
Background

“Planning For Growth” supporting strong economic development and secure communities

The Government of Canada, through the Gas Tax Fund, and Enterprise Saskatchewan are providing a total of \$1.1 million, towards “Planning For Growth,” a community planning program in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan’s strong and growing economy benefits everyone in the province. It also presents challenges for municipalities to accommodate and plan for economic development and population growth. Planning For Growth is flexible and provides for a wide variety of activities that contribute to building planning capacity. Examples include:

- studies into regional development and settlement patterns;
- environmental management studies to assess the capacity of a lakeshore to support development;
- professional planning services for regional tourism, parks, recreation or trail development;
- facilitation services to assist groups of municipalities to establish a planning district; and
- hiring staff to provide regional planning services.

Planning For Growth encourages municipalities to work with each other, as well as Enterprise Regions, First Nations, Métis and other partners. By planning together, municipalities can develop consistent policies for land use and development within and across municipal boundaries. These policies will help to attract and direct investment, support economic development, regional infrastructure planning, and environmental protection.

Municipalities can access program criteria and applications for funding at www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/Funding/PlanningForGrowth. The deadline to submit applications for the first intake is September 30, 2010. The second intake will take place between November 15 and December 31, 2010. Municipalities will be notified within a month of the application deadline whether their applications have been successful.

The federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) delivers funding to local governments and other eligible recipients primarily for capital projects that lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Funding is also available for capacity-building projects that contribute to the sustainability of communities and regions.

The Government of Canada extended the Gas Tax Fund to 2014 resulting in a total of \$372 million in funding for municipal infrastructure in SK. The Government of Canada announced in Budget 2008 that the Gas Tax Fund would become permanent beyond 2014 at \$2 billion per year.

And, as part of Canada’s Economic Action Plan, municipalities across Saskatchewan have received an advance payment of \$28 million in Gas Tax Funding to help them make the most of the spring and summer construction seasons. This is the second consecutive year that the Government of Canada is accelerating its payment of Gas Tax Fund by three months.