



Message from the Minister

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to keeping promises and delivering results to the people of Saskatchewan. Safe and sustainable drinking water is paramount to maintaining the excellent quality of life and strong economic growth of the province.

These highlights provide an overview of the 2011-12 Annual Report of the State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan. The work of protecting our drinking water never ends. The annual report demonstrates the activities undertaken and the results achieved during the past year by the ministries and agencies that are committed to this work.

The 2011-12 Annual Report on the State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan is available on line at:

www.SaskH2O.ca/news.asp.

*The Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Environment*



Ministry of Environment State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan 2011-12 Annual Report Highlights

The Saskatchewan Advantage



Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

Overview of Drinking Water Management in Saskatchewan

Over the past twelve years since the waterborne disease outbreaks affecting North Battleford, Saskatchewan, in 2001 and Walkerton Ontario, in 2000, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment with other ministries and government agencies have worked diligently to improve drinking water supplies and protect source waters in the province upon which we all rely. The goal of these efforts is to provide safe drinking water, while increasing the understanding of citizens on the need to protect and conserve both groundwater and surface water resources.

Government's roles of waterworks inspection and reporting on drinking water quality results are integral to improving the safety and management of drinking water in the province. Ongoing operator certification, wastewater management, source water protection, information management and public education initiatives are other key elements and indicators of overall performance of improving drinking water quality in Saskatchewan.

The ministries and agencies responsible for the governance and protection and/or provision of drinking water supplies and source waters in the province include the Saskatchewan Ministries of Environment, Government Relations (formerly Municipal Affairs), Health and Agriculture, SaskWater, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and Regional Health Authorities.

Mission Statement:

The Ministry of Environment provides public service excellence in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of natural resources to enhance economic and social benefits.



For more information on the ministry, see www.environment.gov.sk.ca or call 1-800-567-4224



Drinking Water Management in Saskatchewan: Providing Excellent Services to Consumers, Water Providers and Watershed Stewards

To ensure consumers are aware of water quality at all times and water related illnesses are avoided, the Ministry of Environment operates a 24-7 standby drinking water emergency reporting and management system. During 2011-12, a total of 393 Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories (PDWA's) and 8 Emergency Boil Water Orders (EBWO's) were issued; 237 PDWA's were issued for unexpected events such as system depressurizations, water main breaks or flooding events and 156 PDWA's were issued for anticipated events such as planned maintenance activities or startup of seasonal and new waterworks.

In 2011, SaskWater completed construction of an effluent irrigation demonstration research site, which has completed its first year of operation. This research project is expected to operate for five years and gather data on applying an alternative wastewater effluent disposal technique conducive to Saskatchewan conditions. The project is a partnership between SaskWater, City of Moose Jaw, Communities of Tomorrow, Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agroforestry Development Centre.

The Ministry of Agriculture requires that intensive livestock operations develop waste storage and management plans that will not contaminate water resources. In 2011-12, there were nine plan approvals issued for intensive livestock operations. Approximately 86 site inspections were completed. Monitoring continues for surface quality in watercourses adjacent to intensive livestock operations.



VISION

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

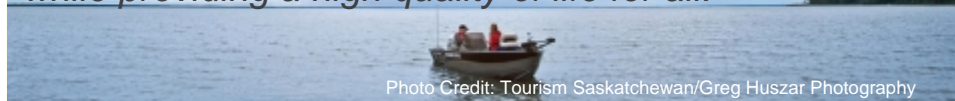


Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar Photography

Our 2011-12 Significant Achievements

Sustaining Economic Growth...

Effective drinking water infrastructure is an essential component to fuel and sustain economic growth. In 2011-12, the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund approved \$0.5 million in funding for existing water projects. Under the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative Program, 18 water and sewer projects with a total approved borrowing of \$35.4 million received interest rate subsidies in 2011-12. Interest-free subsidies totalling \$2.97 million were approved for 41 water and wastewater projects.

Under the federal-provincial infrastructure programs (Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Building Canada Fund – Community Component, Provincial Territorial Base Fund, and Infrastructure Stimulus Fund), \$47.9 million was provided for 121 water and wastewater projects in 2011-12.

Securing Saskatchewan...

SaskWater delivered 6 billion litres of safe, high quality drinking water to its customers in 2011.

Knowledgeable and certified waterworks operators are vital to ensuring safe drinking water for Saskatchewan's communities. As of March 31, 2012, 99.6 per cent of communities with waterworks, which provide water for consumptive use, have operators that have achieved some level of certification. Since 2002, 2,104 water works or sewage works operators had been certified by the Saskatchewan Operator Certification Board.

The Ministry of Environment conducted 910 inspections and approved 194 waterworks upgrading projects, which helped to assure a high level of compliance (98.1%) for bacteriological water quality standards by ministry regulated waterworks.

Keeping Promises...

The Ministry of Environment implemented wastewater effluent characterization monitoring at approximately 91 municipal wastewater systems across Saskatchewan in 2011. Effluent toxicity testing was conducted for 23 medium and small communities that may be subject to the requirements in the pending "Canada Wide Strategy on Municipal Waste Water Effluents".

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority continued a Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices study initiated in 2010-11, to evaluate the impacts of agricultural beneficial management practices on water quality parameters such as nutrients, pathogens, and sediments.

Financial Summary

2011-12 Budget (000s)	2011-12 Actual (000s)	Variance* (000s)
\$69,749	\$93,947	\$24,198

Actual FTEs: 33.9 (Ministry of Environment)

*Variance primarily due to additional expenditures for flood relief in 2011-12.

