

**Summary of Enterprise Saskatchewan (ES) Board
Recommendations and Government Responses.**
(as of March 31, 2010)

Aboriginal Development		
Date	Recommendation	Response
25-Jun-09	Establish an appropriate action plan to engage the 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.	ES commissioned a study to examine options to increase Aboriginal participation in the economy, and is working with the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations (FNMR) to develop an action plan. Meetings with the federal government and Aboriginal leaders have been held to identify collaborative opportunities to achieve common objectives for improving the lives of Aboriginal people. The federal and provincial governments are consulting with First Nations leadership to develop initiatives to support the transitioning of people from social assistance to productive employment.
26-Nov-09	Cost share the Aboriginal Economic Development Initiative at 50 per cent with First Nations and Métis groups or other funding partners.	The 2010-11 Budget announced \$3 million for a new Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) fund for First Nations Economic Development Initiatives. CIC is considering the ES Board recommendation as it develops the new program.
Access to Capital		
Date	Recommendation	Response
18-Nov-08	Remove the annual sales cap for provincial funds from the Invest in Saskatchewan program (Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporation (LSVCC) funds).	The Saskatchewan government doubled the annual cap on provincially registered funds from \$25 million to \$50 million per fund to boost economic growth through encouraging additional venture capital for business growth and development. Golden Opportunities and SaskWorks raised \$25 million and \$38 million respectively during the 2009 tax season. In early 2010, ES undertook a review of the LSVCC program which indicated that \$200 million has been invested in Saskatchewan as a result of the LSVCC program, directly creating and maintaining 5,544 jobs.
28-May-09	Pursue the development of other independently managed venture capital growth opportunities wherever possible.	Innovation Saskatchewan is preparing strategies to attract more Venture Capital.
Diversification and Value-Added		
Date	Recommendation	Response
24-Apr-08	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.	Eighteen sector teams with nine business leaders on each team have been established. Sector teams have been meeting and have identified over 100 opportunities to increase growth in their respective sectors. Some of these recommendations are being implemented internally and others have been presented to the ES Board.
22-May-08	Conduct a full evaluation of the economic potential for value-added expansion of the nuclear industry and environmental considerations for Saskatchewan.	A 12 person Uranium Development Partnership (UDP), led by Dr. Richard Florizone, released their report with recommendations on value-added opportunities in the uranium industry on March 31, 2009. Public consultations were led by Dan Perrins and a consultation report was issued September 15, 2009. See www.saskuranium.ca
28-May-09	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.	Financial constraints have meant that implementation of this recommendation has been deferred. Government continues to consider options for implementation of the recommendation.

Diversification and Value-Added		
Date	Recommendation	Response
28-May-09	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 previous recommendation)	Government continues to review existing procurement policies in light of the New West Partnership (NWP). An inter-ministry and Crown committee was formed to respond to the ES Board, the Environmental Technologies Team, the Commercialization Team and the Construction Team, all of which have made procurement-related recommendations. There was a presentation at the January ES Board meeting and a new recommendation was approved.
28-Jan-10	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.	Government and STEP are working together to ensure that all businesses and not just STEP members are aware of opportunities. STEP has completed a guide to doing business with other provinces.
28-May-09	Provide funding to a lead co-ordinating agency to support commercialization in the Life Sciences value-added industry in Saskatchewan.	Innovation Saskatchewan will become the leading co-ordinating agency to focus on and support commercialization of new technologies.
28-May-09	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.	ES has worked with a consortium of five organizations in Regina (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. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out by the consortium. Should the project go ahead, the five consortium members would be anchor tenants for the data centre, with another five potential members identified with similar needs.
25-Jun-09	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.	The marketing efforts of the Ministry of Energy and Resources (ER) and ES on mining are targeted at investment attraction and focus on trade show promotion nationally and internationally, as well as support for government investment missions overseas. These investment attraction efforts have been very successful, and as a result of this increased level, there are new pressures on the marketing budgets of both ER and ES. Government will continue to support mineral sector promotional campaigns through co-operation with the industry associations.
28-Sep-09	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.	The Ministry of Agriculture continues to support a more targeted approach to marketing, such as the Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI) program, where individual companies can access cost-shared funds to support their marketing initiatives.
29-Oct-09	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.	Agriculture prepared a detailed analysis and met with sector team members to discuss the issue. A survey will be circulated to obtain wider industry perspective of the issue.

