

MATTERS PERTAINING TO SARM

1-25A | Insurance Discount for Municipalities with Security Systems and GPS Tracking Rural Municipality of Ponass Lake No. 367

WHEREAS SARM is committed to supporting the efforts of rural municipalities to enhance safety, reduce risks, and manage operational costs.

WHEREAS many municipalities have implemented security systems within their buildings and GPS tracking systems on their equipment as a means to prevent theft, loss, and unauthorized use, thereby reducing the risk of financial loss.

WHEREAS municipalities that implement these technologies may be less likely to file insurance claims, potentially reducing the overall risk exposure for insurance providers.

WHEREAS municipalities that invest in these technologies should be encouraged through insurance discounts which would support further investments in risk mitigation and encourage safer, more secure environments for rural communities.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM implement an insurance discount program for municipalities with security systems in their buildings or GPS tracking devices installed on their equipment, as a means to reduce risks, improve safety, and foster financial sustainability for rural municipalities across Saskatchewan.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Ponass Lake No. 367 is submitting this resolution to SARM in response to the growing need for municipalities to reduce risks and protect their assets. Many municipalities, including our own, have invested in security systems and GPS tracking devices for buildings and equipment to prevent theft, vandalism, and loss. However, these municipalities currently receive no financial recognition or incentive for their proactive measures. By implementing an insurance discount program for municipalities with security systems or GPS tracking devices, we aim to encourage further investment in these technologies, which would improve safety and reduce insurance claims related to theft and damage. This resolution would benefit SARM members by promoting a collective effort to reduce overall risk exposure, potentially lowering insurance premiums for all members. Additionally, it would foster financial sustainability for municipalities by offsetting the costs of implementing these safety measures. If passed, the resolution would lead to the establishment of an insurance discount program that would encourage municipalities to invest in security technologies, reduce their insurance premiums, and create a safer, more secure environment across rural Saskatchewan. The ultimate goal is to reduce operational risks and costs, while improving the safety of public resources and ensuring long-term financial health for rural municipalities. Through this resolution, we hope to make a positive change by supporting municipalities that are proactive in securing their infrastructure and equipment, benefiting the entire SARM membership.

MUNICIPAL IN NATURE

Ministry of Government Relations

2-25A | Changes to *The Local Government Elections Act, 2015* – Advanced Polls in Rural Municipalities Rural Municipality of Mariposa No. 350

WHEREAS running a municipal election imposes a cost to the municipality.

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan government did not consult with rural municipalities to determine interest or the need for an advance poll in rural elections.

WHEREAS the provincial government continues to impose increasing regulation on rural municipalities with no thought to the added cost of the regulation nor the administrative burden and there is seldom, if ever, a line up due to high voter numbers.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to remove the requirement for advanced polls when eligible voter numbers are lower than 100 people.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Mariposa No. 350 just had a by-election to fill our Division 2 councillor vacancy, which occurred when the Division 2 councillor ran for reeve in the election for even numbered divisions and reeve in November 2024. We had a total of 24 voters turning out to vote in this by-election; 9 voters for the advanced poll and the remaining 15 voting on election day. This council's concern is that having an advanced poll is an extra cost that is largely unnecessary in small rural municipalities. We have to pay election officials for working an extra day and at no time are they overwhelmed or swamped by line ups. We understand the need for this in larger urban centers, but it is not needed in rural municipalities.

3-25A | Resource Revenue Sharing for Rural Municipalities Rural Municipality of Estevan No. 5

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 255 of *The Cities Act*, cities in Saskatchewan are given the power and authority to set mill rates for subclasses of property.

WHEREAS rural municipalities within the Province of Saskatchewan are not given the same legislated authority to set mill rates for subclasses of property (for example between commercial and industrial).

WHEREAS previous SARM resolutions have passed advocating for the ability of rural municipalities to use tax tools in order set mill rates for subclasses of property, but the provincial government has refused to accede to these requests.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to pay a percentage (not less than 10%) of the royalty from industrial resources collected by the provincial government to the RMs from which the natural resource(s) are extracted from.

Resolution Background:

The provincial government has refused similar previous SARM Resolutions (ie: 22-10M and 11-02M) in the past on the basis that RMs have fewer properties that would fall within a subclass and that a similar use of subclasses of property would unfairly target a few properties within it. In essence, the provincial government does not want industry to be taxed differently in places like the RM of Estevan who have large amounts of property dedicated to coal mining and power production. However, it is hypocritical for the provincial government to be allowed to tax industry (for example, the provincial government royalty payments are 15% of the mine mouth value of coal which amounted to \$32.7 million in 2018) but prohibit RMs that have to deal directly with the large industrial operations from doing so. It is time that RMs are allowed the proper resources to deal with unfair taxation policy.

