



The Regulatory Modernization Progress Report

January 2011



Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Government of Saskatchewan's second annual Regulatory Modernization Progress Report highlighting successes that ministries and agencies across government have implemented in the past year to reduce the burden and frustrations associated with regulatory red tape. These achievements have been realized by finding greater efficiencies in procedures, reducing duplication, improving customer service, and implementing more online service tools.

Our province's regulatory modernization achievements have been recognized nationally in the Fraser Institute's *Canadian Provincial Investment Climate: 2010 Report*. Saskatchewan scored 10 out of 10 in this report for having the lowest cost of regulations among provinces based on a survey conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB). The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to continual improvement in the way it operates and delivers public goods and services. This extends to the regulations it enforces to ensure that necessary economic activities which move the province forward take place without compromising critical safeguards to public health, safety, workers or the environment.

In the 2010 mandate letters to all ministers, the Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan, reinforced government's need to eliminate regulatory requirements that impede economic growth as one of five tenets to achieving government's vision for the province's future growth and prosperity.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes that these regulatory successes could not be possible without the determination of dedicated public service employees who, from experiences serving on the frontlines or meeting and talking with affected stakeholders, have changed regulatory practices to make them more efficient and effective.

We will continue to improve our provincial regulations and how they are administered so that our competitive advantages are continually enhanced to attract and retain leading edge and vibrant entrepreneurs, businesses, workers, and families to help us realize Saskatchewan's true potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Harrison'.

Honourable Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for Trade



From left to right - Darcy Pawlik (former member), Marilyn Braun-Pollon, Shirley Ryan, Bev Monea, Bob Schutzman, Ben Wiebe, and Greg Simpson (former member)

The Regulatory Modernization Council (RMC) was established by the ES Board with representatives from the private sector who work with ES staff to develop focused and strategic recommendations for government to reduce regulatory barriers. The RMC communicates prospective areas for enhancement to the ES Board for endorsement, and monitors progress. Many of the priorities identified by the RMC to enhance regulatory service and competitiveness are currently being acted on.

Message from the Regulatory Modernization Council (RMC)

Bev Monea, RMC Chair

Since September 2008, the RMC has been working diligently towards its objective of providing practical recommendations to government to reduce regulatory barriers and monitoring progress. The Council believes entrepreneurs should be able to focus their efforts towards maximizing the success of their businesses rather than on government red tape.

The RMC has achieved successes in their pursuit of regulatory burden reduction through activities such as providing advice and support to the Ministry of Finance in the development of their *Taxpayer Service Commitments and Standards Code*, and a regulatory modernization conference which highlighted business regulatory issues as well as best regulatory practices from across Canada and the United States.

To encourage the implementation of best regulatory practices, the RMC has developed a workplan consisting of the following priorities:

1. Enhancing Customer Service;
2. Enhancing Regulatory Accountability;
3. Expanding On-Line Regulatory Tools and Solutions;
4. Increasing Opportunities for Regulatory Harmonization;
5. Supporting the Adoption of Modernized Regulatory and Compliance Alternatives; and
6. Building Internal Capacity for Regulatory Modernization.

Moving forward, the RMC is continuing to advocate for the development of service standards across government and is encouraged by government's new Citizen-Centred Service Initiative. The RMC is a strong supporter of results-based regulations wherever possible and is anticipating the roll-out of a Regulatory Accountability Initiative (RAI) by Government. The RAI is in accordance with the RMC's recommendation to the Enterprise Saskatchewan Board of Directors, and was highlighted in the Premier's October 28, 2010 Speech from the Throne.

The RMC looks forward to another year of progress!

Regulatory Modernization Progress Report

Introduction

A competitive regulatory environment is an influential driver of economic growth and investment. Saskatchewan has already made its mark as an excellent province to conduct business. The Fraser Institute's *Canadian Provincial Investment Climate: 2010 Report* assessed and ranked Canadian provinces on a number of public policy issues and found that Saskatchewan had the lowest cost of business regulations. Even though Saskatchewan has made progress, there is still work to be done. The Government of Saskatchewan will continue its commitment to regulatory modernization and reform into 2011 and beyond by enhancing its regulatory service delivery to business and residents.

As part of Government's commitment to a competitive environment, Enterprise Saskatchewan (ES) was created as a special operating agency to work with business, government and other stakeholders to help grow Saskatchewan's economy by removing barriers to growth. ES, through collaboration with provincial ministries, Crowns and agencies, is working to develop a more competitive and balanced regulatory environment that protects public health, safety, workers, and the environment while enabling business to thrive and grow.