Entrepreneurship Development		
Date	Recommendation	Response
23-Sep-08	Establish an Entrepreneurship Council	A nine-person Entrepreneurship Council has been established and has been actively meeting.
23-Sep-08	Prepare a comprehensive entrepreneurship strategy	Based on responses to a survey of Saskatchewan entrepreneurs, the Entrepreneurship Council has selected five main barriers to entrepreneurship as pillars of the entrepreneurship strategy. These include finance, mentorship, education, access to information, and competitiveness. A consulting team has also been contracted to make recommendations to streamline and improve Saskatchewan's entrepreneurial development system.
28-Sep-09	Return in six months to the ES Board with options for implementing an aggressive entrepreneurial education component in the core curriculum.	ES and the Ministry of Education met with the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) to discuss options for infusing entrepreneurship skills in the existing curriculum. The CFEE offers a set of materials called Building Futures that are available at no cost. Work will be done to assess these materials and determine whether they address the needs identified by the issues councils.
28-Sep-09	Increase the SBLA loan limit from \$15,000 to \$20,000 with no change in lending criteria, and eliminate the SBLA cap of \$250,000.	Although government recognizes the positive impact of the SBLA program, loan limits were not increased in the 2010-11 Budget due to financial constraints. The SBLA program will be considered again as part of the 2011-12 Budget process.
28-Sep-09	Support the development of a Virtual Mentorship Tool.	ES commissioned an independent study to examine the cost and feasibility of a Virtual Mentorship Tool. The study recommended that the project go ahead, and ES is currently in the process of identifying resources and partners to bring this about.
Infrastructure and Utilities		
Date	Recommendation	Response
22-May-08	Implement the Enterprise Region concept subject to further consultations with Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM).	Consultations were held with the SUMA Board, the SARM Board and with SARM's six districts. All 13 Enterprise Regions have been established.
22-May-08	Establish Enterprise Regions in northern Saskatchewan.	The Provincial Government announced the creation of three northern Enterprise Regions -- one for the northwest, one for the northeast and one for the Far North -- in the 2010-11 budget, providing \$1.4 million in funding. The Enterprise Regions will be in place by December 31, 2010.
23-Sep-08	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.	Amendments made to The Education Act and The Education Regulations include the new Schools of Opportunity designation which provides rural school divisions with financial support to allow communities to demonstrate increased school enrolments over a maximum of three years (increased from two years as per the ES Board's recommendation); setting minimum provincial school review criteria on enrolment benchmarks and distance to the nearest schools; establishment of a school review committee with community representation; extending the timelines and clarifying the school review process; and outlining a funding formula for Schools of Opportunity.
18-Nov-08	Require five-year capital plans for all public sector organizations, including health districts, school boards, universities, regional colleges and the Ministry of Government Services.	Highways and Infrastructure released their five-year capital plan on December 3, 2008 with assistance from ES on priorities for economic development. ES staff have compiled five-year capital plans from the relevant agencies of government, and are developing a plan to post capital plans on our website for the benefit of Saskatchewan business.
20-Mar-09	Further analyze endowment funds as an option to sustain our provincial strategic research infrastructure.	Due to current financial considerations, provincial research infrastructure is being funded through the General Revenue Fund rather than a new endowment fund.
23-Apr-09	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.	Government is consulting with northern communities and businesses to determine the best route for northern highway upgrades.
23-Apr-09	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.	Government added the following to the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel's Terms of Reference for the SaskPower Rate Change Proposal: "consider the effect of the proposed rate change on the competitiveness of the Crown Corporation relative to other jurisdictions." The ES Board had the opportunity to discuss their recommendation with the SRRP at the April 2010 ES Board meeting.