4-25A | Tax Subclasses for Rural Municipalities Rural Municipality of Mariposa No. 350

WHEREAS the rural and urban divide is becoming more pronounced all the time.

WHEREAS *The Municipalities Act* legislates and outlines both urban and rural municipalities responsibilities to levy taxes and governs how taxes are levied.

WHEREAS under the current version of *The Municipalities Act*, urban municipalities have far more latitude in determining appropriate taxation through the use of tax subclasses.

WHEREAS under the current version of *The Municipalities Act*, urban municipalities have far more latitude in determining appropriate taxation through use of tax subclasses which is a distinct advantage that rural municipalities don't enjoy.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to update *The Municipalities Act* to allow for the creation of subclasses of tax categories to create equity among urban and rural counterparts.

Resolution Background:

This resolution has been brought forward at past conventions. It is a matter of equity amongst urban and rural municipalities who have taxation as their primary source of revenues to run and manage their municipalities. Rural municipalities should have the same opportunity to create subclasses within the commercial and industrial tax class so that the appropriate ratios and differences between different types of commercial entities and their burden to the infrastructure can be taken into account.

5-25A | The Communities in Transition Fund (CIT)

Rural Municipality of Blucher No. 343

WHEREAS the provincial government has determined that upon dissolution of struggling urban municipalities in Saskatchewan, they will be taken over by the surrounding rural municipality, who will assume all costs associated with the dissolution, operation, capital expenditures, and cleanup of the urban.

WHEREAS the capital portion of the CIT fund is funded totally by a portion of all the rural municipalities PST revenue sharing allotment, and zero dollars from the urban municipalities' allotment.

BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government mandate the urban municipalities to contribute significantly to the capital portion of the CIT Fund.

Resolution Background:

Many towns, villages and hamlets in the province are finding themselves no longer viable. The provincial government has decided that the responsibility for the administration and the maintenance of these entities will fall upon the RM's.

Those of us belonging to RMs that have gone through this process realized that the funding for this task is not adequate. The RMs are picking up the tab for this transition with no help from the urban municipalities. We find this funding model unacceptable.

Many of these small urbans require extensive capital expenditures to bring utility's up to an acceptable level. They also have many condemned and abandoned buildings, as well as junk filled lots that must be cleaned up. These are expensive undertakings. Collection of back taxes and unpaid utility bills are also expensive endeavors. We believe it is time for a comprehensive examination of the issue of dissolution of an urban municipality including developing a fair funding model for this issue.

6-25A | Road Maintenance Agreements and Compensation

Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187 and Rural Municipality of Corman Park No. 344 (submitting RM's)

WHEREAS Section 12(1) of The Municipal Regulations prescribes road haul fees which are not reflective of the actual costs incurred by municipalities to maintain an acceptable level of service for transportation infrastructure.

WHEREAS there is currently no annual review or other mechanism in place for adjusting the legislated road haul fees to account for current costs, including inflation, commodity prices, as well as the actual costs to complete transit infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to annually review road haul fees to accurately reflect actual costs of road maintenance, road restoration and loss of road life and that this be better reflected in the compensation formula.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section 12(1) be amended to allow a second option for determining compensation stating that a municipality can use a professional engineer to determine the actual road maintenance costs and that the cost of the engineering analysis will be included in the calculation for compensation.

Resolution Background:

Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187

In a 2023 presentation to the SARM convention, the Ministry stated "RMAs are meant for heavy haul road users that may cause damage to the municipal road network beyond that of average ratepayers or that have no property tax base in the municipality". The presentation also stated that the regulations were amended to provide clearer guidance to municipalities and better transparency for industry, more consistent rates, and to establish a more consistent and measurable formula.

The formula in Section 12(1) is effective in meeting the latter objectives; it is very weak in its primary purpose – determining the incremental costs of a bulk haul. Nevertheless, it is being used and, if it provides a satisfactory solution to both the hauler and a municipality it is a useful tool.

However, for a situation where the formula does not adequately determine the incremental costs to a municipality an alternative is needed. The proposed condition of using a professional engineer to determine the incremental costs removes the potential for abuse by municipalities (a concern identified previously by the Ministry) but allows a trained individual to include the variety of factors relevant to determining compensation for a specific application.