This report highlights some of the recent progress that has been made towards modernizing Saskatchewan's regulatory framework and **making it easier for business to do business and interact with government**. Ministries, Crowns and agencies are actively taking steps to reduce regulatory barriers and improve service delivery. One new government-wide initiative featured throughout this report is Lean. The Lean method is a client-focused approach to evaluating service delivery to incorporate best practices, eliminate activities that do not add value, and streamline processes and procedures. Saskatchewan will be the first provincial government in Canada to incorporate the Lean approach throughout its public service.

The following regulatory modernization highlights capture government's most recent efforts to reduce the burdens and frustrations associated with red tape. The core themes reflect the regulatory priorities of the provincial government, ES and the RMC.

1. Enhancing Customer Service Across Government

Surveys and consultations have identified "service" related to the regulatory environment as the most important area where regulatory improvement is needed. Poor customer service translates into frustration and jeopardizes opportunities for business growth and expansion. The following are some initiatives that have been implemented to improve customer service:

- The Labour Standards Division of the **Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety** implemented the "Principles of Services" which is a public commitment to maintaining high quality service to all clients. Please see www.aeei.gov.sk.ca/labour-standards-branch-principles-of-services. Furthermore, the Ministry's Occupational Health and Safety Division undertook a simplification initiative to improve efficiency and the effectiveness of its appeal processes.
- **Labour Relations and Workplace Safety** has also implemented a new technological platform to handle the 40,000 annual labour standards inquiries related to the province's minimum employment standards. Wait times for telephone inquiries from both employers and employees have been significantly reduced. The Ministry is also developing an online client survey for those using the inquiry line. Feedback gathered through the survey will be used to address public service quality.

- The **Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration** continues to operate the Canada-Saskatchewan Rapid Response Team to enhance client service by assisting businesses and workers impacted by lay-offs through proactive support and information about employment services, training and job opportunities, labour standards, Employment Insurance, and information specific to immigrant workers.
- Using the Lean process, the **Ministry of Finance** has reviewed and streamlined their process for issuing complex tax rulings and interpretations. The review resulted in faster service to taxpayers. Additionally, the Ministry has made access to previous sales tax rulings easier for businesses by putting the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) Rulings Manual on their website.
- In 2009, **Finance** implemented the *Taxpayer Service Commitments and Standards Code*, which describes the services that the Revenue Division offers to its stakeholders and sets performance standards for those services. **Enterprise Saskatchewan** assisted with the process and will work with other ministries interested in establishing service standards.
- The **Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure** held a Lean event on its bridge permitting process. The event identified an opportunity to streamline administrative processes through efficiencies such as the better use of technology and time management.
- **SaskEnergy** has developed guidelines that have been pre-approved by the **Ministry of Environment** for installation of pipelines in smaller projects. The use of pre-approved installation guidelines reduces wait times for project review and allows quicker in-service times on smaller pipeline projects.
- The **Office of Residential Tenancies** undertook a Lean review that identified several improvements to significantly reduce the time to complete the residential tenancies appeal process. One improvement enabled inquiry clerks to respond sooner to the 5,000 calls received each month. Call centre technology was implemented to better manage calls, and on the first day of operation, 50 per cent of the calls were answered by an inquiry clerk within 20 seconds. Further changes are proposed that will make files accessible electronically, and enable inquiry clerks to quickly retrieve file information and respond immediately to inquiries.
- The **Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee** has undergone Lean training focused on their payment process. This process has effectively reduced their payment times for clients from well over a week to five days. They are targeting a further reduction of payment times to one day.

2. Enhancing Regulatory Transparency and Accountability

Regulatory accountability is a key element to having an efficient and effective regulatory environment. For example, creating regulations in an open and transparent manner helps to ensure that the regulatory environment is kept relevant through ongoing review and update. Some initiatives that the Government has implemented to enhance regulatory accountability include the following:

- The **Ministry of Agriculture** implemented processes that give stakeholders, clients and internal interested parties the opportunity for input on proposed regulatory amendments. Consultations are more formalized as stakeholders now provide written confirmation of their support or concerns. Following the consultation process, all new and amending regulations are reviewed for impact on small businesses.

- **Agriculture** has also implemented a five-year regulation review initiative to ensure efficiency by examining non-regulatory alternatives, business impediments and duplication, thereby facilitating a more responsive solution to agricultural issues.
- Following extensive consultation with employers, employees and other interest groups, **Labour Relations and Workplace Safety** introduced minimum age of work regulations to eliminate the confusion and frustration associated with the regulations in this area.

