minimize risks associated with hazards.

## Government Goal – Promises

Keep Government's **Promises** and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

### Strategy

### Key 2010-11 Actions

**Improve information on municipal capacity and needs to support evidence-based decision-making**

- Complete a pilot project to examine the feasibility of using municipal asset information to estimate funding needs and encourage municipal asset management.
- Develop a municipal information data portal as a comprehensive source of municipal information from all ministries to support government analysis and decision-making.

**Encourage and facilitate municipal, First Nations, and Métis relationships**

- Inform municipalities of their duty to consult through municipal bylaw reviews, workshops, and informational sessions.
- Ensure duty to consult obligations are met when developing policy and legislation or approving bylaws and subdivisions.
- Strengthen relationships between municipalities and First Nations and Métis people by facilitating discussions to enhance shared services and stimulate economic development.

**Increase municipal financial and operational transparency and accountability**

- Communicate to Saskatchewan people about Government's initiatives and investments in municipalities.
- Educate and raise awareness of roles and responsibilities of elected and administrative officials.
- Support municipal compliance with Public Sector Accounting Board and legislative requirements.

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

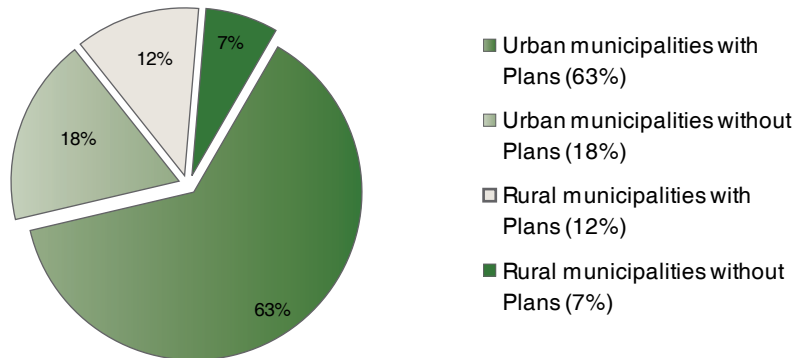
- Implement a management practice of assessment and continuous improvement to ensure a robust, objective, and multi-year assessment function.
- Undertake a comprehensive review of the current subdivision process in order to identify improvements to facilitating sustainable growth.
- Improve the speed and efficiency of integrated subdivision application reviews and decisions by implementing the Subdivision On-Line Application project.
- Review the management of municipal tax exemptions, abatements, discounts, and penalties in the context of Government's new approach to education financing.
- Complete a review of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board.

# Performance Measures

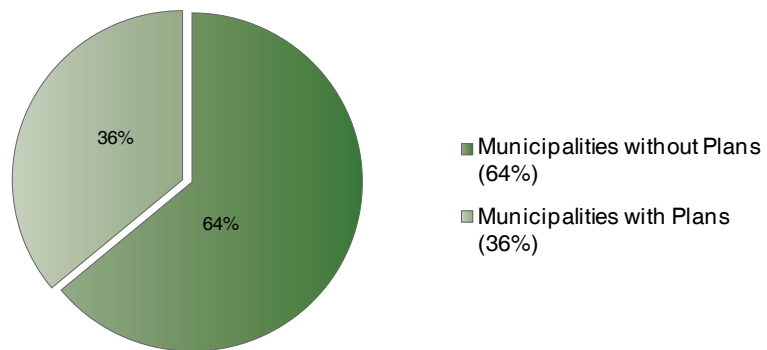
## Measure

## Baseline / Trend Line Information

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



**Percentage of municipalities with or without Official Community Plans**



Source: Municipal Affairs - Community Planning  
\*Note - Figures as of March 2010

### Measure Description

*The Planning and Development Act, 2007* provides municipalities the authority to adopt an Official Community Plan (OCP). The OCPs set out policies to govern land use and development, outline the municipality's economic growth strategies, encourage environmental stewardship, plan sustainable infrastructure, support recreational opportunities, and address community interests. Without OCPs, municipal councils do not have the policies and supporting legal authority to lead the municipality's development agenda.

