



# Ministry of Environment

## State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan

### Annual Report Highlights from 2010-11

## Message from the Minister



*The Honourable Dustin Duncan  
Minister of Environment*

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building on its promises to Saskatchewan People. Safe drinking water is integral to securing Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family and sustaining economic growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people.

This highlights sheet provides an executive summary of the 2010-11 Annual Report of the Status of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan. The annual report demonstrates progress towards the commitments that relate to drinking water and source water protection activities of involved ministries and agencies as of March 31, 2011.

For more information please see the 2010-11 Annual Report on the State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan available on line at:  
[www.saskh2o.ca/news.asp](http://www.saskh2o.ca/news.asp).

## Overview of Drinking Water Management in Saskatchewan

Since the waterborne disease outbreaks of May 2000 in Walkerton, Ontario and spring 2001 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan has heightened and focused efforts to improve drinking water supplies and protect source waters in the province. The intent of these efforts is also to provide safe drinking water. These actions are also intended to reassure the citizens of the province that government is helping to ensure the water we drink is safe.

Several ministries and agencies are involved in the governance and protection of drinking water supplies and source waters in Saskatchewan including the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Regional Health Authorities, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, SaskWater, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture.



# VISION

*A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.*

## Our 2010-11 Significant Achievements

### Sustaining Economic Growth...

- Under the federal-provincial infrastructure programs (MRIF, BCF-CC, Canada-Saskatchewan Building Canada Fund – Major Infrastructure Component (BCF-MIC), PT Base, and ISF), \$57.3 million was provided for 175 water and wastewater projects in 2010-11.
- SaskWater spent \$24.4 million in 2010, under its capital program, expanding industry clients, growing communities and renewing infrastructure.
- In 2010, the Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) spent \$6.1 million under the Northern Water and Sewer Program for 26 water and wastewater infrastructure projects. These projects were undertaken in 20 communities. For these projects, the NMTA received \$1.7 million from the Department of Western Economic Diversification, \$295,639 from the Building Canada Fund Infrastructure Program, and \$17,324 from the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

### Securing Saskatchewan...

- As of March 31, 2011; 98.3 per cent of communities with human consumptive waterworks requiring a certified operator have operators that have achieved some level of certification. To date 1,942 waterworks or wastewater works operators have been certified by the Operator Certification Board in Saskatchewan.

- In 2010, SaskWater delivered a record 5.41 billion litres of safe drinking water to Saskatchewan Communities, rural pipeline groups and industry.
- In 2010-11 the Ministry of Environment conducted 886 waterworks inspections and 527 inspections at wastewater works. A total of 355 Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories (PDWAs) and seven Emergency Boil Water Orders were issued; 211 PDWA's issued due to unexpected problems or operational upsets and 144 were issued due to anticipated events such as planned maintenance activities or start-up of waterworks.

### Keeping Promises...

- The Ministry of Environment continued to work towards implementation of chemical health, trace metal, and trace pesticide related water quality standards, which took effect for small waterworks in December 2010.
- The Ministry of Environment participated as a member of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Drinking Water in 2010-11. During that time, review of national guidelines for several microbial and chemical parameters was conducted. These national guidelines form the basis for drinking water quality standards in Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions across Canada.

## Other Significant Results

- During 2010-11, Ministry of Environment continued to participate in Biosolids Task Group (BTG), formed under the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME), to develop national guidance/practices on the management of residual solid materials (biosolids), which arise through treatment processes.
- As part of the Go Green Strategy, the Provincial Toilet Replacement Program continued in 2010-11. The program provides funding of \$11.2 million over four years to replace existing residential toilets with low or dual flush toilets. In 2010-11, the program received 12,512 applications and rebates were provided for 16,037 low flow toilets. Since the rebate program began in January of 2009, more than 1.1 billion litres of water have been saved and more than 3.5 thousand tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided.
- Ministry of Agriculture provides funding through the Agriculture Development Fund to support research and development, including agricultural technologies for improved management and/or reduced environmental risks of pesticides, fertilizers and livestock manure. There are ten ongoing water related projects with a total funding allocation of \$936,394. Of those, three projects (\$11,619) are funded under Growing Forward in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Projects are in irrigation agronomy and technology, water conservation and water quality.

### Financial Summary

Provincial Expenditures on Drinking Water and Waste Water

2010-11 Budget (000s)	2010-11 Actual (000s)	Variance (000s)
\$83,053	\$113,698	\$30,645