

Recommendations - Progress as of March 31, 2011

Complete
In Progress
Not Being Implemented

Board Recommendation	Date	Government Response	Update
Aboriginal Development			
Establish an appropriate action plan to engage Aboriginal people in the economy; and make a bold statement not to allow jurisdictional issues to get in the way of ensuring full participation of Aboriginal people in our economy.	2009-06-25	Government is working with First Nations and Métis peoples on several specific initiatives to increase participation in the economy. The goal of the First Nations and Métis Education and Employment Strategy is to eliminate gaps in the education and employment levels between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Various Enterprise Regions are also working collaboratively with First Nations and Métis peoples to increase participation in local economies.	
Cost share the Aboriginal Economic Development Initiative at 50 per cent with First Nations and Métis groups or other funding partners.	2009-11-26	Funding for the Aboriginal Economic Development Initiative proposed by Enterprise Saskatchewan was not approved but the 2010-11 budget announced \$3 million for a new Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) fund for First Nations' economic development initiatives. Consultations were held with First Nations leaders to ensure the First Nations Business Development Program meets the needs of the First Nations community. Businesses that are 51 per cent owned by First Nations organizations are able to apply for loans from \$100,000 to \$750,000 that can be repaid with future business profits.	Effective January 1, 2011, Westcap Mgt. Inc. manages the First Nations Business Development Program on behalf of CIC.
Access to Capital			
Remove the annual sales cap for provincial funds from the Invest in Saskatchewan program (Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporation (LSVCC) funds).	2008-11-18	The annual sales cap on provincially registered funds was doubled from \$25 million to \$50 million for the 2008 tax season in response to the recommendation. The change allowed all eligible Saskatchewan taxpayers who purchased LSVCCs to claim the maximum tax credit.	Golden Opportunities and SaskWorks raised \$26 million and \$50 million respectively during the 2010 tax season. Since inception, the LSVCC program has resulted in \$270 million invested in small and medium-size businesses.

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Pursue the development of other independently managed venture capital growth opportunities wherever possible.	2008-05-22	Work has been undertaken by Innovation Saskatchewan, supported by ES, to outline the Canadian venture capital landscape and the Saskatchewan venture capital and technology commercialization landscape, and to provide strategies to launch initiatives to attract venture capital. This work is now complete. ES will develop a go forward plan in collaboration with Innovation Saskatchewan.	
Develop a program to incent government participation in demonstration projects as a first purchaser of innovation technology.	2010-12-10	Additional work on this recommendation is pending the results from the Western Senior Officials Forum on Innovation (WSOFI) in early summer 2011.	
Diversification and Value Added			
Create private sector-led Sector Teams to provide advice on removing barriers to growth and building on key strengths to capture opportunities in key economic sectors.	2008-04-24	Eighteen sector teams with nine business leaders on each team have been established. Sector teams have been meeting to identify opportunities to increase growth in their respective sectors, and have started to make recommendations to the ES Board.	On January 28, 2011, the number of sector teams was reduced from 18 to eight and the number of strategic issues councils increased from three to four. The changes will streamline the important process of providing government with recommendations for policies to build on competitive advantages and reduce barriers to economic growth.
Conduct a full evaluation of the economic potential for value-added expansion of the nuclear industry and environmental considerations for Saskatchewan.	2008-06-19	A 12 person Uranium Development Partnership (UDP), released their report with recommendations on value-added opportunities in the uranium industry on March 31, 2009. Following extensive public engagement, a consultation report was issued September 15, 2009. A total of 18 of the UDP's 20 recommendations have been accepted by Government.	In response to the recommendations of the UDP, the Government recently announced funding to establish a Nuclear Centre of Excellence, build a new linear accelerator to research the production of medical isotopes, and build a PET-CT scan for Saskatchewan.