Rural Municipality of Corman Park No. 344

The RM of Corman Park is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 1,300 kms of municipal roads. This is a significant expense for the municipality, especially when considering the year-over-year expenses as well as asset management plans.

Compounding this issue is the fact that collected road haul fees do not adequately address the costs of road maintenance and renewal. Therefore, in order to maintain an acceptable level of transit infrastructure and corresponding services, the RM of Corman Park considers increasing the road hauling fees to be very important. In addition, to avoid a similar issue in the future, the provincial government must enact a path for evaluating these assigned fees on an annual basis. This would be at a higher standard than the current two-year practice.

Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure

7-25A | Rural Integrated Roads for Growth

Rural Municipality of Meadow Lake No. 588

WHEREAS the RM of Meadow Lake No. 588 has over 500 miles of roadways that serve a varied mixture of grain farms, pastures, logging operations and residential acreages.

WHEREAS the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) program has specific requirements for road projects.

WHEREAS currently the RM of Meadow Lake does not have any roads that meet the requirements for road program eligibility as stated in the RIRG policy manual.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM investigate a new program that would help subsidize the use of road stabilization products for rural roads that do not meet the requirements of the RIRG road program.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Meadow Lake started a road stabilization program in 2024 and is planning to treat most of the major routes within the RM with some type of road stabilization product within the next few years. There is currently no grant program supporting this. All RMs that use some type of road surface treatment would benefit from this program. The intended outcome of this resolution is to have a new grant program to address this issue and reduce future road maintenance costs.

Ministry of Justice & Attorney General / Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

8-25A | Bylaw Enforcement

Rural Municipality of Wallace No. 243

WHEREAS breach of a bylaw is becoming more prevalent.

WHEREAS summary conviction can be a costly and lengthy process.

WHEREAS enforcement of bylaws is difficult unless a voluntary resolution is reached.

WHEREAS there are only 2 bylaw courts in Saskatchewan for which a municipality must register to be heard.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Ministry of Justice to expand municipalities' abilities to enforce bylaws by increasing ways to obtain a summary conviction.

Resolution Background:

In reading through the proposed legislated changes that were sent out regarding section 369 of *The Municipalities Act*, it is not clear how a bylaw fine can be added to a tax roll without a summary conviction as that action would go against the rules of justice. Something else needs to be done in order to be able to actually obtain a summary conviction in a time sensitive and less costly manner. If a fine was imposed after a summary conviction, at that point section 369 would apply, but we have to be able to get there first. The way the system is currently set up, obtaining a summary conviction is next to impossible, which means issuing a fine is only good if the person in breach is willing to pay it. If they are not, what do we do then? We can't add what we perceive to be a fair fine to a tax roll without them having the ability to contest it, which can only be done through court. The bylaw court system currently in place is not enough to handle all of the bylaw infractions at play. Administrators are not clear on how to register to be heard in bylaw court even if they could wait the length of time it would take to resolve the issue (think unauthorized bush pushing).

9-25A | SARM Bylaw Enforcement Officers Rural Municipality of Estevan No. 5

WHEREAS bylaws are essential to the good governance and administration of justice within our rural municipalities.

WHEREAS the provincial government has failed to provide RMs with the necessary tools and resources to effectively enforce bylaws.

WHEREAS the RCMP and other municipal police forces do not provide resources to enforce RM bylaws and other quasi-enforcement bodies such as the Commissionaires are not readily accessible or cost effective except outside larger centres such as Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM employ or contract a Bylaw Enforcement Officer within each division for use by rural municipalities within that division to enforce RM bylaws, including, without limitation, policing and prosecution of offences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to provide the resources in order to employ or contract such Bylaw Enforcement Officers.

Resolution Background:

As stated above, there is very little in the way of resources or personnel for RMs to enforce its bylaws. Recently, the provincial government created and funded the Marshall's Service to fill a void in law enforcement. Similarly, a dedicated Bylaw Enforcement Officer within each SARM division would provide RMs with a much needed resource in which to enforce its bylaws in a cost effective and efficient manner. SARM can additionally provide resources to such Bylaw Enforcement Officers in legal, administrative and other areas.

There was a similar resolution passed in 2012 (Res 3-12A) and as a result, SARM commissioned a study on it entitled "SARM Options Document" related to exploring this very thing. Given that 13 years have passed without any noticeable improvement, it is time to once again revisit this very important issue.

