

## **Government Relations Co-ordination of Provincial and Federal Services in La Loche**

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Government Relations' Emergency Management personnel played critical roles in helping to co-ordinate government's initial response. The Ministry's Northern Municipal Services, Northern Engagement and Communications branches in La Ronge and Regina are also extensively involved, supporting La Loche's efforts to plan for its future with the help of inter-ministry committees.

A host of other provincial and federal officials have been on the ground since then, working with community leaders to identify the key components necessary in framing a longer-term response to the situation the community faces.

The action plan will be comprehensive and co-ordinated, and is being developed through the following governance structure:

- Ministers' Committee;
- Deputy Ministers' Task Force;
- Assistant Deputy Ministers' Working Group on Northern Issues; and
- Four sub-committees tackling the subjects of Education, Health, Housing and Infrastructure.

Government Relations either co-chairs or chairs the first three groups, and is represented on each of the sub-committees.

A \$3.3 million water reservoir upgrade was announced July 13 through Government Relations and federal partners.

Elements for which Government Relations would have more direct (but, in some cases, still shared) responsibility, include completion of an Official Community Plan for the municipality and possible establishment of a new landfill.

Government Relations is focused on setting forth a clear framework for inter-ministry co-operation and collaboration on the issues, and encouraging widespread information sharing among ministries and agencies that results in inclusive, informed and timely decisions on provincial actions. The Ministry is responsible for ensuring continuous liaison with the involved federal authorities.

Government Relations is also providing support to La Loche administration, as requested, in communicating activities to the local residents.