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Beginning in 2010, the Government of Saskatchewan should: i) implement a renewable diesel standard mandate starting at B2 (two per cent biodiesel volume inclusion rate) and moving towards B5 as Saskatchewan production develops; and ii) provide a blender's tax credit of 15 cents per litre for blendstock fuel produced and sold in Saskatchewan.	2009-05-28	Legislation creating a Saskatchewan requirement for renewable diesel content at 2 per cent of annual volumes has been introduced along with implementation of a five-year \$26 million Renewable Diesel (incentive) Program of 13 cents per litre. Government will review biofuels programming in 2012 and will develop a Provincial Biofuels Strategy moving towards an economically viable and prosperous industry as part of the New West Partnership (NWP).	
Ensure Government, Crowns and agencies have fully open consultation, tendering, and procurement processes with industry that a) incorporate better communication regarding procurement opportunities, and b) utilize a strategic procurement policy that supports partnerships; promotes best value; creates long-term benefits for industry and the province; and measures and reports progress in applying this procurement policy. The Board additionally recommends that ES undertake a review of 'best practices' of procurement policies and practices supporting economic growth and innovation in other jurisdictions and work with Government Services, ministries, Crowns and agencies to encourage adoption of those practices and report back to the Board of Directors by December 31, 2009 on progress. (Superseded by next recommendation).	2009-05-28	An inter-ministry and Crown committee was formed to respond to the procurement-related recommendations. Following a presentation at the January 2010 ES Board meeting, the Board made a superseding recommendation asking ES to develop a program to make Saskatchewan businesses aware of opportunities in markets opened up by the NWP.	A Strategic Business Overview and Procurement Forum will be held on April 14, 2011 in Saskatoon to encourage procurement dialogue between the Government of Saskatchewan and the provincial business community.

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<p>Working with Saskatchewan Intergovernmental Affairs, Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP), various business organizations and the Enterprise Regions, develop a program whereby Saskatchewan businesses are made aware of opportunities in markets opened up by the NWP; and prepare an annual report for the ES Board on progress made by government agencies in ensuring that smaller firms have an opportunity to understand the procurement needs of government.</p>	<p>2010-01-28</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP) has completed a guide to doing business with other provinces. ES and STEP are working to ensure that all businesses are aware of opportunities. ES continues to chair the Provincial Corporate Procurement Committee and hosted open houses in Swift Current and Prince Albert.</p>	<p>ES will hold a forum on April 14, 2011 with the government Crown corporations to discuss opportunities for procurement that the NWP brings for Saskatchewan suppliers.</p>
<p>Work with private sector companies, ministries, Crowns and agencies to identify areas where the private sector can be engaged in P3s or where private sector delivery of services can be of benefit to the government while supporting economic growth and innovation in the province; and complete a report to the Board of Directors giving recommendations on specific P3s or direct delivery opportunities to be provided to Cabinet for implementation, and that the report be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.</p>	<p>2009-05-28</p>	<p>ES has worked with a consortium of organizations (three government and two private sector) on a project to build a large scale data centre for primary and disaster recovery in or near Regina. The project continues to develop and should the project go ahead, the consortium members would be anchor tenants for the data centre, with other potential members identified with similar needs.</p>	
<p>Provide funding to a lead co-ordinating agency to support commercialization in the Life Sciences value-added industry in Saskatchewan.</p>	<p>2009-05-28</p>	<p>The sector team met with Innovation Saskatchewan and decided to take a different approach with this recommendation. Discussions are continuing.</p>	

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<p>Review current minerals sector promotional activities and bring back a recommendation to the ES Board in three months on an overall strategy, including a discussion on whether the sector would benefit from enhanced collaboration among the stakeholders and whether an augmented budget is warranted.</p>	<p>2009-06-25</p>	<p>A presentation from the ES staff to the ES Board illustrated that the ES marketing effort is targeted at investment attraction. Implementing the sector team recommendation would require new resources, or a redirection of existing ES expenditures on marketing materials. The ES Board and the Cabinet Committee for Economic Development (CCED) concurred that the ES marketing approach is appropriate to its mandate; therefore, the recommendation will not be implemented.</p>	
<p>Develop and fund the SaskMade marketing program with the objective that the program would increase the sale and consumption of Saskatchewan food products; and that the work be done within the budgets of the Ministry of Agriculture and existing stakeholders.</p>	<p>2009-09-28</p>	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture declined the request for funding for the SaskMade marketing initiative.</p>	
<p>Request the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare a more detailed analysis of incentives for surface leaseholders on Crown land to present to the Board within three months.</p>	<p>2009-10-29</p>	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture prepared a detailed analysis on oil and gas surface leases on Crown land and met with Sector Team members to discuss the issue. The Sector Team is satisfied with the analysis and the existing administration of oil and gas surface leases on Crown where the Ministry of Agriculture negotiates surface access with the oil and gas operators and provides compensation to the agricultural leaseholder, instead of the alternative where oil and gas operators would negotiate surface leases directly with agricultural lease holders on Crown land.</p>	