10-25A | Resolution to Improve the Justice System and Address Issues Faced by Farmers and Ranchers in Saskatchewan, Canada Rural Municipality of Nipawin No. 487

WHEREAS farmers and ranchers in Saskatchewan play a vital role in the province's economy, food security, and rural communities.

WHEREAS recent reports have highlighted a troubling increase in crimes, including theft, vandalism, and drug-related incidents, impacting agricultural operations, property, and the safety of rural communities in Saskatchewan.

WHEREAS the justice system must ensure the protection of individuals and property, support the effective prosecution of criminals, and provide timely and meaningful solutions to prevent crime in rural areas.

WHEREAS farmers and ranchers, often living and working in remote locations, face unique challenges in dealing with criminal activities, as well as a lack of immediate law enforcement response and resources.

WHEREAS the rise in drug addiction, particularly related to methamphetamine use in rural areas, exacerbates these problems, leading to increased violence, property, and theft, all of which creates significant burdens for farmers, ranchers, and their families.

WHEREAS the justice system needs to take a proactive approach to addressing these issues while fostering collaboration between law enforcement, local communities, mental health services, and agricultural stakeholders.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government, in partnership with law enforcement agencies, agricultural groups, and community organizations to improve the justice system and address the challenges faced by farmers and ranchers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to work closely with federal authorities to ensure that crimes involving cross-border trafficking of stolen goods or drugs are adequately investigated and prosecuted.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Nipawin No. 487 has submitted this resolution with the intention of once again bringing attention to the realities faced by Saskatchewan's agricultural communities. Previous resolutions have been debated regarding rural crime, however the responses received fall short of affecting any real change where it matters - rural Saskatchewan.

As local governments, we are entrusted with the wise stewardship of our municipalities. Efforts to raise awareness, educate the public and foster positive relationships with local law enforcement are undermined by ineffective policies and inadequate resources. A cohesive, actionable plan is necessary in order address the challenges we are all currently facing, with collaboration and a strong commitment from all levels of government being crucial. This will improve the safety and security of farmers and ranchers, reduce the frequency and severity of crimes in rural areas, and help build a justice system that is responsive to the unique challenges faced by Saskatchewan's agricultural communities.

Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety / Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour

11-25A | Labour Market Transfer Agreement Funding

Rural Municipality of Fertile Belt No. 183

WHEREAS many businesses, agricultural producers and municipalities require employees that have 1A driver licenses.

WHEREAS that in 2024-25, the federal government cut \$17.6M in employment and skills training funding to the province but the province bridged this shortfall to keep the programs and services operational.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the federal government to reverse cuts done through the labour market transfer agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to develop a labour training grant program to compliment the federal program.

Resolution Background:

Our ratepayers were disappointed that the funding had been discontinued as it is very expensive to send a potential employee for training. If this resolution is successful, there would be less of a financial burden to candidates/farmers wanting to obtain their license. Training is important and we want the new driver's to be safe.

Ministry of Education

12-25A | Align Work-Based Learning/Apprenticeship Credit Program Guidelines

Rural Municipality of Mount Pleasant No. 2 and Rural Municipality of Enniskillen No. 3 (submitting RM)

WHEREAS work-based learning is a school program that allows students to apply their skills with a local employer, requiring a signed agreement from the student, parents/guardians, supervising teacher, and employer.

WHEREAS the Workers' Compensation Board and the Minister of Education have a Memorandum to extend workers' compensation benefits to eligible students in work-based learning. Proper completion of a consent form is necessary for this coverage. Although remuneration is not required for students, they receive benefits similar to covered workers. The division also maintains additional liability insurance for the program.

WHEREAS in the Apprenticeship Program, the Mentoring Journey person must fulfill specific requirements, including providing a safe environment, coaching, and submitting a criminal record check. They must also pay the student as an employee and provide Workers' Compensation Benefits.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Ministry of Education to align work-based learning guidelines with the Apprenticeship Credit Program, promoting participation from apprentices and companies and expanding training opportunities for students.