3. Expanding Online Regulatory Tools and Solutions

The internet has revolutionized the way businesses operate and interact with government. It has allowed government to improve regulatory services by providing better access to information, making it easier to pay taxes and fees, and reducing the wait times for approvals and permits. Some initiatives that government has implemented to further expand online regulatory tools and solutions include the following:

- In collaboration with Industry Canada and municipal partners, **Enterprise Saskatchewan** expanded regulatory online client services through BizPaL, a one-stop website for entrepreneurs to access information about federal, provincial and municipal permits, licences and other compliance requirements needed to operate a business. BizPaL reduces the time spent by entrepreneurs, with one report finding that it reduced the time to search for requirements for a new restaurant from eight hours to ten minutes. To date, BizPaL has been expanded to 452 types of approvals for 85 Saskatchewan municipalities and 568 business sectors. Visit BizPaL at www.bizpal.gov.sk.ca.
- All legislated employment-related permit applications managed by **Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's** Labour Standards Division have been placed online along with instructions to provide easier access. Testing and certification for the Young Worker Readiness Certificate course, mandatory for all 14 and 15 year-olds in Saskatchewan who want to work, has also been put online.
- **SaskEnergy** introduced an online service for customers that streamlines the application process for new natural gas service and expedites the formal quotation process for new service connections.
- **Sask1st Call**, a non-profit organization operated by **SaskEnergy**, now has an online service that allows homeowners and contractors to make their requests for underground infrastructure through its website. This service is convenient and enhances damage prevention processes for Sask 1st Call members.
- **Environment**, as part of its results-based regulatory transformation, is working to move its regulatory application and approval processes online and, in the future, to the government business portal. This will streamline the approval process, saving time and effort for both the regulated community and the ministry. The online permissions system is scheduled to be operational in spring 2011.
- The **Ministry of Municipal Affairs** implemented the Subdivision Online Application system (SOLA) to substantially improve client service and reduce processing time. SOLA is an electronic application system that enhances the review of subdivision applications for new residential, commercial and industrial lots. Since SOLA was initiated last year, more than 2,700 subdivision applications have been entered in this system. The average approval time from submission of a complete application has been reduced by 63 per cent.
- **Municipal Affairs** has developed the Municipal Information Dataportal (MID) as the first step of a process to provide better access to a range of municipal information that

supports business needs and decision-making with respect to municipalities. MID will also serve the municipal sector, business and the general public by improving knowledge, transparency and understanding of the municipal sector. The MID website offers links to information of interest to municipalities across 13 broad categories (e.g. maps, contacts, asset management, infrastructure, growth and development, property assessment, taxation, etc.).

- **Saskatchewan Government Insurance** recently introduced customer self-service transactions, including the ability for customers to change their personal information, renew some vehicle registrations and schedule driver examinations online.
- **Agriculture** is piloting an online Pesticide Licence application and credit card payment system.
- **Information Services Corporation** continues to expand the types of maps and geographic information data available in the easy-to-use website called GeoSask. Oil, gas and other resource-based companies and government ministries benefit from the easy access to geographically-based data from a single comprehensive source.
- **Information Services Corporation's** Land Registry Online Submission (OLS) incorporates nearly all land registry transactions, and continues to introduce system enhancements to increase the ease of use for customers.
- **Information Services Corporation**, in partnership with the **Ministry of Energy and Resources**, has completed a mineral mapping project and developed a web-based application called Map Search which provides oil, gas, mining and other resource-based companies with a tool to search mineral land ownership information.
- **Energy and Resources** is working to modernize its approach to mineral dispositioning. The Mineral Administration Registry Saskatchewan (MARS) is the first system to be developed for the online issuance of mineral dispositions (referred to as e-Tenure). Other systems will be developed in future years for oil and gas, potash, coal, and quarry. The benefits of E-Tenure include lower costs for acquiring dispositions and quicker turnaround for the issuance of dispositions (days rather than weeks or months).
- The **Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board** enhanced its healthcare provider and employer E-services. Healthcare providers now can submit invoices online. The invoice is processed and the electronic payment is deposited to the provider's financial institution. Other online services for healthcare providers include online report filing and electronic access to payment details.
- The **Workers' Compensation Board** has a new e-service for employers – online payment of premiums by credit card. Additionally, registered employers can obtain a confidential access code, enter the data and “fast file” their assessable payroll information.
- The **Workers' Compensation Board** also joined *ExpressAddress*, a secure and free online change-of-address service. Injured workers and other clients can use *ExpressAddress* to automatically notify the Board and others, such as utilities, municipal government, and the Ministry of Health, of an address change.
- **Advanced Education Employment and Immigration** has improved online applications for international workers through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program. Applicants now receive correspondence from the Ministry electronically, thereby reducing paperwork and processing times.
- The **Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport** has increased administrative and regulatory efficiency by upgrading the Heritage Branch's Land Developer's Screening Tool – an online, map-based screening tool enabling land developers to immediately