Infrastructure and Utilities		
Date	Recommendation	Response
25-Jun-09	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.	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. Government has developed a comprehensive transportation plan.
28-Sep-09	Initiate an efficiency and effectiveness review of all Crown Corporations.	Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) presented to the ES Board, indicating that most major Crowns currently have ongoing productivity reviews. SaskPower has stated in its 2010 rate application that it will be undertaking an efficiency and effectiveness review in 2010 with external resources.
29-Oct-09	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.	Although the government committed to a helicopter rescue program in 2007, current fiscal realities have delayed possible implementation. The program will continue to be evaluated in the future as the economic recovery continues in Saskatchewan.
Labour Market Development		
Date	Recommendation	Response
22-May-08	Pursue investment, labour and tourism attraction missions to Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia, and consider adding Atlantic provinces.	ES, AEEL, 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 a number of missions to the United States, China and Japan.
29-Jan-09	Establish a Youth Economic Engagement Strategic Issues Council.	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.
23-Apr-09	Establish a Labour Market Council subject to further development and consultation on its clear mandate and focus.	Consultations were held with labour market stakeholders on the mandate of the Council and potential members. The Labour Market Council is expected to be established in summer 2010.
25-Jun-09	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.	As a result of the ES Board recommendation, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour has developed a strategy for the Minerals Sector in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Minerals Association Human Resource Council. The Minerals Sector Team feels that their labour issues are being addressed.
26-Nov-09	Provide support for advertising and promotional activities to raise awareness of successful young entrepreneurs and generate greater enthusiasm for entrepreneurship among Saskatchewan youth.	A working group was formed to design an entrepreneurship awareness campaign. Work is underway to develop a marketing template. The campaign will be a three-year project, be mainly online, and will direct viewers to a central website for additional information/services, including video profiles of entrepreneurs.
26-Nov-09	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.	Regional Enterprise staff have been assigned to work on expanding SYPE in their respective areas. SYPE chapters are now incorporated in Saskatoon, Regina, Estevan/Weyburn, Prince Albert, North Battleford and Moose Jaw. Swift Current is in the process of identifying local leaders for the project. Yorkton has established a steering committee and will be meeting with SYPE in June to discuss incorporation.

Regulatory Streamlining		
Date	Recommendation	Response
31-Mar-08	Establish a strategic issues council to improve business services and reduce regulatory red tape.	The Regulatory Modernization Council (RMC) was established with several business leaders. 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.
21-Oct-08	Pursue further consultations and research regarding a results-based model for environment regulations.	The Ministry of Environment has received Royal Assent for three bills that will form the results-based regulatory framework. Consultations are continuing with industry, communities, First Nations, Métis and non-government organizations, focusing on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing the Saskatchewan Environmental Code to provide requirements, standards and practices for regulated activities, enabling enhanced protection of the environment; • defining Qualified Persons for specific activities regulated by of the Code; and • developing the Environmental Audit function to provide a further level of environmental compliance. The acts implementing results-based regulation will be proclaimed once the Code has been jointly developed with stakeholders.
21-Oct-08	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.	The Information Technology Office (ITO) completed research on best practices and consulted with stakeholders. ES is enhancing its website to be more user-friendly and is working with other ministries on advancing a one-stop business registration website. On March 16, 2010, The Information Services Corporation (ISC) announced that it will be developing an online portal to provide more convenient and cost-effective delivery of services to business. By the end of 2012, ISC will provide business owners with a single point of access to most government services for business.
17-Dec-08	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.	The Taxpayer Service Commitments and Standards Code was released February 12, 2009. Discussions have begun with other Ministries around the adoption of service standards.
29-Jan-09	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.	"Your Voice - Saskatchewan Regulations" website is complete and regulators have been trained on its use. The site is expected to be piloted with select ministries in spring 2010 prior to full launch in fall 2010.