As the first graph displays, the majority of Saskatchewan's population lives in communities that have adopted OCPs (75 per cent). However, as displayed in the second measure, many municipalities are still without OCPs. Without an OCP, municipalities have not established a plan for growth and community sustainability or the authority to facilitate new development opportunities to achieve cost-effective and efficient services for community residents and new land development. Since 2007, the economy in Saskatchewan has experienced

Continued on Pg 6

## Measure

## Baseline / Trend Line Information

*Continued from Pg 5*

significant growth, furthering the need for capable municipalities to implement OCPs in order to respond to increasing demands for residential and commercial lots, expanded infrastructure, and servicing to support community expectations and needs.

Providing support to municipalities in their development and to help manage land use and risk, the Ministry:

- clarifies and coordinates provincial priorities for land use and development through the statements of provincial interest;
- forges links with other ministries to incorporate municipal land use planning objectives into their initiatives;
- reviews and approves municipal planning and zoning bylaws to ensure consistency with legislation and provincial interests;
- promotes the development of OCPs and zoning bylaws when ranking municipal infrastructure funding projects;
- facilitates the development of local capacity through education and training;
- develops consultation processes; and,
- fosters relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

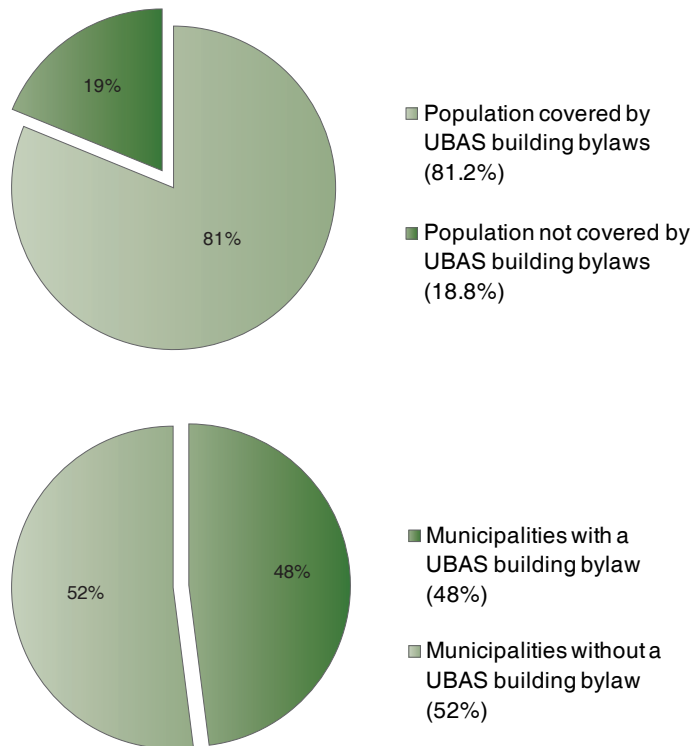


## Measure

Percentage of population covered by *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards (UBAS) Act* building bylaws

Percentage of municipalities with a building bylaw pursuant to UBAS

## Baseline / Trend Line Information



Source: Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing - Building Standards  
\*Note: Figures as of March 2010

### Measure Description

Municipal Affairs undertakes significant interministry 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. In 2009-10, 411 of 786 municipalities were without a UBAS building bylaw pursuant to the Act, while 375 municipalities had UBAS approved building bylaws in place. Municipalities with building bylaws in place represent 81.2 per cent of the Province's population, not including reserve populations. Inspections on reserves where the National Building Code is utilized are conducted by First Nations building officials.

