

BACKGROUNDER:

2014 recipients of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service



Chris Smith – Domestic Meat Inspection – Agriculture – *Leadership*

Chris Smith led a team that helped the province take on a new meat inspection role and helped to develop a training program that ensures inspection staff all across the West has similar certification standards. Following the 2012 Canadian Food Inspection Agency announcement that the federal government would no longer provide meat inspection services for provincial abattoirs, his team identified the steps needed for alternative inspection procedures and new legislative authorities. He consulted with industry and stakeholders providing overall project management and communication.

Osman Rahman – Sale of Potash to Bangladesh – Executive Council - *Innovation*

Thanks to Mr. Osman Rahman's innovation and initiative, Saskatchewan was able to secure a \$50-million potash supply contract with Bangladesh. The contract was a government-to-government initiative involving an innovative process to promote the private sector's interests through the public sector's engagement. Mr. Rahman, a senior trade analyst with the Government of Saskatchewan, leveraged his contacts to chart a way forward to ensure Saskatchewan potash would be allowed to enter this new overseas market. He became the key go-between for Canpotex, the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), the Government of Bangladesh and the federal and provincial governments. This ultimately led to the brokering and signing on April 23, 2014 of a deal that will see one-third of Bangladesh's potash imports come from the Land of Living Skies.

Education Sector Strategic Plan Team – Education – *Innovation*

This Team developed the first-ever overarching, unified plan for the Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 education sector in Saskatchewan. Implementation of the plan, which was endorsed by all 28 boards of education and the provincial government in March and April 2014, will improve outcomes for Saskatchewan students by providing the mechanism for working towards targets as identified in the in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*. The team engaged with school division directors, boards of education and First Nations education representatives in the development of outcomes, priorities and actions, as well as measurements. More than 1,000 individuals within the provincial and First Nations education systems, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, post-secondary institutions, unions and municipalities and others provided input and feedback on the strategic plan.

Accounts Payable Centralization Team – Finance – *Innovation*

Within the first year of centralized accounts payable processing, the Government of Saskatchewan has achieved significant administrative savings and increased the efficiency of this core financial process, thanks to the work of this Team. This was achieved after the consolidation of accounts payable functions from 11 ministries into a single shared-service unit within the Ministry of Finance, now responsible for processing payments to about 120,000 commercial suppliers and grant recipients. The project was complex involving such work as business process redesign and technology enhancements, transferring 37 positions into a new service centre, along with providing training and support for 9,500 ministry clients on the new technology and standardized processes.

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Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime Team – Justice – Corrections and Policing – *Innovation*

The Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime (BPRC) Team has helped save the justice system time and money, as it works to address crime from a multi-discipline and strategic policing perspective with strong partnerships with numerous ministries and agencies. Community Mobilization Prince Albert (CMPA), BPRC's flagship initiative, uses this overall approach, as various ministries and agencies, the RCMP and the Prince Albert Police meet regularly and work together to tackle the root issues causing crime. The CMPA, through its twice weekly HUB meetings has also reduced the time it takes to link at-risk individuals or families with the services they need from more than two months to one or two days. As a result, CMPA's work has helped reduce violent and property crimes. The Prince Albert Hub model is now operating in nine more communities and impact in those locations is also being monitored.

Red Tape Review: Liquor Regulatory Team – Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority – *Leadership*

The Team's work changed 77 *Alcohol Control Regulations* and policies, which meant new opportunities and increased flexibility for businesses, along with simplification of procedures. As a result, businesses now have the opportunity to provide alcohol at movie theatres, spas and salons, liquor permit holders can have extended hours and restaurants can offer *bring your own wine* services. These were the first regulations to be reviewed under the Red Tape Reduction Initiative and involved public consultations, a line-by-line review of then existing liquor regulations balancing the impact on businesses, consumers and public safety.