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Reinforce the Government of Saskatchewan's existing commitment to marketing choice for barley, durum and wheat farmers by instructing the Ministry of Agriculture to develop a plan to further this objective, including urging the federal government to make regulatory and legislative changes to provide for dual marketing choice. Further, direct the Ministry of Agriculture to work together with the Marketing Choice Subcommittee of the ES Agriculture Sector Team to develop the plan by July 31, 2010.	2010-04-29	The Ministry of Agriculture is aware of the recommendation and continues to review.	
Reinforce the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to primary agriculture research and innovation by developing a plan for increasing research funding that is targeted to meet farmer needs. The plan should be in place as the economy begins to recover and target an overall increase in funding, from \$15.2 million to \$20 million, that is reflective of agriculture's contribution to the economy.	2010-04-29	The Government of Saskatchewan announced an additional \$5 million increase over four years in agricultural research funding during the 2010-11 budget year.	The original response incorrectly noted the length of additional agriculture research funding from the Government of Saskatchewan. This error was corrected on August 16, 2011.
Form a task team to develop a comprehensive strategy/plan for Crown land around Lake Diefenbaker.	2010-06-24	The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and the Ministry of Environment, have recognized the need for a long-term development plan surrounding Lake Diefenbaker as demand for land use in the region increases. The ministries note that there are multiple interests and that government is working to better understand these interests as a first step in development of a plan for Crown land in the area.	
In consultation with related agencies, present a business rationale and model that would co-ordinate and assist commercialization and investment opportunities in the tourism sector.	2010-06-24	ES has hired a consultant and the work along with the draft report has been completed and is being reviewed by stakeholders.	

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Implement a national marketing campaign.	2010-09-30	The "Real Growth. Real Opportunity." campaign was launched in November 2010. It has received positive feedback in the media and among key stakeholders, including the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and Saskatchewan Mining Association. From November 13, 2010 to March 31, 2011, the campaign website, thinksask.ca, received almost 35,000 unique visits.	
Provide a process for government agencies and Crowns to consult with industry representatives prior to the formal Request for Proposal process as part of the Saskatchewan Crown's, ministry's or agency's strategic business planning.	2010-09-30	ES will hold a Strategic Business Overview and Procurement Forum on April 14, 2011 in Saskatoon. Over 250 business people are expected to attend the event to hear presentations from 13 different Crowns and ministries.	
Review what is required to support the commercialization objectives of the Creative Industries.	2010-09-30	ES hired a consultant through an RFP process and the work along with the draft report has been completed and is being reviewed by stakeholders.	
Entrepreneurship Development			
Establish an Entrepreneurship Council.	2008-09-23	A nine-person Entrepreneurship Council has been established and has been actively meeting.	
Prepare a comprehensive entrepreneurship strategy.	2008-09-23	An entrepreneurship strategy document has been prepared and a communication plan is being developed. The strategy is focused on financing, mentorship, entrepreneurship education, access to information, and competitiveness. Work is underway on several initiatives under these categories.	
Increase the Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) loan limit from \$15,000 to \$20,000 with no change in lending criteria, and eliminate the SBLA cap of \$250,000.	2009-09-28	Although Government recognizes the positive impact of the SBLA program, loan limits were not increased in the 2010-11 budget due to financial constraints.	No changes were made to the SBLA program in the 2011-12 budget. ES will further review the SBLA criteria over the next year.
Support the development of a Virtual Mentorship Tool.	2009-09-28	A business case for a virtual mentorship service has been prepared. Additional consultation is underway to determine the fit of the proposed service within the broader spectrum of mentorship services.	

