



## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out August 31<sup>st</sup> – October 5<sup>th</sup> 2009

### (Volume I, Issue IV)

- Title:** Most oppose nuclear power in Saskatchewan, report says (Star Phoenix)

**Date:** September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2009/09/15/nuclear-plant.html>

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan Government's Future of Uranium consultation report was released and the response was overwhelmingly opposed to any future expansion of the nuclear industry in the province. About 84% of those who attended or sent in written testimonials opposed any further nuclear developments in Saskatchewan. The report also recommended that "a separate Métis consultation process be established for consultation and accommodation on any aspect of the uranium value chain, including the Uranium Development Partnership report." To view the entire report, go here: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?mediaId=918&PN=Shared>
- Title:** Government Prepares for Possible Influenza Pandemic

**Ministry:** Health (Minister Don McMorris)

**Date:** September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=6485096a-a0a4-454f-a334-c1cc864cee79>

**Contact:** Karen Hill, Health, Regina, Phone: 306-787-4083

**Synopsis:** The provincial government has stated that it is committed to preparing for a possible outbreak of H1N1 in the province. Preparations include: the creation of a special committee to oversee the preparations; "a strategy for timely and consistent information sharing with the public and key stakeholder groups"; ensuring that government ministries and departments have "updated pandemic plans to make certain that critical business functions are maintained"; stockpiling vaccines and antiviral medication; and "addressing surge capacity in acute care facilities." Currently, the

Ministry of Health is working with several identified partners, including First Nations (**MN-S Note – There is no mention of Métis groups in the press release**) to finalize these pandemic plans.

**3. Title:** Saskatchewan Announces Seasonal and H1N1 Vaccine Plan

**Ministry:** Health (Minister Don McMorris)

**Date:** September 25, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=1521663a-445b-4195-b95b-803238a2528b>

**Contact:** Karen Hill, Health, Regina, Phone: 366-787-4083

**Synopsis:** The province announced new measures to help Saskatchewan citizens deal with influenza and a possible H1N1 pandemic. The government's plan is to "provide seasonal flu shots to people aged 65 and over and residents of long-term care homes in October, followed by the H1Ni flu vaccination program for all residents of the province." Once this is complete, seasonal flu vaccines will most likely be released to the rest of the province.

**4. Title:** Government Announces Northern Drug and Gang Enforcement Unit

**Ministry:** Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

**Date:** September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=74fd4e33-d4fe-46d5-899d-a1f19f9af5ff>

**Contact:** Linsay Rabyj, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2626, E-Mail:

[linsay.rabyj@gov.sk.ca](mailto:linsay.rabyj@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The province has announced the creation of a northern drug and gang enforcement unit, which will be comprised of the RCMP and the Prince Albert Police Service. "Funded by the Government of Saskatchewan, the RCMP "F" Division and Prince Albert Police Service will dedicate a combined total of 7 police officer positions to implement a northern drug and gang enforcement unit to focus on offence in the north." The unit, which will be operational October 1<sup>st</sup>, will be based in P.A.

**5. Title:** Witness Protection Legislation Now in Force

**Ministry:** Corrections, Public Safety, and Policing (Minister Yogi Huyghebaert)

**Date:** September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=784de321-104f-4828-8540-3363240dc691>

**Contact:** Linsay Rabyj, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, Regina, Phone: 306-767-2626, e-mail: [linsay.rabyj@gov.sk.ca](mailto:linsay.rabyj@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan's new *Witness Protection Act* came into effect September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The Act "protects witnesses testifying against individuals charged with criminal activities." Under the legislation, Correction, Public Safety and Policing will make the necessary arrangements for those witnesses who need the program and the program will be compliant with the federal Witness Protection Program. To view the new Act, go here: <http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/bills/pdfs/bill-66.pdf>

6. **Title:** Shelter Allowance for some Low-Income People to Increase October 1

**Ministry:** Social Services (Minister Donna Harpauer)

**Date:** September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=3e0c1118-82fa-4c5d-bd33-cd28d968a888>

**Contact:** Brian Miller, Social Services, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0531, E-Mail: [brian.miller3@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brian.miller3@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The province has announced that it will increase the shelter allowance given by the Ministry of Social Services. The programs affected by this announcement are the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP), Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA), and the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement (SHRS). This increase will see "SAP and TEA shelter allowances will rise moderately for childless couples and parents with one or two children in communities such as Prince Albert, Yorkton, Melville, Weyburn, Kindersley, Rosetown, Maclin, Creighton, La Ronge, and La Loche." The SHRS allowance will also increase for 300 families in the aforementioned communities.

7. **Title:** Alberta, B.C. and Saskatchewan Agree to Western Economic Partnership

**Ministry:** Office of the Premier

**Date:** September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=d387106b-a542-4ab5-a98a-9916e3f9de7d>

**Contact:** Ian Hanna, Office of the Premier, Phone: 306-530-3177

**Synopsis:** As the result of a joint Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia cabinet meeting, the three western premiers signed two deals – one concerning carbon capture and storage and the other a Western Economic Partnership. "The partnership will create a broad western interprovincial trade agreement to create the largest barrier-free trade and investment market in Canada." Other

issues discussed included a “regional voluntary pension plan for workers who do not have an employer based plan,” and the need to deal with organized crimes and gangs.

**8. Title:** Community Wastewater Details Available Online

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=71385560-b09a-4a7a-9b57-92868c0cd2ce>

**Contact:** Jennifer Redston, Environment, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5796

**Synopsis:** The province’s website dedicated to providing information to citizens on the safety of their drinking water has been expanded to provide information on water treatment. The website, <http://www.saskh20.ca/>, now provides additional information on wastewater treatment, “such as when the last inspection was conducted, what was the outcome and how to contact the facility operator.”

**9. Title:** Government Funds FASD Awareness and Prevention

**Ministry:** Liquor and Gaming Authority (Minister Christine Tell)

**Date:** September 30, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=997a7acc-dc9b-43ea-9c7a-c382b630c120>

**Contact:** David Morris, Liquor and Gaming Authority, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1721

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan Government has provided \$165,000 in funding for agencies that “promote awareness and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).” The two agencies receiving the funding are the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute.