



**From:** Jim Reiter  
Minister of Government Relations and  
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

**Date:** June 15, 2016

**Phone:** 306-787-6100

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**To:** Laura Ross  
Chair  
Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee

**File:**

**Re:** **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice - (April 27, 2015):  
Follow-Up Information**

During the Ministry of Government Relations' appearance before the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice on April 27, 2015, I agreed to provide some additional information. It has come to my attention recently, that not all of the information was provided. The purpose of this correspondence is to ensure that all of the information is provided to the committee.

***Funding for Northern Saskatchewan***

A breakdown of funding for northern Saskatchewan across government was requested. Please see Appendix 1 for a table outlining targeted northern funding that was budgeted for each ministry for 2015-16.

***Northlands College Mining Program***

During the discussion I agreed to provide a dollar figure of the funding allocated by my ministry to Northlands College for the mining program in 2015-16. Government Relations did not make any contributions towards the Northlands College mining program in 2015-16.

***First Nations and Métis Relations Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)***

During the discussion regarding First Nations and Métis Relations, it was stated that the 19 FTEs are split between two branches of the ministry, with six in one branch and 13 in another, and include one employee who splits time between Regina and the North. I would like to clarify that the 19 FTEs in the First Nations and Métis Relations subvote are all located in Regina and the original answer pertained to employees located in the North under the Municipal and Northern Engagement subvote.



IAJ 1-28

Tabled by Chair

Date June 20, 2016

### ***On-Reserve Education Funding***

During the discussion I agreed to provide the letter issued to the Federal government in regards to on-reserve education funding (see Appendix 2).

### ***Northern Administrators***

During the discussion I agreed to provide the number of northern administrators certified from 2008 to the end of 2014. Between 2008 and the end of 2014, a total of 34 employees of northern municipalities were enrolled in the northern Local Government Administration program over its lifetime. Of these 34, 12 students completed the program and five are currently employed as administrators or clerks in northern municipalities.

### ***Gas Tax Compliance – Northern Municipalities***

As of April 22, 2016, of the northern municipalities that have signed the Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement (MGTF) under the renewed Gas Tax Fund program, four are non-compliant and therefore their allocations have been placed on hold:

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Compliance Issue(s)</b>
Northern Village of Beauval	Financial statements
Northern Village of Pinehouse	Financial statements
Northern Hamlet of Patuanak	Financial statements
Northern Village of Buffalo Narrows	Infrastructure Investment Plan

There are several terms and conditions that a municipality must fulfill to comply with the Gas Tax Fund (GTF). Please see Appendix 3 for an excerpt from the Municipal Compliance Strategy under the GTF, as approved by the GTF Oversight Committee.

### ***Planning for Growth and Capacity Development – Northern Communities***

During the discussion I agreed to provide information on planning for growth and capacity development for northern communities. To date, 13 northern municipalities have adopted official community plans (OCP) and zoning bylaws (ZB). Of these 13, eight are existing bylaws and five are newly adopted bylaws prepared under the Planning for Growth North program. Two new OCPs and ZBs are pending approval, four are complete and pending council adoption, and seven are being finalized. Five communities have expressed interest in the program but have not passed a council resolution to participate. Development controls for 10 northern settlements are also being finalized. One northern municipality has elected not to participate in the program.

### ***Disability Strategy***

An update on the Disability Strategy study and recommendations was requested. Using the public consultation feedback as well as advice from stakeholders and best practices from other jurisdictions, the Citizen Consultation Team and government have worked together to develop a set of recommendations and associated implementation actions. Appendix 4 contains a detailed list of the consultations undertaken with municipalities and municipal representatives during the development of the Strategy.

On October 22, 2015, Government Relations presented the Disability Strategy with a focus on the transportation related recommendations and action items to the Provincial Paratransit Providers. This group, which meets annually and includes representatives from Municipal Infrastructure and Finance, municipalities (paratransit managers, city councillors, etc.), third party paratransit providers, and accessibility advocates, were supportive of the content of the Strategy. On December 3, 2015, the Minister of Social Services publicly announced the priority areas that government will focus on as work begins on the Saskatchewan Disability Strategy. One of the six initial actions that government will launch to officially begin the rollout of Saskatchewan's provincial Disability Strategy is to "Improve availability of accessible and safe transportation in communities". Going forward, Government will continue its work to implement this strategy.

