

Message from Minister Duncan



The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building on its promises to Saskatchewan people. Safe drinking water is integral to securing Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family and sustaining economic growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people.

This highlights sheet provides an executive summary of the 2009-10 Annual Report of the Status of Drinking

Water Quality in Saskatchewan. The 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, 2010.

For more information please see the 2009-10 Annual Report on the State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan available on line at: <http://www.saskh2o.ca/news.asp>.

*Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment*

Overview of Drinking Water Management in Saskatchewan

Since the waterborne disease outbreaks of May 2000 in Walkerton, Ontario and spring 2001 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan has heightened and focused efforts to improve drinking water supplies and protect source waters in the province. The intent of these efforts is also to provide safe drinking water. These actions are also intended to reassure the citizens of the province that government is helping to ensure the water we drink is safe.

Several ministries and agencies are involved in the governance and protection of drinking water supplies and source waters in Saskatchewan including the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Regional Health Authorities, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, SaskWater, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture.



2009-10 Annual Report Highlights Ministry of Environment State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan

Financial Summary

| 2009-10 Budget (000s) | 2009-10 Actual (000s) | Variance (000s) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| \$107,320 | \$96,663 | \$10,657 |

For detailed information, please see the 2009-10 Annual Report on the State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan at: <http://www.saskh2o.ca/news.asp>.

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.

OUR 2009-10 HIGHLIGHTS



- As of March 31, 2010, 98.9 per cent of communities with human consumptive waterworks requiring a certified operator have operators that have achieved some level of certification. To date 1,376 waterworks or wastewater works operators have been certified by the Operator Certification Board in Saskatchewan.
- In 2009, SaskWater delivered a record 5.74 billion litres of safe quality drinking water to Saskatchewan Communities, rural pipeline groups and industry.
- In 2009-10 the Ministry of Environment conducted 886 waterworks inspections and 534 inspections at wastewater works. A total of 312 Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories (PDWSs) and three Emergency Boil Water Orders were issued; 191 PDWA's issued due to unexpected problems or operational upsets and 121 were issued due to anticipated events such as planned maintenance activities or start-up of waterworks.
- In 2009-10, 55 water and wastewater projects were approved for \$139.3 million in federal-provincial funding under Canada-Saskatchewan Building Canada Fund - Communities Component (BCF-CC) and Provincial Territorial Base Fund.
- Under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund and BCF-CC top-up stimulus programs announced in the 2009 Federal Budget, 68 water and wastewater projects were approved for \$59.3 million in federal-provincial funding in 2009-10.
- To continue water and wastewater related funding in 2009-10 under the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, \$1.8 million in federal-provincial funding was approved for two water projects. Under the Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative Program, nineteen water and sewer projects with total approved borrowing of \$23.8 million were approved to receive interest rate subsidies.
- During the fiscal year, Health Region public health inspectors inspected 1,028 public water supplies that fall under *The Health Hazard Regulations*.



Other Significant Results

- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority led implementation of water conservation practices. As part of the Go Green Strategy, the province announced the Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program in January of 2009. The program provides funding of \$11.2 million over four years to replace existing residential toilets with low or dual flush toilets. In 2009-10, the program received applications from 12,951 households and rebates were provided for 16,333 low flow toilets.
- Ministry of Agriculture provides funding through the Agriculture Development Fund to support research and development, including agricultural technologies for improved management and/or reduced environmental risks of pesticides, fertilizers and livestock manure. There are 17 ongoing water related projects with a total funding allocation of \$1,261,444. Of those, eight projects (\$30,060) are funded under Growing Forward in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Projects are in irrigation agronomy and technology, water conservation and quality, watersheds, and wetlands.
- In 2009-10, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority initiated a Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices (WEBs) study to evaluate on a watershed level the impacts of beneficial management practices on water quality parameters such as nutrients, pathogens, and sediments. The WEBs project, funded by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, is one of a number of similar projects across Canada intended to measure the impacts of agricultural beneficial management practices.
- Implementation of water conserving practices is actively being pursued by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority through public education and collaboration with municipalities, the non-profit sector and other provincial agencies. Partnerships with the communities of Humboldt, Yorkton, Assiniboia and Weyburn, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, SaskEnergy and SaskWater have resulted in increased awareness and uptake of water conservation practices.

For more information see:
<http://www.saskh2o.ca/news.asp>
or call 306-787-6504.