Resolution Background:

In our region of the province, oil and gas production, along with agriculture, is significant, resulting in a high demand for tradespeople. In 2023, the province committed an additional \$1.5 million to expand training seats, increasing the total to 4,450. This decision was made to support the growing demand for skilled tradespeople. However, schools in our area struggle to find qualified journeypersons to mentor students in apprenticeship programs. We are asking these professionals to complete the necessary forms and provide instructions. The burden of enrolling students in the company payroll and managing WCB (Workers' Compensation Board) insurance should not fall solely on employers. If employers wish to hire students outside of school hours, they are free to do so, but when students are in school and earning credits, they should be governed by the same guidelines as work-based learning policies. Implementing this change would enhance journeypersons' willingness to train students, providing them with valuable experience in the trades and essential life skills, regardless of whether they pursue post-secondary education. This approach aligns with the province's vision of fostering the growth and demand for skilled tradespeople.

**13-25A | Supporting and Growing Our Public Library System
Rural Municipality of Corman Park No. 344**

WHEREAS public libraries have been central to communities for hundreds of years, creating a safe space for children and adults to read and learn, regardless of their socio-economic status or backgrounds.

WHEREAS public libraries can be counted on to provide the resources to answer many important questions; provide access to countless materials and content, especially for those who cannot afford to purchase them privately; and an internet connection to allow access to information, banking and financial services, communications, employment opportunities, as well as accessing and submitting government forms.

WHEREAS public libraries do much more than simply house books, including community programming such as the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium (SILS), preschool programs, reading programs, book clubs, story times, summer reading programs, and seniors' programs to only name a few.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to fund the public library system to keep pace with inflation as well as current trends and technologies at the least, in addition to ensuring that both large and small community libraries can meet the programming, educational, and communal needs that are an integral part of library programming and its services.

Resolution Background:

The RM of Corman Park is motivated to submit this resolution to reduce municipal costs while maintaining public services. Public libraries play an integral part in Canadian society by allowing increased access to information as well as fostering a more equitable community. In addition, residents of the RM of Corman Park saved approximately \$1.6 Million per year in 2023 and 2024 by borrowing physical materials from libraries. This figure does not include any electronic materials. As a result, the RM of Corman Park finds the ongoing operation of the public library system to be integral to its well-being. If proper funding is not provided by the province, the R.M. will have to make difficult decisions; including an increase in taxation to maintain services or to reduce its funding and, consequently, reduce services. This is not a decision the RM wants to face and the province can prevent these considerations by properly funding public libraries.

IMPACTING THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Ministry of Agriculture

14-25A | Control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel Rural Municipality of Duck Lake No. 463

WHEREAS Richardson's ground squirrel damage to crops and pasture land can be devastating.

WHEREAS some farmers do not control these rodents in their own fields; and Richardson's ground squirrels will move from infested uncontrolled fields into surrounding fields.

WHEREAS *The Pest Control Act* was repealed in 2024 and replaced with *The Plant Health Act*.

WHEREAS without the Richardson's ground squirrel being included in *The Plant Health Act* and associated regulations, there are no legislated measures for RM's to enforce control of these rodents.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Richardson's ground squirrel be included in *The Plant Health Act* and associated regulations in order to give RMs the ability to control Richardson ground squirrels in their RMs.

Resolution Background:

Even though the gopher rebate program will still exist, the RM and their Pest Control Officers have no legislated recourse when negligent ratepayers allow these rodents to infest their fields or pastures and also become pest on neighboring fields and pastures.

15-25A | The Farmland Security Board (FSB) Rural Municipality of Blucher No. 343

WHEREAS foreign ownership of farmland is a growing concern in Saskatchewan.

WHEREAS the Provincial Auditor has determined that the FSB did not request Statutory Ownership Declarations from nine out of at least eighteen high risk farmland purchases.

WHEREAS the FSB has been unable to conclude whether eight suspect transactions are in compliance with ownership rules, due to not receiving mandatory information (i.e. Statutory Declarations) and are unable to take further action.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to make it mandatory that the Statutory Declarations, and any other pertinent information, be submitted BEFORE any suspect lands are approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government establish escalation procedures to enable the FSB staff to take further appropriate action when cooperation is not forthcoming from non-compliant entities.

Resolution Background:

There is considerable worldwide interest in Saskatchewan farmland due to the belief it is considered relatively inexpensive compared to land in many other jurisdictions. Canada is considered a stable country and a good place to invest. There is growing interest in food security and at the heart of this interest will be the availability, security, and ownership of good farmland.

This interest has led to farmland values increasing dramatically thus making it difficult for young farmers to purchase. Farmers young and old are competing against an increasing flow of international dollars coming to Canada to purchase land.

