

# *Saskatchewan Municipal* **Best Practice**

## **Regional Landfill Construction**

### **CONTACT**

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### **THE PRACTICE**

The need for a new regional landfill became apparent when the landfills in both Debden and Canwood began approaching capacity. Discussions began on how the two villages and surrounding RM could deliver cost effective landfill service to their ratepayers. Through these discussions, it became apparent that a regional landfill with baled waste, which could handle household and commercial waste, would be the best method to address each municipalities' waste needs.

### **THE PROCESS**

The first step the municipalities took was to consider joining the Prince Albert and Area Waste Authority. After attending a number of meetings, it was determined that this option would be far too costly. In order to come up with their own solution, the three municipalities set up a committee to formalize the construction of a new, regional landfill that they would own and operate. Through this committee, two public meetings were held, the Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation was formed and a financing formula of 60% (RM) and 20% (each village) was agreed upon by municipal and First Nations leaders.

The Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation was successful in obtaining \$500,000 in funding from the municipalities in addition to \$100,000 from the Saskatchewan Centennial fund to begin construction of the new landfill. The existing Operations and Project Managers from each municipality became the Construction Management Team as the tendered process became unaffordable.

### **THE RESULTS**

The baled waste method has not only resulted in a much cleaner environment, but has provided better compaction of the waste, thus extending the life of the landfill. Adjacent landowners are content that a strategic approach to landfill management has been put in place so that garbage is not infringing or blowing onto their property.

Further success has been made recently as the landfill has begun to receive waste from other surrounding municipalities. This has helped the landfill project move towards profitability at a quicker rate than originally anticipated.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

The RM of Canwood and the Villages of Debden and Canwood have learned that, through public consultation and awareness, opportunities for unique and alternative municipal financing exist. The municipalities have saved thousands of dollars by sharing a landfill, and with the support of the ratepayers, generate a profit by taking on the garbage of other surrounding municipalities. These unique opportunities exist because of an educated tax base and effective strategy to deal with waste.