

BACKGROUNDER

- Each provincial and territorial vital statistics agency in Canada is a member of the Vital Statistics Council for Canada. The council is committed to supporting the security and integrity of Canada's vital statistics system. Additional information on the council is available at www.vscouncil.ca.
 - Saskatchewan, along with British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador have or will be adopting the new birth certificate in early 2008. The remaining provinces and territories will be making the transition to the new certificate when they have the necessary processes in place.
 - In addition to the provincial coat of arms, the new Saskatchewan birth certificate security features include:
 - A high security polymer (plastic) substrate, rather than paper;
 - Tactile printing similar to that found on Canadian paper currency;
 - Two window features, including colour shifting properties and "floating" maple leaf graphics; and
 - Watermarks and shadow features.
 - To order a Saskatchewan birth certificate:
 - Apply in person at the Vital Statistics office, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
 - Apply by mail by completing an Application for Certificate form. Enclose the fee in the form of a credit card payment (Visa or Mastercard) or a cheque or money order made payable to the Minister of Finance and mail to:
Health Registration and Vital Statistics
Saskatchewan Health
100-1942 Hamilton St
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 4W2
- Or:
- Apply by fax to (306) 787-2288, using the Application for Certificate Form and your credit card (Visa or Mastercard).

The Application for Certificate form is available at www.health.gov.sk.ca/birth-certificates. The fee for the new certificate of birth remains \$25.

- When applying for the certificate, you will be able to choose from two formats: one with the individual's information only, and one which includes parental information. Both certificates are 12.5 cm by 17.5 cm and will replace the current long form (frame size) and short form (wallet size) of birth certificate.
- Although the currently issued birth certificates remain valid, birth certificates issued after March 10, 2008 will be in the new format only.
- People born in Saskatchewan who are interested in replacing their current birth certificate with the more secure document can apply starting March 10, 2008. On receipt of the new certificate, any previously issued birth certificates should be destroyed.