We believe that certain entities are circumventing our foreign ownership laws to purchase farmland in Saskatchewan. This is unacceptable. According to a recent auditor's report of the Farmland Security Board there are many identified and perhaps many unidentified suspect transactions that have occurred already. The Farmland Security Board does not have the resources to properly enforce the existing farmland ownership laws. It is time the province decided what they want the future of agriculture and the ownership of farmland to look like in Saskatchewan.

Ministry of Agriculture & Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

16-25A | Reinstate Federal Funding to 4-H Canada Rural Municipality of Lumsden No. 189

WHEREAS 4-H Canada has provided a range of youth development programs and resources across Canada since 1933, including scholarships, club funds, fundraising initiatives, etc.

WHEREAS 4-H programming teaches young people about responsibility, leadership and helps develop their confidence to become contributing leaders in their community and beyond.

WHEREAS federal funding to 4-H Canada from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada was cut in 2024, resulting in job losses in all areas of the organization.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM work closely with the provincial government to reinstate full funding to 4-H Canada.

Resolution Background:

4-H is a pinnacle organization for the youth in this province, especially those raised in association with agriculture. For over 100 years, SARM has advocated for the concerns of the people to senior levels of government, and we feel this matter is worthy of SARM's support. The RM of Lumsden No. 189 donates to 4-H Canada (one of very few organizations the municipality supports with tax-payer dollars), so that our youth learn and grow to be leaders and contributors in our community and province. We hope other Saskatchewan municipalities agree and support our request for SARM to lobby to have 4-H funding reinstated.

17-25A | Establish Coyotes as Pests under the CAP Program Rural Municipality of Enniskillen No. 3

WHEREAS SARM administers the Beaver Control Program on behalf of the province, focusing on the humane removal of adult nuisance beavers and the management of the adult beaver population within their jurisdictions. SARM also oversees the Rat Control Program to manage rat populations in their respective areas.

WHEREAS low prices for coyote pelts have discouraged many trappers from capturing coyotes, this has led to a significant increase in the coyote population. As a result, livestock producers are experiencing higher rates of livestock loss.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the Ministry of Agriculture and the federal government to classify coyotes as approved pests under the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (Sustainable CAP) cost-shared rebate program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a program similar to the Beaver Control Program be established, allowing municipalities to receive reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the costs incurred for each adult coyote removed by licensed fur trappers.

Resolution Background:

Coyote pelt markets indicate \$10-\$30, and some collections of coyote pelts fail to bring \$10. The fur trapping industry has significantly declined due to the low worth of these pelts, resulting in an uncontrolled coyote population. The minimal price of pelts combined with the high costs of guns, ammunition, traps, and fuel makes the trapping industry unsustainable. Implementing a coyote bounty program for fur trappers would provide them with an incentive and financial support, allowing them to trap coyotes without incurring significant losses.

Many rural municipalities (R.M.s) are currently administering coyote control programs, which require a valid fur trapping license and a verification method to compensate licensed trappers for the coyotes they capture, covering 100% of the costs.

The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) has established a livestock guardian dog program; however, not all producers are equipped to use a dog for protection. Additionally, SCIC compensates livestock losses, but there must be evidence that the animal was killed by a coyote, which can often be challenging for various reasons. Though the SCIC adjuster can recommend a predation specialist, this does not effectively control the overall coyote population in the area and only manages it temporarily. The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program is reactive in addressing coyote issues and does not succeed in reducing coyote populations.

Ministry of Environment

18-25A | Grain Bag Recycling Incentive Rural Municipality of Lakeview No. 337

WHEREAS many farmers are using plastic grain bags for temporary storage.

WHEREAS there remains no onus or responsibility for the first sellers of grain bags to receive the bags back where they were sold.

WHEREAS chemical retailers are required to charge a deposit on chemical containers and return the deposit when the container is returned to the dealer, encouraging the return rather than improper disposal or storage.

WHEREAS grain bag distributors must operate or be a part of a Product Stewardship Program approved by the Minister of Environment.

BE IT RESOLVED that SARM lobby the provincial government to make a portion of the recycling fees collected by grain bag distributors and other grain bag collector programs refundable once the grain bags are returned from where they were originally purchased.

Resolution Background:

A noticeable escalation in farmers leaving grain bags around farmyards after grain has been removed causing an increase in rodent infestations due to the prime living conditions a grain bag makes for such rodents.

This resolution would affect SARM members as a whole by reducing rat infestations.

The intended outcome is to create a program, similar to the chemical container deposit to encourage producers to return used grain bags rather than abandoning them or improperly storing them on farmland.