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## SARM MISSION STATEMENT

*The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities will act professionally and competently in providing services and support to meet the demands and expectations of its member municipalities.*

## SARM VISION STATEMENT

*SARM will increasingly address the needs of its members. SARM will exhibit the highest level of dedication, competence and professionalism in serving its members. SARM's vision is a strong Saskatchewan where municipalities are autonomous, prosperous and secure.*



## Greetings From Harry Van Mulligen Minister of Government Relations

Congratulations to the SARM Board of Directors and member municipalities as you begin your second century of service to Saskatchewan's rural municipalities.

We are entering a new era of governance with *The Municipalities Act* that came into effect January 1 of this year. Local governments are seeing the advent of more opportunity to make local decisions coupled with more accountability for the decisions made. The leadership of Reeves and Councillors is a vital component of the strength of our democratic system. Saskatchewan communities are fortunate to have dedicated people like you providing local governance.

We are also entering a new era in how local, provincial and federal governments relate to each other. This represents what Saskatchewan people want to see – their governments working in harmony for their benefit and for the benefit of their communities.

Programs like the New Deal signal a new way of working together. The bilateral agreement for this program was signed by the federal government and the province and witnessed by the presidents of SARM and SUMA which demonstrates a new level of coordination and cooperation.

As we move to the next 100 years, we must make changes to ensure we have a strong municipal sector. We are already seeing examples of this. The Clearing the Path initiative, lead by municipal associations to foster economic development in rural Saskatchewan, is an example that benefits our communities. The province's Community Share 2006 Program further enables municipalities to support local opportunities and capital needs. In addition increases to revenue sharing support local service delivery enabling community sustainability.

The Government of Saskatchewan is very aware of the situation concerning the current level of education property taxes. Education property tax relief has to be real and sustainable. We confirmed our commitment to this in the last Throne Speech that said, "Efforts will continue to work with school divisions, municipalities and other stakeholders to develop a long-term solution to education property tax relief that is in the best of interests of students and taxpayers."

I appreciate the contribution that the SARM Board and members make to consultations and program development initiatives. I look forward to many opportunities to meet and discuss issues with you in 2006.

I wish all SARM members a very successful and productive convention.



Saskatchewan  
Government  
Relations

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# Message from the President

2005 marked the centennial year of both SARM and Saskatchewan. It was a year of many celebrations, but it was also a year of many challenges, such as major flooding and low commodity prices. SARM is proud of its history, and we are working to make an even greater contribution in our second century.

SARM acts on behalf of its members on a number of issues, representing our members before the provincial and federal governments. We deal with issues ranging from agriculture to West Nile Virus, and do our best to keep rural Saskatchewan on government agendas.

Over the past year, we made significant progress on several fronts: we successfully negotiated the inclusion of shortlines into Saskatchewan's New Deal Agreement; we moved forward with Clearing the Path and joined forces with SUMA on this important initiative to improve conditions for economic development in rural Saskatchewan; we established positions on the National CAIS Committee and a working group of the National Forum on Seed to represent the interests of Saskatchewan producers; and we formed a broad-based coalition to lobby for an overall reduction on education taxes on property.

Education tax on property is a high priority for SARM. In 2005, the government announced the 8%, two-year, \$55 million education tax credit, but it was not targeted to agricultural property as SARM had suggested. The formation of the Education Tax Coalition was a significant development. In August, SARM, SUMA, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan (PARCS), the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, and the Saskatchewan Real Estate Association joined forces to lobby the government for an overall reduction on property taxes. The coalition gave the government a plan to reduce the property tax burden, beginning with the 2006 budget so that by 2008 property tax pays no more than 40% of the total cost of education.

This position represents a shift on SARM's part from mainly working on addressing the inequity of education tax on agricultural property. SARM has not forgotten about the inequity, and recognizes there is still a lot of work to do to get it addressed. However, the majority of the members at the June District Meetings directed SARM to take this position so that we could get support from all the taxpayers in the province, and put an increasing amount of pressure on the provincial government to deal with this longstanding issue. The Coalition is having an impact and the government can no longer ignore the fact that they collect more money from property to fund education than any other province in Canada.

This marks my last term as President. I would like to thank the SARM Board of Directors for the amount of work they do and for their support. Each Director sits on about 15 different committees, so they really do have a very good perspective on the issues affecting rural Saskatchewan. I would also like to thank the members of SARM since they are the ones who make this organization truly the rural roots of Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,



Neal Hardy  
SARM President



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# Message from the Executive Director

A Century of Success was SARM's theme of 2005 as we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, along with the Province of Saskatchewan. In 100 years, SARM has seen a number of successes and achievements and is looking forward to continuing its work as the voice of rural municipalities in Saskatchewan.

