Collaboration Highlight Report 2022-23

2022-23 at a Glance

Collaborating For A Stronger Saskatchewan

Collaborating on Investment Attraction \$1.88 BILLION Collaborating on Customer Service 8 Initiatives Implemented Collaborating on Cost Savings \$53.1 MILLION

Collaboration Strategic Priorities

- Investment Attraction
 Working Group
- Regional Infrastructure
- Shared Utility Corridors
- Infrastructure Investment
- Supporting Sask Tech Sector
- Information Technology and CIO Working Group
- Shared Strategic Procurement

- Property Management
- Mental Health
- Project Delivery
- Printing Opportunities
- Red Tape Reduction/ Customer Service Enhancements
- Indigenous Engagement

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Introduction

Saskatchewan experienced unprecedented population growth in 2022-23. To support this growth, it is more important than ever for the public sector to work together, through Collaboration, to advance the province's economy, enhance customer experience and achieve operating efficiencies and cost savings. The Collaboration initiative brings together people from across government organizations and the Crown sector to focus on strategic initiatives that support Saskatchewan's Growth Plan.

Highlights for Collaboration for 2022-23 include:

- attracting more than \$1.88 billion in private-sector investments from 29 projects including mining and energy, agri-value added, manufacturing and forestry industries;
- implementation of eight customer-service initiatives which enhanced customer experience when using government services, saving people and businesses time and money; and
- achieving \$53.1 million in cost savings through efficiencies in operations and by leveraging collective purchasing power on procurements in the public sector.

Collaboration's 13 strategic initiative teams worked diligently to advance priorities of the Government's Growth Plan goals in 2022-23, bringing value to better serve Saskatchewan residents, communities and business partners. These teams' diverse initiatives in areas like infrastructure, procurement, property management, mental health and investment attraction positively impacted key economic drivers in the province, providing solid ground for development and growth into the future.

These achievements are the result of the dedication and expertise of Collaboration team members. In 2022-23, the Collaboration initiative has grown to include participants from 32 government entities including the CIC Crowns, Ministries, Treasury Board Crowns and Government Agencies. The time and energy that participating partners invested into this important government-wide initiative has achieved remarkable results. By continuing to work together, Collaboration is helping to build a stronger Saskatchewan.

Collaborating For Cost Savings

Achieving cost savings has been the foundation of Collaboration since its inception in 2013. Thinking outside the box, executive government organizations and the Crown sector have worked together to find innovative ways to cut costs and achieve strong financial management.

The 2022-23 Collaboration cost savings were \$53.1 million.

The following table breaks down cost savings by the top five cost-saving initiatives with the remainder of cost-saving initiatives broken down into two themes: procurement and operational.

Initiative or Common Theme	2022-23 Collaboration Cost Savings	Forecast 2023-24	Forecast 2024-25	Forecast 2025-26	Forecast 2026-27	Forecast 2027-28
Line Locating	\$16,406,231	\$15,738,000	\$16,738,000	\$17,638,000	\$18,338,000	\$19,138,000
Natural Gas Optimization	\$8,972,410	\$800,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Joint Infrastructure	\$8,441,600	\$4,725,406	\$3,697,134	\$2,767,800	\$1,980,000	\$1,980,000
Fibre Sharing	\$3,800,000	\$1,000,000	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Pole Sharing	\$3,284,400	\$3,692,400	\$3,685,600	\$-	\$-	\$-
Procurement	\$8,000,652	\$6,649,787	\$6,634,865	\$6,797,393	\$7,043,420	\$6,852,076
Operational	\$4,175,317	\$3,913,685	\$3,814,994	\$3,918,398	\$3,861,915	\$3,862,656
Total	\$53,080,610	\$36,519,278	\$34,770,594	\$31,321,591	\$31,423,335	\$32,032,732
Aspirational Stretch	N/A	\$13,480,722	\$15,229,406	\$18,678,409	\$18,576,665	\$17,967,268
Target	\$55,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000

2022-23 Collaboration Cost Savings by	y Initiative and Theme
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\$440 MILLION

in cost savings since 2013.

Sample Highlights of Cost-Saving Initiatives

\$1.5 MILLION - P25 RADIOS

SaskPower joined an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan to leverage federal government procurement offerings for longterm supply agreements. The federal government's offering rate is significantly less than current market pricing. SaskPower made a onetime purchase of 700 P25 radios through the federal offering.



