#### **BACKGROUNDER:**

### 2015 recipients of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service



## Help Me Tell My Story Deployment Team Ministry of Education Innovation

This team championed the province-wide implementation of a holistic approach to collect information from children, their parents and caregivers, teachers and Elders to support the success of early learners and involve families and caregivers in their child's development. This approach is creating real and measurable change in the oral language development of children across Saskatchewan. With the help of an engaging turtle puppet named Askî and an innovative iPad based app, the survey uses an interactive, comprehensive approach rooted in First Nations and Métis learning perspectives to assess oral language development for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children. The survey focuses on empowering and educating families about oral language development in young children. Access to children's results are provided through easy-to-use web-based tools; linking children's results to learning activities focused on fostering language development; and promoting collaboration among the school, home and community.

# Duty to Consult Process Guide Development Team Ministry of Government Relations Leadership

Thanks to this team, the provincial government now has a single set of procedures and tools to implement Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis Consultation Policy Framework. The Duty to Consult Process Guide provides a clear and consistent approach to the consultation process and increases efficiencies. The team collaborated with provincial ministries, Crown corporations and agencies to identify practical, technical and legal issues faced when working within various mandates to meet legal obligations to consult with First Nation and Métis communities. The project began in early 2014 and was completed in the spring of 2015.

# Rapid Growth Communities Team Ministry of Government Relations Quality Service

With no new resources, this team is providing integrated technical assistance and awareness of existing provincial services and programs to municipalities experiencing rapid growth. The Rapid Growth Communities Team began its work as a pilot project in the Humboldt-Jansen region and has now expanded to work within the Weyburn-Estevan region. Representing 13 provincial ministries and agencies, it identifies issues present and anticipated and facilitates support to local governments related to community planning, housing, transportation, emergency preparedness, water and waste-water infrastructure, infrastructure financing methods and municipal asset management. The feedback from participating municipalities has been overwhelmingly positive.

#### **BACKGROUNDER:**

## 2015 recipients of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service



# 2014 Flooding Response Team Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure Quality Service

This team led a group of more than 100 front-line employees, as well as other ministry staff who sprang into action and worked around the clock to keep Saskatchewan's transportation system safe and operational during torrential rains that damaged 200 highway sections and left some communities isolated. Sacrificing personal time to ensure public safety, the 2014 Flooding Response Team kept watch over dangerous routes, re-opened roads quickly, addressed public concerns, and helped prevent additional damage to highways and private property through their actions. These ministry employees exhibited the core values of the Saskatchewan Public Service by taking a one-team approach to their cooperation within the ministry, with other provincial ministries and agencies, and with stakeholders and communities during this time of crisis.

# Serious Violent Offender Response Team (SVOR) Ministry of Justice - Corrections and Policing Innovation

The Serious Violent Offender Response (SVOR) Team, currently operating in Saskatoon and Battleford area, has helped reduce costs and improve community safety. Initiated in 2013, SVOR is a comprehensive, targeted, and evidence-based approach intended to reduce the threat posed by high-risk violent offenders in Saskatchewan. Various agencies within the justice system – such as adult corrections, public prosecutions, and police services – worked together on integrated case planning while leveraging innovative tools such as a secure, web-based data management system and integrated training. The Initiative, in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association – Saskatchewan Division, also developed a new specialized program for serious violent offenders with mental illness.

# Exemplary Leadership in the Development and Implementation of Innovative Safety and Attendance Support Team Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) Leadership

This team helped improve the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority's (SLGA) safety record by reducing time-loss injuries by 64 per cent, sick leave hours by 22.6 per cent and costs by approximately 19 per cent. This feat was accomplished by creating a team of knowledgeable subject matter experts committed to the principles of "Mission Zero" and dedicated to making safety a priority. The team researched and developed innovative and proactive approaches to addressing safety and attendance issues – then championed their deployment within SLGA. Their work has had a direct and sustained positive impact on all SLGA employees, their families and customers.