determine if their projects pose heritage resource concerns. Projects with no concerns are cleared instantly, while others are guided through the regulatory review and approval process. The self-screening tool, which is being expanded to increase its geographic coverage of the province, expedites the review process for developers and reduces the number of development referrals that require heritage screening by over 20 per cent.

- **Finance** continues to promote the use of electronic tax filing to businesses across the province. SETS, the Saskatchewan Electronic Tax Services, allows businesses to save time and money by filing and paying tax returns and viewing tax account information via the Internet.

4. Increasing Opportunities for Regulatory Harmonization

In an increasingly globalized marketplace, Saskatchewan businesses operate across domestic, national and international borders in an ever growing frequency. Regulations that are out-of-step with other jurisdictions can be frustrating to businesses who must comply with multiple sets of regulations. The Government of Saskatchewan is working to streamline regulations with other jurisdictions in order to facilitate the movement of goods and services across borders with fewer burdens to the provider or consumer. The following initiatives have been implemented to increase regulatory harmonization to ensure greater flow of goods and services across the province and into neighbouring markets:

- On April 30, 2010, the Premiers of Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta signed the ***New West Partnership (NWP)***. The Agreement commits the three provinces to collaborate in order to strengthen the economy of the West. The partnership focuses on four key areas: trade, international cooperation, innovation, and joint procurement. The NWP will help businesses in all three provinces grow and become more competitive by eliminating unnecessary differences in regulations and standards, streamlining corporate registration and reporting requirements so businesses registered in one province will be able to easily operate in all three provinces, making it easier for professionals and trades people to have their qualifications recognized in all three provinces, encouraging investment in the region through joint international efforts, and improving access to public procurement opportunities.
- **Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's** Occupational Health and Safety Division is negotiating an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the **Ministry of Environment** to formalize the province's role in regulating the radiological issues in uranium mines.
- **Municipal Affairs** developed new provisions in *The Municipalities Act* and *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010* to standardize the road maintenance agreements that municipalities may enter into with shippers, haulers or receivers for incremental maintenance and loss of road life costs due to the movement of goods. The new provisions address both long and short haul situations, cover heavy support vehicles and equipment, ensure regulated road maintenance rates are used, limit municipalities' abilities to use other fees or bylaws to charge for road maintenance, and provide a dispute resolution mechanism to quickly resolve disputes between municipalities and industry. A new template for road maintenance agreements was developed and posted on the ministry's website.
- On June 1, 2010, **Highways and Infrastructure** introduced Phase 1 of an increase in maximum weight allowances for B-trains truck tractor and semi-trailer combinations to 63,500 kg from 62,500 kg. Phase 1 was limited to National Highway System highways as well as other select primary weight highways where it is determined that this increase in weight will not have a detrimental effect on bridge structures. The new weight is equivalent to the maximum allowance in British Columbia and Alberta. It is anticipated

that this change will translate into 2.5 per cent increase in productivity. Phase 2 will see a further expansion of this increased weight to other primary weight highways in Saskatchewan following a review to ensure their capacity in supporting the increased weight.

- On November 1, 2010, **Highways and Infrastructure** also introduced major amendments to the Vehicle Weight and Dimension Regulations in support of increased harmonization and greater efficiencies to the trucking industry. Major highlights include the inclusion of tridem drive trucks and truck tractors into regulations as is done in Alberta and British Columbia. This will allow these vehicles (used primarily by the petroleum and heavy construction industries) to operate without special single-trip or term permits.
- **Highways and Infrastructure** amended policy to be more consistent with Alberta by allowing for the transportation of oversized loads on Sundays prior to 12:00 p.m.
- **Energy and Resources** joined the Petroleum Registry of Alberta in order to provide industry and government in Saskatchewan with access to a safe, reliable, world class system for the submission and collection of infrastructure, volumetric and allocation information for all Saskatchewan properties. The collaborative relationship that Energy and Resources is building with the Government of Alberta provides opportunity for further standardization and development of cost-effective joint approaches in the future.

