

FAQs

Enterprise Regions Program

What is the ER Program?

The new ER program is an initiative of the Government of Saskatchewan as part of its new economic development plan, to reorganise and strengthen the way regional economic development is delivered in the province.

What are the major changes resulting from the ER program?

The major changes that were announced on August 5, 2008 by the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation Lyle Stewart, are the launch of the new Enterprise Region (ER) program and the creation of 13 new regions across the province aimed at developing high performing regions.

What are the criteria for creating the regions?

The decision to create the new larger regions is based on commuted information (where people live and work) and takes into consideration natural boundaries such as rivers and road patterns.

What is the focus of the program?

The new ER program will focus on sustainable economic growth by supporting regional business and industries and creating competitiveness advantages at the regional, national and international level.

How much funding has been allocated to the program?

The government has doubled the funding for regional economic development from \$2.5 million to \$5 million. The funding will be allocated according to the population and size of the region, on top of a base amount all regions will receive. Additional matching funds will also be available for each region on a program basis.

What happens to the current REDA program?

The current REDA program, with 27 regions, has been wound down and ceased operations as of March 31, 2009. The new ER program is now fully operational.

Who will compose the board of the new ERs?

The new ERs will include a broad cross section of representative board members from all key components of the region. It is suggested that new board membership will be composed of at least one-third business interests, one-third local municipal leaders, and one-third other key groups from the regions (e.g. aboriginal economic development, local post-secondary, local co-ops and credit unions, transportation and agriculture interests, etc.).