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Return in six months to the ES Board with options for implementing an aggressive entrepreneurial education component in the core curriculum.	2009-09-28	Enterprise Saskatchewan contracted with Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) to implement enhancements to entrepreneurship education in the K-12 curriculum. CFEE offers a set of lessons that are being implemented in other provinces to teach entrepreneurship and financial and economic literacy. A Stakeholders Advisory Group has been selected to provide advice on topics that should be addressed through the program.	
Infrastructure/Utilities			
Implement the Enterprise Region concept subject to further consultations with Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM).	2008-05-22	In June 2008, consultations were held with the SUMA Board and the SARM Board and with SARM's six districts. All 13 Enterprise Regions have been established.	
Establish Enterprise Regions in northern Saskatchewan.	2008-06-19	The formation of the new northern Enterprise Regions was announced in the 2009-10 budget providing \$1.4 million in funding. First Nations and Metis Relations (FNMR) subsequently established three Northern Enterprise Regions.	
In light of the changing Saskatchewan economy and the important role that schools and provincial rural infrastructure play in our economy; 1) any decisions on closures of rural schools or provincial infrastructure facilities be suspended for a three-year period, at which time an appropriate analysis on the impact of closures of these facilities can be undertaken; and 2) government undertake an immediate review of the critical role which both our primary education system and rural provincial infrastructure in rural Saskatchewan play in our province's economic development.	2008-09-23	While a three year moratorium was not implemented, the timeframe for a school designated as a School of Opportunity (a school that is currently assessed as "non-viable" but is located in a community that has a potential for population growth and increased student enrollment) to be provided additional funding was increased from two years to three. No schools applied for this designation in either 2010 or 2011. Two rural schools in the province were closed on June 30, 2010.	

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Require five-year capital plans for all public sector organizations, including health districts, school boards, universities, regional colleges and the Ministry of Government Services.	2008-11-18	The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure released their first five-year capital plan on December 3, 2008 with assistance from ES on priorities for economic development. Ministry capital plans will be referenced by linkage to the ES website as they are developed.	
Further analyze endowment funds as an option to sustain our provincial strategic research infrastructure.	2009-03-20	Analysis of the use of endowment funds to sustain science research infrastructure was completed. The conclusion of the analysis was that endowment funds were not a good use of resources because such a large amount of capital is tied up to support the endowment.	
Include consideration of the impact of utility rate increases on the economy and industry competitiveness in future Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel mandates, and in the absence of this mandate, that Cabinet consider the impact of rate increases on the economy and industry.	2009-04-23	Government added the following to the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel's Terms of Reference for the SaskPower Rate Change Proposal in 2010: "consider the effect of the proposed rate change on the competitiveness of the Crown Corporation relative to other jurisdictions." Industry concerns were brought to the attention of the Panel and Government accepted the Panel's recommendations to reduce proposed increases.	
Include Highway 903 as strategic highway infrastructure for the province's northwest, and accelerate the upgrade for completion by October 2011, subject to further cost analysis.	2009-04-23	Highway 903's upgrades are currently not in the top priorities for the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure's current rolling Five Year Capital plan but remains in consideration for future years.	
Optimize the current five-year transportation plan by more fully integrating the various modes of transportation to capture future economic growth opportunity. This should include introducing a requirement for accountability methods for measurable annual milestones and corrective actions.	2009-06-25	The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure develops and publishes a Rolling Five-Year Capital Plan and an Annual Strategy and Action Plan that incorporates all modes of transportation with key actions and performance measures. In June 2009, the Ministry established a Northern Transportation Advisory Committee with industry and community leaders mandated to develop a comprehensive Northern Transportation Strategy.	

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Initiate an efficiency and effectiveness review of all Crown corporations.	2009-09-28	For 2011, Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) is assembling significant Crown sector efficiency improvements and associated benefits to customers for the information of the CIC Board and Cabinet. One example is that Information Services Corporation is promoting improved efficiency via the National Quality Institute (NQI), Progressive Excellence Program. The NQI initiative focuses on increasing customer satisfaction, reducing operating costs through increased productivity, and reducing employee absenteeism and turnover.	
Accelerate a helicopter rescue program in partnership with the private sector that builds on existing infrastructures within communities and enhances the existing emergency response sector in rural and remote areas.	2009-10-29	In the October 2010 Saskatchewan Throne Speech, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a plan to expand emergency medical services in co-operation with the helicopter-based Shock and Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS) program. The 2011-12 budget provided \$5 million for the new emergency helicopter air ambulance service, and about \$10 million annually will be provided in future years. Resource companies such as Crescent Point Energy, Mosaic, and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan also have committed almost \$40 million for the service.	
Consider, as part of the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure business review process, the creation of an Air Transportation Unit to align air transportation policy and programs with the needs of aviation stakeholders.	2010-06-24	Intra-provincial trucking and shortline railways are provincial responsibilities requiring regulatory oversight by the ministry. For this reason, units dedicated to trucking and shortline rail are required. Aviation is a federal responsibility and is regulated through federal statutes with the ministry providing assistance towards infrastructure when appropriate. It is for this reason that a dedicated aviation unit is not being planned. The ministry is implementing a new organizational structure that will more effectively integrate policy, planning, standards and program structures for all modes of transportation within the ministry to meet the improved citizen service objective of our government.	

