

Municipal Capacity Development Program 200 - 2221 Cornwall Street Regina SK. S4P 2L1

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Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP) - Program Closure Notice

After nine years of assisting municipalities across Saskatchewan with inter-municipal initiatives, we regret to inform you that MCDP will be closing its doors and the services and staff will no longer be available effective March 31, 2016.

The MCDP is funded by monies from the Federal Government of Canada and is administered in partnership by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA). The MCDP has been fortunate to receive funding from the Federal Gas Tax provided by the Federal Government since 2009. However, due to changes in the agreement, the MCDP does not qualify to receive funding into 2016. SARM and SUMA have advocated the importance of the MCDP and fought for funding to continue. Both Associations are disappointed to see the funding discontinued as capacity building and working together continue to be important undertakings for municipalities in Saskatchewan. SARM and SUMA will continue to work with the Federal and Provincial governments to have the funding renewed for the MCDP.

The MCDP has helped to establish more than 40 inter-municipal groups ranging in size from 2 to 44 municipalities and has assisted most of the 16 new Planning Districts in Saskatchewan to build relationships. Over 100 inter-municipal projects have been initiated by working groups established under the MCDP. These range from creating a formal group structure and strategic plan to larger scale projects with great funding commitments such as regional landfills and water pipelines.

The MCDP staff has been happy to assist urban and rural municipalities to build relationships, create intermunicipal agreements and plan for the future. We encourage all municipalities to work with their neighbors and develop new partnerships. We are proud of the groups that have utilized the MCDP services and have demonstrated leadership and made progress towards their regional goals.

The MCDP website will continue to be a resource that municipalities can access to assist with inter-municipal initiatives. The SARM and SUMA websites will have links to the MCDP website and it can be accessed at www.municipalcapacity.ca. The website hosts guides, best practises and examples of inter-municipal agreements.

For any questions regarding the MCDP, please contact the Program Manager, Amanda Parkinson, at (306) 761-3735 or aparkinson@municipalcapacity.ca until March 31, 2016. For information and inquiries after March 31st please contact Shelley Kilbride, Director of Policy and Research with SARM, at (306) 761-3729 or skilbride@sarm.ca.

Sincerely,

Laurent Mougeot Chief Executive Officer

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association

Jay B. Meyer

Executive Director

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities