

BACKGROUNDER:

2013 recipients of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service

Tim Earing – Promoting Apprenticeship – Highways and Infrastructure (*Quality Service*)

Tim Earing's tireless efforts to help develop and promote trades has positively impacted First Nations and Métis people, students, other public servants and created a larger pool of apprentice and journeyperson mechanics needed within the Ministry and the private sector. Mr. Earing accomplished this by implementing numerous initiatives at the Ministry's Prince Albert Fleet Services facility, which is used as an on-site classroom. These actions include a training partnership with the Prince Albert Heavy Equipment Truck and Transport Mechanics Program offered through the Dumont Technical Institute, opportunities for high school students to earn classroom credit and tours for elementary school students so they learn about the trades as a potential career option. Mr. Earing also spends countless hours on the frontlines of the shop floor by mentoring new mechanics in the Ministry's Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program for Heavy Duty Mechanics and Welders.

Giles Saulnier – Urban Camp Program – Justice – Corrections and Policing (*Leadership*)

Giles Saulnier's leadership has improved a correctional program that now gives back to Saskatoon citizens more than ever and has established a standard of excellence inspiring his community partners and his staff. Deputy Director of Adult Corrections, Mr. Saulnier has for the last seven years managed the Urban Camp program, a facility next to the Saskatoon Correctional Centre for low-security provincial inmates who provide community service. He has increased what was a fledgling program from 32 inmates to its present 50, who provide services for seniors, shovel snow, grow fresh vegetables for the inner-city communities, provide services to non-profit organizations and help set up and take down relief centres during emergencies. Mr. Saulnier has built numerous partnerships that include Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services, which uses the Urban Camp's services to clean up public areas where no current service exists, improve the overall amenity of various neighbourhoods and clean up illegally dumped materials.

Mineral Administration Registry Saskatchewan (MARS) – Economy (*Innovation*)

The Mineral Administration Registry Saskatchewan (MARS) project has saved time, money and ensures the province can efficiently attract and compete for global mineral investment by individuals and companies from anywhere at any time in the world. The MARS team developed Saskatchewan's first web-based system for issuing and administering Crown mineral claims through careful consultations with the mining industry and by applying experience gained during the automation of the province's land titles system. Launched in December 2012, the new system has already saved the mining industry millions of dollars in ground staking costs and reduced the time it takes the province to issue new claims from a minimum of two months to just a few days. The savings brought about by MARS will allow industry to invest more money on exploration in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative Team – Health (*Quality Service*)

Saskatchewan patients now have improved access to Sooner, Safer, Smarter surgical care due to the efforts of this team, which was established in 2010. The ultimate goal of their four-year project is that by April 2014 patients have improved care experiences and receive their surgeries within three months. The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative Year-3 progress report released in May shows continued gains toward this goal, as provincially, 90 per cent of the 82,047 surgeries were completed within the third year's wait time target of six months. To eventually reach their goal, the team has worked on patient-centred care, "pooled referrals" to give patients access to the next available specialist in a group, the introduction of third-party outpatient surgical facilities, surgical safety checklists, improved patient flow and discharge planning through Lean improvement, along with clinical "pathways" to help patients better navigate their care journey.

***The Saskatchewan Employment Act* Development Team - Labour Relations and Workplace Safety (*Quality Service*)**

Following an extensive consultation process, this multidisciplinary team was instrumental in the research and policy analysis of complex and difficult to navigate legislative provisions which resulted in the preparation of a single statute that became *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. The *Act* consolidated 12 pieces of labour legislation into a single updated and comprehensive *Act* that protects workers, promotes growth and increases accountability with the intent to modernize the legislation. The team reviewed more than 3,800 submissions in a compressed time line. From the consultation process, to policy analysis, and jurisdictional comparisons, policy recommendations were made that reflect current best practices relevant to Saskatchewan workplaces. The team's work was guided by a set of principles focusing on clarity, ease of use and ease of compliance to ensure that Saskatchewan workplaces are fair, safe and productive.

Community Services Unit Senior Leadership Team - Social Services (*Innovation*)

The Community Services Unit Senior Leadership team achieved an important milestone in the expansion of services. In 2008, 440 people with intellectual disabilities were waiting for specialized, residential and/or day programs. The Government of Saskatchewan made a four-year commitment to tackle this issue and invest in enhanced services. By 2013, services were in place or in development for every one of the original people waiting, plus another 215 community living clients. Using the best practice of person-centred planning, the team worked with each client to determine his or her hopes, dreams and needs, which led to collaborative projects between the provincial government, community-based organizations, clients, families and other stakeholders to expand services. More than 40 Saskatchewan communities are now more inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities thanks to everyone working together to make a difference.