Regulatory Streamlining		
Date	Recommendation	Response
29-Jan-09	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.	A Committee was established; however its status is on hold as the registrar of regulations determines future direction.
25-Jun-09	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.	Effective July 1, 2010, boiler and pressure vessel, elevator and amusement ride licensing and inspection services will move from executive government to a delegated administrative agency, while legislative and regulatory authority will remain with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP). This move will allow these services to be provided in a more flexible manner, adapting to industry demand for licensing and inspection services and increasing public safety. ES contracted a consultant to complete a review of other public safety agencies in Canada, to consult with government agencies responsible for electrical, gas and plumbing permitting and inspections, and with industry, and to make recommendations for next steps. The report has recommended that the new agency be expanded to include electrical, gas and plumbing.
25-Jun-09	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.	In collaboration with the Ministries of Justice, Finance, the ITO and ISC, ES led the development of a business case that was completed by EDS in June 2009. In March 2010, ISC announced that it is developing an online portal to provide more convenient and cost-effective delivery of services to business. The first phase of the project, the online business registry, will be implemented in early 2011 and will allow registrations with the Corporations Branch, the Workers' Compensation Board and the Ministry of Finance (Provincial Sales Tax).
25-Jun-09	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.	ES established a steering committee with the ministries of Municipal Affairs and Highways and Infrastructure, as well as SUMA and SARM, to undertake a study to identify issues and provide recommendations. Government will review the recommendations, assess projected costs and benefits, and identify next steps. An inter-agency steering committee has been formed to begin consulting with affected stakeholders.
29-Oct-09	Provide companies permits to move drilling rigs on Sundays.	The governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta are working on increased harmonization of transportation regulations including regulations for over-sized vehicles. Under the NWP, changes to regulations will facilitate the movement of over-sized vehicles such as oil rigs on Sundays.
29-Oct-09	Through the NWP, implement best practices for regulatory harmonization in the areas of transportation, labour and trade, in consultation with other stakeholders.	The governments of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia signed the New West Partnership in April 2010. To view the NWP Agreement, see www.gov.sk.ca/nwp .

Tax Competitiveness		
Date	Recommendation	Response
21-Oct-08	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.	Public feedback was sought on priorities for the budget surplus. On October 21, 2008, the Premier announced the largest single-year income tax reduction in Saskatchewan history, saving taxpayers about \$300 million per year. 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. ES contracted with the Canada West Foundation (Jack Vicq) and the CD Howe Institute to assess personal and corporate income tax options.
17-Dec-08	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;	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. The education property tax will be further reduced as public finances permit
17-Dec-08	Make no changes to the small business income tax rate or structure;	Status Quo
17-Dec-08	Make no major changes to the corporation capital tax structure;	Status Quo
17-Dec-08	Examine targeted corporate tax measures to determine effectiveness in meeting policy objectives.	ES commissioned an independent review of Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporation (LSVCC) tax credits which was completed on March 31, 2010. ES also worked with the Ministry of Finance to develop new targeted tax incentives to attract value-added mineral companies to the province.
29-Jan-09	Amend the R&D tax credit to make it refundable at a 15 per cent rate	The R&D Tax Credit was made refundable at 15 per cent.
23-Apr-09	Eliminate fuel tax for all resource sectors using stationary equipment and off-road vehicles, subject to further information and expertise obtained from the Ministries of Finance and Energy and Resources, regarding the financial impacts and Western Canada jurisdictional and sectoral comparisons.	The province currently has a fuel tax rebate for mineral exploration, and the Forest Sector Team recommended a resource-wide fuel rebate on off road activities. Amendments to the fuel tax regulations were considered as part of the 2010-11 Provincial Budget but were not approved due to fiscal constraints. This recommendation will be reconsidered when the fiscal position of the province improves.
28-May-09	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 10 per cent Personal Income tax; ii. 10 per cent Corporate Income tax, and iii. a harmonized sales tax within the context of a balanced budget. 	Due to fiscal constraints, the Government of Saskatchewan made no further tax reductions in the 2010-11 Budget. Government will consider personal and corporate income tax reductions during future budget deliberations. The Government has stated that it is not pursuing sales tax harmonization.

Tax Competitiveness		
Date	Recommendation	Response
25-Jun-09	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.	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.
29-Oct-09	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.	The Ministry of Energy and Resources and ES are continuing to monitor the competitiveness of the energy sector's total taxes and royalties in light of changes in Alberta. This recommendation is being held for reconsideration when the province's fiscal situation improves.
29-Oct-09	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.	Government intends to establish an inter-agency task force with the purpose of reporting to the ES Board.