

Media Fact Sheet

Crown Financing Programs for New Customers

SaskPower

- Beginning June 1, SaskPower will offer a financing program to assist new residential customers whose electricity connection costs exceed \$1,000 and commercial customers where connection costs exceed \$5,000.
- The SaskPower *New Connects* financing program includes a minimum 25 per cent down payment, and loans will not exceed \$2 million dollars per customer.
- The program will be financed and administered by SaskPower, from loan inception to maturity. This will allow SaskPower to customize financing and re-payment options according to customer need.
- On approved credit, loans will be offered at rates no less than SaskPower's cost of capital, plus administrative costs. The corporation will also include a reasonable risk premium if appropriate. As in the case of all lenders, a risk premium reflects the fact that a small number of customers are likely to default on their loans resulting in loan losses. To compensate for this, the Corporation includes a small risk premium in its loan interest rates.
- Providing these financing options will provide convenience and affordability to new customers – in most cases, billing and payments will be included on a customer's electricity bill, or a monthly payment plan will be established.

SaskTel

- Beginning June 1, SaskTel will provide financing to rural based business customers whose telecommunication connection costs exceed \$5,000, with a minimum down payment of 25 per cent.
- Similar to the SaskPower and SaskEnergy programs, loans to assist new rural based business customers in securing telecommunications services will be offered at no less than SaskTel's cost of capital plus administrative costs, and include a reasonable risk premium if appropriate.

SaskEnergy

- SaskEnergy's financing program for new customer connections is currently available to all customers and will continue.
- Through the Gas Line Financing Program, SaskEnergy provides all its distribution customers with the opportunity to finance the customer contribution portion of the natural gas line to their home or business.
- SaskEnergy has been offering natural gas line financing (on approved credit) to customers since January 1, 1998. Customers can finance a new SaskEnergy natural gas line or an alteration to existing SaskEnergy facilities.
- Through the program, SaskEnergy has financed over \$3.15 million.