

# 2022 Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service Recipients

## **Tate Wrubleski, Ministry of Agriculture—Emerging Leader**

Tate Wrubleski is a multimedia communications specialist within the communications branch of the Ministry of Agriculture. Whether working with producers and agribusinesses, or internally with government clients, he establishes a level of trust and follows through on his commitments while ensuring high quality work. He consistently brings new ideas forward and clearly lays out the rationale explaining the strategic purpose and detailed explanation of additional costs to support decision-making. Tate never hesitates to help the team; he regularly provides training sessions on video or photography and is eager to share his knowledge freely. He adds to the entire ministry as he helps staff deliver more engaging meetings and presentations. Tate is also a cultural champion as an active member and co-chair of the Employee Youth Committee.

## **Amanda Gagnon, Ministry of Justice—Individual**

Amanda Gagnon is a hearing coordinator at the Ministry of Justice. She has been instrumental in creating a road map to transition the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission Branch from hard copy to electronic filing. In this process she designed an electronic Docshare site for storage and access for internal and external users. She approached this project with eagerness. Her efforts served the whole team by revolutionizing the way they do business; she also collaborated with the team to create manuals that provided training for all users. She carefully listened to team members' needs and managed expectations well through regular updates and open communication. She improved government's service to citizens overall by enhancing access to required information in a timely fashion.

## **Doug Johnson, Water Security Agency—Individual**

Doug Johnson is the executive director of economic development at Water Security Agency. In his role he has advanced Saskatchewan's position through capitalizing on federal programs which aid in sourcing water in preparation for drought and agricultural water management in our changing climate. He also was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Saskatchewan – Manitoba Memorandum of Understanding Respecting Water Management and the Saskatchewan – Manitoba Drainage and Watershed Management Committee. Doug is regularly sought after by internal and external stakeholders for his insight and expertise into complex water management issues. As a team leader he has resolved several contentious issues and always does so with integrity and respect. Doug selflessly gives his time and energy to better listen to people and understand their situations with the goal of improving outcomes for the client. His work on the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project will help enable farms to increase productivity and ensure sustainable food sources which benefit all.

### **Cowessess Coordination Agreement Provincial Team, Ministry of Social Services (23 members)**

The Cowessess Coordination Agreement Provincial Team led by the Ministry of Social Services helped to deliver on an historical agreement in concluding Canada's first ever Coordination Agreement, supporting the transition of responsibility over child welfare both on and off reserve to Cowessess First Nation. The team worked collaboratively to build positive relationships to support Cowessess children's best interests. The project entailed a review of data, statistics and information related to Cowessess children in care of the ministry, research and collaboration with other provinces and territories, significant and complex legal work, and policy and protocol development. The team was inspired by Chief Delorme and Cowessess's vision and demonstrated a high level of professionalism, respect, dedication, and expertise with the singular purpose of assisting in breaking new ground to deliver on the Coordination Agreement. Because this had never been done and there was no template to be guided by, this required a lot of listening and brainstorming with Cowessess to understand their vision for child and family services supported by their customs and traditions, as well as sharing aspects of the ministry's current child welfare service. This project brought together one team with members from the ministries of Social Services, Justice, Government Relations, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Finance as they worked to serve the Cowessess community.

### **Rapid Test Kit Distribution Team, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (7 members)**

The Rapid Test Kit (RTK) Distribution Team consists of staff from the Ministry of Health and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency and is an essential part of the government's strategic approach to identifying COVID-19 and reducing the overall spread of the virus. Their goal is to ensure that no citizen is more than 15 to 20 minutes from obtaining an RTK. This requires developing outstanding partnerships with numerous organizations located in communities spread across the province. Saskatchewan is known as the leader in providing RTKS within Canada, and leaders from other provinces had their officials engage with this team to adopt similar models. By December 2021, the team put 760,000 RTKS into public hands. By January 2022, that number rose to three million and reached nearly 10 million in June 2022. This project required constant, clear communication and strong relationships, which benefited the whole province as it supported citizens' health and well-being.

### **MySaskHealthRecord and Vaccine Verification Team, eHealth (245 members)**

The MySaskHealthRecord and Vaccine Verification Team at eHealth came together during summer and fall 2021 to offer vaccination verification through MySaskHealthRecord (MSHR) as a one-page printable record in August and as a digital certificate with a QR code in September. Because MSHR was the easiest way to access test results and vaccination records, demand grew 288 per cent to 640,000 by fiscal year end. Saskatchewan was among the first jurisdictions to provide vaccination certificates supporting international travel and apps for sharing vaccination status. Project components involved working with multiple stakeholders with diverse opinions, including vendors, the Privacy Commissioner, the federal government, the Ministry of Health, SaskBuilds and Procurement, and Executive Council. Efforts were citizen- and businesses-focused, providing convenient, secure access to tools needed to travel internationally, return to daily activities, work, and operate businesses safely.

### **Granular Pavement Airport Runways Project Team, Ministry of Highways (3 members)**

The Granular Pavement Airport Runways Project Team at the Ministry of Highways is leading the nation in bringing significant benefits for northern and remote communities. Traditionally only two types of

runways were recognized by Transport Canada for runway landing: gravel and paved. The type of runway impacts the aircraft permitted for landing and the load carried. Saskatchewan is the only jurisdiction in Canada to employ the use of Sealed Granular Pavement Runways. The team has worked, in conjunction with industry partners, for the last three years to provide evidence to Transport Canada of the need for recognition of a third runway type; this year it was officially recognized. Aircraft are now able to carry 15 per cent more per trip for freight and passengers, which impacts medical care, essential food services as well as supports tourism.

#### **Parks Business Development and Leasing Team, Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport (8 members)**

The Parks Business Development and Leasing Team at the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport has transformed the way that the Saskatchewan parks interact with private business through the creation of a Business Development Framework which moved the approach from reactive to proactive. The biggest change for many of Saskatchewan's parks was getting comfortable with the concept of providing public and private services in a collaborative and complimentary mix. This framework took time to prove, required frequent reshaping and an abundance of communication. The ministry has been able to attract new business and therefore the private sector is now delivering a variety of non-basic services for park visitors. Enhanced amenities further attract more visitors which is great for local economies as additional jobs are created. These businesses also generate an estimated \$15 million per year in sales of their products, much of which gets circulated back into the area. As private businesses are developed and delivered without financial support from the Government this reduces the risk to taxpayers in an ever-changing tourism industry.