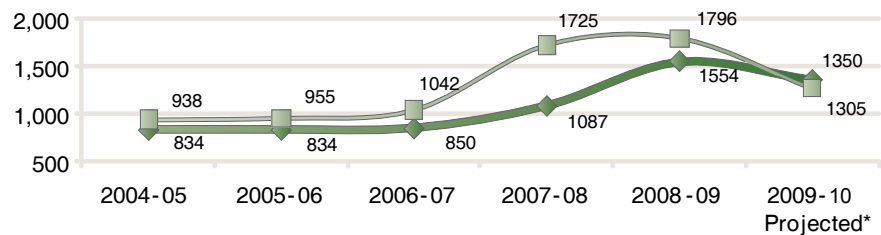
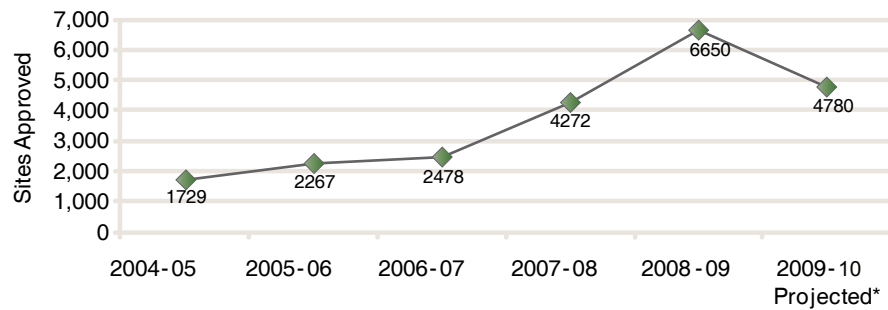
Ongoing and developing efforts and initiatives by the Ministry, as well as interministry and agency coordination, will increase the implementation of UBAS building bylaws by municipalities. Interjurisdictional planning provides a means of building municipal planning capacity and developing Official Community Plans and building bylaws. The Ministry is working with municipalities to enhance interjurisdictional opportunities through the Municipal Capacity Development Program and assisting communities interested in working together through district planning initiatives.

## Measure

**Number of sites approved through subdivision approval process**

**Number of subdivision applications received and approved**

## Baseline / Trend Line Information



◆ Applications Approved    ■ Applications Received

Source: Municipal Affairs - Community Planning  
\*Note - Projections as of March 2010

### Measure Description

The subdivision approval process ensures site suitability and appropriate servicing of the intended residential, commercial, and industrial development. The subdivision of land is a key step for investment in economic growth as it is one of the first steps in the development process.

In 2008-09, Municipal Affairs received 1,796 subdivision applications and approved 1,554 applications, resulting in the creation of 6,650 sites – a 55 per cent increase in sites approved compared to 2007-08. Projections for 2009-10 indicate sustained high-levels, though a decrease from the previous year's record high is expected, as backlogs have been reduced.

Facilitating subdivisions supports the provincial objective for a prosperous economy. The elevated trend for lot development in the past several years, expected to continue in 2010 and beyond, represents significant investment in land and property within the province and places demands for new infrastructure to service the sites created.

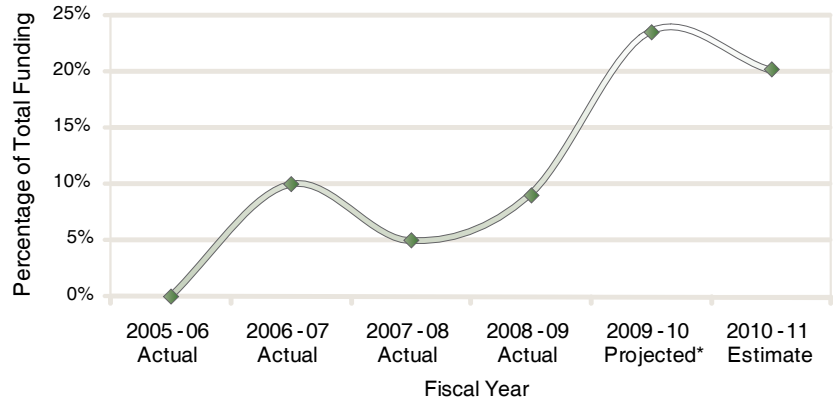
In order to advance provincial priorities for land development, including promoting economic development, supporting social and cultural development, and establishing sustainable and viable communities, Municipal Affairs has developed several initiatives that will accelerate the review and approval of subdivisions:

- a comprehensive review of the subdivision process in 2010-11 will produce a set of actions to increase efficiency by eliminating impediments and implementing new ideas; and,
- commencing in March 2010, implementation of the Subdivision On-Line Application, an electronic method for processing applications, will improve the speed and efficiency of subdivision application reviews and decisions. This new system will improve the communication processes involved in the integrated interministry subdivision review and eliminate many labour-intensive and time-consuming tasks.

