



## **Resource and Economic Development Committee (R&EDC)**

### **Introduction:**

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) established the Resource and Economic Development Committee (R&EDC) by motion of the SARM Board on March 22, 2011. The committee is a standing-advisory committee which was created to foster and enhance resource development in the province and to provide support to RMs as they deal with industry growth. The initial focus of this committee over the next two years will be on the oil and gas sector. Additional resource sectors will be explored as time and finances permit, including forestry, potash and water.

### **Committee Goals and Objectives:**

In order to realize its mandate, the committee will work toward the following goals by meeting the outlined objectives.

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
1. Foster relationships between municipal governments, provincial government and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Determine fact from fiction</li><li>- Create an awareness of resource and economic development facts among members, provincial government, and industry stakeholders</li><li>- Develop and provide policy recommendations to stakeholders</li></ul>
2. Prepare members for successful dealings with industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Develop industry tools and best practices for RMs</li><li>- Provide and/or inform RMs of learning opportunities in dealing with industry</li><li>- Communicate information to RMs, industry stakeholders and provincial government</li></ul>

### **Activities:**

The committee proposes to undertake the following activities to achieve the defined objectives, as they relate to the oil and gas industry.

- Consult with members, provinces and other jurisdictions on:
  - i. Industry best practices;
  - ii. To assess the impact of oil and gas on municipal infrastructure;
  - iii. To determine whether current funding mechanisms are adequate;
  - iv. To evaluate current working relationships between municipalities and the oil and gas industry and service sector; and,



- v. To measure the cost-benefit of having oil and gas development in an RM.
- Meet with industry stakeholders to determine:
  - i. The impediments to oil and gas development in SK RMs;
  - ii. Which processes/procedures are working well;
  - iii. The factors leading industry to do business outside of SK and/or from one RM to another; and,
  - iv. How they view their relationship with RMs.
- Meet with provincial ministries and contact other comparable jurisdictions (AB/MB/N. Dakota/Montana) to benchmark SK, with regards to the following.
  - i. Royalty rates
  - ii. Drilling fees
  - iii. Process for paying leases
  - iv. Surface lease agreements i.e. access fees
  - v. Road maintenance agreements
  - vi. Terms of leases
  - vii. Taxes
- Compile and communicate relevant information to RMs, industry stakeholders and provincial government via SARM webpage, Rural Councillor articles, in-person and teleconference meetings, email, and presentations.
- Develop industry related municipal tools and outline best practices for RMs e.g. best practice handbook, industry checklists, and guidance policy for dealing with development.
- Offer recommendations to the province on resource related regulations, legislation and resource based funding as they apply to municipalities.
- Inform RMs about learning opportunities and partner to deliver workshops with the intention of broadening an understanding of resource development and to provide networking opportunities for those who are or will be dealing with resource development.

Note: similar activities will be undertaken by the committee when addressing the other resource sectors.

For more information about this committee and/or to provide suggestions on future committee work please contact:

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