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Develop a northern transportation strategy inclusive of aviation, to attract investment and economic development.	2010-06-24	The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is developing a comprehensive transportation strategy for northern Saskatchewan. The ministry's approach to the development of a Northern Transportation Strategy (NTS) is to balance investment in both key economic corridors as well as community access which includes both roads and air transportation components, to address northern transportation issues in a comprehensive manner. The NTS capital airport component will outline how new capital investments will be selected using a rational, consistent and transparent prioritization process. This framework will be used to identify priority northern airport projects.	
Labour Market Development			
Pursue investment, labour and tourism attraction missions to Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia, and consider adding Atlantic provinces.	2008-05-22	ES, AEEI, and Tourism Saskatchewan led a mission to Toronto in September 2008, attracting over 80 families to the province. A second mission to Toronto was held March 2009. The Saskatchewan Pavilion at the Vancouver Olympics was recognized as successfully marketing the province. Saskatchewan has led missions to the United States, China and Japan.	On-going missions continue to be arranged and executed by ES in partnership with a variety of provincial ministries, agencies, and third part groups.
Establish a Youth Economic Engagement Strategic Issues Council.	2009-01-29	Nine council members represent urban, rural, northern, First Nations, and Métis youth. The Council has identified four strategic priorities: youth entrepreneurship, workforce development, education, and youth leadership development.	
Establish a Labour Market Council subject to further development and consultation on its clear mandate and focus.	2009-04-23	ES partnered with Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce to establish a Labour Market Task Force (LMTF) which will serve as the labour market council. The LMTF will make recommendations to close labour market supply and demand gaps and provide expert advice on the development of a provincial labour market strategy.	

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<p>In collaboration with industry and ministries, lead the development of a plan to address minerals sector labour shortages. This plan should lay out the actions and resources needed to fill the labour shortage gap and could include initiatives such as training, immigration programming, Aboriginal peoples' skill development, mobile training units, etc. ES should return to the Board with a recommended course of action within three months.</p>	<p>2009-06-25</p>	<p>The Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (AEEI) is leading the development of a provincial labour market strategy. AEEI has developed a strategy for the Minerals Sector in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Minerals Association Human Resource Council.</p>	
<p>Provide support for advertising and promotional activities to raise awareness of successful young entrepreneurs and generate greater enthusiasm for entrepreneurship among Saskatchewan youth.</p>	<p>2009-11-26</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (SYPE) is the lead partner in a three-year marketing campaign linked with the Silver Spade Awards. The campaign will primarily be conducted through Facebook and a You Tube channel where young entrepreneurs can enter a short video profile of their venture. Forty people submitted entries and a SYPE committee will select the top four to advance to the next stage of the competition.</p>	
<p>Support the building of a provincial network of young professionals and entrepreneurs through a partnership with Saskatchewan Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (SYPE). It is further recommended that the ES Regional Office staff be utilized to establish young professional networks in their respective regions. Support would be provided in-kind, with potential financial support if budgets allow.</p>	<p>2009-11-26</p>	<p>Regional Enterprise staff have been assigned to work on expanding SYPE in their respective areas. Contributions from ES are primarily in-kind, but may also be financial, if resources are available. SYPE chapters are now incorporated in Saskatoon, Regina, Estevan/Weyburn, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Moose Jaw, and most recently in Yorkton and Swift Current.</p>	

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Maintain the minimum wage at its current level and do not implement a 90 per cent training wage. Direct the Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Board to give further consideration to indexation options, with the ES Board to comment on the options when they are developed.	2010-03-25	The Government of Saskatchewan did not increase the minimum wage in 2010 and did not implement a lower training wage. The ES Board provided input to the deliberations of the Minimum Wage Board (MWB) regarding minimum wage indexing noting considerations governing changes should be fairness, protection of workers' purchasing power, market realities, and competitiveness. In February 2011, the MWB recommended that the minimum wage be indexed to Saskatchewan's consumer price index (CPI) increases, with an annual review prior to approving increases. Government is considering the MWB's recommendations.	
Regulatory Streamlining			
Establish a strategic issues council to improve business services and reduce regulatory red tape.	2008-03-31	The Regulatory Modernization Council (RMC) was established in September, 2008. The RMC has developed a workplan with key action items that are being advanced. Priorities include improving regulatory service, increased regulatory accountability and transparency, and expanding online regulatory services.	
Continue work to implement a proposed client-focused business gateway, with priorities to include more consistent forms across government, availability of online transactions and single-window business registration.	2008-10-21	On March 16, 2010, Information Services Corporation (ISC) announced that it would be developing an online business portal to provide more convenient and cost-effective delivery of services to business. ISC will provide business owners with a single point of access to government services that will evolve in a phased approach over the next five years.	ISC launched the first phase of the business portal, Business Registrations Saskatchewan, which allows businesses to register with the Corporate Registry, Saskatchewan Ministry of Finance, and Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) in one easy and convenient process.

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Pursue further consultations and research regarding a results-based model for environment regulations.	2008-10-21	Four bills regarding environmental management and protection, environmental assessment, the management of forest resources and the management and reduction of greenhouse gases have been passed in the legislature, forming the framework for the implementation of a results-based regulatory system. Before the Acts can be proclaimed, the Ministry of Environment has committed to developing an Environmental Code in collaboration with First Nations and Métis people, affected stakeholders and interested parties. The Environmental Code will provide standards and practices to guide both prescriptive and alternative results-based regulatory activities.	
Implement the Ministry of Finance's draft Taxpayer Service Commitments and Standards Code. Direct other Ministries that deal with entrepreneurs and industry to develop similar commitments and standards in consultation with stakeholders.	2008-12-17	The Ministry of Finance implemented The Taxpayer Service Commitments and Standards Code. The Labour Standards Branch released "Principles of Service." Discussions have begun with other Ministries around the adoption of service standards.	
Begin a process to implement a Regulatory Registry - a one-stop on-line consultation tool for proposed new and amended regulations - under the direction of the Regulatory Modernization Council.	2009-01-29	Government has determined that the processes currently in place for consultation are sufficient so will not be proceeding with the new on-line consultation tool.	
Establish an Inter-ministry Regulatory Modernization Committee of Deputy Ministers or designates to co-ordinate implementation of expected regulatory and related service recommendations within government, and that it report on progress to the Regulatory Modernization Council.	2009-01-29	An Inter-ministry Regulatory Modernization Committee was established in February 2009, chaired by the Registrar of Regulations.	The Inter-ministry Regulatory Modernization Committee is expected to be renewed in early 2011.

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Create a centralized regulatory and inspection agency for mechanical and electrical contractors, with the intent of pursuing a model for all affected industries and regulators as a subsequent phase-in.	2009-06-25	The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan (TSASK) was established as a stand alone agency on July 1, 2010 to provide licensing and inspections services for boilers, pressure vessels, elevators and amusement rides.	
Co-ordinate the efforts of the provincial government and lead the development of an online one-stop business registration and approvals system utilizing the federal business number, and steps to make immediate progress and improvements to advance one-stop registration services.	2009-06-25	ISC launched phase one of the Business Portal, "Business Registrations Saskatchewan," which allows businesses to register in one easy and convenient process with the Corporate Registry, Saskatchewan Ministry of Finance and Saskatchewan WCB. The next phase, to be developed and implemented in 2012, will include a broader range of business services determined in collaboration with business and government. The Corporate Registry's business processes, COBRA system and legislation will be updated to support registry modernization and the online Business Portal. The NWP requires a streamlined corporate registration capability across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia by July, 2012.	
Work with municipalities to reduce impediments caused by transportation weight limit variations and various hauling permits and fees among municipalities; and complete a study on the issue by March 31, 2010.	2009-06-25	ES completed a study and held a meeting in July 2010 with representatives from the Energy, Minerals, Transportation and Logistics, Agriculture, and Home Building sector teams; the Ministries of Highways and Infrastructure and Municipal Affairs; Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA); and Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) to discuss. A potential pilot project is being considered.	
Provide companies permits to move drilling rigs on Sundays.	2009-10-29	This recommendation has been implemented by the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure.	