\$3.29 MILLION – SHARING SPACE ON POWER POLES

SaskTel rents space on SaskPower power poles to provide fibre service at a lower cost than burying fibre or putting up separate poles. If SaskTel had to bury the lines, it would cost an additional \$1,700 per home.

\$421,000 – OFFICE SUPPLIES

SaskEnergy, SaskGaming and the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement entered into a contract together to save on the procurement of office supplies.



\$1.3 MILLION – WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SaskEnergy, SaskPower and SaskTel have collaborated on finding and implementing a new workforce management system. Discounted pricing for licenses based on collective volume resulted in cost savings.

\$100,000 - DOCUSIGN

SaskPower, SaskEnergy and SGI leveraged the Government of Saskatchewan's procurement power to acquire increased system capabilities at a reduced rate before the supplier raised prices on the e-signature solution.



\$1.26 MILLION – SASKPOWER COLOCATION FOR AMI METER READING PROGRAM

SaskPower installed equipment on SaskTel towers across the province for SaskPower's meter reading program.



Collaborating as One Team

The Collaboration Strategic Initiative Teams grew to include 32 participating agencies, including CIC Crowns, Ministries, Treasury Board Crowns and Government Agencies. Challenged to encourage economic growth that benefits the people of Saskatchewan and support the province's strong financial management, the 13 teams came into their own during their first full year of operation, striking a balance between sustaining regular responsibilities and advancing government priorities.

Team Highlights:

1. Investment Attraction Working Group (IAWG)

The IAWG is working to foster a competitive business environment for private investment and a stronger Saskatchewan by ensuring coordination among government agencies, providing leadership and reducing barriers to economic development. The team's efforts this year have helped facilitate \$1.88 billion in investments over 29 projects – exceeding the goal of \$1 billion – with more potential opportunities already in the pipeline.

Major investment projects typically unfold over the course of several years. This year's collaboration efforts included significant work with previously announced projects now entering the construction phase, and with new projects beginning engineering and design. Sample Highlights of the year:

- » All Crown utilities are collaborating on the creation of a utility corridor to provide service for the future utility loads of Viterra and the Integrated Agriculture Complex (Federated Co-operative Limited and AGT Foods). The goal of the collaboration is to minimize the impact to land while maximizing the opportunity for all customers in the area to plan their project knowing where utility services will be located. With the collaboration completed, all three customers have confirmed the land required for the corridor will not impact the situation of their plants.
- » Cargill's new canola crushing plant at the Global Transportation Hub near

Regina has benefited from the Ministry of Trade and Export Development and Crown utilities working together through a single point of contact to address the company's needs and help the project move forward more efficiently.

» Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) recently announced an investment to double capacity at its canola crushing facility in Yorkton. Ministry of Trade and Export Development and Crown utilities worked together to find costeffective solutions that will meet LDC's service requirements for the expanded production.

By fostering better project support, enhanced customer service and expedited decisionmaking, the IAWG demonstrates that collaboration across government entities helps the Province achieve its economic and public policy goals, supporting growth that benefits everyone.

2. Regional Infrastructure

Work is progressing on an interactive mapping tool that not only identifies where government and Crown services are currently available, but also helps to pinpoint the best locations for future construction. This tool will speed up responses to prospective industry investors and help attract private-sector investment to the province, driving economic growth.

3. Shared Utility Corridors

This team's current focus is on three key projects designed to save time, reduce infrastructure costs, and build a more resilient Saskatchewan: developing a shared utility corridor around Regina; building a process and tools to make the future construction of shared utility corridors easier; and streamlining the application process to use highway rightof-ways for utilities. The team is also helping communities across the province incorporate utility corridors into their future development plans.

4. Infrastructure Investment

Using funding provided by the Saskatchewan Auto Fund portfolio, this team looks for opportunities to invest, alongside a lead investor, in government infrastructure projects. Due diligence for the investment is provided by the SGI and CIC Boards of Directors.

5. Supporting Saskatchewan's Technology Sector

Casting a wide net, this initiative is addressing multiple opportunities across the tech sector: creating and expanding industry supports; building a skilled talent pipeline, including the enhancement of training opportunities; partnering with tech-sector organizations; and better leveraging existing IT infrastructure and funding.

