

Water Security Agency



Plan for 2019-20

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Dustin Duncan*

*Minister Responsible
for Saskatchewan
Water Security
Agency*

I am pleased to present the Water Security Agency's (WSA) 2019-20 plan in the context of the Government Direction and Budget for 2019-20.

Government Direction and Budget for 2019-20 is focused on *The Right Balance* for Saskatchewan. We are returning to a balanced budget with sound fiscal management while keeping taxes low, supporting economic growth and ensuring quality government programs and services for people and businesses in Saskatchewan.

Through taking the next steps in the 25-Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan, WSA will continue its foundational water management work to help realize the Government's goals, while focusing on providing exceptional service to citizens.

Water is a paramount priority to our province, our economy, our recreational endeavors and our way of life. Our government is increasing capital investment in Saskatchewan's water infrastructure by 72 per cent to a record \$75.0 million. Over two fiscal years, this will come close to tripling the province's capital support of the Province's network of 69 dams and water conveyance structures.

Sustainable agricultural water management is also key to the future prosperity in Saskatchewan. WSA will oversee the continuing progress of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy with over 1,000 quarters expected to come into compliance in 2018-19. In 2019-20, WSA will continue the evolution of this strategy through heightened communication efforts, the development of a wetland inventory and evolution of compliance efforts and operational procedures. Our agricultural producers are excellent stewards of our land, and we will help facilitate the transition over time to ensure all our farmlands have sustainable agriculture water management projects.

WSA will continue supporting the Province's "Prairie Resilience" climate response plan by improving local community preparedness through tools such as improved flow forecasting and flood plain mapping tools. By enhancing how we prepare for extreme weather conditions, be they flooding or drought, we can help equip Saskatchewan communities for the climate resiliency they will need for the future.

Lastly, we will continue with our core mandate to ensure the safety and integrity of Saskatchewan's drinking water supplies. WSA will continue to promote and ensure safe drinking water for Saskatchewan residents through inspections, monitoring, reporting, education and compliance for all regulated works in Saskatchewan.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to having *The Right Balance*. We will continue to carefully manage spending and focus on government priorities, such as competitive taxes, investments in economic growth and providing programs and services that meet the needs of Saskatchewan people and businesses.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2019-20 annual reports.

Operational Plan

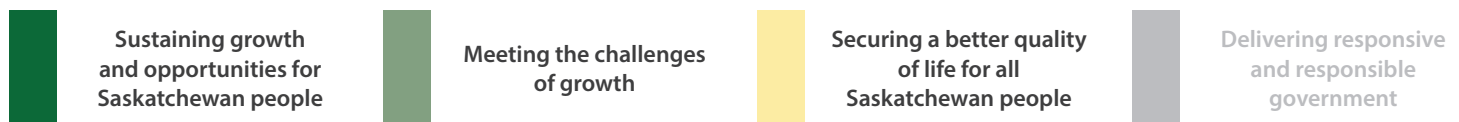
Mandate Statement

The Water Security Agency is responsible for managing water supply, protecting water quality, ensuring safe drinking water, managing dams and water supply channels, reducing flood and drought damage and providing information on water. The Agency works to integrate all aspects of provincial water management to ensure water supplies support economic growth, quality of life and environmental well-being.

Mission Statement

We strive to provide exceptional service and ensure that water management supports growth, a healthy environment and a high quality of life for Saskatchewan people.

Government Goals



Organization Goal

Safe Drinking Water and Effective Wastewater Treatment

Strategy

Ensure our drinking water is safe and wastewater treatment is effective

Key Actions

- Advance compliance with haloacetic acids (HAAs) in drinking water quality standards taking effect July 1, 2020
- Advance compliance with *Wastewater System Effluent Regulations* treatment and other wastewater treatment requirements through permit conditions, system improvements, and the promotion of regional waterworks
- Advance drinking water and wastewater infrastructure funding options and evaluations in partnership with other provincial Ministries and Agencies
- Implement options to address long standing Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories and Emergency Boil Water Orders for WSA regulated waterworks

Performance Measures

Drinking water quality standards compliance rate

This measure indicates average compliance with disinfection and bacteriological standards. High compliance rates are a good indication of drinking water safety.

Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) Levels

This measure indicates the levels of HAAs in drinking water and monitors the effectiveness of the control measures in place.



Number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source water

A decreasing number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source waters are a direct indication of a reduction in the potential for source water contamination due to poor wastewater treatment.

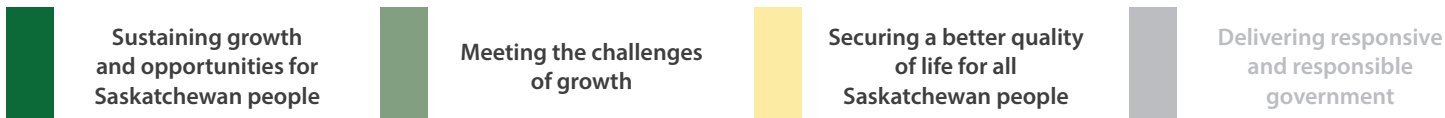
Number of waterworks regulated by Water Security Agency that do not meet minimum treatment requirements

The number of waterworks that do not meet minimum treatment requirements is a direct indication of potential water quality concerns because of infrastructure inadequacies.

Number of long-standing (>6 months) Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories

This measure monitors the progress towards reducing the number of long-standing Precautionary Drinking Water Advisories.

Government Goals



Organization Goal

Safe Dams – Ensure dams safely meet water supply and management needs

Strategy

Effectively transition and manage the transferred federal dams and associated business impacts

Key Actions

- Continue with the third year of the transition of federal structures and associated knowledge to WSA control

Strategy

Conduct priority rehabilitation on WSA dams

Key Actions

- Complete upgrades and renewal work on WSA infrastructure as per the Ten-Year Rolling Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan
- Determine the base data requirements to support asset management
- Assess the risks to the public when interacting with WSA infrastructure on the Qu'Appelle River System

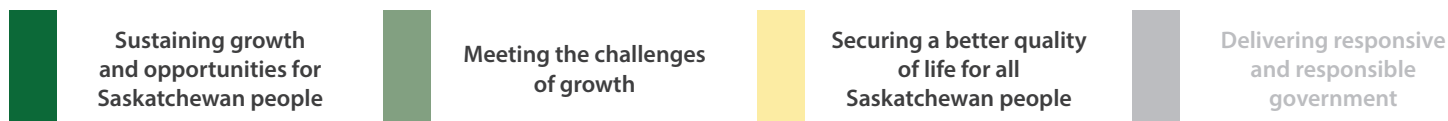
Performance Measures

Dam Safety Risk Index

The Risk Ratio includes a qualitative assessment of the current knowledge of the Hydraulics, Structural, and Geotechnical components taking into consideration the consequence classification of the dam. This measure is a compilation for all WSA Dams.



Government Goals



Organization Goal

Flood and Drought Damage Reduction – Ensure measures are in place to effectively respond to floods and droughts

Strategy

Mitigate the variability risks in water resource management (droughts, floods, climate change)

Key Actions

- Implement a cost-shared program to map flood risks for priority communities
- Assess flood forecasting needs, identify, and implement new forecasting tools and systems
- Determine the flow restrictions downstream of Rafferty Dam to identify potential constraints to reservoir operations

Strategy

Coordinate and manage agricultural drainage through a proactive regulatory framework

Key Actions

- Develop and implement mitigation policies and operational procedures to address impacts to water quality, quantity and habitat
- Engage partners to identify and initiate research and development needs to support continuous improvement and address key knowledge gaps, including the tree ring analysis of historical trends in water availability
- Advance a provincial wetland and drainage inventory for Southern Saskatchewan
- Develop and implement agricultural water management compliance & enforcement policies, and operational procedures to increase the number of compliant quarter sections that meet regulatory requirements
- Effectively communicate the intent, outcomes and requirements of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy to clients and key stakeholders
- Streamline the Agricultural Water Management Strategy application process by enhancing the Qualified Persons network and developing the necessary tools to ensure consistent, high quality applications

Performance Measures

Number of quarter sections that meet regulatory requirements

This measurement provides an indication of progress in the implementation of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.