5. Supporting the Adoption of a Flexible and Modern Regulatory Framework

Governments have traditionally relied on prescriptive, command-and-control regulations to mitigate potential harmful actions or consequences. However, new ways are being discovered to achieve social, economic and environmental objectives in a more effective and efficient manner. Allowing for more flexibility will stimulate innovation of new ideas and processes, and help businesses to capitalize on their competitive advantages to grow and expand. The following initiatives have been implemented to support the adoption of a flexible and modern regulatory framework:

- **Environment** had three key pieces of legislation: *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*; *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act*; and *The Environmental Assessment Amendment Act* receive Royal Assent in the spring of 2010. *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*, which references the new Saskatchewan Environmental Code, also received Royal Assent at that time. Each Act provides a foundation for the Ministry's new results-based regulatory framework. These acts are to be proclaimed and will be in force upon implementation of the environmental code. The framework will provide greater legal certainty and clarity for project developers regarding expectations and options for achieving environmental outcomes.
- The **Ministry of Justice and Attorney General** and the **Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission** introduced revised insurance legislation to create a restricted insurance agent licensing model that facilitates a more streamlined licensing process for businesses engaged in the sale of incidental insurance products. These revisions create a corporate licence for insurance issuers and remove the requirement for employees selling insurance products to be licensed. The new regulations will make it easier for businesses to sell incidental insurance products in a manner that continues to protect insurance consumers.
- Following consultations held by the **Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority**, revisions to the rural franchise contract were implemented May 1, 2010. Key changes to the agreement, such as the removal of the requirement that a franchisee must be an

individual, are intended to improve the flexibility of the regulations and increase opportunities for franchising.

- The **Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority** recently changed its policy in 2010 to allow micro breweries to deliver their beer directly to commercial permit holders rather than through the Authority. The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority is currently in the process of finalizing a similar arrangement with brew pubs that sell their brew pub product to other commercial permit holders. It is expected this will be finalized by March 2011.
- **Information Services Corporation's** Land Registry has introduced titled parking for new condominium developments. Condominium Developers will also have the ability to register title to common property such as grounds, activity rooms and hallways; as well as to establish and manage their affairs through separate residential and commercial sectors or sub-corporations.
- **Municipal Affairs** amended provisions in the three municipal Acts to give councils more flexibility to enter into longer term agreements with individuals or corporations for the purposes of providing a utility service by extending timeframes from 20 to 30 years.
- **Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport** developed a number of new lease fee payment incentives under the new Capital Lease Incentive Program. This will make it easier for private-sector businesses within provincial parks to pay their lease fees, while stimulating investment to renew and expand their facilities to offer improved visitor services.
- **Enterprise Saskatchewan** changed regulations to double the annual cap on provincially registered Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Corporation funds from \$25M to \$50M per fund to encourage additional venture capital for business growth and development and reduce administrative burdens for funds that were approaching the \$25M limit.
- **Justice and Attorney General** passed *The Enforcement of Money Judgment Act* in 2010 to repeal several existing pieces of legislation, such as *The Exemptions Act* and *The Executions Act*, and replaced the outdated and unnecessarily complex money judgment enforcement process with a new consolidated electronic enforcement procedure. These amendments will improve the ability for those individuals who have received a money judgment to enforce that judgment as a creditor.

6. Building Capacity for Regulatory Modernization

New initiatives to build capacity for regulatory modernization are helping the provincial government to meet its priorities of citizen-centered service, core business, simplification, public service renewal, and an enterprise-wide approach. Greater capacity is being built by developing innovative ways to bring together the regulatory community at the municipal, provincial and federal levels for enhanced service delivery. Government has implemented the following initiatives to build capacity for regulatory modernization:

- The **Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing** has responded to public safety concerns and needs for more timely regulatory service by creating the **Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan**. While the Ministry maintains responsibility for the associated legislation and regulations, the Technical Safety Authority assumed responsibility for carrying out the licensing and inspection functions for boilers, pressure vessels, elevators, and amusement rides. This arms-length, not-for-profit regulatory authority was created by transferring the Ministry's existing Licensing and Inspections Branch to the Authority.