The team is setting a firm foundation with regular meetings and information sharing to identify gaps and potential areas of collaboration. They have investigated government's role in the talent pipeline through a pilot project at SaskGaming, created an inventory of existing programs, and conducted surveys, roundtables and interviews with industry stakeholders to determine the training and support needs of the sector.

The team will also draw upon government labour market studies to assist the team in setting parameters for their involvement with the tech sector, clarifying the sector's participants and needs, and quantifying its contribution to the provincial economy.

6. Information Technology / Chief Information Officer Working Group

This team is another initiative with a broad reach, which is in the process of establishing three new working groups, in addition to the existing Cyber Working Group, to better channel information and activities:

 a. IT Procurement Working Group (ITPWG)

 Comprised of members from all the main IT purchasing areas across government, this group's primary objective is to avoid the duplication of expenditures, while also identifying further collaboration opportunities, such as group negotiation and purchasing. This group is working on a comprehensive overview of upcoming procurement initiatives and will prioritize

 the maintenance of an updated inventory of contracts.

- Emerging Technologies Working Group (ETWG) – data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and robotic process automation are a few of the emerging trends in the tech industry. This group is ensuring that the entire government sector is unified in understanding these trends, addressing their effects, leveraging investments and sharing knowledge.
- c. Higher Education Working Group (HEWG) – Created to focus on the IT workforce and talent pipeline within the province, the group is working in tandem with the Supporting Saskatchewan's Technology Sector team and the Ministry of Advanced Education to collate existing training options and expand them in the future.
- d. Cyber Working Group (CWG) This group is making significant strides in IT security. A comprehensive crossgovernment cyber policy is nearly complete, while a Ransomware Guiding Principles document is ready for final approval. A process for sharing threat information across all government entities is also in the works.

7. Shared Strategic Procurement (SSP)

One of the longest serving teams, SSP realized over \$32 million in procurement savings government wide in 2022-23. By finding ways for government organizations to collaborate more, reduce administrative costs, and leverage group purchasing power, the team plays an important role in bolstering the Saskatchewan economy. The goal is to ensure that Saskatchewan companies are able to compete for large procurement projects through the sharing of available provincial and federal standing offers. The team also participates in the Community of Practice, sharing information and expertise and providing procurement training, offered by SaskBuilds, to staff engaged in procurement.

8. Property Management

This team provides one line of sight over government property assets such as land and buildings. The team addresses topics ranging from remote work, electric vehicle charging stations, sustainability, environmental management and waste diversion. Of particular note is the establishment of a GIS-based property database (hosted by SaskBuilds) that includes information on vacancies, locations, sales, purchases, and lease expirations across government and the Crown sector.

The team is also hard at work on a pair of key projects:

- » the development of a Land & Building Transfer Policy between government entities; and
- » electric vehicles and charging stations, as SaskPower is now installing level 2 and 3 chargers throughout the province.

9. Mental Health

Building a strong province and economy begins with building strong, resilient people. Mental Health is a top priority of residents of the province and equally for the Government of Saskatchewan. The Mental Health team is dedicated to optimizing the health of government and Crown employees through the sharing of knowledge, best practices and resources, collaborating on training opportunities and developing a diverse community of practice, all while ensuring efficient and cost-effective delivery of services. The team has completed an inventory of all existing training and services being offered and is creating a comprehensive system to facilitate the sharing of this information across government.



Teams in Transition:

10. Project Delivery

Originally comprised of a project expeditor office component (PEO) and a project management expertise component (PME), this team's workload has evolved and become part of other strategic initiatives. The PEO has become a sub-committee of the Investment Attraction Working Group, allowing better communication and follow-up on projects from inception to utility service dates. The PME continues within SaskPower as they facilitate ongoing training sessions across the Crowns and government.

11. Printing Opportunities

This team is now a sub-committee of the Shared Strategic Procurement team, enabling better alignment across government when procuring printing services.

12. Red Tape Reduction / Customer Service Enhancement

This team was transitioned to the Ministry of Trade and Export Development (TED) at the end of 2022-23 as its mandate complemented TED's existing Regulatory Modernization/Red Tape Reduction initiative.