Percentage of wetland and drainage inventory complete

This measure indicates progress on completing the wetland and drainage inventory. The inventory supports the technical and mitigation activities completed within the Agriculture Water Management Strategy.



Number of acres of surface water storage required as a condition of the Drainage Approval

This measure provides an indication of the effective application of regulations and policies to achieving mitigation of environmental impacts.

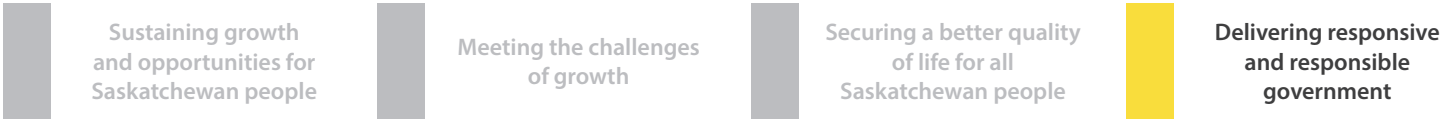
Number of communities reliant on water supplies vulnerable to drought

This measures the number of municipalities that may experience water supply shortages due to low precipitation in the previous fall and winter.

Floodplain mapping completed for communities identified as being at risk of flooding

This measures the percentage of communities in Saskatchewan identified as being at risk of flooding that have completed or have access to floodplain maps.

Government Goals



Organization Goal

Effective Governance and Engagement – Ensure water management and decision-making processes are coordinated, comprehensive and collaborative

Strategy

Renew legislative framework and long-term water management direction

Key Actions

- Policy consultation in support of revised legislation and regulations for Conservation & Development Authority
- Modernize *The Ground Water Regulations* and review *The Withdrawal from Allocation Regulations*

Strategy

Develop a Business Continuity Plan for the Water Security Agency

Key Actions

- Develop a Disaster Recovery Plan as a starting point of a Business Continuity Plan

Highlights

The Water Security Agency plans for operating expenditures of \$57.5 million during 2019-20. The operating budget allows the Water Security Agency to continue to lead the implementation of the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan and its vision of, *"Water supporting economic growth, quality of life and environmental well-being"*.

Budget highlights include:

- An investment of \$75.0 million for the Ten-Year Rolling Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan to meet the capital requirements necessary to ensure the safety and operational capability of 69 water dams and 130 km of conveyance channels throughout the province. Some of the larger rehabilitation plan includes:
 - \$14.4 million for the replacement of the control structures at Crooked Lake Dam
 - \$10.8 million for the rehabilitation and cleanup of the M1 Canal
 - \$4.9 million to further the design of the Grant Devine spillway
- \$1.0 million for the Agricultural Water Management Strategy to help assure continued agricultural productivity, enhance wetland habitat conservation, and improve runoff management in times of both drought and flood
- \$1.0 million for the delivery of Flood Reduction Programs to support communities to undertake proactive and preventative flood protection initiatives to mitigate flood damage

Financial Summary

The Water Security Agency's 2019-20 financial plan supports the Agency's key strategies. The operating budget allows the Water Security Agency to move forward with the implementation of the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan to protect the Province's quantity and quality of water.

For 2019-20, the Water Security Agency operating expenses total of \$57.5 million to provide the following core services:

- Management and allocation of the Province's water supply;
- Ensuring drinking water safety and protecting water quality, including aquatic habitats;
- Investment in, and maintenance of, water infrastructure;
- Flood and drought damage reduction, including drainage permitting and enforcement;
- Collection, analysis and communication of information supporting water management and use.
- The Water Security Agency will invest \$75.0 million in the rehabilitation of water management infrastructure, ensuring continued supply of water for growth, prosperity and recreation. \$31.8 million will be funded from the GRF and \$43.2 million will be funded by cash reserves.

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>

For More Information

Please visit the Agency's website at <http://www.wsask.ca>