## Measure

**Percentage of funding provided to communities under 100,000 for regional water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure through major federal/provincial cost-shared infrastructure programs (as a percentage of total funding)**

## Baseline / Trend Line Information



Source: Municipal Affairs - Grants Administration and Financial Management  
\*Note - Projections as of March 2010

### Measure Description

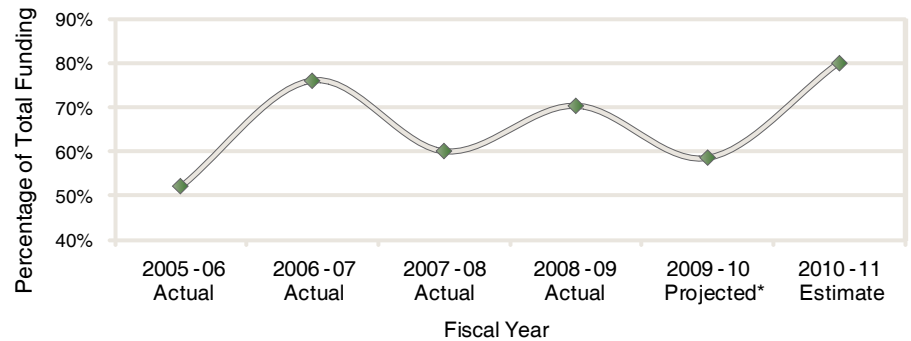
This measure is significant to the Ministry and Government as regional solutions often provide an effective and efficient solution to local issues surrounding limited financial resources, increasing municipal infrastructure deficits, and environmental/health disaster risk. This measure tracks the amount 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.

Significant funding in 2009-10 and 2010-11 has been committed to regional infrastructure. Clean water is essential for a high quality of life in our province. To assist in ensuring clean water for communities, the Province will help provide funding for several important regional projects in 2010-11. On March 2, 2010, it was announced that the Government will accelerate \$42.5 million in infrastructure funding to communities with populations less than 100,000.

## Measure

## Baseline / Trend Line Information

**Proportion of infrastructure investment provided for public environmental and safety projects (water, wastewater, and solid waste projects) through federal/provincial cost-shared programs (as a percentage of total funding)**



Source: Municipal Affairs - Grants Administration and Financial Management  
\*Note - Projections as of March 2010

### Measure Description

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.

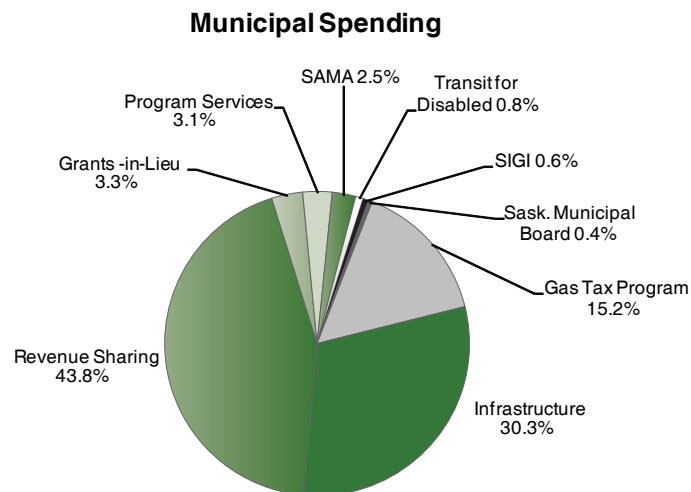
Total federal/provincial funding has significantly increased in the past several years. The percentage decrease for public safety projects in 2009-10 is due to significant funding provided under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada program (all recreation projects) and to several large recreation projects that are nearing completion under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component and the Provincial Territorial Base Fund. A significant portion of total funding will be cash-flowed to public safety projects in 2010-11.

# Financial Summary

## Highlights of Appropriation and Expense 2010-11

2010-11 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	4,653
Municipal Financial Assistance	310,742
Federal Municipal Assistance	58,264
Municipal Relations	7,179
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	1,369
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>382,207</b>
Capital Asset Acquisitions	---
Capital Asset Amortization	---
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>382,207</b>
<b>FTE Staff Complement</b>	<b>135.8</b>

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2010-11>



## HIGHLIGHTS

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The following are key announcements being made in the 2010-11 Budget:

- Revenue Sharing – Municipal revenue sharing funding continues at a total level of \$167.4 million.
- Infrastructure – \$115.8 million is provided for federal/provincial/municipal infrastructure programs. A further \$58.3 million in federal flow-through funding for the Gas Tax Program is also provided.

## For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at [www.municipal.gov.sk.ca](http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca) for more information on the Ministry's programs and services. For additional information about Municipal Affairs, or to provide feedback about our 2010-11 Plan or performance results, please contact us at (306) 798-6093.