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Through the New West Partnership, implement best practices for regulatory harmonization in the areas of transportation, labour and trade, in consultation with other stakeholders.	2009-10-29	The New West Partnership was signed by Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia on April 30, 2010, committing the provinces to work together to bolster the economy of the West. Work has begun across government to fully implement the New West Partnership, including collaborating with British Columbia and Alberta to streamline regulations and standards that impede trade, investment and labour mobility. To date, most professionals and trades people have full labour mobility across the three provinces, and across Canada. Discussions are currently underway to develop harmonized regulations and policy for commercial vehicle operations.	
Implement a regulatory accountability initiative that incorporates a Regulatory Competitiveness and Transparency Act to improve the quality and transparency of regulations, encourage regulatory innovation, reduce the barriers to competitiveness imposed by unnecessary red tape, and require annual public reporting by ministry with regards to their progress towards regulatory modernization. Develop a workplan to implement the initiative and report back to the Board.	2010-06-24	The Red Tape Reduction Initiative was highlighted in the October 28, 2010 Throne Speech. ES is now working with other ministries and agencies to implement the initiative which will include a comprehensive review of all business-related regulations by a new Legislation and Regulation Review sub-committee chaired by ES's Minister. The Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed the second week in January, 2011 as Red Tape Awareness Week and ES released the Regulatory Modernization Progress Report which highlighted regulatory and service enhancements made by provincial ministries and agencies in 2010.	
Publish a list of approvals and fees required of businesses by each ministry and agency on an annual basis with a summary report of trends.	2010-06-24	ES issued a Request for Proposal for the development of a database to provide the information necessary for government to track and report on approvals and fees as well as regulation changes. The database is expected to be completed in 2011.	

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Reinforce Saskatchewan's commitment to the successful negotiations of the Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.	2010-09-30	The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to reaching an ambitious deal with the EU that delivers on our key interest: open and secure access to the EU market for our agricultural commodities and products. Intergovernmental Affairs (IA) and the Ministry of Agriculture have actively participated in the formal negotiations between Canada and the EU. A team representing ten Saskatchewan ministries and agencies, led by IA, will continue to actively work to advance Saskatchewan's interests in securing a successful conclusion to the negotiations.	
Take a leadership role in developing and implementing a strategy to promote and advance the common themes of the submissions from the western provinces' farm sector and agriculture industry associations to the Rail Freight Service Review. This strategy should be developed in response to the October 2010 release of the interim report.	2010-09-30	The Ministries of Agriculture and Highways and Infrastructure have been active in defining and advancing the Saskatchewan government's position on rail service issues. The ministries provided an initial submission in May, 2010, and a follow-up one in response to the Panel's interim report in November, 2010. The ministries worked closely with other Western Canadian stakeholders in making a submission with many common themes. After the panel rejected the recommendations, the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure requested that Saskatchewan's concerns be revisited. The ministries are continuing to work toward an acceptable resolve.	
Tax Competitiveness			
Focus on property taxes and personal income taxes for both low and high income earners as tax competitiveness priorities. Establish a strategic issues council to research and advise on tax competitiveness measures to encourage economic development.	2008-10-21	ES contracted with the Canada West Foundation and the CD Howe Institute to assess personal and corporate income tax options. The Government of Saskatchewan also sought public feedback on priorities for the budget surplus. On October 21, 2008, the Premier announced the largest single-year income tax reduction. All income tax filers over 18 experienced a tax reduction, retroactive for 2008. On March 18, 2009, the Minister of Finance announced the largest education property tax cut in a single year in the province's history.	Tax reductions since 2008 mean that taxpayers are now saving \$165 million annually in property taxes and \$420 million annually in personal income taxes.

