



WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT FIRST ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Winners of the inaugural Saskatchewan Municipal Awards were announced today at a luncheon attended by community leaders from across the province.

The awards program was established to celebrate excellence and highlight best practices in the municipal sector. It was jointly developed by the Saskatchewan Urban Municipal Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities, the Urban Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (RMAAS) and the provincial department of Government Relations.

Below is each award category and the winning municipality:

- **Municipal Service Excellence** – the Rural Municipality (RM) of Britannia for its full-depth subgrade strengthening of roadways;
- **Economic Development Leadership** - the RM of Edenwold, for establishing a long-term development plan and bylaws;
- **Regional Leadership and Partnerships** - The RM of Gull Lake for its Cooperation for Growth initiative;
- **Community Leadership** - The RMs of Browning, Moose Creek, Benson, and Cymri for their Primary Highway Joint Initiative; and
- **Judges' Award** - the Town of Kipling, for the innovative use of the publicity brought to the town via the Red Paper Clip Project.

A selection panel judged the nominated practices on innovation, effectiveness, significance, and sustainability. The selection panel also considered whether the practices in question enhance the capacity of the municipality and how transferable those practices are to other jurisdictions.

"We're thrilled to be recognized in this way," said Kevin Hassler, the Mayor of Kipling. "We believe that small communities in Saskatchewan can do big things. We're proud of what we've done, and I think it's great that there is a program like this to recognize municipal innovation."

Doug Steele, the Reeve for the RM of Gull Lake, was also impressed. "The world we live in is becoming increasingly complex and challenging. Like all groups, municipalities must continue to find ways to work together. An awards program like this one encourages that. I'm pleased that the RM of Gull Lake is working to lead the way in this area."

To learn more about the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards program, visit www.communilink.sk.ca/awards/.

-30-

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