- The Corporate Registry was transferred from **Justice and Attorney General's** Corporations Branch to **Information Services Corporation** effective October 1, 2010. This transfer enables Information Services to leverage its significant registry expertise, core competencies and infrastructure to enhance and further evolve service delivery to the business community in the future. This transfer is the first step in the development of the business registration portal, scheduled for launch in spring 2011. This new website will simplify the processes for a new business to register with the Corporate Registry, the **Workers' Compensation Board** and **Finance**, and in the future, other ministries and agencies.
- The **Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation** undertook administration of the AgriStability program in 2010, following a transfer of program administration from the federal government. A Lean initiative is being undertaken within Crop Insurance to develop a continuous improvement plan for the processing of AgriStability applications.

7. Reducing Fees and Paperwork Burden

Excessive government fees and paperwork burden are long-standing frustrations for the business community. As government implements efficiencies through new technologies, complicated paperwork and some fees have been reduced, allowing business to invest more time and money on their core business activities. The following initiatives have been implemented to reduce fees and paperwork burden:

- **Agriculture** has eliminated fees and amended legislation, which has resulted in reduced administrative costs to clients. The eliminated fees include the application fee for irrigation technical assistance, irrigation pivot location fees, and licence and renewal fees for domestic game farm animals. *The Provincial Lands Regulations* were amended to provide greater flexibility in the Minister's powers to allow rates to be frozen providing relief to the agricultural industry in tough economic times. *The Livestock Inspection and Transportation Regulations* were amended to create efficiencies for both internal and external parties with regards to the inspection and transportation of livestock.
- **Information Services Corporation** has introduced a fee mitigation policy for the registration of a notice to lapse involving multiple interest holders. Under the new policy customers pay a single fee instead of a fee for each interest holder to which the notice of lapse applies.
- **Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport**, in conjunction with **SaskFilm**, undertook a Lean initiative to simplify the application and review process for issuing Tax Credit Certificates for the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit. This process identified several steps to reduce the effort for producers when completing an application, remove non-value-added processes in the review and approval process, and shorten the turnaround time from when a producer submits an application to when they receive a Tax Credit Certificate. Implementation of these steps is currently underway.
- **Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's** Labour Standards Division streamlined the permit issuance approach for oil service and seismic related businesses. Employers now applying receive one permit to address both averaging of hours and days off in a week.
- **Energy and Resources** is continuing work on one of its major initiatives, referred to as the Oil and Gas Renewal project. The project directly advances the key government priorities of jobs and economic growth by substantially decreasing industry costs for filing and obtaining data while increasing the industry's access to information for future development plans.

- **Advanced Education Employment and Immigration** introduced multi-year contracts with third-party service providers who deliver language and/or settlement services to immigrants. Preparing multi-year contracts has reduced administrative costs associated with the contract process including preparation of Requests for Proposals and preparing/negotiating annual contracts, while still maintaining accountability and transparency in monitoring service delivery.
- In 2009, the **Ministry of Social Services** began offering multi-year contracts to Community-based Organizations (CBOs) in an effort to provide a more stable funding option. In 2010-11, the Ministry currently holds 212 contracts with 198 CBOs, of which 99 (47 per cent) are multi-year. Ministry staff continues to work with their CBO partners to assess the suitability of individual contracts for multi-year funding.
- Beginning January 1, 2011, **Saskatchewan Government Insurance** is transitioning from the current two-piece driver's licence, which is renewed annually, to a one-piece licence that is renewed every five years. In addition to numerous security enhancements, the new driver's licence will provide convenience to customers due to the longer term. In the implementation year, customers will be given staggered terms from one to five years, to allow renewals to be spread out over the five-year period.

Regulatory Modernization Beyond 2010

An effective and efficient regulatory environment is necessary to be competitive with other jurisdictions in the attraction and retention of businesses and investment opportunities. Regulatory modernization is not a one-off activity – rather, it is a process of continuous improvement. This means that regulators must keep an eye on the constant social, technological, economic and environmental changes that take place so that regulations can be modified to remain relevant and effective.

The Government of Saskatchewan has recognized the need for continuous improvement in the regulations that it implements and enforces so that economic opportunities are not lost due to unnecessary delays, duplication and confusion. Government is currently developing an action plan, reiterated in the Premier's October 28, 2010 Speech from the Throne, to reduce regulatory red tape for business, allowing them to focus more of their time and energy on what they do best. Further announcements to reduce red tape will be made during 2011. ES and other government ministries, Crowns and agencies will continue to break down barriers to make it easier for business to do business and interact with government in Saskatchewan.

For more information, please contact:

Craig Abernethy
Business Services Improvement Branch, Enterprise Saskatchewan
Phone: (306) 787-8972
Email: craig.abernethy@enterprisesask.ca