



Celebrating Municipal Excellence

2022 Nomination Form

Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 25, 2022

Nominee Contact Information	
Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	RM of Coalfields, RM of Estevan and the Town of Bienfait
Contact Name:	Paul Carroll
Contact role in project:	Chairman
Telephone #:	306-634-2224
Mailing Address:	#1, 322 4th Street Estevan, SK S4A 0T8
E-mail Address:	info@ssep.ca
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Creation of the Southeast Sask Economic Partnership Inc.
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	November 2020
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	Ongoing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	Tim Keating
Organization:	Southeast Sask Economic Partnership
Position:	Regional Economic Development Director
Mailing Address:	#1, 322 4th Street Estevan, SK S4A 0T8
Telephone #:	306-634-2224
E-mail Address:	info@ssep.ca

Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.

The Practice

1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

The Federal Governments mandated closure of coal fired power generation with accelerated timelines, namely Shand Power Station, Boundary Dam units 3, 4, 5 and eventually 6. These will most certainly result in the loss of hundreds, if not thousands of local jobs, and drastic changes to the tax base for every municipal government in the region, most especially in the R.M # 5 (Estevan), R.M #4 (Coalfields), and the town of Bienfait. These three municipal governing bodies decided to form an economic partnership. This regional economic partnership and formal economic development program serves the unique needs and challenges of member rural municipalities to: facilitate regional economic development services, attract investment, and major project development. SSEP members realized that they needed to take matters into their own hands to affect positive change for their future.

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

Developed a formal MOU with the City of Estevan to work collaboratively on regional economic development.

Created the framework and governance of the Municipal Coal Transition Assistance Program that was provided by the province to assist companies interested in investing in southeastern Saskatchewan.

Developed a Regional Economic Development Plan and an Investment Attraction website.

Spearheading major transformational initiatives such as irrigation, recreation development, tourism, and marina.

Successfully obtained federal funding for the following municipal infrastructure project (includes the total project budget):

- Airport Road Rehabilitation (\$2.68 million)
- Kensington Ave North to Estevan Bypass Upgrade (\$1.37 million)
- Town of Bienfait Firehall (\$1.55 million)
- Bienfait to Lampman Interconnect (\$4.62 million)
- Bienfait Tourism Assets Revitalization (\$147 thousand)

The Process

This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Other

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

All 3 Municipal Councils created the vision and established a working committee with RMs and a town.

All 3 Municipal Administrations formalized the committee structure and obtained funding from Western Economic Diversification for a two-year pilot project for the creation of a regional economic partnership and economic development program.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

Western Economic Diversification - provided funding for economic development funding program.

6. What resources were involved?

The municipal economic development committee hired Keating Business Strategies Ltd. (KBSL) as a contractor to create and facilitate regional economic development services and related programming.

KBSL is one of the leading rural economic development agencies in western Canada with over 20 years of experience and specialty working with rural and Indigenous communities.

7. How was the project or practice developed?

The project was developed in the following manner:

- 1 - Strategic Planning Session of three members
- 2 - Completed a GAP Assessment and an inventory of regional assets and competitive advantages.
- 3 - Developed business cases for the identified opportunities
- 4 - Created a Regional Economic Development Strategy with six key pillars for development, which include: Value-added Agriculture Processing, Logistics & Distribution Hub, Water for Economic Development, Destination Tourism, Resource Innovation, Municipal Infrastructure for Economic Development
- 5 - Developed an MOU with the City of Estevan for regional economic development and cooperation
- 6 - Created the Municipal Coal Transition Assistance Program in partnership with the City of Estevan and Province of Saskatchewan
- 7 - Incorporated SSEP as an official non-for-profit regional economic partnership.

The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

To date, there have been several impacts on the community.

- 1 - Rural municipalities have their own voice for economic development.
- 2 - SSEP has been successful in achieving over \$8 million in infrastructure projects, including Kensington and Airport Road, Grid 605, Bienfait Firehall, Bienfait Downtown Revitalization.
- 3 - Several new businesses have started and new jobs created as a direct result of the MCTAP program. To date, this program has created 15 jobs and is growing.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

A formal evaluation was not completed as the project is in the implementation phase. SSEP is tracking jobs created and investments in the region.

10. Describe any challenges faced.

- 1 - Moving from a singular economic development program to a regional one.
- 2 - Challenges getting incorporated with SaskRegistries.
- 3 - Focusing on regional projects and priorities versus individual municipal needs and wants.

Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

Lessons learned:

- There is strength in partnerships
- More can be achieved working together than individually
- Companies should co-invest in projects to get grants
- Don't lose sight of the long-term vision and goals
- Results will come but takes time and perseverance

All nominations will be listed on the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards website as a resource for other municipalities. Be sure to include specific information.

Please submit your completed nomination package to:

E-mail: awards@municipalawards.ca (preferred)

Fax: Attn: Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program

Mail: Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Unit 305 – 4741 Parliament Avenue, Regina, SK S4W 0T9

Questions?

Contact Stephanie Bourassa at 306-525-4318.

***Thank you for submitting a nomination for the
16th annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.***