13. Indigenous Engagement

Recognizing the significance and scope of this team, Indigenous Engagement has become a stand-alone initiative. Under the sponsorship of Crown Investments Corporation (CIC), the now re-titled Advisory Council on Indigenous Reconciliation (ACIR) will focus on outcomes related to the TRC's Calls to Action, particularly #17, #57 and #92. In addressing these Calls to Action, the Council will encourage proactive engagement of the Crown and government sectors from an economic reconciliation perspective, while supporting and promoting meaningful progress towards equity, inclusion, and participation in the economy.

Collaborating for Improved Customer Service

In 2022-23, Collaboration focused on ways to reduce red tape and improve customer service experience when individuals or businesses access government or Crown services. The goal for the year was to implement eight initiatives within the public sector that save time and/or money for customers. The eight initiatives implemented are: ExpressAddress enhancements, standardization of SaskWater supply agreements in Saskatoon area, a change to SGI's annual overweight permit policy, SaskEnergy's new on-line customer portal, SaskEnergy's appointment window enhancements, SaskWater's software for collecting and communicating water quality data, SaskPower's bill redesign project, and SGI's photo ID pilot project for at-risk youth. Below and on the next page is further detail about three of eight initiatives implemented.

ExpressAddress Enhancements

ExpressAddress allows customers to transfer, connect or disconnect services and update their addresses with multiple organizations at once from their desktop or smart devices, providing convenience to residents and businesses when moving. This service is the result of collaboration between SaskPower, SaskTel, SaskEnergy, SGI, City of Regina and City of Saskatoon. It delivers enhanced customer experience to Saskatchewan residents by saving them time and avoiding duplication of effort. Improvements that took place this year included: functionality that reduces manual entry required by users; reminders for users when they have unsubmitted requests; updated fields to ensure data accuracy for organizations; streamlined registration, sign in, and password reset processes; visual and user interface changes to improve credibility and usability; functionality that allows users to edit their requests after submission; and an improved export process and format that provides operational efficiencies to organizations.

expressaddress

Standardization of SaskWater Water Supply Agreements in Saskatoon Area

SaskWater and CIC collaborated to standardize water supply agreements in SaskWater's Saskatoon Service Area to enhance customer experience. CIC's legal team worked with SaskWater to create a standardized water supply agreement that is easy to read and understand by SaskWater customers. The standardized agreement saves time and creates consistency to ensure all customer negotiations are fair and equitable.



Change to SGI's Annual Overweight Permit Policy

Service rigs, used in the oilfield industry, are often over the legal weight on highways and require an Annual Overweight Permit. Prior to a vehicle getting the permit, it must acquire a scale ticket, showing the vehicle weight from a certified weigh scale. SGI used to require this scale ticket annually, resulting in a service rig having to pack up operations and travel to a weigh scale to obtain the proper permit. The weight of these vehicles is consistent from year to year. In response to a request from the Canadian Association of Energy Contractors and to help customers save time and costs, the Ministry of Highways and SGI's Permit Office worked together to revise the policy to accept a scale ticket that is up to five years old. This change allows companies to continue working with less interruptions due to permit requirements, which in turn saves them time and money.





LDC canola crushing facility, Yorkton, Saskatchewan Photo credit: Louis Drefus Company

Collaboration Participants

(As of March 31, 2023)

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Appendix: Total Collaboration Savings (2013 to 2022-23)

Collaboration Savings by Year (2013 to 2022-23)

Year	Cost Savings
2013	\$23,944,000
2014	\$17,544,202
2015	\$56,242,531
2016	\$81,971,468
2017-18*	\$36,931,341
2018-19	\$39,046,901
2019-20	\$38,091,408
2020-21	\$44,610,193
2021-22	\$48,927,568
2022-23	\$53,080,610
Total	\$440,390,222

Collaboration Savings Sorted by Top 4, Procurement & Operational for 2013 to 2022-23

Initiative Name or Theme	Cost Savings
Fibre Sharing	\$150,676,000
Line Locating	\$109,028,598
Joint Infrastructure Installation	\$63,210,209
Natural Gas Optimization	\$27,958,147
Procurement Cost Savings	\$41,640,081
Operational Cost Savings	\$47,877,187
Total	\$440,390,222

^{*}January 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