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Implement a competitive and affordable tax structure based on the following broad-based tax changes: implement a plan to reduce the education component of property taxes;	2008-12-17	On March 18, 2009 the Government of Saskatchewan announced it would cut and cap education property tax rates (mill rates) by setting province-wide tax rates for each of the three major property classes - residential, commercial and agricultural. The overall amount of tax paid by property owners to fund education was reduced by \$103 million, or 14 per cent, in 2009 compared to 2008.	Education property taxes were reduced by an additional \$55.6 million in the 2011-12 budget.
Make no changes to the small business income tax rate or structure;	2008-12-17	No changes were made to the small business income tax rate in the 2009-10 budget or the 2010-11 budget.	The Government of Saskatchewan announced in the 2011-12 budget that the small business income tax rate will be reduced from 4.5 per cent to 2.0 per cent for income up to \$500,000 as of July 1, 2011, which will save small businesses an estimated \$80 million per year.
Make no major changes to the corporation capital tax structure;	2008-12-17	No changes were made to the corporation capital tax in the 2009-10 budget or the 2010-11 budget.	No changes were made to the corporation capital tax in the 2011-12 budget.
Examine targeted corporate tax measures to determine effectiveness in meeting policy objectives.	2008-12-17	ES worked with the Ministry of Finance to develop new targeted tax incentives to attract value-added mineral companies to the province. New growth tax incentives are being considered as part of a corporate office attraction strategy.	
Amend the R&D tax credit to make it refundable at a 15 per cent rate.	2009-01-29	The R&D tax credit was made refundable at 15 per cent for qualifying expenditures incurred after March 18, 2009.	
Eliminate fuel tax for all resource sectors using stationary equipment and off-road vehicles, subject to further information and expertise obtained from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry Energy and Resources, regarding the financial impacts and Western Canada jurisdictional and sectoral comparisons.	2009-04-23	The financial implications of this recommendation were assessed by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Ministry of Energy and Resources and will be considered during the budget process.	Government elected not to eliminate this class of taxation in the 2011-12 budget.

Recommendations - Progress as of March 31, 2011

Board Recommendation	Date	Government Response	Update
Based on changing economic circumstances and competitive new tax policies across Canada, the ES Board recommends accelerating their previous tax recommendations through implementing tax reforms in 2010 resulting in: i. 10 per cent Personal Income Tax;	2009-05-28	The Government of Saskatchewan did not implement a 10 per cent Personal Income Tax rate in 2010.	The 2011-12 budget increased basic and spousal exemptions by \$1,000, and the exemption amount for each dependent child by \$500, thereby saving taxpayers \$60 million per year. Since 2008, tax reductions mean that taxpayers are saving \$420 million annually in personal incomes taxes
Based on changing economic circumstances and competitive new tax policies across Canada, the ES Board recommends accelerating their previous tax recommendations through implementing tax reforms in 2010 resulting in: ii. 10 per cent Corporate Income Tax, and	2009-05-28	The Government of Saskatchewan did not implement a 10 per cent Corporate Income Tax rate in 2010.	The Government of Saskatchewan announced in the 2011-12 budget that the small business income tax rate will be reduced from 4.5 per cent to 2.0 per cent for income up to \$500,000 as of July 1, 2011, which will save small businesses an estimated \$80 million per year in corporate taxes.
Based on changing economic circumstances and competitive new tax policies across Canada, the ES Board recommends accelerating their previous tax recommendations through implementing tax reforms in 2010 resulting in: iii. a harmonized sales tax within the context of a balanced budget.	2009-05-28	The Government of Saskatchewan has stated that it is not pursuing sales tax harmonization.	
As the Government of Saskatchewan reviews the second year of the property taxation structure changes, take into account any inequities of the changes and take steps to mitigate the impact on the competitiveness of the three tier system; and consult with the ES Board of Directors as it goes forward in this review.	2009-06-25	The Minister of Education met with the ES Board to further discuss their concerns with the three-tier system. The three-tiered structure for education property tax for commercial property owners is expected to be phased out as finances permit. The 2011-12 budget reduced the second tier commercial mill rate from 15.75 per cent to 14.75 per cent.	
Phase out the Corporate Capital Tax (CCT) Resource Surcharge in order that Saskatchewan remain competitive and to harmonize with other jurisdictions, and as an extension of the previous decision to eliminate the general CCT.	2009-10-29	The recommendation was not approved in the 2010-11 budget or the 2011-12 budget. The Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy and Resources and ES continue to monitor the competitiveness of the energy sector's total taxes and royalties including the CCT Resource Surcharge.	

Recommendations - Progress as of March 31, 2011

Board Recommendation	Date	Government Response	Update
Initiate a high level task force, with SUMA, SARM and multiple stakeholders to identify issues and develop recommendations for taxation policies and fees that would ensure that Saskatchewan municipalities have fair, transparent and equitable mechanisms for industry and those affected by resource industry development.	2009-10-29	The ES Board subsequently has decided that a task force is not required as a result of the work that is currently underway by municipalities.	