### ***Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network***

Regarding the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN), I agreed to provide a list of sites under development. The following table outlines the sites that are under development.

Sites Under Development	
New Sites	Ministikwin
	Waskesiu
	Grandmother Bay/Missinipe
	Harris/Zealandia
	Christopher Lake
Mid-Hop Sites (TBD)	Southend
	Regina/Craven
Tower Replacements	Pilot Butte
	Cudworth
	Yorkton

### ***First Nations Self-Government***

I would like to further clarify the discussion regarding Saskatchewan's position on self-government and tripartite processes. In 1996, the province moved from being an observer to a full participant in First Nation self-government negotiations with Meadow Lake First Nations and Canada. At the same time, Cabinet approved an internal, provincial self-government policy. This policy was specific to establish the negotiating guidelines for provincial representatives at this self-government table; it was not a policy about the province's participation in tripartite processes in general.

Due to lack of progress, the province withdrew from negotiations in 2010 to initiate a review of its role and policy on self-government. I met with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) in December 2012 to discuss the status of the internal review and their interest in having the province return to the table. MLTC was not able to indicate how progress could be made if provincial negotiators were to return. MLTC has not contacted the province on this matter since then and the provincial self-government policy from 1996 remains unchanged. Further, the federal government withdrew from negotiations and placed Meadow Lake First Nations self-government table on hiatus in August of 2014.

Saskatchewan is presently sitting as an observer at the Whitecap Dakota-Canada negotiations. Whitecap Dakota First Nation appears satisfied with this arrangement as the province has taken a partnership approach to develop administrative agreements that support Whitecap's self-governing aspirations in a practical and timely manner.



Jim Reiter

Attachments

cc: Al Hilton, Deputy Minister of Government Relations and  
Deputy Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

bcc: Laurier Donais, ADM, Corporate Services, Public Safety and Disaster Recovery,  
Government Relations  
Keith Comstock, ADM, Municipal Relations and Northern Engagement  
Government Relations  
James Froh, Office of the Provincial Interlocutor, Government Relations  
Richard Turkheim, Northern Engagement, Government Relations  
Jeff Markewich, Corporate Services, Government Relations

## Northern Spending 2015-16 Budget

Description	2015-16 Budget (\$000)
<b>Advanced Education</b>	
Northlands College – Capital and Operating Funding – Northern Skills Training	6,805
Northern Teacher Education Program and Northern Professional Access College and Masters of Education	3,408
University of Saskatchewan – International Centre for Northern Governance and Development	1,070
<b>Economy</b>	
First Nations Resource Agreements	1,557
Northern Economic Development Grants, Contracts, and Sponsorships	316
Labour Market Development – First Nations and Métis Initiatives and Institutions	14,186
Minerals, Lands and Policy – Northern Geoscience Projects	570
Minerals, Lands and Policy – La Ronge Geoscience Lab	185
Minerals, Lands and Resource Policy – Uranium Mine Cleanup	5,300
<b>Education</b>	
School Operating Grant – Northern School Divisions	70,762
Northern Opportunities Program	100
KidsFirst – Combined Education and Health	2,506
Child Nutrition Development Program	132
Early Childhood Intervention Program	198
Regional Intersectional Committees	222
Child Care	1,776
Preventative Maintenance and Renewal	844
<b>Environment</b>	
Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System	696
Boreal Caribou Project	250
Boreal Water Management Project	1,000
Caribou Habitat Operating	32
Compliance and Field Services	3,828
Environmental Assessment and Protection Programs	525
First Nations and Northern Forest Protection Worker Training Contracts	1,381
Fish and Wildlife Program	423
Forest Service Program	2,260
Fur Institute Operational Grant and Administrative Program	13
Landscape Stewardship Program	1,025
Technical Resources Program	86
Wildfire Management Program	21,829

