



## Statement from the Minister



*The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to delivering and building on its promises to Saskatchewan people and one of those promises is a commitment to increased transparency and accountability.*

*The 2008-09 Annual Report describes the drinking water related activities of ministries and agencies involved in drinking water and source water protection in Saskatchewan.*

*Key partners in protecting and improving Saskatchewan drinking water supplies and source waters include the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Regional Health Authorities, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, SaskWater, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture.*

*The 2008-09 Annual Report demonstrates progress towards the commitments that relate to drinking water and source water protection activities of involved ministries and agencies as of March 31, 2009.*

*Nancy Heppner  
Minister of Environment*



## Significant Achievements in 2008-09

The following is a summary of the most significant achievements relating to drinking water and source water status and protection in Saskatchewan by the various ministries and agencies engaged in water management in Saskatchewan.

**Ministry of Environment** conducted 871 waterworks and 493 wastewater works inspections in accordance with the ministry inspection protocol and targets during the 2008-09 reporting period. A total of 210 Precautionary

Drinking Water Advisories (PDWAs) were issued; 131 PDWAs issued due to unexpected upsets that occurred at waterworks regulated by the ministry and 79 PDWAs issued due to anticipated events such as startup of seasonal or new waterworks or planned maintenance activities.

**Ministry of Municipal Affairs:** Saskatchewan and the federal government signed an Infrastructure Framework Agreement in April 2008 that commits Canada to invest a minimum of \$635 million in

Saskatchewan over seven years. The Canada-Saskatchewan Building Canada Fund – Communities Component, one program under the agreement, saw federal-provincial funds for 31 water and sewer projects approved and paid to Saskatchewan communities with populations under 100,000. In 2008-09, provincial funding was spent under the Northern Water and Sewer Program in 18 communities. Federal and provincial funding for the Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program as well as approval for five

water and sewer projects and 75 water and sewer projects were paid out for the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. Under the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative, eight water and sewer projects were approved to receive interest rate subsidies on borrowing for these projects and six water and sewer projects were paid out under the program. Under the Northern Emergency Program, funding was spent in nine communities on northern water and sewer system

# Drinking Water Overview

The province is committed to ensuring our rural communities and cities are engaged and supported as partners in the management of our groundwater and watersheds to maintain healthy water and ecosystems. The province will continue to prevent and reduce risks to the health of people and the environment and to ensure safe and sustainable drinking water and wastewater.

The annual report presents the activities and results of various agencies in managing drinking water. It reports on public commitments made and other accomplishments of ministries and agencies engaged in drinking water management in Saskatchewan.

Safe drinking water is a vital component in the protection of public health and disease prevention and therefore essential for the health and well-being of Saskatchewan's citizens. High quality water is important in maintaining natural ecosystems and the species that depend upon them, the productivity of industry, sustaining commerce and is vital to ensure sustainable growth in the province. The quality of drinking water, the condition of systems that produce it and protection of source waters remains an important public health and environmental issue in Saskatchewan at the present time and for the future.

## Financial Summary for 2008-09

Funding for water management activities comes from various government ministries and agencies and is contained in their respective budgets. **See annual report for detailed description of variance.**

Ministry or Agency	Actual Expenditure (\$000s) 2007-08	Estimates Budget (\$000s) 2008-09	Actual Expenditure (\$000s) 2008-09
Ministry of Environment - Total	3,047	3,353	3,338
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Total	31,983	7,256	7,256
Ministry of Municipal Affairs			
- CSIP	4,526	166	93
- MRIF	14,928	15,407	18,945
- BCF-CC		24,156	25,689
- SIGI		480	171
Ministry of Municipal Affairs - Total	19,454	40,209	44,898
Ministry of Health			
Regional Services			
- Regional Health Authorities (Health Regions) Base Operating Funding	456	476	476
- Regional Targeted Programs and Services	20	30	44
Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory	857	879	785
- Environmental Services			
Ministry of Health - Total	1,333	1,385	1,305
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,817</b>	<b>52,203</b>	<b>56,797</b>

## OUR GOVERNMENT'S VISION

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

## GOVERNMENT'S GOAL

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

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

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

## Significant Achievements (Continued)

repairs that arose during the year as well as engineering operating and maintenance advice to northern communities on water and sewer systems.

**Saskatchewan Watershed Authority** led implementation of water conservation practices and announced the Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program which provides funding of \$11.2 million over four years to replace existing residential toilets with low or dual flush toilets.

**SaskWater** implemented a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system in 34 of SaskWater's owned and contracted systems across the province.

**Ministry of Agriculture** issued 13 approvals for expansions and/or modifications to existing intensive livestock operations waste storage. The ministry provides funding to eight ongoing water related projects through the Agriculture Development Fund to support research and development.



Ministry of Environment

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