This year, SARM began its work in redesigning communications with its members. In our reports section, not only will you find reports from the various departments, but we have a new section on Lobbying and Policy Activities. We hope you find the additions throughout the book both helpful and informative.

On the financial side, SARM continues to show a strong financial position. The Trading Department has experienced an 8% increase to revenues. We would like to thank the municipalities for their continued support of the Trading Department and other services provided by our Association. The Self-Insurance programs are also producing strong results for their members. In 2005, reserve contributions for the Liability Program totaled \$568,500 and the Property Program contributed \$238,700. The municipalities involved, as well as the SARM staff, should take great pride in the success of our various self-insurance programs.

In 2005, SARM has worked on a number of projects to support our members, including the Clearing the Path initiative. CTP provides an outline for communities to take control of their future. SARM is excited about communities working together for economic success, as is emphasized in the CTP program.

Education tax on property continues to be a top priority for SARM. As you know, this issue has gone unresolved for many years in spite of the government's acknowledgement that something needs to be done. We have been working on this issue since August 2005

within a coalition of organizations that all want to see a reduction in the amount of education tax being raised from property. We have had positive signs that the government is finally going to do something about the high levels of education tax, and will continue to press for a long-term plan for education tax reduction.

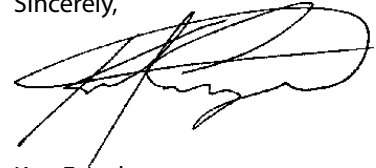
President Neal Hardy will be retiring after the 2006 March Convention, and I would like to thank him for his years of leadership of our Association. It has been a pleasure working with Neal and we wish him all the best. This past year also brought about changes to the SARM staff. We welcomed Laurel Feltin as Policy Analyst on a permanent basis; as well, we introduced a communications department. We also said goodbye to long-time employee, Thelmur Michel, who worked with SARM for over 25 years. Good luck to Thelmur in his future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to all SARM staff and board who worked on special projects for our centennial convention. I want to particularly recognize and thank Director Debra Gronning for the many volunteer hours

she spent in compiling the history book. Without the dedication and hard work of every board and staff member, we would not have achieved the level of success we did.

We hope you enjoy this annual report and we look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Ken Engel  
Executive Director

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# SARM Board of Directors and Staff



## Board of Directors

### Back Row, L to R:

Kevin Ritchie, Director Ex-Officio  
Doug Steele, Division 3 Director  
Ray Orb, Division 2 Director  
Don Taylor, Division 1 Director

### Middle Row, L to R:

Debra Gronning, Division 6 Director  
David Marit, Vice-President  
Jim Hallick, Division 4 Director

### Front Row, L to R:

Ken Engel, Executive Director  
Neal Hardy, President  
Murray Purcell, Division 5 Director



## Staff

### Back Row, L to R:

Mike Morris, Manager of Legal Services  
Dale Harvey, Assistant Executive Director  
Teresa Edwards, Administrative/Legal Assistant  
Arita McPherson, Director of Agriculture Policy and Communications

### Middle Row, L to R:

Luanne Synk, Property Insurance Officer/System Admin  
Catherine Patterson, Controller  
Kristin Dowler, Communications Coordinator  
Janie Metcalfe, Trading Department Manager

### Front Row, L to R:

Kristina Sauer, Conventions and Special Events Coordinator  
Kathie Caleval, Manager of Insurance and Benefits Programs  
Ken Engel, Executive Director  
Tammy Carstensen, Employee Benefits Officer  
Laurel Feltin, Policy Analyst

*Not Pictured: Dan Halladay, Shipper/Receiver, Jennifer Schwartz, Controller*

# Board & Staff Contact Information

## SARM BOARD

### President

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#### Division 6

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Kristina Sauer, Convention & Special  
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761-3730

# SARM Committees & Board Appointments

\*\*\* Indicates Back-Up to Committee/Appointment

## President Neal Hardy

Clearing the Path  
Indian Land Claims Committee  
Local Governments Federation  
Municipal Forum  
Potash Tax Sharing Administration  
Board  
Prairie Association of Rural  
Municipalities  
Rural Municipal Administrators  
Association  
Staff Relations Committee  
Wilkinson Foundation