Description	2015-16 Budget (\$000)
<b>Government Relations</b>	
Northern Engagement Branch	826
Northern Municipal Services Branch	1,141
First Nations Trust – Estimate of Gaming Transfers to Northern Bands	6,979
North Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee	337
Gas Tax Fund	1,082
Northern Revenue Sharing	19,779
Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes	258
Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities	7
Building Canada Fund – Communities Component	400
New Building Canada Fund	-
Saskatchewan Infrastructure Growth Initiative	4
<b>Health</b>	
Northern Health Regions	62,799
Northern Medical Services Physician Contract	11,982
Remote Presence Technology	-
<b>Highways and Infrastructure</b>	
Major Capital Projects	17,700
Partnership Expenditures	2,250
Preservation	9,000
Major Preservation Projects	27,400
<b>Justice (Includes Corrections and Policing)</b>	
Provincial Policing Services Agreement	20,405
Legal Aid Saskatchewan	3,317
Court Services	2,145
Community Services	171
Community Services – Grants and Community Safety Outcomes	2,298
Victim Services	1,565
Public Prosecutions	2,627
Northern Youth Violence Reduction Plan *	895
<b>Parks, Culture and Sport</b>	
Parks Capital Programs for Parks in the NAD	1,096
Parks Operating Funding for Parks in the NAD	1,500
Charles Knight Youth Mentorship Program	25
<b>Social Services</b>	
Rental Development Program and Repairs	850
Encouraging Community Housing Options – Housing Plan	100
Trades Training Program	75
Saskatchewan Housing Corporation owned housing operations and improvement costs	3,484
<b>Total</b>	<b>345,782</b>

\* The Northern Youth Violence Reduction Plan was previously called the Northern Integration Initiative.

Minister of Education



SASKATCHEWAN

Legislative Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

May 27, 2013

**RECEIVED**

JUN 07 2013

Minister of  
Government Relations

The Hon. Bernard Valcourt  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development  
Government of Canada  
OTTAWA ON K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Valcourt:

Thank you for taking the time to meet in Ottawa last week. It was an excellent opportunity to share and discuss our common goals for improving the lives of First Nations and Métis people.

We were encouraged to hear your thoughts on the proposed federal First Nations Education Act and the Joint Task Force (JTF) on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People. As discussed, our officials would be interested in attending a technical briefing by your department on the proposed act.

Additionally, your commitment to work together by striking a working advisory committee between our officials to review funding regarding First Nations education is timely as our government moves ahead with recommendations from the JTF. As well, we look forward to your feedback regarding the said recommendations.

As we move forward on these common issues it is important that we continue to discuss our shared goals to bring positive change to First Nations and Métis people. We look forward to future discussions with you.

Once again, thank you for taking time to meet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Marchuk".

Russ Marchuk  
Minister of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Reiter".  
Jim Reiter  
Minister of Government Relations

### APPENDIX 3 – GAS TAX FUND COMPLIANCE

Under the Gas Tax Fund (GTF), municipalities are required to fulfill a number of requirements as outlined in their Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement. Failure to comply with these requirements can and has resulted in a municipality's payment being withheld until compliant. This page provides details on the Municipal Compliance Strategy (Strategy) and a brief description of the requirements municipalities must fulfill in order to ensure payments are not put on hold.

#### **The Strategy**

The oversight committee for the GTF passed a motion to implement the Strategy to ensure that municipalities comply with the significant terms and conditions (T&C) in their gas tax agreement. The committee includes representatives from the federal and provincial governments, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and New North.

The intention of the Strategy is to:

- ensure fair treatment of all municipalities;
- ensure an appropriate level of accountability;
- ensure municipalities have sufficient time to understand terms and conditions; and
- mitigate any unnecessary risk to the GTF.

