

BACKGROUNDER

Government of Saskatchewan Regulatory Modernization Highlights

The Government of Saskatchewan takes seriously the need to reduce barriers to growth. As a result, ministries, agencies and Crown corporations have undertaken a number of initiatives during 2013 to ensure provincial regulations are effective, efficient and relevant while maintaining necessary regulatory protections for the public, workers, consumers and the environment. Below are examples of what the Government of Saskatchewan has accomplished over the past year.

1. Proclamation of Bill 86: *Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act (the Act)*

- Upholds Government's 2011 election platform commitment to introduce legislation to reduce red tape.
- The Act was proclaimed in the fall of 2013.
- Mandates annual reporting from ministries and agencies across government regarding regulatory modernization activities.

2. Changes to the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) Alcohol Control Regulations and Related Policies:

- 77 changes to liquor rules and regulations stemming from Red Tape Committee review of regulations.
- May 2013 – 39 changes implemented; August 2013 – 37 changes implemented.
- The regulatory changes, focused on four key areas: new business opportunities; increased flexibility for business; reduction in regulatory requirements; and, simplified procedures. Examples of these changes include:
 - Spas, salons and movie theatres can now apply for a permit to sell and serve alcohol.
 - Food catering businesses can also obtain permits and the changes also include an increase in the number of off-sale establishments and franchises on a seasonal basis.
 - The regulation reduction allows restaurants to offer a bring your own wine option to customers. It allows hotels/motel/guest houses and other types of accommodation businesses to offer all-inclusive packages for overnight guests that include alcohol.
 - Increased flexibility regarding hospitality suites; permit holders are able to provide free samples of alcohol for promotional purposes.
 - The new changes also include allowing permit holders to open at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays and holidays.

- 3. The Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety - Red Tape Initiative:**
- The Labour Relations Board is now responsible for assigning adjudicators and setting up hearings related to all Occupational Health and Safety and Labour Standards appeals. This will streamline the appeal process for applicants and allow for more efficient use of ministry resources.
 - *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* is saving employers time and money by eliminating the requirement for certain Labour Standard work permits.
 - This Act has been re-written for ease of use and understanding.
- 4. SaskEnergy's efforts to reduce red tape over the past 12 months include:**
- Advanced meter reading: collaborating with SaskPower upgrading 370,000 gas meters and 500,000 advanced electric meters that will be connected to a wireless communications network providing near real-time data on a customer's use of energy.
 - Joint underground facility line location: involves SaskPower, SaskTel and SaskEnergy coordinating line locations through one contractor for all three utilities.
 - Four party joint service trenching: assists with the installation four utility services in new urban subdivisions through a four party service line that includes natural gas, electrical, communications and cable television. Instead of four different trenches, the work is coordinated into one single trench.
- 5. Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) - Changes over the past year include:**
- Appraisal transition project - new process allows for repair shops to estimate any additional repair costs to the original estimate themselves and submit them electronically to SGI to one central point of contact for the province,
 - Reducing paperwork substantially and shortening the repair cycle time for both the repair shop and the customer.
 - Driver's abstracts for commercial drivers; using the enhanced MySGI allows driver's abstracts to be directly e-mailed to prospective or current employers.
- 6. SaskPower - Red Tape Reduction at SaskPower included:**
- SaskPower implemented flat rate pricing for a number of customer requested services, which streamlines the process to provide these costs, and reduces the time required to provide these services.
 - SaskPower, SaskEnergy, and SaskTel have introduced a turnkey subdivision development program. The turnkey program is a new approach to the design and construction of shallow underground utility services that gives the subdivision developer more control over their design and construction schedules. A total of 650 residential lots were serviced through this program in 2013 and 876 lots are already being planned for 2014 construction. This collaboration between the Crowns is continuing with work providing SaskPower and SaskEnergy customers with a single point of contact to apply for residential services.