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For Immediate Release

SAMA Affirms Commitment to Continuous Improvement Following Governance Review

In early 2026, the Ministry of Government Relations engaged Upfront Consulting to conduct an independent review of the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency's (SAMA) governance structure. The review focused on:

- Board member appointments and qualifications
- The structure, role and function of SAMA's advisory committees
- Ratepayer representation on advisory committees
- Recommendations and implementation strategies to strengthen governance practices

As part of the review, Upfront Consulting attended SAMA's March Advisory Committee meetings, conducted stakeholder surveys, and interviewed Advisory Committee members and members of SAMA's Board of Directors.

"SAMA is committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement," said SAMA CEO Shaun Cooney. "The review provided a valuable opportunity to validate our governance practices and identify ways we can further strengthen our service to clients and stakeholders."

A summary report, released in September 2026, concluded that SAMA is "a well-functioning organization with strong governance policies and structural representation."

The report also identified opportunities for enhancement in four key areas:

- Board member appointments, including the development of position descriptions and a board self-evaluation process
- Conflict of interest guidelines, including updates to policy and compliance practices
- Advisory committee effectiveness through clearly defined roles and expectations
- Stakeholder engagement with an increased focus on education and outreach

To address recommendations related to Board governance, SAMA has engaged an independent third-party firm to conduct a comprehensive review of the Board of Directors and its governance practices.

"Independent reviews provide valuable insight and help confirm that organizations are moving in the right direction," said SAMA Board Chair Ralph Boychuk. "Combined with the Upfront Consulting review, this additional work will help ensure SAMA's Board continues to operate in accordance with recognized governance best practices."

SAMA has also established an internal working group to advance improvements related to its Advisory Committees. Current initiatives include:

- Developing position descriptions and a skills checklist to support member organizations in identifying qualified committee representatives
- Creating a comprehensive orientation program, training materials, and webinar resources for new members
- Streamlining meeting materials and clearly distinguishing between information items and matters requiring consultation or feedback
- Conducting a membership review to ensure advisory committee representation continues to reflect key stakeholder groups involved in Saskatchewan's property assessment system

In addition, SAMA is developing its 2027-2029 communications strategy, which will place an increased emphasis on stakeholder engagement, education, and outreach.

SAMA welcomes the findings of the review and supports the report's conclusion that, with minor enhancements, the Agency is well-positioned to continue fulfilling its mandate of providing a high-quality property assessment system for Saskatchewan.

The Upfront Consulting summary report is available on SAMA's website (www.sama.sk.ca). ``

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