

Water Security Agency



Plan for 2020-21

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency*

I am pleased to present the Water Security Agency's (WSA) Plan for 2020-21.

Government Direction and Budget 2020-21 is focused on growth for a better quality of life – fostering a strong economy, creating strong communities and strong families – and Building a Strong Saskatchewan.

Water is paramount, both to life and all we do in Saskatchewan. The Growth Plan specifically recognizes that our Province's continuing agricultural and economic development will depend upon effective water management and adaptation. WSA will play a key role in realizing many of the critical initiatives within both the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan* and *Prairie Resilience*.

In support of the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan*, WSA's continued progress in implementing the Agricultural Water Management Strategy will keep moving Saskatchewan toward a policy of responsible water management. WSA will play an important role in achieving the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan* goal to add 85,000 new irrigated acres in Saskatchewan by 2030.

Through *Prairie Resilience*, WSA will continue to move forward with flood plain mapping for communities at risk, creating a provincial drought response strategy and building more community resiliency to manage extreme weather incidents.

WSA has also been making significant capital investments in the operation and maintenance of Saskatchewan's network of over 70 dams and conveyance channels, part of the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan's* commitment to continue investing in Saskatchewan's public water infrastructure. Priority rehabilitation projects will include work on the Gardiner and Crooked Lake Dams, as well as continuing our process of assuming dam infrastructure in Southwest Saskatchewan transferred to WSA by the federal government. Enhancing safety around dam sites is a key future priority, the impetus behind a forthcoming public safety interaction program.

Like electricity or home heating, it can be easy to take readily available and safe water and wastewater services for granted, but WSA employees approach this responsibility with constant vigilance in their daily work. The Environmental and Municipal Management Services division of WSA oversees more than 1,400 water and sewage works operations in Saskatchewan -- ensuring safe drinking water for Saskatchewan residents through inspections, monitoring, reporting, education and compliance.

The opportunities of growth will benefit Saskatchewan for generations to come, but they must be met with a robust and responsive system of checks and balances to safeguard our quality of life. WSA and its employees are meeting that challenge.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Building a Strong Saskatchewan*. Investing in strong communities and strong families creates opportunities for a better quality of life for the people of our province. Maintaining a strong economy will enable us to build upon the past decade of growth and continue to provide the services, jobs and infrastructure that meets Saskatchewan's needs.

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."



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2020-21 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Water Security Agency is responsible for managing the 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



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Organization Goal

Reduce water quantity, quality and habitat impacts of agricultural water management.

Strategy

Agricultural Water Management Strategy.

Key Actions

- Develop and implement mitigation policies and operational procedures to address impacts.
- Engage partners to identify and initiate research and development needs to support continuous improvement and address key knowledge gaps.
- Implement agricultural water management compliance and enforcement policies.
- Effectively communicate the intent, outcomes and requirements of the strategy to clients and key stakeholders.
- Streamline the application process by building the qualified persons network and developing the necessary tools to ensure consistent and high-quality applications.
- Continue to work with the Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association (SCDA) to advance the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.
- Centralize decision-making so that communication to clients is consistent.

Performance Measures

Number of quarter sections that meet regulatory requirements

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

Percentage of producers that are aware of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy

This measure provides an indication of the awareness of producers in Saskatchewan towards the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.

Number of Qualified Persons trained in Agricultural Water Management Strategy

This measure provides an indication of how strong the Qualified Persons network is to support producers accessing the new Agricultural Water Management Strategy.



Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Organization Goal

Transition federal infrastructure to WSA control.

Strategy

Fulfill commitments of the Federal Dam Transfer Agreement and the Federal Canals Transfer Agreement.

Key Actions

- Transfer existing federal staff into WSA.
- Transfer all federal infrastructure and reservoir land to WSA.
- Transfer digital & physical files to WSA.

Performance Measures

Transfer of infrastructure and associated reservoir land

This measures the progress of infrastructure and reservoir land transfers identified within the Federal Dam Transfer Agreement and the Federal Canals Transfer Agreement.

Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Organization Goal

WSA infrastructure safely and effectively meets the water supply and management needs of the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Strategy

Advance priority rehabilitation on WSA infrastructure as per the Ten-Year Rolling Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan.

Key Actions

- Crooked Lake Dam – Phase 1 of control structure replacement to occur in 2020-21.
- Gardiner Dam – Rehabilitation of spillway bridge; replace site headquarters building.
- Other infrastructure rehabilitation – Rehabilitation work, including design, planned on 30 dams.

Performance Measures

Dam Safety Risk Ratio

The Dam Safety 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



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Organization Goal

Reduce the risk and impact to the public downstream and when interacting with WSA dams.

Strategy

Implement a multi-year Public Safety Interaction Program for WSA dams that meets Canadian Dam Association (CDA) guidelines.

Key Actions

- Complete individual dam assessments related to dams with public safety interaction.

Strategy

Complete the development and testing of Emergency Action Plans (Emergency Preparedness Plans & Emergency Response Plans) for dams with consequence of high, very high, or extreme.

Key Actions

- Complete development of Val Marie, West Val and Eastend Emergency Action Plans.
- Complete Tabletop Test of Grant Devine Dam Emergency Action Plan.

Performance Measures

Number of assessments completed on Dams with Public Safety Interaction

This measures the number of assessments completed on infrastructure that may pose a risk to the public.

Development of Emergency Action Plans

This measures the progress of Emergency Action Plan development for WSA-owned infrastructure.

Tabletop Test of Emergency Preparedness Plan

This measures the progress of Emergency Action Plan testing for WSA-owned infrastructure.



Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

Organization Goal

Mitigate the impacts of climate variability on Saskatchewan's water resources.

Strategy

Build municipal/community capacity to become more resilient to climate change.

Key Actions

- Undertake flood mapping projects in association with priority communities.
- Advance the Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise (BRACE) Project to aid communities to understand drought related threats and develop contingency plans.
- Engage communities in the development of plans, organize sessions and experts to complete drought response plans.

Performance Measures

Number of communities with water supplies at risk of drought which have drought response plans

This measures the number of municipalities that may experience water supply shortages due to low precipitation in the previous fall and winter that have developed a plan to mitigate their risk.

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.

Financial Summary

The Water Security Agency's 2020-21 financial plan supports the Agency's key goals and strategies. The operating budget allows WSA to continue implementation of the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan to protect and effectively manage the Province's water resources.

For 2020-21, the Water Security Agency operating expenses will total \$58.2 million and will enable the Water Security Agency 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);
- Maintenance of water infrastructure;
- Flood and drought damage reduction (including drainage permitting and enforcement); and
- Collection, analysis and communication of information supporting water management and use.

The Water Security Agency will invest \$48.8 million in the Ten-Year Rolling Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plan to ensure continued supply of water for growth, prosperity and recreation.

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

For More Information

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