## Vice-President David Marit

Audit Committee  
Clearing the Path  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Indian Land Claims Committee  
Municipal Employees Pension  
Commission  
Municipal Forum  
Potash Tax Sharing Administration  
Board  
Prairie Association of Rural  
Municipalities  
Staff Relations Committee

## Don Taylor, Division 1 Director

\* Advisory Committee on Wildlife  
Ag Implements Board  
Agriculture Operations Review Board  
Audit Committee  
Certification Advisory Committee  
Dutch Elm Disease Committee  
East Central Transportation Planning  
Committee  
Endangered Species Advisory  
Committee  
Multi-Material Recycling Program  
Parks Advisory Committee  
Sask. Watershed Authority  
Sask. Association for Resource  
Recovery Corporation Committee  
Scentless Chamomile Committee  
Scrap Tire Management Corporation  
South East Transportation Planning  
Committee  
West Nile Virus

## Ray Orb, Division 2 Director

Action Committee on Rural Economy  
Agriculture Committee  
Crown Land Stakeholders Forum  
Farm Support Review Committee  
New Deal Partnership Program  
Committee  
SAMA Agricultural Land Review  
Committee  
SAMA Rural Advisory Committee  
SE Stakeholder Working Group (Kyoto  
Protocol Agreement)  
Task Force on Policing and the  
Administration of Justice  
New Deal Advisory Committee  
New Horizons for Seniors

## Doug Steele, Division 3 Director

ATPC Chair Committee  
Crown Land Stakeholder Forum  
Indian Land Claims Committee  
Lands Appeals Board  
New Deal Partnership Program  
Committee  
Oil and Gas Advisory Committee  
Provincial Library Board  
Sask. Rat Control Coordinating  
Committee  
SIAST - Heavy Equipment Operators  
Course  
\*Scentless Chamomile Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Transportation & Environment

## Jim Hallick, Division 4 Director

Advisory Committee to the Horned  
Cattle Fund  
Ag Committee  
Canada Grains Council  
CSIP/New Deal  
Clearing the Path  
Farm Stress Unit Advisory Group  
Farmer Rail Car Coalition  
Hudson Bay Route Association  
Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund  
Prairie Grain Roads Program  
SMB Boundary Commission  
Saskatchewan CAIS Appeals  
Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Transportation & Environment  
Committee

## Murray Purcell, Division 5 Director

ACAAFS/CARDS Committee  
Advisory Committee on Crops  
Advisory Committee on Weed Control  
Audit Committee  
Board of Examiners  
Indian Land Claims Committee  
\*Provincial Forest Advisory Committee  
Rural Municipal Board of Reference  
RMAA Class "C" Training Committee  
Sask. Agriculture Hall of Fame  
Sask. Council for Community  
Development (SCCD)  
Task Force on Policing and the  
Administration of Justice  
New Consolidated Municipal Act  
Committee  
North Central Transportation Planning  
Committee  
Planning and Development Act  
Committee  
University of Saskatchewan Senate

**Debra Gronning,  
Division 6 Director**

Advisory Committee on Wildlife  
Canada National Chronic Wasting  
Disease Control Strategy  
Consultative Committee  
Center for Agricultural Medicine  
Institute of Agriculture Rural Health  
and Safety  
Public Infrastructure Construction  
Safety Committee  
Lt. Governor's Award Committee  
Medical Admissions  
Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund  
Oil and Gas Advisory Committee  
(Heavy Oil Transportation)  
Occupational Health and Safety  
Agriculture Division  
Prairie Grains Road Program  
Provincial Forest Advisory Committee  
Sask. Safety Council - Farm Division

**Kevin Ritchie,  
Director Ex-Officio**

Audit Committee  
Lt. Governor's Award Committee  
Local Governments Federation  
Municipal Forum  
Sask911 Advisory Board  
University of Regina Senate  
Wilkinson Foundation

**Ken Engel,  
Executive Director**

CSIP/New Deal  
Crown Land Stakeholders Forum  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Indian Land Claims Committee  
Local Governments Federation  
Municipal Forum  
Potash Tax Sharing Administration  
Board  
Prairie Association of Rural  
Municipalities  
Prairie Grains Road Program  
SaskTip  
SAMA Rural Advisory Committee  
Transportation and Environment  
Committee  
Underground Storage Tank Cleanup  
Committee  
Wilkinson Foundation

**Dale Harvey,  
Assistant Executive Director**

Advisory Committee to the Local  
Government Administration  
Program  
Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers

**Arita McPherson,  
Director of Agriculture Policy  
and Communications**

\*Endangered Species Advisory  
Committee  
Lt. Governor's Award Committee



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