Each municipality is required to enter into a Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement (Agreement) with the province in order to receive their gas tax funding allocation. Under the Agreement, municipalities are required to fulfill a number of T&C including:

	Significant T&C	Agreement Reference	Deadline
1	Submit Infrastructure Investment Plan under new Agreement	Annex B, Section 3.1	June 1, 2015
2	Spend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>its Unspent Funds</li> <li>its estimated five year allocation from 2014-15 to 2018-19</li> <li>its estimated five year allocation from 2019-20 to 2023-24</li> </ul>	Schedule A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 3.3(a)</li> <li>Section 3.3(b)</li> <li>Section 3.3(c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 31, 2018</li> <li>December 31, 2023</li> <li>December 31, 2024</li> </ul>
3	Submit Municipal Annual Expenditure Report	Schedule D, Section 1	March 31 (cities and < 1,500) July 1 (1,500 or more)
4	Submit incrementality report (if population > 2,000)	Schedule D, Section 2	March 31, 2015 March 31, 2020 March 31, 2025
5	Submit Capital Plan annually (cities and population > 5,000)	Schedule D, Section 3	March 31
6	Submit outcomes report on completed project	Schedule D, Section 4	Annually (municipalities will be advised of date)
7	Submit financial statements annually*	Recommended by Oversight Committee	September 1 (cities) July 1 (all other municipalities)

\*The following financial statements are not acceptable:

- financial statements with a denied opinion;
- financial statements with no opinion;
- financial statements with an adverse opinion; and
- financial statements that are non-compliant with PSAB 3150 -Tangible Capital Assets

## APPENDIX 4 - CONTACT WITH MUNICIPALITIES AND MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE SASKATCHEWAN DISABILITY STRATEGY

Date	Type of Contact	Audience	Action
23-May-2013	Provincial Paratransit Provider meeting in Saskatoon	Municipalities that offer paratransit services and their third party operators	A Disability Strategy team member from Social Services speaks about the Strategy that was announced to the public on May 6, 2013.
10-Feb-2014	Municipal Stakeholders Meeting in Regina	Leaders of SUMA, SARM and New North	Government Relations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided an overview of the Strategy and has an informal discussion about the relationship between their organization's mandate/services and the specific areas the Disability Strategy is intended to address; and provided information on the opportunities that municipalities would have in the coming months to provide more "formal" expressions of opinions and positions on disability issues.</li> <li>New North submits feedback collected from six northern communities which is turned over to the Disability Strategy team at Social Services.</li> </ul>
10-Apr-2014	Provincial Paratransit Providers meeting in Regina	Municipalities that offer paratransit services and their third party operators	A Disability Strategy team member from Social Services conducts a group consultation session. Data collected during this session is turned over the Disability Strategy team at Social Services.
10-Apr-2014	Government Relations electronic newsletter – <u>Municipalities Today</u>	All Saskatchewan Municipalities	Provides information on the Disability Strategy and upcoming consultations which includes an online option for those unable to attend in person.
15-Apr-2014	SARM email	RM Administrators	Provides information on the Disability Strategy and upcoming consultations which includes an online option for those unable to attend in person.
22-Apr-2014	Government Relations Email	Municipalities that offer paratransit services and their third party operators	Provides information on the Disability Strategy and upcoming consultations which includes an online option for those unable to attend in person.
28-Apr- 2014 to 30-May-2014	Public Consultation Meetings	11 Saskatchewan communities and surrounding area: Estevan, La Ronge, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current and Yorkton. Multiple sessions conducted in Regina and Saskatoon.	The Disability Strategy team from Social Services, with assistance from other ministries and Community Consultation Team, conducted small group consultation sessions on the Strategy's priority areas. Data collected during these meetings is managed by the Disability Strategy team.  More than 1000 people attended these meetings and the eight Aboriginal meetings that were held at Buffalo Narrows, Flying Dust First Nation, Fort Qu'Appelle, Kawacatoose First Nation, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Yorkton.
5-May-2014	SUMA electronic newsletter - <u>Urban Update</u>	Urban Administrators	Provides information on the Disability Strategy and upcoming consultations which includes an online option for those unable to attend in person.
25-Jun-2014 16-Jul-2014 14-Aug-2014 4-Sep-2014	Transportation Priority Working Group (PWG) Meetings	Members were those with interest and influence in the transportation of people with disabilities and included representatives from the City of Regina and City of Saskatoon. An invitation to participate was extended to the Town of Fort-Qu'Appelle and Town of Biggar.	PWG reviewed all the consultation data that related to transportation and provided advice for the development of the Strategy in the form of recommended actions. Recommendations approved by the PWG were submitted to the Disability Strategy team on 23-Sep-2014.